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PROSTATE CANCER

Annual screening guidance updated

Routine blood test now urged

NEW YORK TIMES

ATLANTA — The American Cancer Society on Thursday issued new guidelines recommending all men ages 50 to 69 undergo prostate cancer screening using a blood test every two years.

Black men and those with a strong family history of prostate cancer should start annual screening at 45, the guidelines said.

Universal screening for prostate cancer, which accounts for about 2.5 percent of all deaths among U.S. men, has long been a subject of controversy. The evidence of the benefits of regular testing of blood levels of prostate specific antigen, or PSA, is somewhat limited. And there are well-documented harms associated with diagnosing and treating all prostate cancers, which are typically slow-growing and may not ever cause issues in men who have them.

The new guidelines diverge from earlier recommendations that patients and physicians decide together about screening, based on careful consideration of the risks and benefits and patients' values.

"This is truly a reversal," said Dr. Philipp Dahm, a professor of urology at the University of Minnesota who was not involved in the guidelines.

The ACS said it was updating its guidance based on new evidence and changes in how doctors monitor and treat prostate cancers.

While experts agreed with the rationale for the update, some worried that the guidelines would lead doctors and patients to default to screening, rather than having nuanced conversations about its pros and cons. That could lead men to unnecessarily undergo screening, biopsies, and treatment like radiation and surgery, which can leave men with erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence, and bowel problems.

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"We decided to reach out and see if we could host a wedding there [at the Mortuary Manor], and he [Cory Leibenguth] was more than happy to do it."

— Ryan Reyher, of Grand Rapids, Mich.



THE BLADE/PHILLIP L. KAPLAN

Cory Leibenguth prepares for the first wedding ceremony at Mortuary Manor Funeral Museum & Event Center, which takes place on Friday.

Couple set to tie the knot Friday the 13th

Local funeral museum will host wedding

By ERIC TAUNTON
BLADE STAFF WRITER

For a Grand Rapids, Mich., couple, it all started at their local haunted house.

When Ryan Reyher met Stephanie Briceno-Rosas at the Haunt in Grand Rapids in the summer of 2020, he was immediately smitten, he said.

"I thought she was gorgeous," Mr. Reyher said of his first impression. But it wasn't just her looks that attracted him: "She was really caring and her aspirations were really cool."

He asked her out at the end of August, 2020, and their relationship blossomed.

Six years later, the couple, who share a love of all things spooky, plan to marry on Friday the 13th at Mortuary Manor Funeral Museum & Event Center, a museum housed in a Victorian-era building that later served as a funeral home in Toledo.

"We were looking for kind of a gothic venue within our budget," Mr. Reyher said. "We decided to reach out and see if we could host a wedding there, and he was more than happy to do it."

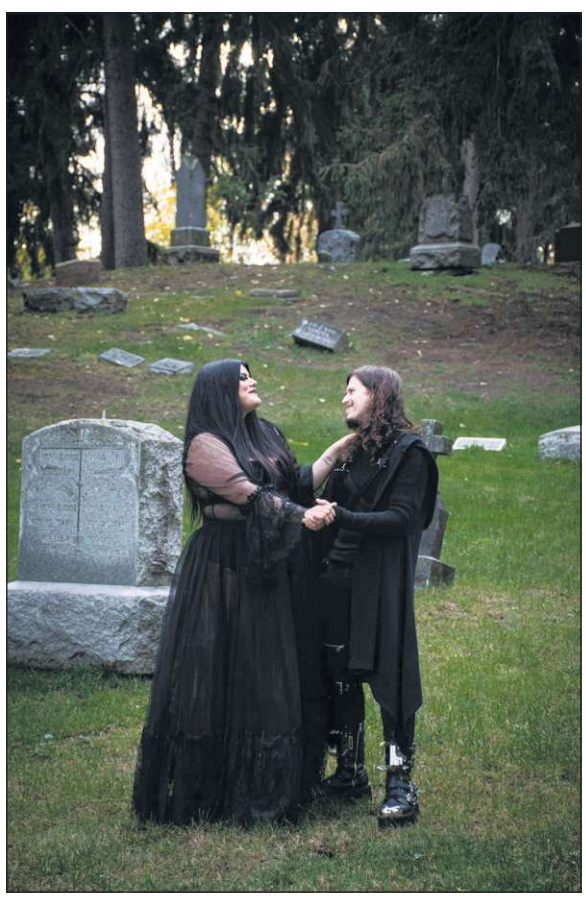


PHOTO BY HOPE CASSIDY

Grand Rapids, Mich., couple Stephanie Briceno-Rosas and Ryan Reyher met in August, 2020.

Friday's wedding is the first for the museum, said Cory Leibenguth, operational manager of Mortuary Manor.

The building dates to the 1870s and was remodeled into a mansion-style structure in 1897, he said. It became Urbanski

See MUSEUM, Page A4

Nearly 100 city staff to get laid off

Dismissals will go into effect Jan. 4, officials say

By MIKE SIGOV
BLADE STAFF WRITER

The city of Toledo is preparing to lay off about 100 employees across its departments effective Jan. 4, with affected workers being notified Thursday and Friday, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz said.

The layoffs are more extensive than city officials had projected before voters rejected a proposed income tax increase last week, with lower-than-expected income tax collections adding to the city's financial troubles.

Joe Cira, president of Toledo Firefighters Local 92, said "upwards of" 20 firefighters are being laid off.

"There is no reason to lay off a single Toledo firefighter," he said.

A few days before the levy failed, the city warned of 73 potential layoffs, roughly half of them in the police and fire departments.

The proposed tax increase, Issue 16, was rejected by just over 54 percent of voters, according to preliminary election results reported Nov. 4. About 75,300 votes were cast on the issue, with the measure losing by approximately 6,000 votes.

The temporary tax would have generated an estimated $25 million annually for public safety and neighborhood safety programs, raising Toledo's municipal income tax rate from 2.5 percent to 2.75 percent.

Before the election, city officials outlined a series of potential cuts if voters

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AT LEAST 6 DEAD, DOZENS HURT

Israeli strike hits hospital in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — An Israeli airstrike hit one of the main hospitals still operating in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing six people, including a surgeon and a 13-year-old boy, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

The Israeli military said the strike on Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza was targeting a Hamas commander and other militants. The commander it identified was not among the dead.

The strike hit the hospital's surgical wing, the ministry and witnesses said.

Footage showed several wards and operating rooms heavily damaged or destroyed, with debris scattered across hospital beds and equipment and rebar dangling from holes in the ceiling. At least 28 people were wounded.

Among the dead were Dr. Rizk Abu Shaira, a general surgeon, and at least two patients, one of them the 13-year-old, according to the ministry.

Gaza's health-care infrastructure has been decimated by a years-long war whose trajectory is not expected to be altered by the outcome of Israel's recent election. The Israeli military has raided or laid siege to hospitals across the territory, accusing Hamas of using them as command centers and to hide fighters. Israel has also destroyed medical equipment and supplies and killed or detained hundreds of

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INSIDE

Doors now open
Unison Health has opened a $2.6 million, 12-bed children's wellness facility.
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Still in progress
Despite a country-wide rubuke of data centers during the midterms, they will still be built.
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Crunch time
Massive matchups abound as high school football playoffs continue across Ohio.
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Trip to the desert
Coachella has announced its lineup for 2027. Fans of Dua Lipa and SZA will be happy.
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U.S. diplomats meet Putin, Zelensky

Europe set to join talks to end war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN — U.S. envoys met Thursday with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin before heading to Ireland for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as Washington sought new momentum for its peace efforts.

Envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, who is also President Trump's son-in-law, brokered talks this week between delegations from Moscow and Kyiv. The session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, brought the first direct discussions between Ukrainian and Russian representatives in nine months as the push for a settlement stalled.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. special envoys Steve Witkoff, right, Jared Kushner, left, and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky speak at the airport in Dublin.

The talks produced no major breakthrough, aside from a deal to swap a large number of prisoners, with the exact figure still to be announced.

Plans for another round of talks were announced, with Mr. Witkoff and Mr. Zelensky saying Europe will join, though they gave no details about which countries or how many.

Mr. Kushner and Mr. Witkoff met with Mr. Putin for about two hours before going to Dublin, where they met with Mr. Zelensky for more than an hour as the conflict stretches toward the five-year mark.

Mr. Kushner said one goal of the meeting with Mr. Putin was to get the Russian leader's blessing for European representatives to be part of the talks, which are looking at the continent's broader

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