

SWEDEN -

SWEDEN HAS ISSUED LICENCES TO HUNTERS TO KILL A TOTAL OF 201 LYNX, WEEKS AFTER DOZENS OF WOLVES WERE KILLED IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST WOLF CULL IN MODERN TIMES. THE NUMBER OF LICENCES TO KILL LYNX THROUGHOUT MARCH, ISSUED BY SWEDEN'S COUNTRY ADMINISTRATIONS, IS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER IN RECENT YEARS.

THE PLANNED CULL IS OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO ANY DANGER TO LIVESTOCK OR PEOPLE, SAY WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONISTS AND ACTIVISTS, WHO ARE ASKING THE EU TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST SWEDEN FOR BREACHING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW.

CONSERVATIONISTS WARNED LAST MONTH THAT THE LYNX POPULATION IN EUROPE COULD COLLAPSE UNLESS IMMEDIATE EFFORTS ARE MADE TO PROTECT THE ANIMALS. TESTS ON THE REMAINING CATS IN FRANCE SHOW THAT THEIR GENETIC DIVERSITY IS SO LOW THEY WILL BECOME LOCALLY EXTINCT WITHIN THE NEXT 30 YEARS WITHOUT INTERVENTION.

THERE ARE AROUND 1,450 LYNX SPREAD ACROSS SWEDEN, ABOUT 300 FEWER THAN 10 YEARS AGO. NATURVÅRDSVERKET, THE SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ARGUES THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS ONLY 870 ANIMALS TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY POPULATION.



UNITED STATES -

THE VAST MAJORITY OF PLASTIC THAT PEOPLE USE, AND IN MANY CASES PUT INTO BLUE RECYCLING BINS, IS HEADED TO LANDFILLS, OR WORSE, ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM GREENPEACE ON THE STATE OF PLASTIC RECYCLING IN THE U.S.

THE REPORT CITES SEPARATE DATA PUBLISHED THIS MAY WHICH REVEALED THAT THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC ACTUALLY TURNED INTO NEW THINGS HAS FALLEN TO NEW LOWS OF AROUND 5%. THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO DROP FURTHER AS MORE PLASTIC IS PRODUCED.

GREENPEACE FOUND THAT NO PLASTIC — NOT EVEN SODA BOTTLES, ONE OF THE MOST PROLIFIC ITEMS THROWN INTO RECYCLING BINS — MEETS THE THRESHOLD TO BE CALLED "RECYCLABLE" ACCORDING TO STANDARDS SET BY THE ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION NEW PLASTIC ECONOMY INITIATIVE. PLASTIC MUST HAVE A RECYCLING RATE OF 30% TO REACH THAT STANDARD; NO PLASTIC HAS EVER BEEN RECYCLED AND REUSED CLOSE TO THAT RATE.



CINCINNATI -

A FAN WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE WESTERN & SOUTHERN OPEN IN CINCINNATI AFTER WEARING A UKRAINIAN FLAG AT A MATCH.

A WOMAN NAMED LOLA WORE A FLAG ACROSS HER SHOULDERS WHILE WATCHING A MATCH BETWEEN TWO RUSSIAN PLAYERS ANNA KALINSKAYA AND ANASTASIA POTAPOVA. ONE OF THE PLAYERS MADE A COMPLAINT, LEADING TO THE UMPIRE ASKING LOLA TO REMOVE THE FLAG AS IT WAS CAUSING A DISTRACTION FOR THE PLAYERS ON THE COURT.

"THIS IS NOT RUSSIA," LOLA TOLD OHIO-BASED TELEVISION STATION
LOCAL 12. "THIS IS UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. WE HAD OUR UKRAINIAN
FLAG, NOT DOING ANYTHING CRAZY, DISTRACTING PLAYERS, BUT
WRAPPED AROUND, SITTING THERE PEACEFULLY AND QUIET."

TENNIS' STANCE OVER THE WAR IN UKRAINE HAS BEEN CONTROVERSIAL, WITH RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN PLAYERS BANNED FROM WIMBLEDON, A DECISION CRITICISED BY JOHN MCENROE AMONG OTHERS.



NEW YORK -

WHOOPI GOLDBERG, ACTOR, COMEDIAN, AUTHOR, AND TELEVISION PERSONALITY, IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN NAMES IN HOLLYWOOD. SHE BECAME WELL-KNOWN AND A PILLAR OF HOLLYWOOD THANKS TO HER OSCAR-WINNING PERFORMANCE IN THE 1990S BLOCKBUSTER "GHOST."

THE EMMY AWARD WINNER HOWEVER IS ALSO THE AUTHOR OF THE SUGAR PLUM BALLERINAS SERIES, WHICH CONSISTS OF SIX YOUNG CHILDREN'S BOOKS. THE SERIES WAS LAUNCHED IN 2008 AND CONTINUED THROUGH 2012.

THE ACTRESS POSTED AN EXCLUSIVE UNBOXING ON INSTAGRAM TO ANNOUNCE THAT SHE IS RERELEASING THE FIRST TWO BOOKS OF SUGAR PLUM BALLERINAS SERIES – "PLUM FANTASTIC" AND "TOESHOE TROUBLE."

SHE IS COLLABORATING WITH PUBLISHER LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS TO REISSUE THE BOOKS WITH ALL-NEW ARTWORK.



HOUSTON -

PRIMATE KEEPERS AT THE HOUSTON ZOO GOT QUITE THE SURPRISE WHEN THEY WENT TO CHECK ON THE RESIDENTS OF THEIR GOELDI'S MONKEY HOUSE JAN. 15. CLINGING TO A TREE BRANCH IN THE ENCLOSURE ALL BY HERSELF WAS AN EXTREMELY SMALL BABY MONKEY. TOO SMALL, IN FACT. MOST GOELDI'S (PRONOUNCED "GELL-DEES") MONKEYS, WHICH ARE NATIVE TO SOUTH AMERICA, ARE BORN WEIGHING IN AROUND 50 GRAMS OR MORE, BUT THIS NEWCOMER TIPPED THE SCALES AT JUST 34 GRAMS (ABOUT THE WEIGHT OF A STANDARD LIGHTBULB), ACCORDING TO A NEWS RELEASE. TO DATE, THE SMALLEST HAND-RAISED GOELDI'S MONKEY TO REACH ADULTHOOD WAS BORN WEIGHING 42 GRAMS—8 GRAMS HEAVIER THAN BETTY.

THE ABNORMALLY SMALL—BUT STILL SO CUTE—GOELDI'S MONKEY WAS GIVEN A MAMMOTH LEGACY TO LIVE UP TO, DUBBED "BABY BETTY" AFTER THE LATE BETTY WHITE, THE BELOVED ACTRESS AND ANIMAL ACTIVIST WHO DIED LAST YEAR. FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, BETTY WILL BE HAND-RAISED UNDER CONSTANT VETERINARY SUPERVISION TO ENSURE SHE GETS THE CARE SHE NEEDS TO SURVIVE AND, HOPEFULLY, THRIVE. THE ZOO SAID IT'S "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC" THE SMALL MONKEY WILL SURVIVE.



WEATHER FORECAST





COMMERCIAL PROMPT:

GRAETER'S ICE CREAM

FACT SHEET:

LOUIS GRAETER BEGAN SELLING ICE CREAM AT NEIGHBORHOOD STREET MARKETS WHEN HE MOVED TO CINCINNATI IN 1868. THUS BEGAN THE GRAETER'S BRAND.

GRAETER'S HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR (AMONG OTHER THINGS) ITS MASSIVE CHOCOLATE CHIPS.

53 GRAETER'S RETAIL STORES. GRAETER'S ALSO CAN BE FOUND IN MORE THAN 6,000 GROCERY STORES IN 46 STATES.

LOUIS STARTED THE BUSINESS WITH VANILLA AND CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM, AND GRAETER'S NOW OFFERS 13 CHIP FLAVORS, EIGHT CLASSIC FLAVORS AND A VARIETY OF SEASONAL OPTIONS, PLUS LOW GLYCEMIC AND SORBET OFFERINGS. BLACK RASPBERRY CHIP, MADE WITH BLACK RASPBERRIES FROM OREGON'S WILLAMETTE VALLEY AND GOURMET BITTERSWEET CHOCOLATE CHIPS, IS THE MOST POPULAR FLAVOR AND THE ALL-TIME BEST SELLER.



NASHVILLE:

ANTONIO REEVES SCORED A CAREER-HIGH 37 POINTS, AND NO. 23
KENTUCKY HANDED ARKANSAS ITS THIRD STRAIGHT LOSS WITH AN 88-79
VICTORY ON SATURDAY. OSCAR TSHIEBWE HAD 12 POINTS AND 13
REBOUNDS FOR THE WILDCATS (21-10, 12-6 SOUTHEASTERN
CONFERENCE). JACOB TOPPIN SCORED 21 POINTS.

TSHIEBWE FOULED OUT WITH 4:53 LEFT, BUT ARKANSAS (19-12, 8-10) WAS UNABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS ABSENCE. THE RAZORBACKS MISSED THREE STRAIGHT BUCKETS BEFORE REEVES SCORED TO LIFT KENTUCKY BACK TO A 10-POINT LEAD WITH FOUR MINUTES LEFT.

KENTUCKY SHOT 54% FROM THE FIELD IN ITS FIFTH WIN IN SIX GAMES. IT ALSO HELD ARKANSAS TO 36% SHOOTING. THE RAZORBACKS HAD 17 OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS, BUT THEY WERE OUTSCORED 17-9 IN SECOND-CHANCE POINTS.

KENTUCKY'S LATE-SEASON PUSH LIKELY SECURED A SPOT IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT. A STRONG SHOWING IN THE CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT COULD HELP WITH ITS SEEDING.



WASHINGTON, DC:

TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PETE BUTTIGIEG HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF A FUSILLADE OF CONSERVATIVE ATTACKS SINCE LAST MONTH'S TRAIN DERAILMENT TOXIC TRAIN DERAILMENT IN EAST PALESTINE, OHIO. REPUBLICAN SCRUTINY FOLLOWS PAST CRITICISM OF HOW THE SECRETARY HANDLED ISSUES LIKE SOUTHWEST'S HOLIDAY SEASON FLIGHT MELTDOWNS.

DONALD TRUMP JR. INSISTED THAT BUTTIGIEG WAS ONLY TAPPED FOR HIS JOB BECAUSE HE WAS "THAT GAY GUY," WHILE FOX NEWS HOST TUCKER CARLSON HAS REFERRED TO HIM AS "FLAMBOYANTLY INCOMPETENT" TO THE POINT OF "EVIL."

BUTTIGIEG'S DEMOCRATIC DEFENDERS SAY THOSE ATTACKS ARE OFF
BASE AND THAT REPUBLICANS ARE OVERESTIMATING HIS ABILITY TO
AMELIORATE THE ISSUE, NOTING THAT TRANSPORTATION SECRETARIES
RARELY VISIT SITES OF ACCIDENTS AND THAT BUTTIGIEG DID VISIT EAST
PALESTINE, THOUGH AFTER FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP DID.

THE EXTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE FROM THE TRAIN

DERAILMENT IN THE SMALL OHIO TOWN REMAINS UNCLEAR, THOUGH

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS SUGGEST IT WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF

THE WORST ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATIONS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.