

Daily Herald

Latest on protests

U of U says encampments violate policy, state law **NEWS, A3**

Joining a crowded QB room

Skyridge alumnus shifts to BYU from USU **SPORTS, B1**



MOSTLY SUNNY 61 • 45 FORECAST, A6 | **THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024** | heraldextra.com | \$1



CARLENE COOMBS, DAILY HERALD
Nebo School District spokesperson Seth Sorenson speaks at a press conference in Payson on Wednesday.

PAYSON

Threats against middle school draw local, federal scrutiny

BY CARLENE COOMBS
Daily Herald

Two weeks after a viral video of a student walkout at Mount Nebo Middle School protesting so-called “furries,” the school has since received three bomb threats, including one Tuesday, which led to an evacuation of the school.

Sgt. Scott Hall of the Payson Police Department said Tuesday’s threat was a one-sentence

email that was sent to the school’s principal around 7:30 a.m. Police then canvassed the school with bomb-detecting canines before determining there were no explosives in the building.

Payson police and the Nebo School District held a joint press conference to address the issue Wednesday, where they said the threats are still under investigation with assistance from federal authorities.

“These (threats) will be investigated to the fullest extent not only by ourselves but federal agencies,” Hall said at the press conference. “And if we identify suspects, they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.”

Hall said a police officer will be stationed at the middle school for the remainder of the school year.

Please see **THREATS**, Page A6

AUTISTIC-FRIENDLY SKIES



CURTIS BOOKER, DAILY HERALD
Parents learn to check in with their children at the Breeze Airways gate during the Autism Flies mock boarding exercise at Provo Airport on Tuesday.

Breeze Airways event helps ease stress for sensitive travelers

BY CURTIS BOOKER
Daily Herald

Traveling by air comes with its own set of challenges, even for the most frequent flier. For those with autism, getting on an airplane

only intensifies the stress.

The anxiety of flying is part of why 35-year-old Allison Wilkes had never boarded an airplane, but it’s an experience she longed for.

Wilkes was diagnosed with autism when she was 3. Along with post 9-11 terror attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic, that added to the reasons she’s been afraid to fly.

“I’ve watched my siblings and I’ve watched people come and go on airplanes before, and so I know how these things work. It’s just that I’ve never boarded a plane before,” Wilkes told the Daily Herald.

In her mid-30s now, the Orem resident has an opportunity to give it a try.

On Tuesday, Breeze Airways and the Provo Airport hosted a mock boarding event to help ease the stress for travelers with autism.

Wilkes along with a group of autistic passengers ranging from adults to children experienced getting on an airplane for the very first time.

As boarding time approached, Wilkes was still feeling a bit of anxiety but didn’t let it

Please see **TRAVELERS**, Page A6

SARATOGA SPRINGS

Police arrest woman on suspicion of murder

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARATOGA SPRINGS — A Utah woman has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a friend was shot in what police said was an uncompleted suicide pact the women had reached several weeks earlier.

Heavenly Faith Garfield, 21, was arrested Tuesday and remains jailed in Utah County on Wednesday without bail. Saratoga Springs Police have recommended she be charged with murder and discharge of a firearm. Jail records didn’t list an attorney who could speak on her behalf and no charges have been filed.

A voicemail seeking comment left Wednesday with a phone number believed to belong to Garfield’s mother was not immediately returned.

Garfield’s father called 911 just before 3:30 p.m. Tuesday to report the shooting, police said. He said his daughter shot the 21-year-old victim at 10:45 a.m. as part of a suicide pact, an affidavit of probable cause says.

Family members said Garfield and the victim had been discussing the pact for several weeks, the affidavit says.

The victim’s name has not been released.

A friend of the victim provided officers with text messages he had received from her stating that she wanted to die but was too scared to kill herself, the affidavit says. That friend also told police the victim had a suicide pact with Garfield.

This story includes a discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988. There is also an online chat at 988lifeline.org.

Cat from Lehi takes trip to California in Amazon box

BY AMY BETH HANSON
Associated Press

Galena, a 6-year-old house cat from Utah, likes hiding and playing with cardboard.

Earlier this month, the combination of the two made for a stressful trip in an Amazon

package, a feverish search, a California rescue and a tearful reunion.

Her family is still waiting to “reintroduce cardboard to her again,” owner Carrie Clark said Tuesday, because they don’t want to stress her out.

Clark got Galena as a kitten after her aunt rescued a pregnant feral cat. The American short hair with calico and Siamese coloring has been a constant companion and source of emotional support.

“I’ve been through a bunch

of health things and she and I have gone through all of that together. And she’s she just has this extra great part about her personality that’s very loving. And she can tell when you don’t feel well,” Clark said. “And she’s just really,

really special to me.”

So when Galena disappeared on April 10, Clark was beside herself.

They searched the neighborhood, put up flyers and posted notices on Facebook lost pet pages in Lehi, Utah.

“Not knowing what had happened to her was pretty excruciating,” Clark said, “I cried my eyes out for seven days trying to figure out what had happened.” Clark also ran through all the

Please see **GALENA**, Page A6

DISCOVER DIGITAL

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Daily Herald

Established in 1873

The Daily Herald is a continuation of the American Fork Citizen, Springville Herald, Orem Geneva Times, Lone Peak Press, Spanish Fork Press and Pony Express Press.

Home delivery

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Monthly home delivery rates

6 day print & digital \$46.75 EZ-Pay/mo.
6 day print only \$28 EZ-Pay/mo.
6 day digital only \$18.75 EZ-Pay/mo.

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The Daily Herald (ISSN 0891-2777, USPS 143-060) is published mornings, Monday through Saturday, by Ogden Newspapers, 1200 Towne Centre Blvd, #1058, Provo, UT 84601. Periodicals postage paid at Provo, Utah. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Herald, 1200 Towne Centre Blvd, #1058, Provo, UT 84601.

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We've Got You COVERED

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Arizona lawmakers vote to undo near-total abortion ban

BY ANITA SNOW AND MORGAN LEE
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Arizona Legislature approved a repeal of a long-dormant ban on nearly all abortions Wednesday, advancing the bill to Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs, who is expected to sign it.

Two Republicans joined with Democrats in the Senate on the 16-14 vote in favor of repealing a Civil War-era ban on abortions that the state's highest court recently allowed to take effect. The ban on all abortions — which provides no exceptions for survivors of rape or incest, and only allows for procedures done to save a patient's life — would still be active until the fall.

Hobbs said in a statement that she looks forward to quickly signing the repeal, with a ceremony scheduled for Thursday afternoon. The House clerk's office said it would move quickly to forward the bill to governor.

"Arizona women should not have to live in a state where politicians make decisions that should be between a woman and her doctor," Hobbs said. "While this repeal is essential for protecting women's lives, it is just the beginning of our fight to protect reproductive healthcare."

The revival of the 19th century law has put Republicans on the defensive, as it's one of a handful of battleground states that will decide the next president.

"Across the country, women are living in a state of chaos and cruelty caused by Donald Trump," Vice President Kamala Harris said in a statement on Wednesday. "While Arizona Democrats have worked to clean up the devastating mess created by Trump and his extremist allies, the state's existing ban, with no exception for rape or incest, remains in effect."

If the repeal bill is signed, a 2022 statute banning the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy would become Arizona's prevailing abortion law. Still, there would likely be a pe-



MATT YORK, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona state Sen. Jake Hoffman, R-Dist. 15, motions as he speaks to the Senate president Wednesday at the Capitol in Phoenix.

riod when nearly all abortions would be outlawed, because the repeal won't take effect until 90 days after the end of the legislative session, likely in June or July.

Arizona state Attorney General Kris Mayes called the vote "a win for freedom in our state," but expressed concern that without an emergency clause, Arizonans would still be subject to the near total-abortion ban for some time.

"Rest assured, my office is exploring every option available to prevent this outrageous 160-year-old law from ever taking effect," she said.

The near-total ban on abortions predates Arizona's statehood. In a ruling last month, the Arizona Supreme Court suggested doctors could be prosecuted under the 1864 law, which says that anyone who assists in an abortion can be sentenced to two to five years in prison. Then, last week, the repeal bill narrowly cleared the Arizona House.

Voting on the bill stretched more than an hour on Wednesday, amid impassioned speeches about the motivations behind individual votes.

"This is about the Civil War-era ban that criminalizes doctors and makes virtually all abortions illegal, the ban that the people of Arizona overwhelmingly don't want," said Democratic state Sen. Eva Burch. "We're here to repeal a bad law. I don't want us honoring laws about women written during a time when women were forbidden from voting because their voices were considered inferior to men."

Burch made public on the Senate floor in March that she had a non-viable pregnancy and was going to have an abortion. She warned supporters of reproductive rights on Wednesday that they could not yet rest easy, even after the repeal is signed.

"They are going to use every tool in the toolbox to try to do whatever it is they can to interfere with the repeal of this ban," she said.

There were numerous disruptions from people in Senate gallery Wednesday, as Republican state Sen. Shawna Bolick explained her vote in favor of repeal, joining with Democrats.

GOP state Sen. Jake Hoffman denounced Republican col-

leagues for joining with Democratic colleagues, calling it an affront to his party's principles.

"It is disgusting that this is the state of the Republican Party today," Hoffman said.

Advocates on both sides of the abortion issue arrived outside the Arizona Senate on Wednesday to emphasize their views. They included people affiliated with Planned Parenthood and faith-based groups opposed to abortion.

A school-age girl kneeled in prayer in front of a table holding a large statute of the Virgin Mary, while a man with a megaphone shouted at passersby to repent.

Outside Phoenix in the satellite town of Gilbert, 26-year-old Anna Kupitz, a middle-school math teacher, expressed disappointment in the Senate vote to overturn a near-total abortion ban.

"It is outrageous that we believe so little in women's ability to value the life of their child and also value their careers," she said. "As a country, we believe that human life deserves to be protected."

Former President Donald Trump, who has warned that the issue could lead to Re-

publican losses, has avoided endorsing a national abortion ban but said he's proud to have appointed the Supreme Court justices who allowed states to outlaw it.

The law had been blocked since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision guaranteed the constitutional right to an abortion nationwide.

When Roe v. Wade was overturned in June 2022 though, then-Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich, a Republican, persuaded a state judge that the 1864 ban could again be enforced. Still, the law hasn't actually been enforced while the case was making its way through the courts. Mayes, who succeeded Brnovich, urged the state's high court against reviving the law.

Planned Parenthood officials have vowed to continue providing abortions for the short time they are still legal and said they will reinforce networks that help patients travel out of state to places like New Mexico and California to access abortion.

Advocates are collecting signatures for a ballot measure allowing abortions until a fetus could survive outside the womb, typically around 24 weeks, with exceptions — to save the parent's life, or to protect her physical or mental health.


Republican lawmakers, in turn, are considering putting one or more competing abortion proposals on the November ballot.

A leaked planning document outlined the approaches being considered by House Republicans, such as codifying existing abortion regulations, proposing a 14-week ban that would be "disguised as a 15-week law" because it would allow abortions until the beginning of the 15th week, and a measure that would prohibit abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, before many people know they're pregnant.

House Republicans have not yet publicly released any such proposed ballot measures.



WHAT TO EAT 4 DINNER MAY 5 - 11

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
5 Baked Ziti	6 Chicago Dogs	7  LEFTOVER NIGHT	8 Salad Bar	9 Southwest Frittata	10 Mexican Chicken One Pot or Skillet Meal	11  EAT OUT

SOUTHWEST FRITTATA

Green Chiles - 1 cans
Heavy Whipping Cream - 2 cups, optional sub whole milk
Cheese - 2 cups, Shredded
Red Bell Pepper - 1 items, diced
Salt - 1 to taste
Cajun Seasoning - 1 teaspoons
Onion - 1/2 items, minced
Sausage - 1 pounds, Pre cook & chop
Eggs - 3 as needed

INSTRUCTIONS:

We use a cast iron skillet for these but any full metal pan will work. It needs to go under the broiler so make sure you don't use a pan with plastic handles. Dice the Onions and peppers and preheat the cast iron skillet over medium heat. Sauté with some olive oil until onions are translucent. In a bowl crack 2 dozen eggs for the larger skillet or 1 dozen for a smaller skillet (half the ingredients for the smaller skillet). We did 28 eggs for this one because we had a crowd. Add the heavy whipping cream or whole milk, cooked vegetables and pepper jack cheese in a bowl. Add eggs, seasonings and sausage, mix well.

We added some Sniders cajun seasoning in this variation. Pour into preheated pan and cook on medium high on the stove top until the consistency is still runny but starting to cook and form chunks in the egg mixture. Do not cook too long and turn off the heat early because the pan still has a lot of heat and will continue cooking the egg mixture. Sprinkle about a cup and a half of cheese over the top. We did about half cheddar and half pepper jack. Cook under the broiler until golden brown cheese crust forms on the top. Remove from heat and enjoy!



BAKED ZITI

Alfredo Sauce - 16 fluid ounces
Yellow Onion - 1/2 each, diced
Ziti Pasta - 1 pound
Spaghetti Sauce - 32 fluid ounces
Mozzarella Cheese - 2 cups, shredded
Ground Beef - 1 pound

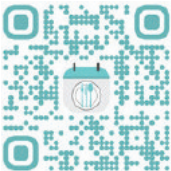
INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven 350. Spray 9x13 baking dish with nonstick spray. Precook noodles. Brown ground beef with onion. Combine browned beef with spaghetti sauce (warm). When pasta is cooked, drain excess water. You want pasta as dry as possible. Combine cooked pasta with Alfredo sauce.

Pour pasta mixture into bottom of 9x13 dish. Cover pasta with spaghetti sauce mixture, sprinkle top with mozzarella cheese. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 15 minutes (spray inside of the foil with nonstick spray so the cheese won't stick to it). Remove foil and bake for another 15 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbly. Let it rest for about 5 minutes after taking out of oven.



SEE MORE RECIPES AT
WHATTOEAT4DINNER.COM
Menu plan curated by Deidre Roush



PRO-PALESTINE DEMONSTRATIONS

U of U ‘will continue to enforce the rule of law’ on protests

BY ALIXEL CABRERA
AND KYLE DUNPHEY
Utah News Dispatch

After 19 people were arrested at a pro-Palestine rally at the University of Utah on Monday night, the school reiterated it would not allow overnight camping and will continue to enforce the rule of law, while many criticized the violent reaction to what started as a peaceful protest.

According to an update from the university, police officers arrested four students and one university employee. The University of Utah Police Department will review the arrestees’ information and body camera footage to refer cases to the Salt Lake City Prosecutor’s Office and the Dean of Students.

A 20th person was arrested Tuesday night. Other protesters identified him as a student organizer.

Possible charges include trespassing, disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer. Students could be disciplined by the Dean of Students’ Office, but that process could take months and run parallel with court cases, a university spokesperson said.

In the aftermath, the University of Utah President Taylor Randall issued a statement arguing that while the school supported the students’ constitutional rights, establishing a camp on the university’s lawn was in violation of school policy and state law.

“At the University of Utah, you have an absolute right to express your opinion. You do not have the right to violate law or university policy. It is unlawful to set up structures or camp overnight on university property,” Randall wrote. “The University of Utah will continue to support free expression and enforce the rule of law.”

There were several attempts by the school’s administration and the academic senate to speak with the protesters, he said, to explain that the establishment of an encampment was unlawful.

He also noted that the university is scheduled to hold its graduation ceremony today and asked the community to express its views “in a dignified, peaceful, and legal manner.”

Ahead of Tuesday night’s protest, the university said it would pass out a flyer to demonstrators that described what would be allowed. Students can exercise their right to peacefully assemble, but couldn’t be violent, obstruct egress or operations or cause damage, according to the flyer.

The statement, posted on Randall’s Instagram account, received more than 300 comments just an hour after its publication. Many of them criticized the fact that students are allowed to camp for sports events, but those who set up tents in protest were met with rubber bullets.

Others called out that while



SPENSER HEAPS, UTAH NEWS DISPATCH

People set up a protest encampment in support of Palestine at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on Monday.

the demonstration was peaceful, it was dispersed with violence. “I have seen fraternity parties on your campus cause 10x more disruption,” a commenter said. “You should be so ashamed and embarrassed.”

Athletics-related overnight encampments, such as ESPN Game Day, have been sanctioned University of Utah events with permits, according to Rebecca Walsh, a spokesperson from the school.

“Differences from yesterday’s protest include – no protest permit filed, no university event associated,” Walsh said in an email. The campus is comparable to the grounds of the state Capitol or a city park, she added, which close at dusk.

The university has allowed erecting structures – such as tents – on campus with a permit since the 1980s, after students installed shanties in an anti-Apartheid protest.

“The purpose of the structures under that policy is to ‘express their view and opinions,’ not just as a means of occupying space and setting up a camp to sleep overnight. The shanties were part of the message,” she said.

Regarding potential charges, Salt Lake County District Attorney Sim Gill said the office is “monitoring the situation on the University of Utah campus. We have not yet had anything submitted to our office related to last night’s protest and arrests.”

Any class A misdemeanors or felonies would be handled by Gill’s office, a spokesman said – lower charges, like class B or C misdemeanors, are typically handled by Salt Lake City prosecutors. The office said it was still too early to tell how the county will handle the arrested protesters, the majority of whom were not University of Utah students.

Though charges have not

been filed yet, affidavits from University of Utah Police submitted on Tuesday morning list a number of alleged offenses by protesters – they include class A misdemeanors like failing to stop at the command of law enforcement, and lower-level offenses like failure to disperse, disorderly conduct and criminal trespass upon an institution of higher learning.

The probable cause statement detailing one protester’s arrest describes him being shot with a 40mm marker munition, a less lethal weapon to disperse protests which released pyrotechnic smoke to mark the demonstrator, after he “was seen attempting to pick up (an) object from the ground to throw at police.”

The protester was arrested for investigation of five misdemeanors and one infraction after he was tackled on the sidewalk and placed in handcuffs.

According to a midnight update from the university’s Department of Public Safety, final exams continued on Tuesday. Utah Transit Authority buses and campus shuttles are in operation, as well as its hospitals and clinics.

Campus protests continue, but without camping

The protests continued Tuesday evening, but with a markedly different police response. At about 6 p.m., a crowd gathered again near Presidents Circle at the University of Utah, but unlike Monday, there was no plan to camp.

“The university commends the peaceful nature of the protests, which were expressed with dignity and conducted in a lawful manner,” a spokesperson for the University of

Utah said in a statement.

Shortly after the protest started, a student organizer was taken into custody. The university said they were arrested based on three charges from Monday evening’s protest and violent police response – trespassing, disorderly conduct and failure to disperse. The organizer was also charged with resisting Tuesday’s arrest.

The university said there’s now a total of 20 arrests stemming from Monday’s protest – most are based on either disorderly conduct, trespassing and failure to disperse.

“I ask for the community’s patience as we manage a complex situation and balance free expression with lawful conduct. We are investing time and resources now to support free speech and prevent further escalation,” said Randall, the university president, in a statement.

The arrest of the organizer on Tuesday prompted protesters to disperse and head to the Salt Lake County Jail in South Salt Lake, where a crowd of about 200 people marched around the building demanding the student’s release.

Protesters waved banners and signs reading “Free Palestine,” “End all U.S. aid to apartheid Israel,” and “Your silence = violence,” while the crowd chanted “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”

“We demand they release Julio and we demand Israel release all political prisoners,” one of the organizers shouted into the microphone, referring to the student arrested.

Police presence remained light outside the jail, with a few sheriff’s deputies hanging around the entrance and advising protesters on where they could and couldn’t gather.

Seth Anderson, a protester with the group Armed Queers, said the protests have been aimed at convincing the University of Utah to divest from companies that support the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Anderson pointed to recent moves from universities to consider divesting academically from Israel, including Brown, which on Tuesday agreed to hold a divestment vote.

“They’re divesting academically from Israel, so we’re hoping to see something similar here. And there are a lot of people who want this to continue,” Anderson said.

The police response on Tuesday made Anderson and other protesters nervous going forward – still, they don’t plan on stopping.

“There’s going to be a lot more tension around these types of protests, which at least in Utah, have been very peaceful,” Anderson said.

Earlier demonstration ends in disarray as protesters are marched off campus

Hundreds of students gathered at the university’s Presidents Circle on Monday at around 4 p.m. Hours later, some of them installed tents and stocked up on supplies to remain in place until university officials took action on their demand to cut ties with anyone with connections to Israel and its war with Gaza.

The demonstration remained peaceful and often relatively quiet most of the afternoon, until the sun set and hundreds of officers, as University of Utah Police – working in collaboration with Salt Lake City Police, Unified Police, Utah Highway Patrol and West Valley City Police,

most in riot gear – warned that protesters would face criminal consequences in they kept the structures overnight.

Officers dragged or carried some of the protesters out of the encampment before arresting them, used force to tear down some of the dozen tents installed on campus, and a few students took the rest of them down before leaving the tense scene.

By 12:20 a.m. only about a dozen students, pushed outside of the lawn and off university property onto 1300 East, remained on site and officers left the scene.

Walsh said officers pushed the students off campus, even after the tents were dismantled, because once the protest was declared an unlawful gathering, police made the decision to clear the space to prevent another encampment.

“At that point – 11 p.m. – campus was closed. Officers continued to advance west to make certain no one returned to set up the tents again,” the U. spokesperson said.

The police forces removed about a dozen tents, stashes of water bottles, food and toilet paper. No protesters were reported to be injured, a statement from the school said. Two officers were injured, though no details about their injuries were provided, and one hatchet was confiscated.

“Utah college campuses around the state are not exempt from the significant unrest that currently exists in our country and world,” said Keith Squires, University of Utah chief safety officer in a statement at 1:50 a.m. on Tuesday. “Campuses serve as a stage and forum for not just students, but for members of the community who want their voice to be heard. We honor all voices, but the right to speech on our campus must occur within the confines of state law and campus policies.”

The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah urged the school and the state to respect the demonstrators’ First Amendment rights and their safety as, they said, “protest is a fundamental cornerstone of our democracy.” Limiting that would severely affect free speech rights on every issue.

“Last night’s police response to the peaceful demonstration at the University of Utah risked the safety and well-being of those directly involved as well as those in the area,” the organization wrote. “While authorities may enforce state laws and campus policies, we are gravely concerned that campuses and law enforcement nationwide are increasingly cracking down on political expression, rushing in police to arrest protestors, and authorizing aggressive treatment.”

Utah News Dispatch is a non-profit, nonpartisan news source covering government, policy and the issues most impacting the lives of Utahns.

Counter-protesters clash with protesters at UCLA encampment

BY JOHN ANTZAK, ETHAN SWOPE,
JAKE OFFENHARTZ AND
JOSEPH B. FREDERICK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – Counter-protesters “forcefully” attacked a pro-Palestinian encampment at UCLA early Wednesday, the university’s chancellor said, and activists clashed with police officers who destroyed their tents at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, part of a series of escalating violence on some college campuses over the war in Gaza.

UCLA administrators and campus police delayed intervening and calling for law enforcement backup in the brawl on the Los Angeles campus, prompting widespread condemnation from Muslim students to the city’s mayor to California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The counter-protesters, some of whom carried Israeli flags, threw traffic cones and chairs, released pepper spray, and pulled down the barricade surrounding the encamp-

ment. University officials said 15 people were injured in the confrontation, including one person who was hospitalized.

The chaotic scenes unfolded Wednesday after police burst into a building occupied by anti-war protesters at Columbia University on Tuesday night, breaking up a demonstration that had paralyzed the school.

Chancellor Gene Block at UCLA said in a statement that “a group of instigators” came on campus Tuesday night to “forcefully attack” the pro-Palestinian encampment.

After a couple of hours of scuffles, police wearing helmets and face shields separated the groups. Later Wednesday, pro-Palestinian protesters rebuilt a barricade around their encampment.

Muslim organizations and students blasted university officials and police in a Wednesday news conference, saying they failed to intervene as students in the pro-Palestinian

encampment were verbally harassed, pepper sprayed and beaten.

“The community needs to feel the police are protecting them, not enabling others to harm them,” said Rebecca Husaini, chief of staff for the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

Speakers disputed the university’s account that 15 people were injured and one hospitalized, saying the number of people taken to the hospital was higher. One student described needing to go to the hospital after being hit in the head by an object wielded by counter-protesters.

Several students who spoke during the news conference said they had to rely on each other, not the police, for support as they were attacked, and that many in the pro-Palestinian encampment remained peaceful and did not engage with counter-protesters.

UCLA canceled classes Wednesday. The Los Angeles Police Department said no arrests were made during the melee.

US SUPREME COURT

Court leaves in place Texas age verification law for porn websites

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to block a Texas law requiring pornographic websites to verify the age of their users.

The justices rejected an emergency appeal filed by the Free Speech Coalition, a trade association for the adult entertainment industry. The provision of House Bill 1181, signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott, remains in effect even as the association’s full appeal is weighed by the Supreme Court.

There were no noted dissents from the court’s one-sentence order.

Similar age verification laws have passed in other states, including Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia.

The Texas law carries fines of up to \$10,000 per violation that could be raised to up to \$250,000 per violation by a minor.

Last year, a federal judge blocked the law’s age verification requirement and health warnings, finding that they likely violated the Constitution. But in March, a divided panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the age verification ruling, although it upheld the health warnings ruling that adult sites can’t be forced to publish statements with which they disagree.

The health warnings, disputed by the industry, included that pornography is addictive, impairs mental development and increases the demand for prostitution, child exploitation and child sexual abuse images.

MaNon (King) Nagle, age 69 of Springville, passed away Sunday, April 28, 2024. Service are under the direction of Wheeler Mortuary (801) 489-6021. For full details and to leave condolences please visit www.wheelermortuary.com.



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Duane Eddy performs on the third day of the 2014 Stagecoach Music Festival at the Empire Polo Field on April 27, 2014, in Indio, Calif.

Duane Eddy, twangy guitar hero of early rock, dead at age 86

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Duane Eddy, a pioneering guitar hero whose reverberating electric sound on instrumentals such as “Rebel Rouser” and “Peter Gunn” helped put the twang in early rock ‘n’ roll and influenced George Harrison, Bruce Springsteen and countless other musicians, has died at age 86.

Eddy died of cancer Tuesday at the Williamson Health hospital in Franklin, Tennessee, according to his wife, Deed Abbate.

With his raucous rhythms, and backing hollers and hand claps, Eddy sold more than 100 million records worldwide, and mastered a distinctive sound based on the premise that a guitar’s bass strings sounded better on tape than the high ones.

“I had a distinctive sound that people could recognize and I stuck pretty much with that. I’m not one of the best technical players by any means; I just sell the best,” he told The Associated Press in a 1986 interview. “A lot of guys are more skillful than I am with the guitar. A lot of it is over my head. But some of it is not what I want to hear out of the guitar.”

“Twang” defined Eddy’s sound from his first album, “Have Twangy Guitar Will Travel,” to his 1993 box set, “Twang Thang: The Duane Eddy Anthology.”

“It’s a silly name for a nonsilly thing,” Eddy told the AP

in 1993. “But it has haunted me for 35 years now, so it’s almost like sentimental value — if nothing else.”

He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

Eddy and producer Lee Hazlewood helped create the “Twang” sound in the 1950s, a sound Hazlewood later adapt to his production of Nancy Sinatra’s 1960s smash “These Boots Are Made for Walkin’.” Eddy had a five-year commercial peak from 1958–63. He said in 1993 he took his 1970 hit “Freight Train” as a clue to slow down. “It was an easy listening hit,” he recalled. “Six or seven years before, I was on the cutting edge.”

Eddy recorded more than 50 albums, some of them reissues. He did not work too much from the 1980s on, “living off my royalties,” he said in 1986.

About “Rebel Rouser,” he told the AP: “It was a good title and it was the rockest rock ‘n’ roll sound. It was different for the time.”

He scored theme music for movies including “Because They’re Young,” “Pepé” and “Gidget Goes Hawaiian.” But Eddy said he turned down doing the James Bond theme song because there wasn’t enough guitar music in it.

In the 1970s he worked behind-the-scenes in music production work, mainly in Los Angeles.

2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Trump declares judge ‘crooked’ after facing warning of jail time

BY ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON, MICHELLE L. PRICE AND SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

FREELAND, Mich. — Donald Trump returned briefly to the campaign trail Wednesday and called the judge presiding over his hush money trial “crooked” a day after he was held in contempt of court and threatened with jail time for violating a gag order.

Trump’s remarks at events in the battleground states of Wisconsin and Michigan were being closely watched after he received a \$9,000 fine for making public statements about people connected to the criminal case. In imposing the fine for posts on Trump’s Truth Social account and campaign website, Judge Juan M. Merchan said that if Trump continued to violate his orders, he would “impose an incarceration punishment.”

“There is no crime. I have a crooked judge. He’s a totally conflicted judge,” Trump said speaking to supporters at an event in Waukesha, Wisconsin, claiming again that this and other cases against him are led by the White House to undermine his campaign.

The former president is trying to achieve a balancing act unprecedented in American history by running for a second term as the presumptive Republican nominee while also fighting felony charges in New York. Trump frequently goes after Merchan, prosecutors and potential witnesses at his rallies and on social media, attack lines that play well with his supporters but that have potentially put him in further legal jeopardy.

Later at a rally in Freeland, Michigan, he said he was being forced to spend days in a “kangaroo court room,” and claimed without evidence the district attorney was taking orders from the Biden administration.

“I’ve got to do two of these things a day. You know why? Because I’m in New York all the time with the Biden trial,” he said. “It’s a fake trial. They do it to try and take your powers away, try and take your candidate away.”

Even before the hush money trial got underway on April 15, Trump has held just a handful of public campaign events since becoming his party’s presumptive nominee in March.

The gag order bars him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to his hush money case. Trump is still free to criticize



PAUL SANCYA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Freeland, Mich., on Wednesday.

the judge and the district attorney.

Trump insists he is merely exercising his free speech rights, but the offending posts from his Truth Social account and campaign website were taken down. Merchan is weighing other alleged gag-order violations and will hear arguments today.

Attendees agreed he is being unfairly prosecuted, contending the trial and gag order were designed to distract him.

“It’s a trial looking for a crime,” said Ray Hanson, of Hartford. Hanson said he expected Trump’s lawyers would “keep him in line” so he doesn’t violate the gag order, as much as he likely wants to talk about the trial.

Manhattan prosecutors have argued Trump and his associates took part in an illegal scheme to influence the 2016 presidential campaign by purchasing and then burying negative stories. He has pleaded not guilty.

Trump’s visits to Wisconsin and Michigan mark his second trip to the swing states in just a month. For the previous rallies, the former president largely focused on immigration, referring to people who are in the U.S. illegally and who are suspected of crimes as “animals.”

Meanwhile, Democrats are hoping to remind voters ahead of these visits about Trump’s position on abortion, which Trump has been openly concerned about being a political liability for him and Republicans.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan met on Wednesday with half a dozen women, including a family doctor, and warned that a second Trump term would threaten abortion rights even in her state, which enshrined those rights in its state constitution after the Supreme Court overturned national rights to the procedure.

Whitmer appeared with the women at a bookstore in Flint surrounded by signs that read “Stop Trump’s Attacks on Health Care” and “Stop Trump’s Abortion Ban.” She told reporters not to believe Trump’s contention in a Time Magazine interview that Republicans would never have enough votes in the U.S. Senate to pass a national abortion ban.

“We cannot trust anything that Donald Trump says when it comes to abortion. So no one should take any comfort in the fact that, yes, he wants an abortion ban, but he won’t get it because he doesn’t think we’ll have 60 votes in the Senate. Baloney,” she said.

Wisconsin and Michigan are among a handful of battleground states expected to decide the 2024 election.

For Trump to win both states, he must do well in suburban areas like the areas outside of Milwaukee and Saginaw, Michigan, where he visited Wednesday. He underperformed in suburban areas during this year’s primary even as he dominated the Republican field overall.

Fed keeps interest rates in place

Officials remain concerned about high inflation

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday emphasized that inflation has remained stubbornly high in recent months and said it doesn’t plan to cut interest rates until it has “greater confidence” that price increases are slowing sustainably to its 2% target.

The Fed issued its decision in a statement after its latest meeting, at which it kept its key rate at a two-decade high of roughly 5.3%. Several hotter-than-expected reports on prices and economic growth have recently undercut the Fed’s belief that inflation was steadily easing. The combination of high interest rates and persistent inflation has also emerged as a potential threat to President Joe Biden’s re-election bid.

“In recent months,” Chair Jerome Powell said at a news conference, “inflation has shown a lack of further progress toward our 2% objective.”

“It is likely that gaining greater confidence,” he added, “will take longer than previously expected.”

Powell did strike a note of optimism about inflation. Despite the recent setbacks, he said, “My expectation is that over the course of this year, we will see inflation move back down.”

Wall Street traders initially cheered the prospect that the Fed will cut rates at some point this year as well as Powell’s comment that the Fed isn’t considering reverting to rate increases to attack inflation.



SUSAN WALSH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell arrives for a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington on Wednesday.

“I think it’s unlikely that the next policy rate move will be a hike,” he said.

Later, though, stock prices erased their gains and finished the day essentially unchanged from where they were before Powell’s news conference.

Still, Powell sketched out a series of potential scenarios for the months ahead. He said that if hiring stayed strong and “inflation is moving sideways,” that “would be a case in which it would be appropriate to hold off on rate cuts.”

But if inflation continued to cool — or if unemployment rose unexpectedly — Powell said the Fed would likely be able to reduce its benchmark rate. Cuts would, over time, bring down the cost of mortgages, auto loans, and other consumer and business borrowing.

Those comments were “a signal that the (Fed) is a lot less confident that they know how policies are going to unfold over the course of this year,” said Jonathan Pingle, an economist at UBS. “We were all sort of hoping for an update on the committee’s path forward. And instead what we got was, ‘We’re really not confident enough to tell you what our path forward

is going to be.”

The central bank’s overarching message Wednesday — that more evidence is needed that inflation is slowing to the Fed’s target level before the policymakers would begin cutting rates — reflects an abrupt shift. As recently as their last meeting on March 20, the officials had projected three rate reductions in 2024, likely starting in June.

But given the persistence of elevated inflation, financial markets now expect just one rate cut this year, in November, according to futures prices tracked by CME FedWatch.

The Fed’s warier outlook stems from three months of data that pointed to chronic inflation pressures and robust consumer spending. Inflation has cooled from a peak of 7.1%, according to the Fed’s preferred measure, to 2.7%, as supply chains have eased and the cost of some goods has actually declined.

Average prices, though, remain well above their pre-pandemic levels, and the costs of services ranging from apartment rents and health care to restaurant meals and auto insurance continue to surge.

With the presidential election six months away, many Americans have expressed discontent with the economy, notably over the pace of price increases.

On Wednesday, the Fed announced that it would slow the pace at which it’s unwinding one of its biggest COVID-era policies: Its purchase of several trillion dollars in Treasury securities and mortgage-backed bonds, an effort to stabilize financial markets and keep longer-term rates low.

The Fed is now allowing \$95 billion of those securities to mature each month, without replacing them. Its holdings have fallen to about \$7.4 trillion, down from \$8.9 trillion in June 2022, when it began reducing them. On Wednesday, the Fed said it would, in June, reduce its holdings at a slower pace.

Instead of allowing \$60 billion in Treasuries to roll off each month, it will allow just \$25 billion. At the same time, it will continue letting \$35 billion in mortgage-backed bonds mature each month.

By cutting back its holdings, the Fed could contribute to keeping longer-term rates, including mortgage rates, higher than they would be otherwise. That’s because as it reduces its bond holdings, other buyers will have to buy the securities instead, and rates might have to rise to attract the needed buyers.

The U.S. economy is healthier and hiring stronger than most economists thought it would be at this point. The unemployment rate has remained below 4% for more than two years, the longest such streak since the 1960s. And while economic growth reached just a 1.6% annual pace in the first three months of this year, consumer spending grew at a robust pace, a sign that the economy will keep expanding.



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OPINION



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‘Make government work’

President Joe Biden says, “I know how to make government work!” You’d think he’d know. He’s worked in government for 51 years. But the truth is, *no one* can make government work.

Biden hasn’t. Look at the chaos at the border, our military’s botched withdrawal from Afghanistan, the rising cost of living, our unsustainable record-high debt ...

In my new video, economist Ed Stringham argues that no government can *ever* work well, because “even the best person can’t implement change. ... The massive bureaucracy gets bigger and slower.”

I learned that as a consumer reporter watching bureaucrats regulate business. Their rules usually made life worse for consumers.

Yet politicians want government to do *more*!

Remember the unveiling of Obamacare’s website? Millions tried to sign up. The first day, only six got it to work.

Vice President Joe Biden made excuses: “Neither (Obama) and I are technology geeks.”

Stringham points out, “If they can’t design a basic simple website, how are they going to manage half the economy?”

While bureaucrats struggled with the Obamacare site, the private sector successfully created Uber and Lyft, platforms like iCloud, apps like Waze, smartwatches, etc.

The private sector creates things that work because it *has* to. If businesses don’t serve customers well, they go out of business.

But government is a monopoly. It *never* goes out of business. With no competition, there’s less pressure to improve.

Often good people join government. Some work as hard as workers in the private sector.

But not for long. Because the bureaucracy’s incentives kill initiative.

If a government worker works hard, he might get a small raise. But he sits near others who earn the same pay and, thanks to archaic civil service rules, are unlikely to get fired even if they’re late, lazy or stupid.

Over time, that’s demoralizing. Eventually government workers conclude, “Why try?”

In the private sector, workers must strive to make things better. If they don’t, competitors will, and you might lose your job.

Governments never go out of business.

“Companies can only stay in business if they always keep their customer happy,” Stringham points out. “Competition pushes us to be better. Government has

no competition.”

I push back. “Politicians say, ‘Voters can vote us out.’”

“With a free market,” Stringham replies, “The consumer votes every single day with the dollar. Under politics, we have to wait four years.”

It’s another reason why, over time, government never works as well as the private sector.

Year after year, the Pentagon fails audits.

If a private company repeatedly does that, they get shut down. But government never gets shut down.

A Pentagon spokeswoman makes excuses: “We’re working on improving our process. We certainly are learning each time.”

They don’t learn much. They still fail audits.

“It’s like we’re living in Groundhog Day,” Stringham jokes.

When Covid hit, politicians handed out almost \$2 trillion in “rescue” funds. The Government Accountability Office says more than \$100 billion were stolen.

“One woman bought a Bentley,” laughs Stringham. “A father and son bought a luxury home.”

At least Biden noticed the fraud. He announced, “We’re going to make you pay back what you stole!”

No. They will not. Biden’s Fraud Enforcement Task Force has recovered only 1% of what was stolen.

Even without fraud, government makes money vanish. I’ve reported on my town’s \$2 million toilet in a park. When I confronted the parks commissioner, he said, “\$2 million was a bargain! Today it would cost \$3 million.”

That’s government work. More recently, Biden proudly announced that government would create “500,000 (EV) charging stations.”

After two years, they’ve built ... seven. Not 7,000. Just seven.

Over the same time, greedy, profit-seeking Amazon built 17,000.

“Privatize!” says Stringham. “Whenever we think something’s important, question whether government should do it.”

In Britain, government-owned Jaguar lost money year after year. Only when Britain sold the company to private investors did Jaguar start turning a profit selling cars people actually like.

When Sweden sold Absolut Vodka, the company increased its profits sixfold.

It’s ridiculous for Biden to say, “I know how to make government work.”

No one does.

Next week, this column takes on Donald Trump’s promise: “We’ll drain the Washington swamp!”

Every Tuesday at JohnStossel.com, Stossel posts a new video about the battle between government and freedom.

In 1927, Tony Blair, whose new Labour Party crushed John Major’s long-reigning Conservatives in a national election, became at age 43 Britain’s youngest prime minister in 185 years.

In 2005, Pfc. Lynndie England, the young woman pictured in some of the most notorious Abu Ghraib photos, pleaded guilty at Fort Hood, Texas, to mistreating prisoners. (A judge later threw out the plea agreement; England was then convicted in a court-martial and received a three-year sentence, of which she served half.)

In 2011, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who’d been killed hours earlier in a raid by elite American forces at his Pakistan compound, was buried at sea.

In 2012, former NFL star Junior Seau was found shot to death at his home in Oceanside, California, a suicide.

In 2017, Michael Slager, a white former police officer whose killing of Walter Scott, an unarmed Black man running from a traffic stop, was captured on cellphone video, pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges in Charleston, South Carolina. (Slager was sentenced to 20 years in prison.)

In 2018, attorney Rudy Giuliani said President Donald Trump had reimbursed his personal lawyer for \$130,000 in hush money paid to a porn actress days before the 2016 presidential election, comments that appeared to contradict Trump’s past claims that he didn’t know the source of the money.



GUEST OPINION

More emphasis on Heavenly Mother means less power in LDS patriarchy

Although The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has always structured its hierarchy on male authority, its theology and practice concerning women is rather intricate and complex. Throughout much of the 19th and



KEITH BURNS

first half of the 20th century, the Relief Society (central Latter-day Saint women’s organization) was given far more power and authority than it is today. For example, in its early days, Latter-day Saint women were

allowed to give “faith blessings,” where they would lay hands on others’ heads for healing.

Church founder Joseph Smith gave the Relief Society significant decision-making authority as well. In fact, they functioned on a mostly independent budget, oversaw their own social service agency and printed their own publications until the 1960s. At that time, under the direction of apostle Harold Lee, the church’s correlation committee stripped the Relief Society of these endeavors with the goal of strengthening deference to senior male leadership.

While early Mormonism promoted much of the patriarchal constructs of its time, its theological notions on gender had some unusually liberal and expansive components. Most notably, as early as 1845, former Relief Society President Eliza R. Snow penned the beautifully worded hymn “O My Father.” In it, she affirms: “In the heav’ns are parents single? / No, the thought makes reason stare; / Truth is reason—truth eternal / Tells me I’ve a mother there.” While there is no formal record of a revelation to Joseph Smith on Heavenly Mother, several women, including Zina Huntington, later recounted experiences of Smith instructing them on the doctrine.

Despite misalignments with mainstream Christianity, Latter-day Saint doctrines around Heavenly Mother remain paramount to the faith’s most sacred theological narratives and aspirations. The highest rituals of Latter-day Saint temples instruct men and women on the path to godhood; women to become “queens and priestesses”; and men to “become kings and priests.” The fact that this process of deification is portrayed in both masculine and feminine forms is something that many Latter-day Saint women describe as inspiring. Feminist scholar Janice Allred stated in 1992: “There is another God, and she has a woman’s body like mine.

I want to know her, not simply as a model, but as a person. That she is God as well as woman is as important for men as it is for women as it affirms the equality of male and female and of masculine and feminine attributes and values.”

Notwithstanding its centrality to Latter-day Saint doctrine, current leaders rarely talk about and even discourage mentioning Heavenly Mother. The most common rationalization for near silence on the topic is uncertainty. In the April 2022 women’s session of general conference, apostle Dale Renlund stated:

“Very little has been revealed about Mother in Heaven, but what we do know is summarized in a gospel topic found in our Gospel Library application. Once you have read what is there, you will know everything that I know about the subject. I wish I knew more. You too may still have questions and want to find more answers. Seeking greater understanding is an important part of our spiritual development, but please be cautious. Reason cannot replace revelation.”

It is first noteworthy that an apostle, who claims special access to God’s will, compares his level of understanding on Heavenly Mother to that of any layperson. It is curious to me that Latter-day Saint authorities claim fervent certainty on topics that support their current interests and power structures (e.g., the sinfulness of homosexuality), yet claim uncertainty on topics in which diving deeper would unsettle and disrupt the church’s interests and power structures.

Another common rationalization for silence on Heavenly Mother is that Heavenly Father is “protecting” her from the darkness and evil of the world. This is a prime example of what psychologists have referred to as “benevolent sexism,” in which men justify their authority over women by asserting that women need their protection. Certainly, an all-powerful, all-knowing Heavenly Mother can handle the dark and tumultuous aspects of the world and does not need to stay in the shadows.

In our current climate of impassioned strides toward equality and social justice, it makes sense that Latter-day Saint leaders would discourage members from thinking too much about and even praying to Heavenly Mother. In his address, Renlund continued by instructing members to “direct our worship to our Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ and do not pray to Heavenly Mother.”

I am aware of several instances in which Latter-day Saint women who prayed aloud to Heavenly Mother

in their congregations were chastised, to say nothing of the women who have been excommunicated in previous decades for their activism and scholarship around Heavenly Mother. It seems there is fear and insecurity among church leaders around what would happen to Latter-day Saint power structures if prayer to Heavenly Mother became normalized.

Feminist activist and writer Sonya Johnson articulated this point in a deeply profound way:

“Her existence is dangerous to patriarchy, for which reason I should think the whole effort was to keep the issue about her very quiet. The less people think about her, the less they will question her position, the church’s position about her. The less, in short, they will question male rule. I like to imagine what would happen if Mormons really began believing in her and her equality with Father: polygamy, the all-male priesthood, all aspects of patriarchy would be in deepest jeopardy.”

As Johnson notes, if Latter-day Saints were to increase focus on Heavenly Mother, the next logical step would be to question existing power structures that concentrate authority in men’s hands. In the current church, no administrative decision can be made by a woman without the approval of a man. Greater emphasis on Heavenly Mother would also bring scrutiny to the fact that less than 10% of general conference speakers are women, that women are unable to hold financial management callings, and that women are prohibited from offering baby blessings and priesthood blessings to their children.

It is important to note that there are hosts of Latter-day Saint women who for decades have consistently and nobly advocated for gender equality. In the Bay Area, for example, Latter-day Saint women sat on the stand in many congregations for over a decade. In November 2023, however, Latter-day Saint authorities ordered an end to this practice. Similarly, after Latter-day Saint leader J. Anette Dennis’ extremely controversial speech in March, in which she stated that “there is no other religious organization in the world, that I know of, that has so broadly given power and authority to women,” scores of faithful Latter-day Saint women disagreed and responded with incredibly moving descriptions of their experiences.

Indeed, the more Latter Day Saints encourage discussion and worship of Heavenly Mother, the more the patriarchal constructions so deeply woven into the fabric of Latter-day Saint theology and governance will become weakened and eventually unraveled. I call upon Latter-day Saint leaders to welcome and encourage open dialogue about Heavenly Mother in Latter-day Saint congregations and ecclesiastical curricula worldwide, not only to more fully benefit from the beauty contained in this distinctly Latter-day Saint doctrine, but to take a crucial and necessary step toward gender equality within the church.

Keith Burns is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College who specializes in Mormonism and sexuality.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, May 2, the 123rd day of 2024. There are 243 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History

On May 2, 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa’s first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.

On this date

In 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Virginia; he died eight days later.

In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory was organized.

In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Buck v. Bell*, upheld 8-1 a Virginia law allowing the forced sterilization of people to promote the “health of the patient and the welfare of society.”

In 1941, General Mills began shipping its new cereal, “Cheerioats,” to six test markets. (The cereal was later renamed “Cheerios.”)

In 1970, jockey Diane Crump became the first woman to ride in the Kentucky Derby; she finished in 15th place aboard Fathom.

In 1972, a fire at the Sunshine silver mine in Kellogg, Idaho, claimed the lives of 91 workers who succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died in Washington at age 77.

How to comment

We invite readers to share their thoughts. You can:

- Email letters to dhletters@heraldextra.com;
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 - mail to 1200 Towne Centre Blvd, #1058, Provo, UT 84601
- So letters can be verified, writers must include their full name, address and daytime phone number. (Street addresses and phone num-

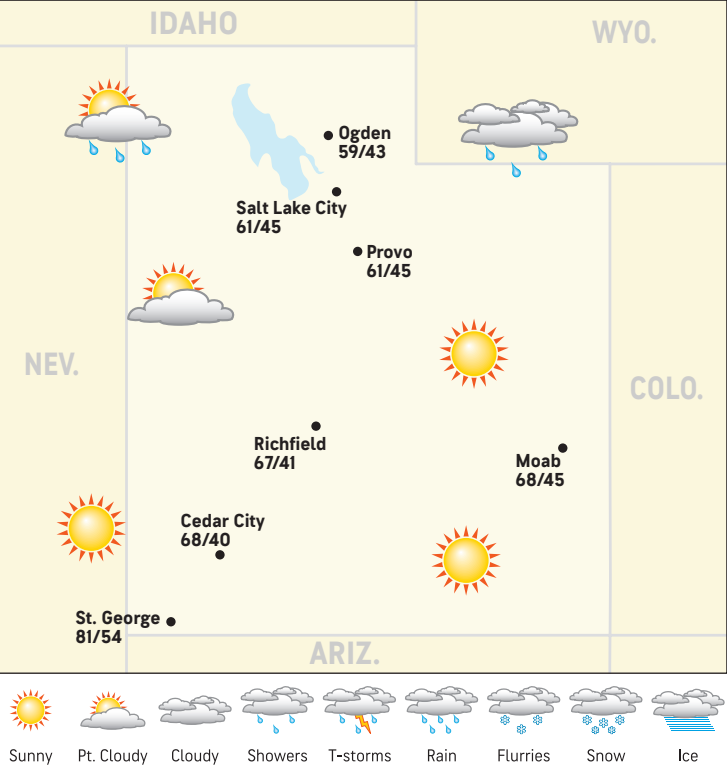
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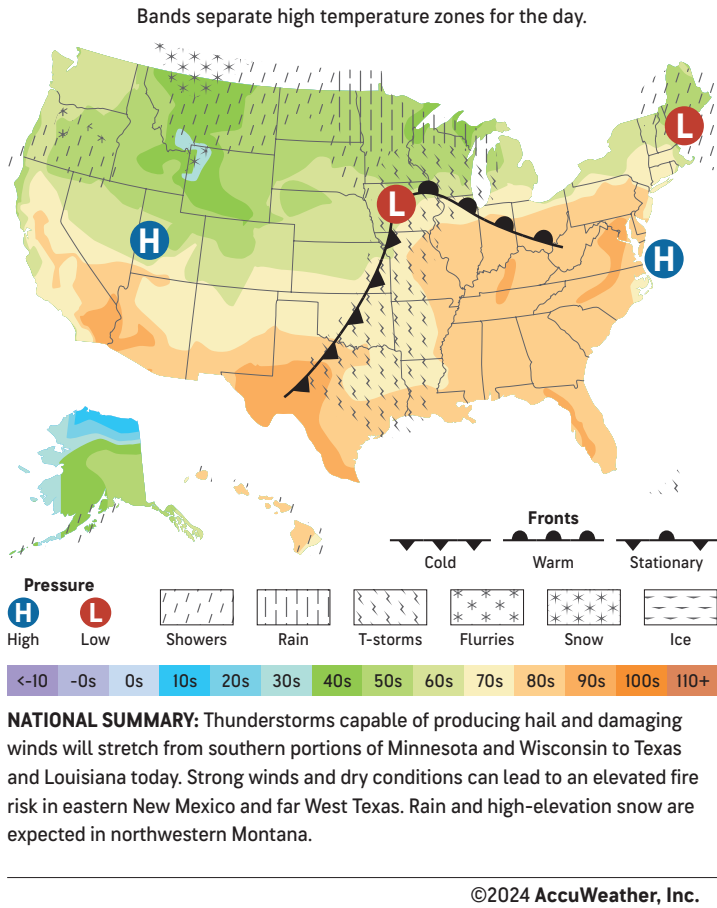
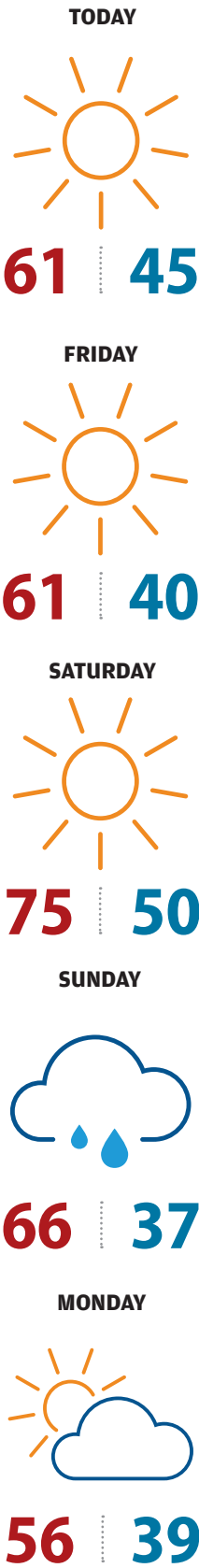
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Forecast for Thursday, May 2, 2024



5-DAY FORECAST



CURTIS BOOKER, DAILY HERALD

Employees and staff from Breeze Airways, Provo Airport and Autism Double-Checked along with Cosmo the Cougar pose for a photo with an Autism Double-Checked certification plaque Tuesday.

Travelers

From A1

deter her. “I had this opportunity, I just took it, went for it, because I’ve never had this experience before and I want to try this,” she said.

Breeze was recently certified as the first domestic commercial U.S. airline carrier with Autism Double-Checked. The organization provides autism awareness training and certification to airlines and hotels on how to accommodate the autistic community.

Their “Autism Flies” events hosted at airports throughout the country give those on the autism spectrum a comfortable experience of navigating the boarding process.

Alan Day is the co-founder of Autism Double-Checked. He has a son with autism spectrum disorder so he knows firsthand the impact that having an autistic child has on family vacations.

“People with autism are into fixed routines, and it can be difficult to do new things,” Day said. “Airports are daunting for somebody who doesn’t have any neurological challenges. Put those two together, the airport can be a horrible experience for somebody with autism.”

Aside from the changes in routine, the unpredictability, crowds, new noises and sights all add to challenging experiences for people on the spectrum and their families, according to Autism Speaks.

Travis and Lindsey Hoki of Pleasant Grove have never been able to fly with their two children, including a 3-year-old with autism. Tuesday’s mock boarding process gives them hope that one day they could possibly take a family vacation on an airplane.

“Our youngest with autism, he’s very stimulus seeking, and so he’s very loud. This is a good thing to where we’re not disturbing others,” Travis Hoki explained. “It’s more of us being too loud for people around us, versus some other people with autism (who) might be overwhelmed, overstimulated themselves.”

Both parents agreed that it’s comforting to be in a scenario alongside people with similar circumstances.

“So if our kid is (being) difficult on the plane, we have a little more understanding. And so it’s a good kind of trial to see how that goes for us,” Lindsey Hoki said.

The mock boarding encompassed what a normal flight would entail from the ticket counter and going through

the Transportation Security Administration line to actually boarding the aircraft. On the plane, guests were greeted and afforded flight accommodations by the certified Breeze Airways staff.

To help children feel even more comfortable about flying, Brigham Young University’s Cosmo the Cougar was on hand, creating a fun and enjoyable environment.

Leaders from the airline expressed their commitment to providing an inclusive experience and support for adults and children with autism. Breeze Airways President Tom Doxey said one of the most exciting parts of the exercise is having an opportunity to meet and interact with families.

“My favorite comment that I heard at the last event that we did was, ‘Next time we’re going to do this for real, right?’ That was what one of the moms said to one of the kids. It’s just an amazing thing to be a part of,” he said.

As for Wilkes, she’s hoping that the mock boarding event also will help her and others on the autism spectrum cope with anxiety about flying.

“When you have those coping skills, they can be able to travel a lot easier and have more fun doing it,” she said.

Threats

From A1

Because of the threats, Seth Sorenson, Nebo School District spokesperson, said additional personnel have been hired to provide support to faculty and students and monitor the school.

Mt. Nebo first received a threat two days after the viral video via an email that also was sent to media outlets, including the Daily Herald.

That email listed the names and presumably home addresses of various administrators at the school and in Nebo School District, calling them “degenerates” who have been “marked for death.” During the press conference, Sorenson said a second threat was sent April 23.

The video that prompted the backlash showed a group of middle schoolers who said they were walking out in protest of “furries” — people who dress up as and act like anthropomorphic animals — in the school, who the students claimed were biting, chasing and barking at other children, actions they allege were toler-

ated by teachers and administrators.

Sorenson reiterated at the press conference that the school has not “seen any evidence in our schools of biting, scratching and clawing.” He added that parents or students who experience or have knowledge of bullying should reach out to teachers or school administrators.

“We do take those kinds of incidents very seriously and do want to conduct full investigations into them,” he said.

Sorenson said there was an incident involving a group of girls who wore animal headbands to school one day who were then targeted by other students and even had food thrown at them. He added that the students were asked not to wear headbands.

Hall said Tuesday’s threat did not seem similar to other threats, but he clarified that he was not involved in responding to or investigating previous threats, only Tuesday’s. He said the most recent threat had no mention of “furries” or the video.

The video has since been shared by Libs of TikTok, a right-wing account that often

posts anti-LGBTQ+ content, as well as various other conservative media outlets.

Utah politicians such as U.S. Sen. Mike Lee and state Rep. Phil Lyman, who is campaigning for governor, shared the post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Sorenson said he hopes the community can come together despite differences and support children.

“I think we need to come together as a community to support these children and make sure that they know, first off, that we love them,” he said. “And secondly, that we support them and that their education and their well-being is our priority.”

Sorenson also invited parents who are concerned about the environment of their child’s school to come and sit down with school administrators and teachers and be engaged in their child’s education.

Sorenson said many school safety protocols have been implemented across the district in the last year, including updated security cameras and new software allowing teachers to communicate with law enforcement and other district employees.

Galena

From A1

worst-case scenarios, wondering if the cat could have gotten out of the house and been nabbed by a predator or run over by a vehicle.

Clark said she received a “text that changed my life” on April 17, saying that Galena’s microchip had been scanned, so Clark knew she had been found somewhere. Soon after, she got a call saying her cat was near Riverside, California, after being found in a box along with steel-toed boots that had been returned to an Amazon warehouse.

Clark’s husband had ordered several pairs of boots, kept one and returned the rest in a large box on April 10.

“We realized that that our sweet kitty must have jumped into that box without us knowing,” she said.

Amazon employees knew just who to call when they found the feline — co-worker Brandy Hunter, who rescues cats, Clark said.

Hunter took the cat home and to the vet the next day, where the microchip was scanned.

Clark spoke with Hunter who “calmed me down and told me that my kitty was OK,” despite having spent six days in a cardboard box without food or water.

“I wanted desperately to be with her,” Clark said. She and her husband flew to California the next day, reunited with Galena at the veterinarian’s office and rented a car to drive home.

“We did what we needed to do because I just adore her”

Clark said.

It was an intensely emotional week.

“I went from hysterically laughing that she was stuck like that — we mailed our cat — you know ... just the humor part of that, to hysterically crying all within like five seconds,” Clark said.

The family was lucky to get Galena back, Clark said, in part because the weather was not harsh during the time the cat was missing, the box was torn at a seam, allowing her to get more air, and because Hunter who took her to a vet and had her scanned for a microchip.

Since word got out, Clark has been sharing her cat’s story, with advice to microchip your pets and to double-check your Amazon boxes before returning them.

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SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

BYU ROUNDUP

Burgess returning to Provo as assistant basketball coach

BY DARNELL DICKSON
Daily Herald

New BYU men's basketball coach Kevin Young took another big swing for his coaching staff and connected.

Chris Burgess, currently an assistant coach at his alma mater the University of Utah, will join the Cougars staff.

"Chris and I quickly connected," Young said in a BYU statement. "I was impressed with how he sees all the aspects of college basketball. He has a bright mind for the game and is very forward thinking. He will be a great asset to our players and our program. I'm excited about bringing Chris and his

family back to BYU."

Burgess was considered a strong candidate to replace Mark Pope after the latter left for Kentucky three weeks ago but the job went to Young, the top assistant coach in the NBA. After Young took the BYU job, Burgess' name continued to surface as a possible lead assistant.

Burgess

After coaching three seasons from 2019-2022 as an assistant at BYU, Burgess spent the past two seasons as an assistant head coach at

his alma mater, the University of Utah. During his time on The Hill, he helped Branden Carlson transform into one of the top centers in the Pac-12. He was a two-time All-Pac-12 First Team player under Burgess, averaging 17.0 points and 6.6 rebounds per game in 2023-24 leading the Utes to the semifinal of the NIT.

During his first stint at BYU, the Cougars went 70-26 and were ranked in the Top 25 each of his three seasons in Provo. He was also part of staff that helped BYU get back to the NCAA Tournament in 2021, its first appearance since 2015.

Please see **BYU ROUNDUP**, Page B3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big 12 out to prove bigger wallets doesn't always mean better CFP teams

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

SCOTTDALE, Ariz. — Before the realigned Big 12 — sans Oklahoma and Texas — even kicks off, the expanded College Football Playoff's new revenue structure has created a perception that the conference is no longer the equal of the Big Ten and Southeastern Conference.

Instead of a Power Five, college football now has a "Big Two," with the expanded SEC, now home to the Sooners and

Longhorns, and Big Ten at the top of the pack.

Big 12 commissioner Brett Yormark's job is to push back against the narrative that bigger bank accounts automatically means better football teams.

"As I've said before, I'm betting on the Big 12," Yormark said Wednesday after wrapping up two days of meetings with the conference's athletic directors

Please see **BIG 12**, Page B3

BYU FOOTBALL

TOP OF HIS GAME



STEVE CONNER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah State quarterback McCae Hillstead (10) looks downfield late in the second half of the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl NCAA college football game against Georgia State on Dec. 23 in Boise, Idaho. Georgia State won 45-22.

Hillstead's high school coach says he's ready for intense BYU QB competition

BY DARNELL DICKSON
Daily Herald

Let's get right to it: New BYU quarterback McCae Hillstead is 5-foot-10-inches tall in a game of giants.

His high school coach, Jon Lehman, doesn't think that's going to be a problem.

Lehman stepped down after Hillstead led Skyridge to the 2022 Class 6A Utah state title and is now the school's athletic director.

"McCae's height was some of the concern BYU and other schools had when he came out of high school," Lehman said. "Everybody is long at the D1 level and in the Big 12. But height affects some quarterbacks more than others. I never worried about how McCae's height would affect him at the next level. He can attack the middle of the field. He can make the intermediate throws in the 8-14 yard range and between the hashes. He can make those plays."

Hillstead played in eight games during his freshman season at Utah State, sharing time with another Utah County product (former Orem star Cooper Legas) and Levi Williams. Hillstead completed 59% of his passes for 1,062 yards, 11 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Against James Madison, he was 25 of 47 for 399 yards, four touchdowns and three interceptions.

Hillstead battled through an ankle injury and a concussion during his freshman season with an offensive line that gave up 44 sacks.



DARNELL DICKSON, DAILY HERALD

Skyridge quarterback McCae Hillstead (7) celebrates with teammate Jace Doman after winning the 6A state football championship game against Corner Canyon at Rice-Eccles Stadium in Salt Lake City on Nov. 18, 2022.

"I talked to a lot of college coaches when McCae went into the transfer portal," Lehman said. "They were concerned (about his height) when he started his college career but after watching film of him at Utah State, they weren't as concerned. Being a shorter quarterback didn't affect his game like it affects others. He showed he could attack the middle of the field and colleges were excited about him."

Hillstead transferred to Skyridge as a sophomore and won the starting quarterback job.

"McCae was a mature kid and

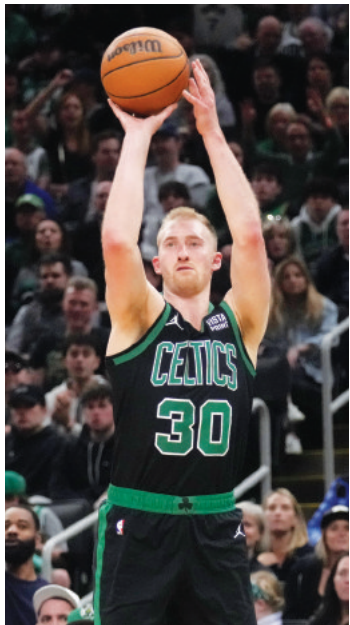
tough," Lehman said. "He really understands the game of football and is very cerebral. He's a high character person and a great leader. From an intangible standpoint, he has a great mindset. As far as tangible things, he throws a really nice ball with velocity and touch. He has great mechanics and can fit the ball into tight windows. He can make all the throws. He's also a great athlete who can hurt defenses with his legs, whether it's in the designed run game or as a scrambler. He brings a lot to the table as a quarterback. He can make a lot

of plays."

Hillstead completed 60% of his passes in his career at Skyridge, throwing for 6,897 yards with 74 touchdowns against 22 interceptions while rushing for 1,807 yards and 35 more scores. Hillstead hurt his ankle in the fifth game of his senior season against Timpview, an injury that required surgery. He missed the next six games and returned to throw four touchdown passes in a 47-22 quarterfinal win against Davis. In the state finals against

Please see **HILLSTEAD**, Page B3

NBA PLAYOFFS



CHARLES KRUPA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston Celtics forward Sam Hauser (30) takes a shot over Miami Heat guard Patty Mills (88) during the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Wednesday in Boston.

Celtics advance to East semis

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

BOSTON — If this playoff run is about redemption for the Boston Celtics, it had to start with exacting some revenge against the Miami Heat.

A year ago, Miami embarrassed Boston in a Game 7 showdown at TD Garden.

This time, the Celtics returned the favor.

Jaylen Brown and Derrick White each scored 25 points and the Celtics advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals, beating the short-handed Heat 118-84 in Game 5 on Wednesday.

Boston will face the winner of the Cleveland-Orlando series. The Cavaliers lead 3-2, with Game 6 in Orlando on Friday night.

Brown said they went into the game with a business-like approach.

"It is a lot of history, back and forth. But it didn't matter who it was," Brown said. "We just had to get the job done."

That was echoed by teammate Jayson Tatum.

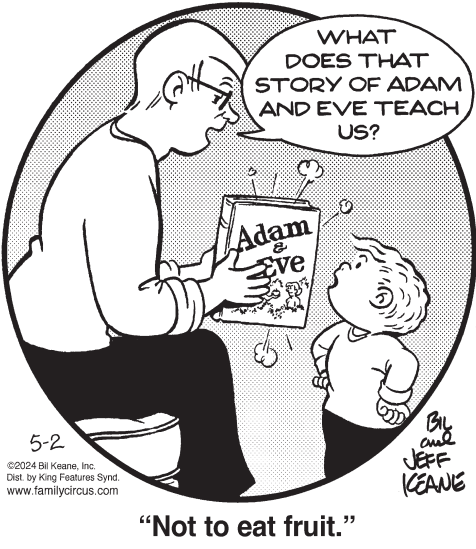
"I think this is my fourth time playing them in playoffs," Tatum said. "They all count the same. ... We did our job. We took care of business."

Brown also had six assists, and White hit five 3-pointers. Sam Hauser added 17 points and Tatum had 16 points and 12 rebounds. The top-seeded Celtics never trailed and led by 37 points.

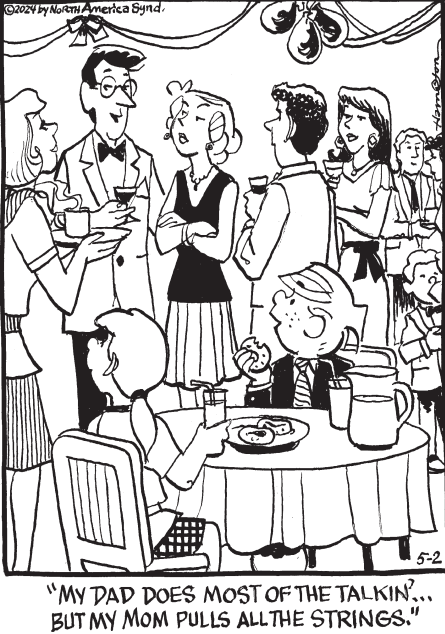
Bam Adebayo scored 23 points and Tyler Herro had 15 for Miami, "which made its first exit

Please see **CELTICS**, Page B3

FAMILY CIRCUS



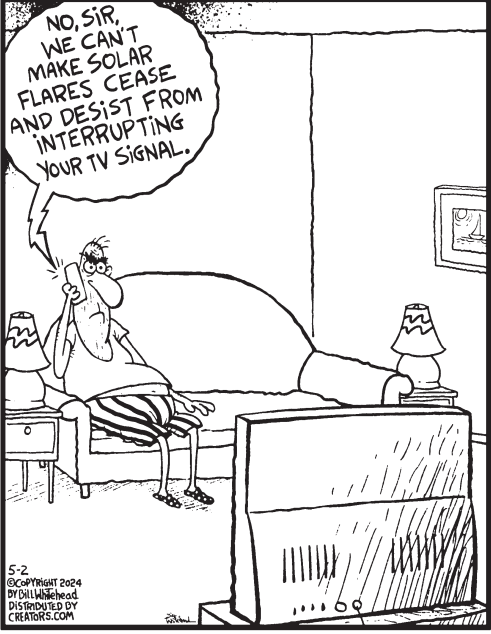
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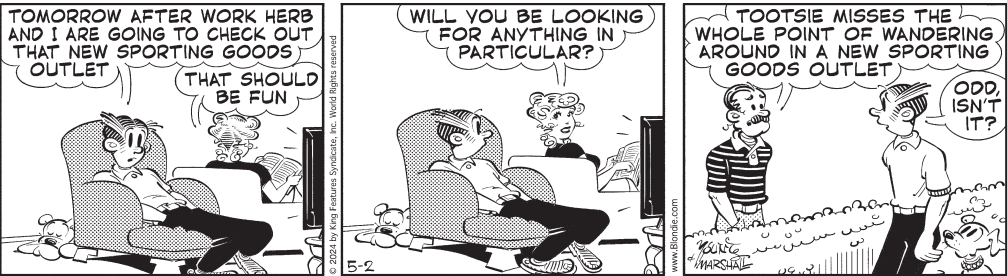
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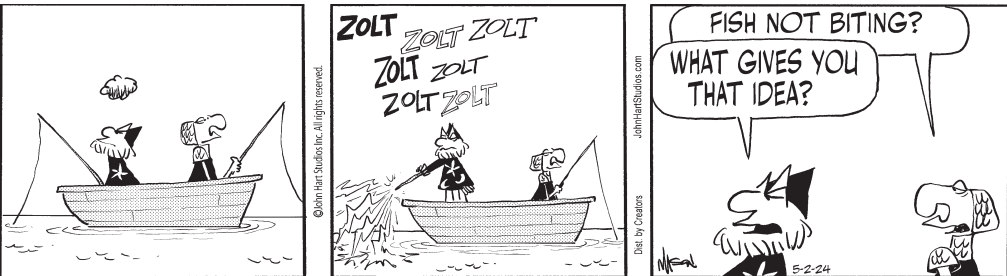
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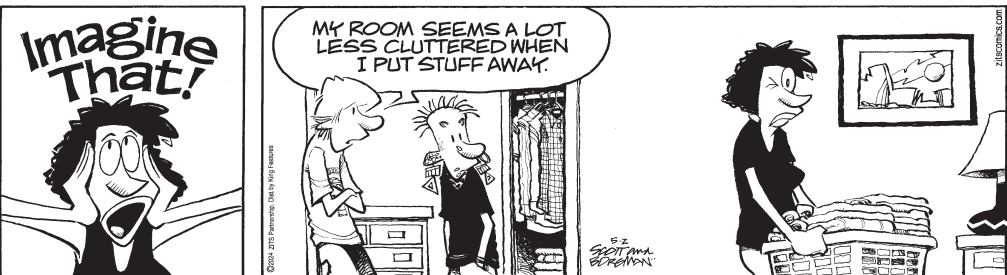
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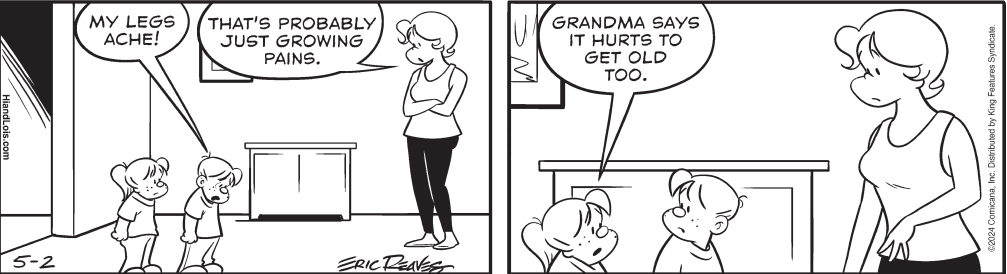
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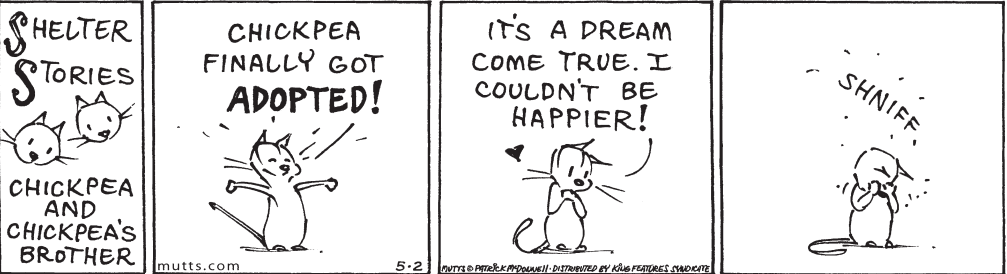
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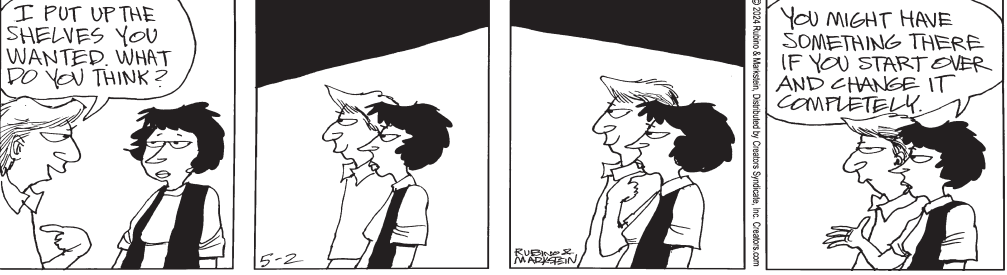
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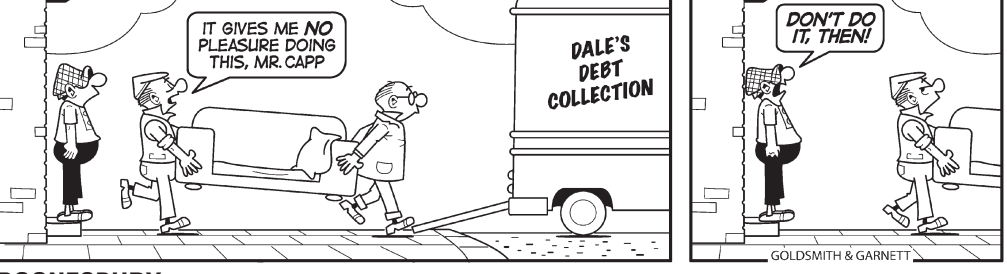
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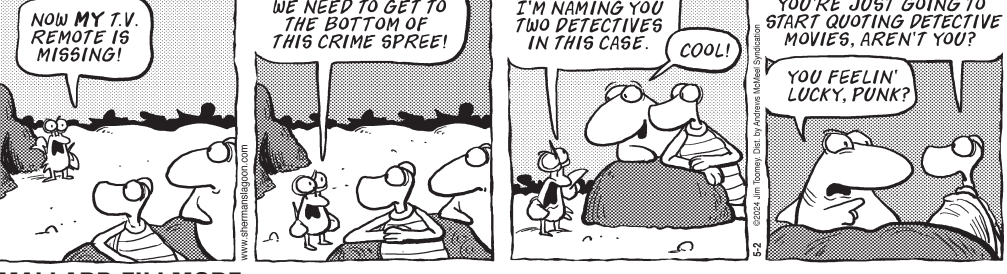
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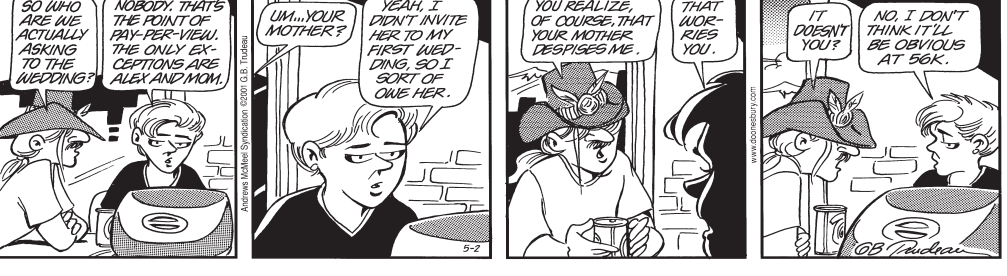
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