



The Daily Commercial

LEESBURG, FLORIDA

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

www.dailycommercial.com

CONGRESS: GOP moves to pass bill funding Syrian rebel groups, **A8**

LEESBURG: Mom mistakes triplets for indigestion, **A3**

Fla. gives a glimpse at nation's 'Gray Belt' future

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

A billboard at the county line advertises home health care services. Local churches try to create a feeling of belonging for elderly members who may be

disconnected from family up north. Lawyers and accountants make house calls like doctors. Elderly residents get ferried to stores by a fleet of county minivans.

Welcome to Citrus County, where more than a third of residents

are senior citizens, one of the highest rates in the nation.

The county isn't simply a stereotype of Florida, where in just 15 years, one in four residents will be 65 or older. It's a peek into the not-too-distant future of the

nation, where the number will be one in five.

Citrus County is one of eight counties — including Sumter — stretching round the Orlando and Tampa metro areas in a band that might be called the Gray Belt. It has among the oldest

populations in the nation, not to mention in Florida, which has long had the highest rate of seniors in the nation, and will for decades yet.

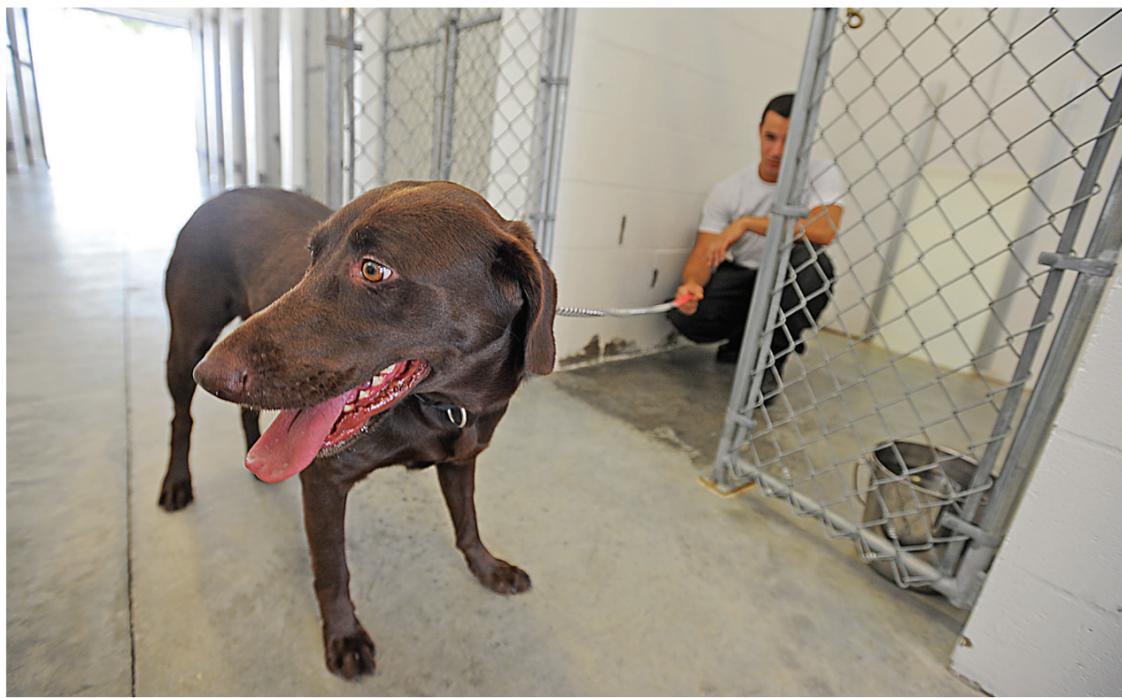
According to U.S. Census figures from last year, nearly 52 percent of Sumter County's resi-

dents are over the age of 65, compared with about 26 percent in Lake.

The other Gray Belt counties include Marion (27.4 percent over 65), Martin (28.8), Indian River (29.2), Highlands (33.6), Sarasota

SEE ELDERLY | A2

LAKE PANASOFFKEE



PHOTOS BY BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

Chris Lipps, a 26-year-old kennel tech, waits as a dog he took outside to get exercise takes a moment before returning to its kennel at Sumter County Animal Services in Lake Panasoffkee.

No gridlock for gay marriage, legal marijuana

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — While many liberal policy goals have proved elusive during Barack Obama's presidency, there have been dramatic advances for two causes that once seemed quixotic — the legalization of same-sex marriage and the decriminalization of marijuana.

Neither cause was embraced by Obama during his first term. Yet he is now a fervent supporter of marriage equality and has said it is "important" that Colorado and Washington state be allowed to proceed with their pioneering laws, approved by voters in 2012, that legalize marijuana.

For both issues, the pace of change has been striking.

There are now 19 states that allow gay marriage, compared to two in 2008. Bans in the remaining states are being struck down by federal judges at a rapid rate that could

presage a Supreme Court ruling legalizing it nationwide.

As for marijuana, in November voters in Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia will weigh in on ballot measures that would emulate Colorado and Washington by legalizing recreational use of pot by adults. A ballot measure in Florida could add that state to the 23 others which have legalized medical use of marijuana, including 10 in the past four years.

What's distinctive about the marriage and marijuana campaigns is that they've been able to proceed at the state level, unencumbered by the paralyzing gridlock in Congress. In contrast, efforts by Obama and his Democratic allies to overhaul the immigration system, tighten gun control laws, raise the federal minimum wage and combat climate change have run aground in the partisan divides on Capitol Hill.

SEE GRIDLOCK | A4

Come here, save a life

Sumter County Animal Services caters to cats and cows alike

THERESA CAMPBELL | Staff Writer
theresacampbell@dailycommercial.com

Sumter County Animal Services is off the beaten path at 819 County Road 529 in Lake Panasoffkee with dogs, cats, livestock, and horses available for adoption.

"When people come here, they are saving a life," said Tamra Be-

lancin, animal services manager, who owns three cats and two dogs rescued from the facility. She encourages more people to come see the animals available at SCAS, which are given for free to rescue groups with a 501 (C) 3 c status.

The facility's hours for adoptions are 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday

SEE SUMTER | A8



Dewey, left, and Studley, both soon to be adopted, walk in front of the new barn at Sumter County Animal Services.

Gamers use police hoax to hit opponents

SADIE GURMAN
Associated Press

DENVER — The calls to 911 raised an instant alarm: One caller said he shot his co-workers at a Colorado video game company and had hostages. Another in Florida said her father was drunk, wielding a machine gun and threatening their family.

A third caller on New York's Long Island claimed to have killed his mother and threat-

ened to shoot first responders.

In each case, SWAT teams dispatched to the scene found no violent criminals or wounded victims — only video game players sitting at their computers, the startled victims of a hoax known as "swatting."

Authorities say the hoax that initially targeted celebrities has now become a way for players of combat-themed video games to retaliate against

opponents while thousands of spectators watch. The perpetrators can watch their hijinks unfold minute by minute in a window that shows a live video image of other players.

"It's like creating your own episode of 'Cops,'" said Dr. John Grohol, a research psychologist who studies online behavior, referring to the long-running reality TV show that follows officers on patrol.

SEE SWATTING | A2



AP FILE PHOTO

Police officers enter a home in Long Beach, N.Y., in search of an armed killer, based on a phone call that turned out to be a hoax.

50¢



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TODAY'S WEATHER
Detailed forecast
on page A14.



86° / 73°
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ELDERLY

FROM PAGE A1

(33.3) and Charlotte (37.0). By 2030, seniors in these counties, which are overwhelmingly white (nearly 90 percent in Sumter), will make up anywhere from a third to half of the residents.

In Citrus County, about 70 miles north of Tampa, health care dominates the labor force. Residents prefer to get their news from a newspaper. Strip malls have an unusually high number of hearing aid businesses. The library offers Medicaid planning seminars. Voters turn out in large numbers, albeit often by absentee ballot.

Having such a high concentration of elderly citizens has its trade-offs. You get an engaged citizenry with high voter turnout and volunteerism, but also an economy based on low-skill jobs such as health-care aides, retail clerks and food service workers.

Senior citizens who move into an area generally aren't eager to fund schools, research shows, whereas those who remain in the communities where they worked and raised their families tend to support education and other public spending that doesn't benefit them directly. Citrus County voters lived up to that thesis as recently as two years ago when they decisively rejected a referendum to raise property taxes to fund schools.

The county's elderly makeup sometimes has made it difficult to attract workers with young families to fill those service jobs, said Tobey Phillips, a county spokeswoman. Health care jobs account for almost a third of all jobs in the county.

"It's kind of a Catch-22," Phillips said. "We need people to be working in these industries, but we can't get them here sometimes because it's primarily an elderly community."

Employers see that every day. Mike Arthur, who runs a staffing service that provides health care workers for institutions and individual homes,



JOHN RAOUX / AP

Office manager of the Audibel Hearing Aid Center, Maureen Locher, right, offers homemade cookies to Maurice Wright in Homosassa.

said he looks for workers who are compassionate and patient when hiring, given the elderly makeup of his clientele. Maureen Locher makes sure there are plenty of homemade cookies, fresh coffee and cheese spread at the hearing aid center she runs.

The local First Presbyterian Church has struggled to maintain membership as congregants either die or move back north to spend their last years near relatives. Changes that might attract younger families for the almost 500-member congregation often meet resistance.

"One term that has been used for a church like ours is 'a hospice church,' and that's a pretty bleak deal but maybe realistic," said Jim Capps, interim pastor. "It's not bad thing, but the problem with that is you're facing extinction."

Baby boomers and other coming crops of seniors will be more tech-savvy. But at the library in Citrus County, large print books are popular, and library staffers have become the de facto tutors on new technology. The library offers classes on basic software such as Microsoft Word and Excel and is developing a social media class after getting requests for it, said Eric Head, director of library services.

Citrus County became a retirement mecca in the 1980s with the development of the Beverly Hills and Citrus Hills housing communities in former citrus groves. Marketing of the developments was geared toward empty nesters from the Northeast. Boston Red Sox legend Ted Williams came to Citrus Hills in the late 1980s and was known to fish regularly in the nearby Gulf of Mexico.

"They came down here when they were maybe in their late 50s, and now they're in their 80s and 90s," said Pat Coles, who runs county services for seniors.

North Dakota, Texas, and Michigan have pockets of seniors on par with the Gray Belt counties in Florida. But unlike the Florida counties, which have grown from the migration of new seniors, they have gotten grayer as a result of younger residents leaving.

The demographic makeup of these eight Florida counties contrasts starkly with the state's younger and more diverse major metro areas, such as South Florida, Tampa, Orlando and Jacksonville, and the interests of Gray Belt residents will diverge politically, socially and economically from Florida's more youthful cities.

Residents in the younger areas will want state investments in education, transportation and infrastructure. Not so much for residents in the Gray Belt, said University of Florida economist David Denslow.

"Senior citizens aren't going to care quite as much about education. They're not going to care quite as much about congestion in rush hour," Denslow said. "It's going to make it harder for local governments and the state to fund things."

Since voting power will tilt in favor of the older residents because of their higher voter-participation rates, the key to keeping both sides happy is to devolve all kinds of governmental decisions on taxes, planning and education from the state level to the local level so that residents in areas with both high and low concentrations of seniors will feel like their voices are being heard, Denslow said.

"I'd rather have some portions of the state in places that are younger able to set their own path and not have it set for them by retirees," Denslow said. "It would be good to let these cities where the need for public spending is greater go their own way."

dan Mathewson, put it to KMGH-TV: "They get to see all this go down right before their eyes and, you know, it's fun to them."

Intensely competitive war games that blur the lines of fantasy and reality could also contribute, said Dr. Kimberly Young, a psychologist who directs the Center for Internet Addiction Recovery in Bradford, Pennsylvania. "They want to win at all costs, including jeopardizing someone's safety," she said. "Real life becomes almost meaningless because they're so entrenched and involved in these games. Swatting, to them, seems like part of the game."

A video of the Aug. 27 incident in Littleton posted on YouTube shows Mathewson playing Call of Duty when he hears officers approaching.

"I think we're getting swatted," he says, raising his hands as heavily armed officers shout for him to get on the ground. He drops, and officers handcuff and frisk him.

"That's live streaming," Mathewson tells the officers. "I guess a joker thought it would be funny to call you guys in."

SWATTING

FROM PAGE A1

The players, who are often many miles away, look up their opponent's addresses in phone directories, sometimes using services that can find unlisted numbers. They also exploit online programs that trick 911 dispatchers into believing an emergency call is coming from the victim's phone or address. All the while, they conceal their own identities and locations.

Authorities spent an estimated \$100,000 to send more than 60 officers in April to the hoax in Long Beach, New York. Investigators said the caller was upset over losing a game of Call of Duty when he called police using Skype. SWAT officers found only a teenager wearing headphones.

In Bradenton, Florida, at least 15 officers showed up at the home of a professional video game player on Aug. 31 after a caller posing as his young daughter phoned in a report that he was armed and drunk. Instead, they found him playing Minecraft for a live audience

"You can literally do it from around the world. It can be very challenging (to solve) depending on the sophistication of the person doing it."

Justin Cappos, assistant professor of computer science at New York University.

over Twitch.tv, an online network with millions of viewers.

"The officers responding do not know, other than the information they're getting over the radio, exactly what is going on," said Bradenton police Capt. William Fowler.

Less than a week later, police received another bogus call routed through the man's phone that made it appear he had called in a bomb threat to a Bradenton gas station.

A Connecticut man was arrested Sept. 10 on federal charges that he made swatting calls there and in at least four other states. Authorities say Matthew Tollis, 21, belonged to a group that referred to itself as TeAM Crucifix or Die. Other members live in the United Kingdom, according to the FBI, which is still trying to learn their identities.

Swatting captured

headlines several years ago, when a series of celebrity homes were targeted in Los Angeles. Police were so concerned about copycat crimes that they stopped releasing any public information when a hoax occurred. Officers made at least one arrest, a juvenile who targeted Justin Bieber and Ashton Kutcher.

"You can literally do it from around the world," said Justin Cappos, assistant professor of computer science at New York University. "It can be very challenging (to solve) depending on the sophistication of the person doing it."

Realizing the difficulty, police in Littleton, Colorado, sought help from FBI agents in Denver who are specially trained to solve cyber-crime.

Grohol, the psychologist, said the prevalence of live game-streaming might be one reason for the trend. As the victim in the Colorado case, Jor-



FLORIDA LOTTERY

SEPT. 15

CASH 3	2-3-4
Afternoon.....	4-0-2
PLAY 4	4-6-7-4
Afternoon.....	6-7-9-9

SEPT. 14

FANTASY 5	9-16-18-22-28
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The Daily Commercial

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CALENDAR

Email upcoming events to pam.fennimore@dailycommercial.com.

Bombing suspect's lawyers say they didn't pose as FBI

Associated Press

BOSTON — Attorneys for Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev on Monday denied as "false" and "preposterous" an allegation that defense team members posed as FBI employees while investigating the case in Russia.

"Let us be clear: at no time have members of the defense team misrepresented themselves or lied about their work," the defense attorneys said in a court filing. They also said trying to get information in a country where people are suspicious of appointed defense lawyers, the defense team already has a difficult job persuading potential witnesses it is working to protect Tsarnaev "rather than facilitating the U.S. government's effort to execute him."

Tsarnaev, 21, has pleaded not guilty to participating with his now-deceased brother Tamerlan in the 2013 bombings that killed three people and injured 260 others. He could face the death penalty.

State & Region

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Area Briefs

TALLAHASSEE

Crist, committee near \$25M but still trail Scott

With infusions of cash from teachers unions and state matching funds, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist and a closely aligned political committee had combined to raise nearly \$25 million as of Sept. 5, according to newly filed reports.

Crist's campaign collected \$363,101 from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5, giving it an overall total of \$7,030,919. The report from the latest period included \$137,699 in state matching funds.

Crist's campaign also had spent \$3,124,060 as of Sept. 5. The political committee, known as "Charlie Crist for Florida," collected \$1,517,450 during the period, giving it an overall total of \$17,710,741. The American Federation of Teachers and the Florida Education Association combined to give \$750,000 to the committee during the latest period. The committee also had spent \$10,267,814 as of Sept. 5. Crist's campaign remains far behind the fundraising of incumbent Republican Rick Scott and the Scott-aligned "Let's Get to Work" committee. Scott got a boost from the Republican Governors Association, which contributed \$2 million early this month to "Let's Get to Work."

In all, the Scott committee had raised a total of \$37,816,927 as of Sept. 5, while spending \$26,775,405. Scott's campaign raised \$160,758 from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5, giving it an overall total of \$7,699,999, the reports show. It had spent a total of \$1,967,937.

TAMPA

Obama to pay visit to Central Command

President Barack Obama will travel to Tampa today and visit U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base.

Obama is scheduled to arrive this evening and stay overnight before leaving Wednesday afternoon, according to information from the White House Press Office.

CENTCOM plays a key role in issues in the Middle East, including in Iraq and Syria. Obama will receive a briefing from top commanders at CENTCOM and also discuss the battle against the terrorist group, known as ISIS or ISIL, in Iraq and Syria.

MOUNT DORA

Trash to Fashion applications sought

The Lake County Library's annual Trash to Fashion Show contest, open to applicants ages 8-19 will take place at 10:30 a.m., on Oct. 18 at the W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St.

Interested youth should apply before Oct. 6 for the event by filling out an entry form available at all libraries or download the form at www.mylakelibrary.org for the county-wide event that combines art, fashion, sustainability and innovation into avant-garde fashion items.

For information, call 352-253-6169.

IF YOU SEE NEWS HAPPENING, RECORD IT

... and we'll share it with our readers. Some of our best story ideas and photos come from our readers. So don't hesitate to share your youth activities, awards, accomplishments, festivals, charity events and other things that make our communities special. And don't overlook those family milestones — birthdays, engagements, marriages, business promotions and military news.

Just email your photos and news to ... pamfennimore@dailyccommercial.com

TAVARES

Records center may become town square

AUSTIN FULLER | Staff Writer
austin.fuller@dailyccommercial.com

The Tavares City Council will consider buying the Lake County Public Records Center at Wednesday's meeting to turn the space into a town square along with private development.

Tavares and county governments created in 2010 an interlocal agreement that gave Tavares the option to buy the records center between Oct. 1 of this year and May 1 of next year, the meeting agenda states.

The Downtown Tavares Redevel-

opment Master Plan calls for the center site to be turned into a space called the "Tavares Square," according to the agenda.

"The Master Plan envisions razing the Clerk's Record Center building and the creation of an open space public square plaza for approximately 2/3 of the property, with 1/3 being sold to the private sector for redevelopment into high density commercial and residential components," the agenda states.

The private development could be four stories and mixed use, City Administrator John Drury said.

"I envision, now that the market is heating up, that we will see a lot of interest from the private sector in purchasing and redeveloping this property," he said.

The agenda also states that the square would "create a vista gateway to Wooton Park."

Staff is recommending the city council take its option to buy the property and have an appraisal done, according to the agenda.

County officials recently met with city officials to talk about an

SEE SQUARE | A4

LEESBURG



THERESA CAMPBELL / DAILY COMMERCIAL

Arnetha Swan, 26, of Leesburg, is shown on Sunday with her children, Shiloh, 3, and Emmanuel, 11 months. The mother was recently surprised to learn she is pregnant with triplets due in January.

Triple tummy ache

Mom learns her indigestion is actually three babies

THERESA CAMPBELL | Staff Writer
theresacampbell@dailyccommercial.com

Dental assistant Arnetha Swan thought something that she had eaten didn't agree with her when she began having stomach pains last month.

The 26-year-old Leesburg native was at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando at the time, while her 11-month-old son was in surgery.

"During the surgery, I started having sharp pains, and they transported me next door to Winnie Palmer (hospital for women and children), and the ultrasound tech took like an hour," Swan said. "She ran out of the room and she grabbed someone else, who I assumed was more experienced."

The other sonographer didn't waste any time to tell Swan what the ultra-

sound scan revealed: "A, B, C. Triplets! And I'm pretty sure they are all boys."

"When she told me, I thought she was kidding," Swan said.

Swan and her husband, Shamir Rivers, are also the parents of Shiloh, 3, and Emmanuel, 11 months.

"Everyone has been blown away. You don't hear about something like this around the area, it's like something on TV," said Swan, who hasn't revealed her multiple pregnancy with all of her friends. "This story is probably going to be the big news, and I'm sure once it hits, I'm going to get a lot of reactions on Facebook of 'Oh, my gosh!'"

Swan said she knew she was pregnant, but she didn't expect to be carrying triplets. She recently learned multiple births

run in her family, and that her grandmother was a twin. "I had no idea, and actually she also told me that I was going to be a twin, but my twin did not make it."

The triplets are due Jan. 20, and Swan intends to continue working at Aspen Dental in Lady Lake for as long as her doctor will allow.

Her multiple pregnancy has been a big topic of conversation at her workplace, too.

"The doctor that I work for tells everybody," she said, adding patients and her co-workers have had fun in trying to come up with different baby names.

Swan said she is accepting the fact that she will soon be mom to five children, all under the age of 3.

"I have been reading up

SEE TRIPLETS | A4

Grower challenges pot rule

DARA KAM
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Almost before the ink was dry, the state's largest nursery is protesting a rule floated by health regulators setting up the framework for Florida's new medical-marijuana industry.

Miami-based Costa Farms filed a challenge Monday in the state Division of Administrative Hearings, questioning the proposed use of a lottery to pick five licensees — one in each region of the state — to grow, process and distribute the non-euphoric strains of cannabis legalized by the Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott this spring.

The complaint contends the proposed rule is also invalid because of another component that restricts qualified nurseries to applying only once for a license but allows other entities that partner with nurseries to make multiple applications.

"The way the rules

SEE POT | A4

Retiring cop worked like a dog

After a lifetime of service, a member of the Mount Dora Police Department will retire during a special ceremony Tuesday at City Hall.

Brisko, age 9, has spent the last seven years as the K9 partner of police Officer Jeremy Alexander, city spokeswoman Kelda Senior said in a press release. After graduating from his training program in October 2007, Brisko

SEE RETIRING | A4



BRISKO

IN MEMORY

OBITUARIES

Marcella M. Donaldson

Marcella "Marcie" Mackey Donaldson, 73, Leesburg, FL went to be with the Lord on September 10, 2014 after a long battle with lung cancer. Marcella was very active in Am Vets Auxiliary Post 1992 and a member of Central Baptist Church. She loved her family and always was the "hostess with the mostess". Her passion was doing good for others and the community. She is predeceased by her parents, Omer and Vivian Mackey, her daughter, Lisa Anne Strawbridge and her soul mate and love of her life, Ford Donaldson. She is survived by her children Teresa Strawbridge Freeman-Murdock (Dave), Leesburg; Jay Strawbridge, (Jeanne), Leesburg; Stepchildren: Joey Donaldson (Roxanne), Groveland; Michael Donaldson (Pamela), Groveland; Alvin Donaldson, (Sheila), Groveland; Vickie Donaldson Hall (Johnny), Groveland; Sister Gayle Mackey Jernigan, Leesburg and Brother Terry Mackey, Sebastian. Also survived by 17 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and many friends. A memorial service will be held at Central Baptist Church, Main Street, Leesburg, on Saturday, 9/27/14 at 10:30am, with a luncheon to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers please donate to the American Red Cross, as they were diligent in helping to have her grandson, Dakota Freeman, who is in the Navy aboard the USS America, to be able to call home from his ship to speak with her. Online condolences may be left at www.beyersfuneralhome.com. Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and

Crematory, Lady Lake, FL

Mildred Jean Shirley

Mildred Jean Shirley, "Jean," passed away at the age of 85, peacefully with her family by her side on Friday, September 12, 2014, at her home in Silver Lake. Ms. Shirley was born August 16, 1929 in Washington, DC, the daughter of the late Richard Franklin and Ruby Lynde Trimmer. Surviving are a daughter, Sandra Lynn Owens (Kenny) of Tampa, Florida, one grandson, one great-grandson, four step-children, Conrad Martin Shirley, Jr. (Jean) of Port Republic, Maryland, Larry Wayne Shirley (Helen), Robin Shirley Fowlkes (Oliver) and Scott Alan Shirley (Mayo) of Silver Spring, MD, eight step-grandchildren, seven step-great-grandchildren and her companion of twelve years, Donald Lippincott. Preceding her in death were her parents, two brothers, five sisters, her son, Robert Matthew Prince Jr. and two spouses, Robert Matthew Prince and Conrad Martin Shirley. A service with burial will take place on a future date at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, Maryland.

DEATH NOTICES

Carlos L. Francois

Carlos L. Francois, 78, of Leesburg, died Saturday, September 13, 2014. Page-Theus Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Leesburg.

Otis Knuckles

Otis Knuckles, 91, of Mount Dora, died Monday, September 8, 2014. Allen J. Harden Funeral Home, Mount Dora.

Wanda Stewart

Wanda Stewart, 86, of Paisley, died Friday, September 12, 2014. Beyers Funeral Home, Umatilla.

cotics, the press release states. Aside from training and patrolling, Brisko has participated in many community-oriented demonstrations.

Brisko is a pure bred German shepherd from Germany, and purchased by a private Mount Dora citizen. The police department's new K-9s, Stryker and Titan were entered service in July, the press release states.

The ceremony takes place at 6 p.m.

RETIRING

FROM PAGE A3

and Alexander completed 500 hours of full-service training, 200 hours of narcotics training and 190 hours of tracking for a total of 890 hours of initial training.

Since his enlistment, Brisko has been used more than 900 times for criminal apprehensions, tracks and nar-

GRIDLOCK

FROM PAGE A1

The paramount Obama initiative that did clear Congress — his health care overhaul — remains entangled in various controversies and its long-term legacy is uncertain. On immigration and many of the other issues, he's resorting to unilateral executive action, often angering his critics on the right while failing to fully satisfy activists on the left.

Given those realities, Richard Socarides, a former Clinton White House adviser on gay rights, makes a case that same-sex marriage and other gay-rights advances represent a singular achievement for progressives during the Obama presidency.

"Barack Obama has accomplished more progressive social change on gay rights than anything else," Socarides said.

During his first term, Obama helped change military policy so gays could serve openly, but said his views on same-sex marriage were still "evolving." Under constant pressure from gay-rights activists, he en-



JOHN LOCHER / AP

Greg Flamer, left, holds son as Flamer's partner Fletcher Whitwell feeds him at their home in Las Vegas.

dorsed it in 2012, and since then his administration has moved aggressively to maximize federal recognition of married gay couples even in states that ban same-sex marriage.

"The reason why he has that record now is because, publicly and privately, we really held his feet to the fire," said Socarides, referring to the activists' pressure.

Obama's stance on marijuana is far more nuanced. Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, and the White House-run Office of National Drug Control Policy opposes its legalization whether for medicinal or recreational use.

Yet in August 2013,

addressing the developments in Colorado and Washington, the Justice Department said it would allow legalization efforts to proceed as long as states followed strict guidelines, including keeping pot away from minors. Obama, an acknowledged pot smoker in his younger days, subsequently told *The New Yorker* magazine that he doesn't view marijuana as any more dangerous than alcohol and explained his acceptance of the Colorado and Washington initiatives.

"It's important for it to go forward because it's important for society not to have a situation in which a large portion of people have at one

SQUARE

FROM PAGE A3

eight-year delay of the city's purchase.

"The next project we have is to complete the courthouse and the board, as part of balancing the budget is going to phase the completion of the courthouse over several years," County Manager David Heath said. "So what we're doing is attempting to take the Tavares action for the records center into con-

sideration, at the same time, in terms of making sure we phase it correctly."

He said an option the county was looking at is moving the records building into where the public defender is located, but to do that the third and fourth floors of the courthouse will have to be completed for the public defender to move there.

"We'll wait and see what the city council does and then we'll react to that," Heath said.

If the city buys the building, it can lease it to the county for

no more than a year, the council agenda states.

Tavares Mayor Robert Wolfe is in favor of the purchase.

"I think it's going to be a great addition to the city to purchase this property and have the clerk move over there toward the courthouse itself," he said.

The records building is at 122 E. Main St., near city hall. O'Keefe's Irish Pub is also nearby, and owner Andrew O'Keefe said he liked the idea of the open space and it would add to the city's uniqueness.

POT

FROM PAGE A3

are written today, essentially you have given out-of-state actors multiple bites of the apple whereas the nurseries that are the ones that are prescribed in the bill as being the sole obligants only have one shot at it," Costa Farms Vice President Peter Freyre told The News Service of Florida in an interview Monday.

The challenge argues that Florida's new law approving strains of marijuana low in euphoria-inducing tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, and high in cannabidiol, or CBD, did not authorize the Department of Health to use a lottery to grant

the licenses. The complaint also accuses the agency of contradicting the Legislature's intent regarding who can get one of the highly sought-after licenses.

The complaint accuses the agency of overreaching its authority with the rule, which was revised after the Legislature's Joint Administrative Procedures Committee questioned numerous other provisions. The committee plays a key role in overseeing state regulations.

The use of the lottery and allowing out-of-state operators to apply multiple times — and possibly win a statewide monopoly for the newly legalized pot — is out of line with the Legislature's intent, according to the 49-page

complaint.

"If adopted, these proposed rules operating together would give non-qualified participants the incentive to partner with or support many marginally qualified nursery applicants, diminishing the overall quality of the applicant pool, and increasing the likelihood of selecting a minimally qualified applicant in the random selection," the lawsuit reads.

State health officials have refused to back down from the lottery process despite repeated objections from growers and operators seeking to cash in on the pot enterprise, as well as opposition from some lawmakers who sponsored the legislation. The regulators insist that the use of the

lottery selection method will get the substance to sick kids more quickly than by contracting with vendors, which would likely result in drawn-out lawsuits over the bidding process.

"A rule challenge is regrettable. The parties behind a challenge should explain why they are delaying the process of providing compassionate care to children with refractory epilepsy and patients with advanced cancer. The department remains committed to getting this product to the market as soon as possible for qualified children and families in Florida," Secretary of Health and Surgeon General John Armstrong said in a statement.

TRIPLETS

FROM PAGE A3

on a lot of things on how mothers of multiples handle things, like feedings and all of that," she said, while also preparing for the fact that she will have to undergo a cesarean section with the triplets' birth.

"I was fortunate to be

able to take six months off when I had Shiloh and three months with Emmanuel," said Swan, who is considering taking off a year after the triplets are born before going back to work.

"I am looking forward to feeding them, holding them," she said, adding her life is going to be busier than ever before. "More diapers, bottles and everything."

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SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



U.S. STATE SILVER BAR PHOTOS SURFACE (first public photos)



COURTESY: WORLD RESERVE PHOTO ENLARGEMENT SHOWS ENGRAVING DETAIL

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FLORIDA - You wish you could have found these heavy bars of solid silver buried in grandpa's old coffee cans.

But thanks to an extended deadline put in place, U.S. State Silver Bars each weighing a full Troy ounce of solid .999 pure fine silver sealed away in heavy Vault Bricks are being handed over free for the next 3 days to every Florida resident. This is not a misprint. U.S. State Silver Bars are being given away free to Florida residents who beat the order deadline for the sealed Vault Bricks containing six U.S. State Silver Bars each weighing a full Troy ounce of solid .999 pure fine silver and the World Reserve is giving up the remaining five U.S. State Silver Bars for just \$57 each, that's over one hundred and eighty-seven grams of solid .999 pure fine silver.

Just a few weeks ago, nobody knew that these valuable U.S. State Silver Bars bearing the State of Florida double forged proclamation would be the talk of the town and that's why everyone's trying to get them.

"As Executive Advisor to the World Reserve, I get paid to know when there's precious metal to be had. So when I was informed that these solid U.S. State Silver Bars had finally surfaced and thousands are actually being handed over free to residents of the state of Florida who beat the order deadline, I pushed for this announcement to be widely advertised.

These heavy bars are solid .999 pure fine silver and will always be a valuable precious metal which is why everyone is snapping up as many as they can before they're all gone," said Mary Ellen Withrow, the now retired 40th Treasurer of the United States of America.

The former Treasurer wants to make one thing very clear. Florida residents only have three days to call the Toll Free order Hotlines to get the U.S. State Silver Bars for free.

"Pride runs deep in Florida and we know residents can't wait to get their hands on these heavy Silver Bars bearing the state of Florida double forged proclamation, but we've never seen anything like this before. The phone lines are ringing off the hook," said Timothy J. Shissler, Executive Director of Vault Operations at the private World Reserve.

These valuable U.S. State Silver Bars are impossible to get at banks, credit unions or the Government since they do not mint silver bars. In fact, they're only being handed over to residents of the state of Florida who call the Toll Free Hotline before the deadline ends three days from

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-Mary Ellen Withrow, retired 40th Treasurer of the United States of America



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"All the heavy Silver Bars in the State of Florida Vault Bricks will soon be gone because it would be foolish for anyone to pay for a single silver bar. So Florida residents better hurry and call right now to get the sealed Vault Bricks loaded with a free U.S. State Silver Bar," said Shissler.

"These heavy Vault Bricks loaded with over one hundred and eighty-seven grams of solid .999 pure fine silver are being released until our last remaining U.S. State Silver Bars are completely gone," Shissler said.

To make it fair, special Toll Free Overflow Hotlines have been set up to ensure all residents have an equal chance to get them.

Rapid shipments to Florida residents are scheduled to begin with the first calls being accepted at precisely 8:30am today.

"We're bracing for all the calls and doing everything we can to make sure no one gets left out, but the U.S. State Silver Bars are only being given away free for the next three days or until they're all gone, whichever comes first. For now, residents can claim the U.S. State Silver Bars free just as long as they call before the order deadline ends," confirmed Shissler.

"Thousands of Florida residents are expected to call because it just doesn't make any sense to let non Florida residents get these heavy Silver Bars before Florida residents do. So if lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered," said Shissler. ■

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D002591

DC statehood hearing unlikely to spur change

BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is dusting off the notion of statehood for the District of Columbia for the first time in 21 years, but that doesn't mean residents of the nation's capital are any closer to gaining representation on Capitol Hill.

District leaders submitted glowing testimony in support of transforming most of the nation's capital into the "state of New Columbia" at a hearing Monday afternoon. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid supports statehood for the District, and President Barack Obama said recently, "I'm for it."

The Homeland Security Committee chairman who called the hearing, Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware, has secured 18 Senate co-sponsors for the bill. But he doesn't appear to have enough support from Democrats on his own committee to bring the bill to the Senate floor for a vote, and no further action on the bill is planned.

"My goal for this hearing is to educate a new generation of people about this injustice and restart the conversation about finding a more thoughtful solution," Carper said.

Some Democrats who haven't signed on are running for re-election

in swing states, including Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Sen. Mark Pryor of Arkansas. In a political climate when coziness with Washington can lead to political defeat, vulnerable Democrats may not want to speak out on the statehood issue.

In the Republican-led House, the issue is a non-starter. GOP statehood opponents often point out that the nation's founders preferred keeping the nation's capital as a federal district. But there's also an unavoidable political reality: Three out of four registered voters in the District are Democrats, while Republican registration languishes at 6 percent. Republicans aren't likely to hand Democrats two new senators and an additional seat in the House.

"Here we are again debating this issue even though it has no chance of success in this chamber and is dead on arrival in the House," said Sen. Tom Coburn, an

Oklahoma Republican, who added that a constitutional amendment would be necessary to correct the "injustice" of the lack of representation for District residents.

Despite such opposition, District boosters said the hearing was a positive step and that the city is in a strong position to push for statehood. The fast-growing District has 646,000 residents — more than Vermont or Wyoming — a booming economy and a municipal government that, while still plagued by corruption, has delivered nearly 20 years of balanced budgets.

The effort to give the District full representation in Congress has moved in fits and starts over past four decades. In 1978, Congress approved a constitutional amendment, but it was ratified by only 16 states.

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D008716

House GOP moves ahead on Syrian rebel training

BRADLEY KLAPPER
and DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers raced Monday to authorize an expanded mission to arm and train moderate Syrian rebels before heading back to the campaign trail, with House Republicans preparing legislation backing a central plank of President Barack Obama's strategy against the Islamic State group.

The Obama administration says the training operation is

needed to establish credible, local ground forces to accompany U.S. air strikes against the militants who have conquered large parts of Iraq and Syria, beheaded two American journalists and become a top U.S. terrorism threat in the region and beyond. The House and Senate are both on a tight schedule, looking to wrap up work Friday before an almost two-month recess in preparation for November's midterm elections.

The authorization under consideration will likely be in-

cluded as an amendment to a spending bill Congress must pass to keep the government open until mid-December. That would give lawmakers the opportunity to hold a separate debate and vote on the matter — something members of both parties want.

The measure doesn't authorize U.S. combat troops in Iraq or Syria or explicitly ban them, reflecting a congressional divide between hawks seeking tougher action than that proposed by Obama and lawmakers weary from more than

a decade of U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also compels the Pentagon to present Congress with a plan 15 days before any training begins, according to a House Armed Services Committee aide, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly about ongoing deliberations and demanded anonymity.

Democrats are reviewing the proposal, which would enable the military to take over what has previously been a limited, covert operation to beef up rebels battling

extremist groups and President Bashar Assad's army. The administration isn't likely to protest the conditions. It has sent more than 1,000 troops to Iraq to provide military assistance and bolster security of U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel. But Obama, too, opposes any U.S. ground offensive.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel briefs House and Senate committees Tuesday and Thursday, with Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey also testifying.

SUMTER

FROM PAGE A1

through Friday.

"We get a steady amount of traffic in, but a lot of our calls are service based. They're calling for the animal control officer about a stray dog or cat," said Jeff Atkin, assistant public works director for services for Sumter County, as he showed stray horses and a cow that were recently picked up by SCAS.

"They were running at large," he said. "The horses were running together in a lady's yard, and I believe that one (the cow) was on the side of the road and got out of somebody's pasture."

The horses came running up to the fence when they saw Atkin.

"They see me and they want an apple," he said. "I always give them a treat. My wife packs my lunch and she gives me an apple every day, but I don't tell her that I give them to the horses."

The cow had just been adopted and was set to go off to a new home. "We actually have a waiting list for cows," Atkin said.

The SCAS property features a year-old barn and new horse trailer, as well as a cat room and spacious dog kennel with blue cots hanging on the walls so the dogs do not have to sleep on the cold concrete in the winter.

"When animals come into this facility, they come in and are assessed. We keep them in an intake area where they are monitored for 48 hours. We do not count the first day, but in the few days they are monitored, they are checked to see if they are friendly, healthy, pass all of the criteria for adoption and are



BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

A cat lies in its cage at Sumter County Animal Services in Lake Panasoffkee.

moved into the main kennel, where they stay for five days," Atkin said.

"By county policy and ordinance, we can only keep an animal for no more than seven days, weekdays. We don't count weekends," he said.

Only keeping animals for seven days is what painfully upsets many animal advocates, including Steve and Debbie Shank of Mount Dora, in knowing that the SCAS euthanizes dogs and cats on Tuesdays and Fridays.

"A taxpayer-funded county shelter is putting a time limit on the number of days a lost or abandoned animal is permitted to live before killing it," Steve said in an email to the *Daily Commercial*. "Their time on this Earth is up, according to Sumter County ... It's not euthanasia. It's killing adoptable, healthy pets."

The Shanks have three rescue dogs and one foster pet in their care, and Debbie has been active in rescuing dogs from the Sumter shelter for Misfit Animal Rescue in Groveland.

The animal advocates were appalled by the number of animals euthanized at the shelter, based from the coun-

ty's monthly records: 76 dogs were taken in January and 32 were killed, while 61 were taken in February, 25 killed, and nine were adopted.

Most recently, 94 dogs were taken in July and 54 were put down.

"They killed 54, not including the four that were owner requested. Taking in 94, killing 54 gives you a kill rate of 58 percent for the month," Steve said.

"For cats, they started the month with a carry-over of 43 cats," he said.

"They had a total live intake of 117. Two cats were adopted, two cats were reclaimed by owner, and 13 cats went to rescues. They had 118 euthanasia's. Starting the month with 43 adding the 117 they took in for the month gives them a total of 160 cats. They killed 118 of them during the month of July — over 73 percent of the cats in their care for the month of July."

"Most of us fight for no kill because it is right. But for those who are not 'animal people' or do not have pets, it still makes sense," said Steve, who calls the Sumter facility a \$500,000 taxpayer-funded holding pen. "There is no reason to expend taxpayer funds or dona-

tions to hold and then destroy an animal when saving the life of that animal also saves money."

Steve has never visited the Sumter shelter, even though his wife has while volunteering to help rescue dogs on behalf of Misfit.

"I don't have to physically set foot in a facility to know what they're doing is wrong and that there is a better, more humane way. My presence has nothing do with their accountability," Steve said.

Belancin and Atkin said they would welcome his visit.

"The offer is open to anyone to come out and walk through the facility and see for yourself," Atkin said. "We would love ideas," added Belancin. "If somebody has an idea, and we are able to do it, we will."

The Shanks have several ideas on ways to improve SCAC operations, including the need for the shelter to be open during hours that would draw more families, rather than only having adoptions from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

"They are not open Saturday. They are not open on any holiday or after hours so that families can come, look,

and bring home a new family member," Steve said. "Am I the only one who thinks that is ludicrous? How are pets going to be adopted when the only hours of operation are so compressed, no one can make it to the facility when they're open to look? It's self-defeating."

He believes the shelter should amend its hours to stay open until at least 6 p.m. each day, and one evening per week until 7 or 8 p.m.

"Most shelters are open at least one weekend day to accommodate families looking for a pet to adopt," he said, such as 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. "This would enhance the chance of increasing adoption numbers and saving lives."

He also believes the shelter should do more advertising and promoting of its animals that are available for adoption. Animals are sometimes listed on the shelter's Facebook page, which Steve believes should be updated daily with information on new arrivals.

"Since Sumter limits its new intakes to no more than seven working days before being killed, it is even more paramount to advertise and promote all animals the first day they arrive," said Steve, who also would like to see SCAS take some of its animals outside the facility on a regular basis to advertised adoption events in the area.

"Take the animals to the people rather than making the people go to them," he said, such as visits to shopping centers, pet stores, restaurants, fairs, grand openings at local businesses.

Atkin said the SCAC wants to do more, but the facility is short-staffed. He said the shelter could benefit from

volunteers, including those familiar with Facebook.

"New listings are not on there as often as I would like," Atkin admitted. "We have the camera and we have the equipment, we just need the manpower to do it."

The Shanks also discovered the Sumter shelter charges a higher fee for animal adoptions than the shelters in Lake, Marion, Orange, Hernando and Seminole counties.

"Sumter needs to consider lowering their adoption fees," Steve said.

"They also need to run special promotions with reduced adoption rates, as most other counties do."

And Shank believes Sumter needs better signage so people can find the animal shelter in Lake Panasoffkee.

Belancin said SCAS does have several rescue groups that it works with, including the Sumter County Humane Society down the street, which visits SCAS at least once a week.

Misfits and Hound Haven in Lake County also are regulars, she said, as well as visits made by a rescue in Hernando and the Humane Society in Marion County.

"I would say that the rescues do not come enough, given the number of animals that we have," Atkin said. "But we do call the Sumter County Humane Society to tell them of some dogs that we think that they will be interested in," added Belancin.

Among the animals that are always euthanized are feral cats that are not fit to be adopted. Belancin showed a fake hand that is used to pet the feral cats in the cages to gauge how they will react to human contact. "Under our county ordinance, we are not to adopt out any feral cats," she said.

"Other counties do have a TNR program, trap, neuter and release, and we do not have that, as of yet," Belancin said, yet Atkin added that it is something that he has been directed to evaluate the possibility of the trap, neuter and release program, which he plans to have completed by the end of September.

The SCAC officials said the main thing that they want more people to know is that the Sumter shelter has animals available for adoption.

"A lot of people don't seem to know that we adopt out of here," Belancin said, adding it has been an on-going challenge to make people aware.

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Kerry: US open to talks with Iran on Islamic State

ELAINE GANLEY and LARA JAKES
Associated Press

PARIS — As more than two dozen nations pledged Monday to help Iraq fight the Islamic State militants, the United States said it was open to talking to Iran about a role in resolving the crisis, despite Washington's earlier opposition to Tehran even attending the conference.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry ruled out any military coordination with Iran, which in the end was not invited to Paris.

"That doesn't mean that we are opposed to the idea of communicating to find out if they will come on board, or under what circumstances, or whether there is the possibility of a change," Kerry said.

France and Iraq see Shiite-powerhouse Iran as an interlocutor who could bring its influence to bear in the region against the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State group, but some Arab states, like Saudi Arabia, disagree.

The U.S. opposed a place for Iran at the conference. But Tehran, which has political and military influence with its neighbor Iraq, still managed to be part of the conversation.

The absence of Iran underscored the conflicting sensitivities and



AP FILE PHOTO

Fighters from the Islamic State group parade in a commandeered Iraqi security forces armored vehicle down a main road at the northern city of Mosul, Iraq.

complex politics in the region as Western countries seek to battle the Islamic State group, which has taken control of large parts of Iraq and Syria.

The meeting of foreign ministers from Asia, the Middle East and the West was a first step toward deciding who does what in a multilayered offensive against the Islamic State group. As envisioned by France and Iraq, the effort would include intensifying airstrikes, cutting off financing, and helping Baghdad cope through humanitarian aid and reconstruction. There would be no combat troops on the ground, however.

As the conference began, two French jets took

off over Iraq in France's first reconnaissance missions over the country in a sign of the larger battle ahead. Later, the United States, which has led airstrikes over Iraq since August, said it had taken the first step in its planned expanded fight against Islamic State militants, going to the aid of Iraqi security forces near Baghdad who were being attacked by enemy fighters.

The strikes represent the newly broadened mission authorized by President Barack Obama to go on the offensive against the Islamic State group wherever it is. Previous U.S. airstrikes in Iraq were conducted to protect U.S. interests and personnel, assist Iraqi refugees and secure crit-

ical infrastructure. U.S. officials said Iraqi forces requested assistance when they came under fire from militants.

"We are asking for airborne operations to be continued regularly against terrorist sites. We must not allow them to set up sanctuaries. We must pursue them wherever they are," Iraqi President Fouad Masoum said.

Syria, deep in a civil war waged in part by rival extremist groups, was the wellspring for the Islamic State, with its fighters sweeping across the border into Iraq, overwhelming the military in Anbar province and capitalizing on grievances against the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

Hurricane Odile slams Mexico's Baja California

ALBA MORA ROCA
Associated Press

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico — Hurricane Odile blazed a trail of destruction through Mexico's Baja California Peninsula on Monday that leveled everything from ramshackle homes to luxury hotels and big box stores, leaving entire neighborhoods as disaster zones.

About 30,000 tourists were being put up in temporary shelters in hotels and Los Cabos international airport remained closed. Emergency officials reported that 135 people were treated for minor injuries from flying glass or falling objects, but there were no serious injuries or deaths so far.

Odile, which made

landfall near Cabo San Lucas the previous night as a powerful Category 3 hurricane, toppled trees, power poles and road signs along the main highway, which at one point was swamped by rushing floodwaters. Countless windows were blown out of rental cars and high-end hotel rooms, and resort facades crumbled to the ground.

"From what we have seen around here, everything is pretty much destroyed," said Alejandro Tealdi, a 32-year-old resident of Cabo San Lucas. His home was damaged and suffered some flooding, but nobody was hurt. "In the seven years I've been here, I've never seen anything hit like this."



VICTOR R. CAIVANO / AP

Maria Ramirez, left, puts the shoes on her one-year-old niece Maritza next to the remains of their home that was destroyed by Hurricane Odile in Los Cabos, Mexico.

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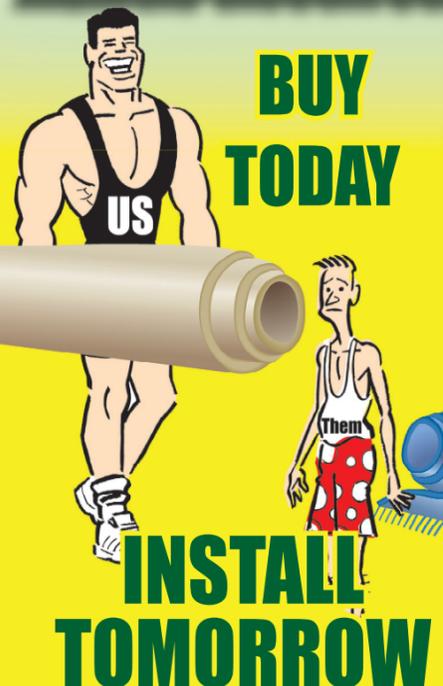
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Speculation swirls over Fed language on rate hike

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — When the Federal Reserve issues a policy statement after it meets this week, the financial world will be on high alert for two words:

“Considerable time.”

The presence or absence of that phrase will trigger a rush to assess the likely timing of the Fed's first increase in interest rates since it cut them to record lows in 2008.

The Fed's recent statements have said it expects to keep its key short-term rate near zero for a “considerable time” after

it stops buying Treasuries and mortgage bonds. Those bond purchases have been intended to keep long-term rates down to support the economy.

But the purchases are set to end in November, so the Fed may soon see the need to use some phrasing other than “considerable time” to signify when it might start raising rates. It could sub out that phrase in this week's statement. Or it could wait until its next meeting in October.

Whatever the statement says when the Fed's two-day meeting ends Wednesday, Chair Janet Yellen will be

pressed when she meets with reporters later to clarify the Fed's intentions.

Most economists think the Fed will raise rates starting around mid-2015. But as the U.S. economy has strengthened, speculation has intensified about whether it might do so sooner, perhaps by March.

With job growth solid, manufacturing and construction growing and unemployment at a near-normal 6.1 percent, many analysts think the Fed is edging closer to a rate increase to prevent a rising economy from igniting inflation. If so, it might send such

a signal by dropping “considerable time” and substituting other language to suggest a likely rate hike by early 2015.

The Fed could drop “considerable time” but substitute vaguer language suggesting it might wait longer to raise rates than many expect. Yellen has cautioned that the drop in unemployment may overstate the job market's improvement. She has said the Fed also takes into account the number of people unemployed for more than six months; the number of part-timers who want full-time work; and average wages. Those measures remain

less than healthy.

Whatever the Fed's intentions, some economists think it will make no major changes in its policy statement for now.

“All the trend lines for the economy look pretty good right now,” said Mark Zandi, at Moody's Analytics. “I don't think the Fed wants to upset the apple cart.”

Over the past several years, the Fed's ultra-low rates have helped the economy, cheered the stock market and shrunk mortgage rates. A rate increase could threaten to reverse those trends.

Reverse mortgages rebound

HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Advertised as a path to an affordable retirement, federally insured reverse mortgages are showing signs of a rebound, drawing the scrutiny of regulators seeking to reduce historically high default rates that have cost the government billions.

Analysts expect strong growth as the housing market improves, particularly in once hard-hit Sun Belt areas including Phoenix, Miami and San Diego, California, and aging Americans find value in growing old in their homes.

They are also being boosted by high-appreciation, gentrifying neighborhoods in older cities such as New York's Brooklyn borough.

Analysts say they expect continued interest as the leading edge of 78 million baby boomers approach 70, the age when a person typically begins to consider a reverse mortgage. A poll by Gallup in April found that 68 percent of Americans ages 50 to 64 said they were “very” or “moderately” worried about having enough money in retirement.

A reverse mortgage allows borrowers 62 or older to receive a line of credit or lump-sum or monthly cash payments off the accumulated equity in their homes. The loan comes due when the borrower dies, moves or sells the house. The borrower's heirs are not liable if the loan balance exceeds the value of the home — FHA covers the



MATT ROURKE / AP

Myles Griffin, 74, poses for a photograph in front of his home in Philadelphia.

risk. Reverse mortgages have been pitched in slick TV ads featuring actor Henry Winkler and former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson.

Philadelphia, where many families have lived in the same close-knit neighborhoods for generations, has ranked at the top for reverse mortgages awarded since 2011, according to an analysis of Federal Housing Administration data by Reverse Market Insight. This year, Philadelphia was followed by Los Angeles, Washington and Chicago.

After retiring from his newspaper ad sales job two years ago, Myles Griffin and his wife took out a reverse mortgage in May to supplement their Social Security income. The couple took out loans worth nearly \$30,000 on the home they have lived in for 40 years in a working-class neighborhood of north-east Philadelphia to help pay off credit card

bills and remodel their kitchen — leaving open the option to tap into some of the remaining equity later if needed.

Reverse mortgages haven't always worked well. After the housing boom, many Americans took advantage of flexible lending terms to quickly draw large amounts of cash, later falling into financial trouble during the extended economic downturn.

To cover projected losses of \$70 billion over a 30-year period, FHA was forced last year to receive a \$1.7 billion emergency cash infusion from the Treasury, due in large part to losses from reverse mortgages during the downturn. The total projected losses, the most recent available, don't reflect recent home-price increases, decreasing losses on its portfolio and other changes. Congress last year gave the agency new authority to tight-

en lending rules.

In the coming weeks, FHA is expected to finalize its proposed rule requiring loan applicants to undergo a detailed financial assessment. It's aimed at reducing a current default rate of 10 percent, roughly double the level of regular mortgages.

The agency also has limited the amount of upfront payments a borrower can receive and recently reissued stern guidance to lenders to curtail deceptive marketing of reverse mortgages.

In the first half of the year, 27,648 reverse mortgages were issued worth \$7.2 billion, according to FHA data. Although lower than the same period in 2013, Reverse Market Insight, which analyzed the data, said it expected this year's total value to exceed the low in 2012, when 52,883 reverse mortgages were issued at a value of \$12.7 billion.

Stocks mixed; small companies slump

STEVE ROTHWELL
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Investors played it safe on Monday ahead of a potentially pivotal Federal Reserve meeting. While large company stocks ended the day little changed, smaller, riskier stocks slumped.

Fed policy makers start a two-day meeting today and many investors expect the central bank to indicate that it is moving closer to raising its key interest rate.

“Reading the tea leaves, it seems that investors are trying to position themselves for a more aggressive Fed,”

CURRENCIES

Dollar vs.	Exchange Rate	Pvs Day
Yen	107.20	107.32
Euro	\$1.2937	\$1.2948
Pound	\$1.6228	\$1.6254
Swiss franc	0.9355	0.9340
Canadian dollar	1.1049	1.1095
Mexican peso	13.2430	13.2455

said Jack Ablin at BMO Private Bank.

U.S. manufacturing output declined in August for the first time in seven months, reflecting a sharp fall in production at auto plants. Output fell 0.4 percent in August after a 0.7 percent rise in July, the Federal Reserve reported.



AP FILE PHOTO

Microsoft Corp. signage is shown outside the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Wash.

‘Minecraft’ could boost Microsoft's mobile reach

MAE ANDERSON
and BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writers

NEW YORK — Microsoft's decision to spend \$2.5 billion for the creator of the hit game “Minecraft” could help the Xbox maker grab attention on mobile phones.

But the move carries risks, as gamers can be fickle. Although the Lego-like multiplayer game is currently the top paid app for the iPhone and Android devices in the U.S., today's popular hit could be tomorrow's dud. The maker of the much-obsessed-over “Candy Crush Saga,” for example, rode the game's popularity to go public this year, only to see its stock falter.

In addition, the founders of Mojang, the Swedish company behind “Minecraft,” aren't staying with Microsoft.

“It certainly seems like the founders of ‘Minecraft’ didn't want to con-

tinue forward,” Gartner analyst Brian Blau said. “It was something too big for them. ‘Minecraft’ is best in the hands of somebody who can take it in the direction it needs to go for the user.”

Microsoft has made phones and Internet services priorities for the company as its traditional businesses slow down or decline. With “Minecraft,” Blau said, Microsoft gains a new type of customer — mobile players.

“‘Minecraft’ is very popular on mobile,” Blau said. “It has an audience that wouldn't necessarily think of Microsoft first. The mobile audience is typically Apple and Samsung.”

“Minecraft” is an “open world” game in gamer lingo, meaning it has no plot or outlined objectives. Players can explore and create virtual worlds built from blocky 3-D objects — thus the frequent Lego comparisons.

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Table of stock market data including columns for Name, A-B-C, Last, Chg, and various market indices like S&P 500, Dow Jones, etc.



Mutual Funds

Table of mutual fund data including columns for Name, NAV, Chg, %Rtn, and various fund categories like Bond, Equity, and Money Market.

Mutual Fund Footnotes: b - Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets; d - Deferred sales charge; or - redemption fee; f - front load (sales charges); m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee; NA - not available; p - previous day's net asset value; s - fund split shares during the week; x - fund paid a distribution during the week.

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Voices

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VOICE

Obama's war plan sends the wrong message

Critics looking for more reasons to pound President Barack Obama probably found ample fodder in his speech last week outlining a strategy to confront the Islamic State threat in Syria and Iraq. Americans are losing patience with a reluctant warrior in the White House at a time when even he says the danger is clear and present.

All commanders in chief face a constant balancing act between prudence and bold demonstrations of American military might. Obama stated what all of us see: Islamic State terrorists are coercing others to join the militants' ranks or die. They must be stopped.

Obama pledges to follow these terrorists to the ends of the Earth — but signals that they needn't fear confrontation with U.S. ground forces. Direct U.S. military involvement is limited to airstrikes.

We know from the past decade of war that overextension and miscalculation can lead to disastrous consequences. So, yes, presidential caution is justified when committing this nation to yet another Middle Eastern entanglement.

Conversely, we see from the Islamic State's sweep across Iraq and Syria that too much caution also has consequences. We long ago took issue with Obama's failure to help when moderate rebel forces still were competing against Islamic State radicals for battlefield dominance in Syria. Only now, as the radicals sweep across Iraq, is Obama getting serious about providing training and equipment to the depleted ranks of moderates still fighting.

We hope that Obama's speech marks a turning point. He now must match words with actions to eradicate the Islamic State "cancer."

Retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, former head of the U.S. Central Command, warned years before the 2003 Iraq invasion that presidents must outline a clear strategy and be prepared for unforeseen consequences. We asked him this week to assess Obama's approach.

Zinni, a harsh critic of the Bush administration's planning for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, shows no signs of going easy on Obama either. The president should never have broadcast to the enemy that U.S. ground troops aren't coming, he says.

Obama's plan also fails to identify who's leading on the ground, Zinni warns. Will we leave combat leadership to ragtag Syrian rebels and an Iraqi military command that runs at the first sign of danger?

Too many times, American leaders have promised victory but left unvanquished enemies to fight another day.

If Obama can accomplish this mission with a limited U.S. commitment, he deserves the full support of Congress and the public. But many Americans feel they've been fooled once, twice and thrice before. They're in no mood to be fooled again.

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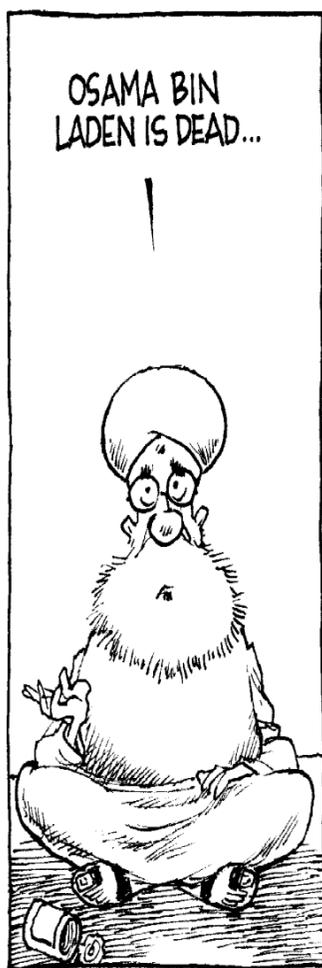
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OTHER VOICES

Obama's hard stance on ISIS militants a long time coming

Listening to the president's address to the nation regarding the crisis with ISIS, or ISIL if you prefer, I was struck by the lack of indignation in the president's presentation. Where was the visible anger, the fist-pounding oratory that made it clear in no uncertain terms the nation would not tolerate this threat to our interests and, for that matter, humanity?

Even the warning that the vicious psychopaths who slaughter and torture innocents should not believe they can hide from justice was delivered dispassionately — almost as though it were a lecture by a college professor who had given it dozens of time.

There was none of the urgency or fire of a Teddy Roosevelt challenging the Barbary pirates. There was no fist-pounding declaration of "Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead" that TR delivered to the Lord of the Berbers over the kidnapping of an American citizen who really wasn't. It worked.

Granted, that is not Barack Obama's style, and he seemed almost reluctant to take such a firm stand after years of resisting entreaties at home and abroad to take one in the Syrian civil war. His pledge to interdict the expansion of this most vicious group of fanatics carried with it the promise that it would be limited to air power and to U.S. military advisers to train indigenous forces. There will be no boots on the ground, he said.

Uh-huh! So what occurs if the air power fails to halt the advancement of those who know nothing about borders except to ignore them, spreading their brand of rule by fear under the



Dan K. Thomasson
 MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

guese of religion? Most military experts agree air assaults alone won't do the job. Will Obama be forced to break his promise, like so many others he has made and has failed to keep, including those about swiftly ending the stress of Iraq and Afghanistan and closing the prison at Guantanamo? This has been a president who might have been better off not making so many pledges, pledges seasoned veterans of Washington, D.C., warned beyond him. It is that history that is now catching up with him as his seeming lack of leadership qualities are reflected in his low public opinion ratings. Americans who saw him as the harbinger of change in the first election and with slightly less renewed support in the second have become increasingly disillusioned and untrusting of his follow through. There is a strong suspicion that his decision to move now was influenced at least in part by the need for his party to stave off Republican Senate challenges in the coming election.

A total GOP congressional majority would euthanize his presidency two years early. It will be tough sledding for him anyway.

At this stage, while there might be questions about whether the maniacs in ISIS are a threat to this nation's and to the world's security, as some experts have suggested, there is little doubt

that left unchecked they soon would be. Most Americans, no matter how reluctantly, agree with this, the polls show. The beheading of two American journalists and now a British aid worker has punctuated that explicitly.

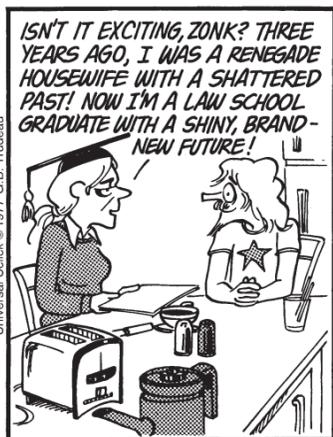
Can Obama put together the coalition, which necessarily must include stable Middle East governments, or has he waited too long? His then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton advised him to step forward on Syria much earlier. He did not do so and the foothold ISIS was able to establish has led to this crisis.

The president's dithering for weeks, even when it seemed obvious this was not just a minor incursion by a few zealots, made him look indecisive. Meanwhile, ISIS has grown from a force of 10,000 butchers to one estimated at 25,000 to 30,000. Had Obama gone to the public earlier, looked the American people in the eye and through clenched teeth not only denounced these monsters but announced that we would do whatever it takes to eliminate them from the earth, his ratings might have shown a return of public trust.

Basketball coaches and baseball managers challenge the referees and umpires not because they believe they can overturn a call, but to get their attention. As a sportsman, Obama should have learned that lesson. We needed him to get madder than hell.

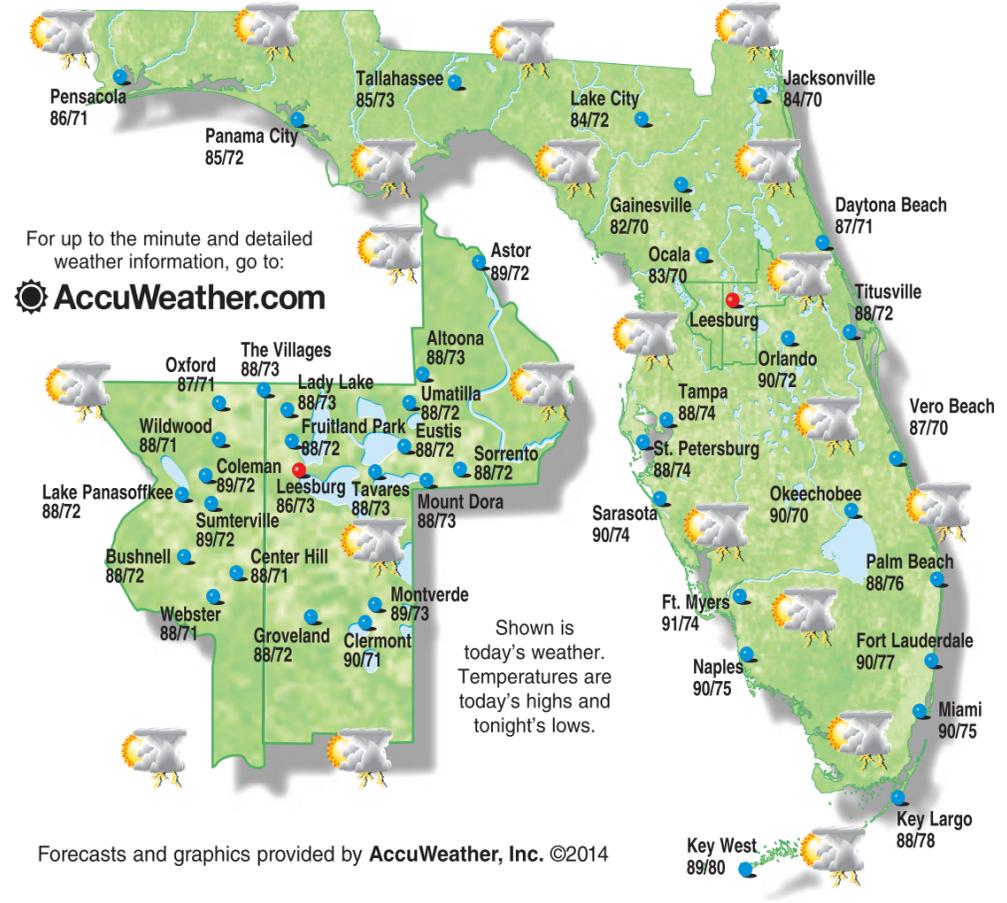
Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomassondan@aol.com.

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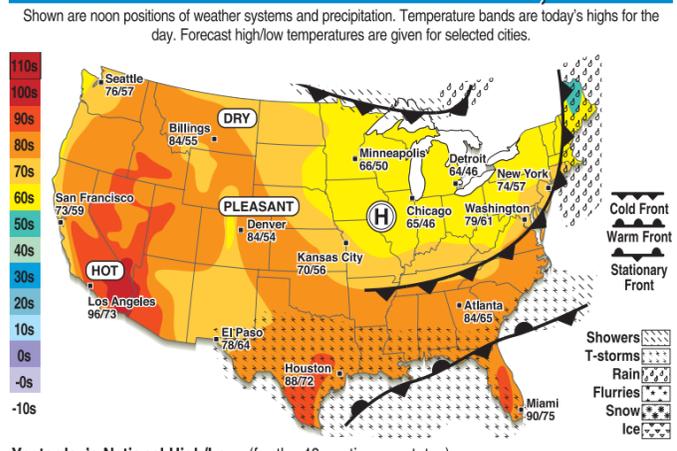


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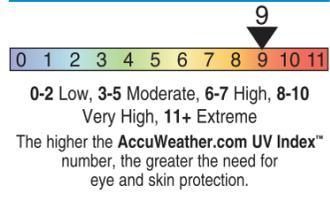
TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A couple of thunderstorms in the afternoon	Showers and a heavier t-storm; mostly cloudy	Clouds and sun, humid; a stray p.m. t-storm	Clouds and sun, a t-storm in the afternoon	Some sun with a thunderstorm in the afternoon
HIGH 86° LOW 73°	HIGH 85° LOW 72°	HIGH 91° LOW 72°	HIGH 87° LOW 73°	HIGH 86° LOW 72°



NATIONAL WEATHER FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2014



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	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Today	6:41 a.m.	12:28 a.m.	7:05 p.m.	12:53 p.m.
Wed.	7:28 a.m.	1:16 a.m.	7:51 p.m.	1:40 p.m.

THE SUN AND MOON

	Today	Wednesday	New	First	Full	Last
Sunrise	7:13 a.m.	7:13 a.m.				
Sunset	7:31 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Sep 24	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15
Moonrise	12:42 a.m.	1:32 a.m.				
Moonset	2:33 p.m.	3:19 p.m.				

TIDES

Day	High	Feet	Low	Feet
Homosassa				
Today	10:21 am	1.2	5:50 am	0.5
			7:31 pm	0.2
Daytona Beach				
Today	2:11 am	4.0	8:26 am	0.7
	2:44 pm	4.3	9:13 pm	1.0

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wednesday	City	Today	Wednesday	City	Today	Wednesday	City	Today	Wednesday	City	Today	Wednesday
Albany	67 44 r	67 46 s	Cheyenne	82 50 s	82 53 s	Great Falls	83 52 s	84 53 pc	Norfolk, VA	80 68 pc	76 68 pc	San Francisco	73 59 pc	74 61 pc
Albuquerque	79 61 pc	81 61 t	Chicago	65 46 s	66 49 s	Greensboro, NC	82 62 pc	72 59 pc	Oklahoma City	85 66 pc	88 65 pc	San Juan, PR	89 77 pc	89 78 sh
Anchorage	58 49 sh	58 48 sh	Cincinnati	68 48 s	70 50 s	Hartford	70 47 r	71 46 s	Omaha	69 56 s	75 56 pc	Santa Fe	78 53 pc	80 54 t
Asheville	79 59 t	73 54 pc	Cleveland	63 46 pc	65 46 s	Honolulu	89 75 s	90 75 s	Philadelphia	76 57 r	75 56 s	St. Ste. Marie	61 44 pc	53 35 sh
Atlanta	84 65 pc	80 62 pc	Columbia, SC	88 69 t	83 64 t	Houston	88 72 t	87 72 t	Phoenix	99 76 t	96 78 t	Seattle	76 57 pc	74 59 pc
Atlantic City	75 51 r	74 50 s	Concord, NH	66 40 r	69 40 s	Indianapolis	66 46 s	67 47 pc	Pittsburgh	66 44 pc	67 46 s	Shreveport	90 68 t	91 69 t
Baltimore	77 54 pc	74 56 s	Dallas	88 72 t	87 71 pc	Jackson, MS	90 67 pc	87 65 pc	Portland, ME	66 46 r	67 46 s	Spokane	86 57 s	82 59 pc
Billings	84 55 s	86 59 pc	Dayton	66 46 s	69 47 s	Kansas City	70 56 s	73 57 t	Portland, OR	79 58 pc	81 60 c	Syracuse	66 45 pc	67 46 s
Birmingham	88 64 pc	83 60 s	Denver	84 54 s	85 58 s	Las Vegas	101 77 pc	97 76 t	Providence	71 50 r	74 51 s	Topeka	73 60 s	78 62 t
Bismarck	71 43 s	73 54 s	Des Moines	68 52 s	71 52 pc	Little Rock	83 64 pc	84 65 pc	Raleigh	83 64 pc	75 61 t	Tucson	86 71 t	84 71 t
Boise	94 63 s	91 63 s	Detroit	64 46 pc	67 49 s	Louisville	71 50 s	72 55 pc	Reno	91 58 s	90 56 s	Tulsa	82 67 pc	87 66 t
Boston	68 54 r	70 54 s	Duluth	65 45 s	58 41 pc	Memphis	81 60 pc	82 64 s	Richmond	81 59 pc	75 60 pc	Washington, DC	79 61 pc	77 64 s
Buffalo	64 46 pc	65 48 s	El Paso	78 64 t	79 65 t	Milwaukee	62 47 s	65 49 s	Sacramento	89 58 s	87 60 pc	Wilmington, DE	76 53 r	74 54 s
Burlington, VT	64 46 r	65 46 pc	Fargo	70 45 s	70 53 s	Minneapolis	66 50 s	70 51 s	St. Louis	68 51 s	71 56 t			
Charleston, SC	87 73 t	87 67 t	Fairbanks	64 41 c	64 40 pc	Nashville	77 55 pc	76 55 s	Salt Lake City	91 66 s	90 67 s			
Charleston, WV	68 49 pc	70 49 s	Flagstaff	73 49 t	72 49 t	New Orleans	88 74 t	88 74 t	San Antonio	92 76 t	89 74 t			
Charlotte, NC	84 64 pc	76 59 pc	Grand Rapids	63 42 pc	66 46 s	New York City	74 57 r	73 57 s	San Diego	86 75 s	86 75 pc			

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

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NFL: Vikings bring back Adrian Peterson / **B3**

Montverde Academy earns first volleyball medal



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL ADAMS

Montverde Academy coach Rachel Adams (back row, left) poses with her team on Saturday at the Lake Highland/Winter Park Showcase at the Orlando Volleyball Academy.

FRANK JOLLEY | Staff Writer
frank.jolley@dailycommercial.com

Montverde Academy's boys basketball and soccer programs might soon have competition for space in the school's trophy case.

The Eagles' volleyball team earned their first medal in school history Saturday with a second-place finish in the Lake Highland/Winter Park Showcase at the Orlando Volleyball

Academy.

Montverde Academy competed in the Gold Bracket of the Class Division of the two-day tournament, which featured 47 teams from around the state. The Eagles cruised through their first four matches, dropping only two games en route to a perfect record.

In the championship match, Montverde Academy was set to face Class 8A power Miami Killian, which got off to a

quick start in the opening game and built a seven-point lead. The Eagles bounced back behind a block by Isabelle Zatoni and three kills from Patricia Costa to get back into the game.

Montverde Academy closed to within a point with a pair of service aces by Marina Kotzias, but Miami Killian held on for a 25-23 win.

Eagles coach Rachel Adams made a few adjustments in the second

game and Montverde Academy stormed out to the lead and evened the match with a 25-17 victory. Despite playing their eighth match in five days, counting regular-season play, the Eagles found enough of a spark to keep their championship hopes alive.

In the third game, Montverde Academy battled, but eventually ran out of gas and dropped a

SEE VBALL | **B2**



PHOTOS BY BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

Lake Minneola junior Abbie Holt (8) spikes the ball during Monday's match against East Ridge on Monday in Minneola.

Over and out

Brianna Lemon leads Lake Minneola past East Ridge in four sets

PAUL BARNEY | Staff Writer
paul.barney@dailycommercial.com

Lake Minneola is a tough-serving team.

The Hawks used that to their advantage Monday night, rallying from an eight-point deficit in the third set and riding that momentum to take down rival East Ridge in four sets, 25-16, 15-25, 25-23 and 25-20.

"I feel like this is the win we needed to kind of get us over the hill," Lake Minneola coach Amanda Cook said. "We've played some really tough teams off the bat, which is our four losses that we have, so I'm hoping this is on the upswing of the rest of



Holt serves the ball to East Ridge.

the season."

Especially the way the Hawks (2-4) played in the third set.

Tied a set and trailing 23-17 in the third, Lake Minneola went on an 8-0 run, getting back-to-back aces from Ja-

leana Jones to tie it at 23 before a kill block from Abbie Holt and Jenna Sturgeon gave the Hawks the lead.

It was Lake Minneola's first lead of the set after the Knights (3-3) opened with a 7-0 run

and later led 18-11 with another 7-0 run.

A ferocious hit from Brianna Lemon gave the set to the Hawks as they reclaimed the momentum.

"We serve really tough and I thought that was to our advantage today because they weren't passing as well as they normally do," Cook said. "I thought serving probably won most of the sets for us and also just being aggressive swinging."

On the other end, the inability to return most of those serves didn't help East Ridge.

"I think that was the turning point of the

SEE HAWKS | **B2**

No. 1 Florida St. set to host Clemson

KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Clemson has not forgotten the debacle that took place against Florida State on its home turf last season.

The Tigers were ranked No. 3 in the nation and the No. 5 Seminoles went to Death Valley and handed Clemson its worst home loss since the series began in 1970.

Florida State used the 51-14 drubbing as a launching pad to a

national championship and the Tigers were humiliated in front of a national television audience.

"We've tried to remind these guys that we did get embarrassed out here, make no mistake about it," Clemson offensive coordinator Chad Morris said. "Yes, we've definitely talked about it."

The teams meet again Saturday night — this time in Tallahassee. Both, however,

SEE FSU | **B4**

Gators concerned with play in secondary

ZACH ABOLVERDI
Halifax Media Group

With four starters gone from Florida's 2013 secondary, UF coach Will Muschamp had several concerns at defensive back coming into this season.

Those concerns came to light Saturday night in the 36-30 win over Kentucky in triple overtime. Florida's problems in the secondary could

SEE GATORS | **B2**



BRAD MCLENNY / HALIFAX MEDIA GROUP

Florida DB Keanu Neal intercepts against Kentucky on Saturday at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville.

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AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	2	0	0	1,000	52	30
Miami	1	1	0	.500	43	49
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	43	45
New England	1	1	0	.500	50	40

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Houston	2	0	0	1,000	47	20
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	36	36
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	31
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	27	75

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Cincinnati	2	0	0	1,000	47	26
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	42	29
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	36	53
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	53	54

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Denver	2	0	0	1,000	55	41
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	47	39
Oakland	0	2	0	.000	28	49
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	27	50

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1,000	34	17
Washington	1	1	0	.500	47	27
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	43	38
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	28	60

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Carolina	2	0	0	1,000	44	21
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	47	58
New Orleans	0	2	0	.000	58	63
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	31	39

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	48	43
Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	41	36
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	38
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	47	60

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Arizona	2	0	0	1,000	43	31
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	57	46
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	48	45
St. Louis	1	1	0	.500	25	51

Thursday's Game
Baltimore 26, Pittsburgh 6

Sunday's Games

Dallas 26, Tennessee 10
New England 30, Minnesota 7
Buffalo 29, Miami 10
Washington 41, Jacksonville 10
Arizona 29, N.Y. Giants 14
Cleveland 26, New Orleans 24
Cincinnati 24, Atlanta 10
Carolina 24, Detroit 7
San Diego 30, Seattle 21
St. Louis 19, Tampa Bay 17
Houston 30, Oakland 14
Denver 24, Kansas City 17
Green Bay 31, N.Y. Jets 24
Chicago 28, San Francisco 20

Monday's Game
Philadelphia at Indianapolis, late

Thursday, Sep. 18
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 8:25 p.m.

Sunday, Sep. 21
Dallas at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Houston at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Oakland at New England, 1 p.m.

San Francisco at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Miami, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Sep. 22
Chicago at N.Y. Jets, 8:30 p.m.

Monday's Sports Transactions

HOCKEY
ECHL
ELMIRA JACKALS — Signed F Brodie Reid and F Yuri Chernetiev to one-year contracts.
IDAHO STEELHEADS — Agreed to terms with F Wade MacLeod.

SOCCER
MLS — Fined the D.C. United team and coach Ben Olsen undisclosed amounts for violating the League's mass confrontation policy in the 38th minute of their Sept. 10 game against New York. Fined New York MF Roy Miller an undisclosed amount for instigating and escalating the matter and violating the League's policy regarding hands to the face/head of an opponent. Fined D.C. United D Sean Franklin and MF Davy Arnaud undisclosed amounts for instigating and escalating the confrontation.

COLLEGE
NYU — Named Sara Mitchell women's assistant basketball coach.

TV2DAY

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
7:10 p.m.

SUN — N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay
FS-Florida — Miami at N.Y. Mets
8 p.m.

ESPN — Milwaukee at St. Louis
WGN — Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs
10 p.m.

MLB — Seattle at L.A. Angels or Texas at Oakland

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
7 p.m.

NBCSN — Triple-A National Championship, Pawtucket/Durham winner vs. Omaha/Reno winner, at Charlotte, N.C.

SOCCER
2:30 p.m.
FSN — UEFA Champions League, Basel at Real Madrid
FS1 — UEFA Champions League, Arsenal at Dortmund
10 p.m.
FS1 — CONCACAF Champions League, Olimpia at Portland
3 a.m.
FS1 — UEFA Champions League, Ludogorets at Liverpool (delayed tape)

GATORS

FROM PAGE B1

turn into a big issue Saturday when the Gators play No. 3 Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Wildcats quarterback Patrick Towles threw for three touchdowns and 369 yards, the most passing yards allowed by the Gators since 2007. It was also just the second time since 2008 that Florida's defense gave up more than 300 yards passing.

"Defensively, we just got to cover better. Bottom line. That's my responsibility," said Muschamp, who assists defensive backs coach Travaris Robinson in the secondary.

"They had six big plays for 173 yards. When you play a team that's going to be willing to throw the ball vertically that much, there's going to be some 50-50 balls. We need to play the ball better in some situations. We didn't, and that was very frustrating."

From last year's team, UF lost Loucheiz Pu-

rifo, Marcus Roberson and Jaylen Watkins to the NFL, and Cody Riggs transferred to Notre Dame.

Jabari Gorman, Vernon Hargreaves III, Marcus Maye and Brian Poole are familiar faces in the secondary, but the Gators now start true sophomore Keanu Neal, a former South Sumter standout, at safety and have a few freshmen defensive backs in the rotation.

The new lineup has led to some problems on the back end.

"A little bit of an issue of communication and being on the same page," Muschamp said. "They created the tempo off the deep ball they completed on their sideline. We get caught in a substitution and they hit us on a screen-and-go. We obviously had a miscommunication. Nobody was near the kid."

"So those are things we have to continue to work through in our package. We have to play some more split safety and roll up outside to not create

as many one-on-one matchups."

Muschamp said the communication issues start at the safety position. Neal recorded the first two-interception game for Florida since Ahmad Black in the 2011 Outback Bowl, but he didn't sound proud of his performance after the game.

"I dropped a pick," Neal said. "Not only that, they were a lot of things that I messed up on. I had a busted coverage. I had a missed tackle on the deep end that should have been made. I had a missed tackle in overtime I should have had."

"We had a lack of communication on defense. The safety has to communicate everything to the other defensive backs, so that's on me and Jabari. We just have to communicate better to each other as well as the cornerbacks and the nickelbacks."

Poole, who had an interception against UK as well as a pass breakup in the end zone, expects a tough week of practice from Mus-

champ and Robinson.

"We just got to get better this week in practice. That's really it," Poole said. "They just were a good team. You have to give them credit, too. They made some plays."

Muschamp knows the secondary can't stop everything. Offenses will complete passes on his defensive backs. He just wants their communication and consistency in coverage to improve.

"I thought Jabari did a nice job for the most part," Muschamp said. "Brian had a huge play on the third down in the third overtime to knock the ball off the guy. That's a 50-50 ball. I know from the stands that looks easy. That's a really hard thing."

"It's a hard task to do some of the things we ask those guys to do. I thought he really stepped up and played well at times, and certainly he would like to have a couple plays back. The way we play, sometimes that's where the ball is going to fall, and you've got to make those plays."

HAWKS

FROM PAGE B1

game, that third set," Knights coach Mayra Cuebas said. "It was hard for the girls to come back from that. It's mental. That's something that we have to work on."

Lake Minneola jumped out to a 9-4 lead in the fourth set before consecutive points from Stephanie

Samedy cut the deficit to 9-7. Samedy was stellar the entire match, recording three aces, 14 kills and 40 digs.

Amanda Trice added 13 kills and 36 digs for East Ridge, which trailed 13-12 after another kill from Samedy. A service error, however, pushed the Hawks' lead up to two and they never let their lead slip below three points the rest of the way.

After both teams exchanged wins in the

first and second sets by a combined 19 points, Cook wasn't surprised the third and fourth sets were so close. The final two sets were decided by a combined seven points.

"East Ridge and us, no matter how good either team is we battle every year because the girls play travel ball together and we know each other," Cook said. "We always have a good crowd so it's always fun."

Lemon finished with

15 kills for Lake Minneola, while Ashley Olson added 26 assists.

"Brianna played great," Cook said. "I thought my libero did really well, they're kind of the unsung heroes, they don't really get a lot of attention. My setter moved the ball around really well. She held the blockers and let us get a lot of 1-on-1s. I thought it was a true, group effort."

VBALL

FROM PAGE B1

15-13 decision.

Adams said she believes the team left an impression on the state's volleyball community. Certainly, the teams competing in the showcase were awakened to Adams' budding program.

"What our girls did this weekend is much greater than winning or losing," Adams said. "They showed the state of Florida that Montverde Academy volleyball is here to make an impression. This is just the beginning."

The Eagles were led by Costa, who had 42 kills in the tournament, along with eight service

aces and 52 digs. Zatonni added 23 kills and 13 blocks, while Kotzias contributed 10 service aces and 51 assists.

Giovanna Sette had eight service aces and 95 digs.

Montverde Academy advanced through bracket and divisional play with a 2-1 win against Orlando East River and Miami Sun-

set on Friday. A 2-0 win against Belle Isle Cornerstone Charter in their first match on Saturday earned the Eagles a berth in the semifinals against Jacksonville Bishop Snyder.

In the semis, Montverde Academy cruised to a 2-0 win with scores of 25-20 and 25-11 to set up the championship tilt.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

TODAY

BOYS GOLF

- Eustis vs. Lake Minneola at Sanctuary Ridge, 3:30 p.m.
- Montverde Academy vs. South Lake at Green Valley, 3:30 p.m.
- South Sumter at Crystal River, 3:30 p.m.
- Winter Garden Foundation, Mount Dora vs. East Ridge at Legends, 4 p.m.
- First Academy of Leesburg vs. Ocala Meadowbrook at Stone Creek, 4:15 p.m.
- Leesburg, Ocala West Port vs. Belleview, at Eagle

Ridge, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF

- Lecanto vs. South Sumter at Shady Brook, 3:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

- Leesburg, South Lake vs. East Ridge at NTC, 4:30 p.m.
- Ocala St. John Lutheran at Eustis, 4 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

- Eustis at East Ridge, 6:30 p.m.
- Leesburg at South Lake, 6:30 p.m.
- The Villages at First Academy of Leesburg,

6:30 p.m.

- Apopka Forest Lake at Mount Dora Bible, 6:30 p.m.
- Ocala Trinity Catholic at South Sumter, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

GIRLS GOLF

- Mount Dora Bible, Umatilla vs. Eustis at TBA, 3:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

- Montverde Academy at Port Orange, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

BOWLING

- Eustis at East Ridge, 3:30 p.m.

- Leesburg vs. Mount Dora, 3:30 p.m.
- Mount Dora Bible vs. Tavares, 3:30 p.m.
- South Lake vs. The Villages, 3:30 p.m.

BOYS GOLF

- The Villages vs. Lecanto at Seven Rivers, 3 p.m.
- Ocoee vs. East Ridge at Legends, 3:30 p.m.
- South Lake vs. Umatilla at Eagle Dunes, 3:30 p.m.
- First Academy of Leesburg vs. Wildwood at Miona Lakes Golf Club, 4 p.m.
- Dunnellon vs. South Sumter at Shady Brook,

4 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

- Buffalo Invitational at The Villages Polo Field, 4:15 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF

- South Sumter vs. Leesburg, at Plantation, 3:30 p.m.
- East Ridge, Tavares vs. South Lake at TBD, 3:30 p.m.
- The Villages vs. Ocala Trinity Catholic at Baseline, 4 p.m.
- Lake Minneola vs. Mount Dora Bible at Country Club of Mount Dora,

4 p.m.

SWIMMING

- Mount Dora at The Villages, 4 p.m.
- Eustis at Ocala West Port, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

- South Lake at East Ridge, 6:30 p.m.
- Tavares Liberty Christian at Leesburg, 6:30 p.m.
- Mount Dora at Eustis, 6:30 p.m.
- South Sumter at Hudson, 6:30 p.m.
- Ocala Trinity Catholic at The Villages, 6:30 p.m.

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NFL

Backup QBs make their marks in Week 2

BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Fans often make the backup quarterback the most popular player on a team — until he has to play. Then they see the warts and wobbly passes and wonky decisions that made him a backup in the first place.

On Sunday, though, three reserves, including a third-stringer, got their teams wins.

There won't likely be immediate calls for Drew Stanton to take over for Carson Palmer in Arizona even after a comeback victory at the Giants.

The Rams' Austin Davis was nothing more than an afterthought and possibly headed for the practice squad this summer until Sam Bradford tore up his knee again. Davis' opportunities figure to blossom more than the chances Stanton will have once Palmer recovers from his shoulder problem.

Cousins, however, is one of those guys in reserve who will get a long look while Robert Griffin III is out.

"He is a darn good quarterback and he can do a lot of good things," first-year coach Jay Gruden said of Cousins, who went 22 for 33 for 250 yards and two TDs in relief against the Jaguars. "He is good on the run and throws in the pocket. We just have to



EVAN VUCCI / AP

Washington Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins (8) runs with the ball during the first half against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday in Landover, Md.

give him the reps."

Those reps are key. Gruden acknowledged that for nearly a month, RG3 took most of the practice snaps. The plays he was running weren't necessarily what fit Cousins, who isn't as fast or as creative outside of the pocket as Griffin.

"We will cater to his strengths," Gruden promised.

Where problems often surface is when backups become starters for a lengthy period

of time. For one game — or particularly just a part of it — opponents don't have a true read on what the No. 2 QB is comfortable doing. They're too busy game-planning for the Redskins' RG3, the Cardinals' Palmer and, even though he is a career backup, the Rams' Shaun Hill.

That, in part, can explain why a Stanton or a Davis has some immediate success. The Giants expected a strict pocket passer who

sometimes forces throws in the stationary Palmer. They got a guy with some maneuverability in Stanton, whose passing stats were moderate, but who didn't make mistakes.

"It's different when you're not getting all those reps," said Stanton, who had not played since 2010 and has appeared in 13 games in eight seasons. "You have to be mentally tuned in to every little thing. Sometimes, you're almost

eavesdropping on (coach Bruce Arians) and what he's saying to Carson and what's going on with the O-line."

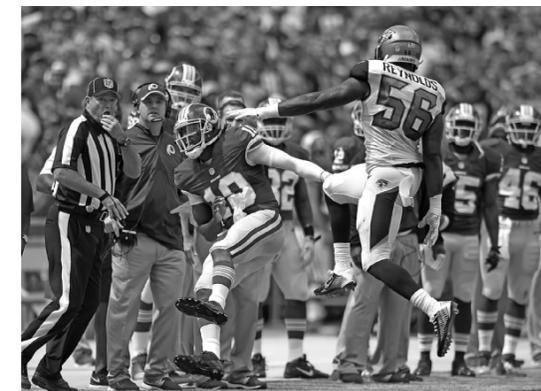
His opportunities figure to disappear once Palmer is ready; the Cardinals went 10-6 behind him last year.

Coincidentally, Stanton's mentor as a backup QB is none other than Hill, who is in his ninth season in the role. Stanton and Hill were together for two seasons with the Lions, and Hill showed the youngster the reserve ropes.

"As soon as I found out I was playing, I texted him," Stanton said of Hill, who is battling a thigh injury that sidelined him for Sunday's victory at Tampa Bay. "He's somebody that I've learned from how to prepare yourself throughout the course of the week as a backup. There's an art to it."

Now it is Davis who is getting the benefit of Hill's wisdom as a teammate. And Davis, who'd never thrown an NFL pass before this year, must be a fast learner.

He went 22 for 29 for 235 yards — first-stringer Bradford would take such numbers every week — with no interceptions and plenty of poise down the stretch. Davis guided a 71-yard drive to the winning field goal one week after St. Louis was routed at home by Minnesota.



NICK WASS / AP

Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III (10) injures his left ankle in front of Jacksonville Jaguars LaRoy Reynolds (56) on Sunday in Landover, Md.

Redskins hoping RG3 will return this season

JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer

ASHBURN, Va. — The Washington Redskins are optimistic that Robert Griffin III will return this season. Less clear is how much more Griffin can take before the "injury-prone" label supersedes anything else he accomplishes in his NFL career.

An MRI exam on Monday revealed that Griffin doesn't have any broken bones to go along with his dislocated left ankle, which means he doesn't need season-ending surgery and could theoretically return in a couple of months if all goes well with his rehab. Kirk Cousins will be the starting quarterback for much — if not all — of the rest of the year.

"This game, we only get to play it for such a short period of time," safety Ryan Clark said, "so, for me, it's more just being sad for Rob. The football part of it goes on. The game? The NFL ain't never missed a play. They're going to keep playing no matter who's in those jerseys."

Griffin was hurt when his left ankle

plunged into the turf during the first quarter of the Sunday's 41-10 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars. The scene was familiar: Griffin lying on the turf, the crowd murmuring with concern, teammates offering support. His tears spoke volumes.

Griffin missed all or part of four games during his record-setting rookie season of 2012, yielding the field to Cousins because of a concussion and later due to injuries to a right knee that eventually had to be surgically reconstructed for a second time. In 2013, he missed part of one game with a tweaked left knee and was benched for the final three games by coach Mike Shanahan.

Now the quarterback with the world-class sprinter's body has broken down again.

His MRI results will be sent to a specialist for further analysis, and coach Jay Gruden said he won't have a timetable for Griffin's return until the leg has been in a cast for a few weeks.

Gruden said there's "no consideration" at this point of putting Griffin on season-ended injured reserve.

Ravens can't 'get away' from Rice saga

DAVID GINSBURG
AP Sports Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — A three-day break wasn't enough to separate the Baltimore Ravens from the Ray Rice saga, and coach John Harbaugh expects the suspended running back and domestic violence to remain topics the team and the NFL will be addressing the foreseeable future.

"We're probably not going to get away from it and probably rightly so," Harbaugh said Monday. "Not just us, the league. Hopefully it impacts society in a good way going forward."

Still, the Ravens tried to steer the conversation toward football.

Before Harbaugh addressed the media on Monday, team spokesman Kevin Byrne told reporters: "We're trying to move on, at least publicly, now that there's an independent



AP FILE PHOTO

Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice waits on the tunnel for his introduction before a 2013 game in Baltimore.

investigation on the Ray Rice situation. He said the coach and players would "not to talk publicly about that anymore."

It's just not that easy. Harbaugh never mentioned the words "Ray Rice" while responding to a question of whether the hiatus after Thursday's game came at the perfect time. Rather, he spoke about the importance of dealing with domestic violence beyond just the scope of the NFL.

"It's a bigger issue than sports. It's a societal issue," Harbaugh said. "It's a problem that is all across society, not just in our country. Historically, sports has been a catalyst for positive change, especially in this country. That's a good thing. If good can come out of that some way, and our organization and players can be part of that somehow, I would really embrace that."

The Ravens have been in damage-control mode since releas-

ing Rice after a video surfaced on Sept. 8 showing him striking his then-fiancee in an elevator last February. After the Ravens cut ties with Rice, the NFL extended his suspension from two games to indefinite.

Just because the Ravens had some time off, that doesn't mean they escaped hearing about Rice and the backlash from that explicit video.

"I'm sure they watch TV," Harbaugh said. "It was pretty much a topic of conversation all through the weekend and it's going to continue to be."

And while the case continues, so do the football games.

And the last time they took the field, the Ravens (1-1) breezed to a lopsided victory over the Steelers.

"We don't get caught up in the swirl as much as you think," Harbaugh said.

Vikings bring back Peterson despite charge

JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Star running back Adrian Peterson returned to the Minnesota Vikings on Monday, insisting he is not a child abuser and wanting "everyone to understand how sorry I feel about the hurt I have brought to my child" after he was charged with a felony in Texas for using a wooden switch to spank his 4-year-old son.

The Vikings had benched Peterson for Sunday's 30-7 home loss to the New England and he had not commented publicly since news broke Friday that he had lashed the boy with the switch earlier this summer, causing



JEFF WHEELER / AP

Two fans tailgate outside TCF Bank Stadium wearing Adrian Peterson jerseys before the Minnesota Vikings played the New England Patriots on Sunday in Minneapolis.

an unspecified injuries. "I am not a perfect son. I am not a perfect husband. I am not a perfect parent, but I am, without a doubt, not a child abuser," Peterson said in a nearly 500-word statement issued through his agency. "I

am someone that disciplined his child and did not intend to cause him any injury.

"No one can understand the hurt that I feel for my son and for the harm I caused him. My goal is always to teach my son right from

wrong and that's what I tried to do that day."

Vikings owners Zygi and Mark Wilf said they had decided to bring back Peterson for practices and Sunday's game at New Orleans "after significant thought, discussion and consideration." The Wilfs said they want to let the legal process play out before making any more definitive decisions on Peterson's future.

"To be clear, we take very seriously any matter that involves the welfare of a child," they said. "At this time, however, we believe this is a matter of due process and we should allow the legal system to proceed and determine the appropriate course of action."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Huskers' Armstrong will measure himself against Miami

ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. — The big numbers Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. has put up through three games must be accompanied by a three-word caveat: Consider the competition.

If he keeps doing what he's been doing when Miami visits Memorial Stadium on Saturday night, no one will doubt the strides Armstrong has made since he was forced into the starter's role a year ago.

Armstrong has had more than 300 yards of total offense in each of Nebraska's three games, and he's thrown seven touchdown passes against one interception. All that was ac-

complished, however, against statistically the worst and second-to-worst defenses in the Bowl Subdivision and an opponent from the second-tier Championship Subdivision.

The No. 24 Cornhuskers (3-0) are fifth nationally in total offense, averaging 594 yards a game and 8 per play. The Hurricanes (2-1) are eighth in total defense, allowing 259 yards a game and 3.7 per play.

"It's plain and simple: we know it, and our coaches know, when we prepare the right way, we know defenses better than they know themselves," Armstrong said Monday. "I don't think anybody can stop us."

Armstrong is throwing for almost 260 yards



MARK CROSSE / AP

Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. hurdles over Fresno State's Shannon Edwards in the first quarter on Saturday at Bulldog Stadium in Fresno Calif.

a game as the leader of Nebraska's self-titled "Red Storm" offense, but his completion rate of 53 percent is virtually unchanged from a

year ago. His one interception in 81 attempts is markedly better than last year, when his eight picks on 131 attempts was the fourth-worst ra-

tio in the country.

The biggest change in his game has come as a runner. He's averaging 86 yards a game, sixth-best among quarterbacks, and 9.6 a carry, seventh among all rushers.

Armstrong, whose 258 rushing yards already exceeds his 13-game total in 2013, has benefited from defenses stacking the box to keep star running back Ameer Abdullah under control. "We need Tommy to definitely be someone who can counter that, someone who can pull the ball (on zone reads) and be an effective runner," Abdullah said. "He's a great runner. This is just the beginning. There's more to come."

Coach Bo Pelini said Armstrong has to be cautious, though. He tried to hurdle defenders on a couple runs against Fresno State, landing on his right (throwing) shoulder on one of the plays. Armstrong said the coaches have warned him about putting his body at risk, but it's his nature to be physical.

"I want to make sure I make a statement, make sure I get hard yardage just like the running backs," he said. Abdullah said Armstrong's increased confidence is the most noticeable change he's seen in Armstrong. Armstrong had played sparingly before taking over for an injured Taylor Martinez after the third game last season.

BASKETBALL



DANIEL OCHOA / AP

James Harden shakes hands with Spain's King Felipe after winning the finals over Serbia on Sunday in Madrid.

Team USA basketball awaits Rio Olympics

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

MADRID — It feels like so long ago, though it's been only a decade.

The U.S. was the three-time defending Olympic champion, but had become a mess of a basketball program. The Americans had embarrassed themselves at home in the 2002 world championship, and when they haphazardly put together their team for the 2004 Olympics, nobody should have been surprised if they lost.

That's exactly what happened. Puerto Rico blew them out 92-73 in their opener.

Now the Americans run perhaps the most stable program in the world, gold medalists at both the men's and women's, senior and

junior levels. Yet Mike Krzyzewski will prepare as if their opener in Rio de Janeiro is as uncertain as the one in Athens.

"I think we can lose our next game," Krzyzewski said. "I mean, that's the way we prepare because we know how good everyone is."

The Americans are the best, proving that again with a 129-92 victory over Serbia on Sunday to win the Basketball World Cup.

That gave the U.S. consecutive world titles to go with its back-to-back Olympic gold medals. The Americans have won with powerhouse rosters in the Olympics and beatable ones in the worlds, and they could go to Brazil with their best one yet.

do the little things we did to have success.

"That's what we want to do now. Take those same habits that we took from last year and just apply it to the game this year."

Clemson (1-1) was in the title hunt before the lopsided loss with a Heisman candidate quarterback in Tajh Boyd and a receiver, Sammy Watkins, who became the No. 4 overall pick in the NFL draft. The Tigers went on to defeat Ohio State in the Orange Bowl, but the loss kept them out of the ACC title game.

They started this season ranked No. 16 and fell to No. 23 after a 45-21 loss to No. 13 Georgia in the season-opener.

"Just from what they

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — AJ Allmendinger and Aric Almirola were the underdogs of the Chase, the two drivers nobody thought could win the Sprint Cup championship.

They knew it, too, when they arrived in Chicago and for the first time in their careers were allowed behind NASCAR's velvet rope. They got the white glove treatment in a private dinner with chairman Brian France and his executives, and were whisked around the city during a celebration of the 16-driver field.

Scoring an invite to the party was a coup; not getting kicked out early a major challenge.

"I was laughing at it, (Vegas) made odds for 14 drivers," said Allmendinger, "and me and Almirola were just 'The Field' for the championship. There were 14 names with odds, and then 'The Field' at 500-to-1."

Almirola made the Chase by winning the rain-shortened July race at Daytona, where he gave Hall of Famer Richard Petty his first win in 15 years. All-

NASCAR

Short stay at NASCAR's party for Allmendinger and Aric Almirola

JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

NAM Y. HUH / AP

AJ Allmendinger makes a pit stop during the NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race on Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Ill.

mendinger used a gritty drive on the road course at Watkins Glen to score his first Cup win and put tiny JTG/ Daugherty Racing into the Chase.

So in a sense, both Allmendinger and Almirola should have gone into the Chase with a "we're just happy to be here mentality."

They didn't, though. They both wanted more, and both wanted to survive the first round of eliminations. To do so, they would have to be perfect and work in a margin with zero room for errors.

It's a terribly hard

task, and one neither succeeded at on Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway. Almirola was easily the biggest surprise of the opening Chase race, running as high as fourth, and he was sixth when he headed to pit road for a routine stop. Then his engine suddenly failed and his race was over. Almirola finished 41st in a devastating ending to what had been shaping up to be a monster day.

"I've never been so heartbroken, ever," Almirola said from the garage after Petty draped his arm around the de-

jected driver. "To be running that good with (just) over 30 laps to go ... I've been saying all week that we can't have a big mistake."

Allmendinger simply wasn't competitive enough on Sunday. He was 22nd for the third-worst finish among Chase drivers.

"I'm thinking big picture, man, but we do this every weekend," he radioed to his team with 86 laps remaining. "I mean, I know you guys are trying, we are all in it together, but it just gets harder every weekend and we don't make any progress."

FSU

FROM PAGE B1

are in different positions.

Florida State was the preseason No. 1, and has held on to the top ranking. However, things haven't been the same this year. The 2013 team set the FBS record for the most points scored and defeated teams by an ACC record 51.6 points per game. The Seminoles are 2-0, but haven't proven themselves the same unstoppable force.

"It was definitely a turning point in a game that propelled us," Seminoles tackle Cam Erving said. "We knew we were good, but the thing about it was we had to go out and continue to



AP FILE PHOTO

Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston (5) leaps over guard Josue Matias, bottom, as Oklahoma State safety Jordan Sterns, left, is unable to stop Winston from reaching the end zone on Aug. 30 in Arlington, Texas.

did to us last year, that was an embarrassment," Clemson safety Jayron Kearsse said. "Just looking through media, that's all they talk about is how they beat us 51-14 and things like that.

"That's old, that's be-

hind us. We're just ready to go out and show the world what we can do (on) Saturday."

The game was a defining moment for both teams last year and could be again in 2014.

Florida State has not

been the juggernaut it was, but the Seminoles also built up steam last year. They still have the reigning Heisman winner Jameis Winston at quarterback. The offensive line features five seniors and there's plenty of NFL talent on both sides of the ball.

"You have to let us have our own identity," Florida State receiver Rashad Greene said. "The result may be the same, but we may not beat teams by 30 or 40 like we were last year. But we're winning and getting better and playing good football is the most important thing."

"People can't compare us to that team. That was definitely a dominant team and nothing had been seen

like that in years in college football, period."

A Clemson victory against the No. 1 team in the country, on the road, would likely shoot the No. 22 Tigers up the rankings. There are new faces at quarterback — Cole Stoudt and Deshaun Watson — but the Tigers did lead Georgia 21-14 in the second quarter.

Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher said he knew the type of team he had after the Clemson victory last year.

"It's always good to be able to see yourself when you play at a very high level mentally and physically and emotionally, what you're capable of," Fisher said. "It gives you supreme confidence."



The skinny on the Big Leagues

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



Box scores and results for games ending after 10 p.m. will appear in our next edition.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST

	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Baltimore	89	60	.597	—	—	7-3	W-1	46-29	43-31
Toronto	77	71	.520	11½	4	6-4	L-1	41-33	36-38
New York	76	72	.514	12½	5	4-6	L-1	38-35	38-37
Tampa Bay	72	78	.480	17½	10	5-5	W-1	33-42	39-36
Boston	66	84	.440	23½	16	5-5	W-1	31-44	35-40

CENTRAL

	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Detroit	83	66	.557	—	—	7-3	W-3	41-33	42-33
Kansas City	81	67	.547	1½	—	4-6	L-1	39-35	42-32
Cleveland	76	72	.514	6½	5	5-5	L-3	45-30	31-42
Chicago	68	81	.456	15	13½	5-5	L-1	39-38	29-43
Minnesota	63	86	.423	20	18½	2-8	W-1	30-42	33-44

WEST

	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Los Angeles	93	56	.624	—	—	9-1	L-1	49-25	44-31
Oakland	83	66	.557	10	—	4-6	W-2	45-27	38-39
Seattle	80	68	.541	12½	1	5-5	L-2	38-40	42-28
Houston	66	83	.443	27	15½	6-4	W-1	35-39	31-44
Texas	57	92	.383	36	24½	4-6	W-3	28-46	29-46

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 5, 10 innings
 Detroit 6, Cleveland 4
 Boston 8, Kansas City 4
 Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 4
 Texas 10, Atlanta 3
 Houston 6, L.A. Angels 1
 Oakland 4, Seattle 0
 Baltimore 3, N.Y. Yankees 2

MONDAY'S GAMES

Toronto at Baltimore, late
 N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, late
 Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, late
 Cleveland at Houston, late
 Detroit at Minnesota, late
 Seattle at L.A. Angels, late

TODAY'S GAMES

Boston (Ranaudo 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Morton 5-12), 7:05 p.m.
 Toronto (Hutchison 10-11) at Baltimore (U.Jimenez 4-9), 7:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees (Pineda 3-4) at Tampa Bay (Odorizzi 10-12), 7:10 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox (Bassitt 0-1) at Kansas City (D.Duffy 8-11), 8:10 p.m.
 Cleveland (Kluber 15-9) at Houston (Tropeano 1-0), 8:10 p.m.
 Detroit (Porcello 15-11) at Minnesota (Nolasco 5-11), 8:10 p.m.
 Seattle (Elias 10-12) at L.A. Angels (Cor.Rasmus 3-1), 10:05 p.m.
 Texas (Tepesch 4-10) at Oakland (Kazmir 14-8), 10:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST

	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Washington	85	63	.574	—	—	6-4	W-2	46-28	39-35
Atlanta	75	74	.503	10½	4	3-7	L-3	40-31	35-43
Miami	72	76	.486	13	6½	5-5	W-1	40-34	32-42
New York	72	78	.480	14	7½	6-4	L-2	37-38	35-40
Philadelphia	69	80	.463	16½	10	5-5	L-1	36-42	33-38

CENTRAL

	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
St. Louis	83	67	.553	—	—	6-4	W-3	47-28	36-39
Pittsburgh	79	70	.530	3½	—	8-2	W-1	46-29	33-41
Milwaukee	78	72	.520	5	1½	5-5	W-1	41-37	37-35
Cincinnati	71	79	.473	12	8½	5-5	L-1	40-35	31-44
Chicago	65	84	.436	17½	14	2-8	L-1	35-36	30-48

WEST

	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Los Angeles	85	64	.570	—	—	7-3	W-2	40-35	45-29
San Francisco	82	67	.550	3	—	6-4	L-2	42-35	40-32
San Diego	68	80	.459	16½	10½	2-8	L-2	40-31	28-49
Arizona	61	88	.409	24	18	3-7	W-2	31-44	30-44
Colorado	59	90	.396	26	20	4-6	L-6	39-35	20-55

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Washington 3, N.Y. Mets 0
 Pittsburgh 7, Chicago Cubs 3
 Miami 5, Philadelphia 4
 Milwaukee 9, Cincinnati 2
 St. Louis 4, Colorado 1
 Texas 10, Atlanta 3
 L.A. Dodgers 4, San Francisco 2
 Arizona 8, San Diego 6

MONDAY'S GAMES

Miami at N.Y. Mets, late
 Washington at Atlanta, late
 Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, late
 L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, late
 San Francisco at Arizona, late
 Philadelphia at San Diego, late

TODAY'S GAMES

Boston (Ranaudo 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Morton 5-12), 7:05 p.m.
 Miami (Eovaldi 6-11) at N.Y. Mets (B.Colon 13-12), 7:10 p.m.
 Washington (Roark 13-10) at Atlanta (Harang 11-10), 7:10 p.m.
 Cincinnati (Cueto 18-8) at Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 8-5), 8:05 p.m.
 Milwaukee (W.Peralta 16-10) at St. Louis (Lynn 15-9), 8:15 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers (Haren 13-10) at Colorado (Matzek 5-10), 8:40 p.m.
 San Francisco (Peavy 5-4) at Arizona (Collmenter 10-7), 9:40 p.m.
 Philadelphia (A.Burnett 8-16) at San Diego (Kennedy 10-13), 10:10 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING: Altuve, Houston, .339; VMartinez, Detroit, .331; JAbreu, Chicago, .322; Beltre, Texas, .322; Cano, Seattle, .321; Brantley, Cleveland, .320; MiCabrera, Detroit, .310.
RUNS: Trout, Los Angeles, 107; Dozier, Minnesota, 100; MiCabrera, Detroit, 93; Kinsler, Detroit, 93; Brantley, Cleveland, 89; Bautista, Toronto, 88; Donaldson, Oakland, 86; Pujols, Los Angeles, 86.
RBI: Trout, Los Angeles, 107; JAbreu, Chicago, 102; NCruz, Baltimore, 102; MiCabrera, Detroit, 101; Ortiz, Boston, 99; VMartinez, Detroit, 98; Bautista, Toronto, 97.
HITS: Altuve, Houston, 206; Brantley, Cleveland, 180; Cano, Seattle, 175; Kinsler, Detroit, 175; MiCabrera, Detroit, 173; VMartinez, Detroit, 172; McCabrera, Toronto, 171.
DOUBLES: MiCabrera, Detroit, 45; Altuve, Houston, 42; Plouffe, Minnesota, 40; Brantley, Cleveland, 39; Trout, Los Angeles, 39; Kinsler, Detroit, 38; JAbreu, Chicago, 35; McCabrera, Toronto, 35; Pujols, Los Angeles, 35.
TRIPLES: Bourn, Cleveland, 10; Eaton, Chicago, 8; Gardner, New York, 8; Rios, Texas, 8; Trout, Los Angeles, 8.
HOME RUNS: NCruz, Baltimore, 39; Carter, Houston, 36; JAbreu, Chicago, 35; Trout, Los Angeles, 34; Bautista, Toronto, 32; Encarnacion, Toronto, 32; Ortiz, Boston, 32.
STOLEN BASES: Altuve, Houston, 52; Ellsbury, New York, 38; RDavis, Detroit, 33; JDyson, Kansas City, 33; AEscobar, Kansas City, 30; LMartin, Texas, 27; Andrus, Texas, 26.
PITCHING: Weaver, Los Angeles, 17-8; Scherzer, Detroit, 16-5; Shoemaker, Los Angeles, 15-4; WChen, Baltimore, 15-4; Kluber, Cleveland, 15-9; Lester, Oakland, 15-10; PHughes, Minnesota, 15-10; Porcello, Detroit, 15-11.
ERA: Sale, Chicago, 1.99; FHernandez, Seattle, 2.14; Kluber, Cleveland, 2.45; Lester, Oakland, 2.45; Lester, Oakland, 2.45; Richards, Los Angeles, 2.61; Keuchel, Houston, 3.00.
STRIKEOUTS: DPrice, Detroit, 250; Scherzer, Detroit, 232; Kluber, Cleveland, 230; FHernandez, Seattle, 225; Lester, Oakland, 206; Sale, Chicago, 192; Darvish, Texas, 182.
SAVES: Rodney, Seattle, 45; GHolland, Kansas City, 42; DavRobertson, New York, 36; ZBritton, Baltimore, 34; Perkins, Minnesota, 34; Nathan, Detroit, 32; Uehara, Boston, 26.

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING: J Harrison, Pittsburgh, .317; Morneau, Colorado, .315; Posey, San Francisco, .311; AMcCutchen, Pittsburgh, .310; Revere, Philadelphia, .309; Lucroy, Milwaukee, .303; Goldschmidt, Arizona, .300.
RUNS: Rendon, Washington, 108; Pence, San Francisco, 103; MCarpenier, St. Louis, 93; Span, Washington, 93; FFreeman, Atlanta, 90; CGomez, Milwaukee, 90; Stanton, Miami, 89.
RBI: Stanton, Miami, 105; AdGonzalez, Los Angeles, 103; JUpton, Atlanta, 96; Howard, Philadelphia, 92; Desmond, Washington, 86; Holliday, St. Louis, 86.
HITS: Pence, San Francisco, 176; Span, Washington, 173; Revere, Philadelphia, 169; Rendon, Washington, 167; FFreeman, Atlanta, 165; McGehee, Miami, 165.
DOUBLES: Lucroy, Milwaukee, 51; FFreeman, Atlanta, 41; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 39; Rendon, Washington, 38; AdGonzalez, Los Angeles, 37; Span, Washington, 37; KDavis, Milwaukee, 36; Kemp, Los Angeles, 36.
TRIPLES: DGordon, Los Angeles, 12; BCrawford, San Francisco, 10; Hechavarria, Miami, 10; Pence, San Francisco, 10; DPeralta, Arizona, 9; Puig, Los Angeles, 9.
HOME RUNS: Stanton, Miami, 37; Rizzo, Chicago, 30; Duda, New York, 27; JUpton, Atlanta, 27; Frazier, Cincinnati, 26; Byrd, Philadelphia, 25; LaRoche, Washington, 24.
STOLEN BASES: DGordon, Los Angeles, 61; BHamilton, Cincinnati, 56; Revere, Philadelphia, 45; CGomez, Milwaukee, 31; Span, Washington, 31; EYoung, New York, 29; Rollins, Philadelphia, 28.
PITCHING: Kershaw, Los Angeles, 19-3; Cueto, Cincinnati, 18-8; Bumgarner, San Francisco, 18-9; Wainwright, St. Louis, 18-9; WPeralta, Milwaukee, 16-10; Greinke, Los Angeles, 15-8; Lynn, St. Louis, 15-9.
ERA: Kershaw, Los Angeles, 1.70; Cueto, Cincinnati, 2.15; Hamels, Philadelphia, 2.51; Fister, Washington, 2.55; Wainwright, St. Louis, 2.56; Greinke, Los Angeles, 2.64; Lynn, St. Louis, 2.73.
STRIKEOUTS: Strasburg, Washington, 223; Cueto, Cincinnati, 220; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 219; Bumgarner, San Francisco, 208; TRoss, San Diego, 195.
SAVES: Rosenthal, St. Louis, 44; Kimbrel, Atlanta, 43; Jansen, Los Angeles, 42; FRodriguez, Milwaukee, 41.



CHRIS O'MEARA / AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Wil Myers holds up on his swing against New York Yankees starting pitcher Chris Capuano during the first inning on Monday in St. Petersburg.

Pearce, Harrison among game's biggest surprises

NOAH TRISTER
 AP Baseball Writer

Steve Pearce may be the perfect embodiment of Baltimore's surprising year.

The 31-year-old first baseman had never played more than 61 games in a season until 2014, but his 17 home runs — 13 more than his previous career high — have helped put the Orioles on the verge of an AL East title.

"It always had a good feel to it, Steve being on the club," manager Buck Showalter said. "A good fit, a guy that you could count on — 'What does the team need? I'll be ready, appreciate the opportunity, it's an honor to be in the big leagues.'"

Pearce made his major league debut in Harrison? The 27-year-

2007 with Pittsburgh, and he's also played for Houston and the New York Yankees, but he's never hit like this. On Sunday night, Pearce drove in the tying run and scored the winning run in the ninth inning of a 3-2 victory over the Yankees.

"He's looking for good things," Showalter said. "He expects his next at-bat to be a good one. He doesn't wallow around in self-pity."

Pearce has helped the Orioles withstand injuries to more celebrated teammates Matt Wieters and Manny Machado — but he's just one of several unexpected contributors to baseball's postseason races.

Where would the Pirates be without Josh



PATRICK SEMANSKY / AP

Baltimore Orioles' Steve Pearce doubles in front of New York Yankees catcher Brian McCann and home plate umpire Ed Hickox in the ninth inning on Sunday in Baltimore.

old second baseman leads the National League with a .317 average, and his on-base percentage is 61 points higher than his previous best.

Detroit signed J.D. Martinez to a minor league deal in March, after he was released by Houston. Martinez is

now hitting .305 with 22 home runs and 71 RBIs.

Chris Young was an All-Star in 2007, but when Washington released him before this season, he hadn't pitched in the majors since 2012. Seattle picked up the 6-foot-10 right-hander, and he's managed to stay

healthy, going 12-8 with a 3.33. ERA.

KC HERE THEY COME

It might be the biggest series in Kansas City since 1985, when the Royals won the World Series. They haven't made the playoffs since, but they trail first-place Detroit by only 1 1/2 games in the AL Central. The Tigers start a three-game series at Kansas City on Friday night.

STABILIZED?

Oakland, which looked like baseball's best team for a while this year, is now having to scramble for one of the American League's two wild cards. But the A's took two of three at Seattle, and now the schedule softens a bit, with six games this

week against Texas and Philadelphia.

STILL IN IT

Speaking of stabilizing, Milwaukee has won four of five following a 1-13 stretch that threatened to end the team's postseason hopes. The Brewers trail Pittsburgh by 1 1/2 games for the NL's second wild card. The Pirates host a three-game series against Milwaukee starting Friday night.

MAGIC NUMBERS

Baltimore (AL East), Washington (NL East) and the Los Angeles Angels (AL West) all have double-digit leads and are poised to clinch their divisions. The Orioles have a magic number of three, while the Nationals and Angels are at four.



Programming Highlights for week of September 15



Coming up in the September episode we'll take a look at how nuclear imaging could help you...and can a pill prevent hearing loss? Tune in for these stories and more

Airs: M/W/F @ 6a & 6p and T/Th/Sat @ 11a & 11p

Is she "snarky" or a "straight shooter?" A unifier or a divider? Part two of our exclusive conversation with this controversial columnist continues on "Profiles."



Airs: M/W/F @ 7a & 7p and T/Th/Sat @ 10:30a & 10:30p



September's episode includes information on how elderly loved ones can remain independent... with a little help, plus a recipe for healthy aging and much more

Airs: M @ 8:30a & 4:30p, T/TH @ 8:30a & 5p, W @ 10a, F @ 4:30p & 8p

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Woods says strength is back, but not his swing

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

WINDEMERE — Tiger Woods is too busy in the gym to find a new swing coach, or even swing a golf club.

Woods said Monday his strength has returned from "busting my butt in the gym pretty hard" and he is on schedule to resume competition in December. But he still hasn't hit a golf ball since he missed the cut at the PGA Championship on Aug. 8, and still doesn't know when he will.

"We're pretty much past the strength phase now, and I've got my strength where I want to have it," Woods said at Isleworth Golf & Coun-

try Club, where he lived for the first 15 years of his pro career. "Now I just need to get my fast twitch going and get my speed back, and that's going to take a little bit of time. That's part of our second phase of training. And that's coming up now."

Woods had his fifth surgery in 20 years — this time on his back — and failed to win a PGA Tour event for the third time in the last five years.

Rory McIlroy referred to Woods and Phil Mickelson as being on "the last few holes" of their careers when he was asked about the two best players of their generation not being eligible for the Tour

Championship for the first time since 1992.

McIlroy simply was noting their ages (Woods turns 39 in December, Mickelson is 44) and their injuries. And when "the last few holes" became an Internet sensation and McIlroy was asked if he needed to explain his remarks to Woods, he replied with a laugh, "I've said worse to his face."

Woods' response? "I thought it was funny," he said. "Phil has less holes to play than I do, though. It's a reality, you know? We're all older. I'm nearing my 20th season on tour here coming up pretty soon. ... It's just part of the aging process."

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Husband's 'educational' dvds get flunking grade from wife

DEAR ABBY: I am a full-time mother of three young children and have been married for nine years. Since the beginning, my husband has pushed to have things "his way." He struggles with his temper and has yelled at me over little things.

We have met with a counselor and were showing improvement in our marriage — or so I thought — until he started pushing me to watch explicit sex DVDs and read sex books. I feel very uncomfortable doing this. He claims he wants us to watch them for "educational reasons." He seems obsessed with the idea that we have to get the most out of life NOW because we are getting older.

I know we have some big issues to overcome and plan to continue seeing our counselor, but do you have any advice? — **STRUGGLING IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR STRUGGLING: I'm

all for getting the most out of life regardless of how old a person is. And I'm pleased that you and your husband are talking to a licensed therapist, because it may help to save your marriage.

Many couples watch "explicit" sex DVDs together because it improves their sex lives. Depending upon the content of the ones your husband is watching, it could add spice to your sex life. But because it is making you uncomfortable, this is something that should be discussed with your therapist so you won't feel coerced into anything you can't handle.

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my early 60s. I take good care of myself and have been told I'm attractive. I have been in a monogamous relationship with "Frank" for six years. I love him and he loves me, but I'm not sure I



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

want to marry him.

I know I couldn't live with Frank full-time because even though he's 57, he lives like an immature frat boy. He has sports memorabilia all over his house, and he's messy. There are piles of paper and stacks of clothes everywhere. He is a hoarder, a procrastinator and has OCD.

Frank and I are best friends. We have an amazing physical relationship, but I feel I want more. I don't think he's willing to change his ways at this point in his life. Should I accept this relationship for what it is, or look for someone more compatible with my lifestyle, as hard as that would be? — **TORN IN**

TEXAS

DEAR TORN: I think you should have a talk with Frank and lay your cards on the table. You say he is a hoarder, a procrastinator and has OCD. If you are right, they may all be connected. His house isn't the only thing that may be chaotic; his mind may be, too.

The good news is there is help for OCD and hoarding — but only IF HE IS WILLING TO GET IT. If he is open to it, your relationship could go to the next level. However, if he is resistant and marriage is what you want, it would be better to move on and find someone whose lifestyle is more like your own.

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.

HOROSCOPES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014:

This year you open up to many new adventures. Your drive and energy will make a difference on the home front. You could move, remodel your home and/or build a new addition. You also could be prone to fighting with those you live with, especially if you don't have a good outlet for your high energy. If you are single, you are drawn to people who inspire you. Get to know someone before you become emotionally involved. If you are attached, the two of you often differ when it comes to deciding on plans. Go along with your significant other's choices more often, as he or she tends to let go more easily than you do. **CANCER** helps you create more of what you want. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Use the early morning to make calls and have meetings. As the day goes on, you might need some time to tackle a problem. You will benefit from having private time. You might strive to see the big picture, but it could be difficult at this point. **TAURUS** (April 20-May

20) Handle a financial matter immediately, and you will be more relaxed. Act quickly and ask questions. Seek out the information you want. A wide range of opinions could be difficult to handle at times, yet they will prove beneficial to your long-term goals. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You'll breeze through the morning until you might trip over an obstacle involving your funds or a financial agreement. You might feel confused, as what you are seeing won't be the same as what you are hearing. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22) By mid-morning, you'll perk up and seem more interested in others. You'll have the energy and right attitude to get past any problems. Others might step back and become less helpful because they assume you can handle it all. Is that what you want? **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You might choose to have a low-key day, yet someone could decide to invade your space. You will have no choice but to deal with the issue at hand. Responsiveness will help facilitate a sense of mutuality. Know



JACQUELINE BIGAR
BIGAR'S STARS

what you want to deal with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Look at the bottom line during a meeting. Others likely will feel differently than you do. You might decide to go out on your own. The question remains: What is best for you? You will discover that others will join you along the way. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You'll feel relaxed as long as you look at the big picture. A problem is likely to occur when you become too immersed in an issue. Frustration and anger easily could come to surface. Do not sit on these feelings; instead, express them in a way others can hear. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You finally will achieve the level of understanding and relaxation you've been seeking. Your ability to see past the obvious defines a situation. Your detachment allows others to come to you in order to gain a deeper perspective. Remain

open.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your energy could green light a conversation that someone has been trying to have with you. Stop resisting, and be open to the process. The other party might be very sensitive, yet he or she will understand where you are coming from. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Others seem to rule the roost today. Consider your options, and decide not to fight what the majority wants. Try to express your feelings in a way they can be heard. You might have a lot of questions to ask at this present moment. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You could be taken aback by recent events. You might decide that you have had enough and head in a different direction. A friend is likely to push you hard to do what he or she wants to do. Honor who you are. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Your imagination emerges once more to help you find your way. Your caring toward a loved one won't go unnoticed. Be careful with those in charge, as they might have some kind of grievance with you.

BRIDGE

The Step-by-Step Approach

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 6 5
♥ J 8 2
♦ Q 5 2
♣ 10 4

EAST
♠ A K J 10 9
♥ 7 3
♦ K 10 6
♣ Q 9 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ 2♠
4♥

Opening lead — four of spades.
Assume you're declarer in four hearts and West leads the spade four. Obviously, you must lose two spade tricks, so making the contract depends on whether you lose one diamond trick or two.

If West has the king of diamonds, it's easy enough to hold yourself to one diamond loser by leading low toward the queen at some point. But if East has the king and you lead low to the queen, you will eventually lose two diamond tricks and go down one.

You should start by making a tentative assessment of which opponent

is more likely to have the king. Since East made a vulnerable overcall on the two-level, you should conclude that he probably has the king.

Your next step is to visualize opposing distributions that would allow the contract to be made even though East has the king of diamonds. For example, you could mentally assign the singleton or doubleton king of diamonds to East and then easily manage the play so as to make the contract.

But by far your best chance is to try to find a way to force East to lead away from his assumed king of diamonds, since that would solve your problem even if he had three or more diamonds including the king.

Accordingly, after East wins the opening spade lead with the nine and continues with the king and then the ten of spades, you ruff high. After drawing trumps, you next cash the A-K of clubs, ruff a club and lead dummy's last spade, the queen.

But instead of ruffing it, you discard a diamond! This puts East on lead and forces him to return a diamond from the king or yield a ruff-and-discard. Either way, you make the contract.

As happens so often when you're declarer, you could not be 100 percent certain of the ultimate outcome. All you could do was to follow your convictions and hope everything would eventually work out.

Tomorrow: A little bit of rope.
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, September 16, the 259th day of 2014. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 16, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and draft-evaders.

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-16 CRYPTOQUOTE
ZFA ODQ QYSYG OGFEE BLY
FOYDQ AQBXX ZFA LDSY BLY
OFAGDUY BF KFEY EXULB FV
BLY ELFGY. — OLGXEBFJLYG
OFKAPNAE

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHATEVER THE MIND OF MAN CAN CONCEIVE AND BELIEVE, IT CAN ACHIEVE. — NAPOLEON HILL

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WORD SCRIMMAGE™

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1st DOWN: C₆ C₆ T₂ N₂ E₁ I₂ R₂

2nd DOWN: U₃ O₂ D₃ I₂ M₆ M₆ C₆ (5th Letter + 6 PTS)

3rd DOWN: L₂ R₂ E₁ O₂ L₂ B₆ N₂ (3rd Down + 30 PTS)

4th DOWN: M₆ A₂ L₂ O₂ B₆ E₁ V₇

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN AVERAGE GAME 195-205 PTS
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.

9-16-14 JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

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

WORD SCRIMMAGE™ SOLUTION BY JUDD HAMBRICK

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1st DOWN = 92: D₃ I₂ S₂ A₂ V₇ O₂ W₇

2nd DOWN = 17: F₇ I₂ N₂ N₂ E₁ D₃

3rd DOWN = 100: N₂ O₂ U₃ R₂ I₂ S₂ H₇

4th DOWN = 46: H₇ A₂ Z₁₄ E₁ R₂

AVERAGE GAME 160-170 PTS JUDD'S TOTAL = 255

9-15-14

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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.

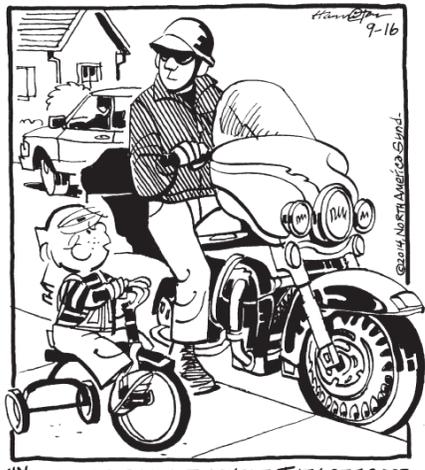
Puzzles range in difficulty from one to six stars.

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

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LUANN



DILBERT



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



BABY BLUES



BETLE BAILEY



PICKLES



ZITS



PHANTOM



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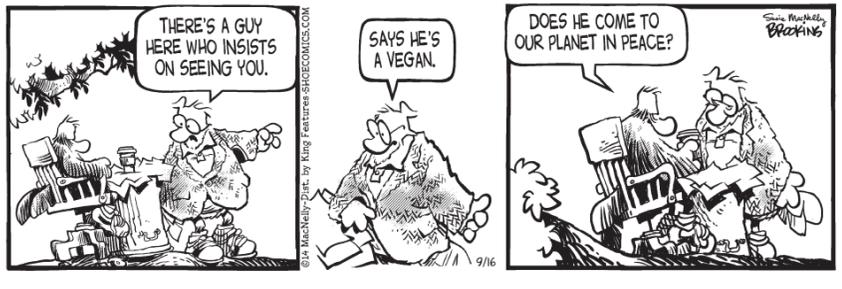
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



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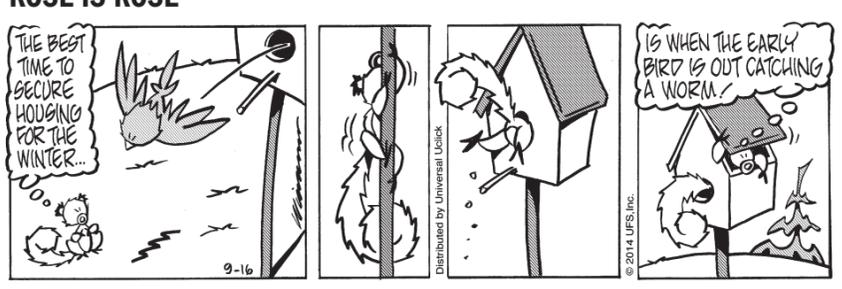
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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



ROSE IS ROSE



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ENTERTAINMENT/CULTURE WRITER:
Should be someone who is brimming with ideas and is curious about culture, the arts and nightlife. Must be creative, passionate and adept at finding quirky features and writing the kind of trend stories that get attention.

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PHOTOGRAPHER:
When you look through a camera, do you see special moments where other people see average events? Whether it's the city council meeting, a photo feature on the person turning 100, a rodeo, fair or fire, we need a photographer who can document the events and draw people into the newspaper. Must shoot digital and be able to transmit photos to my email quickly and efficiently.

COPY EDITOR:
Candidates must be able to demonstrate skill in editing, headline writing and page layout. The job will include evening and weekend work. Strong knowledge of InDesign is essential.

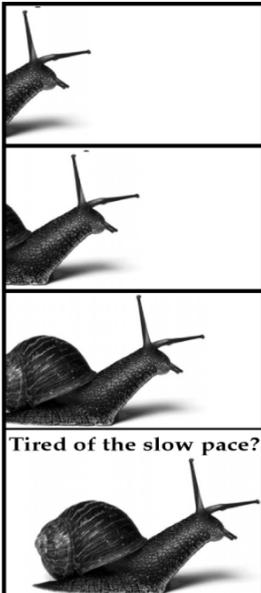
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