



High school football Week 7 skinny and predictions

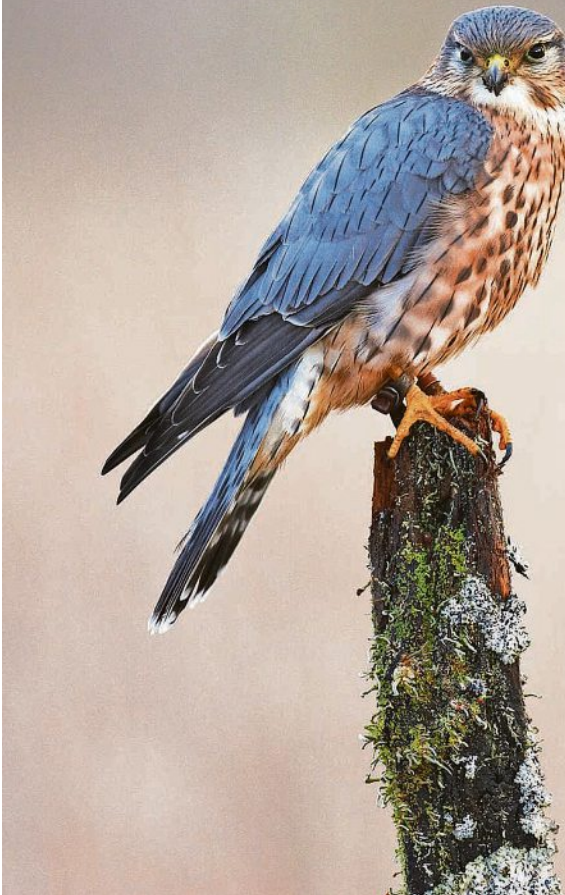
SPORTS, 1B

The Bulletin

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Once-rare species make surprising recovery



Birds bounce back

The merlin is a falcon, a little smaller than a pigeon, that eats other birds. Their population plummeted due to exposure to the pesticide DDT, until the United States and Canada began restricting DDT in the early 1970s. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Tom Langen Clarkson University | THE CONVERSATION

When I started bird-watching as a teenager, a few years after the first Earth Day in 1970, several species that once thrived in my region were nowhere to be found. Some, like the passenger pigeon, were extinct. Others had retreated to more remote, wild areas of North America. In many cases, humans had destroyed their habitat by cutting down forests, draining wetlands and converting grasslands to agriculture. Pesticides such as DDT, air and water pollution, and the shooting of birds added to the drop in numbers.

Birds are still declining across the continent. A recent study of 529 species found their numbers fell nearly 30% from 1970 to 2017. In 2025, nearly one-third of all North American bird species are declining; 112 bird species have lost more than half their population in the past 50 years.

Yet, half a century after I started birding, I am starting to see a few long-missing species reappear as I ride my bike from my home through the village and surrounding farmland in rural New York.

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The return of the pileated woodpecker is good for other species, too, as several birds and mammals benefit from the large tree cavities that the woodpeckers excavate. GETTY IMAGES

Tenant sought for former bank building

Matt Grahn
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Since Norwich has held off on the referendum for the new Norwich police station, the City Council wants to find a use for the former Chelsea Groton Bank building in the meantime. The Norwich City Council approved on a 4-3 vote on Oct. 20 that the city will seek a temporary tenant for the downtown bank building, with Democrats Joe DeLucia and Shiela Hayes and Republican Bill Nash voting against it. The former Chelsea Groton Bank building, at the intersection of Main Street and Cliff Street, and its parking lots were bought by Norwich for \$800,000 in December 2024, with the intent of reserving the building for a new police station if voters approved it at a referendum. Despite the Norwich Police Department advocating for the project earlier this year, the decision on whether the city should spend \$50 million for the needed renovations was pushed off until next year, since it might be tough for the voters to approve it so soon after approving the \$385 million for the new schools, DeLucia said. The downtown Chelsea Groton relocated to a smaller location in the Mercantile Building.

What the city council said

Norwich Mayor Peter Nystrom said the short-term rental idea came from City Manager John Salomone as a way to offset heating and other utility costs, he said. DeLucia, president pro-tempore of the City Council, opposed the rental

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Celebrate Halloween at events in Norwich and beyond

Connor Linskey
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Halloween season is officially upon us and there's no shortage of events to celebrate the holiday in Windham and

New London counties. Whether you are looking for a night out with your family or are simply looking for a night of solo fun, there are a number of Halloween-themed events that you are sure to enjoy. Hopefully you have some time in your schedule to enjoy the

Halloween season before November rolls around and we shift our focus to Thanksgiving. Admire the changing color of the leaves and have some Halloween fun. Here are six Halloween events happening in Windham and New London counties.

Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat, Plainfield
Fall Fest will take place at Lion's Park in Plainfield Saturday, Oct. 25 from 1p.m. See HALLOWEEN, Page 2A

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