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ACC leaders mull adding Cal, Stanford from Pac-12

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Women's Soccer
Round of 8: World Cup wide open after heavyweights eliminated

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The Baxter Bulletin

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023 | BAXTERBULLETIN.COM | MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

A PHILLIPS MEDIA PUBLICATION | \$1.50

Baxter Health, Fulton Co. hospitals receive ARPA funds

By Caroline Spears
cspears@baxterbulletin.com

Baxter and Fulton counties have come together in a management agreement thanks in part to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding under Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Judge Kenneth Crow said of the agreement, "The governor has made incentives for Baxter to partner with us in Fulton County and to provide the management resources and expertise to stabilize our hospital and grow the services for our citizens."

The decision comes after the Fulton County Hospital Board voted unanimously to sign a letter of intent to enter into a management agreement with Baxter Health.

"Basically the government is providing the funds to states who showed that they needed it," explained Ron Peterson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Baxter Regional Health Center. "The Hospital Association and Department of Health ended up requesting \$60 million dollars to go towards helping smaller hospitals that weren't part of a system and were in

more rural areas of Arkansas."

The application went out in 2022, and the state's legislators showed concern that the funds would be distributed, and that six months to a year later, would still not show sustainability.

"They wanted to make sure that the money would be going to be used appropriately so the hospitals can succeed and continue to provide patient care," Peterson stated.

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration hired consultants to help legislators decide how to prioritize hospitals' requests for the ARPA funding. The data from their analysis showed that inflation and staffing challenges from COVID-19 have left Fulton County Hospital in a dire financial position with limited cash, increasing debt and at risk for closure.

"That's when the state contacted us and presented us with the idea of Baxter merging with Fulton County," Peterson continued. "I'm using the term 'merge' loosely, since there are a lot of interpretations of that word, but that was essentially what brought us to consider the idea."

Peterson said that it ultimately became clear that this move would provide great benefit by helping patients and helping to grow Fulton County to be successful.

After presenting a preliminary plan for sustainability to the Fulton County Hospital Board of Directors, a management agreement was put in place and will allow Baxter Health to immediately begin management of operations, financial management, and basic operations as is carried out by the hospital.

"We were under a bit of a timeline with the ARPA funds," Peterson said. "We received the actual criteria for the ARPA money and the deadline for the application and are providing a due diligence analysis by the end of the year."

Peterson said in addition to working towards getting the due diligence analysis completed, they are also working on a strategic plan on how to proceed with the unification of these two organizations.

"We have two philosophies here," Peterson stated. "We believe that care should be provid-



A sign is shown outside Fulton County Hospital in Salem. The facility has reached an agreement with Baxter Health to take over management of the hospital on an interim basis, with a potential merger possible in the future. PHOTO COURTESY OF FULTON COUNTY HOSPITAL

ed as close to home as possible. Second, we believe that people get into healthcare because they want to help people, so we want to make sure we provide compassionate care.

"We felt that we could bring compassionate care to Fulton County and help grow their industry in Salem so that the people in Fulton County don't have to drive so far for their

services," Peterson continued. "There are things Baxter doesn't provide, but there are things Fulton doesn't provide, so we want to come together to serve these counties," Peterson said.

He went on to say that the goal ultimately is for Baxter County and Fulton County to become one hospital organization.

See **HOSPITALS**, Page A2



Controller Tony Belk of Gregory Company, Inc., attended Yellville-Summit's Monday night school board meeting, discussing the upcoming construction of six new classrooms and a new media center. HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

Y-S gets pre-construction update from Gregory Co.

By Helen Mansfield
hmansfield@baxterbulletin

In their final school board meeting before opening the school doors for students next Monday, members of the Yellville-Summit School Board received a pre-construction update from the members of Gregory Company, Inc., the team hired to add six additional classrooms and a new media center along the high school wing of campus.

Controller Tony Belk, Project Coordinator Derek Pearson and Vice President Will Gregory attended Monday's meeting, giving attendees a rundown of what they anticipate in the months to come and made themselves available for any questions or concerns the board might have.

According to Yellville-Summit Superintendent Wes Henderson, after months of playing the middleman between the construction team and board, he wanted members to get a direct update on the estimated \$4.2 million project that he is "very excited about."

Belk reported that there could be some future issues surrounding a water main at some point — if they are to hit rock — but they have three plans to address it and any financial fallout they may incur. Henderson said with construction, the contingency plan and architectural fees, the project will come out to \$350 a square foot on the high end, or \$325 on the low, which would result in a small windfall.

See **UPDATE**, Page A2

tbt

THROWBACK

THURSDAY

The Baxter County Courthouse from 1958-59
PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

The Baxter County Courthouse from 2021 PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER BAKER

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LOCAL BRIEFS

USACE sets road closure over Bull Shoals Dam

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) scheduled a full road closure for Highway 178 across Bull Shoals Dam from 6:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14 through 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 16 to deploy and remove maintenance equipment.

The closure has been coordinated with local emergency and law enforcement agencies.

For more information, contact the USACE Mountain Home Project Office at (870) 425 2700.

MH Planning Commission to meet

A Mountain Home Planning Commission meeting is set for 1 p.m. Monday at City Hall. New business includes approval of a landscape and façade plan for KFC Quick Service Restaurant at 1808 U.S. Hwy. 62 E. and approval of a landscape and façade plan for Mountain Home Community Center at Jerry Baker Road.

Events are open to the public, free and in Mountain Home unless otherwise noted. Email local news to newsroom@baxterbulletin.com or bring to The Bulletin office, 16 W. Sixth St.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Pugsley graduates from Community Development Institute

Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce President Dani Pugsley recently graduated from the 37th annual Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas. Pugsley completed all three years of the Institute's program of study. The complete CDI experience is a three-year program with one week of training per year. Participants move through the program curriculum in cohorts and are exposed to a comprehensive, applied approach to the field of community and economic development.

CDI trains community leaders and economic development professionals on how to strengthen their local economies and build communities. This is achieved by developing the ability of participants to identify community assets, set goals, encourage collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders and bring communities, organizations and businesses together to respond to a broad range of economic and quality of life issues.



Pugsley

as Tractor Supply," said Marty Curley, Mountain Home Tractor Supply store manager. "While the store's name and layout may change, our commitment to this community will not. We are excited to serve the Mountain Home area, invest in local organizations and celebrate our shared passion for Life Out Here."

As part of the rebranding, customers will see new trademark Tractor Supply signage, as well as the arrival of Tractor Supply's top-tier exclusive brands, including Countyline, Ridgecut and 4health. Customers will also find an expanded assortment of products to further improve their ability to maintain their homes, land and animals. The exceptional people and service the community has come to know will remain unchanged. All current Orscheln employees have been invited to join the Tractor Supply team.

During this initial transition phase, customers can join Tractor Supply's Neighbor's Club, which enables members to earn points with purchases at any Tractor Supply and PetSense by Tractor Supply location. The Neighbor's Club program is free to join, and points can be redeemed for rewards, services and more. Members also receive exclusive benefits and offers. More information is available at NeighborsClub.com. Orscheln's Grow Rewards program will be discontinued.

Tractor Supply is a Certified Great Place to Work. The company has been recognized on Newsweek's lists of America's Most Responsible Companies and America's Greatest Workplaces for Diversity, Forbes' list of Best Employers for Diversity and earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2022 Best Places to Work Corporate Equality Index. The company also offers competitive salaries and an industry-leading benefits package. Those interested in joining the team are invited to learn more at TractorSupply.jobs.

Email business news to newsroom@baxterbulletin.com

'Drop in with Dewey' begins today

By Submitted Report



Allyson Dewey, Mountain Home Public Schools superintendent, will host community feedback dates throughout the school year called "Drop in with Dewey." The first of these sessions is set for 4-6 p.m. Thursday at the district's administration office, 2465 Rodeo Drive.

These sessions will be similar in nature to the Walk-In Wednesday events

that Dr. Jake Long hosted when he was district superintendent. During these sessions, which Dewey plans to host throughout the school year, she will be available for community feedback and questions.

Dewey plans to host these events on the evenings of open house and parent-teacher conferences as well as the last Friday of each month. The district will announce times and dates for each event as they arise.

Dewey said her goal is to listen and gain perspective on various issues facing education.

"I am hopeful that people from within our community — parents, neighbors, business partners, and district employees — will come to these events to share ideas and ask questions," she said. "I want to see things from lots of different perspectives, and I think these types of informal conversations are the best way to do that."

For those who cannot attend but wish to visit with Dewey, she can be reached at adewey@mhbombers.com.

CORRECTION

The "Tales & Tails" pet adoption event at Treat Yo Shelf Books from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday will benefit Baxter County

Animal Shelter associated with the Baxter County Sheriff's Office. Those who purchase books during the event will pay \$10

to adopt a pet. Incorrect information was published in the Aug. 9 issue of The Baxter Bulletin. The Bulletin regrets the error.

HOSPITALS

Continued from Page A1

"How that will be accomplished is what we want to do our due diligence analysis on, so that we understand what their debt situation is and how they can grow and how we can bring new services to them," Peterson said.

Baxter County currently gets approximately 700 patients from Fulton County already, so Peterson says Baxter is working very closely with Fulton already.

He said, "About a couple of months ago, a few of our hospitalists went to Fulton County to begin giving hospice care to the county, which seemed to help significantly."

Peterson explained the dynamics of the hospital situation in regards to numbers. "The thing that is most unique about providing healthcare in Northern Arkansas is that geographically you have a lot of space and territories but population wise, it is not that dense. So if you choose to live in the rural areas, you should have access

to high quality, compassionate care." Peterson also said that he and those involved with the project are already seeing opportunities to grow their services, including their ambulance services.

"We believe we see some efficiencies with the ambulance services and how we can serve both counties," he said. "There are a lot of ways we are seeing where we can enhance these services and provide even more."

The next step he says is for Baxter to come up with a strategic plan and share it with the county board, since Fulton is a county owned hospital.

"We feel we've already started some of the growth," he said.

Baxter Health Vice President of Ancillary Services Anthony Reed has been appointed Interim Administrator for Fulton County. He will be responsible for running the hospital on a day-to-day basis and working on the strategic plan.

"A lot of our team has already gone over to Fulton County to meet the employees and get a head start learning as much as we can about

critical access hospitals," Reed said. "It is different than what we do here, trying to find the expert over there and try to collaborate and help us understand the rules and regulations. We want to help increase efficiencies and optimize the operations for the communities in the county."

Reed said he is seeing the excited energy of the transition from both sides.

"They are really excited to help and lean on some of these people," he said. "We have had a lot of great internal support from the Baxter side, and every time I go over there they are excited about what's to come."

Peterson followed up by saying, "It's going to be an extreme effort, actually getting it to happen. It took a lot of coordination from the state and Fulton County."

He went on to say how Senator Scott Flippo did an exemplary job in coordinating the process from the beginning, from getting contact points to proceeding with the ARPA application.

"He really made sure we were going down the right path and direction getting support for that," Peterson said.

UPDATE

Continued from Page A1

"And I'm not telling you all that so you can spend it," Henderson joked. "But, it would be nice if we had money left over to buy tables and chairs."

He added that the current plan has four classrooms being added to the north end of the current high school wing, with two additional classrooms coming off the east end toward Panther Pavilion, which Henderson remarked was the first time he has ever referred to that building as anything other than "the new gym," eliciting laughter from the attendees.

Gregory estimates construction will begin in September and anticipates the project to be complete in 10 months.

"I think this is a really good time for Yellville-Summit," Henderson added.

In the principal's report, Wyatt reported that the high school enrollment numbers are at 338, though he anticipates losing a couple before



Yellville-Summit Superintendent Wes Henderson gave school board members an update on possible grades they may need additional teachers during the 2023-24 school year if enrollment continues to grow — which he said is a "great problem to have." HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

the first day of school. In what Henderson called an effort to "make the state happy," Wyatt reported that the high school school day will undergo a minor tweak. The day will start at 7:55 a.m. to 3:16 p.m., which will allow for early dismissals on Wednesday. It put the district in line with the state's 360-minute average school day.

Middle school principal Kary Duffy reports her enrollment is currently at 309 students. Elementary school principal Calvin Mallett was absent.

In his superintendent report, Henderson said that the district's standardized test scores had come in. While short on specifics, he said the scores were "not as good as we want, but they'll never be as good as we want."

Following last Tuesday's townhall forum with Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Education Secretary Jacob Oliva at The Sheid of ASU-Mountain Home, Henderson said he appreciates Oliva's push to provide data points on each student's classroom performance when it comes to grade-level proficiency on all subjects, especially for reading and literacy.

Having the ability to look at each student's growth in a particular subject area is something he said he would like to know if he were a teacher, and will be used as a way to gauge individual teacher's performance.

For district enrollment,

Henderson said the district was around 932 students last year and is at 988 students today, which he also anticipated may drop some as well.

He adds that administration will have some key grades to keep an eye on as the year goes along. At the beginning of 2022-23, the Kindergarten had 50 students, ending the year with 64. So far, there are 71 students enrolled and each class can accommodate 20 students. A fifth Kindergarten teacher may be needed. The same goes for third grade. There are currently 73 students in classes that can accommodate 25 third-graders, so if enrollment increases beyond 75, another teacher will be needed there as well.

"These are great problems to have," Henderson said of the growing enrollment. "But, without new classrooms these make for bigger problems."

Since coming on board in 2015, he said enrollment has grown roughly 43 percent.

"We'd have to go back before 2005 or 2006 to find enrollment bigger than now," he added.

The district was recently awarded a \$127,000 federal Stronger Connections Grant which will be used in conjunction with a similar \$123,000 state grant to make safety improvements throughout the schools' campus.

SRO Eric Norberg reported that fob locks have been added to each class-

room door.

Lastly, Henderson said the district's current contract with Pepsi brings in roughly \$3,500 a year for five years — sometimes more if more is sold. He said he would like these discretionary funds to be used among the three buildings to recognize the achievements of individual students when they go above and beyond, as they are not tax-payer generated.

In other business, the board approved the purchase of Go Guardian internet safety software, which will automatically prevent students from searching unsafe websites with their school-issued laptops. High school principal David Wyatt said teachers would also receive a notification if a student were to end up somewhere inappropriate online.

They additionally approved spending \$11,000 so Sara Goodwin could remain the high school's Career Coach. Her salary is paid in part by the district, Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASU-Mountain Home) and through grant funding. Wyatt said she is on campus two days a week and provides assistance to students who have questions about possible career options, taking them on school visits and administering aptitude tests when needed.

The board also:

- Renewed the contract for David's Cleaning for the elementary school.

- Approved the transfer of six students out of the district and the transfer of five in.

In personnel, the board accepted the hiring of the following:

- Christine Gokey, full time to part time cafeteria worker
- James Johnson, bus driver
- Michael Murphy, maintenance
- Brittany Roberts, bus driver
- Zach Davenport, in-school suspension and safety
- Mindy Jennings, ALE elementary paraprofessional

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Lincoln Paden Medical Group is pleased to announce that Dr. Jack Baltz has joined our practice and will be accepting new patients starting on August 1, 2023.

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Dr. Baltz completed his Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Arkansas. Then completed his Doctorate at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and completed his residency at John Peter Smith Family Medicine Residency, Fort Worth TX.

He has a passion for caring for newborns to the elderly. We are proud to have attracted such a highly qualified medical professional to our practice. We feel he will be a great asset to our patients, clinic, and community.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT 870-425-3030

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OBITUARIES

Forrest Cotter

Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023

In loving memory of Forrest Cotter. Forrest Cotter, 78, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and community leader, died on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, in Mountain Home.



He was born on Feb. 20, 1945, in Vidette, Arkansas, to Virginia Agnes Cotter and Forrest Duncan Cotter. Forrest served in the Vietnam war in the U.S. Army, loved racing stock cars and followed NASCAR faithfully. In his working years, he was an auto mechanic, real estate agent, cattle farmer and as he aged, transitioned to a successful real estate developer. He credited any success completely to the Lord enabling him to be a blessing to others.

He was known for his generous spirit and his unwavering commitment to helping those in need. He was able to play a pivotal role in the establishment of the Mountain Home Food Basket and CareCenter Ministries, organizations dedicated to providing assistance to the people facing hard times.

Forrest's dedication to his faith and community extended to the Mountain Home Christian Academy, where he selflessly donated and actively recruited donors because of his belief in Christian education. He also served on the school board, lending his expertise and passion to their missions.

His boundless generosity, combined with his compassionate nature, benefited countless individuals and families facing challenging times. For many years, Forrest served as an Elder at the Christian Church of Mountain Home.

He was slow to speak and very observant, so when he had something to say, people stopped to listen.

Forrest will be deeply missed by his wife, Ivadel Cotter, who stood beside him throughout their journey. He is also survived by his daughter, Vanessa Peglar, and her husband, Joey Peglar, along with their four sons, Easton, Riley, Jace and Jaxson.

He held a special place in the heart of his late son, Kevin Cotter, and his wife, Misti Cotter, as well as Forrest's grandchildren, Austin, Kaleb, Kytalin and Khloe.

Additionally, he is survived by his four sisters and two brothers, Pat Hickman, Betty Jo Skiver, Tammy Talbott, Sheri Cotter, Don Cotter and Jack Cotter, along with their spouses, and many nieces and nephews.

The graveside service will be held privately at Fluty Cemetery but friends and family are invited to a "Celebration of Life" service to honor Forrest's journey.

Bring your "Forrest" stories. Catfish dinners will be served, and it will be a great time of reminiscing. The service will be held 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at Christian Church of Mountain Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Mountain Home Food Basket, CareCenter Ministries or the Mountain Home Christian Academy in honor of his memory.

"As we bid farewell to Forrest, let us carry his loving spirit within us and continue his legacy of making a positive difference in the lives of others."

Ronald Vern McHenry

Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023

Ronald Vern McHenry, 86, died Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, in Mountain Home.



He was born April 1, 1937, in Fort Scott, Kansas, the son of John and Lula McHenry. He married Paula Marks on Feb. 14, 1975, in Houston, Texas, and worked as an air traffic controller in the aviation industry. Ronald was a U.S. Air Force veteran.

Ron lived in Mountain Home since 1988 moving from Columbus, Ohio. He enjoyed photography, music and spending time at the Humane Society volunteering.

Ronald is survived by his daughter, Belinda Strom; grandsons Christopher Strom and Andrew McHenry.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Paula McHenry and his son, Brett McHenry.

Memorials in Ron's name may be made to Humane Society of North Central Arkansas, 2656 AR Hwy. 201 N., Mountain Home, AR 72653.

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

Howard 'Junior' Morrow Jr.

Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023

YELLEVILLE — Howard "Junior" Morrow Jr., 89, of Yellville, died Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023 in Mountain Home.

He was born May 30, 1934 in Yellville to Walter Howard and Thelma Opal Camp Morrow.

A graveside service will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, at Cowan Cemetery near Yellville.

DEATH NOTICES

Susan J. Lindenmeyer, 74

Arrangements for Susan J. Lindenmeyer, 74, of Midway are pending at Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Mountain Home. Susan J. Lindenmeyer died Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, at her residence.

Wall Street slips ahead of inflation report

By STAN CHOE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks are slipping Wednesday, weighed by drops for Big Tech companies, as Wall Street waits for a highly anticipated report on inflation that's arriving the next day.

The S&P 500 was down 0.3% in afternoon trading, coming off a rough run where it's dropped in five of the last six days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 73 points, or 0.2%, at 35,235, as of 1:25 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.8% lower.

Stocks have cooled in August since soaring 19.5% through the first seven months of the year. Several reasons are behind the mini-pullback, including criticism that Wall Street too quickly formed a consensus that inflation will keep cooling, the economy will keep growing and the Federal Reserve has already finished its hikes to interest rates.

A report on Thursday will offer a big clue on how warranted those hopes are. The U.S. government will give the latest monthly update on inflation that consumers are feeling across the country, and economists expect to see an acceleration to 3.3% in July from 3% in June.

Such a reading would be down sharply from its peak of more than 9% last summer, but economists say the last bit of improvement to get inflation down to the Fed's 2% target may be the toughest part.

Fed officials have said repeatedly recently that their upcoming decisions on interest rates will depend on what the data tells them, and they've pointed to reports on inflation and the job market in particular.

"With risks turning increasingly two-sided, Fed officials are beginning to shift the focus toward how long to hold rates steady at sufficiently restrictive levels," according to economists at Deutsche Bank.

A reading on Thursday that's much worse than expected could raise fears that the Fed's job in battling inflation is far from done and that it may have to keep hiking interest rates. At the least, it could push the Fed to keep rates high for longer than expected.

High rates slow inflation by grinding down the entire economy and hurting investment prices. The Fed has already pulled its federal funds rate to the highest level in more than two decades.

In the meantime, companies continue to offer profit reports for the spring that are mostly better than analysts expected.

Axon Enterprise, the company behind Tasers and Axon body cameras, jumped 14% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500. It reported much stronger profit for the spring than analysts expected. Akamai Technologies also helped to lead the market after beating forecasts for both profit and revenue. Akamai's stock rose 8.8%.

Outside of earnings, Penn Entertainment jumped 8.4% after the gaming company announced Tuesday that it was paying \$1.5 billion for the exclusive rights to rebrand its sports-betting app with the ESPN name.

On the losing end of Wall Street was Lyft, which fell 8.9%. The ride-share company reported better results for the latest quarter than expected, and its forecasts for the current quarter also topped forecasts. But analysts highlighted some cautious comments from the company for expectations for the end of the year.

WeWork plunged 36.3% to 13 cents after saying there's substantial doubt about its ability to stay

in business as it burns through cash. The workspace-sharing company has already had a couple spectacular rises and falls in its history, and it reported a larger loss than expected for the spring late Tuesday.

Nvidia was the heaviest weight on the S&P 500, falling 4.3%. The chipmaker is one of the stocks that have rocketed this year due to Wall Street's frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology, raising fears that they went too far.

Other Big Tech stocks also fell, and their movements pack more punch on the S&P 500 because of their massive size. Facebook's parent company Meta Platforms fell 1.4%, Amazon dropped 1.3% and Apple slipped 0.6%. The threat of high rates tend to hit technology and other high-growth stocks the hardest.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 4.01% from 4.03% late Tuesday. That yield helps set rates for mortgages and other loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for action by the Fed, rose to 4.79% from 4.76%.

In stock markets abroad, indexes were modestly higher in Europe and mixed in Asia. A report showed that prices at the consumer level in China are lower than a year earlier. It's the latest evidence of sputters for the world's second-largest economy.

China was supposed to help prop up the global economy after it removed anti-COVID restrictions, but it's fallen short of expectations. The weakness, though, has also kept some pressure off inflation around the rest of the world.

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Fri.-Thurs. 1:30, 4:15, 7:10 & 9:35

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (PG)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:45, 4:15, 7:15 & 9:30

Oppenheimer (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 12:30, 4:00 & 7:30

Haunted Mansion (PG-13)
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Reform the FDA before it kills us

The human capacity for processing information is limited. People running for office who recognize this and adapt their campaign messages accordingly usually do better than those who don't.

It's not that the voters are dumb, far from it. In the years since the end of World War II, the federal government has grown in both size and scope to a scale most of the nation's founding generation would not have believed possible.

The regulatory impulse has led to a permanent and unaccountable meta-government at the bureaucratic level that often ignores the general welfare and the sentiments of the people in the name of protecting them.

Vivek Ramaswamy, a biotech entrepreneur currently seeking the 2024 GOP presidential nomination, is making the need to prune the permanent government back a centerpiece of his campaign. An Ohio-born first-generation American, he's out on the hustings like a high-tech Paul Revere, calling for us to address the excesses of the administrative state.

It's a welcome contribution to the national debate. Federal regulators have been out of control for some time, writing rules that have the force of law free of the accountability that comes through the democratic process.

There is, as Ramaswamy acknowledges, a veritable alphabet soup of agencies known by their initials that hold the power of life and death over essential sectors of the economy and, increasingly, over us.

The one that may be most urgently in need of reform is the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Its focus is literally on things that can keep us alive and things that can kill us. Unfortunately, it continually errs in both directions.

During the recent public health crisis that was COVID-19, it was — until President Donald Trump intervened with Operation Warp Speed and other methods of cutting red tape — an impediment to the development of both rapid testing and a cure.

Since the end of the pandemic, the agency has been curiously silent about the long-term effects of the vaccines many people were ordered to receive either by government mandate or at the cost of losing their job if they refused. Had it been more on the ball, it might have been able to help forestall the ongoing online panic running through social media that the cure did more damage than the disease.

That's only part of the problem. The FDA's decades-long war against tobacco — which it decided several years ago included a mandate to regulate vaping devices — is failing.



PETER ROFF

The number of different devices available in the United States has tripled during the Biden years, most of them coming from China. That's in stark contrast to regulators' own figures, which tout the rejection of some 99% of company requests to sell new e-cigarettes while authorizing only a few meant for adult smokers, according to the Associated Press.

Rather than focus on that, the FDA is ramping up efforts to increase its ban on tobacco. As part of that, the agency is seriously considering a ban on the sale of menthol cigarettes, which have been around since the 1920s and became widespread in the 1950s.

One reason is the number of young people smoking is at an all-time low. An FDA ban on menthol would only really affect adults, who, we generally concede, should have the freedom to choose.

Adults may prefer flavored vapes and tobacco, especially if they've chosen vaping as an alternative. Young people also prefer flavors, making them a safety hazard in the government's mind. As such, they were driven from the U.S. market by the FDA — except for what's coming from China. It apparently can't do anything about them — or doesn't want to expend the resources and political capital necessary to try.

The pivot to menthol from flavored vapes might be what you'd see the private sector do. Hit a wall, move to something else. But we want something else from government. We don't want entrepreneurial regulators looking for opportunities. We want them to follow instructions given to them by Congress or the President, all of whom are accountable to the people.

We've been down this road before. When the Volstead Act passed, making the production of alcohol illegal (except for certain specific and highly regulated purposes), we got a black market and bloodshed. When flavored vapes were effectively banned, we got a flood of Chinese imports.

Now the FDA thinks it can get rid of menthol cigarettes. Who does it think it's kidding?

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They're coming to (the) America(n) Legion

Coming off of the back-to-school tax free weekend, kids and parents all over the Twin Lakes Region are preparing their backpacks and getting out their new clothes in order to head back to school next week.

According to Suzan Kaye, first vice-president of the Alley-White American Legion Post 52 Auxiliary, there will be a number of food-related events and opportunities to give back to veterans going on through the end of the month.

Coming up on Monday, Aug. 14, will be their monthly "Monday Dinner @ The Legion" from 4 to 6 p.m. The evening's menu includes pork chop, stuffing, glazed carrots, roll, drink and dessert for \$10 adults, \$5 kids ages 5-12 and kids 5 and younger eat free.

Then, on Wednesday, Aug. 16, and Aug. 23, the legion post will host "Blood Drive @ The Legion," from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments are still available. To schedule, call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: ALH52.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, will be the post's monthly "All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast" from 7:30 to 11 a.m. at the Legion. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 kids 5-12 and kids 4 and younger eat. The breakfast is free for World War II, Korean War Vets, firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement and active duty in uniform.

The next Legion Post & Auxiliary monthly potluck will be at 5 p.m. on

Monday, Sept. 4, with their associated meetings following at 6:30 p.m.

The post also hosts "Crafting @ The Post" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Tuesday.

Every Saturday, the post also hosts "Donuts & Coffee Social" at 9 a.m., along with its "Veterans Food Pantry" from 9 to 11 a.m.

While Kaye said the post and auxiliary have enough volunteers to run most of their monthly programs, they can ALWAYS use non-perishable food items or cash donations to keep the pantry at the post stocked for veterans. One item in particular she said they are low on is peanut butter.

"We used up all the grant money we were awarded last year and did not receive anything this year," she said.

On average, Kaye said they are serving roughly 12 clients each week, both single veterans, couples and one family with at least five children.

Additionally, the post and auxiliary members are still shipping packages as part of their monthly "Box-up Day," which is usually scheduled at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month — though there are variations in the schedule from time to time.

While Kaye said anyone in the community is welcome to help pack boxes for a deployed service member, they would also be happy to send a box to a friend or relative of someone in the area who is deployed overseas.

"We would need a valid APO/FPO military mailing address that is good for at



HELEN MANSFIELD
THAT'S NEWS TO ME!

least three months following the date of the mail out (i.e., if the box is sent out in September, the address must be good through December) to allow for delays in delivery," she said.

Addresses can be e-mailed to alaunit52ar@gmail.com and senders are asked to please include your own contact info and your relationship to the service member.

Kaye said the auxiliary and post members are in the planning phase for this year's Halloween Fun Fest, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21. As in the years past, admission will be nonperishable foods for the Pantry at the Post.

The event will feature games, food and other fun stuff for the younger ones and kids of all ages. Games will require tickets, which will be \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 15 for \$10 and 50 for \$25. Proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit Post & Unit 52 programs and projects — such as scholarships, Boys/Girls State, financial support for veterans in need, etc. The plan is for some outdoor activities, so Kaye asks folks to "pray for good weather!"

For more information on Alley-White American Legion Post 52 and Auxiliary, follow them on Facebook page @ Alley-White American Legion Post 52, follow them on Instagram @ alley-whitepost52 or visit its website at alleywhitepost52.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The reason Bull Shoals government is sometimes dysfunctional

Bill Howell,
Bull Shoals

I've lived here for 30 years and have seen both good and not-so-good mayors and city council members. My background is in business, both private and with large corporations. People don't understand that a city is a business and must be administered in the same manner. There are many occupations in which I would not be successful as I do not possess the skills that many others do, to do various jobs.

The mayor of a city is elected. The leader of a corporation rises to the top due to his expertise and management skills. City council members are either elected or appointed. Unfortunately, as would be possible in the world of business, you can't fire an elected official. This puts a city in a terrible position for years. Many city council members do not have the city's best interests at heart. They do what they can to block any progress on the positive side that the mayor or certain city council members try to accomplish, due to a vendetta or their personal agenda they supported for previous administrations.

If you harness a race horse to a mule you can't run a race or plow a field. When we have a good mayor or a few good council members that are objective or rely on common sense, they become discouraged by those who either have no business/management skills and hold a personal vendetta, or only see their personal agenda. It's time for citizens to be aware of the disruptive elected officials that we are stuck with. When they leave office, the others can get the city moving forward. They are the reason the city has not been able to move forward or make progress. Look at the "rabble rousers" and the constant naysayers. That's the real stumbling block in Bull Shoals city government.

I personally supported Mayor Savu due to his business skills, kindness and the ability to listen and analyze all citizen comments and suggestions. When the Mayor

tries to accomplish what's best for the city, stumbling blocks by certain city council members are thrown in front of him. He donates his entire paycheck back to the city. He does a thankless job all week long and he's an excellent businessman. I can't understand why all citizens can't see his efforts in trying to be 100% for the city's progress.

Antifa originates from our education system

James Oravetz,
Mountain Home

Antifa is the natural product of our education system. The deepest causes of their violent and more-than-slightly-deranged behavior are undoubtedly personal and psychoanalytic in nature.

But whatever the psychological profile of the individual Antifa members, almost all of them share one thing in common. They went to American schools. And those schools — with only a few notable exceptions — talked down and continue to talk down the United States of America to one degree or another, from kindergarten through doctorate.

For decades, our schools have been self-replicating machines, preaching to college students, directly or indirectly, the left-wing gospel, critical theory (of) "Marxism."

The governors and the mayors of the states where the riots took place are themselves the products of the same educational institutions. They want to burn it down and lead to the renaming of this country as New Venezuela, figuratively and literally. I will get worse if we don't change our educational system, pronto!

Ninety-five percent of college professors are Democratic and left Democratic at that. Shall I send him or her to college, so they come home at Thanksgiving with an Antifa t-shirt and accuse me of being a "capitalist pig" when I just spent 50 grand for their tuition! I'm sick of mushbrains firebombing police stations. Does the school still "Pledge allegiance to the flag?"

The Baxter Bulletin

16 West 6th Street, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653
870-508-8000

The Baxter Bulletin (USPS 045-520) ISSN #0745-7707
16 West 6th Street, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653
Periodicals postage paid at Mountain Home, AR 72653.

PUBLISHER: BETH CHISM
bethc@phillipsmedia.com

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Baxter Bulletin,
16 West 6th Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653

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HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Publishes Tuesdays through Saturdays with the exception of New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
EZ Pay subscription rate is \$99 for 6 months in Baxter County. EZ Pay is a recurring payment; no refunds.

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E-Edition: Online at BaxterBulletin.com

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Printed in
Missouri
by
Nowata
(417) 864-0932

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WOTM sets roast beef dinner

A roast beef dinner fundraiser by Women of Mountain Home Moose Lodge is set for 4:30-6 p.m. Friday at the lodge, 4754 AR Hwy. 5 S. The menu includes roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll, dessert and a beverage. The event is open to members and nonmembers who sign in as guests. For more information, including cost and guest qualification, call (870) 491-5696 after 2 p.m.

Baxter Health Auxiliary announce sale

A Baxter Health Auxiliary Roaming Buffalo Co. Pop Up Boutique Fair fundraiser is set for 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday in the Lagerborg Dining Room. The sale will feature handbags, jewelry, T-shirts, jeans, shoes and other items. Cash, checks, credit card, payroll deduction, Cashapp and Venmo will be accepted. Proceeds will support special services and equipment needs at Baxter Health.

Clarkridge VFDA sets meeting

CLARKRIDGE — A Clarkridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary meeting is set for 7 p.m. Monday at the main fire station, 12101 AR Hwy. 201 N.

Legion slates Monday dinner

A Monday dinner is set for 4-6 p.m. Monday at Alley-White American Legion Post 52, 717 Market St. The menu includes pork chop, stuffing, carrots roll, beverage and dessert. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12 and free for children younger than age 5.

DAV Auxiliary sets meeting

A Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Twin Lakes Unit 30 meeting is set for 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Heinz-Willett Wellness Center at Good Samaritan Campus, 300 Good Samaritan Drive. The agenda includes planning for the upcoming Veterans Appreciation Picnic set for Oct. 7 at Arkansas State University-Mountain Home.

RA announces meeting

A Fleet Reserve Association Branch 251 meeting is set for Aug. 19 at Alley-White American Legion Post 52, 717 Market S. A bring-your-own lunch begins at noon, with the

meeting at 1 p.m. Agenda includes discussion of recent donation and planning for the September picnic at Good Samaritan. Former enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, U.S. Coast Guard and their Reserves are welcome. For information, call David Butts, president, at (870) 424-4424.

TL Disabled Veterans slate meeting

A Twin Lakes Disabled American Veterans Chapter 30 meeting is set for 2:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at Mountain Home Police Department meeting room, 424 W. Seventh St. Any veteran who has a service-connected disability may attend and join. For information, call Commander Dan Hall (870) 430-2322.

NCA Military Sisters announce luncheon

A North Central Arkansas Military Service Sisters luncheon is set for noon Aug. 25 at Ole Mill Tavern, 3948 U.S. Hwy. 62 E. Any woman who served in any branch of the military or reserves is welcome. For information and to RSVP, call Jami Scott at (920) 980-8054.

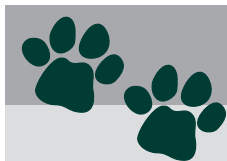
Legion schedules pancake breakfast

The monthly Alley-White American Legion Post 52 all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast is set for 7:30-11 a.m. Aug. 26 at the post, 717 Market St. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5-12 and free for children younger than age 4. World War II and Korean veterans, firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement and active duty armed forces in uniform are free.

AARP Taxaide seeks volunteers

AARP Taxaide is looking for retirees or those about to retire to help prepare tax returns. Complete training on preparing tax returns is provided during December and January so volunteers can pass an IRS-certified test. It is helpful if those wishing to volunteer have computer skills. Training includes preparing lots of returns so volunteers will be comfortable handling real returns starting in February at First Presbyterian Church. Those who wish to volunteer or need more information should call Pete Wells at 701-3899.

Events are open to the public, free and in Mountain Home unless otherwise noted. Email local news to newsroom@baxterbulletin.com or bring to The Bulletin office, 16 W. Sixth St.



PET OF THE WEEK

MEET

Willow!

Willow is a one-year-old, domestic, short-haired, female tabby. She is super shy, but also super sweet. It will take Willow time to adjust to new surroundings, but if she receives tender loving care, she will be a best friend in the end. Willow likes other cats, so that won't be a problem if you want to add her to your household that includes other cats.

Call the Humane Society of North Central Arkansas shelter at (870) 425-9221 to schedule a time to stop by to see Willow.



Community members gather to cut the ribbon and celebrate the installation of a StoryWalk at the ASUMH Walking Trail. SUBMITTED PHOTO

BC Library adds StoryWalk to ASUMH walking trail

By Submitted Report

The Baxter County Library, in partnership with Arkansas State University-Mountain Home, has installed a StoryWalk along the ASUMH walking trail.

The StoryWalk is a free activity for all that is accessible during normal trail hours. The story begins at the ASUMH trailhead next to McClain Hall. Parking is available in the first lot to the right after entering through the Hurd Gate.

The StoryWalk is a way for adults and their young children or grandchildren to combine literacy skills and healthy exercise as they walk approximately 1,600 feet to each of the 16 reading stations. Each station contains the pages of a children's book. Visitors

can read the story aloud to children while walking along enjoying the beauty of the ASUMH campus. The library will feature a new children's story approximately every three months.

"Reading aloud to preschool aged children is the single, most important thing you can do to get them ready to start to learn to read," said Baxter County Library Director Kim Crow Sheaner. "The StoryWalk project aligns with our Baxter County Early Literacy Project mission, which is to equip all Baxter County children with the early literacy skills they need to be prepared to enter kindergarten."

"I am excited about this great addition to the trail and the partnership with the Baxter County

Library," said outgoing ASUMH Chancellor Robin Meyers. "This 'book walk' will enhance the experience for the children and their parents as they experience the trail."

The first StoryWalk story features the children's book "A Way with Wild Things" by author Larissa Theule and illustrator Sara Palacios. This is a picture book about finding confidence in the things that bring you joy. Poppy Ann Fields is a bold nature lover with a particular fondness for bugs. But when she is around people, Poppy grows shy and hides within her environment, taking cover in patterns, paintings, plants, and drapes.

"The story is enhanced with little activities to

do with your child that really bring the story to life, such as counting the number of bugs on the page, listening for sounds of bugs, or marching like an ant," Baxter County Library Youth Services Librarian Amy Johnson said.

Take your walking shoes, your reading glasses and enjoy the StoryWalk.

Check out the Baxter County Library's event calendar at www.BaxLib.org/Events or the library's program guide for StoryWalk-specific programming that is sure to be fun for the entire family.

Those interested in sponsoring the StoryWalk program, should email Library Foundation Coordinator Adeana Estoll at foundation@baxlib.org

SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Aug. 11

Hill n' Hollow Quilters Guild, 9:30 a.m. The Christian Church of Mountain Home, 1365 Eastside Court. Program: Modern Traditionalism by The Mod Squad, a small group of quilters who are exploring the Modern Quilt movement.

14th annual Bomberfest, 5 p.m. Bomber Stadium. Admission: Individually packaged food, snack items, canned goods or peanut butter. Includes KTLO Barbecue Contest, Bouncy House, Golden Football Hunt, Cornhole Tournament, Dunk Booth, Obstacle Course Challenge, and MHHS football scrimmage.

"Crimes of the Heart" 7 p.m. Twin Lakes Playhouse, 600 W. Sixth St. Tickets: \$15. Info: (870) 424-0444.

Saturday, Aug. 12

Knights of Columbus Paul Bunyan Breakfast, 7:30-10:30 a.m. St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, 249 Dyer St. Menu: Scrambled eggs, biscuits with sausage gravy, pancakes, sausages links, coffee and juice served tableside. Cost: \$8, adults; \$4, children younger than age 12. Carry-out available.

Ozark Woodturners meeting, 9:30 a.m. Veterans of Foreign Wars Ozark Post 3246, 214 W. Seventh St. Offers woodturning demonstrations and beginner instruction. Visitors welcome.

Marion County Heritage Society presentation and book signing of "AWOL at Crook's Cabin, The Murder of State Police Trooper Algin Sidney Pavatt" by Steve Coppinger, 2 p.m. Estes Williams Legion Hut, Yellville.

"Crimes of the Heart" 7 p.m. Twin Lakes Playhouse, 600 W. Sixth St. Tickets: \$15. Info: (870) 424-0444.

Sunday, Aug. 13

"Crimes of the Heart" 2 p.m. Twin Lakes Playhouse, 600 W. Sixth St. Tickets: \$15. Info: (870) 424-0444.

Monday, Aug. 14

Patchwork Extension Homemakers, 9 a.m. The Salvation Army community room, 12 AR Hwy. 201 N.

Baxter Health Auxiliary Roaming Buffalo Co. Pop Up Boutique Fair fundraiser, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Lagerborg Dining Room. Cash, checks, credit card, payroll deduction, Cashapp and Venmo accepted. Proceeds support special services and equipment needs at Baxter Health.

Mountain Home Planning Commission meeting, 1 p.m. City Hall chambers.

Yellville-Summit School Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. Central Office.

Tuesday, Aug. 15

Baxter Health Auxiliary Roaming Buffalo Co. Pop Up Boutique Fair fundraiser, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Lagerborg Dining Room. Cash, checks, credit card, payroll deduction, Cashapp and Venmo accepted. Proceeds support special services and equipment needs at Baxter Health.

Mountain Home Street Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m. City Council chambers

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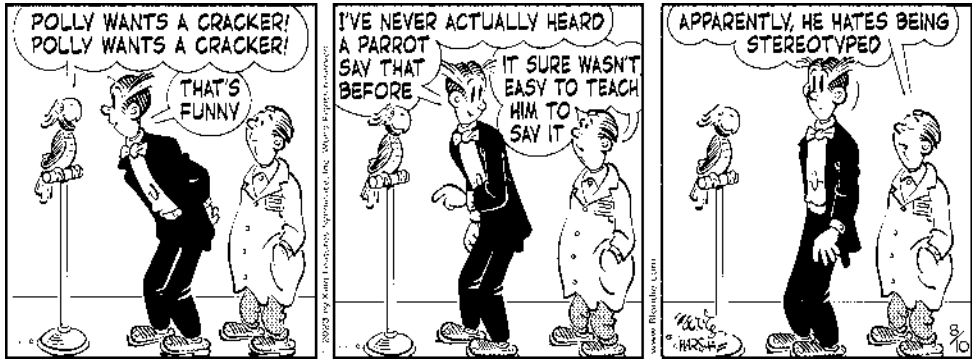
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BABY BLUES



BLONDIE



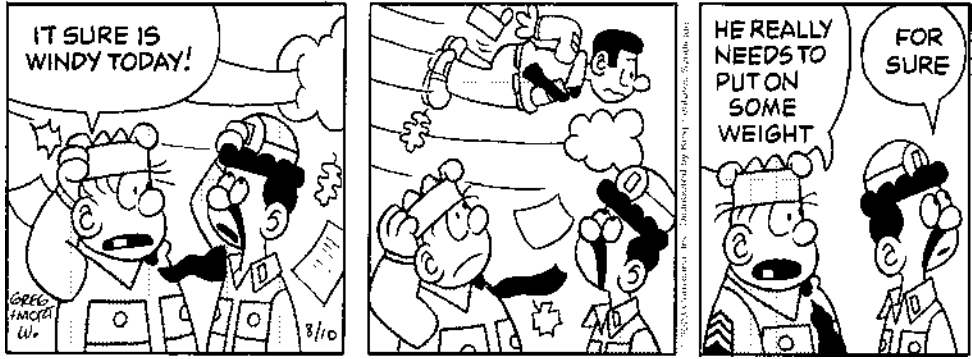
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



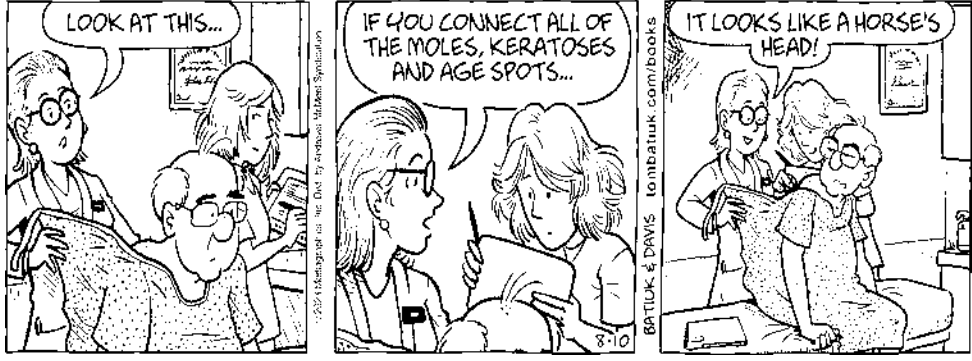
CLASSIC PEANUTS



BEETLE BAILEY



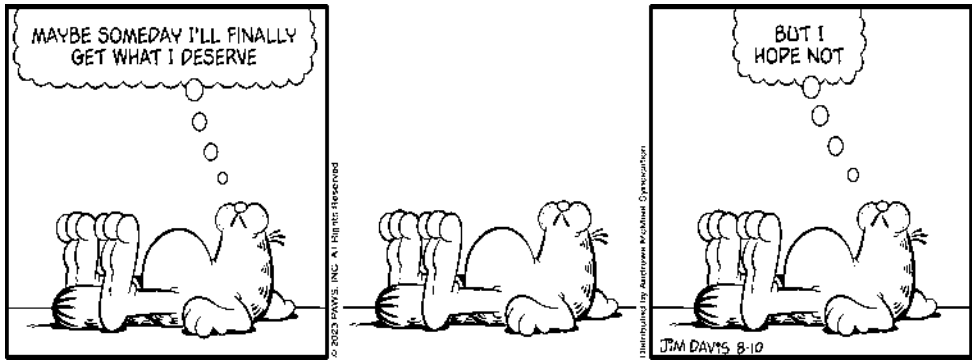
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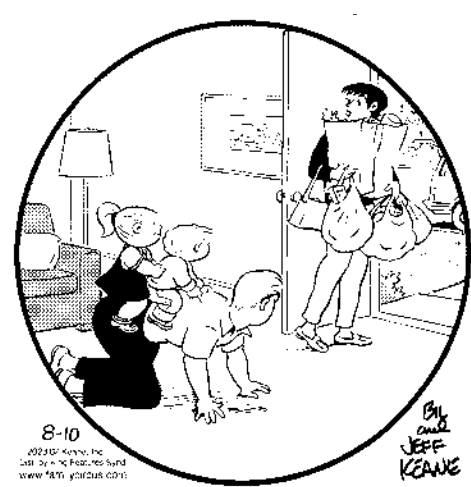
BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH



GARFIELD



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



HOROSCOPE
Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Gemini.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023: You have excellent communication skills because you like to please others. You also like to benefit others. This is a year of reflection, both inwardly and outwardly. Explore philosophies and ideas that will give you a better self-awareness and get you closer to the truth of the meaning of your life.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 Although you're eager to talk to others today, run errands and take short trips, be aware that conversations, especially related to your job or your health, might go south in a New York minute. People are touchy and things are glitchy. (But you can still have fun.) Tonight: Socialize!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 Today is a positive day if you can avoid financial arguments with your kids or financial disputes about social occasions like perhaps who picks up the tab at lunch -- that sort of thing. Steer clear of money talk. Actually, it's a nice day to entertain at home. Tonight: Business is good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 Today the Moon is in your sign, which gives you an edge over all the other signs. Why not ask the universe for a favor? Having said this, tread carefully when talking to family members, especially if you're involved in a home repair project. Tempers are a bit frayed. Tonight: You're happier.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 This is the kind of day that blows hot and cold. Discussions about money, earnings, purchases or anything to do with your belongings might go very well. Nevertheless, you might find yourself at odds with siblings, relatives and neighbors. Go figure. Easy does it. Tonight: Solitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Basically, relations with friends and members of groups can be a positive experience for you today. It might be a good day to share your hopes and dreams for the future to get someone's feedback. Having said that, disagreements about money and possessions are also likely. Tread carefully. Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 In some ways, relations with bosses, parents and VIPs will go well today, especially if this interaction is low-key or private. Nevertheless, especially later in the day, you might find yourself at odds with authority figures. Postpone asking for favors to another day. Tonight: Looking positive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Today you have an urge to travel or do something different to spice up your day. However, another influence is present, and it could create arguments if you get involved in controversial subjects like politics, religion or legal issues. Zip thy lip. Tonight: Explore!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 You make a great impression on others today, even if you're discussing shared property, funding or how to involve the responsibilities of others. But on the flipside, arguments with friends and members of groups about these same topics might arise. Be aware of this. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 Discussions about philosophy, religion, travel and other cultures will be exciting and will likely broaden your horizons today. You're eager to learn and talk to different people. However, go gently in discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs, because these will be dicey and challenging. Tonight: Cooperate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Steer clear of squabbles about politics, travel and legal or medical matters. These will not go well today. However, issues related to work budgets, funding and getting backup equipment or help from others will likely be successful. Today is a mixed bag. Tonight: Work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 This is a tricky day. Fun times, social outings and sports events will go well, especially when dealing with partners and close friends. This is the good part. The bad part is that the cost of social activities, sports matters, taking care of kids or perhaps vacation expenses could lead to squabbles. Tonight: Relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 Even though things are going well at work today with co-workers as well as bosses, things might not go as well when dealing with close friends, partners or spouses. Patience is your best friend today. Remember, fiery Mars is opposite your sign, waiting to provoke you. Stay chill. Tonight: Entertain.

BORN TODAY
 Actress Angie Harmon (1972), actor Antonio Banderas (1960), reality star Kylie Jenner (1997)

Find more Georgia Nicols horoscopes at georgianicols.com.
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Crossword by Eugene Sheffer

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|---------------|---------------------|------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 1 Roman god of love | 5 Jaden, to Will | 8 Miles away | 12 Be slack-jawed | 13 Sundial numeral | 14 Cisterns | 15 Hgt. | 16 Patient's need, briefly | 17 Body sci. | 18 Singer/song-writer Neil | 20 Grand tale | 22 Grammy-winning "Family Affair" singer | 26 Maudlin | 29 Dawn goddess | 30 Nemesis | 31 Un-repaired | 32 Indent key | 33 Wall Street optimist | 34 Holy Fr. woman | |
| | 35 "Le Coq —" | 36 Winter woes | 37 "Queen of —" (nickname of 22-Across) | 40 Cask sediment | 41 Ruling periods | 45 Bake sale orgs. | 47 Shell game item | 49 Prez's backup | 50 Millinery | 51 Under the weather | 52 Early Peruvian | 53 Curved molding | | | | | | | | |
| DOWN | 19 Singer Starr | 21 "Nova" airer | 23 Decade parts | 24 First-place medal | 25 Congers piece | 4 Over-hauls | 5 "Norwegian Wood" instrument | 6 Peanut product | 7 "Great work!" | 8 Use | 9 Imaginary link | 11 Letters after Q | 42 Pentagon VIPs | 43 Bottle part | 44 Relaxing resorts | 45 Saigon soup | 46 Label | 48 "Evil Woman" band | | |

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-10

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8-10 CRYPTOQUIP

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 C S M W G T - Q C G S F M S K .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC KIDS' FAIRY TALE CONCERNING A HIDEOUS OGRE FASTENING HIS BELT: "THE UGLY BUCKLING."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

Young nephew always inserted into adult gatherings

DEAR ABBY: My brother is 53. He has one child, my 12-year-old nephew, "Conner." Our father was difficult, and neither of us has many happy memories of times we shared with him. Perhaps in response to this, my brother seems incapable of socializing without his son. Many times, he suggests outings to my husband or his friends and then throws in that he's planning on bringing Conner. We do not want the boy included in what should be adult outings, but we can't find a way of saying it. If I'm planning a dinner out or something else where I think he might invite his son, I preface it with a grownups-only clause. I can't discuss it with my sister-in-law because even though I know she would understand, she wouldn't be tactful in mentioning it to my brother. My husband is not the type to say anything; it would mean more coming from him, but he doesn't want to cause upset. By the way, my brother is very outgoing and socially adept, so it's not like he needs this 12-year-old crutch. Any suggestions would be most appreciated. -- **FRUSTRATED IN NEVADA**



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

ners, she comes back with a smart comment like, "You can leave your elbows on the table" or "It's OK to eat that with your fingers." She's trying to be the "fun aunt." Recently I barked right back, asking her not to undermine my comments about my grandkids' behavior. She did not reply. I do not want to harm our otherwise decent relationship. She has no grandkids of her own yet and occasionally babysits my grandkids. Is there something better I can do? -- **HAD IT UP TO HERE IN IOWA**

DEAR HAD IT: Talk to your sister-in-law and lay down some ground rules. Tell her that as much as you care about her, there are certain parameters it is important that she understand in her interactions with the grandkids. Explain what they are. If "Fun Auntie" cannot respect the boundaries, she should see them less often. Not enough young people these days are fortunate enough to have parents (and grandparents) who teach them appropriate manners. Kudos to you..

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

It has now turned to my grandchildren. For example, at a family dinner, if I correct their table man-

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD A. GRAFF, Deceased

NO. 03PR-23-210

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent: 3229 Sir Gregory Manor, Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Date of death: February 28, 2023

On August 7, 2023, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributees was filed with respect to the Estate of Donald A. Graff, deceased with the Circuit Court of Baxter County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributees or their attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published the

Legal Notice

10th day of August, 2023.

Nina Celeste Graff and Nicholas E. Graff c/o Ted H. Sanders Attorney at Law P. O. Box 2308 Mountain Home, AR 72654

TWO PUBLICATIONS: August 10, 2023 August 17, 2023



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Yesterday's | Jumbles: CLASH KNIFE INVITE POETRY
Answer: After a long day working at the cemetery, the groundskeeper wasn't able to — REST IN PEACE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

We won't rest until we solve this. We are the best sleep group around. We'll see you in the morning. I'm lucky you all took my case.

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

(Answers tomorrow)

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COLEMAN WINS BIG CREEK MATCH PLAY



Nick Coleman rallied from two strokes down over the final three holes to force a playoff and eventually captured the championship trophy of the Men's Match Play tournament Friday at Big Creek Golf and Country Club. On the fourth playoff hole against 2021 tournament champion Luke Jackson, Coleman sank a birdie putt to win the championship. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tauchman, Taillon lead surging Cubs past Mets, 3-2

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — With all the talk about the eye-popping numbers Cody Bellinger and the Chicago Cubs are putting up at the plate lately, perhaps Jameson Taillon and their unheralded bullpen are getting a little overlooked.

Mike Tauchman hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Taillon retired his final 16 batters to win his fourth straight start as the surging Cubs beat the New York Mets 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Bellinger also went deep and Yan Gomes had an RBI double for the Cubs, who won for the 16th time in 21 games. They moved within 1 1/2 games of first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central and just ahead of Cincinnati in a crowded wild-card race for the league's final playoff spot.

"It's really electric," closer Adbert

Alzola said. "I feel like, just as a team right now, the chemistry is so good that we just want to be here, we just want to be around each other."

Pete Alonso hit an early two-run homer for the sinking Mets that culminated in an amusing back-and-forth trot around the bases because of a replay review. New York has lost seven of eight since trading Justin Verlander and other veterans at last week's deadline.

Tauchman also made a tough catch in deep right field to help keep the Mets from scoring in the eighth. Julian Merryweather retired 2022 big league batting champion Jeff McNeil with runners at the corners to end the inning.

Alzola worked a one-hit ninth for his 15th save in 16 tries. He started a 1-6-3 double play on Daniel Vogelbach to close it out.

See **CUBS**, Page A10



Stanford running back Mitch Leigber, middle, runs the ball against California during the first half in Berkeley, Calif., on Nov. 19, 2022. GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/AP

ACC leaders mull adding Cal, Stanford from Pac-12

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

Atlantic Coast Conference presidents and chancellors held a conference call Tuesday but took no action on West Coast expansion with California and Stanford, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the league isn't publicly revealing internal discussions regarding realignment. Another person with knowledge of the situation said the conference's athletic directors were planning to have a call later Tuesday to continue discussions. The ADs also met Monday.

A third person told AP on condition of anonymity that the ACC's conversations also include the possibility of adding SMU, the Dallas school currently in the American Athletic Conference.

The Pac-12 is down to four schools committed to the conference beyond the upcoming school year. This will be the last season in the Pac-12 for USC, UCLA, Oregon and Washington, which are all headed for the Big Ten in 2024. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah will join the Big 12 next year.

The new Big Ten setup means athletes will be routinely crossing multiple time zones to compete.

"I share concerns about the impact that the recent spate of conference realignment activities will have on student-athletes' well-being," NCAA president Charlie Baker said in statement. "The recent conference moves highlight what I found during my review of the issues facing the NCAA — the growing gap between well-resourced Division I schools and the rest of the division is highly disruptive for all of DI and college sports overall."

Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey said on the SEC Network's "Paul Finebaum Show" that his league is not motivated to react to the recent moves.

"I would submit we're in an enormously healthy place. We're not in the current movement efforts," said Sankey, whose conference tipped the first domino in this round of realignment in 2021 when Texas and Oklahoma decided to make leave the Big 12 for the SEC.

"We don't need to be in four time zones to generate interest on the West Coast, or really across the globe," Sankey said.

Sankey also said if the Pac-12 were to fold, decreasing the number of Bowl Sub-division conferences from nine to 10, that would likely re-open discussions about the format for the expanded 12-team playoff that goes into effect in 2024.

The format agreed upon calls for the six highest-ranked conference champions to receive automatic entrance and six at-large teams based on selection committee rankings.

"I do think the access we've created to the 12-team format still seems wise, but maybe there are elements and specifics of what was decided when we had clarity around 10 conferences that needs to be adjusted given what's happening right now," Sankey said.

The ACC, which has 14 schools — but none farther west than Louisville — had interest in the Pac-12 before the conference splintered last week. Stanford and Cal, two of the country's most prestigious academic schools, would fit the profile of traditional ACC schools such as Duke, North Carolina and Virginia.

Without another Power Five conference option, routinely traveling teams across country to compete might be the best alternative for Stanford and California.

A deal with the ACC would leave just Washington State and Oregon State as Pac-12 members beyond the 2023-24 school year, and increase the likelihood that the Pac-12 simply goes out of business.

Both the Mountain West and American Athletic have interest in adding those schools.

Round of 8: World Cup wide open after heavyweights eliminated

By JENNA FRYER
AP National Writer

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The United States' hold on the Women's World Cup is over, and two-time champion Germany also exited the tournament. Olympic gold medalist Canada was bounced, and Marta and her Brazil team were knocked out before she had a chance to become the first player to score in six World Cups.

Yes, the heavyweights of women's soccer have all been eliminated, and yes, it has created a wide-open World Cup.

The eight teams that advanced to the quarterfinals represent some traditional powers, one previous World Cup winner and two teams making their debut in the final eight.

England, the European champion, is the betting favorite on FanDuel Sportsbook. But a foolish and violent tackle by Lauren James late in England's knockout win over Nigeria means the Lionesses will be without the star forward when they face Colombia. The Superpoderosas are feisty and were led by 18-year-old star Linda Caicedo into their first quarterfinals just four years after Colombia failed to even qualify for the tournament.

Australia, the co-host, has been to the quarterfinals three times previously, but now faces an experienced France team that has won 16 of 18 matches in 2023. France's only loss? A 1-0 defeat to — surprise, surprise — Australia in a friendly a week before



Spain's Aitana Bonmati, center, celebrates after scoring her team's first goal during the World Cup match against Switzerland at Eden Park on Saturday in Auckland, New Zealand. ABBIE PARR/AP

the start of the World Cup.

Spain makes its first appearance in the quarterfinals behind 13 goals scored through its four games. It faces the Netherlands, the team that lost to the United States in the 2019 finale. The Dutch failed to qualify for the first six editions of the World Cup, but once they made it in, they've been among the best. The Netherlands made it to the knockout round in its 2015 debut and the championship game four years ago, and now is hoping for a second shot at the title.

And finally, Japan, the only

team remaining to have a World Cup title. The Japanese last won the championship all the way back in 2011 — they beat the U.S. — and the Americans avenged the loss four years later when Japan rolled up runner-up. Japan has won four easy wins so far in this tournament and has conceded only one goal.

The Japanese play Sweden, the team that ended America's run toward an unprecedented third consecutive World Cup title. Sweden, which dealt the United States its earliest exit in tournament history, has been to

the semifinals three different times, including in 2019.

The third-ranked Swedes are the top-rated team by FIFA still in this World Cup, and Sweden is a three-time tournament bronze medalist. Sweden was runner-up to Germany in 2003.

A look at the final eight teams still playing in the wide-open Women's World Cup:

SWEDEN

Sweden plays Japan on Friday at Eden Park in Auckland in one of the better pairings of the tournament.

The Swedes have played in all nine editions of the World Cup, and four times they've had the title nearly within reach. Sweden lost to Japan in the 2011 semifinals, its third and most recent World Cup meeting with the Japanese.

Sweden goalie Zecira Musovic was spectacular against the United States; she had 11 saves in the 0-0 draw, helping Sweden advance 5-4 on penalty kicks.

JAPAN

Japan is the only team remaining with a World Cup title and the Japanese have steamrolled their way into the quarterfinals.

Japan blasted past Zambia and Costa Rica, then handed Spain a jarring 4-0 loss. That win over a strong Spain squad made Japan a quiet contender. Japan then knocked off Norway 3-1 to continue its offensive onslaught.

NETHERLANDS

With so many big teams out, this is the Netherlands' chance to finally close out a World Cup title. But the Dutch play Spain in the New Zealand capital of Wellington without star midfielder Danielle van de Donk.

She's the one who tussled with American captain Lindsey Horan earlier in the tournament, and her yellow card in the Netherlands' 2-0 win over South Africa means she won't play in the quarterfinal.

See **SOCCER**, Page A10



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GOLF

5 a.m.
USA — LPGA: The AIG Women's Open, First Round, Walton Heath Old Course, Tadworth, England

1 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The FedEx St. Jude Championship, First Round, TPC Southwind, Memphis, Tenn.

5 p.m.
GOLF — USGA U.S. Women's Amateur: Round of 16, Chambers Bay, University Place, Wash.

LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Noon
ESPN — Little League Softball World Series: TBD, Game 15, Greenville, N.C.

4 p.m.
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MLB BASEBALL

11:30 a.m.
MLBN — Regional Coverage: Houston at Baltimore OR Atlanta at Pittsburgh

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MLBN — Regional Coverage: Toronto at Cleveland

5:30 p.m.
MLBN — Regional Coverage: St. Louis at Tampa Bay OR Washington at Philadelphia

9 p.m.
MLBN — Colorado at LA Dodgers

NFL FOOTBALL

6 p.m.
NFLN — Preseason: Houston at New England

9 p.m.
NFLN — Preseason: Minnesota at Seattle

RUGBY (MEN)

4:30 a.m.
FS2 — NRL: Penrith at Manly-Warringah

SOCCER (MEN)

8:55 p.m.
FS2 — CONCACAF Central American Cup Group Stage: Dirigangen FC vs. Comunicaciones, Group C, Diriamba, Nicaragua

SOCCER (WOMEN)

8 p.m.
FOX — FIFA World Cup: Spain vs. Netherlands, Quarterfinal, Wellington, New Zealand

2:30 a.m. (Friday)
FOX — FIFA World Cup: Japan vs. Sweden, Quarterfinal, Auckland, New Zealand

TENNIS

10 a.m.
TENNIS — Canadian Open-ATP/WTA Early Rounds

WNBA BASKETBALL

6 p.m.
PRIME VIDEO — Minnesota at Indiana

9 p.m.
NBATV — Atlanta at Seattle

PRIME VIDEO — Connecticut at Phoenix

SOCCER

Continued from Page A9

SPAIN

Spain was commanding in wins over Costa Rica and Zambia, but then was stopped cold by Japan in a humbling group play defeat.

La Roja rebounded with a 5-1 rout of Switzerland in the knockout round. Spain coach Jorge Vilda made five changes to the lineup that was embarrassed by Japan, and two of the moves were the players' World Cup debuts.

Aitana Bonmati stepped up and scored twice in the Spain bounceback.

AUSTRALIA

Australia finally got Sam Kerr back onto the field after the Matildas' superstar missed all of group play with a thigh injury. She only came on in the final 10 minutes of Australia's quarterfinal win over Denmark, but she was supposed to be the star of the tournament.

More than 75,000 spectators attended the Matildas' quarterfinal victory and the Sydney Opera House was alit in the yellow and green team colors.

The pressure is on for the co-hosts to deliver.

FRANCE

France slid under the early radar with a scoreless draw against Jamaica in the opening round, but Le Bleus have been a force since. The fifth-ranked team has cruised into the quarterfinals. France helped knock off Brazil and Marta, and has outscored its opponents 12-4 in the three games since.

France is coached by Herve Renard, who led Saudi Arabia to a shocking upset of eventual champion Argentina and Lionel Messi at last year's men's World Cup.

ENGLAND

England is the enigma. The European champion not winning the World Cup with so many challengers already out would be a bit of an upset.

The Lionesses are fourth in the FIFA rankings, right behind Sweden, but haven't had consistent play. They won a penalty shootout against Nigeria to advance to the quarterfinals.

But they also lost James, who was given a red card

for a violent tackle late in the Nigeria game. The Chelsea forward is out at least against Colombia on Saturday in Sydney.

COLOMBIA

Colombia is new to this big stage and at 25th is the lowest-ranked team still playing in the tournament.

But Colombia is no pushover and has been very physical to get to the quarterfinals four years after failing to even qualify for the World Cup. The competition knows to expect a bruising match — one week before the tournament, Ireland abandoned a friendly against Colombia after only 20 minutes because of "overly physical" play.

Colombia is led by Caicedo, a rising star for Real Madrid, and the teenager dazzles on the field and also with her wide smiles that play to the cameras. Caicedo has had health issues; she battled ovarian cancer when she was 15, and during group play had at least two frightening episodes with what Colombia has called exhaustion. The team has insisted Caicedo is fit.

CUBS

Continued from Page A9

"You've just got to be ready for those moments," Alzolay said. "When I saw the ball I was like, hell yeah, the ball is here, now we can make a double play and go home."

Taillon (7-6) allowed three hits in seven innings and improved to 5-0 with a 2.17 ERA in his past six outings. He struck out seven, walked none and did not permit a baserunner after Omar Narváez's two-out double in the second.

"Just the work between starts, I really think I've found a good scouting method, a good note-taking method," Taillon said. With one out in the eighth, Tauchman sent a payoff pitch from Drew Smith (4-4) to left-center for an opposite-field homer that put Chicago in front for the first time.

"When you get into 3-2 counts — which I think we lead baseball in — you have to lower your sights a little bit from where you're supposed to throw the ball to certain hitters to get them out," Mets

manager Buck Showalter said.

Bellinger launched a solo shot off starter Carlos Carrasco in the fourth, adding to his recent tear and extending his hitting streak to 10 games. Gomes tied it with an RBI double in the fifth following a leadoff walk to Christopher Morel.

"It's been fun," Bellinger said. "I think that no matter what happened the previous day, we all come in with a plan. And that's kind of allowed us to have success whether we win or lose the day before."

SUZUKI SPEAKS

Slumping right fielder Seiya Suzuki, who recently lost his everyday job with the Cubs, spoke with reporters before the game and acknowledged that teammates who are swinging better right now should be in the lineup. He said he's been too hesitant at the plate, but he remains confident and needs to step up and work harder to earn his starting spot back.

"I think it's all about just being more relaxed in the box," Suzuki said through a translator. "It's really important just to

stay simple, not to think too much."

Suzuki is hitting .249 with nine homers, 37 RBIs and a .715 OPS in his second major league season since arriving from Japan and signing an \$85 million, five-year contract. He's batted third, fourth or fifth 73 times for Chicago this season.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Cubs: All-Star RHP Marcus Stroman (right hip inflammation) threw a bullpen. The team hopes Stroman can return from the injured list when eligible Aug. 16. ... RHP Brad Boxberger (strained right forearm) and RHP Ethan Roberts (Tommy John surgery) were scheduled to face hitters at the club's complex in Arizona.

Mets: Struggling RF Starling Marte (strained right groin) was examined by a doctor in Philadelphia and felt better after receiving an injection. He'll be cleared for light activity in the next few days, the team said. There's no timeline for Marte's return, but Showalter expects him back this season. ... Right fielder DJ Stewart was scratched with a sore wrist.

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