

# Celebrating Jack Feldman, a Holocaust survivor who gave back to

**Jim Memmott**  
January 2, 2022 · 4 min read

*Remarkable Rochester: Reflections on the people, places and things that bring us together*

By any standard, Jack Feldman, a Holocaust survivor who died on Dec. 20 at age 95, had a life harder than most.

But as much as Feldman, who would have been 96 on New Year's Day, was tested by unspeakable cruelty and loss, he lived a life marked by extraordinary kindness.

"He was not someone who was angry," says his granddaughter Stacey Saiontz, who grew up in Pittsford. "He was just a happy person who gave to others."

For his perseverance and his generosity, let's add Jack Feldman's name to the list of [Remarkable Rochesterians](#) that we've been compiling for years, though, it may be that "remarkable" is an inadequate adjective to describe his life.

As a Jewish teenager in Poland, Feldman and his family members were taken from their home into a ghetto. In the 1940s, the Nazis grabbed him off the streets and sent him to a series of labor and death camps, the last being Auschwitz. From there, in 1945, he and hundreds of others were sent on a death march that lasted more than three months before they were liberated by Russian troops.

Feldman would go on to marry another death-camp survivor, settle in Rochester and raise a family.



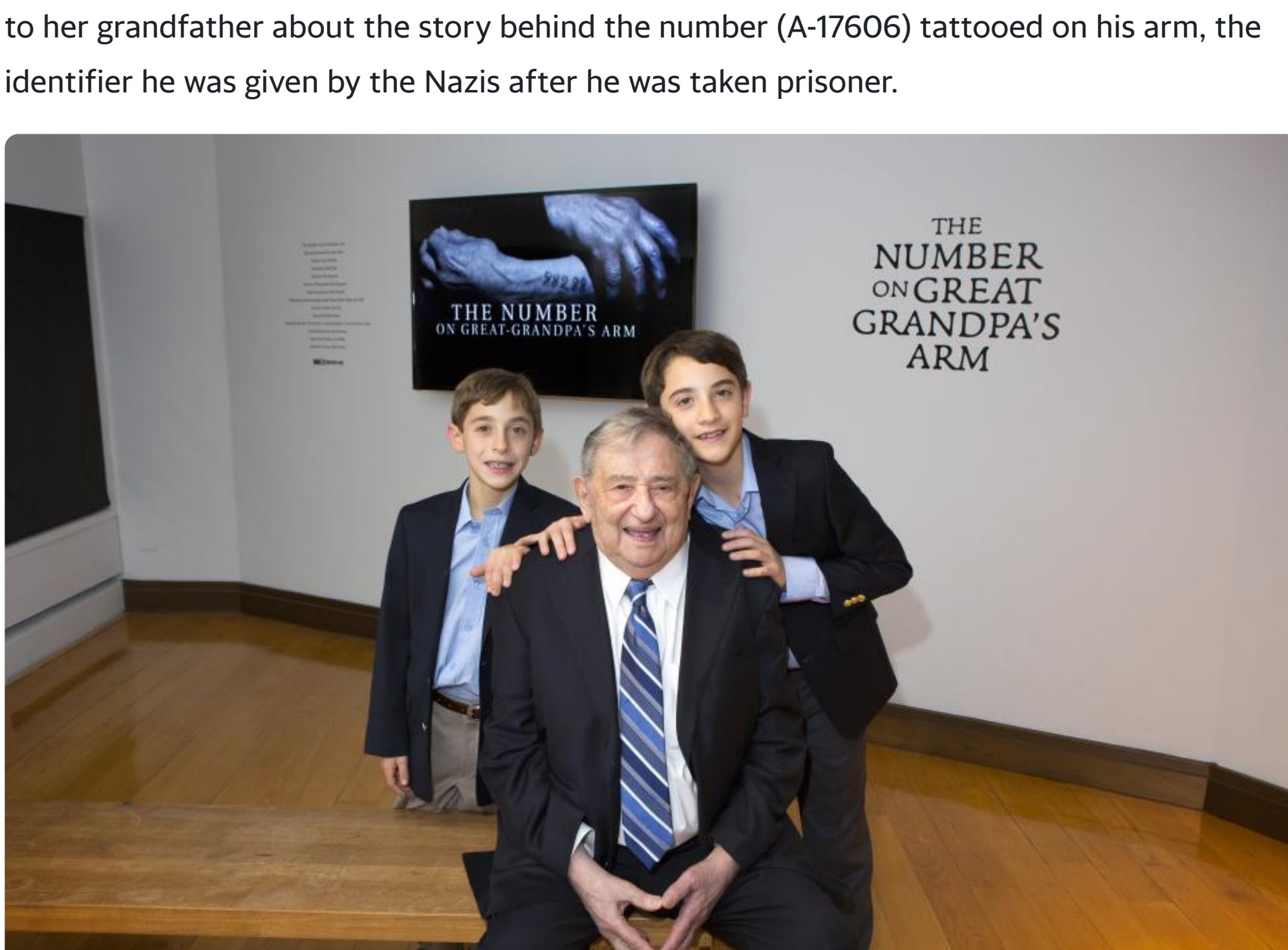
Jack Feldman

He opened a fish market on Joseph Avenue in the mid-fifties. He knew what hunger was like and was well-known for giving food to those in need. It's likely that, because of this, his market was spared during the 1964 riots.

In 2007, when he was 81, Feldman was shot during a robbery at his store. "If they would have known who Jack is, they would never, ever done that," Eddie Felder, a long-time employee of the market, told the Democrat and Chronicle. "Jack fed everyone."

As the newspaper story predicted, Feldman came back to the store after he recovered, working there for many years.

When she was young, Saiontz, who now lives in Chappaqua, Westchester County, would talk to her grandfather about the story behind the number (A-17606) tattooed on his arm, the identifier he was given by the Nazis after he was taken prisoner.



Jack Feldman with his great-grandsons Jared (left) and Elliott Saiontz (right). It was taken at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in 2018 on the day of the premiere of "The Number on Great Grandpa's Arm."

In 2016, her son Elliott, then 10, would ask some of the same questions in the extraordinary HBO documentary, "The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm."

In the film, which was released in 2018, Elliott and his great-grandfather look at pictures taken before the war, pictures of Feldman's family life, of peace, of all that was lost when the Nazis arrived.

Prompted by Elliott, Jack Feldman, who was the only member of his immediate family to survive the Holocaust, talks about life in the death camps, about nearly starving, about the long march, about rescue.

The conversation is tender, a young boy learning the harsh facts of a time when his great-grandfather was young as well.

Jack Feldman and his wife, Sally, who died before him, had three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Diagnosed with cancer last year, he was living at the Summit at Brighton when he died peacefully after a last meal of fish, the food he knew so well. Thus ended a good life.

"His story has changed a lot of people, the way they think, the way they act," Elliott says at the end of the film. "You need to know it, to understand, to stop it from happening in future generations... He's a hero to most people for how he survived and stuff. I know he's my family's hero."

## Remarkable Rochesterians

As was mentioned, let's add the name of this resilient and kindly man to the list of Remarkable Rochesterians found at <https://data.democratandchronicle.com/remarkable-rochesterians/>:

**Jack Feldman (1926-2021):** A Holocaust survivor who went on to settle in Rochester, he ran a fish market for years and gave back to the community in many ways. Born in Skarzysko-Kamienna, Poland, he grew up in Sosnowiec, Poland. After the Nazis invaded, he, and his family, were forced to live in a ghetto. In the 1940s, he was taken to a series of concentration camps ending in Auschwitz-Birkenau. In January 1945, he and other prisoners were forced on a death march from Poland to Germany. Many died before they were liberated by the Russians in May 1945.

*From his home in Geneseo, Livingston County, retired senior editor Jim Memmott, writes Remarkable Rochester, who we were, who we are. He can be reached at [jmemmott@gannett.com](mailto:jmemmott@gannett.com) or write Box 274, Geneseo, NY 14454*

*This article originally appeared on Rochester Democrat and Chronicle: [Remarkable Rochesterians: Jack Feldman endured Holocaust, owned market](#)*

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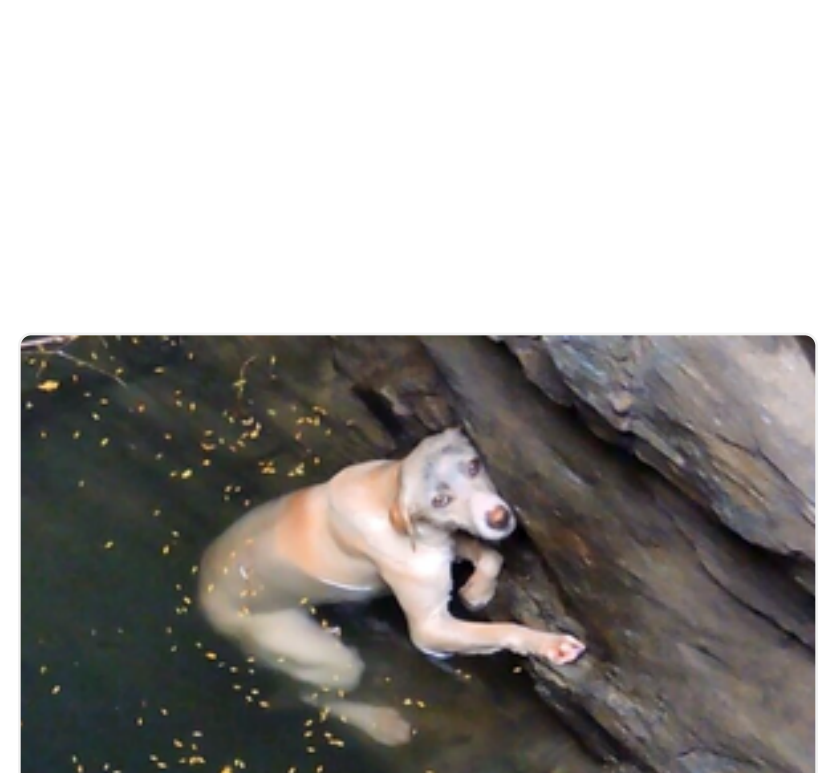
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- North Korea claims almost 800,000 have signed up to fight against U.S.
- Delicate negotiations underway over potential Trump arrest next week
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Boy (10) thinks he saves "dog", when he sees what it is, he turns pale

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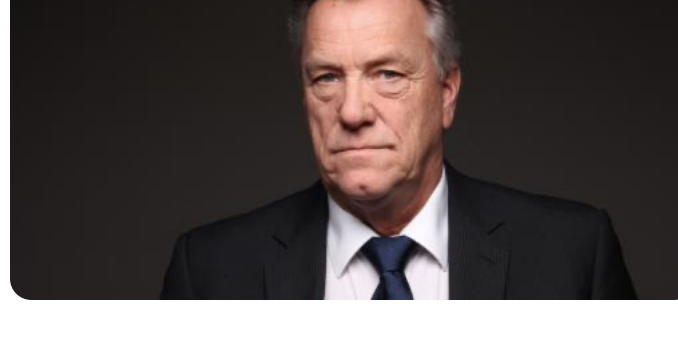
**Kansas City Star**  
**Infant kidnapped from family's home by fake protective services worker, Ohio cops say**  
The mother reached out to CPS and was told they had no records of her baby, outlets reported.

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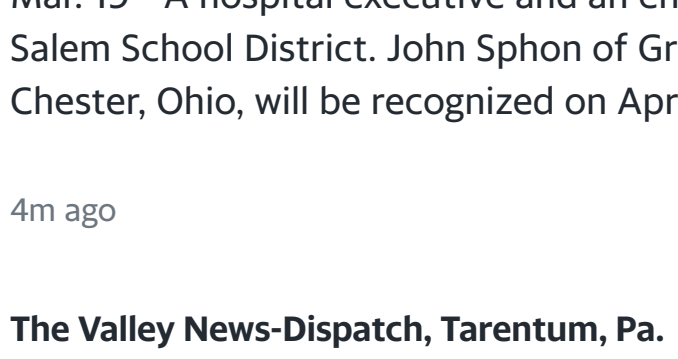
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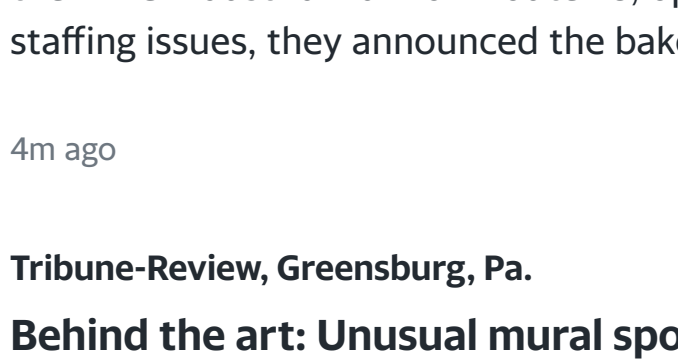
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**Tribune-Review, Greensburg, Pa.**  
**Excelsa CEO, Ohio entrepreneur John honored Greensburg Salem alumni; late coach gets new award**  
Mar. 19—A hospital executive and an entrepreneur with an engineering background this year will join distinguished alumni honored at Greensburg Salem School District. John Sphon of Greensburg, a member of the graduating class of 1975, and Bill Lendl, a 1980 graduate who lives in West Chester, Ohio, will be recognized on April 21 at a dinner organized by the Greensburg Salem Education ...

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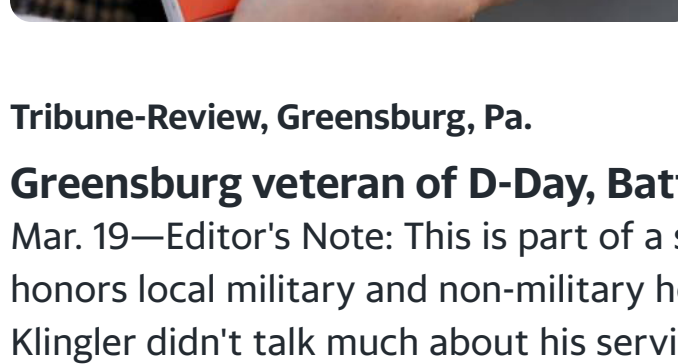
**The Valley News-Dispatch, Tarentum, Pa.**  
**The Winkler's Bakery in O'Hara permanently closes; building available for lease**  
Mar. 19—An O'Hara bakery open for less than two years apparently has closed for good. Periwinkle's Bakery & Cafe, located at 900 Gamma Drive in the RIDC Industrial Park off Route 28, opened in 2021 in a building that housed a former Max & Erma's restaurant. But after an ownership struggle with staffing issues, they announced the bakery/cafe was temporarily closing in late 2022. The shop never ...

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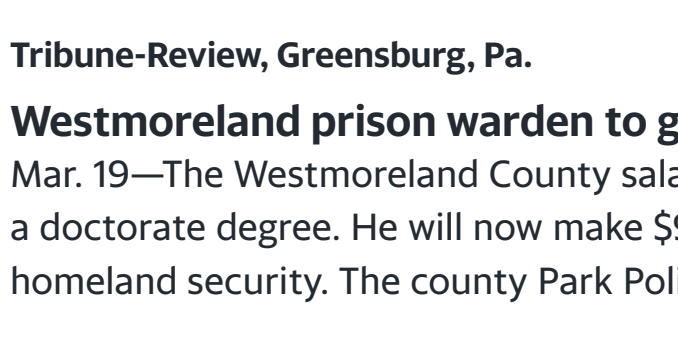
**Tribune-Review, Greensburg, Pa.**  
**Behind the art: Unusual mural spotlights perspectives on reality**  
Mar. 19—What's upside down is actually right side up in a curious multi-paneled mural on display at The Fred Rogers Center in Unity. Artist Roman Verostko's pen and ink drawings from the early 1970s were repurposed on 11 panels that line the wall next to a staircase at the Saint Vincent College building. The drawings were meant to appeal to children and the childlike spirit in adults. Their ...

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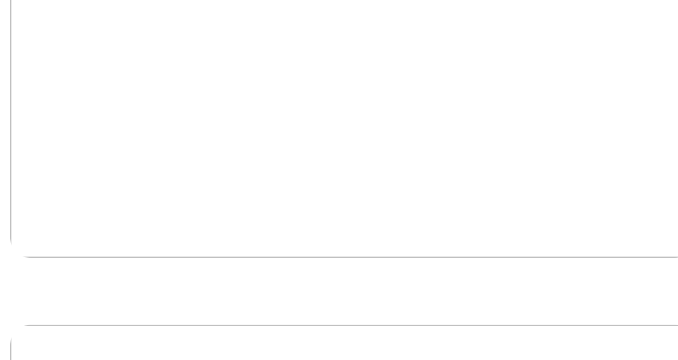
**Tribune-Review, Greensburg, Pa.**  
**Greensburg's veteran of O-Day, Battle of the Westmoreland County residents who have been honored as Hometown Heroes. The program honors local military and non-military heroes by displaying photos on decorative banners in area communities. Elmer Klingler Greensburg Elmer Klingler didn't talk much about his service in the Army in World War II, but he expressed himself silently by ...**

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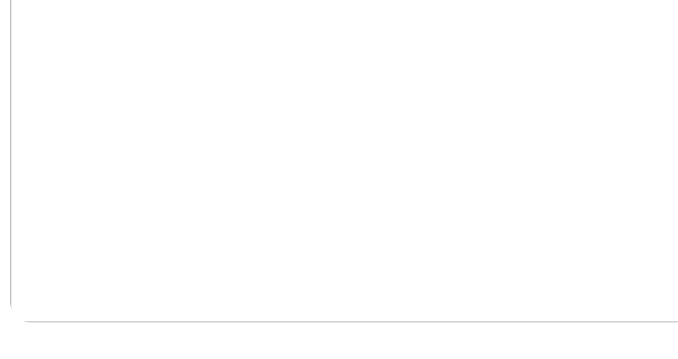
**Tribune-Review, Greensburg, Pa.**  
**Westmoreland prison wanted to get raise: 5 seasonal officers approved for park police force**  
Mar. 19—The Westmoreland County salary board approved a \$5,000 raise for Bryan Kline, warden at the county prison, because he specially earned a doctorate degree. He will now make \$99,000. Kline said his degree is from St. Leo University in Florida in criminal justice with a concentration in homeland security. The county Park Police are looking for five seasonal, temporary officers to help ...

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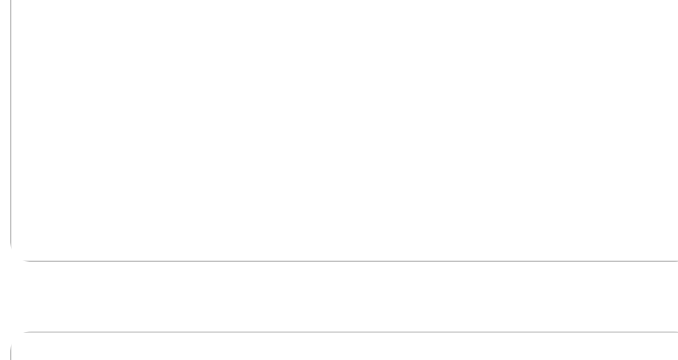
**BBC**  
**India police tell Rahul Gandhi to give more details about Kashmir claims**  
Rahul Gandhi was visited by officers after raising the issue of sexual assaults in the disputed province.

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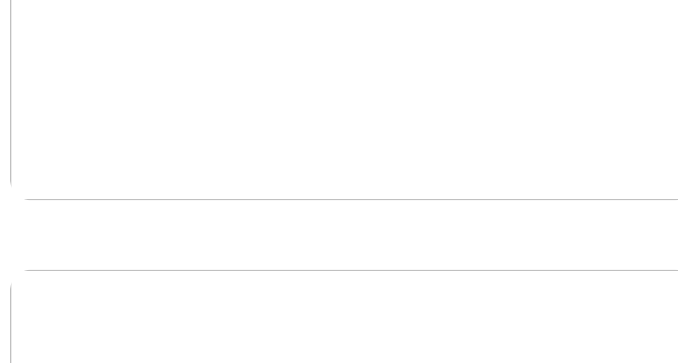
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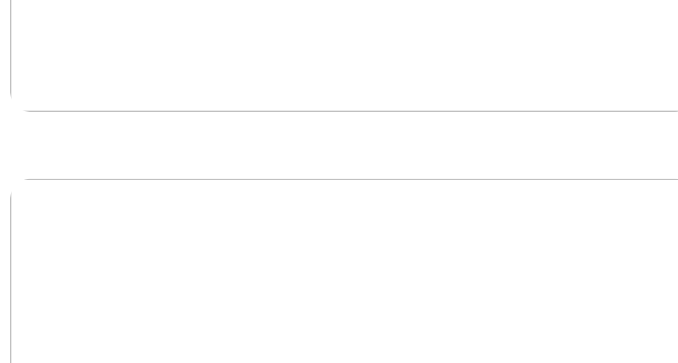
**The Independent**  
**Manchester United vs Fulham LIVE: FA Cup latest updates as Aleksandar Mitrovic and Willian sent off**  
Erik ten Hag's side continue their treble push as Fulham bid to reach their first FA Cup semi-final since 2022.

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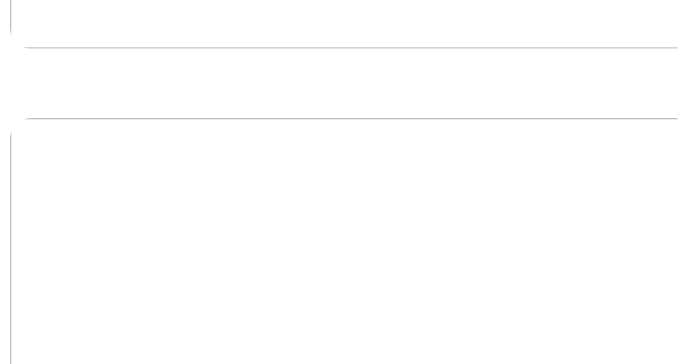
**AP Finance**  
**Swiss to hold news conference amid Credit Suisse troubles**  
Swiss leaders are holding a news conference Sunday night following several media reports that banking giant UBS is believed to be in talks to acquire its smaller rival Credit Suisse in an effort to avoid further market-shaking turmoil in global banking. The Federal Council, the seven-member governing body that...

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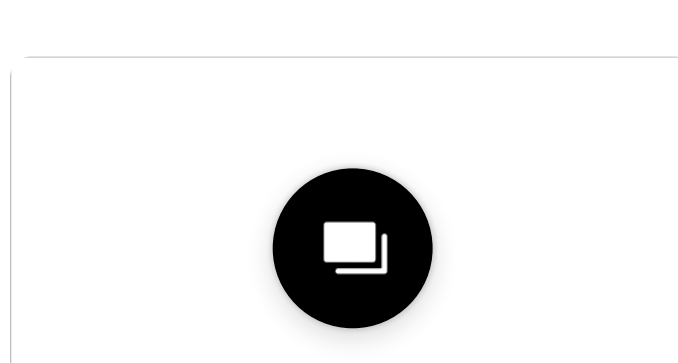
**The Holland Sentinel**  
**Zeeland East's Evan Berghorst signs with Cornerstone**  
The Zeeland East senior becomes the third in his family to play college sports.

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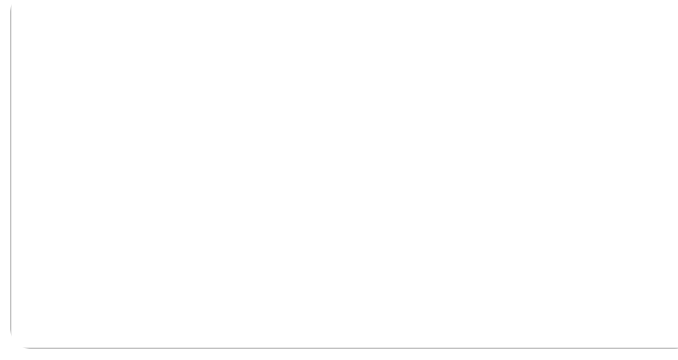
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**New York Launches No Cost Solar Program**  
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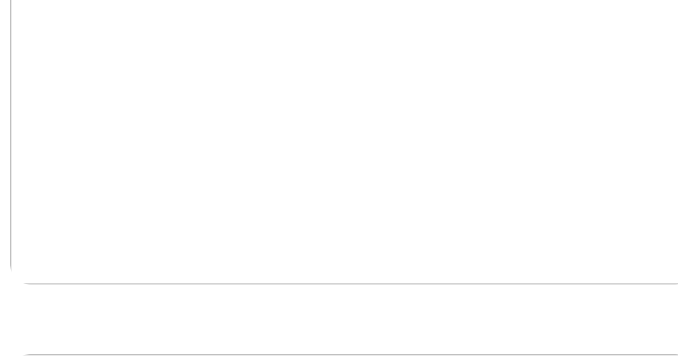
**The Wall Street Journal**  
**Pentagon Study Finds Higher Cancer Risks Among Military Pilots and Ground Crews**  
Military pilots and ground crews who fuel and maintain military aircraft are at the higher risk for certain types of cancer than the general U.S. population, according to a study from the U.S. Department of Defense. The data was collected during a yearlong study of nearly 900,000 members who either flew o...

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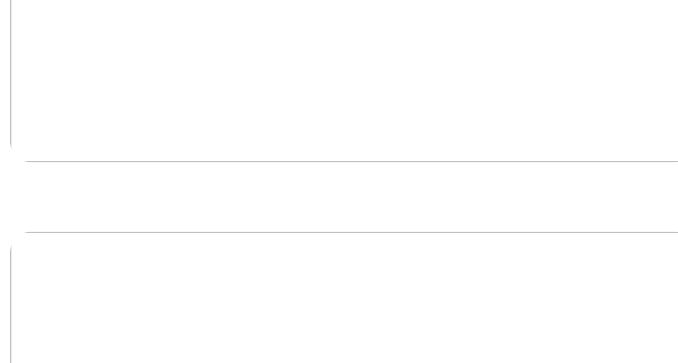
**Real Homes**  
**Bug hotel ideas: 14 ways to give insects the 5 Star treatment**  
If you want an all inclusive garden then the latest bug hotel ideas will help ensure that it's packed with flourishing blooms and a thriving vegetable patch by enticing pollinators. To invite more bees into your garden, you could install bee hotels.

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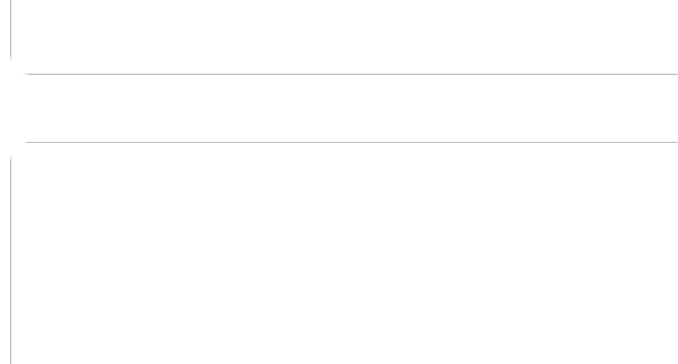
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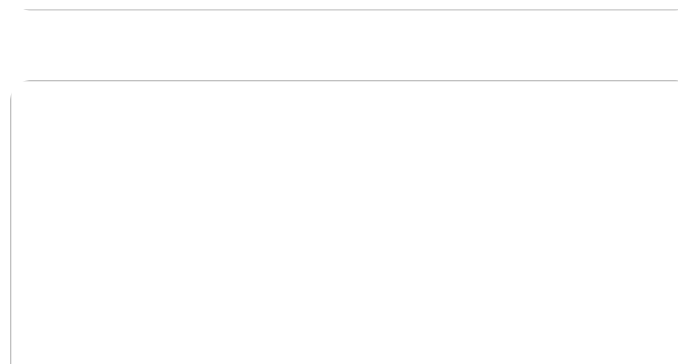
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**Plane makes emergency landing at Central Coast vineyard**  
The pilot was practicing touch-and-go landings when the aircraft's engine quit, officials said.

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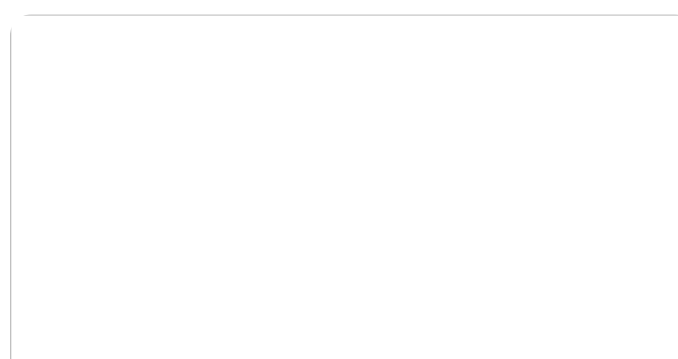
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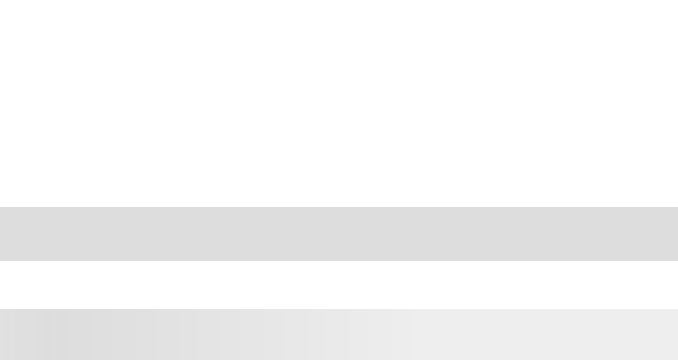
**Auburn Wire**  
**Dean gambled and proved Ohio State wrong**  
Former Auburn CB Jameel Dean bet on himself, and now he is \$52 million richer.

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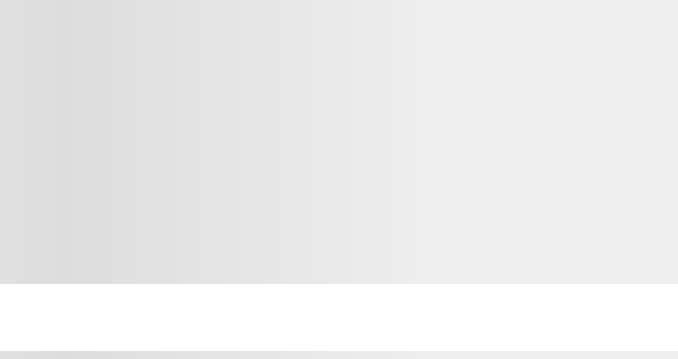
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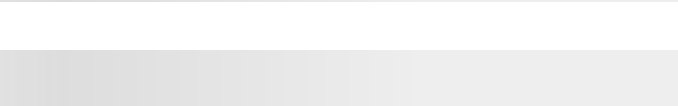
**Motley Fool**  
**Is Today's Job Market Really All That Strong? Here's What Suze Orman Has to Say**  
The national unemployment rate recently hit a 54-year low, and that alone might lead you to believe that there's no need to worry about losing your job. When you see a number like that coupled with record-low unemployment, it might lead you to believe that things are perfectly rosy. First, as Orman likes to remind...

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**UM coach Jim Larranaga on how long he plans to coach, his NIL philosophy, love of March**  
Miami coach Jim Larranaga is under contract through the 2025-26 season.

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