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THIS WEEK

Events that took place in W.Va.

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

■ May 26, 1895: Athlete Ira Errett “Rat” Rodgers was born in Bethany. He was WVU’s first football All-American, lettering in 1915–17 and 1919.

■ May 26, 1923: Playwright Maryat Lee was born in Kentucky. In 1970, she moved to Summers County and developed her Eco Theater into a national organization.

■ May 27, 1912: Legendary golfer Sam Snead was born at Ashwood, Va. When The Greenbrier reopened as a resort after World War II, Snead returned as the golf pro.

■ May 27, 1922: Labor leader Bill

Blizzard was acquitted of treason charges following the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain. The trial was held in the Jefferson County Courthouse, where John Brown had been convicted of treason against Virginia in 1859.

■ May 28, 1863: Arthur Boreman was elected as the first governor of the new state of West Virginia.

■ May 28, 1920: Elmer Bird — “The Banjo Man from Turkey Creek” — was born in Putnam County. He was named best old-time banjo player in the country four times in his 60s.

■ May 28, 1938: Basketball player Jerry West was born on Cabin Creek, Kanawha County. West led East Bank High School to the state basketball championship in 1956 and then rewrote the record books at West Vir-

SEE EVENTS, A-2



Submitted photo
Smoke Hole Caverns in Grant County opened for tours May 30, 1940.

CLAY-BATTELLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



Clay-Battelle High School seniors toss their mortar boards Sunday afternoon during the graduation ceremony at the school’s football stadium. At right, Jaide Castleberry receives her high school diploma from CBHS Principal David Cottrell. See more photos and read about the commencement in The Dominion Post print edition Wednesday.

Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post photos



INSPECTIONS

PSC blitz nets 322 violations

By MetroNews Staff

The state Public Service Commission’s recent International Roadcheck inspection netted the discovery of more than 300 violations on West Virginia highways.

The PSC staged the 72-hour International Roadcheck as part of the annual three nation highways program.

Transportation Division officers were able to perform 438 commercial vehicle inspections May 14-16. There were 47 PSC officers involved in the operation.

According to the commission, 322 violations were found and 53 vehicles were taken off the road at inspections sites.

Those inspections were handled at weigh stations on I-79 near Morgantown and I-64 near Hurricane. Plus officers conducted a number of spot checks on the rest of the state’s roadways during the 72-hour period of the program.

Each inspection was a 37-step procedure to verify the safety of the driver and the vehicle as well as compliance with the state’s motor carrier laws.

“We were extremely pleased with this year’s effort, which we considered a complete success,” PSC Chair Charlotte Lane said in a press release. “Our inspectors are top-notch. And every inspection makes a difference.”

West Virginia participates in the North American inspection program that includes Canada and Mexico. The program this year focused on tractor-trailer protection systems, controlled substances and alcohol possession. The Commercial Vehicles Safety Alliance sponsors the program. More than 1.8 million inspections occur yearly.



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HISTORY



AP photo

This image provided by Heritage Auctions, shows 21-star U.S. flag. Illinois state investigators are scrutinizing the purchase by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum of this 21-star U.S. flag reportedly from 1818-19 at the time that Illinois was admitted to the Union as the 21st state.

19th century flag prompts investigation at Illinois museum

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is once again under the spotlight after a manager failed to consult a collections committee before purchasing a 21-star flag whose description as a rare banner marking Illinois' 1818 admission to the Union is disputed.

The flag's acquisition through an online auction for more than \$15,000 precipitated an investigation by Illinois' Office of the Executive Inspector General about money used for the purchase. The purchase also led to division in the Springfield museum's leadership and may have prompted the firing of an employee who said the acquisition skirted procedures.

The flag, measuring 7-foot-5 by 6-foot-5, is known as a "Grand Luminary" because its 21 stars are arranged in the shape of a star. The museum is confident it represents Illinois' admission as the 21st state, spokesperson Christopher Wills said.

Such flags are rare because the design was changed a year later when Alabama and Maine joined the Union. But Jeff Bridgman, a respected vexillologist, or flag expert, told The Associated Press its construction and materials indicate the flag was produced decades later, during the Civil War, and is perhaps a Southern exclusionary flag whose stars represent states that remained loyal to the Union.

Bridgman, who stocks roughly 3,000 mostly 19th century flags, said it is not

from 1818.

"If it was," he said, "I would have been after it at the auction."

This is not the first possible blow to the museum's credibility.

Its prized purchase of a purported Lincoln stovepipe hat appraised at \$6.5 million went sour when evidence linking it to the 16th president was questioned. A director was fired in 2019 for sending without approval a copy of the Gettysburg Address, written in Lincoln's hand, to a Texas exhibit operated by conservative political commentator Glenn Beck.

The museum's acquisitions chief, Ian Hunt, submitted a request to the executive director to pursue the 21-star flag on Nov. 6, according to documents provided to the AP under an open-records request.

The flag had been part of the prestigious Zaricor Flag Collection. Hunt won the auction on Nov. 13 and the museum paid \$15,625 for the flag using the King Hostick trust fund, an endowment to finance state historic research and artifact acquisition.

Museum policy dictates that purchases exceeding \$2,000 be proposed for advance consideration by a collections committee composed of department heads. The panel hadn't met regularly because of a staff vacancy, but it convened to consider the flag on Dec. 7, three weeks after its purchase, and voted 7-2 in favor.

Neil Olson, general counsel for the inspector general, declined comment on the probe. The office has not released any findings.

STORMS

At least 15 dead after severe weather carves path of ruin across multiple southern states

Associated Press

VALLEY VIEW, Texas — Powerful storms killed at least 15 people and left a wide trail of destruction Sunday across Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas after obliterating homes and destroying a truck stop where dozens sought shelter in a restroom during the latest deadly weather to strike the central U.S.

The storms inflicted their worst damage in a region spanning from north of Dallas to the northwest corner of Arkansas, and the system threatened to bring more violent weather to other parts of the Midwest later in the day. By Monday, forecasters said, the greatest risk would shift to the east, covering a broad swath of the country from Alabama to near New York City.

Seven deaths were reported in Cooke County, Texas, near the Oklahoma border, where a tornado Saturday night plowed through a rural area near a mobile home park, officials said. Storms also killed two

people and destroyed houses in Oklahoma, where the injured included guests at an outdoor wedding. Tens of thousands of residents were without power across the region.

"It's just a trail of debris left. The devastation is pretty severe," Cooke County Sheriff Ray Sappington told The Associated Press.

The dead included two children, ages 2 and 5, the sheriff said. The Texas county includes the small community of Valley View, which was among the hardest-hit areas. Three family members were found dead in one home, Sappington said.

Hugo Parra, who lives in Farmers Branch, north of Dallas, said he rode out the storm with 40 to 50 people in the bathroom of the truck stop near Valley View. The storm sheared the roof and walls off the building, mangling metal beams and leaving battered cars in the parking lot.

"A firefighter came to check on us and he said, 'You're very lucky,'" Parra

said. "The best way to describe this is the wind tried to rip us out of the bathrooms."

Series of storms

The destruction continued a grim month of deadly severe weather in the nation's midsection.

Tornadoes in Iowa left at least five people dead and dozens injured. The deadly twisters have spawned during a historically bad season for tornadoes, at a time when climate change contributes to the severity of storms around the world. April had the second-highest number of tornadoes on record in the country.

Meteorologists and authorities had issued urgent warnings to seek cover as the storms marched across the region late Saturday and into Sunday morning.

Harold Brooks, senior research scientist researcher at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, said a persistent weather pattern of warm, moist air is to blame

for the string of tornadoes over the past two months.

Brooks recommended that travelers passing through threatened areas over the Memorial Day weekend should have a plan for a weather emergency.

More severe weather in forecast

The system causing the latest severe weather was expected to move east over the rest of the weekend.

The start of the Indianapolis 500 was delayed as a strong storm pushed into the area, forcing Indianapolis Motor Speedway officials to evacuate about 125,000 race fans. The video boards inside the speedway flashed that a severe thunderstorm warning was in effect as the band of rain, along with dangerous wind and lightning, approached from the west.

More severe storms were predicted in Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky.

The risk of severe weather moves into North Carolina and Virginia today, forecasters said.



Submitted photo

Singer-songwriter, labor activist, educator and radio host Elaine Purkey was born May 29, 1949, in West Hamlin.

EVENTS

FROM PAGE A-1

ginia University and with the Los Angeles Lakers.

■ May 28, 1998: The Robert C. Byrd United States Courthouse in downtown Charleston was dedicated. The 440,000-square-foot building incorporated Neoclassic, Egyptian and Art Deco designs.

■ May 29, 1778: Dick Pointer, an enslaved person in Greenbrier County, helped save about 60 settlers who were attacked by Indians at Fort Donnally near Lewisburg during the Revolutionary War.

■ May 29, 1949: Singer-songwriter, labor activist, educator and radio host

Elaine Purkey was born in West Hamlin.

■ May 29, 1961: Alderson and Chloe Muncy in McDowell County received the first food stamps in the nation. After observing malnutrition and poverty during his campaign, President John Kennedy directed the government to establish a pilot food stamp program.

■ May 30, 1940: Smoke Hole Caverns in Grant County opened for tours. The cave has stalactites hanging in rows along the ceiling; the main room is called the "Room of a Million Stalactites."

■ May 31, 1841: Roman Catholic Bishop John Joseph Kain was born near Martinsburg. As bishop of

the Diocese of Wheeling, he worked to meet the needs of the newly arrived immigrants who came to labor in West Virginia's mines and factories.

■ May 31, 1946: Writer Meredith Sue Willis was born in Clarksburg and raised in Shinnston. Willis has authored books for children and on the subject of writing, and much of her adult fiction is set in West Virginia.

■ June 1, 1880: An 86-round bare-knuckle prize fight for championship of the world was held in the Brooke County town of Colliers, between defending champion Joe Goss and challenger Paddy Ryan. Boxing was illegal in every state,

and matches were often held in railroad villages to avoid big-city police.

■ June 1, 1935: Musician Hazel Dickens was born in Mercer County, the eighth of 11 children. She was a pioneering old-time and bluegrass musician, known for preserving the traditional vocal styles of West Virginia.

■ June 1, 1858: The Artists' Excursion left Baltimore on its way to Wheeling. A Baltimore & Ohio executive planned the rail trip to promote tourism. About 50 passengers were on board, including artist and writer David Hunter Strother, who described the experience in an article for Harpers magazine.

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Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority
 We Want to Hear From You!
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 Who: Probolsky Research has been selected to conduct the survey.
 What: The survey is to learn what residents think about solid waste topics.
 When: Late May - Early June
 How: Residents may get a call, text or email.
 We appreciate the participation of Monongalia County Residents!
 Contact the Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority for more information
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Memorial Day 2024
 May 27 will be Memorial Day, a time spent honoring our veterans who have given their all for this country and to those family members who brought meaning to others. There will be the customary one minute of prayer or silence, maybe taps, then life goes on as usual. This has been the custom for almost 50 years.
 Prior to that, it was a solemn holiday because most families had lost a loved one during WWII or Korea. The day was spent remembering those who gave it all. Cemeteries would be decked out with flags marking each soldier's final resting spot. Weeds would be pulled from the grave site, flowers would be placed finishing with a quiet prayer and a thank you. Leaving the cemetery, one would look at all the flags on display. It was a humbling experience. Families would leave to enjoy a quiet picnic remembering what was.
 No direction, no motivation, and no plans for the future. We need to get back to the basics of making this holiday special and start retrieving our lost heritage. It needs to start here and now.
 Currently there is a group of 30 cyclists pedaling from the west coast to the east coast. Last night they stopped at Las Vegas, New Mexico, finishing 1000 miles of a 3386-mile trip. One of them, Barbara, who is a graduate of St. Clairsville H.S. class of 1968, is riding to raise funds for the Veterans Administration. (VA) to help cope with the massive expenses that are evolving. Some veterans are homeless, some have self-esteem issues, and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Problems from Agent Orange, Lejeune water issues and the Burn Pits keep surfacing.
 To all the people of Morgantown, Bridgeport, Clarksburg and the surrounding areas, they need your help! No matter your position in life, any success you may have, has come from our military personnel who every day protect your freedom.
 To make a donation, go to barbicyclesusa4veterans.com and follow the prompts. When you come to state, put in West Virginia, program put in whatever you want; however, General Purpose gives the VA a lot of flexibility and Donor Intent, Cycle Across America. You can pay by debit, credit card or check. 100% of your money goes to the VA.
 Thank you,
Bill Waters
 Summersville American Legion Post 131
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WVU MEDICINE

Speech therapy team makes difference for family

WVU Medicine

As a medical discipline, speech therapy is used to treat various language, communication and swallowing disorders. But for Khaila Bennett and her son Dorsey, of Parkersburg, speech therapy gave them the gift of finally feeling seen, heard and understood.

Having already experienced development stages through her two eldest children, Bennett became concerned when, at 10 months, Dorsey was just beginning to crawl, and that concern grew while waiting for him to walk, an achievement that didn't occur for another seven months. She also noticed that he was saying few words and mostly "parroting" what had been said to him.

Bennett expressed these concerns at every appointment Dorsey had and finally received evaluation for a local Birth-to-Three Program, designed to help young children experiencing delays in differing areas of development. Though Dorsey did qualify for services after this evaluation, they did not include the language assistance for which his mother had hoped.

It wasn't until Dorsey approached elementary school preparation that Bennett was able to secure a referral for speech therapy services at the WVU Medicine Children's Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Center, something that would change their lives forever.

Kellie D. Serfoss, speech

pathologist, remembers noting that Dorsey had demonstrated challenges with expressing wants and needs, reciprocal communication, changes in routine, interacting and playing with others, and involuntary repetitive behaviors on topics of numbers and letters.

"Based on this information, mom and I had the tough conversation that he appeared to be showing signs of possible autism spectrum disorders (ASD)," Serfoss said. "As tough as that conversation was, mom was relieved that someone understood what she had been trying to convey for so long."

Though they are still working toward the formal diagnosis, Dorsey's therapy is continually improving his life.

"After the first session, things were different with him," Bennett said. "It was immediate."

Dorsey now had access to the tools he needed, and his mother had an ally, who saw her son like no one else ever had. "She sees him," Bennett said of Serfoss. "She saw him like I see him."

This is a fact that Bennett says is evident in their therapy sessions and the bond that has formed between Serfoss and the Bennett family.

"He gets excited to see her, and she gets excited to see him," Bennett said.

And when Dorsey's first day of elementary school didn't go as planned, it was Serfoss who encouraged his mother to stay the

course and trust that Dorsey could do it. Now, Dorsey loves school and is thriving there, recently attending his first field trip. Because of the progress he has made through therapy, he was able to tell his mother all about the trip, including expressing what his favorite part of the day was.

"I cried happy tears listening to him," Bennett said. "Kellie was the first person I wanted to tell."

As appreciative as she is for his ever-improving communication skills, it is the change in Dorsey, not his skills, for which she's most grateful.

"It's like somehow they brought my son to life," she said. "I feel like I owe so much, and I just don't know how to say 'thank you' enough."

DIY SUMMER SYRUP



Aldona Bird photos/for The Dominion Post

Rhubarb and strawberries are good summer fruits to make flavorful syrups for use in water and other drinks.

Flavorings are easy to make with fruits, herbs

BY ALDONA BIRD
DPNews@DominionPost.com

As summer bounty begins, this is the perfect time to capture the season's flavors in syrups.

Use these flavorings in cocktails, mocktails or add a little to seltzer water to make your own seasonal soda.

To make summer flavored syrups you will need:

- water
- sugar or honey
- fruits, herbs, edible flowers
- pot and spoon to stir
- small strainer
- clean jars
- funnel

A basic simple syrup recipe is usually 1:1 water to sugar. This is a good starting point, but can be adjusted as needed to get the perfect and potent syrup.

Choose your flavoring — this time of year rhubarb and strawberries are nice options for a fruity flavoring. For a botanical option, make a syrup with fresh herbs, like mint, thyme or others.

Add a cup of water to a sauce pan. If you are using fruit, use an equal amount of fruit. For a rhubarb or strawberry syrup, use an equal amount of chopped fruit.

For leafy herbs like mint and lemon balm, use half a cup of chopped herbs. For

stronger herbs such as thyme, use even less.

To allow the fruit flavors to come through strongly, try using less sugar — start with half a cup, as you can always add more.

Bring the ingredients to a boil on the stovetop, then turn down and allow to simmer for about 15–20 minutes.

Taste, and if you are happy with the flavor, take it off the heat. If the syrup is not sweet enough, you can add more sugar. If it needs a stronger flavor, continue boiling it.

Once you are satisfied with the taste, place the strainer over a clean jar (or over a funnel in the jar, if the jar opening is narrow).

Strain the liquid from the solids. Allow the syrup to cool, label the jar, and then store in the refrigerator.

Add an ounce or two to sparkling water, or your favorite cocktail or mocktail. Rhubarb syrup adds a sweet and sour kick to gin and tonics, margaritas and other drinks.

A byproduct of making fruit syrups is the solids — spoon the mashed fruit over ice cream for an extra treat.

Herbal syrups can be used in the same way as fruit flavored syrups. Use mint syrup (made with honey for a deeper flavor) in a mint julep cocktail, or add a little to an herbal tea, or drizzle some over chocolate or vanilla ice cream.

These syrups should last about a week in the fridge, maybe a little longer. They are a great way to capture flavors, and enjoy them in a variety of ways.



USE THESE FLAVORINGS IN COCKTAILS, MOCKTAILS OR ADD A LITTLE TO SELTZER WATER TO MAKE YOUR OWN SEASONAL SODA.

IN THE KNOW



PAM QUEEN

Give thanks for those we owe

THIS LONG WEEKEND MARKS THE UNOFFICIAL START OF SUMMER. Unofficial because the season doesn't really begin until June 20.

But most of us count Memorial Day weekend as the beginning of our summer.

Of course there is a more important reason to mark this weekend and this day in particular:

While, many of us will celebrate with picnics and family gatherings, let's not forget to take a minute to think about the real reason for Memorial Day.

This day is for remembering and honoring the men and women who sacrificed their lives so we could live free.

There are some events that will allow us to do this.

■ The Dominion Post will be covering Star City's annual Memorial Day program at the JFK park in the Edith B. Barill Riverfront Park on Leeway Street. It begins at 10 a.m.

■ Also at 10 a.m. will be the West Virginia Memorial Day Parade in Grafton. This will be the 157th annual West Virginia Memorial Day Parade. This family-friendly event includes horses, cars, baton corps, dance groups, floats and more.

■ Also in Grafton, will be the Memorial Day program at Grafton National Cemetery, kicking off at noon. Master of Ceremonies will be John Stallings. The National Anthem will be performed by the Grafton High School Band. The the Grafton National Cemetery Essay Contest winner, Jayden Young, will read the winning essay and the Taylor County Honor Guard will present the memorial salute.

■ Back in Monongalia County, Memorial Day will be commemorated at 11:30 a.m. today in Blacksville.

There will be a parade starting at Clay-Battelle High School, continuing through town, down W.Va. 7.

There will also be a car show at the Clay-Battelle Pharmacy & Clinic.

However you decide to spend your Monday, try to take at least a minute to remember those who died so we could live in freedom.

PAM QUEEN is editor of The Dominion Post. Contact her with comments and suggestions at Editor@DominionPost.com.

EDITORIAL ENCORE

Ways we honor Memorial Day

Today, some people will hold somber remembrances, while others will gather for cook-outs and fun.

In recent years, we've seen a lot of pushback against the commercialization of Memorial Day and joyful celebrations on a national day of mourning. Which is certainly fair. For those who lost a loved one to war, Memorial Day has a special poignancy and pain. It can be hard to watch people laugh and play when your own heart hurts.

But there can be a place for cookouts and yard games even on a day of remembrance.

Part of grief, part of paying respects to the fallen, is to acknowledge and remember their sacrifice. To hold a moment of silence to honor their memory. To lay flowers on graves and decorate final resting places — an unspoken message that the lost are not forgotten. That they are loved and their legacy lives on.

But part of honoring the deceased is to hold the living a little closer. To find joy amongst the solemnity. Is it wrong to honor our fallen soldiers by doing the very thing they fought to ensure — our ability to live our lives in relative peace, to gather with friends and family?

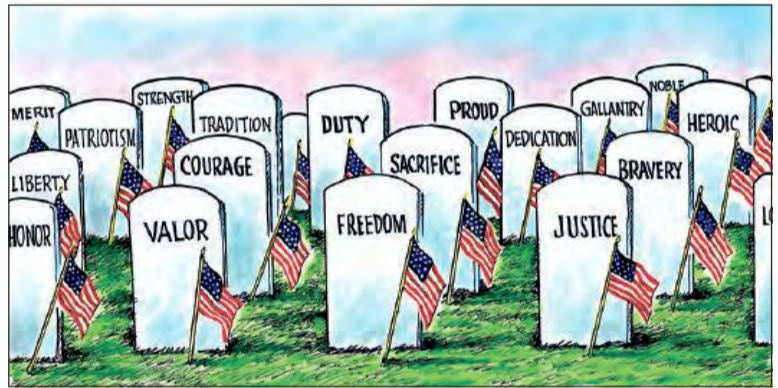
Not everyone feels a personal loss on Memorial Day. Not everyone has a lost loved one who served our country. Or, if we do, they may be far removed — the memory of a memory, kept alive in twice-told tales around dining tables and on front porches. But honoring the dead doesn't have to look like a funeral. Remembering doesn't have to feel like grief.

Don't begrudge your neighbors their grills and games of cornhole this weekend. Don't take their laughter and bowls of fruit salad as a sign of disrespect for the fallen. They are honoring our deceased service men and women in their own way — by taking time to savor the freedom and safety all our military has fought to preserve. It's not just another day for them. It's a day they take time to put down screens and set aside work, to bring their loved ones closer and to just enjoy life. They celebrate death and sacrifice by celebrating life.

We offer condolences to everyone who honors someone special this Memorial Day weekend, and we offer gratitude to all our service members and their families — past and present, living and lost — for their sacrifices.

This weekend, we set aside time to consciously remember and honor the fallen. But they are never forgotten. Every day, their legacy lives on. And every day — though often left unsaid — we are grateful.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Today's editorial has been adapted from one that originally ran May 26, 2020.



U.S. must stop playing 'Patriot games'

AFTER I QUESTIONED ISRAEL'S ENDGAME IN GAZA IN MY PREVIOUS COLUMN, A READER ASKED, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S ENDGAME IS IN UKRAINE?"

That is a critical question as Russia revs up a new offensive, mercilessly bombing civilian targets in Ukraine's second largest city, Kharkiv. Meantime, Washington is still withholding the Patriot air defense systems the Ukrainians have been urgently requesting for more than two years.

We know the endgame of GOP candidate Donald Trump, who has basically said he'd cut off aid to Kyiv if it didn't capitulate to Vladimir Putin. He encouraged his MAGA crowd in Congress to withhold U.S. military aid for six months, leaving Ukrainian fighters without shells to fire back at the Russians.

But what about White House plans for the end of the Ukraine war?

Congress' six-month aid delay hurt Ukraine badly and gave the Russians an opening to gear up for this offensive. Yet even as U.S. aid finally starts flowing, the administration appears unwilling to commit to Ukrainian victory.

And yes, given Ukraine's technological ingenuity and belief it is fighting an existential battle for survival, I believe a victory is still possible, if the West has the will and the strategic smarts to help Kyiv achieve that goal.

Yet the White House seems geared only to preventing a Ukrainian collapse, not putting Putin on the back foot. Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, has suggested that Ukraine can "hold the line" in 2024 and start retaking territory by 2025. Yet that scenario depends on continued U.S. military aid, which in turn requires a Biden victory in November. Neither is guaranteed.

Keep in mind that negotiations with Moscow are not an option in the foreseeable future. Emboldened by his alliance with Beijing and weapons from Iran and North Korea, Putin has made clear his goal is to eliminate Ukraine's independent statehood.

What's lacking in the U.S. approach to Kyiv is the sense of urgency the White House has displayed over Gaza, sending top officials to Jerusalem and Saudi Arabia over and over, even though the outcome there is likely to be dismal. That same sense of urgency could still make a critical difference in Ukraine.

Nowhere is that truth more

self-evident than with what I refer to as "Patriot games."

Ever since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been begging the West to help "close the skies" over Ukraine by sending U.S.-made Patriot systems. The country's aging Soviet air defense systems are no match for the Kremlin's arsenal of cruise and even ballistic missiles that wreak deliberate destruction on city centers and energy systems. That and the longtime U.S. reluctance to send U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets, or let European allies deliver them, has left Ukraine unable to control its skies.

With its army of techies, a limited number of aging Russian planes, and limited air defense systems from Europe, Ukraine did its best. But it was not until Kyiv finally received three Patriot systems in spring 2023 — one from the Pentagon, two from Germany — that the capital, Kyiv, finally became safe. However, beautiful historic Kharkiv, the vital port city of Odesa, and other critical cities remain open to Russian air attack.

In recent weeks, as Russia tries to crush Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, Ukraine's lack of Patriot air defense systems (and interceptor missiles to fire from them) has become a disaster.

Here is where the Patriot games begin.

According to European officials, Western allies have 100 Patriot systems, the bulk of them held by the United States at home or at overseas bases. Yet only Germany has committed sending one more system to Ukraine.

"One of the things I do every single day is talk to at least one ally, if not multiple, about getting more Patriot batteries into Ukraine," Jake Sullivan said at a May 13 news conference. Sullivan seems not to have had much success.

Six NATO allies — Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, and Spain — currently operate Patriot systems, yet all except Germany have pledged they need their systems for their own defense.

Perhaps Sullivan would have better luck if the Pentagon would stop making the same excuses and offer up one more system of its own.

Moreover, the Israeli Air Force has announced that it is retiring its American-made Patriot systems in favor of newer air-defense systems that it used to repel Iranian missile attacks on April 13.

Jerusalem has offered Kyiv no military aid for fear of offending Russia, whose tacit permission it needs to bomb Iranian operations in Syria. Given Washington's support for Israel, despite their differences over Gaza, the White House should be leaning on Israeli leaders to sell the systems back to Washington for transfer to Kyiv.

This is the kind of urgent action required to turn around the situation in Ukraine.

"We would like to close the airspace over all our regions and have 20 to 30 [Patriot systems]," Zelenskyy said in an interview with the New York Times last Monday. "Let's forget about that. Can we get seven?" (That's the minimum required to protect Ukraine's major cities, including two for Kharkiv.)

"And an American decision to give us its F-16s," the Ukrainian leader added, his frustration clear.

If the White House really wanted Ukraine to push back the Russians, it would make sending those Patriots a priority. And the F-16s.

And, as Zelenskyy has pleaded, it would stop forbidding Kyiv from using U.S.-made weapons to hit the sites just across the Russian border from which missiles are being fired at Ukrainian cities. Otherwise, Ukraine is fighting with an arm and leg tied behind its back.

Instead, the Biden team still seems to be deterred by Russia's nuclear bluster. Yet, when the White House finally, and quietly, sent ATACMS long range missiles to Ukraine last month, crossing a Putin redline, the Russian autocrat's threats of nuclear escalation proved hollow. His threats are meant mainly to deter the West from giving Kyiv what it needs to win.

"Seven systems," Zelenskyy repeated in the Times interview. "Do you think it is too much for the NATO anniversary summit in Washington? For a country that has been trying to become a NATO member since 2008? For a country that is fighting for freedom and democracy around the world today?"

As the 75th anniversary summit of NATO approaches, a clear symbol of America's commitment to supporting Ukraine until victory — and encouraging its allies to do likewise — would be to stop playing Patriot games and deliver the goods.

TRUDY RUBIN is a columnist and editorial-board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Email: trubin@phillynews.com.

What conflict resolution experts wish universities knew about conflict

THE PROTESTS ROILING OUR CAMPUSES REVEAL A GREAT DEAL ABOUT US AS A COUNTRY. Emotions are easily triggered, many of us are comfortable being angry, and most of us need help to handle conflict constructively.

We're in a tumultuous year, likely with more protests ahead. Conflict resolution experts say that these protests, these conflicts, are an opportunity for growth. People are invested and want to act. Understanding conflict phases and behaviors is a big help to turning conflict into moments of productive conversations rather than escalating anger.

What are the phases and behaviors of escalating conflict?

First, conflict is dynamic. It often starts about one issue but

changes and grows. We pull in more people to our side and with more people, more issues are at play.

Second, emotions take over. We dig into our positions, becoming convinced we are absolutely right. We lose the ability to analyze and to think creatively. We fall back on old conflict behaviors we learned as children, which usually are not constructive.

Third, communication decreases. We lose not only the ability to listen to the other, but also the desire. When communication stops, we lose the most important key to de-escalating and possibly resolving the situation.

Fourth, we start to change and harden. As one side starts to use stronger tactics, the other side

changes in response. People start using harsher language, engaging in violence, calling in police or other conflict-intensifying actions.

Here is what some experts wished universities knew about conflict.

1. People — students, faculty, and administration alike — need to be heard. These are emotional issues that touch our values, our sense of safety, and our sense of identity. A first step is to create a forum for people to express themselves and be heard. And a first step for those forums is to have the participants co-create guidelines for how to have constructive, rather than destructive, conversations.

2. Intimidation and force tend

to increase resistance and resentment. Administrations that engaged with students, rather than resorting to intimidation, had better outcomes. Brown University and Northwestern University both opened dialogue with protesters, giving them formal opportunities to engage with the university boards. Students felt they had an impact and, in return, worked to end the encampments. Kennesaw State similarly modeled a nonviolent approach. They created panel discussions for students, staff and law enforcement. By allowing everyone to connect as well as appreciate each other's perspectives and roles, the university eased the current crisis and built capacity to withstand the next.

3. There is no need to navigate conflict alone. Many resources exist. These range from peace teams — civic groups trained to help de-escalate protest-type scenarios — to community mediation or dispute resolution centers

that have experienced mediators and facilitators to help design and lead dialogue sessions. National Association for Community Mediation has a searchable database of these organizations. The Association for Conflict Resolution and the United States Institute for Peace both offer tools for understanding conflict. The Bridging Divides Initiative lists groups which specialize in de-escalation, and the TRUST Network links groups working to mitigate political violence.

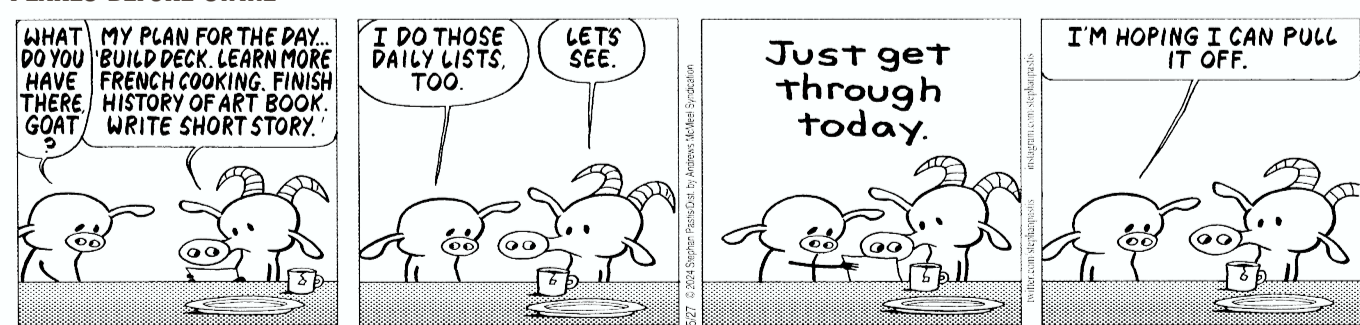
Emotions are likely to keep running high as we head towards the November election. Understanding the importance of creating forums to listen — and of reaching for help in navigating conflict — are good bets.

MELINDA BURRELL, PhD, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a former humanitarian aid worker and now trains on the neuroscience of communication and conflict. She is with the National Association for Community Mediation, which offers resources for community approaches to difficult issues.

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

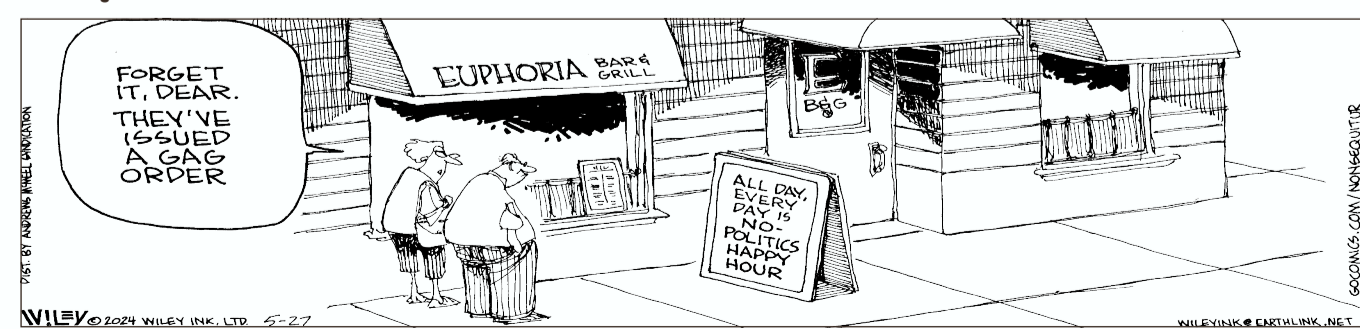
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



BY STEPHAN PASTIS

NON SEQUITUR



BY WILEY

BASEBALL

Acuña injured, as Braves knock off Pirates



AP photo

Atlanta outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. (right) walks off the field with a trainer after being injured while running the bases during the first inning against Pittsburgh on Sunday.

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ronald Acuña Jr. left the Braves' 8-1 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates in the first inning on Sunday after he injured his left knee in the first inning, and Atlanta won behind Chris Sale.

Acuña, the reigning NL MVP, led off with a double to right-center field off Martín Pérez. With Marcell Ozuna at the plate, Acuña started toward third on a stolen base attempt and his left knee gave way. Acuña remained down for several minutes while being treated, pointing at his left leg before walking off under his own power.

Wearing a brace on his knee in the clubhouse, Acuña said he was to have an MRI on Sunday night and expects to be placed on the 10-day injured list.

"I got scared a lot because I felt the pain in the beginning," Acuña said through a translator. "Hope-

fully, everything is going to go well."

Acuña said he thinks he'll be out a similar number of games as from an injury as a rookie in 2018. He was sidelined between May 27 and June 29 with sprained ACL, bruised left knee and bruised back when the knee buckled as he tried to beat out an infield hit at Boston.

Jarred Kelenic went 3 for 4 in place of Acuña, a 26-year-old outfielder batting .250 with four home runs and 15 RBIs in 49 games.

Sale (8-1) allowed four hits over seven innings, struck out eight and allowed one run. It was another impressive outing for the 35-year-old left-hander, who has regained the form that earned him seven straight All-Star selections from 2012-18 before a string of injuries.

"Just doing what I need to do," Sale said. "We all have our part on

the team. Just posting every fifth day and trying to keep runs off the board. ... Take every start, you want to win. Had a couple rough ones over the last couple days. You want to end on a good note heading back home."

Matt Olson had three RBIs with a home run and a double to salvage the final game of the three-game series.

Pérez allowed one run, four hits and two walks in three innings before a left groin injury. The 33-year-old left-hander was checked after Kelenic beat him to first for a one-out single in the third. He then allowed an RBI double from Ozzie Albies that tied the score 1-1.

Pittsburgh also lost catcher Joey Bart, removed after the first inning and replaced by Yasmani Grandal because of a left thumb injury.

"Very, very strange," Pirates

SEE PIRATES, B-2

NBA

Pacers one game from elimination

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Coach Rick Carlisle expects the Indiana Pacers to punch back tonight.

Yes, he realizes no NBA team has ever rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win a best-of-seven series, and, of course, his players understand a Game 4 victory only assures them of one thing — another trip to Boston for another elimination game.

And yet, Carlisle believes his players are ready to continue the fight.

"We're going to come at these guys harder on Monday," Carlisle said Saturday after losing their first home playoff game this season. "Our fans need to come out and they need to get louder than they've ever been, and we've got to extend this series. We've got to get back on that plane for Game 5."

Clearly, that will be easier said than done.

The Pacers have blown winnable chances in the final minute of Games 1 and 3 and hung close in Game 2 — until a left hamstring injury sent All-NBA guard Tyrese Haliburton to the locker room in the third quarter.

He didn't return that night and sat out Saturday, against his wishes. Carlisle did not say Sunday whether Haliburton might play in Game 4. Regardless, the Pacers season comes down to this — win or go home.

"There's no guy in this locker room that's packed it in," Pacers guard T.J. McConnell said. "We're going to have to get one here and extend the series, then go back to Boston and try to make things difficult. But there's no guy in this locker room that's going to quit."

The Celtics know how this works, too.

They've appeared in six of the last eight Eastern Conference finals and they're now just a win away from advancing to the NBA Finals for the second time during that span. Five wins would give the franchise its first championship since 2008.

SEE PACERS, B-2

AUTO RACING

Nothing new for Newgarden

Wins second consecutive Indy 500

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Josef Newgarden put his cheating scandal behind him to become the first back-to-back winner of the Indianapolis 500 since Helio Castroneves 22 years ago and give Roger Penske a record-extending 20th win in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

The Tennessean passed Pato O'Ward on the final lap of Sunday's rain-delayed race to become the first driver to win consecutive 500s since Castroneves did it for Penske in 2001 and 2002. And just like last year, Newgarden stopped his Chevrolet-powered car on the track and climbed through a hole in the fence to celebrate with fans in the grandstands.

"I love this crowd. I've got to always go in the crowd if we win here, I am always doing that," Newgarden said.

O'Ward slumped his head over his steering wheel in bitter disappointment. He was trying to become the first Mexican in 108 runnings to win the Indy 500.

It looked as if he had been crying when he finally removed his helmet. He finished sixth in his Indy 500 debut, then fourth and then second in 2022 when he was accused of not being aggressive enough to race Marcus Ericsson for the win.

He refused to back down last year and wound up crashing as he raced for the win. As O'Ward bided his time in the closing laps — he and Newgarden traded the lead several times — he waited to make the winning pass on the final lap.

Newgarden got it right back two turns later.

"It is hard to put it into words — we went back, we went forward, we went back, some people were driving like maniacs," O'Ward said. "We had so many near-race enders. Just so close



AP photo

Marcus Ericsson goes over the top of Tom Blomqvist, as they collide in the first turn during the Indianapolis 500 on Sunday.

again. ... I put that car through things I never thought it was going to be able to do. It is always a heartbreak when you're so close, especially when it's not the first time and you don't know how many opportunities you have."

The win was an incredible bounceback for Newgarden, who last month had his March season-opening victory disqualified because Team Penske had illegal push-to-pass software on its cars. Newgarden used the additional horsepower three times in the win and it took IndyCar nearly six weeks to discover the Penske manipulation.

Roger Penske, who owns the race team, IndyCar, the Indy 500 and the speedway, suspended four crew members, including Team President Tim Cindric. The Cindric suspension was a massive blow for Newgarden as Cindric is considered the best strategist in the series.

Newgarden was thrilled to have the win and put the push-to-

SEE NEW, B-2



AP photo

Josef Newgarden celebrates after winning his second consecutive Indianapolis 500 on Sunday.

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The Dominion Post

Diminished hearing can lead to other concerns

DEAR DOCTORS: My dad is 78 years old, and although he's losing his hearing, he won't use a hearing aid. I'm told this can be common in older adults. Talking to him about hearing loss and social isolation hasn't been effective. Wouldn't hearing aids make him safer?

Dear Reader: You're facing a challenge that is familiar to many adult children who help care for their older parents. It is estimated that more than half of adults 75 years of age and older are living with measurable hearing loss. Most would benefit from using a hearing aid, and yet the data show that fewer than one-third use them. Wearing a hearing aid is often perceived as a sign of old age and a loss of physical and mental acuity. The high cost of the devices also plays a significant role.

In your letter, you've brought up two crucial points regarding the effects of untreated hearing loss on quality of life. Social isolation is indeed one of the outcomes. This leads to loneliness, which is now clearly linked to a range of adverse health

effects. These include hypertension, increased risk of metabolic disease, heart disease, and an increased risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

A study recently published in the Lancet group's journal Healthy Longevity found that regularly using a hearing aid to treat hearing loss lowered the risk of early death by up to 25%. It makes sense, since we rely on countless audible cues as we navigate the world each day.

If you persuade your father to consider a hearing aid, there are a few steps you can take to improve the odds of success. Start by finding a reputable audiologist. This is a specialist with whom your dad will have an ongoing relationship, so it should be someone he enjoys working with. The audiologist will help identify the proper device for your father's hearing loss and for his lifestyle. This process can take some time. It's also important to remember it can take several months to become acclimated to using the device.

Monday, May 27, 2024

Take pride in your work and concentrate on what's important. Being satisfied with who you are and what you do will determine how far you go. Let your creativity shine through, and you will find exciting ways to use your talents to accomplish your goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Apply pressure where necessary and make things happen. Taking control will save you time and ensure you get the best results.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Ask questions, search for alternatives and move forward. Persistence will pay off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take a wait-and-see approach, and you'll dodge having to backtrack. Pay more attention to health, fitness and looking and feeling your best.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Take the path of least resistance. Don't limit what you can accomplish or waste time trying to pursue the impossible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — An outlet for excess energy will help you make the most of your day. Don't embark on something that could hold you back. Invest in yourself and do



EUGENIA LAST

what makes you happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Use your imagination and bring your ideas to life. Make a change that leads you to the adventure you desire.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Follow your intuition and desires regarding affairs of the heart. Be open and receptive to new possibilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Devise a plan that works for you, and don't hesitate to follow through. You can't please everyone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Mixed emotions will lead to confusion. Clear up any misconception by being direct.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Work incognito to accomplish the most. Discipline will pay off.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Pay attention, get your facts straight and think twice before you get angry.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't fear change; embrace what life offers and enjoy the ride.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unprocessed
 - 4 Mama's male
 - 8 Damage
 - 12 Anger
 - 13 "Exodus" author Leon —
 - 14 Succulent plant
 - 15 School org.
 - 16 Liquid measure
 - 17 Sunbeams
 - 18 Bar legally
 - 20 Salad vegetable
 - 22 Hasten
 - 23 Mineral-rich rock
 - 24 Refuge
 - 28 Make into law
 - 32 "World — Z"
 - 33 Lather
 - 35 TV's " — Grant"
 - 36 Cakes and —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

HUM	FOP	GASH
APE	FLUE	ALOE
ITS	ROTE	SIAM
ROSTER	PAPERS	
ASAP	PUSN	
BROT	AWN	ANT
RUT	KNIT	TOO
ASH	HEAT	ESP
GEE	YAM	HADES
REP	ALUM	
POWDER	IMPACT	
EGIS	ANNA	BOO
ELSE	KEEN	ECU
REEL	EON	TAR

- DOWN**
- 1 Like a yellow banana
 - 2 — and crafts
 - 3 Worn by the elements
 - 4 Marionette
 - 5 — Gold of "Entourage"
 - 6 Bowler's target
 - 7 Texas player

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18			19			20	21			
24	25			26	27	28		29	30	31
32			33	34				35		
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53				54	55	56			57	
58				59					60	
61				62					63	

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CURTIS

BY RAY BILLINGSLEY

MY NANA LET ME MAKE MY OWN LUNCH

COCONUT CREAM PIE, A CAN OF CAKE FROSTING, AND FOR DESSERT, BAZOOKA BUBBLE GUM!

WOW, SHE LET YOU MAKE THAT?!

LET ME REPHRASE THAT, C-BREEZE...

SHE DIDN'T WATCH ME MAKE MY OWN LUNCH!

PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

HEY, STUPID CAT...

HERE'S AN AD FOR 'ROUND THE WORLD CRUISES. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ONE, AND DON'T COME BACK?

SLASH!

HERE'S AN AD I SHOULD ANSWER MYSELF... "HOW TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT"

THE GRIZZWELLS

BY BILL SCHORR

QUINHER, YOU FORGOT YOUR COFFEE

I'M GIVING UP COFFEE... IT INTERFERES WITH MY MORNING NAP

WHEN YOU TWO GROW UP, I HOPE YOU'RE AS DEDICATED AS YOUR FATHER IS

BEEBLE BAILEY

BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER

I MISS YOU GUYS!

WHO IS HE TALKING TO?

HIS OLD ARMY BUDDIES

HE GETS VERY SENTIMENTAL ON MEMORIAL DAY

FRANK & ERNEST

BY BOB THAVES

Sam's Gourmet Diner

WHAT DO YOU CALL IT WHEN YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY THE MYSTERY MEAT IN YOUR SANDWICH? "SPAMNESIA!"

BORN LOSER

BY ART & CHIP SANSON

ARE WE GOING TO VISIT GREAT-GRANDPA JIM IN THE CEMETERY TODAY?

ABSOLUTELY.

DO YOU THINK HE WOULD MIND IF I WORE HIS CAP FROM WORLD WAR II?

I'M SURE HE WOULD FEEL HONORED!

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY DIK BROWNE

WOULD YOU GO ON A DATE WITH ME?

YESTERDAY I WOULD HAVE SAID YES

WHY NOT TODAY?

TODAY I GOT GLASSES!

MARMADUKE

BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON

"We were giving Marmaduke a bath and he swallowed the soap."

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

MAN, I'M GOOD AT THIS!

SCRABBLE GRAMS

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 220

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Directions: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.

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Solutions — B-3

BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

YO, MR. B! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE TAKING A LITTLE NAP IN YOUR HAMMOCK

I'M TRYING TO, ELMO

I KEEP GETTING INTERRUPTED, THOUGH

OH, I GET IT!

NO WORRIES... I'LL HANG AROUND AND MAKE SURE NO ONE BUGS YOU

RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE

THE DAY OFF

COOL! A CUPHOLDER!

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

HEY SHPARKY!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

ANYWHERE!