



The Daily Commercial

FLORIDA

Sunday, February 16, 2014

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WEEK TO REMEMBER: Volunteers shower community with hope and love, **A3**

MIDEAST: All sides warn Syrian peace talks remain in doubt, **A6**



BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

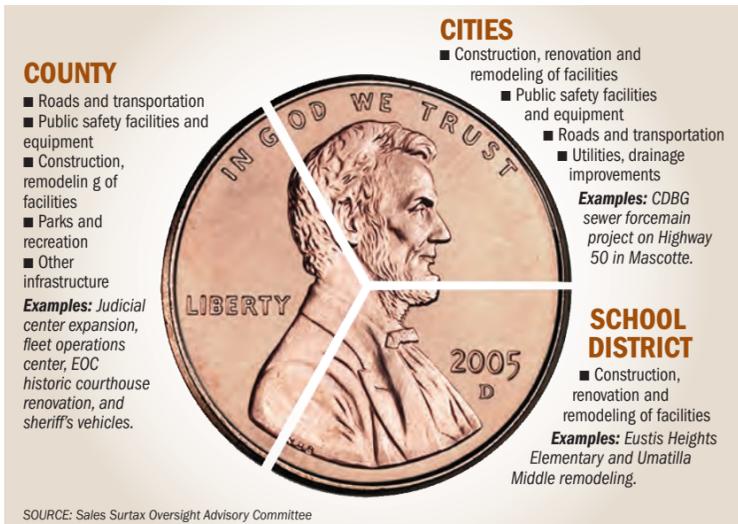
A truck passes the penny sales tax sign on Lakeshore Drive in Mount Dora on Wednesday.

Penny sales tax becoming contentious issue for Lake

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
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PENNY SALES TAX BREAKDOWN

The penny sales tax is split evenly between the cities, county and school district, with each receiving a third. In 2013-14, each received \$11.6 million, with the cities having to split that \$11.6 million between the 14 municipalities.



WHITNEY WILLARD / STAFF GRAPHIC

Over the last 10 years, many projects have come to fruition in Lake County, from the construction of the new Emergency Operations and Communications Center, to the manufacturer of the new Clermont Community Center, to the rebuilding and modernization of Tavares High School.

Shows how far a penny will go. These projects are all examples of how revenue from the one-cent sales tax for infrastructure is spent. It added up to a total of \$34.8 million in total revenue last year that was divided between the cities, school

SEE PENNY | A2

Hagel orders 'moral courage' in US military

ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel wants military leaders to inject more urgency into ensuring "moral character and moral courage" in a force suffering a rash of ethical lapses. Hagel has been worried by a string of scandals that has produced a wave of unwelcome publicity for the military. But in light of new disclosures this week, including the announcement of alleged cheating among senior sailors in the nuclear Navy, Hagel on Wednesday demanded a fuller accounting of the depth

of the problem. Last month the Air Force revealed it was investigating widespread cheating on proficiency tests among nuclear missile launch officers in Montana, and numerous senior officers in all branches of the armed forces have been caught in embarrassing episodes of personal misbehavior, inside and outside the nuclear force. The Air Force also is pursuing a drug use investigation, and a massive bribery case in California has ensnared six Navy officers so far. At the same time, hundreds of soldiers and others are under

SEE HAGEL | A2

Court rulings hammer gay-marriage foes

RACHEL ZOLL
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Opponents of same-sex marriage are scrambling to find effective responses, in Congress and state legislatures, to a rash of court rulings that would force some of America's most conservative states to accept gay nuptials.

Some gay-marriage foes are backing a bill recently introduced in both chambers of Congress that would leave states fully in charge of their marriage policies, though the measure

SEE FOES | A2

UAW drive falls short amid culture clash in Tennessee

TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — The failure of the United Auto Workers to unionize employees at the Volkswagen plant in Tennessee underscores a cultural disconnect between a labor-friendly German company and anti-union sentiment in the South. The multiyear effort to organize Volkswagen's only U.S. plant was defeated on a 712-626 vote Friday night amid heavy campaigning on both sides.

Workers voting against the union said while they remain open to the creation of a German-style "works council" at the plant, they were unwilling to risk the future of the Volkswagen factory that opened to great fanfare on the site of a former Army ammunition plant in 2011. "Come on, this is Chattanooga, Tennessee," said worker Mike Jarvis, who was among the group in the plant that organized to fight the UAW. "It's the greatest thing that's ever

happened to us." Jarvis, who hangs doors, trunk lids and hoods on cars said workers also were worried about the union's historical impact on Detroit automakers and the many plants that have been closed in the North, he said. "Look at every company that's went bankrupt or shut down or had an issue," he said. "What is the one common denominator with all those companies? UAW. We don't need it."

SEE UNION | A2



DAN HENRY / AP

Retired circuit judge Sam Payne, left, announces that Volkswagen employees voted to deny representation by the United Auto Workers union as Frank Fischer, Chairman and CEO of the Volkswagen Group of America, center, and Gary Casteel, UAW Region 8 Director look on, Friday in Chattanooga, Tenn.

\$1 INDEX CLASSIFIED C5 COMICS INSIDE CROSSWORDS C3 DIVERSIONS LEGALS MONEY NATION C5 C3 E5 OBITUARIES C5 SPORTS D1 VOICES A5 WORLD A4 B1 C1 A6 Vol. 138 No. 46 5 sections TODAY'S WEATHER Detailed forecast on page A8. **69°/45°** Plenty of sunshine all day

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FOES

FROM PAGE A1

stands little chance of passage. In the states, they are endorsing a multitude of bills — some intended to protect gay-marriage bans, others to assert a right, based on religious freedom, to have nothing to do with gay marriages should those bans be struck down.

In Utah, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Virginia, federal judges have voided part or all of the bans on same-sex marriage that voters approved between 2004 and 2006. Each of the rulings has been stayed pending appeals, and a final nationwide resolution may be a few years away in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, known for fighting to display the Ten Commandments in a judicial building, has written to all 50 governors urging them to support a federal constitutional amendment de-

fining marriage as between only a man and a woman.

In Missouri, where voters approved a gay-marriage ban in 2004, eight Republican House members filed articles of impeachment against Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon after he ordered his administration to accept joint tax returns from same-sex couples who were legally married in other states. The Republican House leader has yet to schedule the matter for public hearings, but some GOP sponsors insist they are serious.

“The people put it in the constitution that marriage is between one man and one woman — the issue is the governor has absolutely ignored the constitution and the people’s will,” said Rep. Ron Schieber, a Republican from Kansas City.

The demand for religious exemptions, meanwhile, is widespread. Gay marriage opponents have fought for strong exemptions in every state where lawmakers have already decided the issue.

UNION

FROM PAGE A1

Pocketbook issues were also on opponents’ minds, Jarvis said. Workers were suspicious that Volkswagen and the union might have already reached “cost containment” agreements that could have led to a cut in their hourly pay rate to that made by entry-level employees with the Detroit Three automakers, he said.

The concern, he said, was that the UAW “was going to take the salaries in a backward motion, not in a forward motion,” said Jarvis, who makes around \$20 per hour as he approaches his three-year anniversary at the plant.

Southern Republicans were horrified when Volkswagen announced it was engaging in talks with the UAW last year. Republican U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, who has been among the UAW’s most vocal

critics, said at the time that Volkswagen would become a “laughing-stock” in the business world if it welcomed the union to its plant.

Volkswagen wants to create works council at the plant, which represents both blue collar and salaried workers. But to do so under U.S. law requires the establishment of an independent union. Several workers who cast votes against the union said they still support the idea of a works council — they just don’t want to have to work through the UAW.

Volkswagen’s German management is accustomed to unions and works councils, which have been ingrained in its operations since the end of World War II. And labor interests that make up half of the company’s supervisory board have raised concerns that Chattanooga is alone among the automaker’s major factories worldwide without formal worker representation.

PENNY

FROM PAGE A1

district and the county — with each receiving a third of the allocation. The 14 cities then must divide up their allocation proportionally.

As the tax is set to sunset, or expire, in 2017, county officials said this week at a board workshop they would like residents to have the opportunity to vote on whether to renew the tax in 2015.

However, there is some contention about how the tax revenue should be divided, with some school board members suggesting that half a cent be allocated for the schools, as the student population is expected to increase by 2020, and there is need for additional schools to be built.

County commissioners want to keep the status quo and agreed in consensus this week to formally vote on drafting a letter to the school board and the cities, asking them to support this. The matter will be discussed and voted upon at a future commission meeting.

Commission Chairman Jimmy Conner has stated previously that if the sales tax is not renewed, there would be no option other than to raise property taxes to pay for needed capital improvement projects.

“We use it to buy ambulances, patrol cars and for parks,” Conner said of the revenue. “It is really an important quality of life issue.”

Commissioner Timothy Sullivan, who serves as a liaison to the Lake County League of Cities, said the cities, school and county, have a need “to see these dollars continue so it doesn’t have an impact on property taxes.”

“The benefit of the one-cent sales tax is it spreads the load not only among residents, but anyone that does business in Lake County,” he said. “Property taxes hurt the people you are trying to protect the most; while the sales tax is based on people who spend money and it doesn’t include food or medicines.”

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Harry Fix, director of the Growth Planning Department for Lake County Schools, said previously that penny sales tax money has been spent on rebuilding and modernizing several of the county’s high schools, including Eustis High School and Umatilla High School.

As the school district looks at its future needs, Fix said several schools, such as Beverly Shores Elementary School, Oak Park Middle School and Treadway Elementary may need to be modernized or rebuilt.

Further, a consultant for the school district in November 2013 projected that by 2020, there will be an increase of about 2,297 new students in the schools, particularly in the southern part of the county. As a result, school officials see the need to build two new schools there within seven years.

In the last five years, the school district has lost more than \$67 million in capital property tax revenue because the stagnant economy has kept property values low, and the Florida Legislature has cut the maximum allowable millage for capital purposes from 2 mills to 1.5 mills.

School board members Tod Howard, Bill Mathias and Debbie Stivender agree the district needs additional funding from the sales tax.

“We need about a half cent to do the repairs and replacements to the older schools,” Howard said.

While acknowledging there is no doubt more funding is needed, Stivender, chairwoman of the school board, said a request for a bigger share of the sales tax money won’t be favorably received.

“I don’t think the municipalities and the county are going to be extremely happy with that idea,” she said.

Stivender suggested a general obligation bond as a possible alternative.

Meanwhile, Mathias suggested working together with the municipalities and county to rotate every five years the half-cent share option.

“The first five years we could give the county the half cent, the next five years the school district, and the last five years it goes to the municipalities,” he said.

School board officials have not yet determined specifically how the sales tax revenue will be spent in the future.

County Commissioner Sean Parks said while he recognized the school board’s needs, it is also equally important they work together on the issue.

COUNTY

This past fiscal year, the county spent its portion of the penny sales tax revenue on projects such as the EOC, Judicial Center expansion and the planned historic courthouse renovation.

About half of the county’s portion is also spent on road reconstruction, resurfacing and sidewalks, which received the smallest part of revenue. Spending for public safety and equipment also factors into the county’s portion of the money.

Parks said the renewal of the penny sales tax is vital.

“We need the current configuration,” referring to each party receiving a third. “Our population has grown 80,000 to 100,000 people and we have an increasing level of service needs.”

At the budget workshop, Conner expressed concerns about the school district as a partner in receiving sales tax revenue.

“My concern is if you include the school board, it (a renewal of the tax) won’t pass, based on all the problems they have,” he said referring to six principals who inaccurately reported their class sizes to the state, leading Superintendent Susan Moxley to call for an independent review of all schools in the district. “Then again, if you don’t include them, it may not pass.”

Commissioner Welton Cadwell also believes a renewal won’t pass unless the school district receives some of the revenue.

While the county commission has not determined specifically how their portion will be spent, they agreed pub-

lic safety, quality of life projects — such as parks and sidewalks — and roads are top spending priorities.

“I want to say, to me, the biggest issue facing us over the next three years is this sales tax,” Conner said. “I know everybody likes sidewalks and parks, but should you put ambulances in service 12 hours instead of 24 hours” there would be quite the outrage.

CITIES

Jim Myers, executive director of the Lake County League of Cities and finance director for the city of Eustis, said the penny sales tax is vital for meeting cities’ capital project needs.

“In Eustis, it means \$1.4 million in capital projects and infrastructure in Eustis annually,” he said. “We are able to utilize that money each year.”

Without that funding source, Myers said the city may have to resort to property tax increases.

Funding from the penny sales tax in Eustis has gone toward projects such as the downtown streetscape project, which renovated the sidewalks and changed several streets to two-way streets, Myers said.

“We also finished a \$6 million stormwater project” with the revenue, he added.

While no decision has been made from the cities on the sales tax renewal, Myers said he anticipates discussion will begin on the issue in the fall.

“I can’t speak for all the cities, but I would be hard pressed to believe any of those cities would not want it to be renewed again,” he said.

Keith Mullins, chairman of the Sales Surplus Oversight Committee, which includes two members each appointed by the county, school board, League of Cities, as well as the representation of two constitutional officers, said the tax was last renewed in 2001.

Prior to that, the Clermont city council member said the local option sales tax was divided solely between the county and the cities, with the county receiving 70 percent and the cities 30 percent.



FLORIDA LOTTERY

FEB. 15

CASH 3	5-9-1
Afternoon.....	2-1-4
PLAY 4	6-1-9-4
Afternoon.....	3-1-1-1

FEB. 14

FANTASY 5	10-20-29-33-34
MEGA MONEY	2-20-28-37-3
MEGA MILLIONS	20-28-35-71-72-7

The Daily Commercial

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CALENDAR

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HAGEL

FROM PAGE A1

criminal investigation in what the Army describes as a widespread scheme to take fraudulent payments and kickbacks from a National Guard recruiting program.

The steady drumbeat of one military ethics scandal after another has caused many to conclude that the misbehavior reflects more than routine lapses.

“He definitely sees this as a growing problem,” Hagel’s chief spokesman, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, told a Pentagon news conference Wednesday after Hagel met privately with the top uniformed and civilian officials of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

“And he’s concerned about the depth of it,” Kirby said. “I don’t think he could stand here and tell you that he has — that anybody has — the full grasp here, and that’s what worries (Hagel) is that maybe he doesn’t have the full grasp of the depth of the issue, and he wants to better understand it.”

Hagel’s predecessor, Leon Panetta, had launched an effort to crack down on ethics failures more than a year ago, and the matter has been a top priority for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, for even longer.

Kirby said Hagel has come to realize that he needs to investigate as well.

State & Region

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Area Briefs

LEESBURG

Rotary to host annual Blood Screening event

The Leesburg Sunrise Rotary Club will host its 26th annual Blood Screening event offering a complete blood count, basic metabolic panel, lipid panel, and blood enzyme test, provided by Vista Diagnostics at a cost of \$45. An optional PSA test for men is an additional \$25.

Pre-registration deadline is Wednesday, for the event to be held from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m., Feb. 22, at the Leesburg Community Building at Venetian Gardens, 109 E. Dixie Ave. Registration forms are available online at www.leesburgsunriserotary.org or by calling 352-365-3714.

Proceeds from the event fund future projects for the Rotary.

LAKE COUNTY

Government offices close for Presidents Day

All offices of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, Clerk of Courts, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector, and the Lake County Welcome Center, 20763 U.S. Highway 27, in Groveland will be closed on Monday for Presidents Day.

Lake County Solid Waste residential collection and the Central Solid Waste Facility, 13130 County Landfill Road will continue as normal on Monday, but residential convenience centers will be closed.

LakeXpress bus service will operate on Monday.

Lake County libraries open on Monday are: Cooper Memorial Library in Clermont; Fruitland Park Library; Leesburg Public Library and the city of Tavares Public Library. Go to www.mylakelibrary.org for details.

NATIONWIDE

Bob Evans offers free pancakes to veterans

On Monday, veterans with proof of service and identification, or in uniform can get free pancakes at Bob Evans restaurants in a nationwide event honoring the men and women who serve our country.

The towering stack of hotcakes will be served on an all-you-can-eat basis.

For details, go to www.bobevans.com.

MOUNT DORA

Food trucks scheduled to appear in downtown area

Food trucks will once again appear in downtown Mount Dora beginning on Thursday, and every third Thursday thereafter.

Hosted by the Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce, the trucks will be located in the Chamber parking lot and on Sunset Park at the corner of 4th and Alexander Streets, with tables and chairs set up to offer participants a gathering and seating area to further enjoy the event.

From 10 to 15 unique food trucks offering a wide variety of different food styles will be part of the event, opening for food service at 5:30 p.m., and remaining open until 8:30 p.m.

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LEESBURG

Baptist Convention urged to drop appeal of \$12.5M sex case award

Staff report

An organization that advocates on behalf of clergy sex abuse victims has asked the Florida Baptist Convention to reconsider plans to appeal a \$12.5 million award to a man sexually abused in Lake County by a minister convicted of molestation in 2007, the *ABPnews/Herald* is reporting.

“By appealing, at best you’ll be postponing, at a great moral and financial cost, an eventual day of real reckoning,” David



MYERS

Clohessy, executive director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), said

in a letter to Florida Baptist Convention Executive Director John Sullivan. “At worst, you’ll be hurting not just the victim in this case, but all other victims who have been violated and betrayed by Southern Baptist clergy.”

ABPnews/Herald, created after a merger of the

Associated Baptist Press and the *The Religious Herald*, is the only independent news service created by and for Baptists. It is reporting that Clohessy, an abuse survivor who testified before the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, warned Sullivan that even if successful, “your appeal will only delay the inevitable.”

“Over 25 years of SNAP’s history, we have found that those responsible for injustices are eventually held accountable, not only through the justice

system but also through the court of public opinion,” Clohessy said in his letter.

In January, a Lake County jury awarded \$12.5 million in damages to a young man who was sexually abused by a Baptist minister when he was a child.

An attorney for the Florida Baptist Convention immediately announced an appeal. Attorney Gary Yeldell says the convention is confident an appellate court

SEE AWARD | A5



MILLARD IVES / DAILYCOMMERCIAL

Leslie Davis does some gardening at a Carver Heights home on Saturday in Leesburg. She is one of a number of volunteers who conducted community work as part of Love Week Central Florida 2014.

LEESBURG

Volunteers smother community with love

MILLARD K. IVES | Staff Writer
millardives@dailycommercial.com

A Leesburg church will cap off a week of love today by donating almost \$11,000 to local charitable groups and civic organizations.

Comprised of volunteers from more than a dozen churches and community groups and spearheaded by The Father’s House Christian Center, “Love Week,” encompassed Valentine’s Day. It included repairing homes, a drive-thru prayer offering, training seminar for potential adoptive and foster parents, a food giveaway to homeless people and free gas, which resulted in \$20 vouchers to 500 people.

“This is all for Jesus,” said Leslie Davis, doing some gardening with a shovel at a Carver Heights home on Saturday while wearing a Love Week T-shirt.

According to its website, Love Week Central Florida 2014 is an “audacious” volunteer blitz to serve and love the community through a variety of volunteer opportunities that range from simple individual random acts of kindness to organized city-wide clean

ups, construction projects for the needy and other activities.

The week began on Feb. 8 and also included a 5K run that netted a Fruitland Park food bank, Beyond the Walls, about \$3,500.

“Anyone can go and just sit in a church, we wanted to go out on the streets and show the love of Christ,” said Tim Travis, life devotion pastor of The Father’s House on South Street in Leesburg.

On Saturday at The Father’s House, the event offered drive-thru prayers in its parking lot and a training seminar for potential adoptive and foster parents inside. Also, they repaired homes on Mispah Avenue and McCormack and Simpson streets — homes that were designated by West Leesburg Community Development Corp.

At a cinderblock home in the 800 block of McCormack Street, volunteers did gardening, repaired a carport, cleaned up molding and conducted made various repairs.

“It was something that needed to be done that I couldn’t do,” said the home’s resident Willie Atkins.

Mike Matheny, youth pastor of

SEE LOVE | A6

LEESBURG

Luxury bus fire ruled accidental

MILLARD K. IVES | Staff Writer
millardives@dailycommercial.com

A fire that destroyed four luxury buses and scorched two others at a Leesburg business last year has been deemed accidental, according to a report released Friday by the state Fire Marshal’s Office.

The report states the July blaze at Entertainment Coaches of America on Airway Road, just off State Road 44, was likely caused by “failure of a battery.”

According to a report, the six buses that were mostly uninsured were to be sent to a dealer lot on consignment. Only one of the buses was insured. The others were not scheduled to be on the

SEE FIRE | A6

THE VILLAGES

108-unit ALF scheduled

Staff report

Two companies have announced they will soon break ground for Buffalo Crossing, a 108-unit assisted living facility to be located in The Villages.

Buffalo Crossing, anticipated to open in the spring of 2015, will be the newest senior housing facility in the market and only the second dedicated assisted living facility to open within The Villages, according to a press release. The exact location was not released.

SEE ALF | A6

TAVARES

Bass tour begins with Harris Chain event

Staff report

The 2014 Oakley Big Bass Tour will kick off in Lake County March 2-3 with the Harris Chain Big Bass Classic.

Based at the Hickory Point Recreational Facility at 27341 State Road 19 in Tavares, the open-format tournament will offer amateur anglers the

chance to compete for thousands of dollars in cash and prizes during the weekend event.

“The Oakley Big Bass Tour is the nation’s premier big bass tournament series and Lake County’s Harris Chain of Lakes is the ideal location for largemouth bass fishing,” said Robert Chandler, Lake County’s director of

economic development and tourism. “We welcome anglers to this exciting tournament to experience the top-notch fishing and big catches our bountiful lakes have to offer.”

The tournament is open only to amateur anglers. The one-day entry fee is \$100 per angler and the two-day entry fee is

\$150 per angler. The final on-site registration will be held at Hickory Point from 3 – 7 p.m. on Feb. 28. Anglers may pre-register online at www.oakleybigbass.com.

There will be seven weigh-ins every hour with over \$35,000 in hourly cash payouts over the

SEE BASS | A4

OBITUARIES

Maggie Masters

Maggie Masters, 80, passed peacefully on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at South Lake Hospital in Clermont, FL. She was born on November 22, 1933 in Jackson, MS and currently lived in Groveland, FL. She retired and moved to Groveland after her husband, Vern, passed of cancer. Maggie had a love for people, dancing, laughter, smiles, joking, free spirits and talking about the years past. She is survived by her daughter Debi Morrin, of Clermont, FL; son Douglas (Teresa) Byrd of Ocala, FL;

grandchildren, Alicia (Brian) Roehn of Clermont, FL, Tonya (Josh) Ashment of Utah, Troy Byrd of Orlando, FL; Travis Link of Leesburg, FL, Zachary Byrd of Ocala, FL; great-grandchildren, Austin, Madison, Kaleb, Angelika and Justin. She was preceded in death by her mother Margie Condia, son, Dorsey Byrd, husband, Vern E Masters and lifelong best friend Charlene Osteen. A Celebration of Life Service will be held graveside at 1:00 pm Saturday February 15, 2014 at the Charlotte Memorial Gardens in Punta Gorda, FL. Please visit kays-ponger.com to leave the family con-

dolences and to sign the online guestbook. Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Alfredo "Fred" Recchia Jr.

Alfredo 'Fred' Recchia Jr. passed away on Sunday, February 2, 2014 at the age of 86. He was born on February 8, 1927 in Boston, MA to the late Alfredo and Tobia Recchia. Fred served his country in the U. S. Coast Guard. He moved to the Leesburg area from New England 18 years ago, and made his home in The Plantation. Fred was a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church, and the Plantation's Italian American Club. He enjoyed travelling, and

baseball, especially the Red Sox. He is survived by his loving wife, Theresa Recchia of Leesburg, along with his sons; Alfred J. Recchia III (Stephanie) of Los Vegas, NV, Gary Recchia of Nahant, MA, and John (Deanne) Recchia of West Townsend, MA, daughters; Diane Recchia of E. Boston, MA, and Joan Recchia of Saugus, MA. Fred is also survived by four grandchildren: Jillian, Philip, Julia and Sarah, and two brothers; Alphonso and John Recchia. There will be a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Paul's Catholic Church on Monday, February 24, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. Burial will follow in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL. Page-Theus Funeral Home And Cremation Services.

Page Theus Funerals & Cremations
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Ida Mae Rausch

Ida Mae Rausch, 91, Leesburg, Florida, devoted wife and mother went to be with the Lord on February 12, 2014 under the loving care of her family at her residence. Mrs. Rausch was born on October 23, 1922 in New Castle, Indiana to her parents Benjamin and Ollie Davis. She was a Homemaker, Writer, Painter and a Proud Veteran of World War II serving in



RAUSCH

the U.S. Navy as a Dental Technician. She joined the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1942 as a Pharmacist's Mate Third Class and was stationed at U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, California and during her period of service she had the privilege of cleaning the teeth of Bing Crosby while he was performing for the troops. She was united in marriage to her first husband William A. Schneider, Jr. on October 12, 1944 at U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland California and was honorably discharged on October 28, 1945. She has resided in Leesburg for the past 18 years moving up from Lake Wales, FL, Annandale, VA and from Tarrytown, NY. She was a former member of the Order of Eastern Star in White Plains, NY, The Choral Group of Highland Lakes and a member of The Seventh Day Adventist Church of North Lake. She was previously a member of The Seventh Day Adventist Church in Leesburg and Lady Lake. She is survived by her loving daughters: Janet Marie Harms and husband Jerry Harms of Annandale, VA and Barbara Lynne Shaw-Clemens and husband Paul Clemens of Horsehoe Bend, AR; a grandson: Joey Garzon of Stafford, VA; and a niece: Cindy Terrell of California. She was preceded in death by her first husband William A. Schneider, Jr. and her second husband Oswald Rausch. Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 11:00AM

at Page-Theus Funeral Home Chapel, Leesburg, FL. with burial to follow at Lakeside Memorial Park, Winter Haven, FL with Military Honors. A Visitation will be held on Monday, February 17, 2014 from 2:00PM to 5:00PM at Page-Theus Funeral Home, Leesburg, FL. Anyone caring to give a donation in honor of Ida Mae Rausch, please make your gift to Cornerstone Hospice, 2445 Lane Park Road, Tavares, FL 32778. Page-Theus Funeral Home and Cremation Services has been entrusted with all arrangements. Online condolences may be made to www.pagetheusfuneralhome.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

Sandra K. Atchison

Sandra K. Atchison, 75, of Tavares, FL died on Saturday, February 8, 2014. Steverson, Hamlin & Hilbish Funerals and Cremations, Tavares, FL

Darrell Thomas Braden

Darrell Thomas Braden, 45, of Leesburg, died Thursday, February 13, 2014. Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Leesburg.

Sylvester Crawford

Sylvester Crawford, 94, of Groveland, died Friday, February 14, 2014. Marvin C. Zanders Funeral Home, Inc.

Roy E. Maxwell

Roy E. Maxwell, 90, of Tavares died on Friday, February 14, 2014. Steverson, Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral & Cremations, Tavares.

BASS

FROM PAGE A3

weekend. The angler with the largest overall big bass of the tournament will take home a 2014 Nitro Z7 bass boat valued at \$30,000. Saturday and Sunday's weigh-ins will take place at the Oakley main stage and are open to the public between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. "We are excited to kick off the 2014 season on the Harris Chain of Lakes," said Louis Welten of Oakley Sports Marketing.

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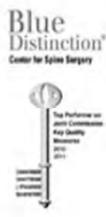
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AWARD
FROM PAGE A3

will overturn the ruling because it contends the minister — Douglas Myers — was an independent pastor not supervised by the convention.

Myers was sent to prison in 2007 for molesting the then-13-year-old boy. Given a seven-year term, Myers was released in December 2012 after serving five years. A registered sexual offender, he currently lives in Prince Frederick, Md., according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

An attorney for the victim, who is remaining anonymous, says the jury understood the "devastating" impact of the abuse. The young man is now in his 20s and attending college.

In May 2012, a Lake County jury determined the convention did not do enough to investigate the background of Myers, who helped start two now-defunct churches in Lake County — the Triangle Community Church in Eustis and the Harbor Baptist Fellowship in Howey-in-the-Hills — after receiving funds and training from the organization.

Myers admitted molesting the boy repeatedly over a six-month period ending in 2005.

Both the victim and his mother claimed the convention failed to uncover past allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior at other churches where Myers served.

Water politics complicate Brown's decisions

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — As California struggles to cope with its historic drought, Gov. Jerry Brown is facing increasing pressure to tackle long-standing problems in the state's water storage and delivery systems at a time when the politics of the issue have never been more tangled.

For Brown, the drought presents both opportunity and risk for a governor facing re-election who also was in office during California's last major drought in the mid-1970s.

It comes as he is pitching a costly and contentious proposal to drill two 35-mile-long, freeway-size water tunnels beneath the Northern California delta, a project

that will cost at least \$25 billion and is opposed by environmentalists who say it will all but destroy the imperiled estuary and has divided the agricultural community.

The governor also faces mounting pressure from the state Legislature to address an \$11 billion water bond measure that lawmakers from both parties agree will require a major overhaul before it goes to voters in November.

Few things are more politically divisive in California than water. Who gets it, who pays for it, where and how it is captured and transported have proven to be political minefields for California governors for nearly a century.

The state's current crisis has gained national attention through pictures of res-

ervoirs turned to mudflats, rivers slowed to a trickle and farmers ripping out orchards and following their fields. The two Republicans in the race to contest Brown's expected re-election campaign are intensifying their criticism and say his administration has not done enough to improve California's water supply or help the hardest hit communities.

Yet policymakers, water agencies, farmers and worried local government officials hope the crisis will produce enough urgency to yield a rare political compromise. Brown told reporters in Tulare last week that "if anybody can get it done, I can get it done."

Now may be the time, said Jay Lund, director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

"Floods and droughts and lawsuits always bring attention to the water issues," Lund said. "You rarely see big strategic changes in water management without that sort of motivation and attention there."

If the motivation has arrived, so have the politics.

Last month, the Brown administration announced that for the first time it will deny any water allocations to thousands of Central Valley farmers and communities.

In explaining the severity of the situation, Chuck Bonham, director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, urged people "to take a deep breath, put down the arguments we've all had in the past and come together as Californians."

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UK taxi driver crushed to death in windstorm

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — Strong winds that pummeled Britain killed a taxi driver, whose car was crushed by falling chunks of masonry from a building, and an elderly man who died after a “freak wave” struck a cruise ship in the English Channel, officials said Saturday. Another 15 cruise ship passengers were injured.

The taxi driver was killed late Friday in central London near Holborn subway station when part of a building collapsed during a windstorm, police said. She was identified as Julie Sillitoe, a 49-year-old with three sons.

Her passengers, a man and woman, were hospitalized with injuries not believed to be life-threatening, police said. The car wasn't moving at the time of the building collapse and the female passenger managed to free herself from the rear of the vehicle.

A fourth person, believed to be a male pedestrian, was also injured and taken to a hospital, ambulance officials said. About 10 people were evacuated from nearby buildings as a precaution.

The 85-year-old cruise ship passenger died after 80 mph wind gusts kicked up giant waves in the English Channel on Friday afternoon, endangering safety in the crowded shipping lanes used by commercial vessels, cruise ships and pleasure craft. Cruise and Maritime Voyages said a “freak wave” broke five windows on its Marco Polo cruise ship, inundating the ship's Waldorf Restaurant.

Spokesman Paul Foster said the man died before he could be airlifted for emergency treatment. The cause of death hasn't been determined, he said.

The company said a second passenger was airlifted and is being treated for injuries not thought to be life-threatening.

Syria peace talks remain in doubt after sixth day in Geneva

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA — U.N.-Arab League mediator Lakhdar Brahimi ended direct talks between the Syrian government and opposition Saturday without finding a way of breaking the impasse in peace talks.

Saturday's talks, which lasted less than half an hour, left the future of the negotiating process in doubt and no date was set for a third session.

Brahimi told a news conference that both sides agreed that the agenda for the next round should focus on four points: ending the violence and terrorism, creating a transitional governing body, building national institutions, and reconciliation.

To avoid losing another week or more before resuming discussions, Brahimi said he proposed that the first day should be reserved for talks on ending violence and combating terrorism, the main thrust of the government's stance, and the second for talking about how to create a transitional body, as the opposition and Western powers insist.

“Unfortunately the government has refused, which raises the suspicion that in fact the government doesn't want to discuss the TGB (transitional governing body) at all,” Brahimi said.



SALVATORE DINOLFI / AP

Louay Safi, spokesperson for the Syrian National Coalition, speaks to the media during a news conference after the second round of negotiations between the Syrian government and the opposition on Saturday at the European headquarters of the United Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland.

“In that case, I have suggested that it's not good for the process, it's not good for Syria that we come back for another round and fall in the same trap that we have been struggling with this week and most of the first round,” he said. “So I think it is better that every side goes back and reflect and take their responsibility: do they want this process to take place or not?”

Brahimi said he would consult with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov about a way forward.

“I am very, very sorry, and I apologize to the Syrian people that their hopes which were

very, very high that something will happen here,” Brahimi said.

Syria's ambassador to the U.N., Bashar Jaafari, said the government accepted Brahimi's proposed agenda but a problem was raised “by the other side when they gave their own interpretation of the agenda.”

He insisted that the government is committed to returning to negotiations.

“We promised our own people to get back to Geneva to continue the Geneva talks as long as it takes, because we are extremely careful about stopping the bloodshed in Syria and combatting terrorism,” Jaafari told reporters. “This I promise you: We will be com-

mitted to doing so.”

Anas al-Abdeh, a member of the opposition negotiating team, said his side accepted the agenda but the government's unwillingness to go along with the order of discussions put the prospects of a third session of talks within the “Geneva 2” negotiating round in doubt. The first two sessions lasted from Jan. 22-31 and Feb. 10-15.

The first round, known as “Geneva 1,” resulted in a roadmap for peace in June 2012 that was not followed.

Al-Abdeh called the continuing stalemate in negotiations a result of the government's “continuous effort to not talk and not to discuss the issue of the transitional governing body.”

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LOVE FROM PAGE A3

The Father's House, said many area residents who have been the recipients of this week's activities have showed

FIRE FROM PAGE A3

road. The fire began when a worker who was tasked with moving one of the buses across the property to a garage, said he had to jump start it — and about an hour later, fire was coming from the rear wheel well of the bus. De-

their appreciation. He mentioned a motorist who drove up to him, saying she was still riding on the gas the event gave away on Thursday. Another motorist said he couldn't have reached his destination without

spite his attempts to put out the blaze with a fire extinguisher, the fire flared up and with help of a strong wind, spread to other buses on the property.

The reports states that Lake County Fire-Rescue responded, but with no fire hydrants nearby, its tanker truck ran out of water.

The loss was estimated at almost \$900,000.

the gas. “It's good to know we can make a difference,” volunteer Melinda Parker said.

During Love Week 2013, the first year of the event, volunteers logged more than 1,500 hours.

An official at the business reported there were no known mechanical or electrical concerns with the buses or any problems with employees.

The Fire Marshall Office was called in to investigate after Lake County Fire-Rescue was unable to determine a cause of the blaze and deemed it suspicious.

“The buses were just

Travis said although the event is a week long, he hopes it will encourage volunteers to provide acts of kindness throughout the year.

“We want them to keep up the spirit,” Travis said.

sitting there and caught on fire,” said fire-rescue spokesman Lt. Jack Fillman, last year just after the fire.

However, the report adds there was no ignitable liquid found in the samples it examined and the buses had been parked on dry patches of brown grass that were easily ignited using a cigarette lighter during a test.

ALF FROM PAGE A3

As a part of its affiliation with The Villages, the residents of Buffalo Crossing will be able to participate in activities located within the massive retirement community, utilize the existing infrastructure and have access to The Villages Health Center physician network.

The two companies behind the project are Sentio Healthcare Properties, a real estate investment trust focused on healthcare-related real estate, and KR Management, a leading Florida-based regional senior-housing operator and developer.

KR Management currently manages Sumter Place, which opened in The Villages in the summer of 2012 and reached stabilized occupancy within 90 days of opening.

“It has been a desire of ours for some time to develop within The Villages, and once we got to know the team at KR, we knew this would be the right partnership for accomplishing our objective,” said John Mark Ramsey, president and CEO of Sentio. “We were impressed with their successful development and operation of Sumter Place, their existing relationships within The Villages and, most importantly, the way they care for their residents.”

Bill Kelsey, managing partner of KR, said Sentio quickly became the investment partner KR wanted to work with.

“We appreciated their ability to connect with us on our philosophy of ‘compassion first,’ as it relates to operations and resident care,” he said. “We believe their vast investment experience, combined with their deep understanding of operations, will lead to a strong partnership and successful development project.”

Buffalo Crossing will feature amenities such as fine dining, a stocked bistro, screened putting greens, an on-site physician's clinic and an emergency call alert system.

Olympics: Most political apolitical event in the world

TED ANTHONY
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Each time an Olympics approaches, the ideal is articulated once more: The true spirit of the games, those who oversee them say, brings humanity together to promote amity and athletic excellence. It is most certainly not a place for the affairs of nations and vested interests to play out on a global stage.

"Olympics is not about politics. It's about the sport, fair play and humanity," Dmitry Chernyshenko, head of the Sochi organizing committee, said last week, echoing his predecessors. The new president of the International Olympic Committee, Germany's Thomas Bach, was more nuanced, saying before the games began that his organization must be "politically neutral without being apolitical."

And yet ... In Sochi this week, politics percolates everywhere, which is not unusual. It has lurked at the margins of Olympic Games going back at least to the moment in 1936 in Berlin when German Chancellor Adolf Hitler, a white supremacist, watched Jesse Owens, a black American, take gold in the 100-meter sprint. The Olympics, you might say, are the planet's most political apolitical event.

Consider Friday night's appearance by Russian President Vladimir Putin at the U.S. Olympic Committee's USA House — and wearing a Team USA pin on his lapel, no less. It was entirely good-natured, but it couldn't have been more political.

On the surface, it was an Olympics host leader cheerfully glad-handing guests. But below the bonhomie, it was hard not to conjure a stew of words and memories that evoked old suspicions: Cold War, "We will bury you," spies, the Eastern Bloc, NATO, detente, nuclear proliferation. And new ones, too: Edward Snowden.

Putin is only the most



AP FILE PHOTO

Jesse Owens of the United States runs in a 200-meter preliminary heat at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. Owens won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and showed up Adolph Hitler's idea of Aryan supremacy.

obvious example. To watch the Olympics — and to look beyond the marvelous athletic performances and the uncounted, often unexpected friendships it helps build — is to see a human anthill of scripts and vested interests playing themselves out.

"There is this absolute insistence that there be no politics. I think they have to say that," says Curt Hamakawa, a U.S. Olympic Committee official for 16 years.

"But the fact of the matter is, that is not true. And it comes across as being a bit hypocritical," says Ha-

makawa, now an associate professor of sport management at Western New England University in Massachusetts. "Government and sport is pretty much intertwined for most countries. I don't know that they can escape from it."

Several Olympics of the past half century have been particularly politically charged. Tokyo's hosting of the 1964 Summer Games showcased Japan's return to the global stage after World War II. In 1972, Palestinian attackers killed 11 Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village in Munich. And of course there

were the boycott years — 1976, 1980 and 1984 — when entire nations (including the United States and the Soviet Union) stayed away because rivals either were there or were hosting.

Front and center this time around is the disconnect between Russia's strict attitude toward gays and voices around the world that take issue with its approach. Despite some predictions that gay athletes or their supporters might turn Olympic spectacles into political ones, it hadn't happened as of Saturday.

Many cities in Brazil are rationing water

Associated Press

SAO PAULO — More than 140 cities are rationing water amid the worst drought to hit Brazil in decades, according to a survey conducted by the country's leading newspaper.

The Folha de S. Paulo newspaper quoted water supply companies saying reservoirs, rivers and streams are the driest they've been in 20 years.

Some neighborhoods in the city of Itu in Sao Paulo state only receive water for 13 hours, once every three days.

Water consumption normally grows by up to 20 percent during the Southern Hemisphere's summer. But this year, consumption has risen by up to 30 percent due to a prolonged heat wave.

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	American Hustle R 10:00 1:00 4:15 7:15 10:15*
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	Labor Day PG13 10:20 1:20 4:20 7:10 9:45*
	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit PG13 10:35 1:35 4:35 7:05 9:35*
	Saving Mr. Banks PG13 10:25 1:40 4:25 7:10 9:55*
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	The Wolf of Wall Street R 12:30 and 6:35 only
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Barnstorm Theatre	About Last Night R 10:00 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:30 9:50*
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	RoboCop PG13 10:20 1:45 4:30 7:15 9:55*
	The LEGO Movie PG 10:10 2:50 and 7:25 only
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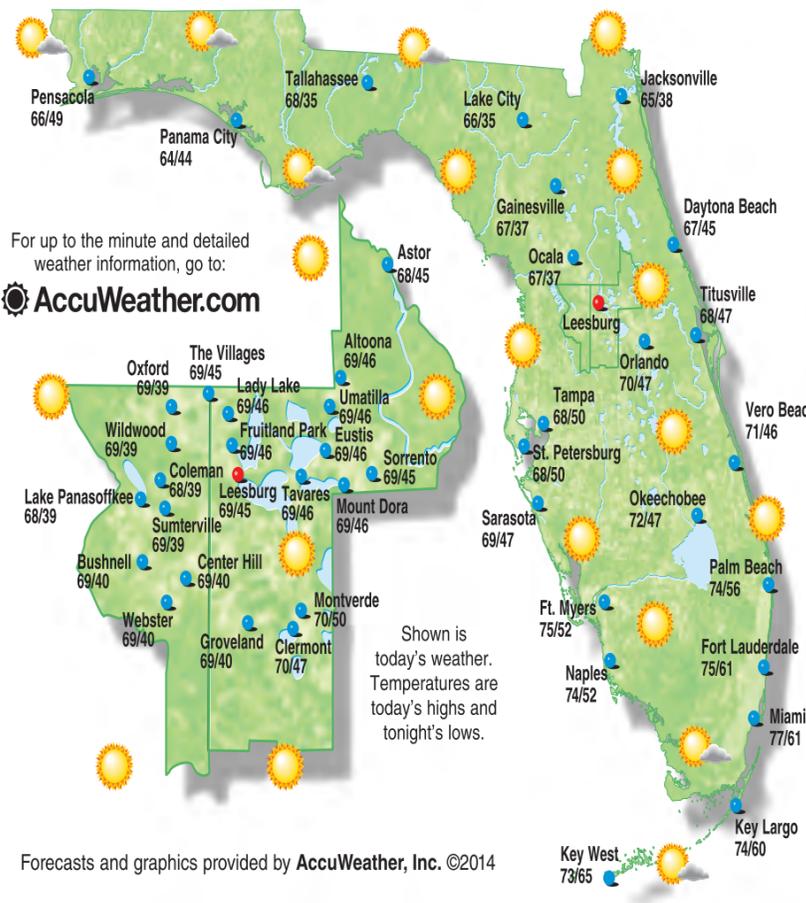
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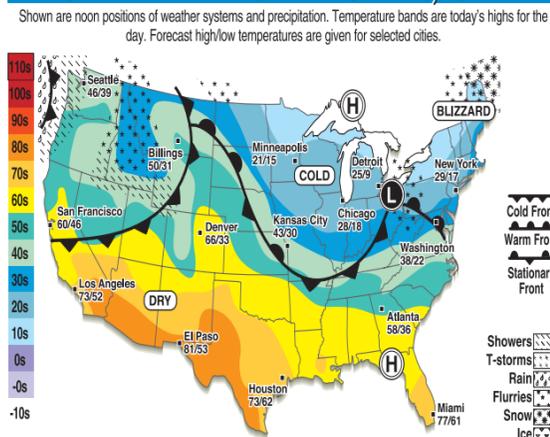
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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR LEEBSBURG

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Plenty of sunshine; nice in the afternoon	Partly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny	Pleasant with a full day of sunshine	Partly sunny and very warm
HIGH 69° LOW 45°	HIGH 74° LOW 54°	HIGH 79° LOW 57°	HIGH 81° LOW 59°	HIGH 84° LOW 61°



NATIONAL WEATHER FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2014



Yesterday's National High/Low: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 79° in Ramona, CA Low -23° in Land O'Lakes, WI

UV INDEX TODAY

6

0-2 Low, 3-5 Moderate, 6-7 High, 8-10 Very High, 11+ Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

SOLUNAR TABLE

The solunar period schedule allows planning days so you will be fishing in good territory or hunting in good cover during those times. Major periods begin at the times shown and last for 1.5 to 2 hours. The minor periods are shorter.

Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Today 12:14 a.m.	6:19 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	6:41 p.m.
Mon. 12:55 a.m.	7:06 a.m.	1:17 p.m.	7:28 p.m.

THE SUN AND MOON

	Today	Monday	Last	New	First	Full
Sunrise	7:05 a.m.	7:04 a.m.				
Sunset	6:18 p.m.	6:19 p.m.	Feb 22	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 16
Moonrise	8:01 p.m.	8:55 p.m.				
Moonset	7:46 a.m.	8:20 a.m.				

TIDES

Homosassa				Daytona Beach					
Day	High	Feet	Low	Feet	Day	High	Feet	Low	Feet
Today	5:24 a.m.	1.2	1:07 a.m.	0.1	Mon.	5:59 a.m.	1.2	1:41 a.m.	0.1
	6:01 p.m.	1.2	1:27 p.m.	-0.1		6:25 p.m.	1.2	1:55 p.m.	0.0
Today	8:43 a.m.	4.1	2:30 a.m.	-0.3	Mon.	9:19 a.m.	4.0	3:07 a.m.	-0.2
	9:02 p.m.	3.9	2:49 p.m.	-0.2		9:39 p.m.	3.9	3:22 p.m.	-0.2

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Monday	City	Today	Monday	City	Today	Monday	City	Today	Monday
Albany	23 4 pc	24 14 pc	Cheyenne	60 29 c	55 33 pc	Great Falls	45 33 c	47 32 pc	Norfolk, VA	43 30 pc	38 35 pc
Albuquerque	71 43 pc	62 39 s	Chicago	28 18 pc	32 23 sn	Greensboro, NC	47 26 pc	47 36 pc	Oklahoma City	67 47 pc	66 39 pc
Anchorage	23 16 sn	23 12 sn	Cincinnati	34 19 pc	43 29 i	Hartford	29 8 pc	28 14 pc	Omaha	37 25 pc	49 27 pc
Asheville	50 23 pc	51 34 pc	Cleveland	25 6 sn	30 23 sn	Honolulu	81 69 r	78 70 r	Philadelphia	30 17 pc	32 29 pc
Atlanta	58 36 pc	62 50 pc	Columbia, SC	58 31 pc	61 44 pc	Houston	73 62 pc	76 60 pc	Phoenix	84 58 pc	84 56 s
Atlantic City	31 14 pc	32 24 pc	Concord, NH	27 0 pc	25 6 pc	Indianapolis	31 21 pc	37 24 i	Pittsburgh	28 1 sn	35 26 sn
Baltimore	33 18 c	33 26 pc	Dallas	71 56 pc	74 44 pc	Jackson, MS	68 50 pc	71 54 c	Portland, ME	31 7 pc	25 11 s
Billings	50 31 c	50 35 pc	Dayton	30 15 pc	35 25 i	Kansas City	43 30 pc	49 30 pc	Portland, OR	51 42 r	51 41 r
Birmingham	62 40 pc	64 54 pc	Denver	66 33 pc	62 35 s	Las Vegas	76 52 pc	74 50 s	Providence	31 11 pc	30 18 pc
Bismarck	31 16 pc	41 21 pc	Des Moines	26 20 pc	39 26 sh	Little Rock	63 46 pc	69 40 sh	Raleigh	51 27 pc	49 38 pc
Boise	47 35 c	54 37 c	Detroit	25 9 sn	26 20 sn	Louisville	39 28 pc	50 33 sh	Reno	56 29 c	58 31 pc
Boston	31 14 pc	30 20 s	Duluth	17 10 c	30 22 sn	Memphis	58 44 pc	65 40 sh	Richmond	43 25 pc	41 32 pc
Buffalo	19 -2 sf	28 21 sn	El Paso	81 53 s	75 49 s	Milwaukee	25 18 pc	30 21 sn	Sacramento	63 39 pc	62 42 pc
Burlington, VT	19 -7 pc	17 9 pc	Fargo	16 11 c	35 23 pc	Minneapolis	21 15 pc	36 25 sn	St. Louis	36 26 pc	44 28 sh
Charleston, SC	60 37 pc	65 49 s	Fairbanks	0 -20 c	-7 -26 pc	Nashville	50 32 pc	58 41 sh	Salt Lake City	56 34 c	55 34 c
Charleston, WV	37 19 sn	44 35 pc	Flagstaff	61 25 pc	59 26 s	New Orleans	69 56 pc	73 61 pc	San Antonio	79 59 pc	84 56 c
Charlotte, NC	50 26 pc	51 39 pc	Grand Rapids	26 12 c	25 20 sn	New York City	29 17 pc	32 29 pc	San Diego	70 54 pc	67 54 pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-hunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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MLB: Spring Training Guide for all 30 teams / **B5-B6**

Engine trouble for Stewart, Patrick in practice

MARK LONG
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH — Stewart-Haas Racing teammates Tony Stewart and Danica Patrick blew engines during Daytona 500 practice Saturday.

HScott Motorsports driver Bobby Labonte also had an engine failure, creating concern that Hendrick Motorsports might have issues. Stewart, Patrick and Labonte all lease engines from Hendrick, which also fields cars for Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kasey Kahne.

"Not really concerned about it," Stewart said. "Pretty confi-

dent it'll be fine." After changing engines, Stewart, Patrick and Labonte will have to start at the rear of the field in their qualifying races next Thursday as well as the Daytona 500 on Feb. 23.

Labonte's engine went first. Stewart's started smoking a bit later, followed about 10 minutes later by Patrick's.

"I was like, 'Man, are we doing something?'" Patrick said. "It's something that we are doing in our family here and we need to figure it out. I was saying I bet other Hendrick cars are thinking, 'What's going on?'" So we have got time to hopefully figure



Danica Patrick stands by her car as her crew makes adjustment during Saturday's practice for the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach.

it out. Definitely figure it out before the race."

Though Hendrick drivers had no engine problems, Johnson, Gordon, Earnhardt and Kahne seemed to be down on horsepower.

The fastest Hendrick driver during the first practice was Gordon, who was 21st on the speed chart.

"We feel like we understand what is happening," Hendrick general manager Doug

Duchardt said. "We will get the engines back over and tear them down from NASCAR. I think we will be able to confirm everything that is happening. ... We think we understand what is happen-

ing there and we will take a look at that."

Duchardt and Scott Maxim, Hendrick's director of engine track support, said they are confident the engines won't be an issue in Saturday night's Sprint Unlimited exhibition race, in qualifying today, in the dual qualifying races next Thursday or in the Daytona 500.

"Moving forward, we will be all right," Maxim said. "We will identify what we've got and we will make changes needed, and I think that we will be able to make corrective action. We will be able to look the engines over closely and make sure that

SEE NASCAR | **B2**



Team USA forward T.J. Oshie scores the winning goal against Russia goaltender Sergei Bobrovski in an overtime during Saturday's hockey game at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. The puck can be seen in the net.

A win in Red, White and Blue

Oshie's shootout goals lead Team USA past Russia 3-2 in Olympic thriller

GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — T.J. Oshie brainstormed while he skated to center ice, desperately trying to come up with one last move to end an epic shootout. He had already taken five shots at Sergei Bobrovsky, and the Russians were still even.

Yet Oshie was chosen for the U.S. men's hockey team with just

such a situation in mind, and the shootout specialist concocted one last clever goal to silence an arena filled with screaming Russian fans.

Oshie scored four times in the shootout and got the winner in the eighth round, leading the United States past Russia 3-2 Saturday in the thrilling revival of a classic Olympic hockey rivalry.

"I was just thinking of something else I could do, trying to keep him guessing," said Oshie, the St. Louis Blues forward. "Had to go back to the same move a couple times, but I was glad it ended when it did. I was

running out of moves there."

International rules allow the same player to take multiple shots after the first three rounds of a shootout, and U.S. coach Dan Bylsma leaned on Oshie's array of slick shots and change-of-pace approaches to the net. Oshie's scored on the Americans' first shot before taking the last five in a row, going 4 for 6 against Bobrovsky and finally setting off a celebration for the small group of U.S. fans at the Bolshoy Ice Dome.

"At some point, you think, 'Does he have any more moves left?'" U.S. captain Zach Parise

SEE OLYMPICS | **B2**

Lady Jackets fall in regional finals

MARK FISHER
Special to the Daily Commercial

Leesburg's run to Lakeland has come to an end.

The Yellow Jackets fell behind early in the first quarter and couldn't catch Orlando Edgewater and dropped a 72-41 decision in the Region 2 championship game.

Leesburg (20-9) was looking for its fourth trip to the state Final Four under coach Mark Oates.

Packing the paint and forcing the Eagles to look for entry opportunities or settle for outside shots in the first period the Yellow Jackets stayed close, trailing 13-11. But Leesburg was unable to connect from distance, while Nyala Shuler dominated the second period for Orlando Edgewater.

Shuler scored 10 points in the second quarter en route to a game high 30 points, helping the Eagles build a 29-18 advantage at halftime.

Kenyonna Jackson paced the Yellow Jackets with 14 points while Eletra

Graham added 13 in the effort.

BASEBALL

Shane Crouse pitched six solid innings and Dakota Higdon had three hits and three RBIs on Saturday to lead Lake-Sumter State College to a 9-1 win against the Rollins College junior varsity at Alford Stadium in Winter Park.

The win helped the Lakehawks improve to 4-2 overall.

Crouse struck out seven and allowed only two hits en route to leveling his record at 1-1. In addition to Higdon, Austin Simmons also had three hits for LSSC and scored two runs.

The Lakehawks are back in action at noon today against Broward at the LSSC baseball complex.

UMATILLA 10, MOUNT DORA BIBLE 0

Garrett Clark and Tanner Clark tossed a two hitter on Friday as Umatilla improved to 3-0.

Tanner Frabott, Kalan Ramsey, Kyle Fowler, Garrett Clark and Jesse Getford had RBIs for Umatilla.

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SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL				
College				
Saturday's Scores				
Men				
EAST				
Albany (NY) 74, Maine 63				
CCSU 74, Sacred Heart 69				
Duquesne 83, Rhode Island 71				
Holy Cross 72, Lehigh 67				
Iowa 82, Penn St. 70				
Lafayette 74, American U. 62				
Ohio 73, Buffalo 70				
Providence 84, DePaul 61				
Robert Morris 69, Mount St. Mary's 61				
Saint Joseph's 75, La Salle 64				
UConn 86, Memphis 81, OT				
UMass 67, George Washington 61				
Vermont 76, UMB 52				
SOUTH				
Auburn 92, Mississippi St. 82				
Davidson 88, Georgia Southern 73				
ETSU 93, Stetson 66				
Florida Gulf Coast 84, SC-Upstate 80				
James Madison 64, UNC Wilmington 62				
Louisiana-Monroe 65, UALR 49				
Middle Tennessee 81, Southern Miss. 64				
North Carolina 75, Pittsburgh 71				
UCF 75, South Florida 74				
Vanderbilt 57, Texas A&M 54, OT				
Virginia 63, Clemson 58				
MIDWEST				
Cincinnati 73, Houston 62				
E. Michigan 65, Toledo 44				
Indiana St. 60, S. Illinois 57				
Iowa St. 70, Texas Tech 64				
Kansas 95, TCU 65				
North Dakota 74, Montana 69				
Saint Louis 64, VCU 62				
South Dakota 71, IUPUI 67				
SOUTHWEST				
Oklahoma 77, Oklahoma St. 74				
Tulsa 76, Old Dominion 37				
FAR WEST				
California 72, Washington 59				
UNLV 73, Utah St. 62				
Women				
EAST				
American U. 72, Lafayette 61				
Army 75, Bucknell 63				
Boston U. 74, Loyola (Md.) 55				
Bryant 81, Fairleigh Dickinson 51				
Buffalo 66, N. Illinois 57				
Canisius 75, Siena 66				
Cincinnati 55, Temple 53				
Fairleigh Dickinson 51				
Fordham 43, La Salle 42				
George Washington 78, UMass 54				
Holy Cross 76, Lehigh 68				
LIU Brooklyn 69, St. Francis (Pa.) 66				
Mount St. Mary's 76, Sacred Heart 63				
Robert Morris 66, CCSU 49				
Rutgers 90, UCF 50				
St. Bonaventure 63, Duquesne 62				
St. John's 69, Villanova 56				
Wagner 62, St. Francis (NY) 53				
SOUTH				
Appalachian St. 76, UNC-Greensboro 67				
Bethune-Cookman 80, Delaware St. 51				
Campbell 72, Charleston Southern 71				
Chattanooga 71, Furman 54				
Elon 65, W. Carolina 61				
Georgia Southern 90, Davidson 82				
Jacksonville St. 79, E. Kentucky 62				
Liberty 72, Gardner-Webb 62				
Marshall 71, Charlotte 69				
Md.-Eastern Shore 66, Howard 57				
Middle Tennessee 83, FAU 77				
SE Louisiana 68, Nicholls St. 66				
Saint Joseph's 89, George Mason 75				
Samford 61, Wofford 55				
Stetson 62, Mercer 49				
Tulane 66, FIU 55				
UALR 63, Louisiana-Monroe 47				
UNC Asheville 69, Longwood 52				
W. Kentucky 81, South Alabama 55				
Winthrop 57, Radford 40				
MIDWEST				
Akron 87, Ball St. 64				
Bradley 54, Loyola of Chicago 49				
Butler 67, Georgetown 59				
Cent. Michigan 88, Miami (Ohio) 47				
Cleveland St. 79, Detroit 74				
Creighton 85, Providence 84				
Dayton 69, Richmond 58				
Green Bay 81, Milwaukee 69				
Kansas St. 60, Texas Tech 54				
Kent St. 57, W. Michigan 48				
Marquette 75, Xavier 54				
Minnesota 82, Northwestern 64				
Nebraska-Omaha 68, N. Dakota St. 57				
New Mexico St. 74, Chicago St. 64				
South Dakota 74, IUPUI 56				
Toledo 62, Ohio 58				
UMKC 87, Texas-Pan American 84				
Wright St. 103, Ill.-Chicago 91				
SOUTHWEST				
SMU 67, Houston 50				
Stephen F. Austin 58, Sam Houston St. 52				
Texas A&M-CC 61, Oral Roberts 53				
UTSA 63, Rice 61				
FAR WEST				
Denver 71, IPFW 66				
San Diego St. 77, Air Force 66				

Saturday's Results				
ALPINE SKIING				
Women's Super-G				
(Start position in parentheses)				
1. (18) Anna Fenninger, Austria, 1:25.52.				
2. (22) Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, 1:26.07.				
3. (16) Nicole Hosp, Austria, 1:26.18.				
4. (20) Lara Gut, Switzerland, 1:26.25.				
5. (19) Tina Maze, Slovenia, 1:26.28.				
6. (30) Franziska Brackner, Switzerland, 1:26.79.				
7. (9) Fabienne Suter, Switzerland, 1:26.89.				
8. (14) Julia Mancuso, Squaw Valley, Calif., 1:27.04.				
Other U.S. Finishers				
18. (2) Leanne Smith, North Conway, N.H., 1:28.38.				
NR. (7) Laurence Ross, Bend, Ore., DNF.				
NR. (29) Stacey Cook, Mammoth, Calif., DNF.				

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING				
Women's 4x5km Relay				
1. Sweden (Ida Ingemarsdotter, Emma Wiiken, Anna Haag, Charlotte Kalla), 53:02.7.				
2. Finland (Ida Kallio, Aino-Kaisa Saarela, Kerttu Niskanen, Krista Lahteenmaki), 53:03.2.				
3. Germany (Nicole Fessel, Stefanie Boehler, Claudia Nystad, Denise Herrmann), 53:03.6.				
4. France (Aurora Jean, Celia Aymonier, Anouk Faivre Picon, Coraline Hugue), 53:47.7.				
5. Norway (Heidi Weng, Therese Johaug, Astrid Uhr-enholdt Jacobsen, Marit Bjorengen), 53:56.3.				
6. Russia (Julia Ivanova, Olga Kuzulokova, Natalia Zhukova, Yulia Tchekeleva), 54:06.3.				
7. Poland (Kornelia Kubinska, Justyna Kowalczyk, Sylwia Jaskowicz, Paulina Maciuszek), 54:38.9.				
8. Italy (Virginia de Martin Topranin, Elisa Brocard, Marina Piller, Ilaria Debortoli), 55:19.9.				
9. United States (Kikkan Randall, Anchorage, Alaska, Sadie Bjornsen, Wintthrop, Wash., Liz Stephen, East Montpelier, Vt., Jessie Diggins, Afton, Minn.), 55:33.4.				

SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING				
Men's 1000				
Final B				
1. Han Tianyu, China, 1:29.334.				
2. Semen Eilstratov, Russia, 1:29.429.				
Final A				
1. Victor An, Russia, 1:25.325.				
2. Vladimir Grigorev, Russia, 1:25.399.				
3. Sjinikie Knegt, Netherlands, 1:25.611.				
4. Wu Dajing, China, 1:25.772.				
NR. Sin Da Woon, South Korea, PEN.				

Women's 1500				
Final B				
1. Valerie Maltais, Canada, 2:24.711.				
2. Jessica Smith, Melvindale, Mich., 2:25.787.				
3. Marie-Eve Drolet, Canada, 2:25.870.				
4. Bernadett Heidum, Hungary, 2:26.004.				
5. Veronique Pierron, France, 2:26.066.				
6. Veronika Windisch, Austria, 2:26.296.				
Final A				
1. Zhou Yang, China, 2:19.140.				
2. Shim Suk Hee, South Korea, 2:19.239.				
3. Arianna Fontana, Italy, 2:19.416.				
4. Jorien Ter Mors, Netherlands, 2:19.656.				
5. Emily Scott, Springfield, Mo., 2:39.436.				
NR. Kim Alang, South Korea, PEN.				
NR. Li Jianrou, China, DNF.				

SKELETON				
Men				
Final Ranking				
1. Alexander Treliakov, Russia, 3:44.29.				
2. Martins Dukurs, Latvia, 3:45.10.				
3. Matt Antoine, Prairie du Chien, Wis., 3:47.26.				
4. Tomass Dukurs, Latvia, 3:47.58.				
5. Sergei Chudinov, Russia, 3:47.59.				
6. Nikita Tregubov, Russia, 3:47.62.				
7. John Fairbairn, Canada, 3:48.13.				
8. Kristan Bromley, Britain, 3:48.17.				
Other U.S. Finishers				
15. John Daly, Smithtown, N.Y., 3:49.11.				

SKI JUMPING				
Men's K120 Individual				
Final Ranking				
(First and second jumps in parentheses)				
1. Kamil Stoch, Poland (139.0, 85.2, 58.5, 136.0, 79.8, 56.0) 278.7.				
2. Noriaki Kasai, Japan (139.0, 85.2, 57.0, 133.5, 75.3, 55.5) 277.4.				
3. Peter Prevc, Slovenia (135.0, 66.3, 57.0, 129.0, 67.2, 55.5) 274.8.				
4. Severin Freund, Germany (138.0, 83.4, 57.0, 135.0, 78.0, 55.5) 272.2.				
5. Anders Fannemel, Norway (132.0, 72.6, 52.0, 123.0, 56.4, 55.5) 264.3.				
6. Marinus Kraus, Germany (130.0, 69.0, 54.0, 133.0, 74.4, 54.5) 257.4.				
7. Gregor Schlierenzauer, Austria (132.5, 59.1, 54.0, 129.5, 68.1, 55.5) 255.2.				
8. Michael Hayboeck, Austria (131.0, 70.8, 53.5, 125.5, 60.9, 53.0) 254.7.				
Did Not Qualify For Jump 2				
35. Nick Fairall, Andover, N.H. (120.0, 50.1, 50.0) 108.3.				

48. Nick Alexander, Lebanon, N.H. (111.5, 35.7, 44.5) 87.0.				
NR. Anders Johnson, Park City, Utah, DQ.				
SPEEDSKATING				
Men's 1500				
1. Zbigniew Brodka, Poland, 1:45.006.				
2. Koen Verweij, Netherlands, 1:45.009.				
3. Denny Morrison, Canada, 1:45.22.				
4. Denis Yuskov, Russia, 1:45.37.				
5. Mark Tuitert, Netherlands, 1:45.42.				
6. Havarð Bokko, Norway, 1:45.48.				
7. Brian Hansen, Glenview, Ill., 1:45.59.				
8. Sverre Lund Pedersen, Norway, 1:45.66.				
Other U.S. Finishers				
11. Shani Davis, Chicago, 1:45.98.				
22. Joey Mantia, Ocala, 1:48.01.				
37. Jonathan Kuck, Champaign, Ill., 1:50.19.				

GOLF				
Northern Trust Open				
Saturday				
At Riviera Country Club				
Los Angeles				
Purse: \$6.7 million				
Yardage: 7,349; Par 71				
Third Round				
William McGirt	69-67-65	—	201	
George McNeill	69-68-66	—	203	
Charlie Beljan	67-68-68	—	203	
Jason Allred	73-64-67	—	204	
Brian Harman	67-69-68	—	204	
Bubba Watson	70-71-64	—	205	
Cameron Tringale	68-70-67	—	205	
Jimmy Walker	67-71-67	—	205	
Jordan Spieth	72-66-67	—	205	
Charl Schwartzel	69-68-68	—	205	
Dustin Johnson	66-70-69	—	205	
Sang-Moon Bae	67-66-72	—	205	
Bill Haas	72-67-67	—	206	
Charley Hoffman	67-71-68	—	206	
Brendan Steele	68-71-67	—	206	
Aaron Baddeley	69-65-72	—	206	
Luke Guthrie	71-69-67	—	207	
John Senden	71-70-66	—	207	
Lee Westwood	69-70-68	—	207	
Bryce Molder	69-69-69	—	207	
Matt Every	69-68-69	—	207	
Jim Furyk	68-68-71	—	207	
Robert Garrigus	67-67-73	—	207	
Hideki Matsuyama	70-69-69	—	208	
K.J. Choi	69-72-67	—	208	
Tommy Fleetwood	70-69-69	—	208	
Harris English	71-72-65	—	208	
James Hahn	67-70-71	—	208	
Blake Adams	71-69-69	—	209	
Ken Duke	70-69-70	—	209	
David Lingmerth	70-69-70	—	209	
Ernie Els	71-70-68	—	209	
Daniel Summerhays	71-72-66	—	209	
Matt Jones	67-73-70	—	210	
Jhonattan Vegas	70-69-71	—	210	
Kevin Chappell	71-70-69	—	210	
Brendon Todd	71-70-69	—	210	
J.J. Henry	70-69-71	—	210	
Keegan Bradley	68-70-72	—	210	
Justin Rose	70-72-68	—	210	
Victor Dubuisson	70-72-68	—	210	
Stuart Appleby	72-71-67	—	210	
David Lynn	70-71-70	—	211	
Francesco Molinari	67-73-71	—	211	
Robert Allenby</				

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

North Carolina holds off No. 25 Pittsburgh

AARON BEARD
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — James Michael McAdoo had 24 points and 12 rebounds to help North Carolina beat No. 25 Pittsburgh 75-71 on Saturday for its sixth straight victory.

Marcus Paige added 18 points for the Tar Heels (17-7, 7-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), who extended the season's longest winning streak three days after their rivalry game against Duke was postponed due to a winter storm. They shot 48 percent after halftime and led by 12 with about 9 minutes left, but had to fight off a late push from the Panthers (20-6, 8-5).

Pitt fought back to within three with the ball in the final 10 seconds. But Lamar



North Carolina's James Michael McAdoo (43) battles with Pittsburgh's James Robinson (0) during the first half of Saturday's game in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Patterson missed a 3-pointer for the tie, and then Talib Zanna missed a putback attempt before Patterson fouled on the rebound with 2.8 sec-

onds left. UNC's Brice Johnson hit his second free throw to make it a two-possession game and clinch the win.

McAdoo finished 11 for 18 from the field,

while Paige went 5 for 6 from 3-point range. Johnson added 13 points off the bench with seven rebounds and five blocked shots, including one

on a driving layup by James Robinson with the Tar Heels up 74-68 in the final minute.

Patterson scored 16 points to lead the Panthers, who were even with the Tar Heels in several statistical categories — from rebounds to second-chance points and points off turnovers — but trailed throughout the second half and never could quite level the game.

The Tar Heels dug their way out of an 0-3 ACC start with their five-game winning streak that restored some optimism in Chapel Hill. But the five wins had come against teams that were a combined 26-32 in the league entering Saturday's games, and none had come against a team better than sixth in the league.

They're starting a four-games-in-eight days stretch, with the next stop coming Monday at Florida State followed by Thursday's rescheduled game against the Blue Devils.

For the Panthers, it was the latest frustrating moment in a stretch of gut-wrenching games.

It started with a home loss on a last-second 3-pointer to Virginia, followed by an overtime win at Miami and a double-overtime home win against Virginia Tech. Then came Wednesday's loss to top-ranked and unbeaten Syracuse at home on Tyler Ennis' desperation 3-pointer at the horn.

Now, along with the UNC loss, all five of those games have been decided by five or fewer points.

UConn outlasts Memphis 86-81 in overtime

PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Shabazz Napier scored a career-high 34 points and No. 24 UConn beat No. 20 Memphis 86-81 in overtime Saturday to sweep the season series from the Tigers.

Ryan Boatright added 21 points for UConn (20-5, 8-4 American Athletic Conference), including eight in overtime. He also had six assists.

Joe Jackson had 24 points to lead the Tigers (19-6, 8-4). Geron Johnson added 15 points and eight rebounds before fouling out and Chris Crawford chipped in with 12.

The game was tied at 69 at the end of regulation and UConn opened the extra period on a 7-2 run. But Memphis cut it to 76-74 after a Michael Dixon hit a 3-pointer.

Napier responded with one of his five 3-pointers and the Huskies held on.

The UConn senior had a shot to win the game in regulation, but his fall-

away 3-pointer rolled around the rim and out.

The Huskies shot just 39 percent from the floor, but made 29 of 36 free throws. Memphis, which shot 55 percent, had just nine foul shots, making six of them.

Johnson fouled out on the first possession in overtime.

Trailing 69-66 with less than a minute to go in regulation, Napier drove the lane, drawing Johnson's fourth foul and completing the 3-point play to tie the game. DeAndre Daniels then blocked a layup attempt by Shaq Goodwin on the other end. The two teams scrambled for the loose ball, and the referees gave UConn the ball after reviewing the play on video.

It was one of two key blocks for Daniels, who finished with eight points. The other came in overtime with the Huskies up by one point, and led to a 3-pointer on the other end by Boatright.

Napier was 10 of 21 shooting for the game and hit 5 of 12 at-



Connecticut's Shabazz Napier, left, drives to the basket as Memphis' Shaq Goodwin defends during the second half of Saturday's game in Hartford, Conn. Connecticut won 86-81 in overtime.

tempts from behind the arc.

Memphis led 46-43 early in the second half before Napier decided to take charge of the Huskies offense. He scored 14 of UConn's next 17 points and his 3-pointer gave UConn a 58-51 lead.

The Tigers scratched back. They trailed 66-

61 with 6 minutes left, but took a 67-66 lead on a Jackson layup and extended it to three points when Jackson found David Pellom for a dunk.

It was a game of big runs in the first half.

Memphis jumped out to an early 8-2 lead, getting two quick 3-pointers from Craw-

ford and Johnson.

The Tigers led 12-5 before UConn went on an 18-2 run, holding Memphis without a field goal for almost 5 minutes. Napier had eight points during the run, including a pair of 3-pointers.

But the Tigers then scored the next 11 points to take a 25-23

lead.

A dunk from Austin Nichols sending Memphis into halftime trailing 36-35.

Boatright's first point of the game, a free throw, gave him 1,000 for his career. He's the 48th UConn player to reach that mark.

UConn moved into a tie with Memphis, a half-game behind SMU for third place in the conference.

Memphis has six more games this season, with three more on the road and two against other teams that have already beaten the Tigers this year — Cincinnati and SMU.

The Huskies won the first meeting on Jan. 16 by 10 points, hitting their final seven shots from the floor.

Memphis outrebounded the Huskies on Saturday 38-28.

UConn has won nine of its past 11 games, while the Tigers fell for just the third time in their past 11.

Any rematch would come in the American tournament in March on the Tigers' home floor.

UCF edges South Florida 75-74 on road

BOB BELLONE
Associated Press

TAMPA — Isaiah Sykes scored the last of his 27 points with less than 2 seconds to go, lifting Central Florida to a 75-74 victory against South Florida in a Saturday matinee.

Sykes, who had 21 points in the second half, added five assists to help Central Florida (10-13, 2-10 American

Athletic Conference) halt a nine-game losing streak and avenge a 79-78 overtime loss to visiting South Florida on Feb. 5.

Tristan Spurlock had 16 points, eight rebounds, four steals, three blocks and three assists for UCF.

Justin McBride added 13 points and Staphon Blair had 12 for the Knights.

Victor Rudd had 21

points and nine rebounds for South Florida (12-14, 3-10). Martino Brock, whose desperation shot at the buzzer bounced off the rim, also scored 21 for the Bulls.

Central Florida, which entered the game as the top rebounding team in the conference with a 38.9 average, was outrebounded 31-30 by South Florida. USF be-

gan the day near the bottom of the league at 35.6.

The game included seven ties and 10 lead changes, including three on the way to a 38-34 halftime edge for the Bulls.

South Florida was coming off one of its worst performances in program history, an 83-40 loss at Connecticut on Wednesday.

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NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

James, Durant arrive at All-Star Game as 1A, 1B

BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — With the first pick in the 2014 NBA All-Star fantasy draft ...

"I'd go with LeBron," Toronto's DeMar DeRozan said.

"I'll take KD," said Cleveland's Kyrie Irving.

That's how close it is right now between LeBron James and Kevin Durant.

They are the very best of the NBA's best, both so talented that even guys who play against them every night have trouble deciding which one they think is better.

"I think it's almost a situation where you have 1A and 1B, because both give you so many different things out on the court," Minnesota's Kevin Love said.

"1A, 1B," agreed Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs, who were knocked out of the playoffs by Durant two years ago and James last year.

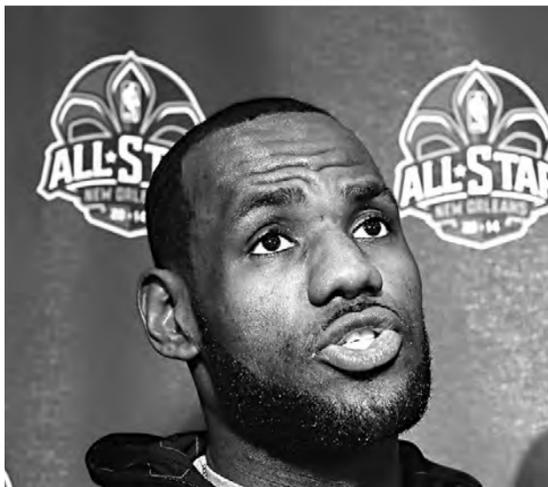
"As journalists you're always going to try to choose, but me as a basketball player and play-

ing against them, they're both great."

James was the MVP of the game in 2008, the last time the NBA's All-Star weekend came to New Orleans. These days, he's the MVP of most seasons, winning four of the last five awards. But King James might be giving up the throne this time, with multiple players believing Durant will emerge with his first MVP award this season.

"I think it's ultimately going to be KD and LeBron, and KD's team is No. 1 in the West right now," Portland's Damian Lillard said. "He's getting 40 every night and flirting with a triple-double, so I think if they had to pick an MVP right now it would be KD."

But MVP is decided by a media panel. Nobody voting for that ever shares the floor with James or Durant. What about somebody like Carmelo Anthony, who plays the same position, is sandwiched between them at No. 2 in the scoring race, and has teamed with both on the



GERALD HERBERT / AP

Miami's LeBron James speaks with reporters on Friday during a news conference at the NBA All Star weekend in New Orleans. The All Star game is today.

U.S. Olympic team?

"As far as Durant, he's a hell of a scorer, great scorer, gets better every year in all facets of his game. Never seen somebody his height shoot the ball the way he's capable of shooting the ball," Anthony said.

"Then you look on the flip side with LeBron, you have somebody who's so powerful, so athletic, can do so many things, can change a game in so many differ-

ent ways throughout the course of a game. So going up against those two guys, it's a totally different mindset, game plan, focus that you have to have because it's coming at you from a lot of different ways."

James has been considered the game's best player for a while now, having moved past Kobe Bryant. Durant was the sensational scorer — he's on his way to a fourth scoring title in

five years — but without the full array of skills that James possessed.

But even with his 26.5 points, 7.0 rebounds and 6.6 assists per game, James isn't the only guy filling up every stat category. Besides his 31.5 points per game, Durant is also averaging 7.8 rebounds and 5.5 assists.

Love said James is like "Old Faithful," because "you know what he's going to give you," and added that "at this point it's going to be very tough to pass him" as the best player in the world.

But he seems in the Durant category when it comes to the MVP ballot.

"I have to say with what Kevin Durant is doing at this point, it's pretty unbelievable," he said. "Scoring the ball at such a high clip, and then you look at the stat sheet and he's filling it up in other categories as well. His team is winning, and LeBron is having a great year, but it just seems like what KD has done has been pretty unbelievable."

James caused a stir this week when he said he believed he'd go down as one of the top four players in history during an interview with NBA TV that will air Monday. Yet even as he looks toward his place in the future, he seems aware his status at the present could be in jeopardy.

"LeBron for a few years has known Kevin Durant has been coming as a player," said Dwyane Wade, James' teammate in Miami.

"He wants to be the best, one of the greatest of all-time and he knows that this young guy is coming and he's trying to protect his turf."

Durant sent a loud statement when the Thunder routed the Heat in Miami during his incredible scoring run of 12 straight games with 30 or more points. He scores so easily that even other guys who can fill it up are in awe, and Irving said he'd pick Durant at No. 1 in part because of what Durant could do for his own stats.

Drummond's 30-25 wins Rising Stars Challenge

BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Andre Drummond grabbed everything in sight, even that MVP trophy that came apart.

Drummond had 30 points and a Rising Stars Challenge-record 25 rebounds, leading Team Hill to a 142-136 victory over Team Webber on Friday night.

Coach Nate McMillan said general manager Grant Hill talked to his team before the game about performing like Denver's Kenneth Faried, who had 40 points and 10 rebounds while winning MVP honors last year.

The message got through to Drummond, who grabbed 14 offensive rebounds.

"Drummond had in his mind that he was going to go out and play the game hard," said McMillan, an assistant to Indiana coach Frank Vogel.

"Every rebound that came off the board, he wanted. A few of them he took from his team-



CHRISTIAN PETERSEN / AP

Team Webber's Victor Oladipo of the Orlando Magic goes to the basket against Team Hill during Friday's Rising Star NBA All Star Challenge in New Orleans.

mates, but I liked his aggressiveness."

Besides an impressive tally of dunks and rebounds, Drummond even managed to make his free throws. A 41 percent shooter during the regular season, the Detroit forward went 6 for 8, including a pair

with 29 seconds left after chasing down Bradley Beal's missed free throw to give his team a five-point lead.

He eventually got to hoist the MVP trophy, though not before it fell to the court when a representative from game sponsor BBVA tried to

hand it to him. It comes in two pieces, a star on top of the base, and the presenter was apparently unaware when he grabbed it by the top.

"It happened last year, too, so I wasn't expecting anything less," Drummond said. "Usually a slip-up happens every year with the trophy. So I wasn't too shocked about that."

Cleveland's Dion Waiters had 31 points, mostly coming during a 1-on-1 duel with New York's Tim Hardaway Jr. in the second half. Beal finished with 21 for Team Hill, picked by former NBA star Hill.

Hardaway scored 36 points and made seven 3-pointers for fellow former Michigan star Chris Webber's squad. Philadelphia rookie Michael Carter-Williams had 17 points, nine assists and six rebounds.

Portland's Damian Lillard had 13 points, five rebounds and five assists in the victory, making him 1 for 1 during the busiest All-Star weekend ever. Last season's NBA Rookie of

the Year will take part in five events, three more on All-Star Saturday and the All-Star game on Sunday.

All-Stars such as Kevin Durant, Dwight Howard and Kyrie Irving watched the game, with Irving leaping to his feet at one point after watching Waiters, his Cavaliers teammate, try to take over the game with about 8 minutes to play.

Waiters had two baskets and then two 3-pointers, one of them when he stepped back after faking a move to the basket that made Hardaway lose his balance. Hardaway answered back with two 3-pointers of his own as the crowd roared.

"We were just trying to do a great job of just getting the fans involved," Hardaway said. "It was kind of dead in there and we just wanted to just start something, a little 1-on-1 battle here and there, and it was great."

Waiters then clinched the duel when he knocked the ball free for

a rare defensive highlight in the game, nailing his second straight 3-pointer to give team Hill the lead for good at 126-124 with 2:44 left. Drummond followed with a dunk for a four-point advantage, and Team Webber could never catch up.

The game that began as a matchup of top rookies and later turned into rookies against second-year players now mixes the rosters. That's probably a good thing, since this year's crop of kids is so underwhelming.

Only two of the top 10 picks in the 2013 draft, which has been hindered by injuries, were invited to this game, No. 2 Oladipo and No. 9 Trey Burke.

Players were picked to play on Team Hill and Team Webber, which they wore under their numbers on the back of their jerseys.

Drummond 16 points and 10 rebounds in his first 10 minutes and shot 12 of 21 for the game.

Stern elected to Basketball Hall of Fame

BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — David Stern is going from the NBA commissioner's office to the Hall of Fame.

The recently retired Stern was elected Friday to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and will be enshrined with the class of 2014 on Aug. 8 in Springfield, Mass.

Stern was on a ski trip to Colorado on Friday with his wife while the NBA was holding its first All-Star weekend without him in charge

since 1983. New Commissioner Adam Silver and many other league employees who worked under Stern attended the press conference.

Alonzo Mourning, Tim Hardaway, Mitch Richmond, Kevin Johnson and Spencer Haywood are hoping to be part of the class. They were chosen as finalists, with the full class to be unveiled April 7 during the NCAA Final Four.

Hardaway and Richmond were teammates in Golden State and made up the Warriors'

"Run TMC" trio along with Chris Mullin, who was elected to the Hall in 2011.

Stern retired on Feb. 1 after exactly 30 years as commissioner, during which he brought the league to its greatest success. Jerry Colangelo, chairman of the Hall of Fame board, said the Hall hopes to have a special spot to display a tribute to Stern.

"He deserves to be recognized in a huge way," Colangelo said.

Stern was elected by the contributors committee. Also directly elected to the Hall of Fame were Lithuania star Sarunas Marciulio-

nis by the international committee, former Indiana Pacers coach Bob "Slick" Leonard by the ABA committee, former New York Knicks player Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton by the early African-American pioneers committee, and former Temple star Guy Rodgers by the veterans committee.

College coaches Eddie Sutton, Nolan Richardson and Gary Williams were also finalists, as were former women's coach Harley Redin and the women's team from Immaculata College, which won three straight national championships.



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BOSTON RED SOX

Manager: John Farrell (second season). 2013: 97-65, first place, World Series champions.
 Training Town: Fort Myers
 Park: JetBlue Park.
 First Workout: Feb. 15/18.
 He's Here: C A.J. Pierzynski, OF Grady Sizemore, RHP Edward Mujica, IF Jonathan Herrera.
 He's Outta Here: CF Jacoby Ellsbury, C Jarrod Saltalamacchia, SS Stephen Drew, LHP Franklin Morales, RHP Andrew Bailey, RHP Joel Hanrahan.
 Going campin': The Red Sox won the World Series title for the third time in 10 years and one year after going 69-93. In the offseason, they continued their strategy of signing mid-level free agents to short-term contracts that worked so well the previous year. They let Ellsbury sign with the New York Yankees for seven years and Saltalamacchia join the Miami Marlins on a three-year deal. They made few roster additions, adding Pierzynski, Sizemore, Mujica and Herrera. The pitching staff has great depth among starters with six returning veterans, led by Jon Lester, and talented young prospects. The bullpen is solid with closer Koji Uehara and setup men Junichi Tazawa and Craig Breslow all returning. The positive karma that replaced a dysfunctional clubhouse should continue under the steady hand of Farrell, who took over when Bobby Valentine was fired after the 2012 season, and with David Ortiz, Dustin Pedroia and Jonny Gomes. Look for a breakout year for two youngsters — SS/3B Xander Bogaerts and CF Jackie Bradley Jr.

TAMPA BAY RAYS

Manager: Joe Maddon (ninth season). 2013: 92-71, 2nd place, lost to Boston



STEVEN SENNE / AP

Tampa Bay center fielder David DeJesus, left, and relief pitcher Grant Balfour, right, laugh during Friday's spring training workout in Port Charlotte.

in division series.
 Training Town: Port Charlotte
 Park: Charlotte Sports Park.
 First Workout: Feb. 15/20.
 He's Here: C Ryan Hanigan, RHP Grant Balfour, RHP Heath Bell, RHP Brad Boxberger, INF Logan Forsythe, RHP Juan Carlos Oviedo, INF Jayson Nix, INF Ray Olmedo, INF Wilson Betemit.
 He's Outta Here: RHP Fernando Rodney, DH Luke Scott, OF Kelly Johnson, DH Delmon Young, OF Sam Fuld, INF Ryan Roberts, RHP Roberto Hernandez, RHP Jamey Wright, LHP Alex Torres.
 Going campin': The Rays enter spring training with a projected payroll of nearly \$80 million, which would be a franchise record and also speaks to expectations for 2014. Principal owner Stuart Sternberg spent generously — at least by Tampa Bay standards — to ensure

most of the key components of a team that won 92 games and made the playoffs for the fourth time in six seasons remained together. That includes not trading 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner David Price and instead giving him a \$14 million, one-year contract; re-signing first baseman James Loney; picking up options on infielders Ben Zobrist and Yunel Escobar; trading for Hanigan, Bell and Forsythe, and signing Balfour, the closer, in free agency. With Price anchoring one of the strongest starting rotations in baseball and Evan Longoria and 2013 AL rookie of the year Wil Myers providing a powerful one-two punch in the middle of the batting order, the Rays not only expect to contend the AL East title but feel they have what it takes to win the World Series.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Manager: Buck Showalter (fifth season). 2013: 85-77, tied for third place.
 Training Town: Sarasota
 Park: Ed Smith Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
 He's Here: RHP Ryan Webb, INF Jemile Weeks, OF David Lough, OF Francisco Peguero, OF Delmon Young, OF Xavier Gray, RHP Edgmer Escalona, SS Alex Gonzalez, RHP Alfredo Aceves.
 He's Outta Here: RHP Jim Johnson, 2B Brian Roberts, LF Nate McLouth, RHP Jason Hammel, DH Wilson Betemit, RHP Scott Feldman, OF Michael Morse, C Taylor Teagarden, DH Danny Valencia, RHP Francisco Rodriguez.
 Going campin': The Orioles have plenty of questions to be answered before opening day, most notably: Who will be the closer? VP Dan Duquette traded away Jim Johnson to cut salary, and after Grant Balfour failed his physical, the team was left without a clear-cut replacement. Sorting that out, determining a starting rotation without an apparent ace, choosing successors to McLouth in left field and Roberts at second base will keep Showalter busy throughout spring training. Showalter led Baltimore into the playoffs in 2012 and milked 85 wins out of the team last year, but keeping the Orioles competitive in the AL East will be a difficult task with a squad whose payroll pales to that of Boston and the Yankees.

NEW YORK YANKEES

Manager: Joe Girardi (seventh season). 2012: 85-77, tied for third place.
 Training Town: Tampa
 Park: George M. Steinbrenner Field.
 First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
 He's Here: C Brian McCann, OF Jacoby Ellsbury, OF-DH Carlos Beltran, INF-OF Kelly Johnson, 2B Brian Roberts, INF

Scott Sizemore, LHP Matt Thornton, RHP Masahiro Tanaka.
 He's Outta Here: 2B Robinson Cano, OF Curtis Granderson, 3B Alex Rodriguez, 3B Kevin Youkilis, DH Travis Hafner, OF-DH Vernon Wells, 1B-3B Mark Reynolds, 1B Lyle Overbay, C Chris Stewart, RHP Mariano Rivera, LHP Andy Pettitte, RHP Joba Chamberlain, LHP Boone Logan, RHP Phil Hughes.
 Going campin': When the Yankees lose 10 more games than they did the previous season and miss out on the playoffs for just the second time in 19 years, they don't sit still, they reload. Setting aside the desire to get payroll below the \$189 million luxury tax threshold, managing partner Hal Steinbrenner went on a spending spree not seen in New York since the Bronx Bombers missed the playoffs in 2008. Back then, the Yankees spent \$423.5 million in the offseason and won their 27th World Series championship the next season. They topped that this winter. Including the \$20 million fee paid to Tanaka's Japanese team, the Yankees committed \$471 million on free agents. But will adding stars such as Ellsbury, Beltran, McCann and Tanaka to fill glaring holes on an aging roster be enough to overcome some significant issues? Rodriguez is suspended for the season and New York has not found a marquee replacement at third base. Cano, the club's top hitter the past several seasons, left for Seattle. Derek Jeter played only 17 games last year after breaking his leg in the 2012 playoffs. He is set to be the starting shortstop in the year he will turn 40. Just before camp opened, Jeter revealed his plans to retire after the season. So he'll be on a farewell tour around the majors similar to the one Rivera relished last year. Mark Teixeira is returning from a wrist injury, CC Sabathia is coming off his worst season

(14-13, 4.78 ERA) and Pettitte has retired. Even with the addition of Tanaka, who was 24-0 in the regular season for Ratuken in 2013, the Yankees still need a fifth starter.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Manager: John Gibbons (second season). 2013: 74-88, fifth place.
 Training Town: Dunedin
 Park: Florida Auto Exchange Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 19/21.
 He's Here: C Erik Kratz, INF Brent Morel, C Dioner Navarro, LHP Rob Rasmussen
 He's Outta Here: C J.P. Arencibia, RHP Mark DeRosa, RHP Josh Johnson, INF Brad Lincoln, LHP Darren Oliver.
 Going campin': Arguably no team in baseball flopped bigger than the Blue Jays in 2013, slumping to the bottom of the AL East after loading up with a pair of huge offseason trades. Rather than retol again, Toronto is taking another shot with a similar lineup. Starting pitching, the supposed strength of last year's team, turned into a sore spot and remains a question mark. Knuckleballer and former Cy Young winner R.A. Dickey heads the staff, with Mark Buehrle behind him and Brandon Morrow among the many rotation candidates returning from injury. What the Blue Jays get from Morrow, Drew Hutchison, Kyle Drabek and J.A. Happ will go a long way toward determining their ability to compete in a division that's deeper than ever. Sluggers Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion, along with former batting champ Jose Reyes, all of whom also missed time with injuries last season, remain Toronto's key offensive cogs. Injuries have helped derail the past two seasons in Toronto. The Blue Jays must stay healthy in 2014 to end baseball's second longest playoff drought, now 21 years.

AMERICAN LEAGUE CENTRAL

DETROIT TIGERS

Manager: Brad Ausmus (first season). 2013: 93-69, first place, lost to Boston in ALCS.
 Training Town: Lakeland
 Park: Joker Marchant Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 14/18.

He's Here: RHP Joba Chamberlain, OF Rajai Davis, 2B Ian Kinsler, LHP Ian Krol, INF Steve Lombardozzi, RHP Joe Nathan.
 He's Outta Here: Manager Jim Leyland, RHP Joaquin Benoit, 1B Prince Fielder, RHP Doug Fister, 2B Omar Infante, C Brayan Pena, SS Jhonny Peralta, RHP Jose Veras.
 Going campin': The Tigers have never made the postseason four straight years, but they look like favorites to do just that after winning a third consecutive AL Central title in 2013. Of course, this team already looks a good bit different from last season's. Leyland stepped down following Detroit's playoff loss to Boston and was replaced by Ausmus, who takes over a star-studded roster that still includes the winners of the last three AL MVP Awards (Miguel Cabrera and Justin Verlander) and two of the last three Cy Young Awards (Max Scherzer and Verlander). Cabrera was hobbled down the stretch last season but is expected to be ready for spring training after offseason surgery. Verlander has also been on the mend after core muscle repair surgery in January, and his progress will be a major story during spring training as he tries to get ready for the start of the season. The Tigers traded Fielder for Kinsler and signed Nathan to replace Benoit. They also traded Fister, opening a spot in the rotation for LHP Drew Smyly, who was impressive in relief last year. Detroit might not hit

as many homers, but the Tigers should be improved defensively. It remains to be seen whether they'll be any better overall than last season — they might not have to be to win another division championship.

CLEVELAND INDIANS

Manager: Terry Francona (second season). 2013: 92-70, second place, lost wild-card game to Tampa Bay.
 Training Town: Goodyear, Ariz.
 Park: Goodyear Ballpark.
 First Workout: Feb. 15/17.
 He's Here: RHP John Axford, OF David Murphy, LHP Josh Outman, RHP Shaun Marcum, OF Jeff Francoeur, OF Nyjer Morgan, RHP David Aardsma, RHP Kyle Davies.
 He's Outta Here: RHP Chris Perez, RHP Ubaldo Jimenez, RHP Joe Smith, LHP Scott Kazmir, OF Drew Stubbs, RHP Matt Albers, LHP Rich Hill, OF Jason Kubel, C Lou Marson.
 Goin' campin': Francona's arrival — along with the signings of Nick Swisher, Michael Bourn and Jason Giambi as free agents — propelled the Indians into the postseason for the first time since 2007. They lost the one-game playoff to Tampa Bay, but a small sampling of October has the club craving more in 2014. To get back, Cleveland must remodel its bullpen from front to back. Axford, who had 46 saves for Milwaukee in 2011, must rebound from two rough seasons. The emergence of catcher Yan Gomes (Indians were 49-30 when he started) could move Carlos Santana to third. The Indians are counting on young pitchers Danny Salazar, Zach McAllister and Corey Kluber to step up and round out their rotation. Jimenez remains unsigned and could resurface in



GENE J. PUSKAR / AP

Detroit pitcher Max Scherzer, right, Drew VerHagen, center, and Robbie Ray, left, warm up on Friday's first day of spring training in Lakeland.

Cleveland. Shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera was dangled as trade bait during the offseason and must shake off an inconsistent 2013 because the Indians have prospect Francisco Lindor waiting in the wings.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS

Manager: Ned Yost (fifth season). 2013: 86-76, third place.
 Training Town: Surprise, Ariz.
 Park: Surprise Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
 He's Here: LHP Jason Vargas, 2B Omar Infante, RF Norichika Aoki, 3B Danny Valencia, C Ramon Hernandez, RHP Jon Rauch, RHP Brad Penny, RHP Guillermo Mota.

He's Outta Here: RHP Ervin Santana, LHP Will Smith, 2B Chris Getz, RF David Lough, C George Kottaras, 3B Irving Falu, RHP Felipe Paulino, RHP Luis Mendoza, 3B Jamey Carroll.
 Going campin': The Royals will have a record payroll of more than \$90 million this season, but the money was well spent. They upgraded at second base with Infante and right field with Aoki, and signed Vargas to help solidify the rotation. The biggest race in camp remains among their starting pitchers, though. Flame-throwing RHP Yordano Ventura, injury-plagued LHP Danny Duffy and fast-rising RHP Kyle Zimmer will be trying to secure one of two spots up for grabs. RHPs Wade

Davis and Luke Hochevar are also in the race. Meanwhile, 3B Mike Moustakas must prove a miserable last season (.233/.287/.364) was an aberration. Valencia and versatile INF Emilio Bonifacio are waiting in the wings in the former No. 2 overall draft pick struggles again.

MINNESOTA TWINS

Manager: Ron Gardenhire (13th season). 2013: 66-96, fourth place.
 Training Town: Fort Myers
 Park: Hammond Stadium at Lee County Sports Complex.
 First Workout: Feb. 17/22.
 He's Here: RHP Ricky Nolasco, RHP Phil Hughes, C Kurt Suzuki, OF Jason Kubel, RHP Matt Guerrier, SS Jason Bartlett.
 He's Outta Here: C Ryan Doumit, RHP Josh Roenicke, RHP Andrew Albers, LHP Pedro Hernandez, OF Cleto Thomas, OF Wilkin Ramirez, RHP Liam Hendriks, RHP P.J. Walters.
 Going campin': The Twins averaged 97 losses over the last three seasons, but general manager Terry Ryan took the blame. This winter, he gave Gardenhire a new two-year contract and aggressively tried to upgrade the starting pitching. Joe Mauer's move to first base ought to keep him on the field more, which should help a lagging lineup. So would a bounce-back season from Josh Willingham, who dropped from a .260 batting average, 35 homers and 110 RBIs in 2012 to .208, 14 and 48 while dealing with knee trouble. Despite Minnesota's hitting deficiencies, starting pitching is where Ryan had to start. With free agents Nolasco, Hughes and Mike Pelfrey (who was re-signed after a rough year following reconstructive elbow surgery) to go with holdover Kevin Correia,

the Twins will pay their top four starters \$31 million, a franchise-high. Twins starters last season had the worst collective ERA in the majors (5.26), almost a half-run higher than the next-closest team. As for Ryan, he'll miss at least the start of spring training for treatment of cancer recently found in his neck.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

Manager: Robin Ventura (third season). 2013: 63-99, fifth place.
 Training Town: Glendale, Ariz.
 Park: Camelback Ranch.
 First Workout: Feb. 15/20.
 He's Here: 1B Jose Abreu, OF Adam Eaton, LHP Scott Downs, LHP Eric Surkamp, RHP Ronald Belisario.
 He's Outta Here: RHP Addison Reed, INF Brent Morel.
 Going campin': The White Sox made a pitch for Japanese star Masahiro Tanaka and came up short. Even so, they believe they can turn things around rather quickly after last season's collapse. One reason for that — their pitching. Tanaka and Chris Sale might have been a dominant tandem at the top of the rotation, but the White Sox believe they have enough arms with Jose Quintana, John Danks and Erik Johnson in the mix. The big question is, can they generate enough offense? They signed Abreu to a six-year, \$68 million deal, hoping he could boost an offense that scored the fewest runs in the American League and hit only 148 homers. They will also have a full year with OF Avisail Garcia after acquiring him from Detroit in the midseason deal that sent Jake Peavy to Boston. And they're committed to Ventura as their manager after he agreed to a multiyear contract extension.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Manager: Bob Melvin (fourth season). 2013: 96-66, first place, lost to Detroit in division series.
 Training Town: Phoenix
 Park: Phoenix Municipal Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 15/20.
 He's Here: LHP Scott Kazmir, RHP Jim Johnson, RHP Luke Gregerson, LHP Eric O'Flaherty, INF Nick Punto, OF Craig Gentry, LHP Drew Pomeranz, OF Sam Fuld, RHP Josh Lindblom.
 He's Outta Here: RHP Bartolo Colon, RHP Grant Balfour, LHP Brett Anderson, LHP Jerry Blevins, OF Chris Young, OF Seth Smith, C Kurt Suzuki, RHP Pat Neshek, OF Michael Choice.
 Going campin': The low-budget A's surprised their big-spending rivals in the AL West for a second straight season on the way to another division title. But they lost once again in a five-game division series against Detroit. GM Billy Beane spent much of his offseason improving one of the team's strengths, the bullpen. Despite finishing third in the AL with a 3.22 ERA on the relievers, the A's switched closers by acquiring Johnson (101 saves past two seasons) in a trade from Baltimore and letting Balfour leave as a free agent. Beane also added Gregerson (2.71 ERA in 2013) and O'Flaherty (1.45 ERA last three seasons) to a group that returns Ryan Cook, Sean Doolittle and Dan Otero. Kazmir (\$22 million for two years) got the biggest offseason contract and replaces 18-game winner Colon. Sonny Gray should spend the whole season in the

rotation after his dazzling nine-strikeout, no-run performance in Game 2 of the ALDS. Oakland is counting on repeat big seasons from 3B Josh Donaldson (24 HRs, 93 RBIs) and 1B Brandon Moss (30 HRs, 87 RBIs).

TEXAS RANGERS

Manager: Ron Washington (eighth season). 2013: 91-72, second place.
 Training Town: Surprise, Ariz.
 Park: Surprise Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 17/19.
 He's Here: 1B Prince Fielder, LF Shin-Soo Choo, C J.P. Arencibia, OF Michael Choice.
 He's Outta Here: Closer Joe Nathan, 2B Ian Kinsler, RF Nelson Cruz, C A.J. Pierzynski, RHP Matt Garza, 1B/DH Lance Berkman, CF Craig Gentry, OF David Murphy, INF Jeff Baker.
 Going campin': After missing the playoffs for the first time in four years, Texas started the offseason with a rare trade of All-Stars, sending Kinsler to Detroit for Fielder. Choo will lead off after a free-agent deal for seven years, the same amount of time left on Fielder's contract. Fielder provided protection for MVP winners the last three seasons, but now will bat between Elvis Andrus and Adrian Beltre. Only Mike Trout (564) and two-time AL MVP Miguel Cabrera (562) reached base more than Choo (556) and Fielder (542) the last two seasons. Yu Darvish, who led majors with 277 strikeouts and was second in AL Cy Young Award voting, has recovered from nerve inflammation in his

lower back that bothered him the last six weeks of season. Last year's opening day starter, Matt Harrison, should return after two back operations but Derek Holland could miss half the season with a knee injury after being tripped by his dog on stairs at his home. As for a new closer, Texas has two former All-Star closers in Neftali Feliz and Joakim Soria. But both were limited last season after Tommy John ligament replacement surgery in 2012.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS

Manager: Mike Scioscia (15th season). 2013: 78-84, third place.
 Training Town: Tempe, Ariz.
 Park: Tempe Diablo Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
 He's Here: 3B David Freese, LHP Tyler Skaggs, LHP Hector Santiago, DH Raul Ibanez, RHP Joe Smith, INF John McDonald, 1B Carlos Pena, LHP Mark Mulder.
 He's Outta Here: OF Peter Bourjos, DH Mark Trumbo, LHP Jason Vargas, RHP Jerome Williams, RHP Tommy Hanson.
 Going campin': After their worst season in a decade, the big-budget Angels are exercising financial restraint and hoping for bounce-back seasons from their biggest bats to return to the playoffs. General manager Jerry Dipoto filled the Angels' hole at third base with former World Series star Freese and retooled his faltering rotation with two cost-effective young lefties, Skaggs and Santiago. The Angels lost young talents Trumbo and Bourjos in the deals, but they're counting on Albert Pujols and Josh Hamilton to earn their enormous paychecks

in the heart of their order behind Mike Trout. The bullpen also improved with Smith's arrival. After poor starts in the past few seasons put the Angels in an inescapable hole, a good April will be a key to job security for Scioscia, the longest-tenured manager in baseball.

SEATTLE MARINERS

Manager: Lloyd McClendon (first season). 2013: 71-91, fourth place.
 Training Town: Peoria, Ariz.
 Park: Peoria Sports Complex.
 First Workout: Feb. 13/17.
 He's Here: 2B Robinson Cano, OF Corey Hart, OF Logan Morrison, C John Buck, IF-OF Willie Bloomquist, RHP Scott Baker.
 He's Outta Here: Manager Eric Wedge, OF Raul Ibanez, DH Kendrys Morales, SS Brendan Ryan.
 Going campin': Seattle grabbed the headlines in the offseason with its \$240 million, 10-year commitment to 2B Robinson Cano and then with the acquisitions of Corey Hart and Logan Morrison. If all three can perform up to their capabilities, Seattle may finally have a legitimate offense to complement a strong top to its rotation with Felix Hernandez and Hisashi Iwakuma. The questions for Seattle have to do with the rest of its rotation. The Mariners would like another veteran for the No. 3 spot and it could be Baker if he's healthy. Then comes the battle for the final two spots with youngsters Taijuan Walker, James Paxton, Erasmo Ramirez and Brandon Maurer all in the running.



TONY GUTIERREZ / AP

Seattle pitchers, from left, Danny Farquhar, Mark Rogers, Bobby LaFromboise and Charlie Furbush, right, run drills during Friday's spring training workout in Peoria, Ariz.

HOUSTON ASTROS

Manager: Bo Porter (second season). 2013: 51-111, fifth place.
 Training Town: Kissimmee
 Park: Osceola County Stadium.
 First Workout: Feb. 16/20.
 He's Here: RHP Scott Feldman, CF Dexter Fowler, RHP Jesse Crain, RHP Jerome Williams, RHP Chad Qualls, RHP Matt Albers, 1B Jesus Guzman, SS Cesar Izturis, LHP Raul Valdes, LHP Darin Downs, OF Adron Chambers.
 He's Outta Here: LHP Erik Bedard, CF Brandon Barnes, RHP Jordan Lyles, RHP Philip Humber, OF Trevor Crowe.

Going campin': The Astros fielded a team with an MLB-low payroll under \$30 million last season and finished with a franchise-record 111 losses for their third straight 100-loss season. Now that they've restocked their once-barren farm system, they've started spending money to add pieces to pair with their up-and-coming players and should be better in 2014. Their most notable offseason addition was Feldman, who signed a three-year, \$30 million contract to lead the rotation. They also boosted their dreadful bullpen by signing All-Star reliever Crain, along with Qualls, Albers and Williams.

National League Spring Training Capsules

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

ATLANTA BRAVES

Manager: Fredi Gonzalez (fourth season).
2013: 96-66, first place, lost to Dodgers in division series.
Training Town: Kissimmee
Park: Champion Stadium.
First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
He's Here: RHP Gavin Floyd, C Ryan Doumit, 1B Mat Gamel, 2B Tyler Greene.
He's Outta Here: RHP Tim Hudson, C Brian McCann, LHP Paul Maholm, LHP Eric O'Flaherty, SS Paul Janish, 2B Elliot Johnson, RHP Christian Martinez, LHP Sean Gilmartin.
Going campin': Dan Uggla and B.J. Upton, a pair of high-priced players who hit below .200 and lost their starting jobs in 2013, will be in the spotlight this spring. Upton batted .184 but is expected to begin the season back in center field. Uggla has two years and \$26 million remaining on his contract, but his status at 2B is less certain after he hit .179 — his third straight season under .240. Tommy La Stella is a young player to watch in the second base competition. Evan Gattis, who hit 21 homers as a rookie, replaces McCann, a seven-time All-Star, as the starting catcher. Gattis also played LF and 1B in 2013 and must show he can handle the everyday job behind the plate. RHP Brandon Beachy could boost the rotation by showing he has fully recovered from elbow ligament-replacement surgery and a follow-up procedure to clean up the elbow. LHP Alex Wood and RHP Freddy Garcia will lead the competition for the final spot in the rotation.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Manager: Matt Williams (first season).
2013: 86-76, second place.
Training Town: Viera
Park: Space Coast Stadium.
First Workout: Feb. 15/20.
He's Here: RHP Doug Fister, OF Nate



ALEX BRANDON / AP

Atlanta pitcher Gavin Floyd throws as manager Fredi Gonzalez, right, watches during Thursday's spring training workout in Kissimmee.

McLouth, LHP Jerry Blevins, INF Jamey Carroll, RHP Luis Ayala, C Chris Snyder, C Koyie Hill, RHP Manny Delcarmen.
He's Outta Here: Manager Davey Johnson, RHP Dan Haren, INF Chad Tracy, LHP Fernando Abad.
Going campin': It will be worth watching what sort of effect the change from the lame-duck Johnson to the fiery Williams has on the Nationals, who went from the best record in the majors in 2012 to missing the playoffs in 2013. Williams promises to add an emphasis on defensive positioning, and when he was hired by Washington after being Arizona's third base coach, he even brought along an extra coach to oversee that part of the game. Two big keys for the Nationals will be the health of young stars Bryce Harper and Stephen Strasburg, a pair

of No. 1 draft picks who are coming off offseason surgery. The lineup is expected to be mostly the same as last season, with the only real competition expected at 2B between Anthony Rendon and Danny Espinosa. Also to keep an eye on: How much time will 3B Ryan Zimmerman get at first base, where the team plans to give him some at-bats this season? GM Mike Rizzo upgraded an already strong rotation by trading for Fister, who joins Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez and 19-game winner Jordan Zimmermann.

NEW YORK METS

Manager: Terry Collins (fourth season).
2013: 74-88, third place.
Training Town: Port St. Lucie

Park: Tradition Field.
First Workout: Feb. 17/22.
He's Here: OF Curtis Granderson, RHP Bartolo Colon, OF Chris Young, RHP Kyle Farnsworth, RHP Jose Valverde, LHP John Lannan, 1B Brandon Allen, C Taylor Teagarden, RHP Ryan Reid, 1B Matt Clark.
He's Outta Here: RHP LaTroy Hawkins, LHP Johan Santana, INF Justin Turner, RHP Aaron Harang, OF Mike Baxter, RHP Frank Francisco, RHP David Aardsma, RHP Scott Atchison, OF 2B Jordany Valdespin, LHP Robert Carson, LHP Pedro Feliciano, LHP Tim Lincecum.
Going campin': After three years of bargain hunting, GM Sandy Alderson spent more than \$87 million on a trio of free agents this offseason. Granderson and Young finally give the Mets some depth and potential power in the outfield, without sacrificing speed and defense. The beefy Colon, who turns 41 in May, is coming off an All-Star campaign with Oakland that followed a drug suspension. New York gave him a two-year deal, putting Colon at the front of a promising rotation that includes Zack Wheeler, Jon Niese and Dillon Gee. The fifth spot is up for grabs in camp. Lannan and Daisuke Matsuzaka are veteran candidates along with youngsters Jerry Mejia, Rafael Montero and Jacob deGrom. But all eyes will be on top prospect Noah Syndergaard, who could get called up by summer. The strikeout-prone lineup has major question marks at first base and shortstop, positions the Mets were unable to upgrade. Ike Davis and Lucas Duda are back to compete for the 1B job. Light-hitting Ruben Tejada is coming off a broken leg at SS. The bullpen may be full of inexperienced arms, and closer Bobby Parnell is coming off neck surgery. Following five straight losing seasons, the roster has improved. Maybe not enough to contend just yet,

but the Mets expect to make big strides as they wait for All-Star ace Matt Harvey to return from Tommy John surgery in 2015.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

Manager: Ryne Sandberg (first full season).
2013: 73-89, fourth place.
Training Town: Clearwater
Park: Bright House Field.
First Workout: Feb. 13/18.
He's Here: OF Marlon Byrd, RHP Miguel Gonzalez, RHP Roberto Hernandez, RHP Brad Lincoln, C Wil Nieves, RHP Chad Gaudin, OF Bobby Abreu.
He's Outta Here: RHP Roy Halladay, C Erik Kratz, LHP John Lannan.
Going campin': The Phillies are no longer the class of the division after winning five straight NL East titles from 2007-11. They're hoping to make one more run with an aging group of veterans and some potential young stars mixed in. For the first time in nine years, Charlie Manuel won't be around for spring training. Sandberg, a Hall of Fame second baseman, enters his first full season as manager after replacing Manuel last August. Manuel has a front-office job with the Phillies but will join them after they leave Florida. LHP Cole Hamels says he won't be ready by opening day because of left biceps tendinitis. The team has more question marks than answers, but there's potential for success if several players live up to their contracts.

MIAMI MARLINS

Manager: Mike Redmond (second season).
2013: 62-100, fifth place.
Training Town: Jupiter
Park: Roger Dean Stadium.
First Workout: Feb. 16/20.
He's Here: C Jarrod Saltalamacchia,

1B-OF Garrett Jones, 2B Rafael Furcal, 3B Casey McGehee, INF-OF Jeff Baker, RHP Carter Capps, OF Brian Bogusevic, 3B Ty Wigington.
He's Outta Here: 1B Logan Morrison, 3B Placido Polanco, OF Juan Pierre, OF Justin Ruggiano, RHP Ryan Webb, RHP Chad Qualls, INF-OF Chris Coghlan, OF-1B Austin Kearns.
Going campin': The Marlins will spend spring training trying to figure out how to hit. They finished last in the majors in 2013 in most of the significant offensive categories, including slugging percentage, on-base percentage, runs and homers. They scored fewer runs than the Marlins' 1993 expansion team. They ranked last in the majors in slugging at three positions — catcher, first base and third base — and next to last in left field. Feeble offense was the reason Miami lost 100 games, finished last in the NL East for the third consecutive season and missed the playoffs for the 10th year in a row. Mike Hill replaced Larry Beinfest as president of baseball operations, but because the payroll remains small, Hill could afford only modest changes to the roster. Newcomers such as Saltalamacchia, Jones, Furcal and McGehee are expected to start at positions where Miami's run production ranked among the worst in the majors, but it's uncertain whether any of them will represent a significant upgrade. OFs Christian Yelich and Marcell Ozuna are front-runners for starting jobs after strong rookie seasons. The young pitching rotation has abundant promise, led by NL Rookie of the Year Jose Fernandez and Henderson Alvarez, who threw a no-hitter on the final day of the season. Another youngster, top prospect Andrew Heaney, could join the rotation soon if he has a strong spring. 3B Colin Moran, the team's first-round draft pick in 2013 out of North Carolina, might also join the big club at some point this season.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Manager: Mike Matheny (third season).
2013: 97-65, first place, lost World Series to Boston.
Training Town: Jupiter
Park: Roger Dean Stadium.
First Workout: Feb. 13/18.
He's Here: SS Johnny Peralta, CF Peter Bourjos, INF Mark Ellis, OF Randall Grichuk, OF Oscar Taveras, RHP Jorge Rondon, assistant batting coach David Bell.
He's Outta Here: OF Carlos Beltran, 3B David Freese, RHP Edward Mujica, RHP Chris Carpenter, RHP Jake Westbrook, OF Adron Chambers, OF Brock Peterson, RHP Fernando Salas, RHP John Axford, INF Ryan Jackson.
Going campin': Coming off their second World Series appearance in three years, the Cardinals didn't require a significant makeover. Peralta fills the biggest void, replacing the light-hitting combination of Pete Kozma and Daniel Descalso. The Cardinals love Bourjos' speed on the bases and in the field, and he enters camp as the starting CF ahead of incumbent Jon Jay. The Bourjos trade with the Angels for Freese also created an opening for rookie 2B Kolten Wong, among the team's top prospects, with Matt Carpenter moving to 3B coming off a breakout year. After missing 2013 due to reconstructive elbow surgery, Jason Motte returns to the bullpen as a setup man for closer Trevor Rosenthal. There's a surplus of starting rotation candidates led by 19-game winner Adam Wainwright, second in Cy Young Award balloting. Michael Wacha is coming off an electric finish to his debut season, fellow rookie Shelby Miller won 15 games before getting shut down during the postseason and lefty Jaime Garcia

is back from shoulder surgery.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

Manager: Clint Hurdle (fourth season).
2013: 94-68, second place, wild card, lost to Cardinals in division series.
Training Town: Bradenton
Park: McKechnie Field.
First Workout: Feb. 13/18.
He's Here: RHP Edinson Volquez, C Chris Stewart, OF Jaff Decker, LHP Daniel Schlereth, 1B Travis Ishikawa, OF Chris Dickerson.
He's Outta Here: RHP A.J. Burnett, RF Marlon Byrd, 1B Justin Morneau, 1B-OF Garrett Jones, C Michael McKenry, OF Felix Pie, RHP Kyle Farnsworth.
Going campin': The franchise's first playoff berth in 21 years did little to change Pittsburgh's typically economical approach to free agency. The only major addition came in the form of Volquez, and the Pirates will try to turn him into the 2014 version of Francisco Liriano. Pittsburgh grabbed Liriano on the cheap last winter and he ended up winning 16 games and earning a handful of Cy Young votes. The rest of the signees were depth-related. The loss of Burnett will hurt, though the top of the rotation should be solid behind Liriano and Gerrit Cole, who was remarkable during his rookie season. Volquez is in the mix for the fifth spot, while the bullpen should look much the same as it did last season when Mark Melancon and Jason Grilli provided one of the best setup-closer combinations in baseball. The only real question marks as camp begins remain the ones Pittsburgh faced when last season ended: first base and right field. Gaby Sanchez and Andrew Lambo will likely platoon at first, while Jose Tabata and Travis Snider

NATIONAL LEAGUE CENTRAL



JEFF ROBERSON / AP

St. Louis' Jason Motte stretches with teammates during Thursday's spring training workout in Jupiter.

get one last shot to earn a big league spot in right as highly touted Gregory Polanco gets some needed seasoning with Triple-A Indianapolis. Polanco and former first-round pick Jameson Taillon — who could join the rotation sometime in 2014 — will start camp with the big league club and provide a glimpse of why Pittsburgh decided to double down on its thriving minor league system rather than open up the checkbook for free agents.

CINCINNATI REDS

Manager: Bryan Price (first season).
2013: 90-72, third place, lost wild-card game to Pirates.
Training Town: Goodyear, Ariz.
Park: Goodyear Ballpark.

First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
He's Here: 2B-OF Skip Schumaker, C Brayton Pena.
He's Outta Here: Manager Dusty Baker, CF Shin-Soo Choo, RHP Bronson Arroyo, C Ryan Hanigan.
Going campin': The Reds made very few additions to their roster, which had a few notable losses. Arroyo left as a free agent, costing the rotation a dependable, 200-inning starter. Choo was one of the majors' top leadoff hitters last season, but wanted a big, multi-year deal. And Hanigan was part of a three-team trade that brought the Reds a prospect and opened the way for Devin Mesoraco to become the everyday catcher. LHP Tony Cingrani will move into Arroyo's spot. Touted speedster

Billy Hamilton takes over Choo's spot at the top of the order despite his lack of experience at the major league level and newness to playing the outfield. The Reds are counting on LF Ryan Ludwick — their cleanup hitter — to be fully recovered from a shoulder injury that wiped out more than half of his season last year. The Reds have made the playoffs in three of the last four years, but failed to get past the opening round each time. They elevated Price, their pitching coach, in hopes that a change at the top trickles down in the postseason.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Manager: Ron Roenicke (fourth season).
2013: 74-88, fourth place.
Training Town: Maryvale, Ariz.
Park: Maryvale Baseball Park.
First Workout: Feb. 17/22.
He's Here: RHP Matt Garza, 1B Lyle Overbay, 3B-1B Mark Reynolds, LHP Zach Duke, LHP Will Smith.
He's Outta Here: 1B-OF Corey Hart, OF Norichika Aoki, RHP Chris Narveson, INF Yuniesky Betancourt, RHP Burke Badenhop, 1B Mat Gamel.
Going campin': The Brewers spiced up an otherwise quiet offseason with the surprise signing of Garza to a \$50 million, four-year contract with an option for a fifth year. He joins Yovani Gallardo and Kyle Lohse to form a solid top of the rotation, while lessening pressure on Wily Peralta and increasing the competition for the fifth spot. Young pitchers like Smith and Jimmy Nelson may be among the candidates. Milwaukee will have a familiar face in a new position when slugger Ryan Braun returns from his 65-game suspension for performance-enhancing drugs and gets acquainted to right field after years in left. Braun has

tried to make amends all through the offseason. He says he's also over the thumb injury that set him back last season, and vows to come back as good as ever. Milwaukee also hopes to get clarity in camp with its muddled situation at 1B, where veterans Overbay and Reynolds were signed to minor league deals to help fill a huge offensive hole.

CHICAGO CUBS

Manager: Rick Renteria (first season).
2013: 66-96, fifth place.
Training Town: Mesa, Ariz.
Park: Cubs Park.
First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
He's Here: RHP Jose Veras, LHP Wesley Wright, C George Kottaras, OF Justin Ruggiano.
He's Outta Here: Manager Dale Sveum, OF Brian Bogusevic, RHP Marcos Mateo.
Going campin': The offseason was defined more by what the Cubs didn't do than what they did. They fired Sveum and struck out trying to land manager Joe Girardi. He decided to stick with the Yankees, and when it came to the pursuit of prized Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka, Chicago again was the second city with New York prevailing. Signing Tanaka might have at least signaled the Cubs were accelerating a painful rebuilding effort. Either way, they're hoping Renteria can get the most out of young players such as SS Starlin Castro and 1B Anthony Rizzo after they struggled last season. In the meantime, Chicago is waiting for top prospects such as Kris Bryant, Jorge Soler, Javier Baez and Albert Almora to develop in the minors. For now, the Cubs are selling hope. What choice do they have? They haven't had a winning season since 2009, when they won 83 games under Lou Piniella.

NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

Manager: Don Mattingly (fourth season).
2013: 92-70, first place, lost to Cardinals in NLCS.
Training Town: Glendale, Ariz.
Park: Camelback Ranch.
First Workouts: Feb. 9/14.
He's Here: RHP Dan Haren, RHP Chris Perez, 2B Alexander Guerrero, RHP Jamey Wright, RHP Seth Rosin, INF Chone Figgins.
He's Outta Here: 2B Mark Ellis, 2B-OF Skip Schumaker, INF Nick Punto, RHP Edinson Volquez, RHP Ricky Nolasco, RHP Ronald Belisario, 3B Jerry Hairston Jr., INF Michael Young, LHP Chris Capuano, RHP Carlos Marmol.
Going campin': The big-budget Dodgers had a mostly quiet offseason — at least in terms of additions. Their biggest acquisition was Haren, who got a \$10 million, one-year deal. He'll compete for a spot in a deep rotation that features Clayton Kershaw, Zack Greinke and Hyun-Jin Ryu in the top three spots. RHPs Josh Beckett and Chad Billingsley will try to bounce back from surgeries. Kershaw, coming off his second Cy Young Award at age 25, received a \$215 million, seven-year contract that makes him baseball's richest pitcher. CF Matt Kemp had two operations during the offseason and likely won't be ready in time for the early season opener in Australia against Arizona. With Ellis gone, Guerrero will try to earn the starting job at second base. Another Cuban, Yasiel Puig, will command attention as he tries to follow up his stellar rookie season while facing questions about

his maturity after an offseason arrest for speeding.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

Manager: Kirk Gibson (fourth season).
2013: 81-81, second place.
Training Town: Scottsdale, Ariz.
Park: Salt River Fields.
First Workouts: Feb. 7/12.
He's Here: OF Mark Trumbo, RHP Bronson Arroyo, RHP Addison Reed, OF Matt Tuiasosopo.
He's Outta Here: OF Adam Eaton, LHP Tyler Skaggs, 3B Matt Davidson, RHP Heath Bell, SS Willie Bloomquist, C Wil Nieves.
Going Campin': After consecutive .500 seasons, the Diamondbacks decided some power was needed to protect star 1B Paul Goldschmidt. So they acquired Trumbo from the Angels in a three-team trade that sent Eaton to the White Sox and Skaggs to the Angels. Trumbo hit 34 home runs last season. After Goldschmidt clocked 36, no other Arizona player had more than 14. Looking to add a front-line starter, GM Kevin Towers signed Arroyo to a \$23.5 million, two-year contract as camp opened. One of the biggest stories this spring will be the competition at shortstop, where incumbent Didi Gregorius was superb on defense but faded at the plate last season. Chris Owings, just 22, hit .330 at Triple-A Reno before a late-season call-up. Veteran infielder Cliff Pennington can back up both at SS and 2B. Another issue is whether top pitching prospect Archie Bradley will make the opening day roster. The seventh overall

pick in the 2011 draft, the hard-throwing 21-year-old has soared through the farm system.

SAN DIEGO PADRES

Manager: Bud Black (eighth season).
2013: 76-86, tied for third place.
Training Town: Peoria, Ariz.
Park: Peoria Stadium.
First Workout: Feb. 14/19.
He's Here: RHP Josh Johnson, RHP Joaquin Benoit, LHP Alex Torres, OF Seth Smith, SS Ryan Jackson, LHP Patrick Schuster.
He's Outta Here: RHP Luke Gregerson, INF Logan Forsythe, INF-OF Jesus Guzman, OF Mark Kotsay.
Going campin': With the lineup and rotation pretty much set, the main competition during spring training will be for a few spots in the bullpen. The Padres hope their rotation can carry them to better results than the last three seasons, when they lost 91, 86 and 86 games. The rotation is expected to be Andrew Cashner, Ian Kennedy, Tyson Ross, Johnson and Eric Stults. The Padres are also keeping their fingers crossed that they can come out of spring training healthy and get off to a fast start rather than the slow starts that doomed them the last few years. LF Carlos Quentin had surgery on his right knee late last season, the third operation on that knee in 18 months, and said his legs feel good going into camp, an improvement over how he felt a year ago. C Yasmani Grandal continues to rehab from reconstructive knee surgery after being hurt in a collision at the plate in July. San Diego already had a setback

when it was announced that LHP Cory Luebke needs a second reconstructive elbow surgery and will miss the 2014 season.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Manager: Bruce Bochy (eighth season).
2013: 76-86, tied for third place.
Training Town: Scottsdale, Ariz.
Park: Scottsdale Stadium.
First Workout: Feb. 15/19.
He's Here: RHP Tim Lincecum, OF Michael Morse, RHP Cameron Loe, RHP David Huff, LHP Dontrelle Willis.
He's Outta Here: LHP Barry Zito, OF Andres Torres, RHP Chad Gaudin, LHP Jose Mijares, OF Brett Pill, RHP Guillermo Moscoso, RHP Sandy Rosario.
Going campin': The Giants narrowly avoided becoming the second team to go from a World Series title to last place, beating out Colorado by two games last season. The pitching staff that anchored the club during its run of two championships in three seasons faltered last year, finishing 13th in the NL with a 4.00 ERA. Madison Bumgarner was the only consistent starter as Matt Cain, Tim Lincecum and Ryan Vogelsong all struggled at times. The Giants re-signed Lincecum and Vogelsong after their down years, hoping they can rebound. Hudson, coming off a broken right ankle that cut his 2013 season short with Atlanta, should also help fortify the rotation. Morse provides a needed power bat in left field with 13 home runs in 312 at-bats last season, compared to a major league-low five homers by San Francisco's left fielders in 2013.



PAUL SANCYA / AP

Los Angeles Dodgers manager Don Mattingly, left, listens to pitcher Josh Beckett after a spring training workout on Monday in Glendale, Ariz.

COLORADO ROCKIES

Manager: Walt Weiss (second season).
2013: 74-88, fifth place.
Training Town: Scottsdale, Ariz.
Park: Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.
First Workout: Feb. 17/23.
He's Here: LHP Brett Anderson, RHP LaTroy Hawkins, LHP Boone Logan, LHP Franklin Morales, RHP Jordan Lyles, OF Brandon Barnes, 1B Justin Morneau, OF Drew Stubbs.
He's Outta Here: 1B Todd Helton, INF Jonathan Herrera, OF Dexter Fowler, LHP Josh Outman, LHP Jeff Francis, RHP Rafael Betancourt, RHP Roy Oswalt, C Yorvit Torrealba, LHP Drew Pomeranz.
Going campin': The Rockies were quite

active this offseason, making several splashy trades and signing Morneau to take over at 1B for the retired Helton. Morneau doesn't view it as filling Helton's cleats, though, because Helton is "irreplaceable," the impact he had in the clubhouse," Morneau explained. Helton hung 'em up after 17 seasons in the Mile High City as the team's career leader in virtually every offensive category. The biggest area the Rockies shored up over the winter was their pitching staff, adding a starter in Anderson and bolstering the bullpen by signing Hawkins and Logan. They also reacquired Morales in a deal with Boston.

OUR VOICE

Bring back full Lynx bus service

The reappearance of Lynx buses on the streets of south Lake County in recent weeks has been a welcome sight for those who depend on mass transit for their livelihoods.

Many residents in this area work in neighboring counties and count on these buses to ferry them to jobs in Orange and Osceola counties. Without them, some may be relegated needlessly to the unemployment line.

Lynx had discontinued service some time ago between south Lake and those counties but brought it back at the behest of the Lake County Commission, which agreed in October to shoulder some of the cost.

But when the service returned in January, riders discovered that Lynx was offering just eight round-trips a day instead of the 16 it had offered previously. Further, the last trip was at 6:15 p.m., which meant some commuters who worked late had to scramble for a way home.

County commissioners, responding to the anger of their constituents, said this wasn't what they bargained for. They called for Lynx officials to restore the full service — 16 trips a day, both day and night.

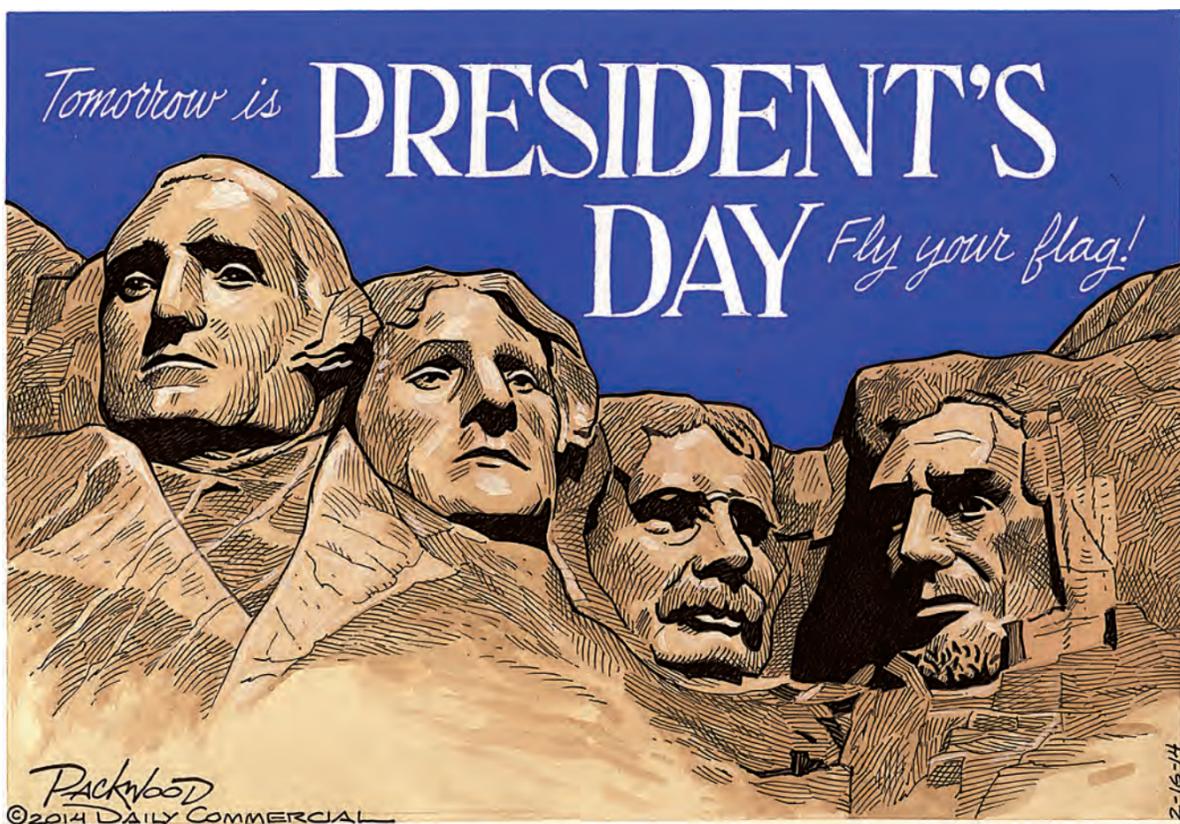
We concur.

Mass transit is more than a convenience to those who use it. As Daily Commercial Staff Writer Livi Stanford reported in a recent story about Lynx, for many it is a vital lifeline to shopping, medical appointments and, yes, their jobs.

Many commuters who travel to neighboring counties for work don't have the luxury of working 9 to 5 and require access to bus service late into the evening. Some told us that, without it, they are forced to invest significant percentages of their income on cab fare.

This problem is easy to solve. Lynx should heed the request of the Lake County Commission to restore the full bus service. Certainly, the cost of providing that service is an issue. But between the county, Lynx and the riders themselves — many of whom say they'd be willing to shoulder higher fares if necessary — the cost consideration can be overcome.

Local officials must come together to solve this problem. This is not just about the individual riders. This is about the economic health of a community whose workforce relies partly on neighboring counties for their jobs.



LETTER of the WEEK

Congress no longer works for the people

James Holden (Congress is only working for themselves) got it right. They no longer work for the people.

The solution to the problems of America could be easily solved by simply passing an amendment for term limits. It will have to be voted for by the people because it would never get introduced into either part of Congress. The American people can vote out anything or anyone with a 75 percent popular vote.

There are only 118 members of Congress that served in this great country's military. They have no business running the military. Thirty years ago there were 298. It should be a requirement.

The average age of senators is 62.1 years and in the House of Representatives it is 57.0. There are 38 old enough to go on Social Security. There are two more than 80 years of age.

Imagine getting rid of Rangel, Reid, Pelosi, McCain and all the congressmen and women that are giving away our children's futures by loading up every bill that is introduced with billions in pork to garner re-election votes to extend their careers.



FILE PHOTO

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington.

No one is in Washington anymore with the express purpose of doing what "We the People" want done.

If they could seek office knowing that they could open their mouth and not be threatened by the old established "career" con-

gressmen something just might get done. What a novel idea. Two terms and you sit out the next two. Compensation given based on production. Require them to practice what they pass. Retirement would be earned.

JOHN COHN | Tavares

The Daily Commercial

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If you would like to submit a guest column on a local, state or national issue, email your submission to letters@dailycommercial.com, or mail it to Voices, P.O. Box 490007, Leesburg, FL 34749-0007.

Guest columns should be limited to 550 words in length. The writer also must submit a recent photo to be published with the column, as well as a brief biographical sketch.

THANKS FOR READING THE DAILY COMMERCIAL

YOUR VOICES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dems are misguided

A recent flurry of sycophantic letters selling the credits of the Democratic Party force me from under my cozy rock to point out a single fact that will trump every credit they own — Democrats are the party of state supremacy, which means, the rights of the individual can be trampled by the rights of the state, i.e., "collectivism."

The Founding Fathers framed a Constitution that identifies a Republic founded on rights of the individual over the state, i.e., individualism.

Every Democratic vote supports the rights of the state over the individual and I doubt that's really the way informed Americans want to go.

Zionists? Yes. New World Order supporters? Yes. Loyal Americans, no way.

JOHN WHITAKER | Tavares

Not allowing certain rights is unconstitutional

We are blessed to live in this country of laws where most citizens obey and understand their purpose. Still there are some who fail in understanding and represent some laws to fit their beliefs and desires.

From health care to marriage, some think they should dic-

tate needs, which in reality takes away civil rights from others. We press religious teaching of one sect but fail to understand the effects it might have for people of different beliefs. Although it's difficult to accomplish a fair position on these values, it's still one of the main benefits of being American.

Being an American is more than just enjoying the laws of our nation, but also allowing all others the same position. While some want others to follow their morals and desires, it takes away the freedom of choice for all citizens.

Blocking the ability to marry a loved one or to prevent the choice of family planning for those of varied values is simply unconstitutional and unfair. Our law of freedom of choice is being able to have a choice in the direction you wish to reach.

America is great because of these laws not because some are

prevented from having them.

God bless America.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL | Leesburg

Columnist off base on Obama criticism

In his recent diatribe, Russ Sloan digs down into his deepest pit of hatred for the president.

He states that in his 2008 campaign the president promised to "cut the deficit by half in his first term in office, but the debt grew by \$5 trillion." Well, the fact is the deficit was \$932 billion in fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2008-Sept. 30, 2009, and was \$232 billion in the fiscal year Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013, a decrease of \$700 billion in his first term, which is much more than half.

I would think someone of Sloan's background would know the difference between the deficit, which is the annual amount we are in the red and the national debt, which is the total accumulated amount we are in the red.

It is true the actual debt grew by \$5 trillion, but the deficit was reduced by \$700 billion, so President Obama certainly did keep his promise.

The lengths Sloan will go to try to malign the president, even making blatantly false statements is sad, unless he is truly ignorant of the facts.

MARY O'HANLON | Clermont

CALLING ALL VETERANS



If you know of a veteran living in Lake, Sumter or Marion counties whose name should be added to the Lake County Veterans Memorial, call 352-314-2100, or go to www.lake-veterans.com.

Voices

SUBMIT YOUR OWN GUEST COLUMN: If you would like to submit a guest column on a local, state or national issue, email your submission to letters@dailyccommercial.com, or mail it to Voices, P.O. Box 490007, Leesburg, FL 34749-0007. Guest columns should be limited to 550 words in length. The writer also must submit a recent photograph to be published with the column, as well as a brief biographical sketch.

OTHER VOICES

Misguided applause versus stunned silence

I have watched most all of the televised State of the Union speeches delivered by our presidents. However, the most recent State of the Union speech delivered by President Obama captured a very disturbing moment which I never thought I would see and hear. The president openly vowed to go around congress whenever he deemed it necessary and the Democrats in the congress rose to cheer while the Republicans sat in stunned silence.

Our Founding Fathers went to great lengths to prevent an imperial presidency by creating three separate but equal branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial). Please note, "separate but equal." The erosion of the latter is alarming.

The president has made minimal effort to work with the Republican led House on any major piece of legislation. Now, instead of changing gears as Bill Clinton did when the Republicans were swept into control of the House, he then worked with Speaker Newt Gingrich to pass Welfare Reform a major accomplishment for Americans. Instead of making efforts to work with the congress, President Obama has thrown down the gauntlet of becoming an Imperial President and circumventing congress as much as possible to remake America and congress be damned.

This Executive Order position of the president should not come as a surprise. In 2008 he declared our Constitution as "fundamentally



RUSS SLOAN
GUEST COLUMNIST

flawed". He has always resented that our Constitution grants the majority of the power to the people, not to government. Shortly after the State of the Union address top-ranking Democrat Representative, Shelia Jackson-Lee stated that she and other Democrats will be writing Executive Orders for the president to sign. This abdication of the role of congress is a stunning position and substitutes highly partisan goals in place of adhering to the constitutional role of congress in making laws. Once the laws are passed and signed by the president it is then the president's sworn

oath to 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution' including all of our laws. Yet this president and his appointees have selectively ignored parts of our laws that he and his team don't like including our Immigration laws, Obamacare implementation and selectively ignoring various state laws on gay issues.

I think I can safely predict that had Romney been elected president and then announced that his administration would unilaterally delay the Employer mandate aspect of the Obamacare for a year that immediately senators Chuck Schumer and Harry Reid would have called for Romney's impeachment. Now the president, recognizing the adverse affects Obamacare may have

on Democrats in the 2014 elections, has just granted another year implementation delay to businesses with 50 to 99 employees.

But President Obama knows that he can push Executive Orders to the extreme knowing that short of some absolutely horrific action on his part that Senate Democrats would never vote for impeachment for ignoring congress and governing by fiat.

It is not just governing by Executive Orders we should worry about but also the thousands of governmental rules and regulations generated annually by a sympathetic federal bureaucracy. Look at the EPA regulations that are deliberately designed to wipe out our coal industry or the new relaxed rules on our im-

migration treatment of those asking to come to America who have had past interaction with terrorists. I'm sure some are deserving of entering our country but I cannot trust this administration to make the right call.

Every member of congress should have sat in stunned silence realizing that our president was openly challenging the separation of powers and the equality of all three branches of government. No matter how politically partisan members of congress might be, they should never surrender their constitutional responsibilities to the president via Executive Orders. It was the most sobering and disturbing moment I have seen in my lifetime of watching State of the Union addresses.

OTHER VOICES

Encouraging signs to reform unfair drug sentencing laws

The news from Capitol Hill on Thursday was sobering: House Speaker John Boehner threw cold water on hopes for immigration reform this year. But those who long for smart bipartisanship in Washington need not despair. There is still the Smarter Sentencing Act.

The bill, which cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee last week, would cut minimum sentences in half for many drug offenses. And, important, it would make the reduced crack sentences passed in 2010 retroactive, allowing for the release of thousands now languishing in federal prison under outdated, racially unjust guidelines.

This is not just about fairness. The mandatory-minimum laws passed in the 1980s, at the height of the crack epidemic, are having serious economic consequences today. The federal inmate population has grown eightfold since 1980 to 218,000 today; half are drug offenders. Federal prisons consume about a quarter of the Justice Department budget.

That dual sense of moral obligation and fiscal responsibility is why the Smarter Sentencing Act has such an ideologically diverse base of support.

It was introduced last summer by an unlikely pair (always a good sign): tea party stalwart Mike Lee, R-Utah, and liberal Dick Durbin, D-Ill. A disparate group of senators are supporting it, including Republicans Rand Paul and Ted Cruz and Democrats Patrick Leahy and Carl Levin.

The bill is one of several sentencing and prison reforms that could reverse the upward trend in federal incarcerations.

In December, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, introduced the Federal Prison Reform Act, which aims to increase efficiencies in prisons and reduce recidivism. Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., and Rob Portman, R-Ohio, have proposed a bill aimed at reducing recidivism, and Reps. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho, and Bobby Scott, D-Va., are co-sponsoring the House version of the Smarter Sentencing Act.

Note the commingling of D's and R's in these lists. The return of bipartisanship in the name of common-sense reform is both welcome and overdue.



YOUR VOICES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Schools should teach 'real world' skills

This past weekend, my sister and I had a little "get together" with a few friends. While having a conversation about our education and college, my mother overheard and joined us.

One of the girls expressed concern that she hasn't learned what she needs to know to proceed in college and the "real world." As my mother listened she made plea, "Please learn all you can while you can. If you do not understand something, respectfully ask for help. Do not take teaching and learning for granted."

With that, one of the girls abruptly commented, "I want to learn, but I wish they would teach me something I would actually use in life, like basic life skills." She further commented, "I'd like

to know how to enter into a fair lease agreement or how to prepare for homeownership. Knowing who discovered America is great but it would be nice to know how to keep it." We all nodded in agreement.

Quickly, another commented, "I've been on the honor roll in every grade and it wasn't just given to me. I've earned every letter, every year, but I don't know how to search for a job or how I would prepare for an interview and I'm a senior. I doubt if they'll teach me how before graduation." Another agreed adding, "I know 2+3 (45-23), but I don't know how to open and manage a bank account." Another commented, "I don't know how to pay a bill, but wow, I certainly know how to use Pythagorean Theorem."

School administrators, please teach us what we will actually use in life in

addition to what you are currently teaching us. Regain control of your classroom and bring your enthusiasm.

I will be the first to say that our parents are our first teachers and the school teachers should enforce that teaching but not everyone grew up in the home or environment that I have.

Some students, all they will learn is what they are taught away from home. The lack of certain knowledge could be disastrous to any young adult.

CINDY HUGHES | Lady Lake

Adopt-a-Highway programs don't solve litter problems

Articles bemoaning trash on the roadside and Adopt-a-Highway programs are looking at the problem backwards. Paying county employees to

pick up roadside trash is a problem, too.

How did that trash get there in the first place? Yes, people tossed it out of their cars and trucks. What we need is a program to keep our home clean. Keep Florida Clean, Keep Lake (or Sumter) County Beautiful, Stash your Trash. Well, there are many good possibilities for slogans.

What is wrong is the Adopt-a-Highway program. It carries a message that it is OK to throw trash along the roads.

There is a newly designated Scenic Byway. Keep it clean and scenic. It would be a money-saving program for the county tax dollars. The dollars spent on changing our citizens' mindset would be paid back many times over by not having to clean up all that trash.

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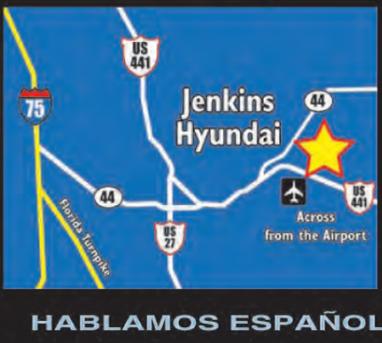
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HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

JOBS: Hardships persist for long-term unemployed / **E3**

Bay Area startups in forefront of new space race

PATRICK MAY
San Jose Mercury News

Prepare yourselves for the Greatest Show Not on Earth.

Offering us all a front-row seat for planetary images that could make Google Earth seem so last decade, a slew of Bay Area startups have begun launching small, relatively inexpensive satellites into space. They lug powerful cameras that send back pictures and video, and those images soon could dramatically change the way we perceive our orbital home.

"It's totally an Earth-observation space race out there," says Stanford University professor and global ecologist Greg Asner. "With the cost of putting a satellite into orbit dropping because of cheaper materials and so many competing commercial launch ventures, a lot of really cool innovation has begun to happen."

The possibilities are intriguing: For the first time, Earthlings will be able to peruse high-resolution satellite images of their planet, both photographs and videos, practically in near-real time. Then, by

using readily available online mapping tools to enhance the visual data, users essentially could create storylines to show things such as environmental degradation to rain forests, human and wildlife migration patterns, and political crises such as the Arab Spring, pretty much as they unfold.

Two of the most talked-about companies in the vanguard of this Bay Area space race — Mountain View-based Skybox Imaging and San Francisco-based Planet Labs —

SEE SPACE | E4



DAI SUGANO / MCT

Dan Lopez, director of technology for UrtheCast, is shown with a picture of the company's two video cameras that are attached to the International Space Station.



PHOTOS BY BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

The 441 Diner is shown in Tavares. Owner Billy Digino took over the location of the Soup to Nuts Diner that Chef Robert Irvine tried to save last year on a Food Network show and has turned it into a 50s-style diner.

Tavares diner gets new life

RICK REED
Special to the Daily Commercial

A Tavares restaurant, which closed after a less-than-favorable episode last year on the Food Network show "Restaurant: Impossible," has reopened with a new name, a new owner and a new attitude.

Billy Digino, who owns Digino's Pizza just down the road, was ready to expand when he bought the old Soup to Nuts eatery toward the end of last year.

After three months of extensive cleanup and renovation, Digino opened Hwy 441 Diner in January.

"I know about the TV show and I thought that won't happen if you're paying attention," Digino said. "This is an owner operated restaurant."

"I took a risk. I have been doing a lot of work on it for about three months. We just fixed it up right. I'll make sure we stay on top of it and make sure place is clean. That's most the important thing to me."

Soup to Nuts closed in May 2013, a few months after the episode aired in March with celebrity chef Robert Irvine reacting to what he called a "dangerously dirty" restaurant.

Irvine and his crew spent

two days and \$10,000 renovating the restaurant in December. Business improved for a short while, but didn't last and the once popular eatery closed in March.

Digino decided to go with the 1950s diner theme.

"We chose the Hwy 441 Diner," said Digino. "I was thinking an old name fit the 50s, like Route 66. We're on Highway 441, so it was right there."

He will also continue the car shows on the first Wednesday every month from 5:30-9 p.m.,

SEE DINER | E2



Study: Prepaid debit cards need more regulations

PATRICIA SABATINI
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Prepaid debit cards are becoming more affordable with increased competition resulting in fewer fees, but the booming market still lacks critical consumer protections, according to a new study by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

U.S. consumers loaded some \$64 billion onto prepaid debit cards in 2012, more than double the amount in 2009, Pew said. The cards are available at many checkout counters and at a number of big banks.

The new report, "Consumers Continue to Load Up on Prepaid Cards," looked at changes since the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit research group released

its first study on the topic two years ago.

The reloadable cards — designed mainly for consumers who don't have bank accounts — can be used wherever traditional debit cards are accepted: at the register, to make purchases online or to withdraw cash at ATMs. Many people use them while traveling instead of carrying cash and as a budgeting tool to limit how much they or their children spend.

As the cards have zoomed in popularity, issuers have been criticized for blindsiding users with a bevy of fees. Costs vary but can include activation fees and monthly fees, plus ATM, transaction, reload, balance inquiry, statement and dormancy fees, among

SEE DEBIT | E4

Unions, pensions and the future of Social Security

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MARGARET MCDOWELL
GUEST COLUMNIST

The first Social Security account was established in 1936 for 23 year-old John David Sweeney, Jr. of New Rochelle, New York, who never received a dime in benefits. Unfortunately, Mr. Sweeney died of a heart attack at age 61.

The average U.S. life expectancy in 1935 was 62. Today it's 79. Unions, which once

fought for not only livable wages but solid retirement packages, have declined in numbers and bargaining power. Private pensions, a ubiquitous part of our historical economic landscape, are now virtually an anachronism. And Social Security was originally designed only to supplement such pensions as financial protection

SEE MCDOWELL | E4

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Small-business owners face hard lessons in leasing

VIRGINIA BRIDGES
The News & Observer

RALEIGH, N.C. — When Zydeco Downtown closed here last month, Antwan Harris didn't just lose his business, he lost a lot of money.

For nine years, Harris, a Raleigh native and two-time Super Bowl winner who played in the NFL from 2000 to 2005, served Cajun- and southern-style food at lunch, as well as drinks at night.

But Harris packed up much of Zydeco in January after the landlord's property management company sent him a letter asking him to move out, he said. The lease had expired, and he was trying to renew it when he was asked to leave.

That situation left Harris with little leverage, despite the fact

that he had invested more than \$450,000 to upfit the space — not including the \$15,000 he spent on a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system over the summer, he said.

Harris would like to recoup some of his costs, but that is unlikely, he acknowledged, as his initial lease agreement called for him to leave anything that is attached to the space.

Harris is learning the hard way the importance of understanding and staying on top of a small-business lease.

Businesses need to make sure they understand all the details and provisions in the lease, and review and update the document annually, said Michelle Rich Goode, president of Raleigh-based Rich Commercial Realty, which provides buyer and tenant representation



ETHAN HYMAN / MCT

Antwan Harris, center, helps direct Eric Peace, left, and Alphonso Bromell as they work on moving out of Zydeco Downtown in Raleigh, N.C.

in commercial property transactions.

"Check in with your lease just like you would check in with your financial statements, tax information," she said.

If owners don't ask the right questions, they could end up losing money, Goode and some small-business owners said.

That was a lesson learned by Kate Steadman, co-owner of Frill, a Cary, N.C., clothing company that makes bridesmaid outfits and custom recruitment dresses for sororities.

The Frill owners signed a short-term lease on a space so they could meet with clients and package orders during their busy season. The venture ended up costing more than they expected, Steadman said, as fees were tacked on for using items in the common area.

Before small-business owners lease a building, Goode said, they

KNOW THE TERMS OF A LEASE AGREEMENT

■ Understand costs beyond rent, including maintenance, repairs, utilities and how your use will be measured.

■ Be sure to read your lease in detail and hire an attorney who specializes in commercial real estate to explain the clauses and fine print.

■ Protect your long-term business interests by investigating and negotiating some potential add-on clauses to your lease, which might include sublease, exclusivity and co-tenancy.

■ Know what happens if you default on lease payments and try to negotiate lease terms that allow you to take measures before you are locked out.

SOURCE: U.S. Small Business Administration

need to have a strong business plan. Owners need to understand their finances, their growth projections and the company's plan, along with their own tolerance for risk, she and others said.

Each lease varies and commercial real estate landlords often incorporate extra expenses such as maintenance fees, upkeep for shared facilities and use of tools in common spaces, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Working with a real

estate broker and an attorney will help owners negotiate with the landlord and better understand the terms they are agreeing to, according to the SBA, Goode and small-business owners.

"It's better to be prepared and understand what could happen," Goode said.

In many cases, owners of new retail businesses have to sacrifice security and location until they prove their concept over time.

"You have to understand that if you are a

small tenant (in a larger complex), you are not going to get flexibility rights — such as options to renew, options to expand and right of first refusal," she said.

Gaurav "G" Patel is president of Raleigh-based Eschelon Experiences, a hospitality company that uses leased spaces for five restaurants. He recommends that owners start by putting their ideal lease scenario on paper via a letter of intent.

That scenario should include a figure for rent that is ideally no more than 8 percent of their gross monthly sales, he said. Owners can use the letter to identify and understand the gap when reviewing a proposed lease.

"Obviously the landlord is going to ask for the moon, but that doesn't necessarily mean that you have to sign that," Patel said.

Some key terms to cover and understand include the length of the lease, annual increases and renewal options. A longer lease could allow for more favorable options, but it also increases the risk.

Owners also need to consider subletting and default clauses that define options and consequences if they can't pay the rent. If owners foresee a problem paying the rent, they should work with their landlord to mitigate the shortfall in the short term and pay back the rest over the long term.

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BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

The 441 Diner is at 381 East Burleigh Blvd., in Tavares.

DINER

FROM PAGE E1

with a DJ set up in front of restaurant, music and drawings.

"We had first one and had a very good turnout," Digino said. "Everybody came in and ate. It was very nice."

The restaurant serves good, old American-style food with the breakfast menu, including eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes and other favorites.

Lunch includes burgers, sandwiches, salads, wraps, with the dinner menu also available.

Dinner items include meatloaf, steak, ribs, shrimp and seafood.

"There's a lot of variety," Digino said. "It's a big menu, a really great menu. I like the beef liver and onions. I love the meatloaf and the ribs are very good, too."

He also included the seafood and a "very good fish sandwich."

The menu also includes homemade soups and desserts, and old-fashioned milkshakes.

Hwy 441 Diner is at 381 East Burleigh Blvd., in Tavares. It is open from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

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Hardships persist for long-term unemployed

ALANA SEMUELS
Los Angeles Times

DENVILLE, N.J. — The phone begins to ring at 8 a.m. with incessant calls from creditors. Kevin Meyer has stopped picking up because he's sick of explaining the truth: that there's no money coming in, so he can't pay his bills.

Two years ago, Meyer, 51, had a six-figure salary, a sizable 401(k) and the knowledge that he could support his wife and daughter. But he lost his job as a spokesman for a car rental company, and though he soon found another position, he was downsized again four months later.

Unemployment benefits checks helped him pay for health care for his family as he looked for work, but like 1.3 million Americans across the country, his federal unemployment benefits ran out Dec. 28. Congress has considered extending the benefits, but last week, Republicans blocked a Senate proposal to do so.

Meyer, jobless since December 2012, lives in New Jersey, a state second only to Rhode Island for the highest rate of long-term unemployment — people who have been out of work for six months or longer — according to an annual average compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

He has stopped making payments on his mortgage, home equity



Kevin Meyer, right, looks for jobs on a computer at the office of a friend, David Felder, in Montville, N.J. Meyer has been out of work for a year and lost his unemployment benefits recently.

loan and credit cards. He has dipped into his 401(k) to pay for food, gas and the Internet. His family lives without health insurance; they're in the midst of applying for Medicaid.

The Great Recession technically ended in June 2009, but for millions of Americans like Meyer, the hardships continue. At the end of 2013, about 3.9 million Americans had been unemployed six months or longer.

The problem is especially persistent in New Jersey, where nearly half of the jobless have been out of work for six months or more; 80,000 saw their benefits cut off Dec. 28. In New Jersey and Nevada, the long-term unemployment rate is 3.9 percent; in California, the state with the next-highest rate, it's 3.7 percent.

Work has been hard to find in New Jersey because the state's job growth is slower than that in much of the nation, said Patrick O'Keefe, director of economic research at the financial firm CohnReznick, who focuses on New Jersey. The state has 2.8 percent more jobs than it had at its low point during the recession; the nation, on the other hand, has 5.8 percent more jobs than it did at its low point.

That's partly because some of New Jersey's biggest industries, including pharmaceuticals and manufacturing, have downsized significantly. The state has lost 20 percent of its manufacturing jobs — 68,000 — since December 2007.

About 6.5 percent of the state's mortgaged homes are in

foreclosure — the second-highest rate in the nation. The unemployment rate in the state dropped to 7.3 percent in December, from 7.8 percent the month before, but mostly because people had given up looking for work and left the labor force.

The odds of finding a job decrease the longer people are out of work.

A person out of work for eight months will get called for an interview half as often as someone who has been out of work for just one month, even if the resumes are the same, one study has indicated.

In late January, President Barack Obama said he was taking steps to help get the long-term unemployed back to work. At a news conference, he said he had secured commitments from about 300 companies that they would not to discriminate against the long-term unemployed when hiring. He also said he was creating a \$150-million grant program for nonprofits that help the long-term jobless get back to work.

Meyer is still hopeful he'll find employment. Every morning he goes to a friend's office, where he spends the day applying for work. He'd prefer a job in his field of corporate communications, but

he's open to working as a security guard, a secretary — really, any paying job.

"If someone told me I could get some decent wages and get some benefits doing anything, I'll do it," Meyer said.

The extension of jobless aid, which has been debated in Congress throughout the economic recovery, takes on added importance this year as both Democrats and Republicans try to position themselves ahead of the midterm election as both fiscally prudent and sympathetic to the needs of America's less fortunate.

Republicans say that cutting off benefits forces people to take jobs they otherwise would turn down, and saves the federal government billions of dollars.

Democrats say the economy is still too slow for any sort of cuts.

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MCDOWELL

FROM PAGE E1

for retirees in old age. With 10,000 Baby Boomers retiring daily, it is easy to understand the factors that are stressing the system.

According to Liz Pullium Weston in "The Tax Cut That Taxpayers Need Most", "Two thirds of U.S. seniors rely on Social Security for more than half their income and four out of ten say it comprises more than 80 percent."

So what is the future of Social Security in the U.S.?

It's probably better than we think. First, we Boomers comprise a tremendous voting bloc. And very few among us will support cutbacks in Social Security benefits. So the oft-espoused notion that Social Security benefits will not be there for our generation is probably hyperbole, in spite of our national budget woes.

Our population is aging, though not as fast as those of other developed nations. And, owing partly to our relatively friendly immigration policies, our population is not shrinking. As John Parker of The Economist writes, "...almost 20 countries have declining populations, including large ones such as Germany, Russia and Japan. By 2050, two dozen more will have joined them, including...China. Since most countries' health and pension programs have assumed that each successive generation will be slightly larger than its

Will changes in U.S. Social Security occur before, say, 2025? Probably. With life expectancies growing, it is reasonable to assume that raising the minimum eligibility age (currently 62) will be one of the first systematic changes. Many see this as the most democratic potential change.

predecessor, aging and shrinking implies substantial changes in the way social programs are run."

Will changes in U.S. Social Security occur before, say, 2025? Probably. With life expectancies growing, it is reasonable to assume that raising the minimum eligibility age (currently 62) will be one of the first systematic changes. Many see this as the most democratic potential change.

Currently, people pay Social Security tax only on their first \$117,000.00 of earnings. While this number rises slowly every year, a jump to a larger number like \$150,000 would shore up some cracks in the coffers. But, this essentially represents another tax on America's higher wage earners, a group already paying significant individual tax rates. This is truly a "tax by another name."

Means testing? Let's don't go there.

Margaret R. McDowell, a syndicated economic columnist, chartered financial consultant and accredited investment fiduciary, is the founder of Arbor Wealth Management LLC, a fee-only registered investment advisory firm near Destin.

DEBIT

FROM PAGE E1

others.

Although the industry has improved, it remains largely unregulated. That gives consumers few protections from faulty disclosures and leaves it up to the issuer whether to cover losses from fraudulent transactions, Pew said.

"While prepaid cards offer many benefits to consumers, they are a relatively new product with little oversight," said Susan Weinstock, director of Pew's safe checking project. "A lack of protections undermines prepaid cards as a safe and easy way to manage money."

One of the chief problems, the report found, is that prepaid cards are not covered by the federal laws that protect holders of traditional debit cards tied to checking accounts

from loss of funds and liability for unauthorized transactions.

Most prepaid card issuers offer some protections but the coverage is voluntary, can include loopholes and can be revoked without notice, Weinstock said during a conference call with reporters Thursday.

Another problem is that prepaid card disclosures involving fees and terms often are incomplete, hard to understand and hard to find, she said.

The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is set to release proposed rules for regulating the prepaid debit card industry by May, she said.

At the time of Pew's first report in September 2012, the prepaid market was almost exclusively the domain of nonbank issuers such as Green Dot Corp., NetSpend, H&R Block and AccountNow. The

latest report found 10 big banks were offering prepaid cards, although they still accounted for a small portion of the overall market.

Notably, Pew found that prepaid cards offered by major banks were significantly cheaper than nonbank cards because they were subject to fewer fees, Weinstock said. Often they were a better deal than getting a checking account from the same bank.

Pew laid out a number of policy recommendations for making prepaid cards better for consumers, including mandating protections against liability for unauthorized transactions; requiring that funds be federally insured in the event of a bank failure; mandating uniform, easy-to-understand disclosures, and prohibiting issuers from allowing overdrafts and assessing overdraft fees.

SPACE

FROM PAGE E1

have recently put up small satellites or are on the verge of adding more to their sky-high collections. A third company, Vancouver, British Columbia-based UrtheCast, which has a growing presence in the Bay Area, recently sent up two powerful cameras to be installed on the outside of the International Space Station by the end of this month.

Other startups and incubators, such as San Francisco's Lemnos Labs, have worked with satellite pioneers such as San Francisco-based Nanosatsfi on open-source software and crowdfunding to harness imaging technology in ways never before possible.

Centered right here in what increasingly looks like Satellite Valley, this privately funded rush to space is the result of a confluence of factors, including lowered costs. A satellite that once cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and launch is now doable for a tiny fraction of that amount. And there's plenty of money to be made selling satellite photos, as well as the data they impart, to governments, analytical firms — and even huge retailers such as Wal-Mart, who could see things like traffic flow in its parking lots every day of the year.

"We're building our satellites right now in Mountain View, and it's sort of a balancing act between Silicon Valley and aerospace," says Ching-Yu Hu, a co-founder of Skybox, which launched its first

THREE PIONEERS IN THE NEW RACE FOR SPACE

PLANET LABS: Founded in 2010 as Cosmogia and based in San Francisco, the privately held company already has 31 microsattellites it calls "Doves" in orbit and plans to send more to gather images of the Earth and monitor things such as climate change.

URTHECAST: Based in Vancouver, British Columbia, the publicly traded company is in the process of installing two cameras, one still and one video, on the outside the International Space Station, and collect streaming imagery of the planet for commercial and humanitarian purposes.

SKYBOX IMAGING: This privately held company, which is based in Mountain View, has launched one satellite and plans to launch a second one soon. It also asserts that it's now sending the world's first commercial high-resolution video of the Earth taken from space.

SOURCE: Mercury News reporting

satellite from Russia in November and is now transmitting what she calls the world's first high-resolution commercial video from space.

Hu says that marrying together big-data and satellite startups is a match made in, well, Silicon Valley.

Skybox plans to combine its orbital images with powerful databases, selling services that could dramatically improve global business applications, from managing supply chains to tracking shipping containers on the world's oceans, all on a daily or even hourly basis. For example, satellites could monitor agricultural activity, replacing quarterly commodity reports on soybeans with a snapshot of crop production delivered within hours of the images being recorded.

"We have assets in space, like these other startups, but what's different is the data we have on the ground," Hu says. "We've gotten a lot of interest from people who want to combine our images and video with things like drone-produced (data)

or even Twitter data."

There's also a strong drive for democratizing space under way, as firms such as UrtheCast pledge to offer free the same images that until recently only well-heeled corporate entities could afford. Many of the aerospace scientists behind these startups want to use satellite technology to help save the Earth, documenting troubling trends such as melting ice caps and coastal erosion in the hopes they can be remedied.

Seeing ourselves from space in more detail also will profoundly change the way we perceive the planet, says Steve Jurvetson, managing director of Draper Fisher Jurvetson and a member of Planet Lab's board of directors. That iconic "blue marble" photograph of Earth taken in 1972 from Apollo 17, he says, sparked "an epiphany that made us all realize the fragile lifeboat we live on. Now, nanosatellites and the daily access to imagery of the planet will create a Zeitgeist impact as we see ourselves as truly global citizens."

Investors are fueling the space race; Skybox, for example, has raised more than \$91 million from Khosla Ventures, Bessemer Venture Partners, Canaan Partners and Norwest Venture Partners. UrtheCast, which went public in last year, plans to use its cameras, which are about the size of large soda bottles, to beam back high-quality pictures and video that the company will share for free on its website while making money on partnerships with media companies and global retailers.

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Wife seeks truth about a mysterious death

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for three years. I trust him with my whole heart. He is the sweetest man I know. Lately, I have been wanting to know more about his brother. My husband hasn't said much about him other than he was murdered in prison about 10 years ago.

I'm not saying that he and his family are lying, but I did some research on the Web and came across multiple websites about my husband's brother. Yes, he was in prison, but I'm not sure he was actually murdered there. Some details are better left unsaid.

I know, of course, that you can't believe everything you read on the Internet, but there is more than one Google page with a lot of information.

I want to talk to my husband and find out what really happened and try to get to know

his brother, but I'm scared he will get angry and even shut me out, and I don't want that to happen. Please give me some advice on what to do. I just want some straight answers — no more sweeping it under the carpet. — **IN THE DARK IN OHIO**

DEAR IN THE DARK: There is always a risk when someone goes poking around the family closet and starts rattling the skeletons. I suggest you be frank with your husband. Tell him you were curious about his brother, went on the Internet, found some surprising information and would like some honest answers. If you trust him with your whole heart, then his response will tell you all you need to know.

DEAR ABBY: I am a widow with five daughters. The youngest is 8, and the others are in their late teens and early 20s. I am self-em-



Dear Abby
JEANNE PHILLIPS

ployed, work from home and very involved in my kids' lives.

I have a boyfriend I have been seeing for the last 18 months. I spend the night with him two or three times a month, which involves less than a 24-hour stay.

I would like to have an extended weekend or a short vacation with him, but he is balking. He says I shouldn't be away from my baby that long. He grew up with a very distant mother and had an unhappy childhood. My daughter spends a lot of time with me, but still enjoys her "sister time."

How can I get him to realize that my being away for a few days

would recharge me and make me a better mom? — **BADLY IN NEED OF A BREAK**

DEAR BADLY IN NEED: If you haven't already pointed out to this man that his childhood was far different than the one you have provided for your children, then you should.

I am somewhat concerned that he is giving you parenting advice, since nowhere in your letter did you mention that he has any children. It occurs to me that he may have his own reasons for not spending more time with you than he does, and if I'm right, you need to get to the bottom of what they are — because I don't think he's giving you the whole story.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

BRIDGE

Unexpected Defeat

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠ K J 9 6			
♥ A			
♦ 10 4 2			
♣ A Q J 6 5			
WEST		EAST	
Novice No. 1		Novice No. 2	
♠ 5 4 2		♥ 7 3	
♥ K 10 9 8		♦ Q 5 3 2	
♦ A K 9 8 7 3		♣ Q J	
♣ —		♠ 9 7 4 3 2	
SOUTH			
♠ A Q 10 8			
♥ J 7 6 4			
♦ 6 5			
♣ K 10 8			

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♠ 2♦
3♣ Pass 4♣

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

In tournament circles, every expert has a favorite story about his encounter with a pair of beginners who have decided to test the waters against the pros. Often these stories relate how the newcomers managed to put one over on the experts.

One of these tales goes back to the time many years ago when two novices, bubbling with excitement, sat down to play against two celebrated Life Masters in a pair champi-

onship. It wasn't really surprising that, as soon as the bidding was over, Novice No. 2 (East) led the queen of diamonds out of turn. The director was summoned and ruled that South could call the lead of any suit — that was the rule in those days — or treat the queen as an exposed card.

South directed West to lead a club, but Novice No. 1, somewhat embarrassed, stated he didn't have one to lead. Having selected his penalty, even though West could not comply, declarer had no further recourse. Novice No. 1 was now told he could lead anything at all.

So he shrewdly led a low diamond, knowing that his partner had the queen. East won with the jack — the queen was back in his hand — and returned a club, the suit West said he had none of.

West ruffed and led another low diamond to East's queen, whereupon a second club ruff gave the defenders their fourth trick. All over the room declarers were making four or five spades, but at this table declarer went down one, much to his dismay.

The moral — if there is one — is not altogether clear, but South has developed a certain degree of trepidation when he spots a pair of effusive beginners approaching his table.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2014. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates during the First Barbary War.

On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1937, Dr. Wallace H. Carothers, a research chemist for Du Pont who'd invented nylon, received a patent for the synthetic fiber.

In 1945, American troops

landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated in Haleyville, Ala.

In 1977, Janani Luwum, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda, and two other men were killed in what Ugandan authorities said was an automobile accident.

In 1988, seven people were shot to death during an office rampage in Sunnyvale, Calif., by a man obsessed with a co-worker who was wounded in the attack. (The gunman, Richard Farley, is on death row.) In 1994, more than 200 people were killed when a powerful earthquake shook Indonesia's Sumatra island.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300-600R trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board, plus six on the ground.

HOROSCOPES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014:

This year you have the spirit and energy to tackle whatever you want. A partner could be a key player in your ventures. If you are single, this partnership initially could be platonic, but it has the potential of evolving into much more. After spring, a different potential suitor could enter your life. Take your time in choosing. If you are attached, put more emphasis on your relationship, and you will witness it working and evolving to a new level. You enjoy time alone as a couple. VIRGO makes a great accountant for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Others will witness your fiery side. No matter how direct you are, you probably will have to repeat a conversation. Somehow the message might get distorted. You will note that others appear to be off in La-La Land at points in the day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You speak, and others respond. Communication flourishes. Detach more often, and imagine what the



Bigar's Stars
JACQUELINE BIGAR

other parties seem to be holding back. Otherwise, you might have difficulty understanding and accepting what these people have to say.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Take a day just for you. You might want to lounge, read the paper and/or make a special meal for yourself. Someone with an invitation could tempt you to give up your lazy day. You still will be best off steering clear of others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Make calls in the morning and catch up on everyone's news. Whether you want to incorporate your day with a friend, family member or loved one is your choice. You will be happiest going out and about with a companion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You could be out of sorts

as you eye a new purchase. You might decide to postpone this expenditure, as it could require more research. Treat a loved one to a late brunch and swap news. You could conjure up quite an afternoon together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You will be full of energy. However, getting plans off the ground could take some effort. Use care with spending, as you have done more shopping than usual. A new friend might let you know that there might be more than a friendship that exists between you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You are always so busy that no one will think twice when you make up an excuse for not getting together with them. Use your free time to catch up on sleep. Revitalize your body and your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) News filters in from a distance. You might be ready to take off at the drop of a hat; be sure that a friend or partner wants that as well. You would be well-advised to hold back some and see where the other person is coming from.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You could bring others together for a fun get-together. Wherever you go and whatever you do, you easily can be identified as someone who takes the lead. Your fiery personality will come through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The thought of a trip could be fun, but hopefully it does not consume your day and force you to think of nothing else. A family member or dear friend wants you to join him or her. You can be sure you will have a great time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Someone makes an overture that you feel you can't say "no" to. Be honest with yourself. You likely will decide to get together with this person on a one-on-one level. Friends need quality time like this.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You have a way about you that a loved one adores. It is clear that this person cannot get enough time with you. Allow the inner child within you to emerge and become part of these interactions.

WORD SCRIMMAGE™
BY JUDD HAMBRICK

1st DOWN: U₃ T₂ O₂ C₆ L₂ E₁ P₆ (+40 PTS)

2nd DOWN: S₂ B₆ R₂ G₃ U₃ L₂ E₁ (+60 PTS)

3rd DOWN: N₂ N₂ C₆ T₂ S₂ I₂ H₇ (+7 PTS)

4th DOWN: A₂ L₂ C₆ N₂ I₂ U₃ T₂ (+30 PTS)

BONUS DOWN: A₂ O₂ U₃ P₆ N₂ L₂ D₃ (+6 PTS)

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN AVERAGE GAME 310-320 PTS FIVE PLAY TOTAL

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters on each yardline. Add points to each word or letter using scoring directions. Seven-letter words get a 60-point bonus. All words can be found in Webster's New World College Dictionary.

JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

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WORD SCRIMMAGE™ SOLUTION BY JUDD HAMBRICK
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1st DOWN = 25: M₆ O₂ U₃ N₂ D₃ S₂

2nd DOWN = 83: S₂ K₆ I₂ L₂ L₂ E₁ T₂

3rd DOWN = 108: E₁ V₆ A₂ S₂ I₂ O₂ N₂

4th DOWN = 20: S₂ C₆ O₂ O₂ P₆ S₂

AVERAGE GAME 150-160 PTS JUDD'S TOTAL = 236

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9	2			1				4
		5	9		6	8		
			5				1	
5	8						7	3
	3						4	
2	4					8		5
	5			8				
	9	3		2	5			
7			9				3	1

Fill in the squares with the numbers 1 through 9. 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

3	7	4	6	2	1	9	5	8
2	8	9	7	3	5	1	6	4
6	1	5	4	8	9	7	2	3
8	3	6	2	4	7	5	1	9
9	5	2	1	6	3	8	4	7
7	4	1	5	9	8	2	3	6
5	9	3	8	1	4	6	7	2
4	2	7	9	5	6	3	8	1
1	6	8	3	7	2	4	9	5

How to play: Fill in the blank squares with the numbers 1 through 9 so that each horizontal row, vertical column and nine-square sub-grid contains no repeated numbers.

Puzzles range in difficulty from one to six stars.

The solution to today's puzzle will be in tomorrow's paper.

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