GROUP 4 TAKES HOME CHAMPIONSHIP FLAG
AT 49TH INTERNATIONAL SLET

Group 4, "Bishop Stefan Moyzes" of Chicago, IL took home the Championship Flag at our 49th International Slet held at the State University of New York - SUNY at Brockport, N.Y., July 17-21. The Group 4 team was made up of Sokols and Sokolky belonging to Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, WI.

The Group 4 win was only the third in our organization's history. Group 4 first took home the Championship Flag at the 14th Slet held in Canton, OH in 1948. They repeated their fete at the 15th Slet held in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1950. Group 4 last took home the Championship Flag at the 16th Slet held in Youngstown, OH in 1953. Group 4 has actively promoted the gymnastic and athletic traditions of our organization since its founding in 1911 at Chicago's oldest Slovak parish of St. Michael the Archangel. Over the years, Group 4 has given our organization many outstanding leaders who have served as Supreme Officers and members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

Congratulations to our Group 4 athletes on their fourth International Slet championship in the 107-year history of Slet competition which began in 1912.
Message from our Supreme President
Michael J. Horvath

I am preparing for the Slovak Catholic Sokol 33rd Quadrennial Convention which was held August 3-7, 2019 at the Airport Marriott in Cleveland, Ohio.

Congratulations to our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and his wife Maggie on the birth of their son Cole William. They are now blessed with two sons, big brother Reid and now Cole. May God bless this Sokol family and give them a life of good health and never ending happiness.

As I mentioned before a lot of work over the period of two years goes into organizing the Convention so that everything is ready for the delegates when they arrive. The delegates expect the Convention to be organized properly to conduct the Convention business and be able to enjoy the activities arranged and explore the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Your Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I with the help of the members of Group 5 have do all we can to assure a smooth and efficient Convention and activities for the delegates to enjoy. Thank you Brother Scott and members of Group 5!

The 49th Slovak Catholic Sokol Slet is in the history books. It will go down as one of the best Slets since a couple of new things that were used to make it run easier and for all members to see and enjoy. I hope all who viewed the Slet via Facebook enjoyed what they saw. For those who did not see the live stream you can still enjoy the Slet by going to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook site and bring up the sessions.

I want to thank our Supreme Chaplain, Father Andrew S. Hvosdovic for not only saying the opening and closing Mass but also for his service as the first streaming videographer. His talents made the streaming possible.

I want to thank all the participants from every Group, from the 8 to 50+ year old, the first time participants to those attending for the past 3 decades or longer who competed at the SLET and congratulate all those who won their events. All of you make the Slet our premier fraternal activity, worth it and a success.

Even Mother Nature tried to stop us with heat and rain, however, the Slovak Catholic Sokol spirit was to strong for her to ruin our successful fraternal event.

Our Supreme Physical Fitness Board did an outstanding job to run this biennial event for us and we all should say, Thank You!

It is hard to believe that in two years the Slovak Catholic Sokol will be holding its 50th Slet, a milestone only we can be proud of. I hope you will start planning now so there is a huge turnout of old Slet participants and new participant who will keep our premier event going for another 50.

Our 64th International Golf Tournament will be this weekend August 16-17 at the Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf course in Beaver Falls, PA. All is ready for this very competitive event that is supporter by many of our members. I wish everyone who are attending and great Sokol time and those who are golfing, a one under par on every hole. Enjoy!

With God’s Blessings to All!
Zdar Boh!
MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING
HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL – JUNE 29, 2019

FIRST SESSION
Saturday, June 29, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, Called to Order the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, 2019 and greeted all the members of the Board on the call.

Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, offered the Opening Prayer.

Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, led the Board members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. was asked to take the Roll Call and the following members responded:
Supreme Chaplain .... Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F.(Excused)
Supreme President .................. Michael J. Horvath
Supreme Vice-President .................. Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Secretary .................. Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Treasurer .............. Dennis J. Zifcak
General Counsel ................. John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.
Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors ...... James G. Jerek
Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics ...... James C. Matlon
Supreme Physical Director .......... John M. Underation
Supreme Physical Directress .......... Kathleen S. Watkins

The record will show that nine members of the Board of Directors are on the Conference Call, with one excused.

Acknowledged

President Horvath informed the Board that they all have received the Minutes from our last Board meeting held on March 22-23, 2019 in Cleveland, OH and published in the May 15, 2019 issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

President Horvath then called upon our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, F.I.C., to give a brief overview of the Membership/Sales and Marketing Report.

Brother Suess gave a snapshot of the current life and annuity production for the year as compared to the 2019 projections. Life sales has exceeded projections thus far, but annuity production is down. Brother Albert recommended a number of items to the Board in regards to our annuity rates and marketing strategy that will be taken under advisement.

Brother Suess then informed the Board on the upcoming Agent Sales Campaign and our current membership WIN-WIN Campaign that concludes on July 31, 2019. The winners of the WIN-WIN Campaign will be announced at our 33rd Quadrennial Convention.

Several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board and President Horvath thanked Brother Suess for the report. President Horvath then asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

President Horvath thanked Brother Albert and called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano, Market Director/Senior Vice-President, and Ms. Cynthia Cole, Portfolio Manager, of PNC Institutional Asset Management.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole reviewed PNC’s outlook for the financial markets and the economy with the Board. Additionally, they reviewed the investment strategies recently implemented in both the equity and fixed income portfolios.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook and they indicated the Society is in a strong financial position, especially in this volatile fiscal environment. The Board members expressed thanks and President Horvath entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

Approved

President Horvath then called on the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, for the Physical Fitness Board Report.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol held their 73rd Annual Bowling Tournament in conjunction with the Greek Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Union on May 17th & 18th in Pittsburgh, PA with 165 bowlers. The Slovak Catholic Sokol had a total of 80 Bowlers in attendance. A wonderful time was had by all. A special congratulations to Clarence “Buffalo” Checton on being selected as the Frank Petruff Award Recipient. The bowling pictures and results are posted on our web site and the prize winners were published in the Falcon.

Sister Watkins and Brother Underation updated the Board regarding the 49th International Slet which will be held at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY from July 17th-July 21st.

The 2019 Golf Tournament will be held at Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf Course from August 16th-18th in conjunction with the Greek Catholic Union. We expect to have over 130 Golfers.

President Horvath thanked Brother Matlon, Brother Underation, and Sister Watkins for their report and entertained a motion to accept the report. So moved by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, and seconded by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak.

Approved

Brother President then called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. for the Legal Department Report.

Brother John updated the Board on the Association of Fraternal Benefit Counsel Annual Meeting that he attended which discussed many of the challenges Fraternals face today.

Brother Counsel also verified the property taxes and insurance are all paid to date on the three existing mortgages on file.

After a brief discussion, President Horvath entertained a motion to approve the report, so moved by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins. Approved

President Horvath thanked the General Counsel and called upon Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Edward D. Moeller, for the Scholarship Committee Report.

Brother Moeller reported that the committee met on Saturday, May 11, 2019 via conference call, and made their selections.

The winner’s photos appeared in the June 19, 2019 issue of the Falcon.

(Continued on page 5)
42ND SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 22

All is in readiness for this year’s exciting 42nd annual New York-New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival scheduled for Sunday, September 22. This year’s event will once again be held at the scenic and spacious Middlesex County Fairgrounds, located at 655 Cranbury Road in East Brunswick, N.J.

Festivities begin with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite at 10 a.m. Principal celebrant and homilist at the liturgy will be the Rev. Martin Vavrák of South Amboy, N.J. The Slovak School of Queens, N.Y. and Limboracik will each present their program beginning at 11:30 a.m. At 1:30 p.m. Children from the Lipka Slovak Academy of Holy Family Parish in Linden, N.J. and the Domovinka Ensemble from SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. will present a colorful and entertaining program “Od detstva k svabe” (From childhood to the wedding). At 2:30 p.m. the ever-popular Limboracik Slovak Ensemble will present their celebration of Slovak music and dance. At 3:15 p.m. the gypsy ensemble from Slovakia “Ciganski Diabli” will perform and finally beginning at 4:30 p.m. the comic from Slovakia - Drislak will entertain.

In addition, traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with American picnic favorites will be available throughout the day. An extensive display area will be featured along with many imported items from Slovakia available for sale. An enjoyable opportunity to celebrate Slovak culture and heritage at one of the largest Slovak festivals in the U.S. awaits all festivalgoers. Sokols and Sokolky have been a part of this celebration from its beginnings.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL DISCOUNT PROGRAM

As a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, you now have access to hundreds of travel and entertainment discounts. Just become a member of Tickets At Work to access your discounts. Tickets At Work is pleased to offer entertainment and travel discounts for both regional and nationwide attractions and events to all Slovak Catholic Sokol members. These discounts are not available to the general public and are exclusive to the Tickets At Work Corporate Discount Program. Be sure to visit often as new products and discounts are constantly being added!!

How to Get Started:
1. Go to http://www.ticketsatwork.com
2. Click on “Become a Member”
3. You will then be prompted to create an account with your email address & company code.

As a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, you now have access to hundreds of travel and entertainment discounts. Just become a member of Tickets At Work to access your discounts. Tickets At Work is pleased to offer entertainment and travel discounts for both regional and nationwide attractions and events to all Slovak Catholic Sokol members. These discounts are not available to the general public and are exclusive to the Tickets At Work Corporate Discount Program. Be sure to visit often as new products and discounts are constantly being added!!

Once enrolled, you will have access to all the discounts nationwide. If you do not have internet access, you can call customer service at the toll free number 1-800-331-6483, and use the Slovak Catholic Sokol code CPSCS. Customer Service is available 7 days a week.

See the TicketsAtWork.com website for details and restrictions. If you have any questions, contact Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen Watkins at kathyw323@gmail.com or 412-225-8233.

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

FRIENDSHIP

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of friends in my life... Thank you for the friends I’ve had for years and years... may they be friends for many years yet to come...

Thank you for friends I’ve just made: I’m grateful that I’m never too old to make new friends...

Thank you for friends I seldom see but love in my heart of hearts nonetheless: what a gift are friends whose love is never limited by geography, change or time...

Thank you for friendships which have faded: remind me of how important they once were and keep me open to their return...

Thank you for all the gifts that friendship brings, Lord: security, companionship, joy, support, intimacy, trust, serenity, encouragement, good will, solidarity, understanding company, harmony and empathy...

Most of all, I thank you for your friendship, Lord: you, my best friend, you, my most faithful companion, you, my partner and soul mate... you, my brother, my savior, my redeemer, my love...

Amen.
Dear members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

I want to thank you for selecting me as one of the recipients of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant. I feel very fortunate to be able to attend a Catholic Grammar School. Being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol makes me very proud and honored. Thank you again for your generous support.

Zdar Boh!
Rebecca Hess
Cedar Grove, NJ

Dear Mr. Pogorelec,

I am writing to thank you for the generous scholarship. I am very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as one of the recipients of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant. I am going into 4th grade at All Saints Catholic School in Cresson, PA. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you that I will work very hard during the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,
Patrick Phillips
Lilly, PA

Members of Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for selecting my daughter Clair for the 2019-2020 Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant. We have received our grant and with her brother starting his Catholic High School it is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for selecting her.

C. SKabich
Clifton, NJ

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to be one of recipients of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grants.

I am currently going into 6th grade at All Saints Catholic School in Cresson, PA. I play basketball for the All Saints Knights, I belong to the Explorers Club and plan to join the spelling bee competition this year.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you that I will work very hard this school year.

Sincerely,
Joseph Phillips
Lilly, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to further my education. Your Generous gift is greatly appreciated. I will continue my education at Holy Redeemer High School, as well as my Catholic education. Thank you again for thinking about me.

Sincerely,
Hunter Wesolowski
Port Griffith, PA

Thank you for the generous grant of $250.00. I greatly appreciate the grant which will be used for my tuition.

Thank you,
Nathaniel Mikula
Johnstown, PA

(Continued on page 15)

MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

(Continued from page 3)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Zdar Boh!
Introducing our newest member

Ellianna Mae Grossman, born April 10, 2019, is the daughter of John and Alicia Molter Grossman of North Canton, Oh. She was enrolled as a member of Assembly 108 in Youngstown, Oh.

SOKOL CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18
- ANNUAL SOKOL FAMILY DAY PICNIC hosted by Assembly 34 and Wreath 47 on the grounds of SS. Cyril and Methodius School grounds, 1315 2nd Street, N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. from 1-4 p.m., games for children, food and refreshments for members; for additional information, call James T. Genosky at tel. 763 789-9196.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
- WREATH 22 MEETING at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
- 42ND ANNUAL SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds, 655 Cranbury Rd., East Brunswick, N.J. beginning with Slovak Mass at 10 a.m., stage program at 11.30 a.m., music, dancing and refreshments until 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
- 84TH ANNUAL SOKOL DAY hosted by Group 7, “Rev. Joseph Murgas” at Plains Lions Pavilion, Stark St., Plains, Pa. 12 noon to 6 p.m. for information contact Amy Blasco at tel. 570 574-0136 or visit Facebook page “Group 7 Slovak Catholic Sokol.”

SEPTEMBERFEST hosted by the National Slovak Society at their home office 351 Valley Brook Rd., McMurray, Pa. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. free admission.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7
- WREATH 22 MEETING at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

SLOVAK HERITAGE PROGRAM hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, Pa. beginning (Continued on page 15)

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Home Office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd. The Home Office will reopen for business on Tuesday, September 3rd. Regular Home Office business hours are Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Vychodna Slovak Dancers is a Slovak folklore ensemble, originally established in Toronto in 1984, whose main purpose is to promote and preserve Slovakia’s rich culture and heritage. In October 2019 they will be celebrating their 35th anniversary.

Our next issue
In keeping with our monthly publishing schedule of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the next issue will be that of WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.
Where did Labor Day come from?

Labor Day was created as a way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the workforce for all that they have done to make our country prosperous and strong.

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City, and other cities followed this example in the following years. It was in 1894 that Congress passed a law making the first Monday of September a legal holiday.

Now that you know... have a great Labor Day!
KIDS' CORNER “Detský kútik” -- July 2019

SUMMER WORD SCRAMBLE

BECHA 9
EABABLLS 14
CIE ECRAM 16
NMGISWIM 8 16
PCIICN 4 13
NVCTIOAA 11
SWURENOLF 6
ROMEWATENL 15 10 7
SCESTNDAAL 15
HTAE 1 5
BOIGATN 12
POLO 3

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ANNOUNCING THE KIDS’ CORNER SUMMER READING PROGRAM!!!!

Just a reminder......I will need the completed reading lists returned to me no later than September 14th. Include your name, address, Group number and age so that I can recognize you in the paper. Don’t forget to highlight your favorite books on the list!!! and have fun reading!!!! Please send your completed reading lists to:

Edward D. Moeller –
2821 Waterman Ave,
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

If you prefer to do it on-line you can e-mail it to me: vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org

Keep reading and enjoy the rest of your summer!!!
The new Sokol mascot — Sloboda (freedom). Winner of the name the mascot contest is Andy Lipovsky.
Group 5 girls and Group 4 boys winners of the junior team drill.

Volleyball champions – Group 4.

Game night with the juniors.
Krasna Horka Castle (Kosice region), which was heavily damaged by fire seven years ago, could be fully reconstructed and open for visitors in 2023.

The reconstruction project worth $39 million, funded from the state budget, should be divided in several phases, which will allow making parts of the castle accessible to the public as of 2021.

The 14th-century castle will be reconstructed to its shape from 1903, before a series of modifications that altered its historical authenticity was initiated. It’s expected that around 200,000 people per year could visit Krasna Horka Castle after its reconstruction.

The castle was damaged in March 2012 by fire that was allegedly caused by minors from a nearby Roma settlement who smoked cigarettes in dry grass on the castle hill.

BRATISLAVA: PROPERTY DEMOLISHED IN MASS BRAWL

On June 10th, dozens of Cracovia Krakow, Ajax Amsterdam and Bulgarian Levski Sofia football fans swarmed the streets of Venturska, an area around St. Michael’s Tower, engaging in a mass brawl. The hooligans threw tables and chairs at each other and completely demolished the outdoor terraces of cafes and restaurants. Two explosions were even heard in the heart of Bratislava, sending passers-by fleeing for safety.

Police detained 107 individuals: 51 Bulgarians, 41 Poles and 15 Dutchmen. Several people suffered injuries during the fighting, with nine people admitted into hospital.

Four Dutchmen and three Poles who took part in fighting have been sentenced to six months in prison, after which they will be banned from entering Slovakia for three years.

The seven hooligans will now be placed in a minimum-security prison. They will be eligible to apply for parole after serving three months of their sentences.

SLOVAKIA TO PRESIDE OVER WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE IN 2024

Slovakia will preside over the 74th session of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe in 2024, according to a document submitted by the Health Ministry for inter-departmental review. It will be Slovakia’s first WHO presidency.

The session prepares and adopts resolutions and decisions on the strategic direction and objectives of regional and global health policy. “Presiding over and hosting this event will confirm Slovakia’s high international credit and the dynamic setting of cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the WHO. At the same time it offers Slovakia an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process in the health-care sector at a global level,” reads the ministry’s explanatory report.

The WHO Regional Committee for Europe is a regular autumn ministerial forum. It deals with health issues related to development goals stemming from the UN 2030 Agenda. Ministers and senior officials from 53 countries, as well as representatives of inter-governmental organizations and NGOs partake in it.

TASR RELEASES ‘HEIRLOOM’ PHOTO SET OF SLOVAKIA’S WONDERS

Slovakia’s natural treasures, but also the work of human hands have been included in a unique photo set created by The News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR) entitled ‘Heirloom’.

The series is also devoted to bird’s eye views of towns, buildings and transport infrastructure. The series of 30 reports further includes photos of the wonders of nature, fields and pastures taken from the air.

The database of more than 200 photos contains, inter alia, views of roads, including those under construction, near Bratislava, Zilina and Nitra, as well as intriguing tourist locations, among them Morske oko [Sea’s Eye] in the Vihorlat mountains in eastern Slo-
vokia, the Sunny Lakes in Senec (Bratislava region), the National Stud Farm in Topolcianky (Nitra region) and the new Jaguar Land Rover plant in Nitra.

“We managed to take pictures of interesting locations where the borders of three countries – Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine – meet. Apart from Poloniny National Park, we also captured Starina water reservoir and Slovakia’s easternmost village of Nova Sedlica. We even had to land for some moments, as taking photos in border areas is subject to special regulations, and it’s necessary to have a flight permit,” said TASR Photo Desk head Michal Svitok, who took the pictures.

The five-part series contains a total of 120 photoreports and almost 900 pictures taken from an ultra-light aircraft across Slovakia in September and October last year. Svitok and the pilot spent around 16 hours on board the Skyper GT9 aircraft.

CAPUTOVA: CONDITION OF DISCIPLINARY JUDICIARY IS INSUFFICIENT

The condition of Slovakia’s disciplinary judiciary is insufficient although it is one of the basic preconditions for an independent judiciary, said President Zuzana Caputova following her meeting with Supreme Court President Daniela Svecova on July 22.

Caputova finds a disciplinary judiciary to be important, as it should provide a space for drawing responsibility against judges in case they fail. “The judiciary can only work well, if a high level of independence functions in a high-quality accountability system and this should chiefly be ensured by a disciplinary judiciary,” said the president. Svecova sees a big reserve in disciplinary courts as well. However, she pointed to the fact that supervision over them isn’t in the Supreme Court’s powers.

Svecova stated that trust in courts has increased during her term in office thanks to reduction of the time of court proceedings. While in 2014 the average duration of proceedings at the Supreme Court was 245 days, it was a mere 74 days in 2018. “We found out that we only can reduce the length of proceedings by increasing the number of assistants,” she said. The number of assistants has tripled, from 30 to 90, during her tenure. “There’s one assistant for each judge at the moment,” stated Svecova, adding that material-technical equipment has also improved.

SPECIALISED CRIMINAL COURT LAUNCHES PROCEEDINGS IN CASE OF TV PROMISSORY NOTES

A senate of the Specialised Criminal Court initiated on Monday proceedings in the case of the so-called television promissory notes and obstruction of justice against controversial entrepreneur Marian K. and former general director of television channel Markiza Pavol R.. The proceedings are scheduled to last six days and in absence of Marian K.

“I’ll defend myself as best I can,” stated Pavol R. before entering the court room. The trial will be attended by lawyers of the defendants Marek Para and Michal Mandzak, lawyers of the injured party Daniel Lipsic and Tomas Karnenc, and dozens of journalists, photographers and cameramen.

Marian K. is being prosecuted in custody over the promissory notes worth almost 70 million on which he based a claim against Markiza. The private broadcaster has been challenging the authenticity of the notes since the beginning, filing criminal complaints against both Marian K. and Pavol R..

Furthermore, Marian K. has been charged with ordering the murder of journalist Jan Kuciak. Pavol R. is being prosecuted at large in this case as well as the case of ordering the murder of his former business associate Silvia Volzova, which did not actually happen.

The beginning of rafting on the longest Slovak river date back to the 11th century. The river Váh was the only convenient and safe route when northern Slovakia was becoming populated. For the rafters, the Streno valley represented an adventure and many unusual experiences. The valley, with its numerous meanders, in-}

The landscapes in the area have obviously retained their beauty and magic, and since 1999 Prvá pltnícka a raftingová spolocnost has been realizing the idea of making the most of the potential of the landscape to present it as a tourist attraction. The revival of traditional transport allows visitors to get to know the extraordinary number of cultural, historical, natural and technical curiosities that are all concentrated on this 4.5 miles stretch of the river. The rafters, dressed in traditional costumes, provide a professional commentary.

The starina water reservoir in north-eastern Slovakia.

(Photo by TASR/Michal Svítok)
HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed in 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During 1887 four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

More than a century after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire’s place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1894 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a “workingmen’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1895 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

A NATIONWIDE HOLIDAY

Women’s Auxiliary Typographical Union The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public “the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations” of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem.

41st SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 41st year raising funds to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry.

As of June 30, $25,149.73 has been received from 149 donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2019 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2019 will be credited toward the 2020 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founder Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

41ST ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS APPEAL

Make checks payable to: Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to: Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, Sacred Heart Church, 120 Jefferson St., Swedesburg, PA 19405

This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation’s strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.
(Continued from page 5)

Dear Mr. Pogorelec and Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for choosing me to be the recipient for the annual scholarship award. I am so beyond grateful, as well as my family, for giving me this scholarship, as it will help me continue to achieve my goals.

Sincerely,
Zachary Beblar
Johnstown, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors,

I would like to acknowledge that I received your scholarship check for $1,000. I would like to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of this generous grant.

I am majoring in Exercise Science with a concentration in Human Performance with plans of becoming a Physical Therapist. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,
Milan Spisek
Easton, PA

Dear Committee,

Thank you for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. Your generosity will help me with my education as I pursue a career in nursing.

Sincerely,
Lexington Meder
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

Thank you very much for choosing me to be one of 2019 scholarship recipients. I appreciate everything this organization has done for me. I confirm receiving the check in the mail, and it has been sent to Duquesne University. I look forward to using my education to grow as an individual. I thank the Slovak Catholic Sokol for supporting me throughout the years.

Sincerely,
Cassidy Scassa
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee,

I would like to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship. The tradition and camaraderie embedded within the organization have inspired me throughout my life. I hope to carry pride as a member with me as I grow into my academic and professional careers and my personal life. The people I have met through the Sokols have inspired me to become the best person I can be, and winning this scholarship will help me accomplish all of my goals and inspire the next generation of Sokols!

Thank you and Zdar Boh!

Sincerely,
Katerina Tadlock
Hartford, WI

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

Thank you very much for awarding me the $1,000 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship.

I am entering my senior year at the Pennsylvania State University. I will be able to use the money toward my tuition. It is a tremendous help.

I greatly appreciate it and the prior scholarships that I have been awarded during my time in Catholic School and College.

Sincerely,
Nicholas R. Allardyce
Pittston, PA

(Continued on page 21)
WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN AUGUST 1968

Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, officially known as Operation Danube, was a joint invasion of Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Pact nations – the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany and Poland – on the night of August 20–21, 1968. The invasion successfully stopped Alexander Dubček’s Prague Spring liberalization reforms and strengthened the authority of the authoritarian wing within the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

The process of de-Stalinization in Czechoslovakia had begun under Antonín Novotný in the late 1950s and early 1960s, but had progressed more slowly than in most other states of the Eastern Bloc. In the early 1960s, Czechoslovakia underwent an economic downturn. The Soviet model of industrialization applied poorly to Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia was already quite industrialized before World War II and the Soviet model mainly took into account less developed economies. Novotný’s attempt at restructuring the economy, the 1965 New Economic Model, spurred increased demand for political reform as well.

Novotný invited the secretary-general of the Communist Party of Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, to Prague in December 1967, seeking support, but Brezhnev was surprised at the extent of the opposition to Novotný and thus supported his removal as Czechoslovakia’s leader. Dubček replaced Novotný as First Secretary on January 5, 1968. On March 22, 1968, Novotný resigned his presidency and was replaced by Ludvík Svoboda, who later gave consent to the reforms.

In April, Dubček launched an “Action Program” of liberalizations, which included increasing freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of movement, with economic emphasis on consumer goods and the possibility of a multiparty government. It would limit the power of the secret police and provide for the federalization of Czechoslovakia into two equal nations. The program also covered foreign policy, including both the maintenance of good relations with Western countries and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc nations. It spoke of a ten-year transition through which democratic elections would be made possible and a new form of democratic socialism would replace the status quo.

Although it was stipulated that reform must proceed under Communist Party direction, popular pressure mounted to implement reforms immediately. Radical elements became more vocal. Anti-Soviet polemics appeared in the press, after the formal abolishment of censorship on June 26, 1968 the Social Democrats began to form a separate party, and new unaffiliated political clubs were created. Party conservatives urged repressive measures, but Dubček counselled moderation and re-emphasized the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia leadership. At the Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in April, Dubček announced a political program of “socialism with a human face”. In May, he announced that the Fourteenth Party Congress would convene in an early session on September 9. The congress would incorporate the Action Program into the party statutes, draft a federalization law, and elect a new Central Committee.

The Soviet leadership at first tried to stop or limit the impact of Dubček’s initiatives through a series of negotiations. Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union agreed to bilateral talks to be held in July 1968 at Cierna nad Tisou, near the Slovak-Soviet border. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia delegates reaffirmed their loyalty to the Warsaw Pact and promised to curb “anti-socialist” tendencies, prevent the revival of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party, and control the press by the re-imposition of a higher level of censorship. In return the USSR agreed to withdraw their troops, still stationed in Czechoslovakia since the June 1968 maneuvers, and permit the September 9 party congress.

As these talks proved unsatisfactory, the USSR began to consider a military alternative. The Soviet Union’s policy of compelling the socialist governments of its satellite states to subordinate their national interests to those of the Eastern Bloc, through military force if needed, became known as the Breznev Doctrine.

At approximately 11 p.m. on August 20, 1968, Eastern Bloc armies from four Warsaw Pact countries – the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary – invaded Czechoslovakia. That night, 250,000 Warsaw Pact troops and 2,000 tanks entered the country. Total number of invading troops eventually reached 500,000. Romania did not take part in the invasion, nor did Albania, which subsequently withdrew from the Warsaw Pact over the matter. Participation of the German Democratic Republic was cancelled just hours before the invasion.

The decision for the non-participation of the East German Army in the invasion was indeed made on short notice by Brezhnev following requests by high-ranking Czechoslovak opponents of Dubček who feared of much larger Czechoslovak resistance if German troops were present on Czechoslovak territory due to previous Czech experience with German occupation of Czechoslovakia.

The invasion was well planned and coordinated; simultaneously with the border crossing by ground forces, a Soviet airborne division captured Prague Vaclav Havel Airport, at the time called Ruzyne International Airport. It began with a special flight from Moscow which carried more than 100 plain clothes agents. They quickly secured the airport and prepared the way for the huge forthcoming airlift, in which a transport aircraft began arriving and unloading Soviet airborne troops equipped with artillery and light tanks. As the operation at the airport continued, columns of tanks and motorized rifle troops headed toward Prague and other major centers, meeting no resistance.

During the attack of the Warsaw Pact armies, 137 Czechs and Slovaks were killed, 19 of those in Slovakia, and hundreds were wounded. Alexander Dubček called upon his people not to resist. He was arrested and taken to Moscow along with several of his colleagues. Dubček and most of the reformers were returned to Prague on August 27, and Dubček retained his post as the party’s first secretary until he was forced to resign in April 1969 following the Czechoslovak Hockey Riots.

Popular opposition was expressed in numerous spontaneous acts of nonviolent resistance. In Prague and other cities throughout the republic, Czechs and Slovaks greeted Warsaw Pact soldiers with arguments and reproaches. Every form of assistance, including the provision of food and water, was denied to the invaders. Signs, placards, and graffiti drawn on walls and pavements denounced the invaders, the Soviet leaders, and suspected collaborationists. Pictures of Dubček and Svoboda appeared in the streets. Citizens gave wrong directions to soldiers and even removed street signs, except for those giving the direction back to Moscow.

The generalised resistance caused the Soviet Union to abandon its original plan to oust the First Secretary. It was agreed that Dubček would remain in office, but he was no longer free to pursue liberalization as he had before the invasion. The invasion was followed by a wave of emigration, largely of highly qualified people, unseen before and stopped shortly after, 70,000 immediately and 300,000 in total. Western countries allowed these people to immigrate without complications.
Finally, on April 17, 1969, Dubcek was replaced as First Secretary by Gustáv Husák, and a period of “Normalization” began. Pressure from the Soviet Union pushed politicians to either switch loyalties or simply give up. In fact, the very group that voted in Dubcek and Gustáv Husák put the reforms in place were mostly the same people who annulled the program and replaced Dubcek with Husák. Husák reversed Dubcek’s reforms, purged the party of its liberal members, and dismissed the professional and intellectual elites who openly expressed disagreement with the political turnaround from public offices and jobs. By May 1971, Husák could report to the delegates attending the officially sanctioned Fourteenth Party Congress that the process of normalization had been completed satisfactorily and that Czechoslovakia was ready to proceed toward higher forms of socialism.

BIG INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIC CAR BATTERY PRODUCTION HEADING TO SLOVAKIA

Bratislava, July 26 (TASR) – Slovak company InoBat has signed a contract with US firm WildCat Discovery Technologies on cooperation in developing and producing batteries for the automotive industry. InoBat’s co-founder and executive director Marian Bocek and WildCat Discovery Technologies President Mark Gresser told a news conference in Bratislava on Friday, July 26, with European Commission Vice-president Maros Sefcovic and European Investment Bank Vice-president Vazil Hudak in attendance.

Investment in development and constructing the production line should cost 100 million. Construction of a battery-production plant in Slovakia should start in the second quarter of 2020, with battery production launched by the end of 2021. Around 1,500 batteries will be manufactured annually at first, but the plan is to boost this 150,000 batteries eventually.

“The patented technology will serve carmakers from Central and Eastern Europe, and I believe it has the potential to kickstart an electric car battery revolution across Europe,” stated Bocek, adding that the plant might be situated in western Slovakia. Details of this will be announced in a couple of weeks.

“We’re pleased that Wildcat’s breakthrough research technology has found a place in Central and Eastern Europe thanks to this strategic cooperation. In cooperation with InoBat and in fact with the entire region, we’ll be able to maintain top place in new battery development … We’ll guarantee technological relevance, not to mention the creation of new jobs over the next few decades,” stated Gresser.

According to the two officials, the joint project is a reaction to a call by the European Commission, which set the goal of achieving technological independence and improving lagging car battery production in Europe.

“The EU should become the second largest single market for electric car batteries and utility energy storage,” stated Sefcovic, EC Vice-president in charge of Energy Union and a founder of the European Battery Alliance.

The estimated financial costs of constructing the production line will be partly covered by InoBat’s shareholders and strategic partners and partly by loans.

“The European Investment Bank has been developing close cooperation with the European Commission in supporting the development of the EU’s battery industry. It’s important to bring the best global technologies to Europe and improve them in line with EU standards,” added Hudak.

InoBat is a battery research and production company with a long-term goal of serving the European market for new energy solutions. InoBat is supported by investment group called IPM Group and regional industrial energy players A.EN. Group and MSM Group.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

... August is the eighth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar, coming between July and September. It has 31 days, the same number of days as the previous month, July, and is named after Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar. This month was first called Sextilis in Latin, because it was the sixth month in the old Roman calendar. The Roman calendar began in March about 735 BC with Romulus.

... The month has 31 days because Julius Caesar added two days when he created the Julian calendar in 45 BC.
GREEK TURKEY BURGERS WITH TZATZIKI SAUCE

Turkey Burgers
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
1 sweet onion, minced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 egg
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon red-pepper flakes
1 pound ground turkey
3/4 cup bread crumbs
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Tzatziki Sauce
1 cup Greek yogurt
1/2 European cucumber, diced
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 pinch garlic powder
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

Burger Toppings
4 whole-wheat hamburger buns
1/2 red onion, sliced
8 Boston lettuce leaves
2 tomatoes, sliced

Make the Turkey Burgers: In a small skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, 1 minute more. Set aside to cool to room temperature.

In a medium bowl, mix the cooled onion mixture with the egg, parsley, oregano, red-pepper flakes and ground turkey. Add the bread crumbs, season with salt and pepper, and mix until combined. Cook the burgers on the grill.

Make the Tzatziki Sauce: In a medium bowl, mix the yogurt with the cucumber, olive oil, lemon juice and garlic powder to combine. Season with salt and pepper, and then stir in the parsley.

Make the Toppings: Place each burger on the bottom half of a bun and then top each with about 1/4 cup tzatziki, two lettuce leaves, two tomato slices and the top half of the bun. Serve immediately.

BEER CAN CHICKEN

1/3 cup brown sugar
2 tablespoons chili powder
2 tablespoons paprika
2 teaspoons dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 (12 fluid ounce) can beer
1 (3 pound) whole chicken

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat, about 375 degrees F. Mix the brown sugar, chili powder, paprika, dry mustard, salt, and ground black pepper in a small bowl. Place the half-full can of beer in the center of a plate.

Rinse chicken under cold running water. Discard giblets and neck from chicken; drain and pat dry. Fit whole chicken over the can of beer with the legs on the bottom; keep upright. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon of the seasoning mix into the top cavity of the chicken. The beer may foam up when the seasonings fall inside the can. Rub the remaining seasoning mix over the entire surface of the chicken.

Place the chicken, standing on the can, directly on the preheated grill. Close the lid and barbeque the chicken until no longer pink at the bone and the juices run clear, about 1 hour 15 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh, near the bone should read 180 degrees F. Remove the chicken from the grill and discard the beer can. Cover the chicken with a doubled sheet of aluminum foil, and allow to rest in a warm area for 10 minutes before slicing.

SENSATIONAL SIRLOIN KABOBS

1/4 cup soy sauce
3 tablespoons light brown sugar
3 tablespoons distilled white vinegar
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
1/2 teaspoon garlic pepper seasoning
4 fluid ounces lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage
2 pounds beef sirloin steak, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
2 green bell peppers, cut into 2 inch pieces skewers
1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, stems removed
1 pint cherry tomatoes
1 fresh pineapple - peeled, cored and cubed

In a medium bowl, mix soy sauce, light brown sugar, distilled white vinegar, garlic powder, seasoned salt, garlic pepper seasoning, and lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage. Reserve about 1/2 cup of this marinade for basting. Place steak in a large resealable plastic bag. Cover with the remaining marinade, and seal. Refrigerate for 8 hours, or overnight.

Bring a saucepan of water to a boil. Add green peppers, and cook for 1 minute, just to blanch. Drain, and set aside.

Preheat grill for high heat. Thread steak, green peppers, mushrooms, tomatoes, and pineapple onto skewers in an alternating fashion. Discard marinade and the bag.

Lightly oil the grill grate. Cook kabobs on the prepared grill for 10 minutes, or to desired doneness. Baste frequently with reserved marinade during the last 5 minutes of cooking.

WATERMELON FETA SALAD

6 cups watermelon, cubed
1/2 cup good quality feta, cubed or crumbled
2 cups arugula
2 tbsp aged balsamic vinegar

Arrange the arugula in a large bowl, top with the watermelon and feta. Drizzle with the balsamic vinegar.

Aged balsamic vinegar has a thick, almost syrupy consistency. The rich, slightly sweet flavor works well in this recipe. If you cannot find it, you can use a balsamic glaze (found near the vinegars in the supermarket) or you can make a balsamic reduction at home by boiling good quality balsamic vinegar.
AUGUST IN HISTORY

AUGUST 1 – Star-Spangled Banner author Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was born in Frederick County, Maryland. After witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814, he was enthralled to see the American flag still flying over the fort at daybreak. He then wrote the poem originally entitled Defense of Fort McHenry which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

AUGUST 2, 1939 – Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. “A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory.” Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.

AUGUST 5, 1861 – President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first Federal income tax, a 3 percent tax on incomes over $800, as an emergency wartime measure during the Civil War. However, the tax was never actually put into effect.

AUGUST 9, 1945 – The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.

AUGUST 13, 1961 – The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles (166 km) around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.

AUGUST 16, 1896 – Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

AUGUST 17, 1978 – The first transatlantic balloon trip was completed by three Americans; Max Anderson, Ben Abruzzo, and Larry Newman, all from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Starting from Maine on August 11th, they traveled in Double Eagle II over 3,000 miles in 137 hours, landing about 60 miles west of Paris.

AUGUST 20-21, 1968 – The Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, officially known as Operation Danube, was a joint invasion of Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Pact countries – the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, East Germany and Hungary – on the night of 20–21 August 1968. Approximately 250,000 Warsaw pact troops attacked Czechoslovakia that night. East German forces, except for a small number of specialists, did not participate in the invasion because they were ordered from Moscow not to cross the Czechoslovak border just hours before the invasion. 137 Czechoslovakian civilians were killed and 500 seriously wounded during the occupation.

AUGUST 21, 1959 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii to the Union as the 50th state.

AUGUST 31, 1997 – Britain’s Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers. The crash occurred shortly after midnight in Paris inside a tunnel along the Seine River at the Pont de l’Alma bridge, less than a half mile north of the Eiffel Tower. Also killed in the crash were Diana’s companion, Dodi Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul. A fourth person in the car, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, was seriously injured.

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HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES & SHOPPING LIST

Back-to-school time has become its own shopping season, second only to Christmas in terms of family expenditures. Whether your kids start kindergarten this fall or head off to college, you can buy them everything they need without breaking your bank account. Let’s look at some strategies to help you become a savvy back-to-school-shopper this year.

Keep in mind that back-to-school sales start a bit earlier each year. Staples now puts out its back-to-school section in late June, with many items already on sale to entice parents to buy. You can save by purchasing one or two items at a time throughout the summer. Spreading your purchases out this way can also avoid a huge hit to your monthly budget.

You might already have plenty of school supplies lying around your house. Closets, desk drawers, and basement bins could hold hidden treasures that can save you money. Start by rounding up all of the office and school supplies you already own.

Go through your kids’ closets and start sorting. Clothing that kids have outgrown, as well as worn clothing, should be donated or tossed. You will have a clearer picture of what you actually need to buy. Your best bet is to start your kids’ clothing shopping in mid- to late July when there are plenty of clothes to choose from.

You can get some incredible bargains on school supplies at the dollar store, where you’ll find basic supplies like notebooks and pencils, as well as classroom supplies like Kleenex and sanitizer, all at bargain prices. Start shopping in the summer months, because you never know what items stores will order or how long those items will stay in stock.

Many states have sales tax holidays when shoppers can buy items without paying sales tax. On these days, you can pick up clothing, computers, and school supplies tax-free.

Follow Stores on Twitter & Facebook. Many companies send their loyal followers coupon links and advance notice of sales. If you plan to bargain-hunt this year, monitor your favorite stores’ Twitter and Facebook feeds to find deals.

Most parents will have to buy some sort of electronics for their kids for school. A great way to save on these is to keep an eye on Amazon’s ever-changing prices. The website camelcameltracks the price range history for every product sold on Amazon, including historic highs and lows. You can sign up for price change alerts for specific products so you know every time their prices change.

There are also plenty of apps to help you save money by comparing prices across different retailers. One is ShopSavvy, which is available for iOS and Android devices. To use ShopSavvy, simply scan the barcode of the product you’re interested in and the app will tell you if a lower price is available at another store or website. For the app to work, you’ll also need to download a barcode scanner, which you can get for both iOS and Android devices.

Online cash back shopping venue Ebates acts like a shopping gateway. The website allows you to shop online at over 2,500 major stores and brands.
Paul J. Spisak, Group 9 Sokol Activist, passes away at 78

Paul J. Spisak, Sr., well-known Group 9 Sokol activist, passed away peacefully at his home in Johnstown, Pa. on Sunday, July 21. He was 78. He was the spouse of Group 9 President Joanne E. Spisak and was an active member of Wreath 14 in Johnstown.

A native of Portage, Pa., Brother Paul was born there May 3, 1941, son of the late George J. Spisak, Jr. and the former Magdelene Lysinger. He was educated locally and was employed at Bethlehem Steel Car Shop Division and also worked at the Wire Mill. He enjoyed doing construction work and built his own camp and many other projects. Paul was an avid fisherman and hunter, having shot a black bear in the 1970s. He was a great mushroom hunter and enjoyed his gardens. He loved Polka music and listened every weekend to the many area Polka programs on radio and enjoyed watching polka shows on television. He was a duckpin and tenpin bowler. He bowled a total of 2,300 games. He carried a 200 average when he retired from bowling. He was an active Sokol for more than 50 years. He was a regular at Group 9 bowling activities as well as our Sokol international bowling tournaments. He represented his lodge at several Sokol quadrennial conventions and was well-known throughout the organization. Together with his wife, Joanne they actively promoted various fraternal and sporting events of Group 9.

In addition to his wife, the former Joanne Popovich, whom he married on April 20, 1963. Brother Paul is survived by sons, Luke(Barbara), Paul, Jr.(Deborah), Matthew(Diane), Michael, Sr.(Sue) and Mark(Beth) all of Johnstown; and grandchildren, Kevin Slippy, Michael, Jr., Zachery, Hunter, Heather and Emily Spisak also of Johnstown. He is also survived by a sister, Kay(Edward) Paige, a brother, George, Jr.(Paula) of Johnstown; Tom(Diane) Hallsville of Texas; and Greg(Pam) of Elizabethtown, Pa. and a sister-in-law, Marie Spisak of Shippensburg, Pa.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final respects to Brother Paul at the Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on July 24 at Resurrection Parish with the Rev. George M. Gulash presiding. Interment followed at Grandview Cemetery.

May our Brother Paul who so beautifully mirrored the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system as well as our Cyril-Methodian faith traditions, now rest in peace. He will be missed by all.

ANNOUNCING THE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND!!

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual scholarship be given out to a college age student who best exemplifies the meaning of fraternalism and volunteerism. Here’s how it works:

Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrm-frame.htm or simply send your donation to: Dennis J. Zifcak, SCS Museum Treasurer, 33 Pinecrest Rd., Uxbridge, MA 01569

Your bequest will be recognized in the Falcon as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum.

Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two $1,000 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a self-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory. Keep the spirit of your fellow Sokol alive by investing in a way that their fraternal dedication will not be forgotten.

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

When was the last time you looked at your designated beneficiaries on your valuable Sokol insurance policy? How important is it? Just think about how much your life has changed. Have you married, divorced, had children, maybe you lost a loved one? This is an item you should consider annually. If you do need to make changes to any of your policies, contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656.
The parish celebrated its 85th anniversary with a festive cultural program included a performance by the ever-popular Vy-...

**In Memoriam**

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<td>Assembly 162</td>
<td>Daniel R. Shumack, Clifton, NJ</td>
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<td>Assembly 179</td>
<td>John R. Yackovich, North Braddock, PA</td>
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<td>Assembly 180</td>
<td>Nesta Cammel, Canton, OH</td>
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<td>Assembly 188</td>
<td>Helen Hanzlik, Lansford, PA</td>
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<td>Assembly 188</td>
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<td>Assembly 219</td>
<td>Stephen J. Kubasek, Yonkers, NY</td>
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<td>Andrew Sluka, Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>John D. Makosky, Passaic, NJ</td>
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<td>Assembly 11</td>
<td>Lorraine Zolna, Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Assembly 15</td>
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<td>Assembly 21</td>
<td>Mary G. Visina, Superior, WI</td>
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<td>Assembly 22</td>
<td>Ann M. Dunn, Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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**85th Anniversary of Toronto Slovak Parish**

On May 12, the Slovak community of the greater Toronto area celebrated the 85th anniversary of the founding of SS. Cyril... in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga in 1995.

The parish celebrated its 85th anniversary with a festive liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbi... and Methodius Slovak Parish. Initially established in downtown Toronto on Robinson Street in 1934, a new parish plant was constructe... in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga in 1995.

Our Assembly 227, established in Toronto in 1927, was among the founders of the parish in 1934 and has been active ever since. Our Canadian members initially belonged to Group 15 in Buffalo, N.Y. In 1979 Group 19 was established and has also been active in the parish. Many Sokols and Sokolky enjoyed the 85th anniversary celebration.

**A Note of Thanks!**

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for awarding me one of the Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grants. I have been very fortunate to have attended Catholic school since prek. This grant will help my parents with the high cost of Catholic school tuition. I will be a junior at Cardinal O’Hara High School this coming school year. I was an honor student all of last year. I very much enjoy playing base drum in their marching band, trombone and percussion in the concert band and was elected a band officer for this coming school year.

Thank you for helping me continue my Catholic education.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Sherman

Drexel Hill, PA
PREZIDENTKA ČAPUTOVÁ POLOŽILA VENIEC PRI PAMÁTNÍKU M. R. ŠTEFÁNIKA VO FRANCÚZSKU

Na snímke druhá sprava prezidentka SR Zuzana Čaputová položila kyticu k soche generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika pri observatóriu v Meudone v Paríži.

- Autor: TASR, Martin Baumann

Prezidentka Slovenskej republiky Zuzana Čaputová 25. júla položila veniec k pamätníku Milana Rastislava Štefánika v areáli observatória v meste Meudon v metropolitnej oblasti Paríža. Štefánik v meudonskom observatóriu, ktoré sa nachádza iba niekoľko kilometrov na juhozápad od centra Paríža, pôsobil na začiatku 20. storočia ako astronóm.

Čaputová vyzdvihla Štefánikov život v oblasti astronómie a odkaz na jeho pozíciu ako príklad pre mladých a mládež v Slovensku. "Štefánik a ďalší príklady z historie ako významná úloha v oblasti vedy a výskumu v nasledných generáciách," uviedla Čaputová.

Prezidentka zaverečnila svoj návštevu predstavením francúzskych veľvyslanca, ktorý pre ni pokračoval v rozhovorech. "Slovensko a Francúzsko sú blízko v histórii a v súčasnosti, kedy sa najviac podobáme v políčkach," uviedol veľvyslanec.

SILNÁ POZÍCIA PSA A KIE NA SLOVENSku POKRAČUJE

Najnovšie čísla dvoch slovenských automobiliek za prvý polrok 2019 ukazujú, že značky PSA a KIA pokračujú v svojom rastu na slovenskom trhu.

V PSA za prvých šesť mesiacov tohto roka vyrobili viac ako 222-tisíc vozidiel, čo je o zhruba desaťtisíc viac ako v rovnakom období v rokoch 2018 a 2019. Sucho aj poľnohospodárov.

V Kia Motors Slovakia vyprodukovali za prvý polrok vyššie ako v rokoch 2018 a 2019. Sucho trápi až 90 percent územia Slovenska.

SUCHO TRÁPI AŽ 90 PERCENT ÚZEMIA SLOVENSKA

Sucho rozhodne intenzity trápi až 90 percent územia Slovenska. Nedostatok zrážok sa prejavil v prvom polroku 2019 predovšetkým na západe, severozápade a severnom Slovensku. Sucho rôznej intenzity trápi až 90 percent územia Slovenska.

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Najhorší vývoj zrážok európejsko-mediterránskych a jihovýchodného Slovenska. Neďaleko Ostravy došlo k extrémne sucho v oblasti piešťanskej kotliny. Vedia, že zrážky sú dôležité pre zemské výživné systémy a ekozóny.

Situácia so zrážkami sa po daždivom máji opäť zhoršila v júni, kvôli dlhodobojšiemu sucho. Vedia, že zrážky sú dôležité pre zemské výživné systémy a ekozóny.

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SLOVENSKE STÍHAČKY F-16 VYROBÍ AMERICKÁ FIRMA LOCKHEED MARTIN
Americké ministerstvo obrany zadalo spoločnosti Lockheed Martin zákazku za 800 miliónov amerických dolárov na slovenské stíhačky F-16.

Kontrakt zahrňa výrobu a podporu 14 strojov F-16 pre slovenskú armádu.

Ako ďalej informuje Ministerstvo obrany Slovenskej republiky, pri žiadosti o vyvodení zastúpení Amerického ministerstva obrany zadalo zákazku za stroje F-16 pre Slovensko v meste Greenville v South Carolina a Košicu.


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