

CHAOS IN THE COUNTY

BOMB THREATS • SCHOOLS ON LOCKDOWN • SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENT ON U.S. 27



PHIL ATTINGER/STAFF

Parents wait in a long line in the parking area of the Highlands County Fairgrounds Wednesday morning to pick up their Sebring High School children. School officials informed them of a bomb threat and told them they could pick up their children at the Highlands News-Sun Center.

Bomb threats force evacuations of Sebring, Avon Park high schools

Person of interest in custody

By JAY MEISEL
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Search teams, bomb-sniffing dogs and drones failed to detect explosives Wednesday after threats were faxed to Avon Park and Sebring high schools.

By 3 p.m., authorities took into custody a person of interest, an adult, after investigating to determine who faxed the threats. However, they did not release his identity as of press time.

Although authorities were relieved at the determination no bombs were in either school, the end result didn't take away from the challenges of evacuating hundreds of students and putting together the necessary resources to make sure the schools were safe.

"You can tell that we are taking this very seriously," said Scott Dressel, public information officer for the Highlands County Sheriff's Office. Dressel, along with the command center, was stationed for hours at Fireman's Field, across Sebring Parkway from Sebring High School.

The Highlands County School District decided to put all schools on



Traffic backs up Wednesday morning on Sebring Parkway in both directions from the intersection with South Commerce Avenue. Drivers, seen here in the southbound right-turn lane and on South Commerce, waited in a long line that barely moved to get to the Highlands County Fairgrounds and pick up their children after a bomb threat at Sebring High School.

safety closure, restricting access to people who had a legitimate reason to be there, said Andrew Lethbridge, deputy superintendent. He said that is somewhat less restrictive than a lockdown.

Dressel also said authorities took seriously the search for the person who made the threats. That person may think it's all a joke, Dressel said, but added, "When we find them, they'll definitely know it wasn't a joke."

Since the bomb threats at both schools arrived by fax, investigators immediately worked to determine where the

faxes originated, either by the phone number, or the IP address, Dressel said.

The identical faxes said that explosives were present in the schools, Dressel said.

In response to those faxes, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office put together teams including deputies, bomb-sniffing dogs supplied by multiple agencies, and drones. The FBI also was involved.

The deputies searched the buildings with the dogs trained to detect explosives. Then they

searched the parking lots, including the vehicles driven to school by the students and school employees. The drones were used to determine if explosives were on the roof. Only after the parking lots were cleared could the students drive home with the vehicles.

Earlier after the school received the fax, the School District decided at Sebring High School that students would be sent to the Highlands News-Sun Center across Sebring Parkway.

BOMB | 6



Jessica Butler, center, and Courtney Culpepper, to her left in a Santa Claus hat, said they hadn't waited long in Wednesday's line of parents that started at the corner of South Eucalyptus Street and Magnolia Avenue and ended, after snaking through the Highlands County Fairgrounds parking lot, at the door of the Highlands News-Sun Center. They all were there to pick up their children after a bomb threat was faxed to Sebring High School.



Parents wait in a long line at the entrance to the Highlands County Fairgrounds Wednesday morning to pick up their Sebring High School children. School officials informed them of a bomb threat and told them they could pick up their children at the Highlands News-Sun Center.



COURTESY PHOTO/JENNIFER PERDIAN

A mangled mess of yellow is what is left of bus 177 after being hit from behind by a semitrailer and landing on its left side Wednesday morning on U.S. 27. Several children and the bus driver were taken to local hospitals for treatment and two children were flown to Tampa General Hospital.

Semitrailer hits school bus in Lake Placid

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

LAKE PLACID — A semitrailer ran into a stopped school bus Wednesday morning on U.S. 27, rolling the bus onto its left side and injuring most of the 39 students aboard.

None were killed, but some got trapped and two had to be airlifted to Tampa General Hospital with serious injuries. More than 20 others received treatment for minor injuries at Florida Hospital Lake Placid, said Dr. Cary Pigman with the Florida Hospital Heartland Emergency Department. Meanwhile, Florida Highway Patrol has cited the truck driver

— 45-year-old Stanley Lockwood of Orlando — with careless driving.

The wreck took place at 7:42 a.m. on U.S. 27 at Lake Ridge Drive. FHP reports that bus driver Selena Hawthorne, 59, of Lake Placid had just stopped in the northbound right-hand lane to pick up children from Lake Ridge Drive, a two-lane street leading into a small subdivision. At the time of impact, she had 39 students on the bus.

Lockwood was northbound, some distance behind the bus, FHP reported. The bus had its flashing lights activated, but Lockwood failed to stop in time.

BUS | 6



The front of a semitrailer sits mangled Wednesday morning after running into the back of a stopped Highlands County school bus on U.S. 27 at Lake Ridge Drive. There were no fatalities; only serious or minor injuries. Florida Highway Patrol cited the truck driver with careless driving.



PHIL ATTINGER/STAFF

Highlands County firefighters and the Areomed crew wheel an unidentified student to the waiting helicopter Wednesday morning for transport to Tampa General Hospital. The student was one of two airlifted that morning from a wreck where a school bus got hit from behind by a semitrailer on U.S. 27 northbound at Lake Ridge Drive.



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Comics.....News Wire
Let's Go.....B1

Local Sports.....A7-8
Lottery.....Sports

Viewpoints.....A4-5
Weather.....News Wire

Good Morning To
Richard Warsack
Thanks for reading!



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3 applicants for Ed consortium position

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

LAKE PLACID — There are three qualified applicants for the executive director position at the Heartland Educational Consortium with the closing date for the position on Friday.

The six-county consortium has been advertising for an executive director to succeed Debra Elliot who will be retiring from the position next year.

The advertisement seeking applicants was posted Oct. 19

on the School Board of Highlands County website.

Elliot said, when the position was advertised, that she won't be leaving until May 2018, but the consortium's directors wanted the position to be advertised for several months.

The directors are the six superintendents of the school districts the consortium serves — Highlands, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry and Okeechobee counties.

The three qualified

applicants are:

- Wayne Alexander, who currently is a director of adult education/alternative education in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

- Harry Bryant, of Sebring, who is currently director/CEO of Highlands Hope Infant and Child Care Inc.

- Douglas Herron, of Stuart, a former principal, who is working on a doctorate.

Interviews are scheduled for Feb. 16.

According to the description of the position, the executive director is

directly responsible for developing, supervising, and monitoring all programs, services, contracts, fiscal functions and personnel so as to ensure the needs of member school districts are met.

The minimum requirements for the position include a master's degree from an accredited college or university and five years experience in educational administration or the equivalent supervising staff.

The Heartland Educational Consortium, now in its 21st year,

offers a variety of services to member districts including leadership development for teachers and administrators; professional development for school and district personnel; support and assistance for curriculum, instruction, assessment and technology initiatives; updates and guidance on legislation and grant writing.

Also, the Consortium manages numerous programs.

The Consortium is located at 1096 U.S. 27 N., Lake Placid.



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SFSC graduates 13 law enforcement officers

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Thirteen graduates of the South Florida State College Basic Law Enforcement Academy, Class 254 were recognized at a ceremony on Dec. 8 in the SFSC University Center Auditorium, Highlands campus, Avon Park.

No longer cadets of the academy, the BLE graduates who received occupational certificates were Highlands County residents Michael R. Barry, Jeira Colon, LaToya Henley, Estella Islas, Cierra L. Johnson, Wesley Jones, John Layport, Meghan Nielsen, David Shoopman, and Brittany Whittington; Dustin L. Edwards of DeSoto County; and Christopher Bandy and Beth Gainous, of Hardee County.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Chief John Eason, of the Wauchula Police Department, who addressed the graduates. He explained that Sir Robert Peele, who established the London metropolitan police department in 1829, stressed the importance of earning public support.

"Winning public approval requires vigorous work to build reputations, enforcing laws impartially, hiring officers who represent and understand the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Graduates from the Basic Law Enforcement class at South Florida State College are back row, from left: Wesley Jones, Beth Gainous, Dustin Edwards, Jeira Colon, Estella Islas, LaToya Henley; front row, from left: Brittany Whittington, David Shoopman, John Layport, Michael Barry, Christopher Bandy, Cierra Johnson, and Meghan Nielsen.

community, and using force only as a last resort," Eason said. "This still rings true today. Each of you have worked tirelessly to make it to this point. Do not throw it away by forgetting your oath and canon of ethics. Each of your classmates, your family, your instructors, your agency, and most importantly, your community demands only the absolute best you have to offer."

Eason went on to

thank the family and friends of the graduates: "On behalf of the instructors of the SFSC Basic Law Enforcement Academy, I want to thank the graduates' friends and family members. You helped get your loved ones to this point today. You have each faced the challenges and adversities throughout this course but you've risen to the challenge. Continue to support your law enforcement officer."

During the ceremony, special awards were presented to Jones as class leader and for top academic scores in the class and Edwards for top firearms score.

SFSC's BLE occupational certificate program trains cadets to become law enforcement officers in Florida. By successfully completing the program, they are eligible to take the state certification examination to become certified law

enforcement officers. The program runs 770 contact hours or approximately five months full time or approximately 10 months part time.

For more information about the BLE Academy, visit southflorida.edu or call SFSC's Criminal Justice Academy at 863-784-7285.



Wesley Jones, right, accepts certificates as Class Leader and for Top Academics from Michael Huften, coordinator, SFSC Basic Law Enforcement Academy.



Dustin Edwards, right, accepts a certificate for Top Firearms from Michael Huften, coordinator, SFSC Basic Law Enforcement Academy.

Sebring man accused of illegal dumping

By **JAY MEISEL**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — A man was arrested after video surveillance showed him dumping more than 500 pounds of horticultural debris, according to an arrest report released last week.

Fidencio Rodriguez, 48, 501 S. Egret St., Sebring, was arrested by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and charged with dumping more than 500 pounds of litter.

The video surveillance showed Rodriguez dumping the horticultural debris on the right of way of Quail Avenue, which is an area with dumping problems, the report said.

Rodriguez told deputies that this was the first time he dumped there and that other people dump items at that location frequently.

The report said that Rodriguez saved money by avoiding the costs of transporting the waste to the landfill and paying tipping fees.

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SUN
NEWSPAPERS

OUR VIEW

‘Laughter’ is not always the best medicine

Many of our readers are old enough to remember the “bad old days” — the days when youngsters commonly came down with “childhood illnesses” like measles, mumps, chicken pox and German measles.

No doubt, many experienced those ailments themselves. Coughing, fever, swelling and sore throats, etc. Some, no doubt, lived through times when the possibility of a child contracting polio was a fearful thought.

We think of modern medicine as a miracle. It certainly is a blessing.

But modern medicine represents the triumph of Western scientific thought. It is the triumph of the scientific method, developed in the 17th century: question, hypothesis, experiment, analysis of data, repeat, develop what works.

As stories in the Sun this week noted, the vaccination was one of the 20th century’s greatest accomplishments. It eliminated smallpox. It eliminated diphtheria. It brought us the Salk vaccine. All-out development and public vaccination programs wiped away, to a large degree, the childhood diseases of measles, German measles, chicken pox and mumps.

Good riddance.

In the past decade, though, vaccinations have drawn heightened scrutiny and even some health scares, primarily due to what eventually proved to be junk science and the ability of false information to spread like a virus on the Internet. Inaccurate information about purported links between vaccinations and autism caused a panic among some parents. This pseudo-science has been thoroughly debunked by public health officials after extensive follow-up studies.

Still there remain skeptics.

The possibility of adverse reaction to a vaccine always exists. That is true. But the chances of one individual being affected are infinitesimal. On the flip side, the more children there are not receiving the proper vaccination protocol the greater the risk grows for everyone else.

That’s the point of public vaccination programs. They are all-encompassing. We assume tiny individual risks in order to promote the widespread health of all. This is our blessing to society. But as we become further removed from the initial recognition of the extreme consequences, the more we seem likely to disregard them. Our distrust — pricked by misinformation gone viral — may result in a type of harmful ignorance, perhaps. How counter-intuitively modern.

If you have questions about vaccination programs, talk with a trusted physician. Don’t rely on some quack on the Internet.

Get your kids their shots. Measles, mumps, rubella vaccinations are required by schools (with special exceptions.) As the Sun story noted, there has been a significant spike in mumps outbreaks the last two years. About 11,000 mumps cases have been reported nationally in 2016 and 2017, with a month to go, as compared to 229 in 2012.

While you’re thinking about it, make sure you have flu shot. Especially for our more-aged population, flu shots are vital. They are cheap (or free). They are available everywhere.

Only 43 percent of Floridians received flu vaccines last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control. A flu outbreak was reported recently in Sarasota County. The possibility rises among our more-vulnerable populations in nursing homes, schools and day care centers.

Southwest Florida swells with visitors in the winter months. There are a lot more people interacting — which is good in many ways and definitely not so good in another, the spread of illness through human contact.

Embrace this 20th century miracle. For yourself and your loved ones.

— Sun Newspapers



Listen up! (please ...)

Alright, people. Listen up! I have some things I need to get off my chest and you are the lucky ones who are going to listen. Some of these I’ve been pondering for quite some time; others are coming to me as I’m writing. In any event, I need you to listen because it’s my turn to speak and I’ve been holding these things in. (And, I really do appreciate you caring enough to hear me out.)

First of all, why do we insist that everyone should be a leader? Just think about that statement. How can we all be leaders? If we’re all leaders, who will follow? Don’t leaders, by definition, have to be leading someone? As I look at my own life, I believe I’m best when I’m not leading but in a supportive role. I think I’m a much better assistant coach than head coach. I think I’m a much better, and more effective, classroom teacher than administrator. Does this make me less than



NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Mike Lee

those who lead me? I don’t think so.

Wouldn’t you agree that we all have gifts and talents and some people were meant to lead and others to follow? I often wonder how those who aren’t leaders feel when they constantly hear they should be? I truly believe we find true satisfaction in life only when we come to grips with who we are and stop trying to be someone else. Some people are followers and as long as they are following good

leaders with good purposes, isn’t that OK? I think so.

Well, that one went a little longer than I had planned. The next few won’t be.

Why is it that the more sleep we get, the more sleep our body wants? I feel more tired and seem to yawn and want to get to bed earlier when I get seven to eight hours of sleep than when I get five to six hours. I bet it’s the same for you. What is up with that!

Why do we consider actors, who by definition are pretending to be someone they’re not, experts in other areas. For example, what makes Leonardo DiCaprio an expert in global warming (if there is even such a thing)? Is it his extensive science background or that he has a platform because he’s a successful actor? Why don’t people pull over when an emergency vehicle is behind them with their lights flashing? Don’t you know they would be the first ones filing lawsuits against the

emergency personnel for taking too long to respond if it was their family who was involved. I just don’t get it. Get out of the way so they can do their job and possibly save a life.

Lastly, why is it that we have to make Christmas so complicated. Actually, Christmas itself isn’t complicated. It’s simply a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to take away the sins of the world. What is it about humans that compels us to complicate matters? Why do we fuss so about every detail of Christmas dinner, or the number of presents everyone should get, or how much we spend? Why do we expect everyone in the Christmas picture to be smiling perfectly, especially the kids and our pets?

Well, I feel better. Thank you. By the way, that last bit about Christmas — I was asking for a friend.

More info at www.simplelifecoach.com

YOUR VIEW

A modern day Christmas

T’is the night before Christmas, and throughout this great nation,

Nary a sighting of Santa, must he be on vacation?

No sleigh full of presents, nor Santa and his team

Rudolph and eight reindeer, nowhere to be seen.

But yet there are gifts, neath a well-adorned tree,

All gaily wrapped for the whole family.

But whence forth did they come, well I really must confess.

E-Bay, and Craig’s list and U.P.S.

Dave Parks
Sebring

Heartland Food Bank can be part of solution

I read with interest the editorial commentary by Tom Smolarick in the Dec. 11, 2017 edition. It was a pleasure to realize that other members of the community are interested in and aware of the problems of hunger in our society.

Mr. Smolarick encourages us to consider further government involvement in the solution for the problem.

With respect to him, I would like to encourage him and the community to consider an alternative.

It has been my experience that involvement of the government in certain societal problems often leads to greater difficulty, more bureaucracy, and inefficient solutions. In this case, I would point out that there already exists in Highlands County a solution. For approximately 10 years the Heartland Food Bank has struggled to attack our existing hunger problem. The Food Bank is allied with the national organization, Feeding America.

The theory of the food bank concept is the establishment of a centrally located source of food where local food pantries can go to obtain food to distribute to the needy who exist in larger numbers in our county than most of us realize.

Our food bank presently receives donations of food from 15 local grocery stores and donations of cash and grants from individuals and other organizations. The food items are then distributed to some 29 pantries who see to the distribution to those in need.

So, the wheel has already been invented.

What we must recognize is that the need is not yet being met. There are 283 existing food banks in the United States, and presently only two have been able to meet the need in their communities. Our food bank is not one of those two.

Why not simply reach out to the many churches, community organizations and individuals and encourage greater community support? Charitable activities in our country have historically been met and handled by private organizations. If we can expand the community knowledge and enthusiasm for our local food bank, I believe we can more efficiently serve our hunger needs.

So, Mr. Smolarick, I commend your recognition of the need and your willingness to address it. Could I encourage you and our community to jump on our food bank’s wagon and work toward growth and help it provide sufficient food to those in need? Thank you for your communal enthusiasm.

P.S. The Heartland Food Bank is located at 928 SR 17 N, Sebring. The phone number is 863-385-7885. Donations and volunteers are needed. Please visit heartlandfoodbank.com to

donate online.

Francis Van Hooreweghe
Sebring

Open letter to President Trump

After the presidency of Ronald Reagan, after many years of military decline, we the American people must demand a rebuilding of our military, “air, land and sea.” Under Reagan, we the employees of General Electric at Evendale, Cincinnati built enough engines for 100 B1B’s and the stealth engines for the B2 stealth bomber. We would ask Trump for a contract to upgrade the Super Sonic B1B and the B2 stealth bombers’ engines. I played a large role in the building of those engines. (Just one of many awards in the building of many of America’s and the world’s best aircraft engines, with the help of millions of American workers, the most skilled worker on this Earth.)

This is just 17 of the many changes I and my partner, whose name is Greg Ross, made in the building of the B1B and B2 stealth bomber as well as many other aircraft engines.

Our military — air, land and sea — is the smallest in 75 years. All voters should demand that we update our military.

I and my partner wrote and changed the procedure for the build of the B1B bomber engines, for which we were not paid.

Its critical that Donald Trump give General Electric a contract to update the B1B and the B2 stealth bomber engines.

Location of plant is Evendale, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Billie E. Jewett
Sebring

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. We will not accept any Letters to the Editor that mention a business in a negative tone, as they have no means to defend themselves. Please keep Letters to the Editor to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as for grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name — not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. In the case of letters that are emailed,

the same rules apply.

Due to the number of letters received, we are able to run only four letters per person per month.

The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse, and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. The newspaper takes no responsibility for the content of these letters.

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The rude reality of the courtesy green



It happened again the other day. While I was traveling south on U.S. 27 on a green light, I was nearly broadsided by someone on the opposite side of the highway turning left on a courtesy green. While expletives aren't appropriate for a family newspaper or a lady of gracious manners, I just couldn't help myself at that moment.

Courtesy greens are one of those helpful traffic devices that keep things moving, but only if people are able to self-regulate. Here in Highlands County, I've personally felt it is not a good idea because many drivers see green and just keep on trucking.

The state of Florida agrees that green means go — but people, listen up — that's only if the intersection is clear. Drivers must still yield to pedestrians and vehicles in the intersection. A special note here: if you are turning left, you must wait for a gap in oncoming traffic to complete the left turn.

This is where the problem occurs as drivers breeze right through the courtesy green, making a left turn through oncoming traffic also on a green light. If they aren't familiar with the courtesy green scenario or are too impatient to wait for an actual green arrow, they will often

move into the right of way as they wait for traffic to thin. Of course that doesn't happen in the winter season until the oncoming lanes get a red light. Then the driver who is now out in the middle of the highway and far beyond their traffic signal, proceeds with their left turn, oblivious to the fact that their signal is now red as well. Those who have the green and right of way hopefully wait for this aberrant driver to clear the intersection before they continue or we all know what happens next.

I try not to get aggravated when a green light Grinch steals the right of way, but if they plow through and nearly sideswipe me, or I have to brake suddenly and almost get rear-ended by the vehicle behind me, it definitely sparks my ho-ho-ho.

Adding to the excitement of the green light runners are those

lights lasting three seconds or so. We see this each year right around the influx of seasonal traffic, but we aren't sure why. Did you notice it? From Hammock Road to U.S. 27, the light turns green, but only for a mere moment or two. As additional cars drive through on the red, you can't help but express a few snarky sentiments. We have also seen this brief light phenomenon on Thunderbird Road or as one exits Shelby Crossings. I'm not making this up and quite a few folks have commented on it. No one seems to know why though.

Thankfully those seconds-long signals have adjusted, which is great because with so many seasonal residents now in town, traffic snafus are an everyday occurrence. Also common are oblivious drivers continuing through red lights, left turns on red and the ever-exciting last minute drift across all lanes of traffic.

Our seasonal community becomes less so with each turn of the calendar, however the holidays are upon us and a lot of drivers aren't sure where they are going and seem to make erratic driving decisions along the way. Let's all slow down and drive more carefully.

HARRIS & CO.
Dorothy Harris

California wildfires, horses and celebrities

News reports about California wildfires often seem to focus on horses, celebrities and schadenfreude. Sometimes fire victims suffer a second time from the crazy news coverage.

There is a mandatory evacuation now in my neighborhood in Montecito, California, as the huge Thomas Fire creeps closer, filling the air with acrid smoke and dusting everything with ash. The evacuation order is expected to last through the week. The fire has already claimed over seven hundred homes.

I'm a political cartoonist and my house is filled with my own art and a big collection of cartoon artwork from my colleagues. My son and I got back into the house Monday to grab more family photos, papers and artwork. I saw that many of my neighbors had the same idea. I took the opportunity to water the yard, clean the rain gutters and move things away from the house - things that probably made little difference, but relieved my stress. My house is still filled with artwork as the fire bears down.

I was raised in Montecito. I inherited the house my schoolteacher mother bought in 1964 for \$28,000, an amount that seems ridiculous by today's standards. Montecito is filled with normal working people who have lived in the neighborhood for decades as property values soared, helped by the low property taxes of

COLUMNIST
Daryl Cagle

California's Proposition 13. It was a normal place in my childhood, now Montecito is expensive, known as the place where Oprah Winfrey has a house, along with a long list of other Hollywood notables. I don't know where those celebrities live. They don't come by to say "hello."

In 1977 my mother's house burned in the Sycamore Canyon Fire that claimed around 250 homes; she chose to rebuild. Why do people rebuild after a fire? Because it is home, and after a disaster we see mistakes with what seems to be clarity. The house had a wood shake roof, and the 1977 fire seemed to claim only houses with wood shake roofs. Now the house has a concrete roof, no attic vents and a concrete yard. We have regular inspections by the local fire department and we follow their advice, but today's superfires seem to claim anything in their paths, no matter what roofs are made of, and no matter what advice is followed.

I was a college student, living at home when the 1977 fire suddenly swooped in. I watched as the news media was filled with reports of horses in danger and rich celebrities fleeing their homes. I remember a segment sometime later, on Britain's popular "Spitting Image" TV show, a cartoonist's favorite, where

screaming celebrity caricatures were running around, engulfed in flames as the audience roared with laughter.

The media's trivial obsessions had a tangible effect in 1977. President Jimmy Carter refused to declare Santa Barbara and Montecito a federal disaster area, noting that the people here are wealthy and can take care of themselves. A disaster declaration would have meant that my mother and I could have lived in a FEMA trailer for a year, while our house was being re-built.

A few months later there was a similar fire in Malibu; for some reason, the media didn't focus on celebrities that time and Carter declared a federal disaster area, even though the average income of the Malibu fire victims was higher than the income of victims of our Montecito fire. Media coverage made all the difference with Carter.

I fear we'll see the same international media response if the wind shifts in the next few days. The dry brush of celebrity schadenfreude is ready to burn ... along with my mother's house.

Daryl Cagle's cartoons and columns are syndicated to over 800 newspapers, including the paper you are reading now. Visit Daryl's site at DarylCagle.com. Columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily that of the Highlands News-Sun.

Newsday Crossword

CONCEALMENT by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Bridges in films
5 Acted out without words
10 Tapers off
14 Henry Ford contemporary
15 Clamorous, as a crowd
16 Front of a ship
17 Send forth
18 Jazz genre
19 South Asian garment
20 Wrangler's accessories
23 Pope during WWII
24 Charitable ones
25 Pompous one
28 Swim meet outfits
31 Spare expenses
33 Solemn assurance
34 Cuban sandwich ingredient
38 CinemaScope production
42 Shangri-la
43 Have control of
44 Major olive oil producer
45 IDs of a sort
48 Arles article
49 Groundhog Day concern
53 Bygone bird
55 Volume with a jacket
59 The rain in Spain
60 All-important
61 Most of 2017's pennies
64 Deep red
65 Bring joy to
66 Island near Corsica

DOWN
1 "Average" guy
2 Street often near Maple
3 Bank acct. backer
4 Aperture setting
5 Fusion of miscellany
6 Poker declaration
7 Ingot shaper
8 Become less burdensome
9 Antonym of 65 Across
10 Seiko's printer brand
11 Encouraging word
12 Cornfield pest
13 Sandwich staple
21 Thin streaks
22 Acapulco article
25 "... even ___ speak"
26 Losing streak
27 Debate position
29 Recreational calendar entry
30 Female rabbit
32 Blokes
34 Home for a houseplant
35 Running track, e.g.
36 Miff
37 Critical elements
39 Boast rudely about
40 It may be under the sofa
41 Botch
45 Bugs Bunny address
46 Mag rep's quote
47 Piece of stemware
49 Pointed, as a comment
50 The ___, Netherlands
51 Possession of the Netherlands
52 Decisive times
54 Exudes
56 Very unpleasant
57 Flight data
58 Symbol of Scotland
62 League often seen on ESPN
63 Big Price is Right prize

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/14/17

Look for a third crossword in the Sun Classified section.

Answer to previous puzzle

B	O	C	A	F	R	E	S	H	S	P	E	D			
O	P	A	L	R	O	M	E	O	T	O	T	O			
L	E	N	O	E	A	T	A	R	C	H					
T	R	O	U	S	E	R	S	L	E	N	G	T	H		
S	A	N	D	A	L	L	E	E							
		L	Y	E	D	I	D	B	R	A					
A	R	E	A	S	F	L	E	E	M	O	O	S			
B	Y	A	H	A	I	R	S	B	R	E	A	D	T	H	
C	A	R	S	B	O	U	T	B	O	S	S	Y			
S	N	L	P	E	N	S	I	B							
		P	A	R				G	E	T	S	A	T		
S	T	U	D	I	E	D	I	N	D	E	P	T	H		
S	L	A	T	A	L	I	T	O	M	U	T	E			
H	I	N	T	N	I	C	E	R	P	R	I	M			
E	D	G	Y	S	E	E	M	E	O	N	C	E			

12/14/17

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS
1 Place for peas or z's
4 Bridge measure
8 Like traffic at a bottleneck
14 "Norma ___"
15 She famously said "Play it" to 49-Across
16 Saved to watch later
17 Horace's "___ Poetica"
18 Year-end rewards
20 One-step-at-a-time toy
22 "Only ___": NPR sports program
23 Silver State capital
26 "The Mindy Project" actor Barinholtz
29 Well-endowed org.?
30 McKellen and McShane
31 Said further
33 Real estate unit
34 Acted bullish?
35 Classic TV intro which can be applied to the starts of the four other longest puzzle answers
41 Volunteer's offer
42 "Yaya con ___"
43 Attach with string
44 Half of half-and-half
45 Flower painted by van Gogh
49 See 15-Across
50 Bad break
52 Really worry
55 ___ Tunes
56 Dugout loudmouth
60 Horseplayer's hangout, for short
61 "Good News" Grammy winner Kathy
62 Workshop gadget
63 Opposite of paleo-
64 Wimps
65 Cheek or lip
66 "Yakety ___": rock-'n'-roll novelty hit

DOWN
1 "Donnie ___": Depp film
2 Part of a winter hat
3 Appetite
4 Michael Moore film about healthcare
5 "No more fighting!"
6 Pack animal
7 "Don't think so"
8 Cheap smoke
9 Actress Fey
10 Egg cell
11 Trident-carrying god
12 "My goodness"
13 Pigs out (on), for short
19 Creatures in caves
21 Pres. advisory team
24 "The Alienist" novelist Caleb
25 Boss' demand often followed by "now!"
27 Shrewd
28 Shrewd current
31 Tori of pop
32 Head-slapper's cry
33 Long, long time
35 Search engine results
36 Director Kazan

By Ed Sessa 12/14/17

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

E	G	G	H	E	A	D	C	A	F	H	A	N	
P	A	L	E	A	L	E	A	L	A	B	A	M	A
C	L	A	P	T	O	N	S	E	S	A	M	E	S
O	L	D	S	U	S	P	E	C	T	S			
T	O	Y	S	D	E	A	S	A	I	D	S	O	
N	O	O	B	R	L	S	C	L	O	A	K		
U	T	A	H	E	A	S	T	W	A	R			
D	O	C	N	I	K	O	L	A	I	N	B	A	
O	V	A	A	C	I	D	G	N	A	W			
H	E	M	A	N	T	I	O	G	R	A	D		
A	R	E	N	A	S	E	N	G	T	R	E	O	
G	R	E	E	T	E	R	S	D	L	R			
T	E	L	L	A	L	L	D	O	O	R	D	I	E
I	N	C	O	M	E	S	G	I	A	C	O	M	O
P	O	D	A	S	A	E	N	R	A	G	E	S	

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- 37 Basic principles
- 38 Big head
- 39 Sandy sediment
- 40 Like a really bad comedy skit
- 44 Fictional detective Mr. ___
- 45 U.N. workers' agcy.
- 46 Sentences that need fixing
- 47 Summer drink
- 48 Posh stadium seating
- 50 Hindu princes
- 51 "The Highwayman" poet
- 53 "Hair" parts
- 54 Biblical pronoun
- 56 Big name in luxury autos
- 57 ___ de cologne
- 58 Rite Aid competitor
- 59 Soul maker

BOMB

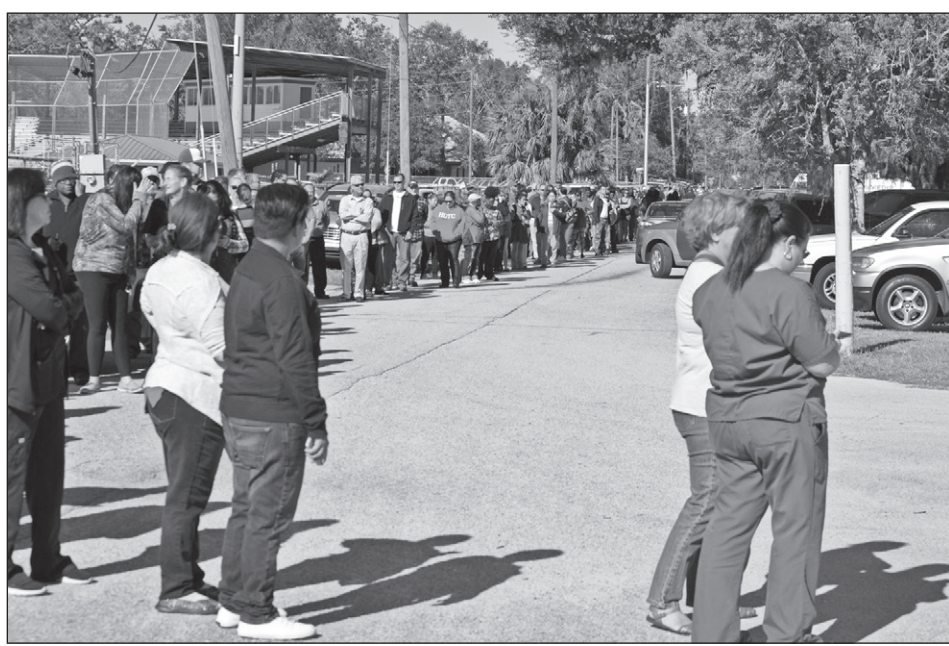
FROM PAGE 1

The district sent out calls to parents that they could pick up their students at the Highlands News-Sun Center. Otherwise, the students would return to Sebring High School after the campus was cleared.

As a result of that a considerable number of local businesses ended up temporarily having one less employee. Well over 300 parents showed up to pick up their children. That created traffic jams on Sebring Parkway and Commerce Avenue.

Parents waited in long lines, sometimes more than an hour before they could pick up their children. The process was delayed initially until computer access became available; this allowed school personnel to verify the adults showing they were the persons approved to pick up the children was accurate.

At Avon Park High School, students were evacuated to the football



PHIL ATTINGER/STAFF

A line of parents starts to snake through the Highlands County Fairgrounds from where it started at the corner of South Eucalyptus Street and Magnolia Avenue, in the background. Parents learned from Sebring High School officials Wednesday of a bomb threat and were told they could pick up their children at the Highlands News-Sun Center.

field, Joe Franza Stadium. Parents were allowed to pick up the students.

In Sebring, Alexis Grunly, who was picked up by her mother, Laura Grunly, described the whole experience as scary, recalling the evacuation notice and that she and other students were searched. She said

she had a panic attack because of the situation.

Kerrie Leihe had to leave work to pick up her stepson, but understood the need for the evacuation.

"I understand they have to take this seriously," she said.

Tena Turner, whose son attends Sebring High

School, said she found the situation stressful.

"My anxiety level is through the roof," she said. "You know it's serious when they have you come to get your kid."

According to the School Board of Highlands County, all schools will be open Thursday.



A Highlands County Sheriff's deputy directs a truck onto Magnolia Avenue, away from the entrance to the Highlands County Fairgrounds. Sebring High School parents learned from the school of a faxed-in bomb threat and were told they could pick up their children at the Fairgrounds. The resulting lines of cars snarled traffic on Sebring Parkway and South Commerce Avenue.



Parents wait in traffic on South Commerce Avenue to enter the Highlands County Fairgrounds Wednesday morning. School officials informed them of a bomb threat at Sebring High School and told parents they could pick up their children at the Highlands News-Sun Center at the Fairgrounds.



PHIL ATTINGER/STAFF

Highlands County firefighters load a patient for transport from the scene of a wreck Wednesday morning between a semitrailer and a school bus. There were no fatalities, according to the Florida Highway Patrol, but two students were airlifted and another two, along with the bus driver, were transported to local hospitals.



Highlands County firefighters and the Areomed crew wheel an unidentified student to the waiting helicopter Wednesday morning for transport to Tampa General Hospital. The student was one of two airlifted that morning from a wreck where a school bus got hit from behind by a semitrailer on U.S. 27 northbound at Lake Ridge Drive.

BUS

FROM PAGE 1

The impact obliterated the truck's front end, caved in the rear right quarter of the bus — where children were sitting — and pushed the bus onto the east shoulder, turning it over onto its left side.

Ethan Turner, one of the students, was unharmed but visibly shaken.

"It was over in a flash," Turner said. "All I could think about was getting out the back door."

Jennifer Storks Perdian, a nurse who had just left her shift at Florida Hospital Lake Placid, arrived on the scene shortly after Emergency Medical Services. The Lake Placid resident told the Highlands News-Sun, via email, that she noticed mostly high school students alongside the road while emergency responders tried to free a couple of students still trapped in the bus.

"I looked around and didn't see any other nurses there," Perdian said. "So I took it upon myself to grab one of the EMS trucks, with permission, to get supplies and go to work with like a makeshift triage."

Bill Brantley, member of The School Board of Highlands County, also arrived on the scene and said some students found themselves pinned in by the seats, which had to be cut out.

Brantley also said the Highlands County School District alerted parents to the situation.

"Unfortunately, social media beat us to many people," Brantley said.

Brantley said the semitrailer driver admitted to him that he saw the stopped bus, but he blinked and then he

crashed. Brantley alleges that the driver said he did not remember what happened.

Most parents picked up their kids at Winn-Dixie at County Road 29, Brantley said, at a makeshift staging area a half-mile north of the crash site. By then, he said, the children had been checked by EMS approximately four or five times for injuries.

Local pastors and church leaders came out to the staging site to offer comfort through counseling, blankets and refreshments for the children and their parents. The scene appeared very calm to observers.

Pigman, who also serves as a Florida state

representative, said students who came to Florida Hospital had no serious injuries: "Mostly bumps and bruises."

"The kids were really troopers," Pigman said. "Very calm. There wasn't any distress. They were taking it in stride."

Approximately two wore seatbelts, he said, and had lesser injuries than other students who didn't. He said they got hurt worse from the initial hit and then the secondary hit of rolling onto the ground.

"They were sheepish about not wearing them," Pigman said. "Maybe they learned something."

Pigman said he drove by the scene afterward and saw substantial rear-end

damage to the bus. He was impressed that it wasn't worse.

"School buses are very resilient," Pigman said. "That was a tractor-trailer that rear-ended a bus at stop. That's pretty dag-gone good."

Carlene Varnes, operations manager for the school district, said the standard protocol, whenever possible, is to have buses turn off U.S. 27 onto side roads to collect students. However, at many places all over the county, they can't avoid pickups on the highway. She said the bus stop at Lake Ridge Drive is one such place. The road is too narrow and the subdivision's streets are too tight

to allow a bus to turn around and return to the highway.

Several other locations must have U.S. 27 stops, she said: A road is too small for a bus to navigate or houses have driveways right on the highway.

When asked how many bus stops the School District has on U.S. 27 itself, Varnes said there are 20 stops and by policy they are all door side, which means children are always picked up on the side of the road from where they are waiting for the school bus.

Pigman also remarked that he was impressed with the hospital staff's smooth handling of the situation. Rural hospitals

have to be able to respond, he said. A "country hospital" may be a mundane place to work most days, he said, but disaster could occur anywhere at any time. He said local hospitals like Lake Placid and Florida Hospital Wauchula — where Florida Senator Denise Grimsley, registered nurse, is the administrator — have to marshal resources and be ready.

"It's the kind of thing Denise and I have been doing a long time," Pigman said. "Maybe by the time we're 80 or 90, we'll figure it out."

Highlands News-Sun staff writers Kim Leatherman and Marc Valero contributed to this report.

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LOCAL SPORTS

Wright Motorsports back to IMSA

Nielsen, Long to race Porsche in GTD class

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Wright Motorsports will be returning to endurance competition in 2018 with a full-season IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship entry. Sharing the seat of a GT Daytona (GTD) class Porsche 911 GT3 R will be reigning two-time GTD champion, Christina Nielsen and

Porsche factory ace, Patrick Long.

"I am very pleased to have this great opportunity come together in such a short time. It is a tremendous opportunity to be heading back into the endurance racing arena with such a strong program. In my experience, I haven't seen too many driver combinations better to compete for a championship

then what I think we will see in Patrick Long and Christina Nielsen," said Wright Motorsports Principal, John Wright.

"I'm also very happy to have Patrick back for the 2018 season" continued Wright. "Coming off this year's championships, our momentum could not be stronger than it is now. I am looking forward to working with Christina and seeing her

back behind the wheel of a Porsche. We have tried to make something happen in the past, but due to different circumstances we were never able to pull anything together."

Entering her fourth full season in the WeatherTech Championship, Nielsen will join the Ohio-based



THE RACER'S GROUP PHOTO

IMSA | 8 Christina Nielsen adjusts her helmet.

Dragons hold off Streaks

Lake Placid beats Sebring in girls basketball

BY RUTH ANNE LAWSON
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING – Lake Placid utilized balanced scoring to post a 49-36 win over Sebring in girls basketball on Monday night.

The loss dropped the Blue Streaks to 0-5 on the season, while the Green Dragons improved to 5-3.

"I saw a lot of spots that we improved in," said Lake Placid Coach Steve Bullard. "I also saw a lot of spots we need to work on. Anytime you win you are happy and I am happy with this win. We lost a tough one the other night against Tenoroc. Sebring you have to give them a lot of credit. They have struggled the past couple of years but they don't quit. They cut it down to three in the second half and that really worried me. We had some girls that came off the bench that did a nice job. Skylar Armonia, Lynd Lewis and Kiara Watson are three girls that came off the bench that don't usually get a lot of time. They are going to get more time as time goes on. Lewis is about 6-foot 1 and has never played basketball and she is coming on now. Our girls if they just cut down on their mistakes we will have a decent team."

Lake Placid took the early lead on a jump shot by Kylie Elliott but the Blue Streaks answered back with a basket from Laurie Brown.

Sebring increased its advantage as a pass from Tete Goldsmith led to a basket by Kendal Little who then drilled a 3-pointer to make it 9-4.

Lake Placid roared back as Armonia banked a shot home, Kayla Domenich scored and made a free throw and Elliott and Donnie Gobourne scored to give the Green Dragons a 17-10 lead heading to the second quarter.

Lake Placid's Gobourne made a free throw, Domenich drove the lane for a layup and Claire Pypers made a jump shot and a free throw to give the Green Dragons a 23-17



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/CORRESPONDENT

Lake Placid's Kayla Domenich (23) shoots over Sebring's Zi'yanah Massaline during Monday night's game. The Green Dragons beat the Blue Streaks by a score of 49-36.

lead at the half.

Sebring closed the gap in the third period as Brown sank a 3-pointer, but Pypers scored on a rebound basket and on a nice pass from Gobourne to increase the lead.

Little scored for Sebring, but Goldsmith and Armonia each scored inside the paint and Elliott made a jump shot to give Lake Placid a 35-22 advantage.

The Blue Streaks went on a run to close within 37-30 heading to the final period.

Sebring kept the pressure on as Brooks who made a basket, but Gobourne swished a pair of free throws and Elliott passed the ball to Pypers who made a bucket for the Dragons to make it 41-32.

Brown made a jump shot for

DRAGONS | 8

Spring Lake men's golf results

By JIM FOOTE
SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

On Tuesday, the Spring Lake Men's Golf Association held an Individual Low Net Points tournament on the Cougar Trail golf course. There were 31 players and three flights, all on a handicapped basis.

In Flight A there was a tie for first place at 46 points between Jim Temple and Mike Custer. While Mr. Custer had net seven birdies, Mr. Temple had five birdies and the only net double eagle — a 3 on the par 5 Hole No. 11 with one handicap stroke.

Third place went to Joe Wolf at 45 points, including three net eagles. There was a tie for fourth place at 41 points between Jon Brower and Kirby Gann.

In Flight B, Bill Kingshott took honors with 54 points that included one net eagle and 9 net birdies. Pat Shatney's 48 points were good for second place.

There was a tie for third place at 47 points between Don Cunning and Rich Strawn. Rich Ellison won fifth place with 46 points.

Flight C was won by Larry Colclasure with 49 points. Gary Wessel took second place with 48 points.

Gene Hearn tied Bob Berg for fourth place at 46 points. Ed Griffith took sixth with 40 points.

It was another very cold but sunny day of great golf at Spring Lake Golf Resort.

Lake June West

The Lake June West Men's League was in action on Nov. 29, and the winning team consisted of Neil Issett, Bruce Myers, Artie Maul, Bob Bevard and Ken Raug with a score of 43. Placing second was the team of Tony Notaro, Bob Otway, Bob Knishka and Bill Fowler with a 45, while Dick Denhart, Sonny Shelton, Jim Jones and Marion Logenberg third with a 47.

GOLF | 8

Mazda names shootout winners

Orlando's Rollan, Ireland's Donegan big winners

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Keith Donegan of Dublin, Ireland and Selin Rollan of Orlando earned Mazda driver development scholarships this weekend at the Bondurant Racing School circuit in a pair of competitions among young, championship-winning racers. Donegan, 20, earned a \$200,000 scholarship in the Mazda Road to Indy Shootout, where he topped champions from nine countries to

compete in the 2018 Cooper Tires USF2000 Championship Powered by Mazda.

In the Mazda Road to 24 Shootout, Rollan beat three other finalists to earn a \$100,000 Mazda scholarship to race in the 2018 Battery Tender Global Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by BFGoodrich Tires. The Global MX-5 Cup is the first rung of the Mazda Road to 24 program. The two scholarships are the latest in the program initiated by Mazda in 2006 to help

championship-winning drivers compete in the highest levels of both sports car and open wheel racing.

In the Mazda Road to Indy competition, 17 drivers began the weekend with a chance to win the \$200,000 scholarship by driving Formula Mazda race cars provided by the Bondurant Racing School on the school's challenging 1.6-mile track. After two days of on- and off-track assessment, the field was trimmed to five finalists



MAZDA MOTORSPORTS PHOTO

Keith Donegan celebrates after winning the Mazda Road to Indy Shootout.

from four continents to determine the overall winner. Based upon lap times and other criteria, Donegan was selected

by the judging panel that included IndyCar analyst Scott Goodyear, Mazda racers Tom Long, Andrew Carbonell and Jonathan

Bomarito, and current Mazda scholarship drivers Victor Franzoni

MAZDA | 8

LOCAL SPORTS BRIEFS

NU-HOPE clay shoot rescheduled

Due to Hurricane Irma recovery efforts, the Tommy Todd Memorial/NU-HOPE Clay Shoot, originally scheduled for Sept. 23, will now be held on Saturday at the Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$125 per shooter and includes a grilled sausage breakfast and a great BBQ chicken and smoked brisket lunch.

Awards will be given to the highest individual, female, youth and team scores. Each team may have up to four shooters. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

This year, in honor of all who have served in law enforcement, a discount will be provided to active or retired law enforcement participants. There will also be a special competition among the law enforcement teams to determine the best shooting team.

To register, please contact Laurie Murphy at (863) 382-2134 or via email at MurphyL@nuhope.org.

After School Tennis Program

The After School Tennis Program is underway at the Thakkar Tennis Center at the Country Club of Sebring. The classes are for tennis players aged 4 to 18 and are taught by USPTA Certified Tennis

Professional Horace Watkis, formerly part of Chicago's famous Mid-Town Tennis Club Pro Staff and Head Pro at Frenchman's Cover in Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Tiny Tots (ages 4 to 6) meet on Tuesday from 3:15 to 4 p.m. and the cost is \$37, while Future Champs (ages 6 to 12) meet 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday and players can choose which day of the week they would like to attend.

The Pre-Tournament Academy meets on Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and the cost is \$60, while High School Team Level meets on Thursday between 4 and 5:30 p.m. and the cost is \$60.

For more information contact Watkis at horace-watkis@hotmail.com or 863-414-2164 or 386-4282.



FILE PHOTO

Reagan Lenihan hits the ball during a summer tennis camp hosted by certified tennis professional Horace Watkis at the Thakkar Tennis Center.

DRAGONS

FROM PAGE 7

Sebring, but Gobourne sank a basket and made two free throws and Pypers went to the line immediately after for a technical foul where she made both shots.

With just seconds left in the game, Brown rebounded the ball and scored to make the final score 49-36.

"I think we played really good as a team," said Lake Placid's Kayla Domenich. "There is still some stuff we need to work on but overall I think we did pretty good. I think we play really good together and I'm sad that we are losing four seniors because I am really close to them. I want to get better on my shooting and my handles. As a team we just want to be better

than we were last year and beat Avon Park."

Sebring, which has a young team, continues to play hard.

"We are getting better and better," said Sebring Coach Chris Taylor. "We are continuing to grow. I got some great minutes out of my freshmen girls tonight. Santerra Bennett came in and I expected a couple of things out of her and she did that. She gave us great minutes covering Donnie Gobourne, which is a big deal. We played man all night long and that is exceptional especially this time in the season. We played from tip off to buzzer. Overall our guard play is getting better we are cleaning up and protecting the ball. We need to work on our shot selection but that is just our immaturity on the court. They have to play and



Sebring's Adrianna Condo drives to the basket for two points during Monday night's game against Lake Placid.

find their sweet spots on the court. It's a loss but I couldn't be more proud of them. They

hustled tonight. They played a great game tonight and fought all the way through. You



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/CORRESPONDENT

Lake Placid's Kylie Elliott defends as Sebring's Alannah Carrigan (23) puts up a shot during Monday night's game.

can't coach fight and they come with it." Lake Placid will host their other county rivals

Avon Park on Friday at 7p.m. Sebring will travel to face the Booker Tornadoes on Friday.

IMSA

FROM PAGE 7

team as the back-to-back GTD class champion (2016 and 2017) and runner-up for the title in 2015. At just 25 years old, the highly-accomplished Dane holds the title as the first woman to win a major sports car championship in the United States.

While she has seen success racing with a variety of manufacturers, 2018 will mark a return home for Nielsen, who

carries a deep bench of Porsche experience. From the start of her sports car racing career, Nielsen has driven under the Porsche marque in competition across the globe. Her resume includes stops in the Porsche Carrera Cup Germany, the ADAC GT Masters, the GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East, the IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge USA, and select IMSA WeatherTech Championship races in 2014.

No stranger to Wright Motorsports, Long will be entering his third



PIRELLI WORLD CHALLENGE PHOTO

Porsche factor driver Patrick Long.

consecutive season with the group. Still fresh off of his 2017 Pirelli

World Challenge championships with the John Wright-led team, the

California has proven to be tremendously competitive in the Porsche 911 GT3 R. The 2018 season however, is where his endurance experience will shine.

"Christina has been on an amazing run with her two titles over the last two years and I want to blend that momentum with our 2017 title and aim for victories right out of the box," Long said. "I'm very excited to get things started at Daytona."

In his 15 years as America's only Porsche factory driver, Long has

seen victories at some of the world's most prestigious endurance events including the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Rolex 24 at Daytona, the Bathurst 12 Hour, the Twelve Hours of Sebring and Petit Le Mans.

Wright Motorsports will begin the 2018 season in January with their focus on another strong showing at the Rolex 24 at Daytona. With this highly-accomplished driver lineup paired with the team's endurance racing and Porsche experience, the program is up to the task.

MAZDA

FROM PAGE 7

and Oliver Askew.

"It really hasn't hit me yet," said Donegan, soon after he was selected. "The weekend was really

good and I enjoyed it. I have to say a huge thanks to Mazda and Cooper Tires and everyone at the Mazda Road to Indy. I enjoyed every moment. Throughout the weekend we were consistent and I kept the small things in check. I didn't make

any stupid mistakes and kept my head cool and that really paid off in the end."

Donegan, who was an at-large nomination for the competition after his performance in England's Formula Ford Festival, had a large

contingent of family and friends at the event to help him celebrate.

"You see all these champions here today that will go on to great things in the future and I'm sure the names you see here today aren't going to disappear," Donegan said. "They will be back up there and I'm sure I will be racing them again some day. It is an unbelievable opportunity to be given and for Mazda to provide that for any young driver. It just gives that bit of motivation that you need because the [U.S.] is where you need to go to become a professional these days. It is such a boost to my career."

Rollan, who earned his ticket to the MRT24 Shootout as an at-large nominee from the SCCA and NASA Spec Miata categories, had an emotional reaction to winning the scholarship into the Global MX-5 Cup Series.

"It was a tough

competition for sure," Rollan said of the four-driver battle in matching MX-5 Cup cars. "That last session was intense. I cried a little bit on the phone with my dad. It was definitely emotional. My parents and my sister have been there with me since I was 11 years old when I began racing. I need to thank BSI Racing, Apex Alignment and Rosini Racing Products for helping me in Spec Miata to get this next chapter with Mazda. It will take a few weeks to sink in.

Thank you Mazda."

"One of the hardest jobs in all of racing is being a Mazda Shootout judge," said John Doonan, director of Mazda Motorsports in North America, after it took nearly two hours for the judges to decide on a winner of the MRTI competition. "With so much raw talent from around the world, picking a winner is an enormous task. We expect Keith Donegan and Selin Rollan to shine brightly, not just in 2018, but for many years to come."



MAZDA MOTORSPORTS PHOTO

Orlando's Selin Rollan.

GOLF

FROM PAGE 7

Placing fourth was the team of Claude Cash, Norm Grubbs, Larry Heath, Dinnie Matthew and Porky Neer.

Closest-to-the-pins were won by Bruce Myers, Norm Grubbs and Bill Fowler.

Lake Placid Christian School Fun-Shoot

Lake Placid Christian School is hosting its 12th annual Fun Shoot

on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Square One Sporting Clay on Hwy 70.

It starts at 7:30 a.m. and ends around 2 p.m. Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you there. The lunch consist of prime rib, green beans with potato, corn, strawberry shortcake and a roll. Jumbo shrimp for an appetizer and ice tea.



SUN 'N LAKE

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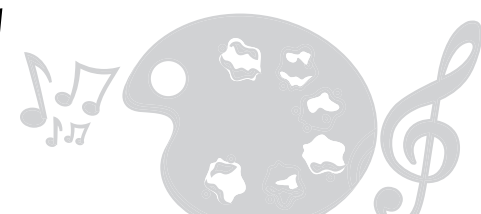
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LOCAL MOVIE REVIEW

'Just Getting Started' is nothing to laugh at

By **ROBERT MILLER**
CORRESPONDENT

There are some movies where the trailer grabs you and you just have to go, others have that one actor that you must see no matter what the movie. Morgan Freeman is one of those actors. I had not seen anything about "Just Getting Started" prior to last week, aside from the fact that it starred Morgan Freeman. Most of the time, that is enough to get me into the theater. The guy is just great in almost everything.

The trailer seemed to paint a picture of a movie that could be as entertaining as his previous outing in 2017, "Going In Style." I enjoyed that movie, so I looked forward to a good time at the movies for this one. That's not



IMDB.COM

Morgan Freeman in a scene from "Just Getting Started."

exactly what I got.

The movie has a decent premise: Duke (Morgan Freeman) is king of the retirement community where he is living and working. Duke is hiding from the mob,

whom he once was a lawyer for. The most incompetent and useless person is sent to kill Duke. As this plot trudges along, newcomer Leo (Tommy Lee Jones) arrives

MOVIE | 3

Where is everyone headed for the holidays?

By **DONALD WOOD**
TRAVELPULSE

A new survey revealed an estimated 99.8 million people will travel at some point during the 2017 holiday season.

The results also revealed 48 percent of millennials plan to travel during the holidays, the most of any age demographic. Fifty-four percent of people with children will hit the road, according to the consumer holiday travel survey from Generali Global Assistance's

Travel Insurance division.

The survey broke tourists into two categories; those traveling to see family and those taking a trip for vacation. The difference between the two subsections is huge, even fiscally, where 73 percent of those traveling to see family will spend less than \$1,000.

On the other hand, over half of the people hitting the road for vacation will spend more than \$1,000 and 18 percent will spend between \$2,500-\$5,000. Travelers heading to a vacation

for the holidays cited several different reasons, including relaxing, enjoying a change of scenery, becoming closer as a family and more.

"For many, the holidays are an important time of year to connect with loved ones and going to see family is by far the primary reason to travel during the holiday season, with 87 percent of Christmas travel and 64 percent of New Year's travel being dedicated to going to

HOLIDAYS | 3



COURTESY PHOTO

A new survey revealed 48 percent of millennials plan to travel during the holidays, the most of any age demographic.

AIRLINE GROUP SAYS HOLIDAY TRAVEL WILL BE HIGHER THAN 2016

WASHINGTON — About 51 million Americans are expected to fly on U.S. airlines in the three weeks around Christmas and New Year's Day, a 3.5 percent increase over last year.

That's the forecast Wednesday from Airlines for America, a trade group for most of the leading U.S. airlines.

The group credits an improving economy and airfares that have lagged below the rate of inflation.

The forecast counts domestic and international flights between Dec. 15 and Jan. 4.

That would mean about 80,000 more passengers per day. The trade group says airlines are adding about 91,000 seats per day to handle the crowds.

— The Associated Press

'Star Wars: The Last Jedi'



By **ROBERT MILLER**
CORRESPONDENT

"This is not going to go the way you think."

This ominous phrase from the trailer carries with it a lot of weight, and a lot of mystery. But all the speculation and the fan theories will soon come to an end as "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" is set to open in theaters Friday.

But this movie isn't just another Star Wars movie. There are new places to visit and new characters to meet, as

well as some emotional weight to it. First and foremost, this is the final big screen appearance of Leia (Carrie Fisher). The much-loved actress passed away just after Christmas last year, leaving all of us Star Wars fans saddened and wondering how Rian Johnson and crew would handle her passing. In a series about space battles, light up swords and aliens, General Organa was the grounding force that put it all in perspective. The franchise won't be

the same without her...

Second, there's the Porgs. This movie is the introduction of a new species, the Porgs. One can be seen in the trailer flying in the Millennium Falcon alongside Chewbacca. We know that the Porgs look like a cross between a Puffin, a seal and a Pug. They are known to be mischievous and inquisitive. And we know that they are native to Ahch-To, the planet where Rey finds Luke at the end of "The Force Awakens." But what other secrets

do the Porgs hold?

And finally, let's not forget that final shot in the trailer where Rey seems to be asking Kylo Ren for guidance. Is that really what's happening? Star Wars fans all over the country will be flocking to their favorite theaters this weekend to find out the answers to these questions, when "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" hits theaters, Friday, Dec. 15.

INSIDE



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Out & About

Things to do around the county

DECEMBER

GLASS PAINTING and slumping class, led by Jeni Novak, will be held Thursday, Dec. 14, at the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative, 132 E. Interlake Blvd. in Lake Placid. The class is slated from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The paint is actually powdered glass and when fired, melts into the glass — becoming part of the glass surface it is painted on. Slumping is firing a flat piece of glass over different-shaped molds to produce a designed shape. The cost of the class is \$45 and that includes all supplies and firing.

Call 699-5940 to reserve a seat.

CHRISTMAS SQUARE DANCE will take place tonight, Dec. 14, as the Pine Ridge Promenaders Square Dance Club will host a Christmas square dance from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Sunshine RV Resort on SR 70, east of US 27 in Lake Placid. Nelson Wakeman will be calling MS/PLUS. Visitors are always welcome. Casual dress or square dance attire. For more information call 828-290-2147.

CLAY PUZZING CLASS will begin this week at the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative in Lake Placid. Clay puzzling involves taking small pieces of clay and putting them together to form an object. There will be two class sessions with instructor Jeni Novak. The first one is set for Friday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The second session is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 30. The reason it will be held later is because clay projects must cure for two weeks before firing.

The cost is \$45 and includes all supplies and firing. Call 699-5940 or stop by the Cooperative from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday to reserve a seat.

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE this week at Buttonwood Bay featuring Chrissy Harriman, who returns to Buttonwood Bay this Saturday, Dec. 16, beginning at 7 p.m. Harriman is a popular local entertainer who will provide a wide variety of musical styles and respond to your requests where possible. Something for everyone. Tickets are \$7 at the door

OUT & ABOUT | 3

Christmas with a cause

By **KIM LEATHERAMN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — There is magic in the air during the Christmas season, literally, with the Magic of Christmas Show at 7 p.m. on Dec. 16 at the Highlands News Sun Center. Justino and Daniela Zoppe are seventh generation entertainers that promise fun for all in this family friendly show. The show will benefit the Children's Cancer Center in Tampa.

The Zoppes are both magicians and entertaining has been in their blood for generations.

"This is a full stage spectacular," Justino Zoppe said. "We own hundreds of thousands of dollars in the latest gear for shows, so we can

bring it with us. We use this same rig for our big Vegas shows. This will not be a small show."

The show will feature both magic and Cirq-style acrobatics. Daniela Zoppe can hula hoop 50 rings at a time.

"This is a very unusual and emotional show," Zoppe said. "The show has a true life story in it about the importance of spending time with family; it will make you hug your kids a little tighter. It is an especially good message during the holiday season. It isn't just a magic show, but it is at the center."

The show runs about 90 minutes and a discount is available when tickets are purchased in advance at jzmagic.com.

JUSTINO & DANIELA PRESENTS

The MAGIC of CHRISTMAS

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CHILD	\$12.99	\$15.99
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What an amazing performance!
—Liz Allor

JZMAGIC.COM

A HOLIDAY MAGIC SHOW FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER

COURTESY PHOTO

Your Guide To What's Going On

2do



December 16-17 & 23-25

Look for lots of festive fun #BuiltForKids throughout the theme park as Legoland celebrates the season. Christmas Bricktacular is included with all forms of Park admission - no extra ticket or cost required.

Event highlights include:

- 30-foot-tall LEGO Christmas tree outside Market Restaurant, which comes alight several times each evening with a beautiful combination of synchronized lights and favorite holiday music, plus an occasional snow flurry!
- LEGO Santa and LEGO Toy Soldier
- Send letters to the North Pole and hear stories told by Mrs. Claus
- Capture precious memories with one-of-a-kind photo ops, including a life-size Santa, sleigh and reindeer made out of thousands of LEGO bricks, and – new this year – from inside a giant snow globe or with a giant LEGO Christmas wreath
- Help create a giant LEGO mosaic and look for Santa's LEGO elf hiding in the theme park
- Enjoy classic Christmas songs performed by the returning LEGO Brickettes.

Legoland is at One LEGOLAND Way in Winter Haven.

CASTING CALL

HEE HAW

LAKE PLACID NOON ROTARY
Rotary

GOT A HANKERIN' TO BE ON STAGE?

Have you got some talent? Do you sing, tell jokes or are you just easy on the eyes? The Lake Placid Noon Rotary proudly announces the return of Hee Haw – the local variety show fashioned after the popular TV series from the early 70s.

Individuals or groups who would like to be included are invited to call co-producer, Kellie Kelley at 863-465-2653. All ages are encouraged to audition.

The show is scheduled for February 2 and 3 at the Genesis Center in Lake Placid. Cast members will be required to attend one dress rehearsal on Thursday night and evening performances on Friday and Saturday.

PLACES TO GO

Looking for something to do?

The Pine Ridge Promenaders Square Dance

Club will host a Christmas square dance from 7:30-9:30 tonight at the Sunshine RV Resort on S.R. 70 East of US 27 in Lake Placid.

Highlands Social Dance Club

3400 Sebring Parkway, Skylarks Band, 7-9:30 p.m. Every Friday. Public welcome. Call 863-655 5241 for more information.

Sebring Village Christmas Dance

7:30-10:30 p.m. on Friday at the clubhouse
4343 Schumacher Rd. \$4 members, \$6 guests. BYOB and snacks for your own table. Call 863-471-0760

VFW Post 9853 Dinner

BBQ rib dinner with sides and desserts from 4:30- 6:30 p.m. Friday. \$8 available until sold out take out/ dine in.

Sebring Masons Serve Bbq Lunch

Sebring Lodge No 249 will serve an all-you-can-eat BBQ chicken lunch on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$10 each. The Lodge is on the corner of Home Avenue & Sebring Parkway. Take out is available. The public is invited.

Christmas at Jacaranda Hotel

Enjoy Christmas at the Jacaranda Hotel now through Jan. 22, 2018. Visit the hotel and halls where Babe Ruth, Clark Gable and Al Capone once stayed. Step back in time and embrace the magical holiday season at this 1920s historic hotel nestled in the center of the state. Full of traditional and festive holiday décor, the Grand Lobby showcases the 15-foot Christmas tree, nutcrackers, fire-place and ornate holiday splendor. Enjoy buffet lunch or dinner, stroll the arcade decorated with poinsettias, antique sleigh and lavish decorations, and stay in the newly decorated hotel rooms suites, each with its own theme. The Jacaranda Hotel is at 19 E. Main St. in Avon Park

Carousel of Lights

This annual festival will be on display through Dec. 26 in downtown Sebring's Circle Park. Wander through a holiday wonderland of tens of thousands of lights displayed on the Circle. Enjoy festive music, kid's games and activities, puppet shows, and concessions. A photo opportunity with Santa from 6-9 p.m. every night will entertain people of all ages. For more information, visit downtownsebring.org.

Santa at Lakeshore Mall

Come visit Santa at Lakeshore Mall. Hours are: 1-5 p.m. Sundays; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 18-20; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 21-23; 1-5 p.m. Dec. 24. Special events include pet photos with Santa from 5-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16. Children may drop off letters to Santa at the Santa station — remember to include your child's full name and return address — and all children will receive a letter from Santa in return.

Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate

Enjoy Christmas at Bok Tower with the annual Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate through Jan. 7, 2018.
Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Holiday Home Tour takes a musical turn celebrating Charles Austin Buck's passion for music and the sounds of the 1930s.

Live Christmas Carillon concerts

Geert D'hollander performs Christmas music from around the world at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday on the 60-bell Singing Tower carillon at Bok Tower. Concerts will be held through Jan. 7, 2018 and are included with general admission.

Winter walking tours

Bok Tower Gardens' volunteers lead an hour-long winter walking tour, sharing information about the flora and fauna and guiding visitors through the Gardens from the Visitor Center to the Singing Tower. Tours are Mondays through Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. only now through Jan. 8, 2018. Tours are included with general admission.

Florida Flywheelers Christmas in the Village

The annual Christmas in the Village will take place from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 15-16 at Florida Flywheelers Park, 7000 Avon Park Cut Off Road. Come out and enjoy Christmas displays, live entertainment, antique tractors, and cars decorated with holiday lights, hot dogs, cider, eggnog, coffee and homemade cookies, all supplied by the Flywheelers. Admission is an unwrapped toy, canned food or a cash donation. All proceeds go to local charities and local food banks. For more information, call 863-285-9121 or visit floridaflywheelers.org.

'Music of the Night' at the New Year's Eve Ball at Buttonwood Bay

8:30 p.m. Dec. 31. Featuring dance music by the fantastic J3 Vocal Band. Tickets \$17.50. Call Pam 863-259-8684 from 1-5 p.m.

Lake Placid Elks New Year's Eve Dinner/ Dance

New Year's Eve dinner dance at the Lake Placid Elks Lodge Dec. 31. Friends and family are invited. Prime Rib Dinner, baked potato, fresh vegetables, salad, dessert \$28pp. Social begins at 6 p.m., Dinner at 7 p.m. followed by dancing and music with the Hatley Band. The Hatley Band plays Rock, Oldies, Country, Tropi Rock, and Classics. Tickets available in the lounge 200 CR 621 (behind CVS drugs) Get tickets early at door price will be \$35 per person.

Ho, ho, ho, Yosemite: A magical winter destination

By **DON BABWIN**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Yosemite National Park might not seem like an ideal winter destination, particularly if you're from a part of the country where you'd like to trade in road salt for rim salt on your margarita and leave the words "wind chill" behind.

But Yosemite in winter is magical, as I discovered last year on a trip there with my family just after Christmas. There's snowboarding and skiing, both downhill and cross-country, as well as sledding (pick up a plastic saucer at a sporting goods store on the way). You can also ice skate at a rink in the shadow of the famed granite formation known as Half Dome. Park rangers also lead snowshoe walks (free with \$3 suggested donation).

Many of Yosemite Valley's shops and restaurants remain open. And at the Majestic Hotel, one of the country's most storied national park lodges, there are holiday decorations and a seven-course dinner with costumed performers called the Bracebridge Dinner. The wood-and-stone hotel, formerly known as the Ahwahnee, opened in 1927 and has hosted everyone from Presidents John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama to Queen

IF YOU GO...

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK: <https://www.nps.gov/yose/> . Check for alerts, closures, schedules. Yosemite Valley is about 210 miles (338 km) from San Francisco. Things to do in winter: <http://www.travelyosemite.com/winter/yosemite-winter-experience/> .

WEATHER, FEES AND SCHEDULES: Average temperatures range from the 20s to the 50s F (minus 6 to 10 above C). Conditions can change quickly and dramatically. Roads that are open one day may be closed the next. Tour schedules are also subject to change. Not everything is open on Christmas Day. For road conditions, call 209-372-0200 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/yose/> . Seven-day pass, \$30.

ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY: <https://www.nps.gov/yose/playourvisit/fees.htm>

MAJESTIC HOTEL: <http://www.travelyosemite.com/lodging/the-majestic-yosemite-hotel/> . Depending on date, rooms December-January start at around \$325-\$500, more for peak holiday. Bracebridge dinners: <http://www.bracebridgedinners.com/>

YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD: <http://www.travelyosemite.com/winter/yosemite-ski-snowboard-area/>

Elizabeth and Walt Disney.

Winter can also be a time to enjoy the park's scenery without summer's crowds. But the weather can pose challenges as well. Here are some details.

The scenery

Naturalist John Muir once wrote that Yosemite was "full of God's thoughts."

Driving in, thick forests of snow-dusted pine and fir trees block your view at first of the park's famous granite monoliths towering over Yosemite Valley. But there's nothing like that first glimpse. El Capitan rises 3,600 feet (914 meters) from the valley floor, more than twice the height of the Empire State Building. On the other side of the valley is

Half Dome, rising 4,700 feet (1,400 meters) off the valley floor.

In winter, the options for seeing these landmarks from anywhere other than the valley are limited, as some roads in the park are closed until the snow thaws. The cables that climbers use to ascend Half Dome are also removed for the season.

But there are walking tours led by National Park Service rangers that explain how these huge chunks of granite came to be. They're not just the result of erosion, but were also formed by melting glaciers and forces under the ground that over the millions of years pushed them higher and higher. It's a way to understand the massive forces that formed the earth itself.

Visitors can also follow the footsteps of famed



YOSEMITE HOSPITALITY

This undated image provided by Yosemite Hospitality shows skiers on a lift at Yosemite National Park in California in winter.

photographer Ansel Adams, who made his home here for a quarter century. You can even snap your own pictures from where Adams stood when he took some of his most iconic photographs. Classes cost about \$100 but the Ansel Adams Gallery also offers free camera walks on certain days (tours fill up; reserve ahead).

Getting there

Getting there can be a challenge on roads that are potentially snowy and icy. Car rental places may tell you — as they told me — that snow

chains aren't necessary. They are, to be blunt, lying.

"California law says if you are entering a chain control area, you have to carry chains," said Scott Gediman, a park ranger and a public affairs officer in Yosemite. "Everybody needs to have chains, even if you have four-wheel drive."

Rangers don't enjoy checking car trunks for chains and cables but they do it and they will send you out of the park if you don't have them.

The good news is that chains are not that expensive, costing as little as about \$40, and can be

purchased at any auto supply store nearby. Snow chain technology has improved dramatically, making it far easier to put the chains on than it used to be. But if you still feel like you can't do it, there are services along the road that will put the chains on for you for \$30 or so.

Yosemite Valley is about 210 miles (338 km) from San Francisco. But if the winter drive sounds intimidating, use the YARTS bus service which runs year-round between Yosemite and Merced, a city located about 130 miles (210 km) from San Francisco.

Parents and teens in South Beach on a budget: It can be done

By **EVA PARZIALE**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI BEACH — South Beach has a reputation as a boozy playground for partying rich kids, celebrities and wannabes. So is it possible for parents to enjoy a vacation here on a budget with teenagers?

Absolutely. We did. My husband Dan and I took our 18-year-old daughter Maggie and her 19-year-old friend Louise Reed to South Beach on vacation. We shared a hotel room, had the occasional dinner together, issued a few warnings about safety while they went off on their own, and we all had a great time without spending a fortune. Here's how you can do it, too.

Hotels, food and getting around

Hotels are pricey, but we managed to find an affordable suite at the Grand Beach Hotel using



In this Sept. 1, 2016, file photo, visitors cross the street as they head to their hotel in the South Beach area of Miami Beach, Fla.

a third-party booking service. It was the size of a studio apartment with a balcony, refrigerator and ocean view. We were pleasantly surprised to find two bathrooms, which came in handy for four people. The girls shared a fold-out couch, separated from our king-sized bed by one of the bathrooms. (Rates at the Grand Beach for December and January range from the mid-\$200s to the mid-\$500s depending on date and room.) The hotel has three

pools. One, which does not allow children, offers poolside food and beverage service that the teens enjoyed most days on their own, while we lounged at another pool in the complex.

We ate at SUSHISAMBA our first night in town, joined by family members who drove down from Fort Lauderdale. While the adults talked long past the meal, Maggie and Louise wandered the 10-block pedestrian Lincoln Road Mall, featuring dozens of stores, from Athleta to

Zara, to sidewalk cafes, restaurants and bars. We had other wallet- and teen-friendly dinners together at Shake Shack, also in the Lincoln Road Mall, and Coyo Taco in the Wynwood section of Miami. Like everything else, the food in South Beach is expensive, but we broke the budget only once. The girls' lunch at the Sugar Factory in the Victor Hotel on Ocean Drive ran up a tab of \$110 for a chicken sandwich, salad, spinach dip and a \$40, 60-ounce (1.8-liter) smoking candy Lollipop Passion fruit drink.

We generally drove the girls in our rental car to places they wanted to go, mostly centered around shopping and lunch, while we went our own way during the day. They used Uber to get back to the hotel and meet up with us for dinner each night. You can also hail street taxis in busy areas.

Sightseeing

Teenagers and adults don't always want to do the same things, and the girls nixed our suggestions to tour the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and to snorkel on Key Largo. So we left them at the hotel pool and drove the 60 miles (100 km) to Key Largo, the closest of the Florida Keys, by ourselves. The day turned out to be too cold for snorkeling at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, but we did enjoy the view of the Atlantic Ocean and a late lunch at Harriette's Restaurant, famous for its giant homemade muffins. (Our visit was over spring break earlier this year, before Hurricane Irma, but Harriette's is open. Some activities at John Pennekamp have been

suspended pending clean-up, though snorkel boat tours and glass-bottom boat tours are operating.)

On our last night in town, we all drove to the hip Wynwood Walls section of Miami, a formerly dilapidated set of warehouses now covered in vibrantly colored graffiti by artists from around the world. The district includes stunning art on metal doors, murals on surrounding buildings, and a cafe and garden. The artist Peter Tunney has a gallery on site, showcasing his pop culture collages. Outside the walls, antique stores, art galleries and restaurants

about. It's about a 20-minute drive from South Beach.

As it turned out, South Beach after dark was too much for all of us. One night after dinner, Maggie and Louise walked north on Ocean Drive to take in the famous party scene on their own. We walked south, and were assaulted by music blasting from the open-air restaurants and bars as we were jostled by the crowds. We were ready to head back to the hotel after a half-hour, and were only too happy to get a text from our teens a few minutes later saying they had had enough, too.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Feb. 3, 2016, file photo, tourists carry shopping bags as they walk along Lincoln Road Mall, a pedestrian area featuring retail shops and restaurants in the South Beach section of Miami Beach.

Living Waters Church of God

Presents

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Saturday December 16, 2017
at 6:30pm
&
Sunday December 17, 2017
at 10:00am

4571 Sparta Road
Sebring, Florida 33875

Please Join us!



Florida agriculture leaders say the latest projected decline in citrus production underscores a dire need for federal disaster relief after Hurricane Irma. **See page 3**



The vote in Alabama



AP PHOTOS

GOP's not all that sad; party grapples with Alabama fallout

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **ALAN FRAM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Weary national Republicans breathed a collective sigh of relief on Wednesday, a day after voters knocked out their own party's scandal-plagued candidate in deep-red Alabama. Yet all is not well in a party confronted with new rounds of infighting and a suddenly shrinking Senate majority heading into next year's midterm elections.

A semi-humbled President Donald Trump

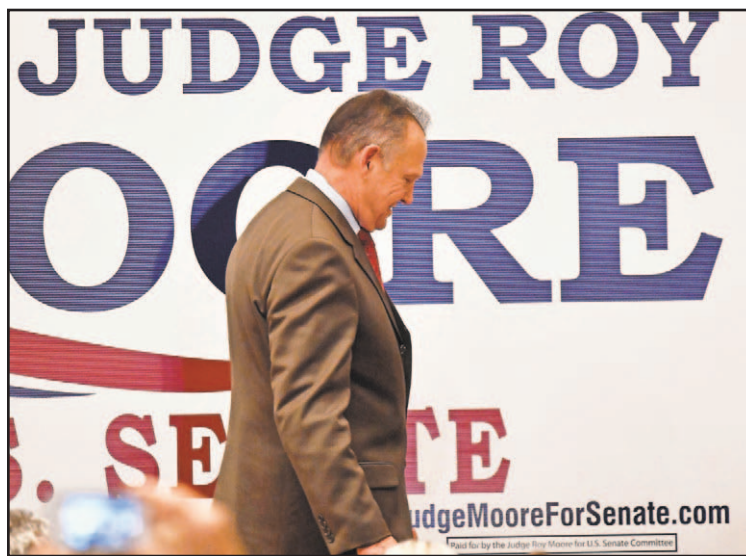
conceded that Roy Moore's loss was not his preferred outcome. He said he "would have liked to have had the seat" and an important Senate vote as he and GOP lawmakers scratch for legislative victories.

But he also acknowledged, "A lot of Republicans feel differently. They feel very happy about the way it turned out."

Indeed, it was easy to find establishment-minded Republicans — in

ALABAMA | 4

Doug Jones is greeted by a supporter before speaking during an election-night watch party Tuesday, in Birmingham, Alabama. Jones has defeated Republican Roy Moore, a one-time GOP pariah who was embraced by the Republican Party and the president even after facing allegations of sexual impropriety.



U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore leaves the stage after giving a speech at the end of an election-night watch party at the RSA activity center, Tuesday, in Montgomery, Alabama.

Acting Trump brass who've stuck around too long may draw rebuke

By **JOSH EIDELSON**
BLOOMBERG NEWS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's slow pace of hiring for key government jobs has left stand-ins occupying positions for so long that it may violate time limits on acting appointments, potentially resulting in decisions being overturned in court.

Enforcement actions as well as policy decisions on a variety of topics, such as easing restrictions on methane emissions from oil wells or permitting schools to offer 1 percent milk, could be challenged on the grounds that they were enacted by officials who had been in acting roles too long or were improperly delegated authority.

"We are considering all legal options to prevent illegal policy changes being forced upon the American people by Donald Trump's political appointees," said Harrell Kirstein, a spokesman for American Bridge 21st Century, a Democratic political action committee.

Trump is nearing the one-year mark of his term but has yet to name permanent appointees for about 250 of the roughly 620 key government positions that require Senate confirmation, according to the nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service. That's left acting officials in as many as a dozen positions for which no one has been nominated, including an assistant secretary of State and the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, being occupied by acting officials, according to agency web sites or representatives.

Under the 1998 Federal Vacancies Reform Act, a position vacated by a presidential transition generally cannot be filled by acting officials for more than 300 days unless a permanent nominee has been named and is awaiting Senate confirmation. That deadline for most positions passed in mid-November.

The law, which sets a shorter 210-day deadline outside of transitions, is designed to prevent presidents from evading Senate review of appointees.

According to an October report from the Congressional Research Service, the Vacancies Act does not provide a mechanism for ousting officials who have stayed

REBUKE | 4

Report points to need to address physician shortages

By **CHRISTINE SEXTON**
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — Florida hospitals have seen a 29 percent increase in the number of residency slots since 2013, but the state still faces physician workforce challenges, a report on graduate medical education released Wednesday shows.

The report, "Training

Tomorrow's Doctors: Graduate Medical Education in Florida 2017," shows that Collier, Lee and Sarasota counties face a severe shortage of primary-care physicians. Moreover, despite the state adding 1,113 residency slots in the last four years, the report shows that the number of residencies in neurology, thoracic surgery, nephrology and ophthalmology has declined.

Steve Sonenreich, president and CEO of Mount Sinai Medical Center, said he hopes lawmakers will consider the findings as they meet in January to begin working on a state budget for the upcoming year. He would like the Legislature to provide Southwest Florida hospitals a \$100,000 bonus for each graduate medical education primary-care residency

created and to provide another \$5 million to entice hospitals to retain graduate medical education slots in neurology, thoracic surgery, nephrology and ophthalmology.

"What we are trying to do is to bring to the forefront the population continues to grow and the population continues to age, and access to physicians — everybody has heard a story

of friends, neighbors — the difficulty in gaining access to physicians," he told The News Service of Florida. "Additional funding to support graduate medical education is in our institutions is something very important."

The request is in addition to already-existing graduate

PHYSICIAN | 4

GOP says it's got a deal on taxes; cuts coming for next year

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER,** **ANDREW TAYLOR** and **MARCY GORDON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Confident congressional Republicans forged an agreement Wednesday on a major overhaul of the nation's tax laws that would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans — Donald Trump among them — and deliver the first major legislative accomplishment to the GOP president.

Middle- and low-income families would get smaller

tax cuts, though Trump and GOP leaders have billed the package as a huge benefit for the middle class. The measure would scrap a major tax requirement of Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, a step toward the ultimate GOP goal of unraveling the law.

"The cynical voices that opposed tax cuts grow smaller and weaker, and the American people grow stronger," Trump said at the White House. "This is for people of middle income, this is for companies that are going to create jobs. This is for very, very special people, the great people of America."

The business tax cuts would be permanent, but reductions for individuals would expire after a decade — saving money to comply with Senate budget rules. In all, the bill would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, adding billions to the nation's mounting debt.

The legislation, which is still being finalized, would cut the top tax rate for the wealthy from 39.6 percent to 37 percent, slash the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and

TAXES | 4



AP PHOTO

President Donald Trump speaks on tax reform in the Grand Foyer of the White House, Wednesday, in Washington.

INSIDE TODAY'S WIRE

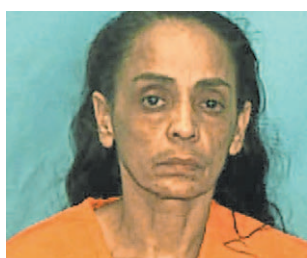
Congo court sentences 12 for child rape



A military court in eastern Congo on Wednesday sentenced 12 militia members to life in prison for the gang-rapes of dozens of children.

See page 2.

3rd trial for mom in 'Baby Lollipops' killing



Closing arguments are set in the murder trial of a Florida mother accused of beating her toddler son to death in a case that riveted the Miami area decades ago.

See page 5.

Fed rate increase is 3rd this year



The Federal Reserve is raising its key interest rate for the third time this year and foresees three additional hikes in 2018. See page 5.

WORLD

Abbas says UN should replace US as Mideast mediator

By KARIN LAUB and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISTANBUL — Breaking with years of courting the U.S., Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called Wednesday for the United Nations to replace Washington as a Mideast mediator and suggested he might not cooperate with the Trump administration's much-anticipated effort to hammer out an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

At a summit in Turkey, Arab and Muslim leaders "rejected and condemned" President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital — the trigger for Abbas' sharp policy pivot — but stopped short of backing his more combative approach toward

Washington.

A possible Palestinian refusal to engage with the U.S. and growing backlash against Trump's shift on Jerusalem, including from Arab allies, cast new doubt over the administration's already seemingly remote chances of brokering a deal and succeeding where its predecessors have failed.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Wednesday the administration would continue to work on a Mideast plan that it believes will benefit Israelis and Palestinians. Referring to Abbas, she said that the "type of rhetoric that we heard has prevented peace in the past, and it's not necessarily surprising that those types of things would be said."



AP PHOTO

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas gestures as he talks during the closing news conference following the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Extraordinary Summit in Istanbul, Wednesday, Dec. 13.

In shunning the U.S., Abbas would find himself in uncharted territory.

He does not have an immediate practical alternative to more than two decades of U.S.-led negotiations on the terms

of Palestinian statehood. The Palestinians seek such a state on lands captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

On the other hand,

Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was decried by Palestinians and others in the region as a provocative show of pro-Israel bias, making it difficult for Abbas to justify dealing with Washington as a mediator.

Trump's argument that his announcement does not mean an endorsement of specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem has not gained traction in the ensuing uproar.

The fate of Jerusalem is a hot-button issue in the region, and even the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Egypt — reportedly eager to help advance Trump's Mideast efforts — cannot afford to be seen as soft on the religious claims of Muslims and political claims of Palestinians to

the contested city. Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem is home to Islam's third-holiest shrine, along with the most revered site in Judaism and a major Christian church.

Wednesday's extraordinary summit of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation ended with a call on Trump to rescind an "unlawful decision that might trigger chaos in the region" and on the world to recognize east Jerusalem as the capital of a state of Palestine.

A concluding statement lacked tougher criticism of U.S. policy contained in an earlier draft, which questioned Washington's continued role as a Mideast mediator and warned that Trump's shift on Jerusalem threatened global security.

Congo court sentences 12 to life for gang-raping children

By SALEH MWANAMILONGO and CARLEY PETESCH ASSOCIATED PRESS

KINSHASA, Congo — In a groundbreaking trial in a country where sexual violence is rampant and perpetrators often go unpunished, a military court in eastern Congo on Wednesday sentenced 12 militia members to life in prison for the gang-rapes of dozens of children as young as 11 months old, and for murder.

The court convicted provincial deputy Frederic Batumike for organizing the violence that began in 2013 and continued for years in the village of Kavumu, about 15 miles north of Bukavu city. Young girls were raped in the militia members'

superstitious belief that it would make them "impervious to bullets," a United Nations report said earlier this year.

The court awarded \$5,000 to each victim of sexual violence and \$15,000 to the families of those killed for criticizing the militia's actions.

The organization Physicians for Human Rights called it the first time a sitting government official in Congo had been found guilty of "superior responsibility for crimes he and his militia, whom he controlled and financed, committed."

Immunity was waived for Batumike, a member of parliament, to stand trial.

"This trial demonstrated that justice can be served

in the Congo, when an investigation is effectively carried out and evidence is methodically collected, even when the accused wield significant power and are highly organized," said Karen Naimer, director of the organization's program on sexual violence in conflict zones.

She said it is now the responsibility of Congolese authorities to use similar measures to "rigorously pursue other cases of sexual violence" across the vast Central African country.

The U.S. Embassy said on Twitter that the court's decision marks an important step for justice and the respect of rights in Congo.

Families and victims expressed relief at the

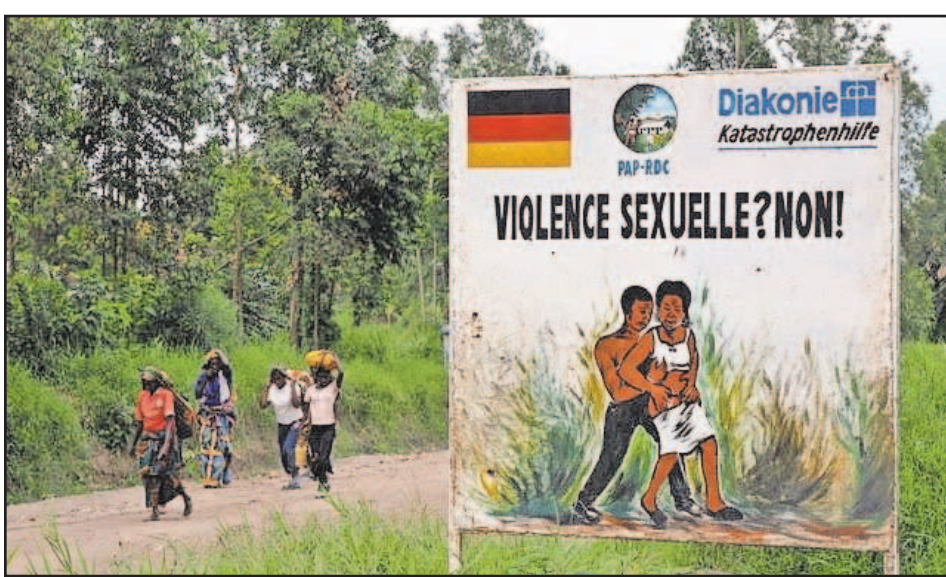


PHOTO PROVIDED

Congolese women walk past a sign opposing sexual violence on December 4, 2008, in Nyamilima.

verdict. "Following years of silence, motivated by fear and denial, their suffering

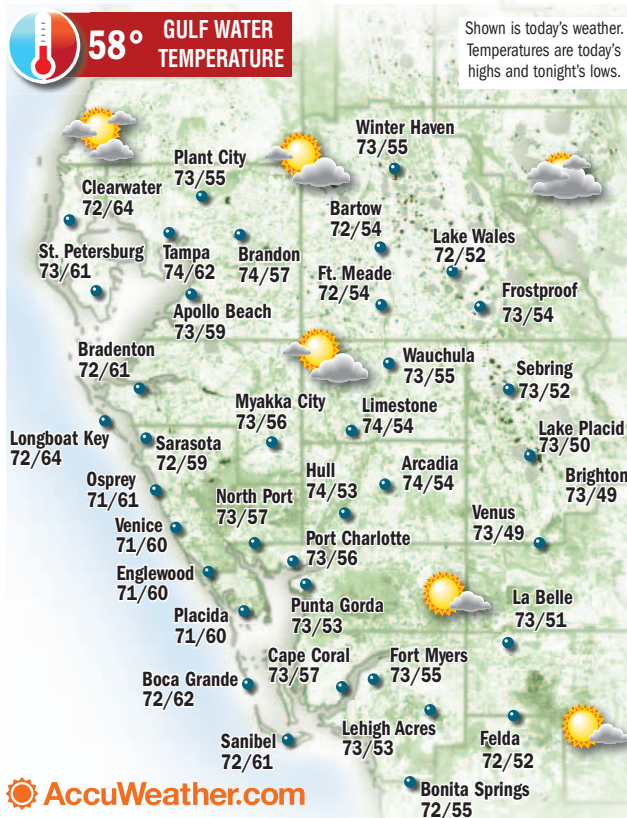
has been brought to light and recognized publicly," said Charles Cubaka, spokesman for the lawyers

representing the victims. "The long road ahead for the recovery of these young girls can now proceed."

THE NATION Publication date: 12/14/17

Weather forecast table for Today/Tonight, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, including high/low temperatures and chance of rain.

AccuWeather logo and Gulf Water Temperature section showing 58 degrees.



FLORIDA CITIES

Table of weather forecasts for Florida cities including Apalachicola, Bradenton, Clearwater, and others, with high/low temperatures and conditions.

TIDES

Table of tide forecasts for locations like Punta Gorda, Englewood, Boca Grande, and Venice.

MARINE

Table of marine forecasts for Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs and Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola.

SUN AND MOON

Table of sun and moon rise/set times for Dec 18, Dec 26, Jan 1, and Jan 8.

SOLAR TABLE

Table of solar forecasts for Dec 18, Dec 26, Jan 1, and Jan 8, including minor and major solar activity.

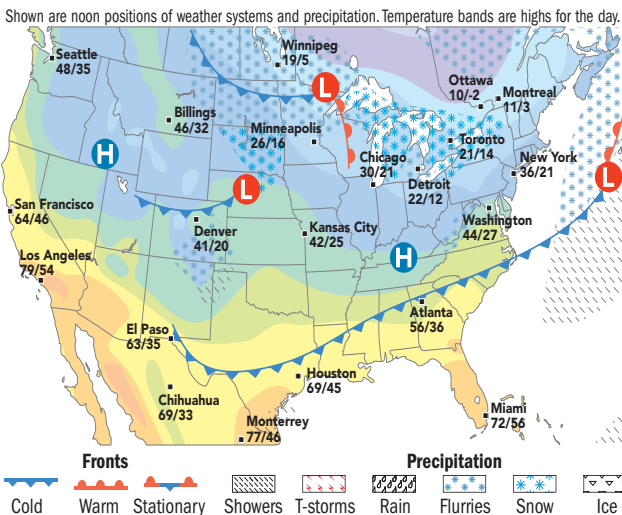
WEATHER HISTORY

On Dec. 14, 1991, winds gusted to nearly 70 mph in Washington, D.C.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: On average, is the first day of winter the coldest of the year?

THE NATION



U.S. Extremes

High 82° at Miramar MCAS, CA Low -12° at Drummond Island, MI

Table of weather forecasts for various U.S. cities including Albuquerque, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and others.

WORLD CITIES

Table of weather forecasts for world cities including Amsterdam, Baghdad, Beijing, Berlin, and others.

PORT CHARLOTTE

Weather forecast for Port Charlotte, including temperatures and precipitation.

SEBRING

Weather forecast for Sebring, including temperatures and precipitation.

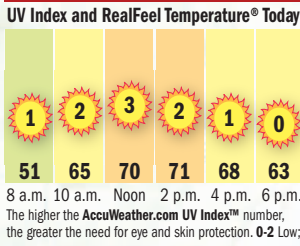
AIRPORT

Weather forecast for the airport, including temperatures and delays.

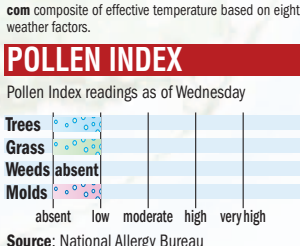
MONTHLY RAINFALL

Table of monthly rainfall data for 2017 and 2016.

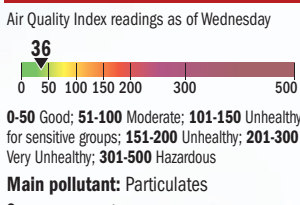
CONDITIONS TODAY



POLLEN INDEX



AIR QUALITY INDEX



STATE

Citrus forecast drop spurs more calls for relief

By JIM TURNER
THE NEWS SERVICE
OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — Florida agriculture leaders say the latest projected decline in citrus production underscores a dire need for federal disaster relief after Hurricane Irma.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated Tuesday that Florida will grow enough oranges to fill a decades-low 46 million 90-pound boxes, 8 percent less than in a November estimate. Meanwhile, grapefruit production held at 4.65 million boxes in the November to December estimates.

With the state's agriculture industry taking

at least a \$2.5 billion hit from Irma in September, the federal projections represent a 15 percent reduction in orange production since an initial estimate was made in October for the current growing season. It also is a 33 percent drop from production during the past growing season.

Grapefruit production, while unchanged from November, is down 40 percent from the past season.

"While much of the state has recovered and moved on from Hurricane Irma, Florida's citrus growers continue to grapple with the unprecedented damage, which is still unfolding in many groves," Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam said in



PHOTO PROVIDED

a prepared statement. "Florida's growers need support and they need it as quickly as possible. I will continue to work with Gov. (Rick) Scott and leaders in Washington to get Florida's growers the support and relief they need to rebuild."

Shannon Shepp, executive director of the

Florida Department of Citrus, said the forecast magnifies the need for Congress to provide disaster funding for Florida citrus — something that has not been in a series of relief packages rolled out the past few months. The citrus industry accounted for at least \$760 million of Florida's storm-related

agriculture damage.

"Florida citrus growers are making decisions on next season's crop now, and they need to know they have the support necessary to keep this American icon alive," Shepp said in a statement.

Irma uprooted trees and left many groves in standing water for up to three weeks, damage that is expected to impact the industry for years.

Mark Hudson, U.S. Department of Agriculture state statistician, said the reduction in the orange forecast is due in part to a higher percentage of fruit dropping unripe from trees.

Growers are projected to produce enough Valencia oranges to fill about 27 million boxes,

while the non-Valencia variety is expected to fill about 19 million boxes. Navel orange production accounted for 500,000 of the non-Valencia boxes.

Florida growers had annually filled more than 100 million boxes of citrus since 1950, with production topping 200 million boxes most years between 1971 and 2005. By contrast, growers produced 68,750 boxes of oranges during the 2016-2017 season.

The industry has for most of the past decade been battling citrus greening disease, which is deadly to the fruit, and Hurricane Irma's path across the state decimated many growers for the current season.

HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Appeals court dismisses Florida school funding lawsuit

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — An appeals court says a lawsuit over public school funding in Florida raises "political questions" that cannot be answered by judges.

The 1st District Court of Appeal dismissed the lawsuit Tuesday.

Education groups and parents from Duval and Pasco counties filed the initial lawsuit eight years ago. They argued that the lack of funding for schools had been most damaging to minorities and students from poor families. They pointed to an achievement

gap between white children and minorities when it comes to reading and math.

The lawsuit said Florida legislators and leaders were ignoring a constitutional amendment passed in 1998 that providing a "high quality system of free public schools" was a "paramount duty" of the state.

Governor mum on misconduct questions about appointee

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — Florida Gov. Rick Scott is sidestepping questions about whether he knew about allegations of sexual misconduct against one of

his top appointees.

Former Rep. Ritch Workman last week abruptly resigned from his \$131,000 job as a state utility regulator after a state senator said Workman had touched her inappropriately and made "vulgar" comments to her at a charity event. Workman resigned minutes after Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto put out a statement detailing the incident.

Benacquisto, a Fort Myers Republican, had a private meeting with Scott in early November. But Scott on Wednesday refused to say whether or not she talked to him about Workman.

Benacquisto has also declined to say anything

more about Workman.

Fewer Cubans registering for government assistance

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Florida officials say the number of Cubans registering for government assistance dropped dramatically after a longstanding migration policy ended in January.

In a Tampa Bay Times report, Florida's Department of Children and Families said the monthly average of Cubans registering for assistance dropped to fewer than 550 from June through October.

In the three months

before President Barack Obama ended the "wet-foot/dry-foot" policy in mid-January, an average of 5,400 Cubans a month registered with the agency.

The policy once let most Cuban migrants stay if they made it to U.S. soil.

3rd trial for mom in 'Baby Lollipops' killing nearing an end

MIAMI (AP) — Closing arguments are set in the murder trial of a Florida mother accused of beating her toddler son to death in a case that riveted the Miami area decades ago.

Ana Maria Cardona was convicted and sentenced to death twice before in

the 1990 killing of 3-year-old Lázaro Figueroa, whom police could not initially identify and gave the name "Baby Lollipops" because of a T-shirt he was wearing.

Both convictions were thrown out by the Florida Supreme Court. Prosecutors opted not to seek the death penalty this time. Cardona faces life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse.

Testifying in her own defense, Cardona claimed her former female lover took the boy to an unknown home where he was killed by the lover.

Closing arguments are expected to begin Wednesday.

STATE-BY-STATE

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Florence: The owner of a burned home tells police that the man whose body was found inside set the fire, *The TimesDaily* reports.

ALASKA Fairbanks: Builders found new uses, such as mantles and porches, for timber from the disassembled coal bunkers, the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* reports.

ARIZONA Flagstaff: A federal appeals court has kept in place an Obama administration ban on mining claims around the Grand Canyon.

ARKANSAS Jonesboro: Arkansas State University's athletics department took in about \$10 million to renovate Centennial Bank Stadium.

CALIFORNIA Riverside: Police want anyone who picked up cash thrown on I-15 after a bank robbery to return it, *The Press-Enterprise* reports.

COLORADO Colorado Springs: A state recycling group chose Colorado Springs for a pilot program to boost state recycling, *The Gazette* reports.

CONNECTICUT Bridgeport: The family of a man who died from a fourth-floor window fall was awarded \$16 million, *The Connecticut Post* reports.

DELAWARE Georgetown: Police say a man with five DUI convictions was arrested again this week on a DUI.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Red Line riders who just faced waits for track work can now expect delays while a communications cable is replaced.

FLORIDA Fort Myers: Authorities say a driver who reached to get his cell-phone when it dropped crashed into a school bus, *The News-Press* reports.

GEORGIA Atlanta: The agency that regulates utilities could decide next week whether to finish or cancel two new nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle.

HAWAII Honolulu: A \$1 million bail is set for a man charged in the death of a part-time vacation rental housekeeper, the *Star-Advertiser* reports.

IDAHO Boise: Prosecutors are seeking three times damages for fraudulent Medicaid claims by a dental

hygienist who did work as a dentist, *The Idaho Statesman* reports.

ILLINOIS Alton: The 89-year-old train depot here is being razed, *The Alton Telegraph* reports.

INDIANA Michigan City: The state building safety panel has rejected the city's CO detector ordinance, *(Northwest Indiana) Times* reports.

IOWA Oakland: A fire erupted on a school bus after it backed in a ditch, killing a student and the bus driver.

KANSAS Hutchinson: A free dental clinic is coming to the Kansas State Fairgrounds on Feb. 9-10.

KENTUCKY Louisville: University of Louisville's autism center is training first responders about the needs of autistic people in emergencies.

LOUISIANA Slidell: St. Tammany Parish officials say construction will begin in early January on a pond expected to reduce storm flooding.

MAINE Augusta: A state task force studying the opioid crisis wants an immediate increase in access to substance abuse treatment.

MARYLAND Baltimore: A federal grand jury indicted a businessman on bank fraud and other charges.

MASSACHUSETTS Framingham: Framingham State University has asked the FBI to help investigate five racist notes targeting black students, *The Boston Globe* reports.

MICHIGAN Detroit: State education officials are looking for ways to address chronic student absenteeism, *The Detroit News* reports.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis: Tests found no chronic wasting disease in more than 11,000 deer this fall.

MISSISSIPPI Ocean Springs: Friends of a slain billiards player hope the cold case may get solved with the FBI taking a lead role in the probe.

MISSOURI Oronogo: Homeowners living near the Outdoor Addicts Gun Range are concerned about stray bullets, *The Joplin Globe* reports.

MONTANA Billings: Snow shovels sold at some local hardware stores have stickers to warn buyers about the symptoms of a heart attack.

NEBRASKA Bellevue: The City Council has accepted a bid to tear down an eyesore car wash owned by a fellow council member.

NEVADA Reno: The Nevada Seismological Laboratory tracked a recent series of small earthquakes rattling north Reno, KTVN-TV reports.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: A woman who had dozens of sick Great Danes in her mansion was found guilty of 10 animal cruelty charges.

NEW JERSEY Bogota: A police officer who was recorded threatening school employees in an expletive-filled rant acted in a "justified" manner, says an investigation by the officer's agency, *The Record* reports.

NEW MEXICO Albuquerque: The city honored a police officer who persuaded a pregnant heroin user to let him adopt her unborn child.

NEW YORK Elmont: Police on Long Island are looking for a man who threatened a store clerk trying to stop him from stealing ice cream.

NORTH CAROLINA Wilmington: A fisherman injured falling down a ladder was taken by the Coast Guard to a Nags Head hospital.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: A new state law will end monthly child support paid by parents sentenced to prison for more than 180 days.

OHIO Columbus: The state Inspector General is questioning \$1.8 million in payments made by Wright State University to an economic development consultant.

OKLAHOMA Shawnee: A judge dismissed an ACLU suit to re-examine the case of a woman sentenced to 30 years for failing to report that her boyfriend abused her kids.

OREGON Eugene: This year, the city's airport has handled a million passengers, *Register-Guard* reports.

PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia: Prosecutors say a woman bilked the city's school district by posing as a tutor for a relative with special needs.

RHODE ISLAND Greenville: The final location of the 93-year-old retail chain Benny's closed this week.

SOUTH CAROLINA Greenville: Authorities say a man who rented an apartment was arrested on a voyeurism charge after a renter found a camera hidden in a bedroom clock.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: Sanford Health will donate 30 acres and a matching gift up to \$5 million to help a local Lutheran school build a new facility, *The Argus Leader* reports.

TENNESSEE Nashville: Officials plan to close Fall Creek Falls State Park's inn in April for a \$25 million rebuild.

TEXAS Houston: Police are looking for up to 10 masked men who walked off with a luxury hotel's ATM.

UTAH Salt Lake City: For a second straight year, the Mormon church donated \$5 million in aid to the nine voluntary refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S., *Deseret News* reports.

VERMONT Barre: Police are investigating a series of church burglaries in the city, *The Times Argus* reports.

VIRGINIA Richmond: The Richmond City Council rejected a proposal to seek authority to remove Confederate statues along Monument Avenue.

WASHINGTON Tacoma: Two LNG plant protesters were arrested after locking themselves in a construction crane tower, KOMO-TV reports.

WEST VIRGINIA Clarksburg: A woman was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for distributing fentanyl to a man who died from the opioid.

WISCONSIN Milwaukee: The Medical College of Wisconsin wants drug-stores to offer immunizations.

WYOMING Laramie: A planned science building at the University of Wyoming is over budget by \$11 million, *Laramie Boomerang* reports.

Compiled from staff, wire reports.

NATION/FROM PAGE ONE

Former 'Apprentice' contestant Omarosa leaving White House

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Omarosa Manigault Newman — the former "Apprentice" contestant who became one of President Donald Trump's most prominent African-American supporters — was escorted off the White House grounds after resigning her post as a presidential adviser.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Wednesday that Manigault Newman's last day will be Jan. 20, one year since Trump's inauguration. "We wish her the best in future endeavors and are grateful for her service," Sanders said.

The president also bid her farewell, tweeting: "Thank you Omarosa for your service! I wish you continued success."

Manigault Newman was an assistant to the president and director of communications for the White House Office of Public Liaison, working on outreach to various constituency groups. But the office languished under her watch and White House chief of staff John Kelly had indicated that changes were forthcoming, including her

dismissal, according to two White House officials who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about personnel matters.

Better known by just her first name, Manigault Newman was escorted from the White House complex Tuesday night but was allowed to tender her resignation. The U.S. Secret Service, which provides security for the president, tweeted Wednesday that it was not involved in her termination or her escort from the grounds. Some published reports said Secret Service officers had physically removed Manigault Newman from the complex.

The agency confirmed that a pass granting her access to the complex had been deactivated.

"Our only involvement in this matter was to deactivate the individual's pass which grants access to the complex," the agency tweeted.

Manigault Newman's exit comes at the front end of what's expected to be a wave of departures. Deputy national security adviser Dina Powell is also departing early next year, the White House

said last week.

Manigault Newman, who drew a top salary of \$179,700, was one of Trump's highest-profile supporters during the campaign. She also worked with Trump's transition team.

A former contestant on the first season of "The Apprentice," Trump's former reality TV show, Manigault Newman had long been unpopular with several senior West Wing officials, including senior adviser and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner and White House chief of staff John Kelly.

Kelly, the retired Marine general who had made it his mission to tighten White House operations and streamline how Trump gets information, has told aides that he wanted to curtail the number of White House officials with ill-defined positions and responsibilities.

Kelly took away Manigault Newman's ability to come and go from the Oval Office as she pleased. During the first months of Trump's administration, aides were known to wander in and out of meetings, a practice Kelly ended across the board. She also



AP PHOTO

In this Dec. 13, 2016 file photo, Omarosa Manigault smiles at reporters as she walks through the lobby of Trump Tower in New York.

drew Kelly's ire by occasionally going around him to slip news articles to the president.

Manigault Newman enjoyed a close relationship with the president despite the fact that he once uttered the famous "You're fired!" line to her before dispatching her from the TV show. She held her April wedding at Trump's hotel blocks from the White House.

She had a knack for generating unflattering headlines.

An African-American White House reporter earlier this year accused Manigault Newman

of physical and verbal intimidation, including issuing a warning that the White House kept "dossiers" on black journalists. The White House denied compiling such information.

Her appearance at the National Association of Black Journalists' convention in New Orleans in August devolved into a testy clash with a veteran news anchor during a panel discussion on policing in black communities.

Manigault Newman did not return voice mail and text messages Wednesday seeking comment.

ALABAMA

FROM PAGE 1

and out of Washington — who cheered Moore's loss as the impact of the Alabama stunner echoed throughout the political world. The prospect of a high-profile Republican senator dogged by sexual misconduct accusations — and an all-but-certain ethics investigation — unnerved a GOP that's fearful of an albatross on its candidates in next year's campaigns.

Republican Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby said that Moore, a fiery conservative, would have brought a "radioactive" element to the Senate GOP.

"I'm relieved and I believe a lot of Republicans are relieved that Roy Moore and some of his people aren't the face of the Republican Party that I know," said Shelby, who cast a write-in vote for another Republican and never backed down in his opposition to Moore.

More than 22,000 write-in votes were cast Tuesday,

more than the margin of difference between the winner and loser, suggesting many other voters refused to vote for a Democrat but couldn't accept Moore.

Sen.-elect Doug Jones' stunning Democratic victory marked a major setback for Trump and top political ally Steve Bannon. They had devoted time, resources and political capital to Moore in recent days, even as he faced the allegations of sexual misconduct and espoused views that alienated women, racial

minorities, gays and Muslims.

Despite the outcome's relief for the GOP's pragmatic wing, the fight for the party's soul was hardly decided with one Alabama special election.

Allies of Bannon, who declared war on the party's establishment after leaving the White House earlier in the year, dismissed the loss as little more than a temporary setback that would soon be forgotten. Republicans cheering Moore's loss, they said, would simply enrage Trump's most loyal

supporters nationwide, who already suspected some Republican leaders were trying to undermine the president's agenda.

"They're stomping on the very base they need to turn out for their candidates in the general election in 2018," said Andy Surabian, a senior adviser to the Bannon-backed Great America PAC. He contended that "the average Republican voter across the country is pointing their finger at Mitch McConnell and the Republican establishment."

REBUKE

FROM PAGE 1

past the deadline but offers grounds for actions they take to be voided in court.

"For almost all positions, if you're serving in violation of the Vacancies Act, anything that you do is void as a matter of law," said Anne Joseph O'Connell, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

Trump has been slower

than any recent predecessor to staff up his administration, making the 300-day deadline a much bigger problem, said the Partnership for Public Service's president, Max Stier.

The White House didn't respond to emailed questions on the topic. But several agency representatives responded by urging the Senate to confirm permanent nominees or defending the executive branch's pace in naming them.

"Our primary goal is to

find the right permanent official for these critical leadership roles rather than simply fill for expedience," Department of Veterans Affairs press secretary Curt Cashour said in an email.

In many cases the administration has downgraded the title of an acting official, while delegating the authority to carry out the job's duties to them. After an inquiry by Bloomberg, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs retroactively delegated authority to

the official who had been serving as acting undersecretary for benefits to perform duties of that role without the acting title, Cashour said.

"VA is aware of the acting title issue and is fixing it," Cashour said.

A delegation of authority, however, has to be consistent with the Constitution, Vacancies Act limitations on which duties can be passed to others and with the laws governing each agency. "This administration seems to be trying to

push the boundaries on allocating power to people who haven't been confirmed by the Senate," said Nina Mendelson, who teaches administrative law at the University of Michigan.

At the Justice Department, acting officials were listed as recently as last week as acting heads of the Community Relations Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

PHYSICIAN

FROM PAGE 1

medical education initiatives. In 2013, lawmakers directed \$80 million in recurring funding and directed it toward the Statewide Medicaid Residency Program. The state had an estimated 3,896 residency slots before the program was created. Since then, Florida has funded an additional 1,113 slots for a total of 5,009. Lawmakers

in 2017 agreed to direct an additional \$17 million to the program to keep pace with the growing demand.

The 2017 report was published by the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida in partnership with the Teaching Hospital Council of Florida, which Sonnenreich chairs. It builds off the findings of a 2015 analysis conducted on behalf of the groups by IHS Markit, formerly IHS Global, which found Florida faced a shortage of nearly 7,000 physicians through 2025.

In response to the 2015 report, lawmakers created the Graduate Medical Education Startup Bonus and Retention Program where hospitals are paid a one-time \$100,000 startup bonus for every residency slot created in a shortage specialty. This year, the program resulted in the creation of 313 new residency positions in many of the 20 physician specialties where deficits exist.

Sonnenreich said his group's goal is to ensure that tax dollars are directed

to support residency slots in areas that will help the state the most.

"What we're really talking about here is trying to formulate good public policy, and good public policy is to identify where our community, our state, has a deficiency and then try to encourage funding of those residencies so they are available for people to take advantage of," he said.

In addition to requesting money to train future physicians, the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of

Florida and the Teaching Hospital Council of Florida also are requesting that the Legislature appropriate \$50 million to help offset the costs of charity care provided by teaching hospitals.

The Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida's 14 member hospitals provided nearly \$580 million in charity care but received about \$209 million in supplemental payments from the Low Income Pool program, according to Executive Vice President Lindy Kennedy.

TAXES

FROM PAGE 1

allow homeowners to deduct interest only on the first \$750,000 of a new mortgage.

The top tax rate currently applies to income above \$470,000 for married couples, though lawmakers are reworking the tax brackets.

The standard deduction would be nearly doubled, to \$24,000 for married couples.

Details of the agreement were described by Republican senators and congressional aides.

"It's not my vision of the perfect, but again, this is definitely going to be a strong pro-growth tax package," said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

Republicans see passage of the legislation as a political imperative, proving to voters they can govern as the GOP fights to hold onto its majorities in the House and Senate. Republicans said they expect the

package to increase economic growth, generating additional tax revenue and lessening the hit to the budget deficit. Independent economists aren't as optimistic.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said she and her colleagues expect a "modest lift" to economic growth from the tax package.

Yellen said at a news conference the likelihood of lower taxes is why Fed officials expect the economy to grow at 2.5 percent in 2018. But growth would

then slip back closer to its recent 2 percent average.

She said that any wage growth would likely stem from the low unemployment rate rather than the tax cuts.

Negotiators have removed several controversial provisions from the tax bill, including one that would have eliminated the deduction for interest on student loans and another deduction for medical expenses, said two congressional aides.

Also, the bill would no longer start taxing

graduate-school tuition waivers, said the aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private negotiations.

The tax bill would scale back the deduction for state and local taxes, allowing families to deduct only up to a total of \$10,000 in property and income taxes. The deduction is especially important to residents of high-tax states like New York, New Jersey and California.

ALMANAC

Today is **Thursday, Dec. 14**, the 348th day of 2017. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today in history

On **Dec. 14, 2012**, a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, then committed suicide as police arrived; the 20-year-old had also fatally shot his mother at their home before carrying out the attack on the school.

On this date

In **1799**, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, home at age 67. In **1819**, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In **1911**, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out a British expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In **1916**, President Woodrow Wilson vetoed an immigration measure aimed at preventing "undesirables" and anyone born in the "Asiatic Barred Zone" from entering the U.S. (Congress overrode Wilson's veto in Feb. 1917.)

In **1964**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States, ruled that Congress was within its authority to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against racial discrimination by private businesses (in this case, a motel that refused to cater to blacks).

In **1986**, the experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

Today's birthdays

Singer-actress **Abbe Lane** is 86. Actor **Hal Williams** is 83. Actress-singer **Jane Birkin** is 71. Pop singer **Joyce Vincent-Wilson** (Tony Orlando and Dawn) is 71. Entertainment executive **Michael Ovitz** is 71. Actress **Dee Wallace** is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer **Ronnie McNeir** (The Four Tops) is 68. Rock musician **Cliff Williams** is 68. Actor-comedian **T.K. Carter** is 61. Rock singer-musician **Mike Scott** (The Waterboys) is 59. Singer-musician **Peter "Spider" Stacy** (The Pogues) is 59. Actress **Cynthia Gibb** is 54. Actress **Nancy Valen** is 52. Actor **Archie Kao** is 48. Actress **Natascha McElhone** is 48. Actress-comedian **Michaela Watkins** is 46. Actress-comedian **Miranda Hart** is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer **Brian Dallyrimple** (Soul For Real) is 42. Actress **KaDee Strickland** is 42. Actress **Tammy Blanchard** is 41. Actress **Sophie Monk** is 38. Actor-singer-musician **Jackson Rathbone** is 33. Actress **Vanessa Hudgens** is 29. Rock/R&B singer **Tori Kelly** is 25.

ODD NEWS

Expecting dad stages his own pregnancy photo shoot

PEABODY, Mass. (AP) — An expecting father in Massachusetts has shown off his paternal glow with a pregnancy photo shoot.

Peabody resident Nick Roberts surprised his pregnant girlfriend with the photos at their gender reveal party in June before their son Logan was born. Some of the photos show Roberts posing at a beach in the town of Nahant, cradling his visible belly.

The couple's son has since been born.

Roberts says he and his friend, who is a photographer, grabbed some fast food before the shoot to "try to look a little pregnant."

Roberts' girlfriend, Brianna Magee, tells WHDH-TV she flipped through the pictures and "just started laughing harder and harder."

Roberts says the photo shoot was "extremely difficult because we just kept laughing."

Do bloodwork numbers reflect minor cold or something more?

DEAR DR. ROACH:

For the second time in two years, I've had bloodwork done due to massive headache, general tiredness and body pains. Both times, I also had very minor signs of a cold (post-nasal drip). My recent test shows elevated neutrophils of 89 percent (normal range is 40-80 percent), with high normal absolute neutrophils. My lymphocytes are more concerning, at 4 percent lymphocytes (range 20-40 percent), with absolute lymphocytes of 272 (range 1,000-3,000).



Dr. Roach

subsequently diagnosed as macular puckers, neither of which had been present during presurgical screening. Since there is a history of macular degeneration in my family, this outcome was said to be an "age-related" phenomenon unrelated to the surgery. Vitrectomy has been recommended for both eyes.

I'm having recurrent low-grade fevers (99.6-100.3) that seem to last only a few hours; night sweats; and am generally exhausted all the time. I am currently in a tropical country, and am concerned at times about the care I receive here.

What follow-up care, if any, should I request, and with what kind of doctor? I am concerned about lymphoma, as both my mom and brother have had it. — M.H.

ANSWER: It is difficult to evaluate your blood counts, as both times you had it done, you were sick. A complete blood count (CBC) in a person who is sick with an acute infection often shows elevated neutrophils and low lymphocytes, so I would recommend evaluation during a time when you are well, if possible. A hematologist is the expert in reviewing results of white blood cell (as well as red blood cell and platelet) abnormalities.

Lymphoma can cause fevers and fatigue, so it is a diagnosis that is worth considering, especially with your family history. However, being in a tropical country, you are at risk for many different infections, which may have very similar symptoms and are far more likely. If you are concerned that your regular doctor lacks the expertise, you might consider an expert in infectious diseases to help evaluate your current situation. A local expert certainly will know what is common where you are.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently had a cataract removed in my left eye and lens-replacement surgery in both eyes. Upon completion and before the first two-week follow-up appointment, I noticed visual abnormalities — quite different in each eye — which were

I'm having difficulty making the decision to go ahead with another surgical procedure. Would you please explain the mechanics or relationship of how cataract and lens-replacement surgery can lead to the condition of macular puckers? Without this information, I am thwarted in my ability to make a clear decision. Yet the condition is worsening, and the nature of the differing visual abnormalities in each eye (wavy distortion in my left and triple image in my right) makes prescription lenses ineffective. — J.W.

ANSWER: Macular pucker, also called epiretinal membrane, is essentially a scar over the macula, the very center of the retina, where our vision is sharpest. It is not related to macular degeneration, and it probably had nothing to do with the cataract surgery. Rather, it is more likely that removal of the cataract made it possible for your ophthalmologist to see the macula clearly enough to make the diagnosis. The surgery, vitrectomy (removal of the vitreous fluid), usually restores about half of the lost vision. I don't know of any other effective treatment besides surgery.

The booklet on macular degeneration explains this common eye ailment. Readers can order a copy by writing:

Dr. Roach
Book No. 701
628 Virginia Dr.
Orlando, FL 32803
Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Can. with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Rating: BRONZE

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

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Solution to 12/13/17

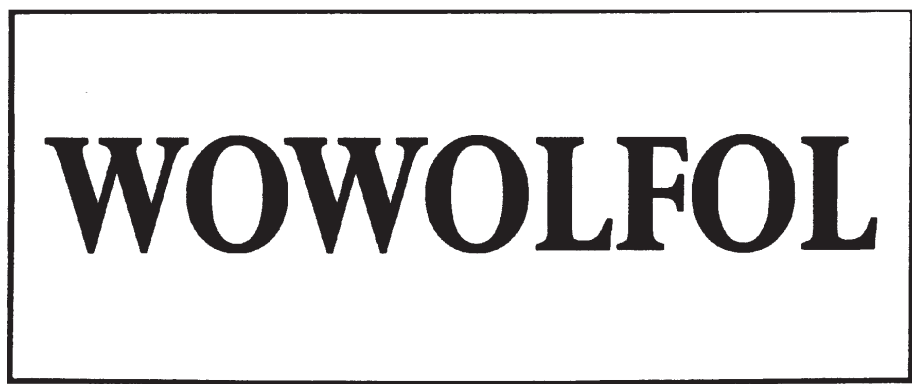
9x9 Sudoku solution grid.

12/14/17

www.whatzit.com December 14, 2017



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



SOLUTION:

A wolf in sheep's clothing

See more puzzles in the front section

WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Former spouse journeys on foot (1)

[Grid for puzzle 1]

2. Sheltered bay orchard (1)

[Grid for puzzle 2]

3. Mother-of-pearl manufacturer (2)

[Grid for puzzle 3]

4. Unclean group of ten plus twenty (2)

[Grid for puzzle 4]

5. Cathedral clergyman halted doing (1)

[Grid for puzzle 5]

6. Totally-in-love baby cat (2)

[Grid for puzzle 6]

7. Poet Elizabeth Barrett scowling (2)

[Grid for puzzle 7]

ANSWERS
1. EX TREKS 2. COVE GROVE 3. NACRE MAKER 4. DIRTY THIRTY 5. PRIEST CEASED 6. SMITTEN KITTEN 7. BROWNING FROWNING

12-14-17

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

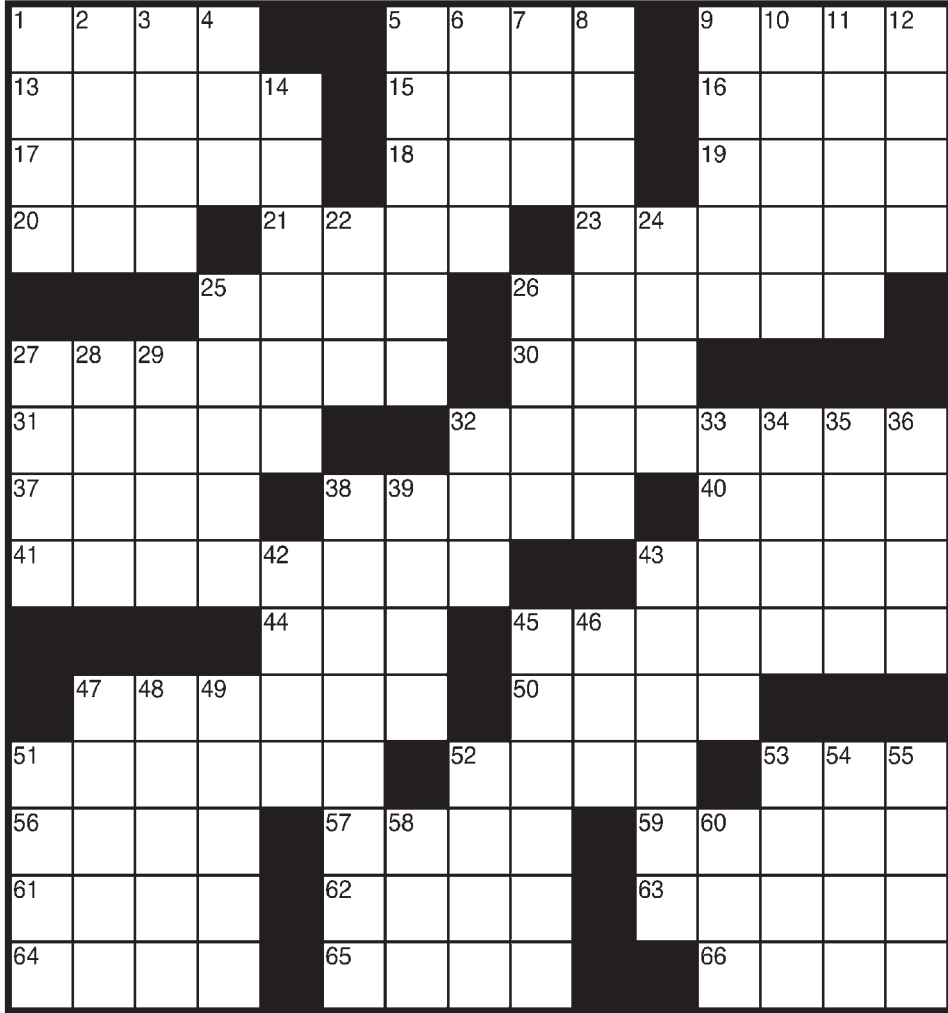
ACROSS

- 1 Light pink wine
5 Ta-ta in Turin
9 Money maker
13 Amherst sch.
15 Kind of radio
16 Mighty steed
17 Ill-chosen
18 Bombay attire
19 Mantra chanter
20 Pen part
21 Thor's father
23 Volcano's mouth
25 Lady's shoe
26 Laughed loudly
27 Peter the Great's wife
30 Nol or Chaney
31 Like the tabloids
32 Light bulb filament
37 No future —
38 Whitecaps
40 Surrender territory
41 Fast-food joint
43 Turf warriors
44 Tease good-naturedly
45 Soup, salad, etc.
47 Montana capital
50 Crawling with
51 Table linen, often
52 Tiger's game
53 DVD predecessor
56 PC system
57 Comedian Jay —
59 Leave-taking
61 — amandine
62 Joie de vivre
63 Water holes
64 Row
65 Morse code signals
66 Gala
1 Rack and —
2 All in combos
3 Volvo rival
4 Telepathy
5 Bungalow
6 Bowie's wife
7 It's south of Eur.
8 Vowels before pi
9 Indonesian
10 Up in arms
11 "A Boy — Sue"
12 Ski lift (hyph.)
14 Impassive
22 Rather or Aykroyd
24 Chimed
25 On the — (kaput)
26 Visibly cold
27 Barrette
28 Pueblo people
29 Desert st.
32 Hydroelectric org.
33 Psych out
34 Gymnasts' goals
35 Sidle past
36 Monster's loch
38 Creased
39 Verdi opera
42 Barely makes do
43 Horselaugh
45 Sings like Bing
46 Olive yield
47 Vietnam capital
48 Novelist — Zola
49 More permissive
51 Gold deposit
52 Punkie
53 Nasty
54 Druid
55 Red herring
58 New Haven student
60 Rock's — Leppard

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anything and everything can be taken to extremes, including the smallest things. It's why you're very, very careful about what you get started these days. When in doubt, toe the straight clean line.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Something's not right in the setup. You can either go along with the program or raise your hand. "There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth: not going all the way, and not starting." — Buddha
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Identity is more fluid and nuanced than most people think. But as the

twins of the zodiac, you already understand that each person is often a subtly different person for every fresh situation.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Invisible cords entwine your soul with the soul of each person you love. Today, you can send and receive messages through these cords regardless of where the other person is in the world or beyond.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even though you're not entirely happy in every moment with where you are, in many ways the setting of the day will feel ideal. Windows sparkling with promise, decorated doors of opportunity, intrigue at every corner ... it's a good place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your best guess is a good one but it's still not good enough to act on. A scientific approach is going to bother your teammates and slow down the action considerably. Oh, and it will also keep you from future regret.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just when you think you're doing better in a certain area, it gets worse in another. Growth can be strange like this, but you can count on the fact that it's all building in a positive direction.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). On the one hand, you love yourself enough to get the things you want. On the other hand, this involves sacrifice and work you don't feel like doing. So be a good coach to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll experience luck so uncanny that your actions may seem to be guided by an invisible finger of fate. Don't waste this one — believe the impulse.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You hold the people around you to a certain standard, and then you hold yourself to another one that's much, much higher. This hardly seems fair, but it will work out for you and keep you from disappointment.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You might get nostalgic for the moment you're living right now. Love does this to you. You realize that you're in a very sweet, shared part of life passing through your fingers like a handful of sugar.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll become increasingly self-sufficient as this solar return progresses. A kindly stranger comes into the picture in early 2018 who can forward your interests.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 14). Your attuning with nature will be more than a hobby; it will be a path to physical vitality, better relationships and there may even be professional facets. There's a fun social development at the start of 2018 that will help your family. Travel in March; invest in April. Perks of friendship will enhance the summer. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 20, 1, 28 and 33.

BIBLE

"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." — Acts 8:4 and "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." — Acts 5:42.

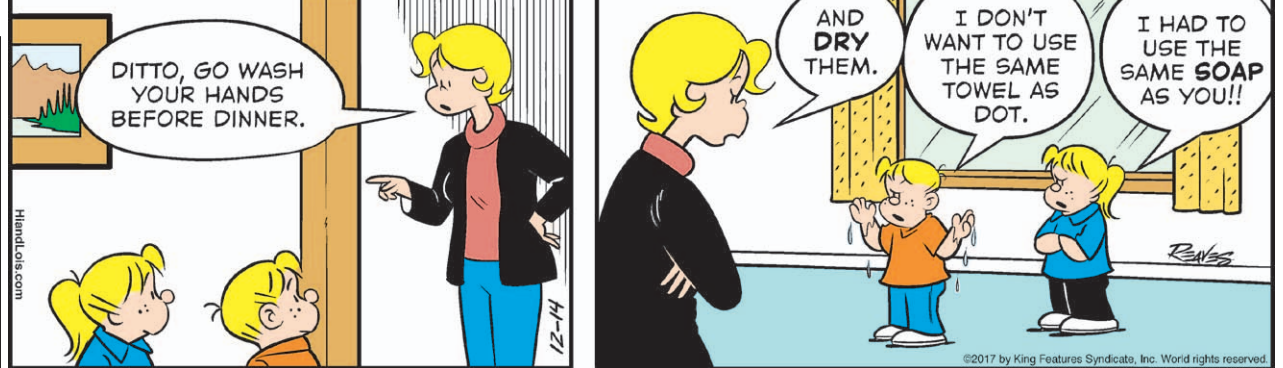
Remember it is the Book of Acts not of alibis and excuses. Today the average Christian is around watching and waiting with the rest of the world for the news ... they went out and made it!



MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



BEEBLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



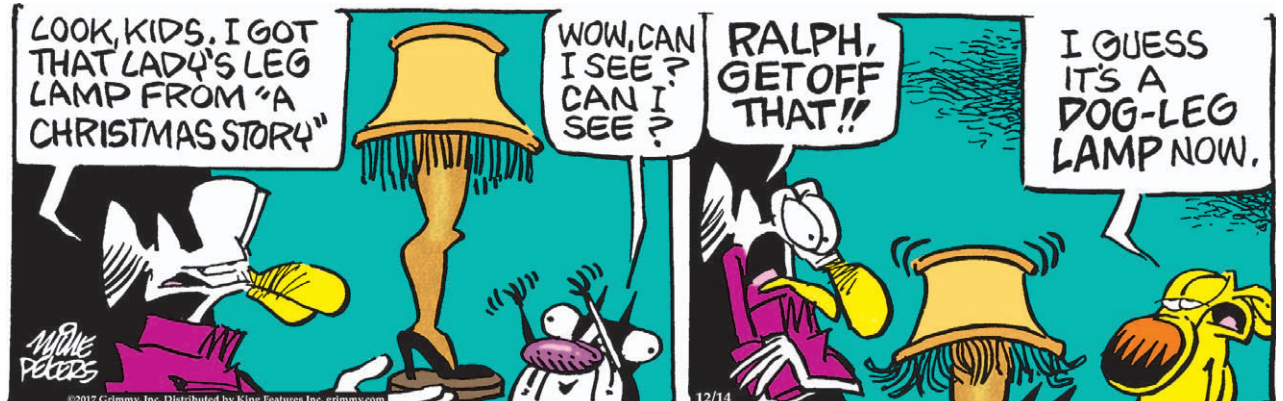
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



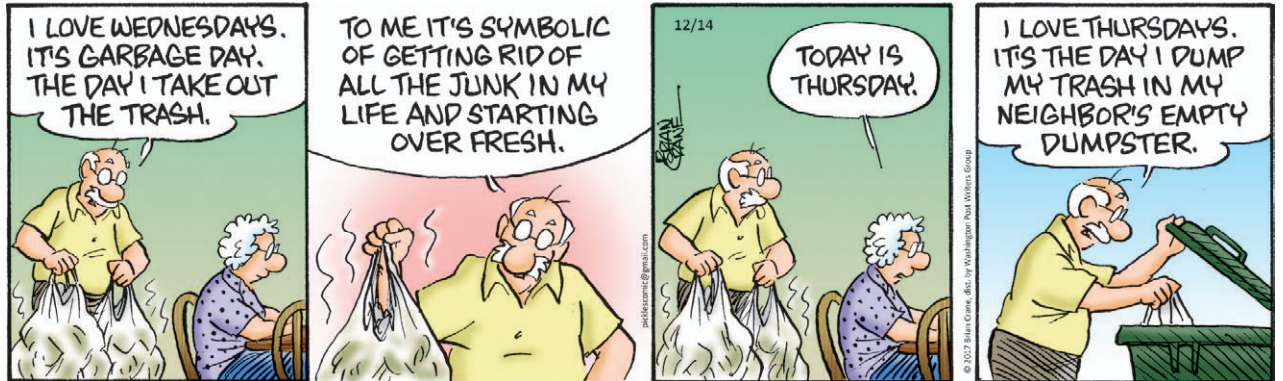
THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



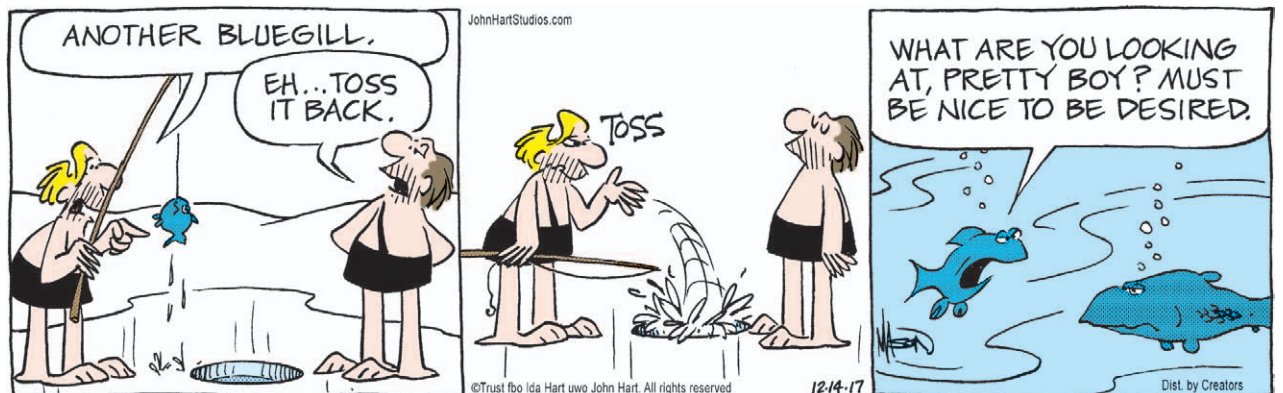
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



PICKLES By Brian Crane



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



Challenger

DIRECTIONS: Fill each square with a number, one through nine.
 • Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.
 • Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.
 • Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

12-14

			1	8
1				16
		6		19
	6			19
6	22	20	14	22

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.

Today's Challenge Time: 8 Minutes, 10 Seconds

Your Working Time: Minutes, Seconds

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2	9	3	1	15
6	9	9	1	25
9	5	9	1	24
9	9	4	8	30
26	32	25	11	28

Yesterday's Challenger Answers

Cryptoquip

12-14

G S H B J R Q U N B R Z C Q R X W
 J F J N D G C G H F Z W D R V W
 S H N S Q H Q J U J V L J V R V F
 R X N C V F Z H X Q J V : L H X D R V -
 N Q N L W .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A LOUD SHOUT IS MADE BY SOMEONE DURING BOISTEROUS FESTIVITY, I GUESS THAT'S A REVEL YELL.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals S

MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



SPORTS SLEUTH

MLB PLAYERS BORN IN CANADA

Q N K H E B Y V S P M J H E B
 Y V (M O R N E A U) T R Q O L I
 G D B Y T W I T R S E P M K I
 F D B Y W T U T S A T Q J O M
 K I S F D D O B R R S Z E X W
 U L R I R I S V E A P Q N O N
 L J H O C E H K F T M D K C A
 Y W F U M N L Y V T E R I T S
 Q X D P P A A L N O D L N K I
 A D H F W B K R I K L E S E C
 A B Z Y W V U S F H T A E H R

Wednesday's unlisted clue: DETROIT
 Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
 Thursday's unlisted clue hint: Hall of Fame Pitcher Ferguson

Adduci	Francis	Morneau	Selkirk
Axford	Heath	Puhl	Votto
Bay	Hiller	R. Martin	Walker
Dempster	Kottaras	Romak	

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Christmas babies find plenty to celebrate at the holidays

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to "Blessed in New York" (Aug. 4), the mom who gave birth to her precious daughter on Christmas Day and wondered if maybe she should have timed her pregnancy better.



Dear Abby

Our daughter was born on Dec. 20. When she was only a few years old, we purchased a 2-foot-tall artificial tree and named it the "birthday tree." She could decorate it every year however she liked. Any birthday presents went under that tree. That made her day special. When she got married and moved out, her birthday tree went with her. — BLESSED, TOO, IN INDIANA

DEAR BLESSED, TOO: I enjoyed reading the letters from you and other readers who are Christmas babies or have a family member who is one. Their upbeat, positive experiences made me smile. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My daughter was born on Christmas Eve. From the time she was 5 and able to recognize that her birthday cards were getting scrambled in with the other holiday cards, we started celebrating on June 24 — her half-birthday. She gets excited every year as it nears. She'll be 32. Celebrating her half-birthday was the best thing we could have decided to do, and I have no regrets. — MOM OF A CHRISTMAS BABY

DEAR ABBY: I was born in December and I LOVE my birthday! My mother, grandmother, sister-in-law and niece were also born in December. It's a great time to have a birthday. Everything is decorated for the holidays, and most people are in a good mood. My family never blended the occasions, so that helped.

As to people's comments, my reply is: "Everyone has a birthday. Mine just happens to be at Christmastime, so please acknowledge that." The only thing I do wish is, if I receive a birthday

gift, I hope it's wrapped in birthday paper and not Christmas wrap. — HOLLY IN ARKANSAS

DEAR ABBY: I do not recommend celebrating the kid's half-birthday in June. In June, people are away at camp or on vacation, and there's no one to invite to the party.

Early December is a perfect time for a birthday party. Sports are over and the holiday parties haven't started, school is still in session so everyone is still around.

Another good time is early January, right after school starts again but the other activities haven't yet geared up. — BUSY DECEMBER MOM

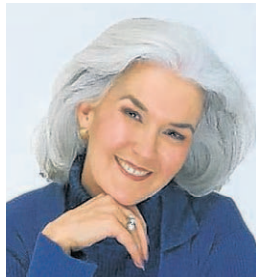
DEAR ABBY: Fifty-five years ago my husband and I weren't thinking ahead either. Our son was born on Christmas Day. He still thinks that's great.

Christmas always lasted until after the presents were opened and the kitchen was cleaned following lunch. Then it was birthday time! It was special because his long-distance grandparents were always there. When he became old enough for birthday parties, he could choose to have it on any day while school was out for the holiday break — either before or after Christmas. It worked well for our family and it might for others, too. — CAROLYN IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: Tell that new mom to cheer up. My mother was born on Christmas Day and she loved it. She said the reason was no one ever forgot it, and everyone got the day off! — SARA IN FLORIDA

Milk, eggs and the hike to get them

Dear Heloise: Why is it that when I run into the grocery store for just milk and eggs, they are always at the very back of the store? — Mary Ann D. in Texas



Hints from Heloise

Mary Ann, thank you for your letter. This is an opportunity to talk about the layout at the supermarket. There are some "tricks" that grocery retailers use to get us to spend more.

Necessities, like milk and eggs, are in the back of the store. This way, you'll walk through and be tempted by other items.

More-expensive items are in the front. When you first come in, you have money to spend!

Things that go together are placed together, like chips and dip. This will lure you into spending more.

The costliest items typically are on the shelf at eye level.

Retailers may use scents to entice you, too. Warm cinnamon rolls and bread smell yummy!

Be a smart shopper and read those labels! — Heloise

Stumped on stuffing stockings?

Dear Readers: Need hints on what to put in those Christmas stockings? Read on: rain

bonnets, perfumed soaps, emery boards, lipsticks, new socks, pocket combs, handkerchiefs, keychains, coin purses and potholders.

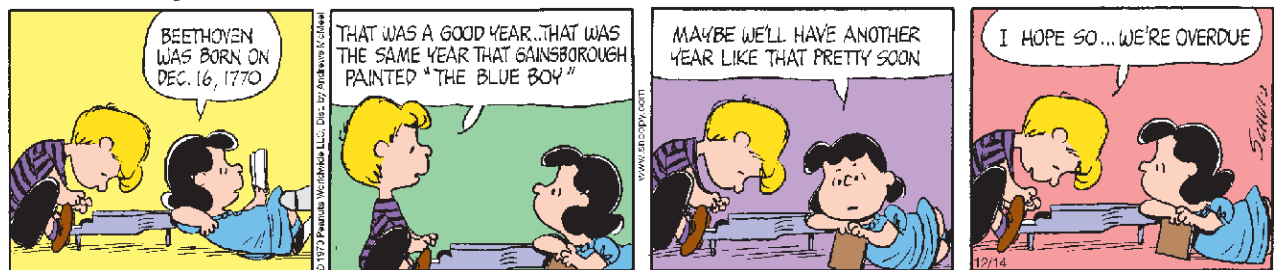
The above came from the files of my mother's, the original Heloise (1919-1977), and it appeared in a column dated Dec. 24, 1970 — time-tested! — Heloise

Pretty paper

Dear Heloise: I use last year's Christmas cards to decorate gifts I'm giving this year. I wrap the gifts in plain wrapping paper and attach card fronts to the paper with double-sided tape.

I select cards that relate to the gift recipient (animal lovers, or pictures of Santa for a child). Then I frame the card with flat ribbon. If you need to ship packages, the flat decorations pack well. — Sandra, via email

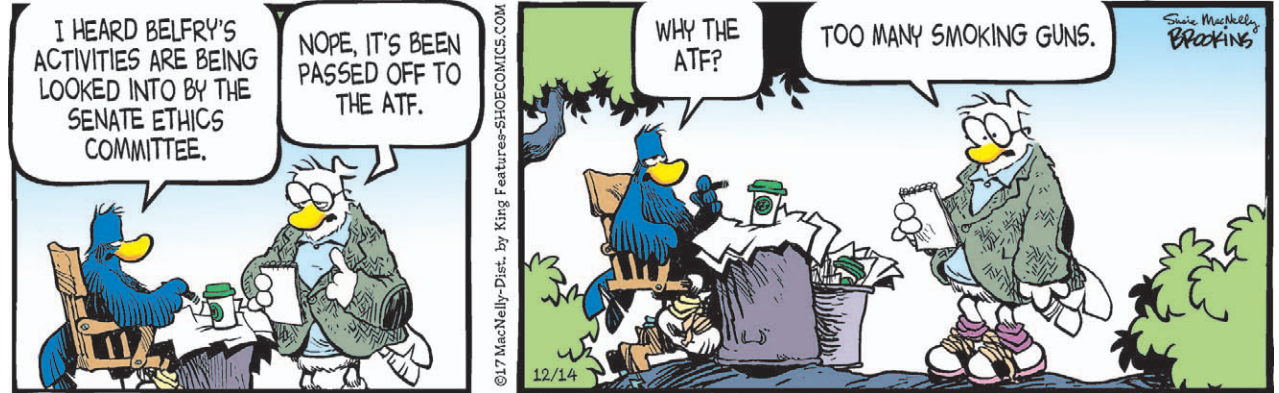
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



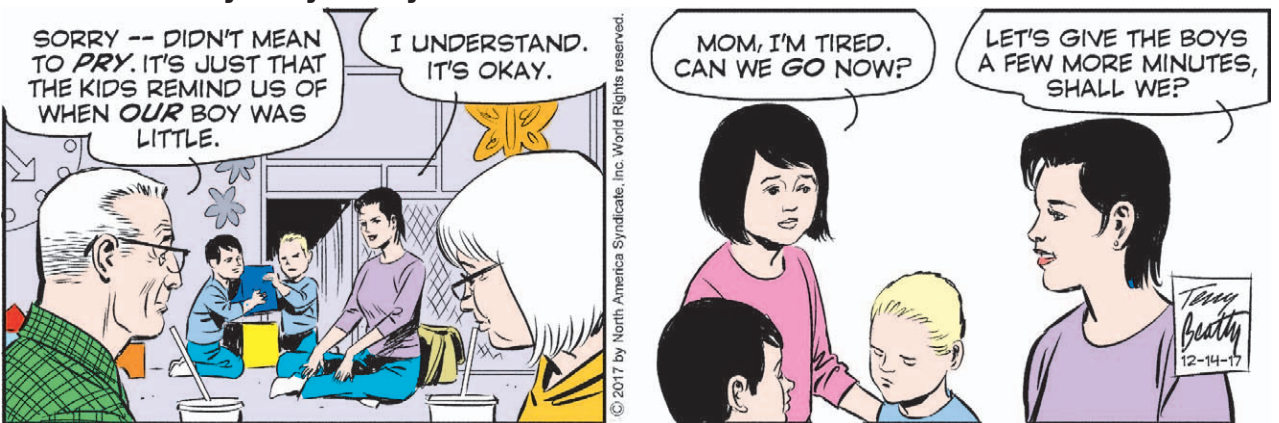
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie



REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



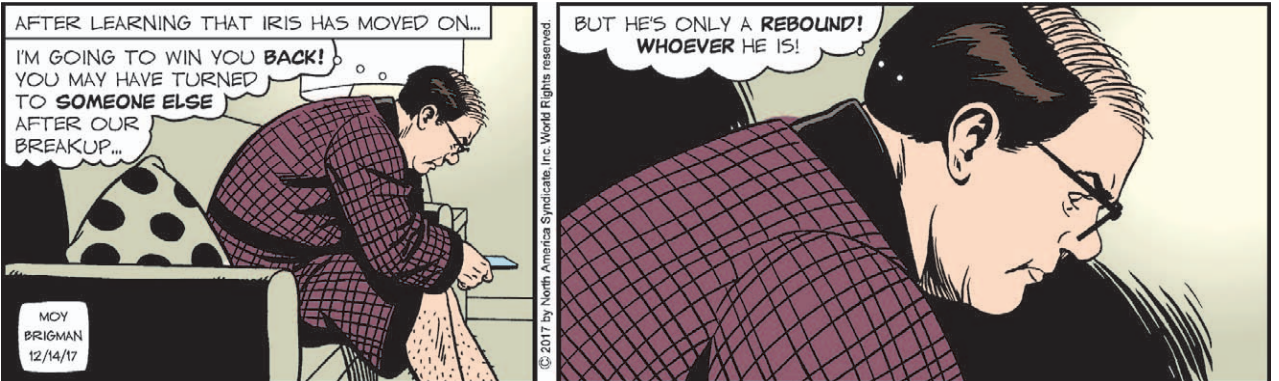
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



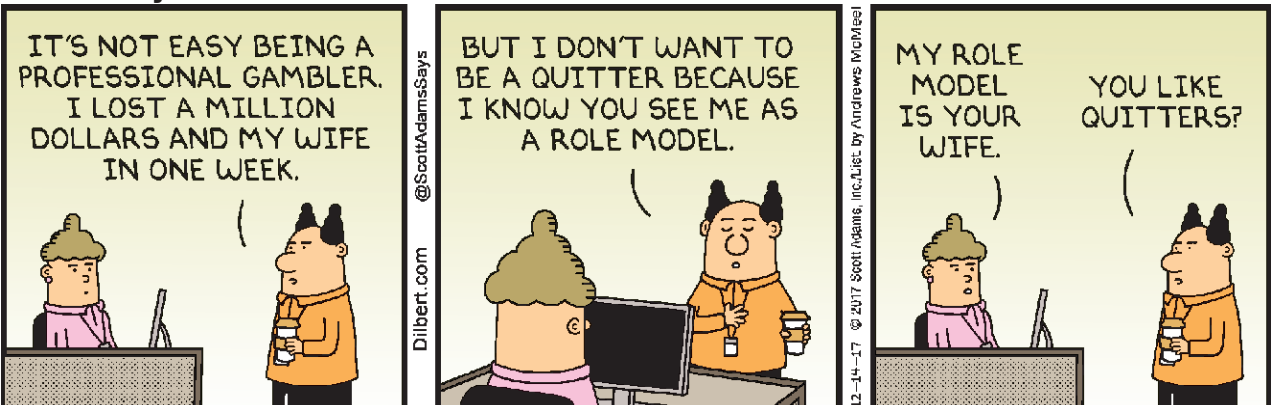
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June



DILBERT By Scott Adams



Thursday, December 14, 2017

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
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DESPERATE MEASURES

Neither vulnerable, South deals

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K 9 6 4	♥ A	♠ Q 5	♥ Q 10 9 6 5 4 2
♦ K J 8 3	♣ J 9 8 4	♦ 6	♣ K 7 3
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ A J 8 7 2	♥ J 8 7	♠ 10 3	♥ K 3
♦ 9 5 2	♣ Q 10	♦ A Q 10 7 4	♣ A 6 5 2

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♦ 1♠ 2♠* 3♥
3NT 4♥ 4NT All pass
*Diamond fit, invitational or better

Opening lead: Seven of ♥

East-West did well to compete to four hearts. That would have been an excellent sacrifice as there were only five losers in that contract. The four no trump contract presented a serious challenge. There were only eight top winners. The spade ace was likely to be with West, but that would only get them up to nine winners. The club suit would have to be played for three winners to get to 10 tricks.

There are several lies of the club suit, all unlikely, that would allow declarer to play for three winners. South set out to learn a little more about the hand. He won the opening heart lead with dummy's ace performance, cashed the king of diamonds, and led a diamond to his ace. East's discard was informative. West was known to have at least five spades and three hearts from the auction, and now was known to have started with three diamonds. West had to be played for short clubs.

Declarer led a low club toward the dummy. West rose with the queen to continue hearts to South's king, and South crossed to dummy with the jack of diamonds. Decision time! Should West be played for an original club holding of king-queen doubleton, or queen-10 doubleton? Queen-10 doubleton is more likely, for a couple of reasons, so South led dummy's jack of clubs and ran it when East played low. The fall of the 10 from West was sweet, and South had the 10 tricks that he needed. Well played!

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001. E-mail: tcaeditors@tribpub.com)

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

- 1 detailed news story (7)
- 2 "high light," often (10)
- 3 stress (10)
- 4 emphasis (6)
- 5 like a recording studio (10)
- 6 outspend your income, say (11)
- 7 precise (8)

SOLUTIONS

OI	FEA	CHAN	NDP	UA
WEI	OVER	ENT	PINP	DE
ETCH	LIER	ROOF	TURE	SOU
ACC	NT	GHT	TE	STR

Wednesday's Answers: 1. TRACKLESS 2. ARBITRATE 3. ERECTLY 4. BIRDWATCHER 5. AMARYLLIS 6. BACKCOMB 7. ENTRENCHED 12/14

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PRUNS

○○○○

SATEE

○○○○

LNAFEL

○○○○

YUSANE

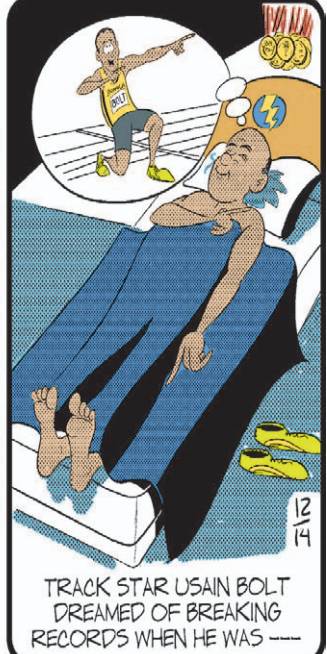
○○○○

Answer here: ○○○○ ○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: ROYAL BUNCH SEASON SHOULD
Answer: The woodwind player went fishing with his buddy and hoped to catch a — BASS SOON

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

BORN LOSER By Art and Chip Sansom



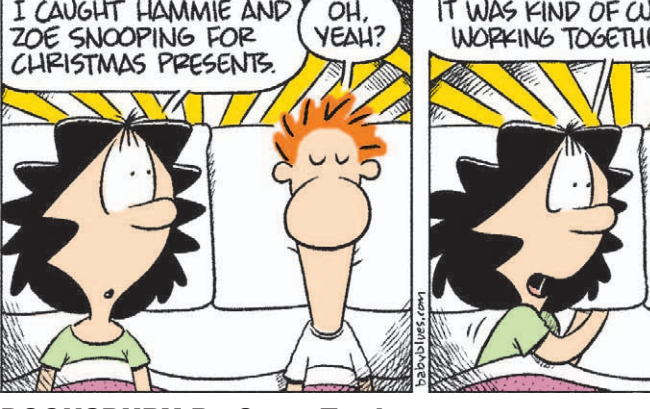
BLONDIE By Dean Young and John Marshall



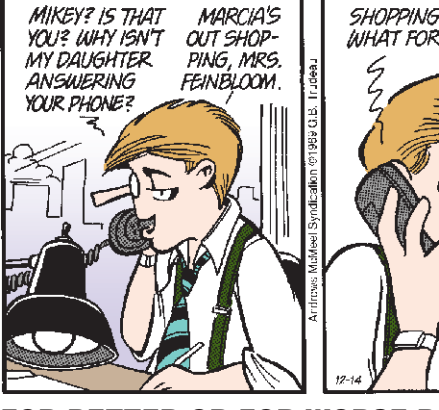
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



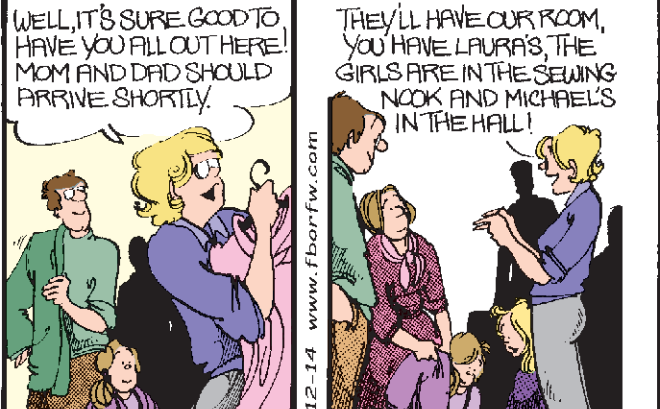
BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



DOONSBURY By Garry Trudeau



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



KEN KEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

3-	2÷		9X
	5+		
2		3-	
12X			2

WORKSPACE:

CHALLENGING

3-	4	3÷	12+	24X
	90X			
12X	2	3-	6+	
	5-			3
6	2÷		15X	
3÷		1-	3÷	

RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

5+	2÷	6X	3
1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1
1-	2-	1	4
2	3	1	4
3	1	4	2



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Bone-In New York Strip Steaks \$3.99 lb.

Fresh 73% Ground Beef \$2.49 lb.

Bone In Beef Ribeye Steaks \$4.99 lb.	Fresh Pork Baby Back Ribs \$2.99 lb.	Fresh Bone-In Split Chicken Breast \$.99 lb.
Fresh Boneless Chicken Breast \$1.69 lb.	Boneless Top Sirloin Steaks \$3.99 lb.	Fresh Pork St. Louis Spare Ribs \$2.49 lb.
Fresh Pork Steaks \$1.69 lb.	USDA Choice Beef Cube Steak \$4.29 lb.	Bone In Leg of Lamb \$3.29 lb.
Fresh Pork Picnic \$1.29 lb.	Boneless Beef Sirloin Tip Steak \$3.99 lb.	Bone In Seven Bone Chuck Roast \$2.99 lb.
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Bone In Boston Butt Pork Roast \$1.49 lb.	Ground Round or Sirloin \$2.99 lb.	Hard Squash Butternut, Acorn, Spaghetti \$.99 lb.
Fresh Assorted Pork Chops \$1.59 lb.	Fresh 80/20 Ground Chuck \$2.89 lb.	Fresh Green Beans \$.99 lb.
Boneless Beef London Broil or Top Round Roast \$2.99 lb.	Boneless Pork Finger Ribs or Cube Steak \$1.99 lb.	Florida Yellow or Zucchini Squash \$.99 lb.
Bone In Pork Country Style Ribs \$1.59 lb.	Whole Fresh Frying Chicken \$.99 lb.	Fresh Green Cabbage \$.39 lb.
T-Bones or Porter House Steaks \$3.99 lb.	Fresh 10 lb. Bag Boneless Chicken Breast \$12.99 ea.	Boneless Center Cut Pork Cops \$1.99 lb.

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For Directions



MARLINS DEAL OZUNA

Miami has agreed to trade left fielder Marcell Ozuna to the St. Louis Cardinals, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. **Page 3**

MLB: Marlins

Boras: Marlins turning into 'pawn shop'

By **STEVEN WINE**
Associated Press

Derek Jeter owns five World Series rings, which may be the reason agent Scott Boras had jewelry on his mind when discussing the Miami Marlins' new ownership. Boras said Jeter and



Jeter

his group are turning the Marlins into a pawn shop.

It was yet another jab at the Marlins' direction under new CEO Jeter, who continued the team's payroll purge Wednesday by trading outfielder Marcell Ozuna to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Speaking at baseball's winter meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Boras said Jeter inherited

a team with a strong foundation of young players that needed only more pitching to become a title contender. Boras said the group that bought the team should have been more carefully vetted to prevent the dismantling, which included trading major league home-run king Giancarlo Stanton to the New York Yankees.

"You would hope that ... MLB would screen the

ownership so that we have an ownership that comes in and provides additions," Boras said. Instead, "they come in and they redirect, so you're not a jewelry store that's coveting your diamonds, you now become the pawn shop that is trying to pay the rent of the building, rather than focusing on the diamonds and growth that you covet."

In contrast to Boras,

Marlins manager Don Mattingly said he's excited about the direction of the franchise, which hasn't had a winning season since 2009. Mattingly defended his new boss, and predicted Jeter will improve as a baseball executive, just as he improved at shortstop.

"Derek may be the first to admit, 'Hey, I would do some things maybe a little differently,'"

Mattingly said. "I don't know that. But I look back to Derek's first year in pro ball. He makes 58 errors — 50-something errors — at shortstop, and we know what happened after that."

Jeter actually committed 56 errors at Single-A Greensboro in 1993, his second pro season. He went on to become a 14-time All-Star.

SEE MARLINS, 3

NFL: Jaguars

'POZ, POZ, POZ'



AP FILE PHOTO

Jacksonville Jaguars middle linebacker Paul Posluszny (51) sets up for a play during the first half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, in Jacksonville.

Jaguars laud Posluszny as role model amid 1st winning season

By **MARK LONG**
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — Coach Doug Marrone was just about to release his players for a two-day break Sunday when defensive end Calais Campbell, safety Jarrod Wilson and

several other Jacksonville Jaguars chimed in with a request.

"Poz, Poz, Poz," they chanted.

They wanted veteran linebacker Paul Posluszny front and center.

Posluszny sheepishly made his way to

the middle of the locker room to break down the huddle. It was a fitting choice following the team's ninth victory because it also secured Posluszny his first winning record in 11 NFL seasons.

"It was special," Posluszny said Wednesday. "It was awesome to feel the general appreciation for that and how much as teammates we love

and respect each other. I'm lucky to be a part of this group."

Posluszny and Buffalo Bills offensive lineman Richie Incognito had been the only players with 10 or more years in the league to never experience a winning season, according to research by TruMedia Networks.

SEE JAGUARS, 4

NFL: Lawsuit

Sapp on sexual harassment suit: 'Ain't no #MeToo'

By **FRANK PASTOR**
Times Staff Writer

Warren Sapp vehemently denied allegations that he sexually harassed a female employee when he worked at the NFL Network during a radio appearance Wednesday afternoon in Miami.

"Ain't no #MeToo," the former Buc and Pro Football Hall of Famer said on the Andy Slater show on 940-WINZ. "There's no sexual harassment. No way, no how. I was raised better."

The allegations sprung from a lawsuit Jami Cantor, a wardrobe stylist for the network from 2006 until 2016, filed against NFL Enterprises in Los Angeles Superior Court in October, alleging age and sex discrimination, sexual harassment and hostile work environment.

Cantor said that Sapp gave her sex toys as Christmas gifts, showed her nude pictures of

women he claimed to have slept with, openly talked about his sex life and urinated in front of her.

Sapp, who is not a defendant in the lawsuit, said he appeared on the radio show simply to clear his name, not to make excuses for anyone else named in the lawsuit.

"Mine is untrue," Sapp said. "I didn't urinate in front of anybody. And if I walked in a bathroom with you, you would walk out. Any human being on earth would walk out."

Addressing the allegations one at a time, Sapp said:

- He remembers using the bathroom to urinate during a brief break while taping the Game-day Morning show, but there was a closed door between him and Cantor.

"She was not in the bathroom," Sapp said. "I was not urinating in front of her. At no time, no point, no how."

SEE SAPP, 4



TIMES FILES (2013)

Warren Sapp keeps cool with a handheld fan between takes for NFL Network before a game between the Bucs and Carolina Panthers in 2013 in Tampa.

SOCCER: FIFA Trial

Prosecutor says 3 officials made fortune off bribes

By **TOM HAYS**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Prosecutors in closing arguments at the first U.S. trial stemming from the FIFA corruption scandal accused three former South American soccer officials on Wednesday of making themselves rich off a vast bribery scheme while their defense lawyers called the evidence too weak to convict.



AP PHOTO

Jose Maria Marin, of Brazil, right, is followed by reporters as he arrives to federal court Wednesday in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

SEE FIFA, 2

NFL: Meetings

Goodell, Jerry Jones moving on with new contract in place

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell twice turned to Jerry Jones



Goodell

when asked about his relationship with the powerful Dallas Cowboys owner who tried to scuttle his contract extension.

"Jerry, do I look like I take it personally?"

Goodell asked after the second question as Jones, the recent Hall of Fame inductee, winked at him. "'No' is the answer to that question."

A new five-year deal for Goodell had been signed for a week when owners gathered for meetings at a luxury Dallas-area hotel Wednesday. And while Jones was conciliatory, even hugging Goodell when replacing him on the podium, the outspoken billionaire wasn't conceding anything.

Goodell was a bit defiant himself on another topic, contradicting his own lead spokesman who had said earlier in the day that Goodell considered the contract that now runs into 2024 to be his last.

"I haven't made any determinations," Goodell said. "This is something that I'm looking forward to the challenges. I think our league is in a great position. But we obviously have challenges, just like any other industry."

SEE GOODELL, 4

MLB: Marlins

AP source: Marlins agree to deal Ozuna to Cardinals

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA — Miami has agreed to trade left fielder Marcell Ozuna to the St. Louis Cardinals, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, the third All-Star jettisoned by the Marlins this month in an unrelenting payroll purge under new CEO Derek Jeter.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the agreement had not been announced and was subject to a physical.

“Ozuna is one of those names that you have to have great respect, especially as much we see him,” Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said at the winter meetings. “We’re at that necessary point of talking through health always, no matter what the player is. It’s not just a formality.”

An All-Star the past two seasons, the 27-year-old Ozuna set career bests this season with a .312 average, 37 homers and 124 RBIs. He is eligible for salary arbitration and likely will earn more than \$10 million. He can become a free agent after the 2019 season.

Miami traded second baseman Dee Gordon to Seattle last Thursday for



Miami Marlins' Marcell Ozuna watches his RBI triple during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, in Atlanta. A person familiar with the negotiations says Miami has agreed to trade left fielder Marcell Ozuna to the St. Louis Cardinals.

three prospects and dealt right fielder Giancarlo Stanton, the reigning NL MVP, to the New York Yankees on Monday for second baseman Starlin Castro and two prospects. The Cardinals had a deal in place for Stanton last week, but he invoked his no-trade clause and blocked the move.

“I was just very impressed the fact that we were involved in those conversations,” Matheny said. “Unfortunately, that didn’t work,

but I think that just kind of parlayed into, OK, now what are we going to do?”

Ozuna likely will be in the outfielder with Dexter Fowler and Tommy Pham. St. Louis could trade right fielder Stephen Piscotty.

Matheny wouldn’t commit to an alignment. “Something we’re appreciative of is the humility of our players to maybe go to a spot where they haven’t been before,” he said. “You go in with your ideals of

what you would like to see, and you’re going to have to be flexible.”

Center fielder Christian Yelich could be the next to exit the downsizing Marlins, bought by Bruce Sherman’s group on Oct. 2.

Miami had a \$116 million payroll on Aug. 31, up from \$81 million at the end of last year, and is intent on reducing obligations. Stanton was owed \$295 million over the next decade, and Gordon \$38 million through 2020.

BASEBALL: Ford C. Frick Award



Sportscaster Bob Costas sits on a stage before an NFL football game between the Baltimore Ravens and the Cleveland Browns, in Baltimore. Costas has won the Ford C. Frick Award presented by the baseball Hall of Fame for broadcasting excellence.

Bob Costas wins Hall’s Frick Award

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA — As a boy, Bob Costas took a cross-country drive with his dad, delighting in spinning the radio dial and listening “through the crackle and static” to broadcasts from far-flung ballparks.

He pulled in the big stations — WJR in Detroit, KDKA in Pittsburgh, WBAL in Baltimore and beyond — mesmerized by the games.

And the great voices that called them.

On Wednesday, Costas joined them. Familiar to fans for four decades, he won the Ford C. Frick Award presented by the baseball Hall of Fame for broadcasting excellence.

“Even if you’re coming off the bench, you’re on the same team as Jack Buck, Vin Scully, Ernie Harwell, Red Barber, Harry Caray and Mel Allen,” he said, naming a few famed announcers.

The honor was announced at the winter meetings. A 28-time Emmy Award winner who’s called the Olympics and several other sports, the 65-year-old Costas said he was humbled by the award.

“Because of my love of baseball and because of the other names that (won the Frick Award), this is at the top of the list,” he said on a conference call. “No disrespect of all the other awards, because they all mean a lot to me, but this means the most.”

Mixing history, anecdotes and analysis, Costas is popular with viewers and listeners, using his words to paint pictures from the parks.

“For almost 40 years, Bob Costas has presented an incredibly thoughtful and informed voice on every game he calls for NBC, The Baseball Network and MLB Network,” Hall President Jeff Idelson said.

“But it’s Bob’s pure affection for baseball that has made him a national treasure. From the first day he entered our living rooms, Bob became one of the national pastime’s greatest friends,” he said.

Said Costas: “It’s always been my favorite sport to broadcast.”

Costas has long carried at 1958 Mickey Mantle card in his wallet, a nod to his boyhood hero, the star whose games he listened to on his transistor

radio growing up in New York. They eventually became friends, and Costas delivered the eulogy at Mantle’s funeral. Costas later did the eulogy for Cardinals great Stan Musial.

Costas also calls St. Louis home, dating to his days at KMOX radio and his time doing play-by-play for the Spirits of St. Louis in the American Basketball Association on KMOX-AM.

He didn’t do baseball then — the Cardinals had the revered Jack Buck at the microphone — and Costas said he soaked up those broadcasts.

Costas’ first chance to baseball came after he moved to NBC. And a lucky break let him get on the air for the first time.

He was assigned a Saturday game at Yankee Stadium on the final weekend of the 1980 season, working with Bobby Valentine. But there was a catch to that Tigers-New York tilt on NBC: It was the backup game, meaning it would only be seen if the main game didn’t get on the air.

In fact, he said the featured game was delayed for four hours by rain, so Costas made his big league broadcasting debut.

“I’m sure there was some fan in Tacoma scratching his head and wondering who the hell is this kid doing this?” Costas said, laughing.

Over the years, Costas has handled play-by-play and pregame assignments at the World Series, postseason and regular season. He’s called games and been a documentary host for the MLB Network for nine seasons, and praised John Smoltz, Jim Kaat, Tony Kubek, Bob Uecker and others he’s worked with throughout his career.

Costas was a first-time candidate among eight broadcasters on the Frick ballot for their work on a national level.

Among the others considered by a 15-member panel were Al Michaels and Joe Buck, along with Hall of Fame players Joe Morgan, Dizzy Dean, Don Drysdale and Pee Wee Reese. Costas said they all were equally deserving of the award.

Costas will be honored on July 28 during induction weekend at Cooperstown, New York.

MLB: Angels

Angels: Ohtani’s sprained elbow will be healed by spring

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA — The Los Angeles Angels knew Shohei Ohtani was recovering from a sprained elbow before they agreed to a minor league contract with the Japanese right-hander and outfielder.

“I think that’s past him, and our understanding is there is no restrictions at all going into spring training, and he’ll get down there in plenty of time and be ready to go,” Angels manager Mike Scioscia said Wednesday at the winter meetings.

Ohtani agreed Friday to a minor league contract for a signing bonus of \$2,315,000, according to details obtained by The Associated Press. That was the entire amount remaining in the



Japanese baseball player Shohei Ohtani, right, and Los Angeles Angels owner Arte Moreno pause for photos during a news conference Saturday in Anaheim, Calif.

Angels’ international bonus signing pool of \$6.96 million for the signing period ending on June 15.

His bonus is due within 30 days of the agreement and is contingent upon Ohtani obtaining a U.S. work visa. Los Angeles also will pay a \$20 million

posting fee to the Nippon Ham Fighters of Japan’s Pacific League.

Major League Baseball teams were told during the posting process that Ohtani had a first degree sprain — the mildest level — of his right ulnar collateral ligament and had a platelet rich plasma

injection on Oct. 20 from Dr. Masamitsu Tsuchiya in Tokyo, Yahoo reported Tuesday.

Scioscia anticipates Ohtani will have six pitching appearances in spring training.

Ohtani is expected to be part of a rotation that includes Garrett Richards, Matt Shoemaker, Tyler Skaggs and Andrew Heaney. They could go to a six-man rotation.

“It is certainly something to consider,” Scioscia said. “As far as where major league baseball’s going with starting pitching, if it’s more functional to have a six-man. I think it totally depends on the makeup know of your team and your rotation. Some guys have proven that they’re not as functional with too much rest in major league baseball and some guys thrive on the extra day.”

MLB: Mariners

Mariners land pitchers in exchange for international money

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA — The Seattle Mariners have landed two pitchers in a pair of trades in exchange for some of the international slot money the club had acquired in the hopes

of landing Shohei Ohtani.

The Mariners got right-hander Shawn Armstrong from Cleveland on Wednesday and picked up minor-league lefty Anthony Misiewicz from Tampa Bay. Misiewicz was previously in

the Mariners organization before being dealt to Tampa Bay.

Armstrong is the most likely to help Seattle immediately. The 27-year-old made 21 relief appearances for Cleveland last season and posted a

4.38 ERA in 24 ⅓ innings. Armstrong also had brief stints with the Indians in the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Misiewicz, 23, was 11-6 with 141 strikeouts in 147 ⅓ total innings pitching at the Single-A and Double-A levels last season.

MARLINS

From Page 1

Mattingly anticipates that Jeter will approach his new job the same way he approached his last one.

“He has got a lot on his plate, a lot going on, a lot happening very fast,” said Mattingly,

who played with Jeter on the Yankees and later coached him. “But I fully expect any adjustments that he has to make or that he thinks he has to make, we’re just going to move forward. We’re not going to look back. We’re going to keep our eye on the prize and where we’re going, and we’ll make the adjustments as

an organization.”

Detractors say Jeter’s group overpaid for the Marlins and is underfinanced. Boras said that’s the reason the group is cutting payroll.

Jeter also has drawn criticism for skipping this week’s winter meetings. Instead, he attended a Miami Dolphins game Monday

night.

“With his stature as a player, people ask questions about his decision-making,” Boras said. “I’m not clear that it is his decision-making. ... You see an owner at an NFL game, something tells me that he’s hired someone else to manage the construct of the team.”

Jeter, however, has said he’ll be hands-on with both baseball and business operations. And Mattingly, who is going into his third year as the Marlins’ manager, said Jeter’s plan for Miami will work.

“To know actually what our direction is, and to know that we’re going to sustain that and

we’re going to build this organization from the bottom to the top, and it’s going to be consistent and we’re going to stay with it, it’s an exciting time for me,” he said. “We needed a reset. What we were trying to accomplish and the way we were doing it, trying to win, it just wasn’t working.”

NFL: Patriots

Patriots sign Britt, Cannon to IR

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots have beefed up Tom Brady's receiving corps for this week's game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, adding veteran Kenny Britt.

They'll also get tight end Rob Gronkowski back after his one-game suspension. Also Wednesday, tackle Marcus Cannon was placed on injured reserve.

A second-team AP All-Pro last season, Cannon played in seven of the first eight games but missed the last five with an ankle injury.

Britt, a 2009 first-round pick out of Rutgers, was released by Cleveland last week in his first season after signing a four-year, \$32.5 million contract in March. He appeared in nine games with four starts for the Browns, catching 18 passes for 233 yards and two touchdowns.

But the Patriots' corps of wideouts is on the small side, and at 6-foot-3, 215 pounds, Britt gives Brady another big target to go with Gronkowski.

"He's a good guy, a joy to be around, always upbeat, always smiling ear to ear, a physical guy, obviously big-bodied guy," said Patriots defensive back Devin McCourty, who also went to Rutgers.

"I'm excited for him (to have) the opportunity to come here and try to catch on," McCourty said. "Obviously, it's tough coming in at this point in the year, just trying to learn as much as possible and get out there."

Britt was plagued by dropped passes and penalties with the Browns. He was also sent back to Cleveland along with fellow wide receiver Corey Coleman in October for missing curfew while the team was in Houston to play the Texans.

"I've played against him. He's a pretty good receiver," Patriots defensive back Stephon Gilmore said. "I'm glad to have him on my team."

The Patriots also re-signed defensive lineman Ricky Jean Francois. Linebacker Jonathan Freeny and receiver Bernard Reedy were released to make room on the roster.

NFL: Packers

McCarthy: Packers' Rodgers preparing to play this weekend

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers stayed afloat in the post-season race while hoping for nearly two months that Aaron Rodgers would return.

News that the two-time NFL MVP was cleared medically to return from a collarbone injury finally arrived Tuesday night, coming a bit later than coach Mike McCarthy hoped — but well worth the wait for the playoff-hopeful Packers.

Rodgers is in line to start this weekend against the Carolina Panthers.

"Next step is preparing to play this week," McCarthy said before practice Wednesday.

It's back to a normal week of preparation for Rodgers after making what McCarthy had considered great progress from right collarbone surgery. He was hurt against Minnesota on Oct. 15 and had the procedure four days later.

"It's been a long road ... but I'm happy to say I've been medically cleared to return," Rodgers wrote on Instagram Tuesday night. "Thanks for all the love, support, prayers and well wishes over the past 8 weeks and a big thank you



AP PHOTO

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) throws during practice at the Don Hutson Center on Wednesday in Ashwaubenton, Wis.

to Dr. (Pat) McKenzie and our incredible training staff."

The Packers (7-6) went 3-4 with backup Brett Hundley starting to stay in the playoff race, including a 27-21 victory in overtime last week over Cleveland. They are one of four teams with at least seven wins chasing Atlanta for the second wild-card berth in the NFC.

Rodgers is eligible to be activated Friday, eight weeks after initially going on injured reserve. But the preparation has already started. McCarthy said there would be extra individual work in practice.

Rodgers, though, has looked good throwing the ball in brief periods when he has been before cameras, including pregame in Pittsburgh before the 31-28 loss to the Steelers

on Nov. 26.

He returned to practice on what McCarthy called a "trial return" on Dec. 2, and led the scout team last week. The collarbone was scanned on Monday to determine he was ready to return.

The Packers are known for their conservative approach in dealing with injuries. Rodgers is known for his competitiveness.

"They laid out the

gantlet of what needed to be done, he ran through it," McCarthy said of the medical staff's evaluation of Rodgers.

"You have to trust the people, the expertise, the care and we all understand the importance of every play coming back in this situation, especially Aaron's specific injury. ... We went through that process and this is where we are today."

JAGUARS

From Page 1

Posluszny hopes to notch another first Sunday: The Jaguars (9-4) can clinch a playoff berth with a victory at home against Houston (4-9).

A second-round draft pick by Buffalo in 2007, the former Penn State standout went 7-9 in his first two years with the Bills and figured a winning season — and a trip to the postseason — was on the horizon. But his next eight years included three times as many losses (96) as wins (32), a humbling stretch that left him wondering when, and if, it would happen.

The Jaguars had the worst record (22-74) in the NFL during

Posluszny's first six seasons in Jacksonville (2011-16).

"When I got here in 2011, I thought we were going to the playoffs because David Garrard was going to be our quarterback and we were going to have a great defense," Posluszny recalled. "And it just didn't unfold the way you thought."

"To be at the bottom and to finally fight our way, work our way and get back up, just to be in the position that we're at now, it's great and it shows you that we've finally started to earn the right to win. Now we want more."

Teammates and coaches want more for Posluszny, a consummate pro who does everything right on and off the field. The

33-year-old Pittsburgh native rarely misses assignments or games. He has 1,367 tackles, 16 sacks, 15 interceptions, respect from peers and now a winning season.

"It's amazing. It's whack because I know that it hasn't been because of him. You get what I'm saying?" Jaguars veteran tight end Mercedes Lewis said. "It sucks that a really good player like that — who does everything right, has never been fined, never complains, unselfish — has never had a winning season. You've got guys that don't even care about the game as much as he does riding the wave on some teams. It's (bull)."

"It's good that he's experiencing this and is a pivotal piece of our team. That's one of the most

important parts. He's not just a guy happy to be on a team with a jersey, barely making the team, on the bubble. No, he's a contributor and doing his thing. That's dope."

Although Posluszny remains Jacksonville's starting middle linebacker, he no longer makes the defensive calls and typically comes off the field in passing situations. His snap count is way down, but he feels better than ever in mid-December.

He's a free agent at the end of the season, and even though the Jags would love to bring him back, he could look to land on a team that would make him an every-down linebacker again.

In the meantime, he's enjoying the kind of success that eluded him for a

decade. And the Jaguars are glad to help get him in this position.

"Don't ever assume that you're going to come into this league and win no matter where you are or what it says on paper," Marrone said. "It's very difficult to win in this league, and even though you may be a good football player, it's not one person that can do it. You're going to need a whole team. I think those are the lessons to learn when you look at a player that has played at a very high level, that's done everything possible that, if you wanted to clone what a person should be, his picture would probably be right next to it."

"If you had a son like I do and you want him to grow up, you'd want him to grow up just like" Posluszny.

SAPP

From Page 1

• "Makeup ladies" at the network asked him to bring them novelty lipstick/eyeliner after he had shown them pictures. But "it wasn't about sex," Sapp said, and Cantor wasn't present at the time.

"She wasn't in there;

she had nothing to do with it," he said. "If they re-gifted it, I don't know."

• He might have shown Cantor photos of women modeling bikinis, but no nude photos.

• He didn't talk about his sex life in front of others at the network. "That didn't go down like that," Sapp said. "No supervisor would

allow you to have conversations about something inappropriate like that."

Sapp, who was fired from the network in 2015 after being arrested for assault and soliciting prostitution, said he believes he was singled out because his past makes him an easy target.

"I'm the notorious

one," he said. "I'm always the bad guy."

Slater said he also reached out to Cantor to appear on his show but did not hear back.

NFL Network suspended analysts Marshall Faulk, Heath Evans and Ike Taylor "pending an investigation" into allegations by Cantor of sexual harassment and assault.

Sapp said he has spoken with Faulk since the lawsuit was filed but played coy when asked about their conversation.

"My CTE acts up sometimes," he said.

The lawsuit also says that Cantor had been harassed by former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb, as well as by the former network employee Marc Watts.

GOODSELL

From Page 1

Goodell overcame the challenge from Jones, who threatened to sue over the extension in a dispute that arose after Goodell's decision to suspend star Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott for six games over domestic violence allegations in a case prosecutors didn't pursue.

Jones has denied that Elliott's suspension played a role in his objections over the power the commissioner wields or his concerns about the way the NFL was handling protests involving the national anthem.

The 75-year-old Jones also was at odds with Atlanta owner Arthur Blank, chairman of the six-person compensation committee that had been unanimously approved in May to complete a deal with Goodell. Jones wanted all the owners to approve the deal.

For Jones, the victory came in owners agreeing to consider changes to the power of the commissioner's role through the league's constitution.

"I'm very rewarded that this exercise of extending Roger has brought that about," Jones said. "I didn't do it. It took the will of 32 owners to get that done. It's an antiquated constitution, an antiquated

situation as to the power of the commissioner. This will address that."

League spokesman Joe Lockhart said 90 percent of Goodell's contract will be incentive based, which he said was an increase in nonguaranteed income over previous deals.

The incentives in part are tied to TV ratings and new broadcast deals, along with negotiating the next labor deal with the current collective bargaining agreement expiring in 2021.

A person with knowledge of the agreement has told The Associated Press the five-year extension is worth almost \$200 million with a base salary of

\$40 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the figures are not made public.

Goodell made nearly \$32 million in 2015, the last year public records of the NFL are available. League revenues have more than doubled to \$14 billion since Goodell replaced Paul Tagliabue in 2006.

Jones took aim at Blank's compensation committee because he didn't think enough information about the negotiations was being shared with other owners. Blank removed Jones as an ad-hoc member of the committee after the threat of a lawsuit.

The Atlanta owner said Jones didn't have a role in an increase in the part of Goodell's contract that isn't guaranteed, but that Jones did have input on possible changes to how the committee is put together.

When the Cowboys and Falcons played last month in Atlanta, the respective owners skipped their customary pre-game talk on the field.

"I've got a great respect for Jerry," Blank said. "I spoke to him ... on the phone about a week and a half ago. It was a very good conversation. I thanked him, which I didn't get a chance to do, or chose not to do really, the

time we played because I didn't think it was the right setting."

Blank said the committee's handling of Goodell's extension was the most transparent he has seen in 35 years, going back to the tenures of Tagliabue and Pete Rozelle. Blank said owners were updated in general meetings and with multiple phone calls.

"I don't know that there's a rift going forward," Blank said. "I think that Jerry, he loves the league, he loves the Cowboys, he's very passionate about issues that he cares deeply about, which is great. I think it's important to have different voices in the room."

SPORTS TICKER

IN BRIEF

PARIS

Cyclist Froome fails doping test

Chris Froome failed a doping test during the Spanish Vuelta in September and is facing a suspension from cycling ahead of his attempt to win a record-equaling fifth Tour de France title next year.

Froome won his fourth Tour title this year and followed it with a victory at the Vuelta. But Team Sky said Wednesday that Froome, who has not been suspended, had a concentration of asthma drug salbutamol two times higher than the World Anti-Doping Agency's permitted levels.

BOXING

Horn wins title defense

Jeff Horn followed up his contentious WBO welterweight title win over Manny Pacquiao with a successful first defense against Gary Corcoran. Now he's heading to America.

The former school teacher from Australia won by technical knockout in the 11th round Wednesday when Corcoran's corner threw in the towel with the England-based boxer bleeding from a deep cut above his left eye.

It was Horn's first fight since his unanimous decision upset over eight-division champion Pacquiao in front of more than 51,000 fans in an outdoor afternoon fight at nearby SunCorp Stadium in July in the "Battle of Brisbane" — a victory that some critics dismissed as a hometown decision.

—Associated Press



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Carmelo Anthony, left, loses the ball as he drives around Charlotte Hornets forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, right, in the third quarter Monday in Oklahoma City.

AP PHOTOS

George, Anthony visit old homes that look fine without them

By BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

Paul George and Carmelo Anthony are going back to old homes that are doing just fine without them.

Indiana and New York are winning, bolstered by players they acquired for their superstars. While Oklahoma City remains underwhelming, Pacers and Knicks fans are even thinking they also won the trades.

George gets the first homecoming when the Thunder travel to Indianapolis on Wednesday, while Anthony makes his first trip back to New York on Saturday.

Indiana wasn't eager to deal its All-Star forward



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George, center, shoots between Charlotte Hornets forwards Marvin Williams, left, and Frank Kaminsky, in the fourth quarter Monday in Oklahoma City.

last spring, but had little choice with no commitment he would stay beyond this season. So the Pacers shipped him off to Oklahoma City in June for Victor Oladipo and

Domantas Sabonis.

The Pacers have won four straight and are solidly in the middle of the Eastern Conference at 16-11. They average 109 points, sixth in the league, and Oladipo was Eastern Conference player of the week last week for the second time this season after his career-best 47 points on Sunday in a victory over Denver hiked his average to 24.5 per game for the season.

In New York, Enes Kanter has become the starting center, an offensive rebounding force and a fan favorite. Doug McDermott, the other player in the September trade for Anthony, has played an important role off the bench for the 14-13 Knicks.

Of the three teams, the only one that wouldn't be in the playoffs at the moment is Oklahoma City.

The Thunder are just 12-14, Russell Westbrook and his two star sidekicks are all shooting around 40 percent, and Anthony, at 18 points per game, appears headed for the worst offensive season of his career.

Maybe some familiar scenery can finally get them going.

"This is a chance for us to be even closer, even tighter, be more connected, because in those two arenas that's all we got," George said. "And we have to play that way."

Other games that watch: • Lakers at Cleveland, Thursday. One of those games that figures to spark conversation about LeBron James' future.

• San Antonio at Houston, Friday. First meeting between two of the West's best since the Spurs eliminated the

Rockets in the conference semifinals.

• Utah at Boston, Friday. The Jazz lost Gordon Hayward to Boston over the summer. The Celtics lost him to injury on opening night.

• Warriors at Lakers, Monday. Golden State's only road game in a span of 10 games, and the defending champs don't even have to leave California for it.

Pistons not pumping It's been a dismal December in Detroit.

The Pistons are 0-7 this month after a strong start to the season in which they racked up a number of impressive road victories. That spurred them to a 14-6 record and a spot near the top of the Eastern Conference after they missed the playoffs last season.

But once December started, the victories stopped. Detroit dropped its seventh in a row when it was blown out 103-84 at home on Tuesday by a Denver team playing without Nikola Jokic.

"I've got to find the answers," coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I'm not running from the responsibility. This is on me. I selected these players, I decide who plays, I decide what we run on offense, I decide how we play defense. That was an embarrassment tonight."

One that was hard to see coming when the Pistons won at Golden State, Oklahoma City, Minnesota and Boston in October and November.

Part of their problem has been a difficult schedule that has included games against the Spurs, Warriors and Celtics within the last 10 days. But the Pistons also are misfiring from 3-point range and Van Gundy sees chemistry issues, even shuffling his starting lineup before Tuesday's loss.

But he said changes won't matter if Andre Drummond, Reggie Jackson, Tobias Harris and Avery Bradley don't play better.

"We're in holes too many times with them and I've got to find an answer to that," he said. "I'm not out there running them down, I'm just telling you they have to play better."

Clemson back from break, focused on 'Bama

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — This is Clemson coach Dabo Swinney's favorite time of the year — his league champion Tigers primed for bowl practice and ready to chase a national title.

"This is fun for me," Swinney said Tuesday night.

The top-ranked Tigers (12-1, No. 1 CFP) have had most of the past 10 days off since dismantling Miami 38-3 to win their third straight Atlantic Coast Conference crown.

That brought a third consecutive trip to the College Football Playoff where they'll face No. 4 Alabama (11-1) for — you guessed it — the third year in a row in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day.

Swinney said the players needed the break from what was a long season striving to match last year's national champions. They reconvened Sunday night for a brief workout in shorts before getting down to the serious business of prepping for the Crimson Tide.

"We've got a good plan," Swinney said.

The Tigers usually do. They are 40-3 the past three seasons, including one defeat coming to Alabama and coach Nick Saban in the 2015 title game, 45-40. Clemson faced the Tide in the final game a year ago, this time coming away with 35-31 victory with a last-second TD to shock favored Alabama.

The winner this time will leave with the Sugar Bowl trophy and a chance to play for the game's biggest prize — and certainly enhance the legacy of a growing rivalry between two of the most dominant programs of this era.

There's little doubt, Swinney said, that these Alabama-Clemson matchups will probably define this part of the decade in college football.

"I don't think there's any question some point down the road that we'll look back at this decade, for sure, and take great pride in it," Swinney said.

First, though, he's got a team to prepare.

The Tigers have played with a focus down the stretch that was not always as evident earlier. They've scored at least 31 points in their past five games, all victories. They've given up just 16 total points and one TD in the last three, two of them against potent offenses in South Carolina and the Hurricanes.

The Tigers were supposed to take a dip this season after losing 11 starters from the national champions, including All-Americans and NFL-first-rounders in quarterback Deshaun Watson and receiver Mike Williams. Still, Clemson's back where it's been the past two seasons.

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- R -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes stocks like R1 RCM, ARBB Bcp, ARBB Bear, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes stocks like RmbOn B n, RUSH, RUSH, RUSH, etc.

- S -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes stocks like S&T Bop, S&WSeed, SB FinGp, etc.

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Nasdaq

Table of Nasdaq stock market data including Ticker, Name, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, and columns for Ticker, Name, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg.

- T -

Table of stock market data for the 'T' section, including Ticker, Name, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg.

- U -

Table of stock market data for the 'U' section, including Ticker, Name, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg.

- W -

Table of stock market data for the 'W' section, including Ticker, Name, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg.

Money Markets

Table of Money Markets data including Fund, Assets, Mat, Avg, Comp, Yld, Yld, and columns for Fund, Assets, Mat, Avg, Comp, Yld, Yld.

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Money Markets

Table with columns for Fund, Assets, Avg Mat, Avg Comp, and Yld. Lists various money market funds and their performance metrics.

Toronto stocks

Table with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. Lists various Toronto stocks and their daily price movements.

Treasury bonds

Table with columns for Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld. Lists various Treasury bonds and their yields.

FOOTNOTE: Rate-The annual interest rate of the Treasury bond provides to investors. Date-The month and year the bond will expire. Bid-The price investors will pay for the bond. Ask-The price at which investors will sell. A bond price is expressed as a percentage of its original purchase cost of \$1,000. The whole numbers and the decimals which represent 32nds of a point must be converted to dollars and cents; for example, 103.18 equals \$1,035.63. Chg-The change between the preceding day's final bid price and the final bid price from the day before. Yld-The annual percentage return to the investor, based on the bond's current price, if the bond is held until it matures. K-Taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens. n-Treasury note. p-Treasury note; taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens.

Mutual Funds

Table with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

How to Read the Mutual Fund Tables

Here are the 4,300 biggest mutual funds listed on Nasdaq. Tables show the fund name, sell price or net asset value (NAV), daily net change and weekly net change. Underlining highlights the funds ranked in the top 20% in each of the last 5 years:

Name: Name of mutual fund and family. Obj: The fund's objective group. Abbreviations listed below. NAV: Net asset value. Chg: Net change in price of NAV from previous day. Rtn: The fund's total return, or percent change in NAV for the time period shown, with

Footnotes: e - Ex capital gains distribution. f - Previous day's quotation. n - No front end load or contingent deferred sales load may apply. p - Fund assets are used to pay for r distribution costs - 12(b)(1) plan. r - Redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply. s - Stock dividend or split. t - Both p and r. x - Ex cash dividend d. NA - not available.

Fund Objectives: AL: Allocation - 70-85% Equity, AM: MultiAlternative, BL: Bank Loan, BM: Bear Market, CA: Allocation - 30-50% Equity, CC: Consumer Defense, CD: Counter Cyclical, CH: China Region, CI: Intermediate-Term Bond, CL: Long-Term Bond, CR: Multi-Cap Growth, CS: Short-Term Bond, CV: Convertibles, DP: Diversified Pacific/Asia, EB: Emerging-Markets Bond, EE: Energy Equity, EI: India Equity, EM: Diversified Emerging Markets, ES: Europe Stock, FA: Foreign Small/Mid-Value, FB: Foreign Large-Blend, FF: Managed Futures, FG: Foreign Large-Growth, FO: Foreign Small/Mid-Blend, FR: Foreign Small/Mid-Growth, FF: Foreign Large-Value, FX: Foreign Currency, GI: Intermediate Government, GL: Long Government, GR: Global Real Estate, GS: Short Government, HM: High-Yield Multi, HY: High-Yield Bond, IB: World Bond, IC: Trading-Inverse Commodities, ID: Industrials, IE: Trading-Inverse Equity, IH: World Allocation, IP: Inflation-Protected Bond, IS: Trading-Miscellaneous, JS: Japan Stock, LB: Large Blend, LC: Trading-Leveraged Commodities, LE: Trading-Leveraged Equity, LG: Large Growth, LO: Long-Short Equity, LP: Energy Limited Partnership, LS: Latin America Stock, LV: Large Value, MA: Allocation - 50-70% Equity, MB: Mid-Cap Blend, MG: Mid-Cap Growth, MI: Multi National Intermediate, ML: Multi National Long, MQ: Miscellaneous Region, MR: Miscellaneous Sector, MS: Multi National Short, MU: Multi Sector Bond, MV: Mid-Cap Value, MY: Multi New York Long, ND: Trading-Inverse Debt, NE: Market Neutral, NT: Nontraditional Bond, PV: Pacific Value, AP: Asia-Pacific Value, RJ: Target-Date Retirement, RR: Preferred Stock, SB: Small Blend, SC: Communications, SF: Financial, SG: Small Growth, SH: Health, SI: Multi Single State Intermediate, SL: Multi Single State Long, SN: Natural Resources, SP: Equity Precious Metals, SR: Real Estate, SS: Multi Single State Short, ST: Technology, SU: Utilities, SV: Small Value, TA: Target-Date 2000-2010, TD: Target-Date 2015, TE: Target-Date 2020, TG: Target-Date 2025, TH: Target-Date 2030, TI: Target-Date 2035, TJ: Target-Date 2040, TK: Target-Date 2045, TL: Target-Date 2055, TN: Target-Date 2050, TV: Corporate Bond, TV: Tactical Allocation, UB: Ultrashort Bond, VD: Trading-Leveraged Debt, VL: Stable Value, VO: Volatility, WS: World Stock, XM: Allocation - 85% Equity, XO: Infrastructure, XQ: Target-Date 2060+, XR: Option Writing, XS: Long-Short Credit, XP: Emerging-Markets Local-Currency Bond, XY: Allocation - 15-30% Equity. Data based on NAVs reported to Morningstar by 6 p.m. Eastern.

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Top 20 Mutual Funds

By Year-to-Date Percent Return

Table with 7 columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by year-to-date percent return.

By Total Net Assets

Table with 7 columns: Name, Obj, Total Assets, Percent Return/Rank, YTD, 5-Yr, Pct Load. Lists top 20 mutual funds by total net assets.

By 4-Week Percent Return

Table with 7 columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, 4-Wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by 4-week percent return.

Continued from previous page

Continuation of the Top 20 Mutual Funds table, listing funds from WithApprStrAdv to EmMktsInv EqGrA m.

Mutual Funds

Main table of Mutual Funds with 10 columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds across multiple categories.

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Mutual Funds

Table with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn. It lists various mutual funds across multiple columns with their respective performance metrics.

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Table with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtrn/Rk. Contains financial data for various funds including DivandGrHLISB, DivandGrl, and others.

Mutual Funds

Main table of Mutual Funds with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtrn/Rk. Lists numerous funds such as GrandInca, MCapVal, and others, including their respective returns and risk ratings.

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Mutual Funds

Table containing multiple columns of mutual fund data. Each column represents a different fund, listing its Name, Object (Obj), NAV, and performance metrics for 4-week, YTD, 3-year, and 4-quarter periods. The table is organized into sections by fund manager or theme, such as Matrix Advisors, Merger, Meridian, Metrolink West, Monetta, Morgan Stanley, Motley Fool, Muhlenkamp, Natationwide, Oakmark, Oak Ridge, Oberweis, Old Westbury, Olstein, Oppenheimer, PIMCO, Resch, and various bond and equity funds. Each row represents a specific fund with its corresponding data points.

