

From swallows to cranes



Birds watchers congregates for a field trip at the Kissimmee River. An annual bird count returns Dec. 29. The 31st Annual Lake Placid Count allows bird lovers of all ages, both professional and amateur, to help tally the local avian population and track bird species both old and new.

Volunteer birders needed for annual bird count

By JAMES COULTER
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING — A bird such as the Baltimore Oriole is quite rare in Florida, but if you wait in the right places, you might be able to find one like Helen Obenchain once did.

This Lake Placid snowbird was fortunate to spot an Oriole right by the waterfront at the ballpark during last year's Christmas Bird Count held by the Highland County Audubon Society.

"That made our day," Obenchain said. "We don't get them very often."

Obenchain herself has been migrating to Lake Placid from her

home in Michigan for the past 29 years. During that time, she has participated in the local Audubon Society and its annual Christmas Bird Count, also called the CBC.

This year's event is Dec. 29.

She had previously been living in her winter home at Highlands Park Estate, which was surrounded by several empty lots and located about two blocks away from the lake.

The surrounding wilderness made her winter home the opportune location for birding, a favorite hobby of hers. Often she was fortunate enough to spot Painted Buntings, a species not too common in the area but attracted to the bushy area behind

her house, she explained.

Obenchain had since sold her winter home and now stays at her Michigan home, located on several acres of rural area surrounded by a local state park, with Lake Michigan just over the dunes.

Unlike sunny Florida, Michigan remains dead in winter. All of the leaves have disappeared from the trees and a recent snow flurry covers the land.

Even amid the melting snow, Obenchain has been able to spot a few local birds at her feeder, including chickadees, woodpeckers and even a nut hatch.

Even while in Michigan, Obenchain has been helping with the Lake Placid CBC.

As her parents were members of the Audubon Society, she, too, inherited an interest in birding.

Once she and her husband retired, the two of them joined the society and continued their love of birding, especially during the CBC.

"I love the challenge of seeing what is there, where you might be walking, wherever you might be," she said.

Highlands County Audubon Society, in cooperation with the Archbold Biological Station, will be hosting its 31st Annual Lake Placid Count.

The 24-hour event allows bird lovers of all ages, both professional and amateur, to help tally the local avian population and track



CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY

A long-billed shorebird recognizable for both its distinctive profile and sewing machine-like feeding action, the long-billed dowitcher is most common west of the Mississippi and was found locally last year.

BIRD | 3

Sheriff's Office gets a drone

By JAY MEISEL
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — As the Highlands County Sheriff's Office begins using what many people would call a drone, authorities want to avoid any public misconceptions.

Deputy Robert Crews, who has been in charge of training deputies on the use of drones, said he calls it a small unmanned aircraft.

That's because he doesn't want the public to compare the craft with military drones that are used to target and kill terrorists.

"It doesn't fire weapons," he said.

The major purpose will be to conduct search and rescue operations to save lives, he said.

Crews said the unmanned aircraft

can also be used when deputies execute warrants to help ensure their safety.

And recently, the drone was used in response to bomb threats at Sebring and Avon Park high schools. Use of the drone allowed investigators to determine whether bombs were placed on top of roofs.

In most cases, Crews said, if law enforcement used a drone to see what's on private property, that would require law enforcement to obtain a search warrant from a judge.

However, in emergency situations, such as a kidnapping, law enforcement could use the drone without a warrant.

"This is just another device to help in

DRONE | 3

Effort underway to revive local Civil Air Patrol

By JAY MEISEL
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — For many years, Highlands County had its own Civil Air Patrol.

The patrol performed search and rescue missions, helped out during disasters and had a cadet program for youth.

But a couple of years ago, the patrol was disbanded because of declining membership.

Now, First Lt. Ron Bower and others are working to re-establish the group.

Bower said that they have 12 senior members and cadets, who are 12 to 20 years old. Ideally, he said, they need at least 20 senior members.

They also need money to operate.

The Civil Air Patrol conducts operations in the air and on the ground, so members don't need to be pilots, Bower said.

Although Bower served in the U.S. Air Force, he's not a pilot. He said he was a nuclear weapons technician.

The patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

It "has been in existence for over 75 years with primary missions of search and rescue (in the air and on land), Homeland Security, humanitarian

services and disaster relief, plus cadet programs that include aerospace education, physical fitness, leadership skills and character development," Bowers said.

Any agency, including the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, could make a request through the U.S. Air Force, to have the patrol do a search and rescue mission or provide other help during a disaster, he said.

Senior members, ages 21 and older, must pass a background check and then receive training for mentoring cadets.

Cadets who complete the program and want to join the U.S. Air Force can enter the military branch at a higher pay grade and not have to go through the basic training program, he said.

Cadets can also qualify for college scholarships.

The Highlands County Composite Squadron is headquartered at the Sebring Regional Airport administration building, 126 Authority Lane.

Those interested in joining can call 863-441-4737 or 863-214-8152, or they can email mclancyCAP@gmail.com or rbower@flwg.us.

Assistant state attorney receives statewide award

By JAY MEISEL
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — When Florida Fish and Wildlife agents got information about an unlicensed commercial game farm in Highlands County, Assistant State Attorney Gary Ellis played a key role in bring the people responsible to justice, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The case involved the owner of the commercial game farm importing non-native animals similar to deer for hunting.

That presents a danger of those animals spreading diseases to native animals, Ellis said.

"The case, which spanned almost a calendar year to the day and concluded with the defendant being adjudicated guilty on all charges, was the largest unlawful captive wildlife case in FWC history," the FWC said.

Because of that and other work Ellis does, the FWC recently honored him as FWC Prosecutor of the Year for the second time in four years.

"We are thrilled to honor Gary with this well-deserved award," FWC Division Director Col. Curtis Brown said. "He has been a steadfast ally to the FWC in our mission to protect the people of Florida and conserve our natural resources."

Ellis said he's been handling fish and wildlife cases for 28 years, although it was only during the last few years that he was specifically assigned to handle them.

"They are always very interesting cases that deal with natural resources," he said.

The investigations have become increasingly important as human beings have increasing encroached on wildlife habitat. Ellis said it's important to "learn to live with them in a way without destroying their habitat."

He gives a lot of the credit to wildlife officers, as they

AWARD | 3



COURTESY PHOTO

Assistant State Attorney Gary Ellis is joined by members of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission as he received the Prosecutor of the Year award for the Commission. He received the award for the second time in five years.



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Good Morning To
Gerald Brown
Thanks for reading!



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Eight in the running for education consortium head

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — An influx of applicants near the application deadline has resulted in eight hopefuls seeking to fill the position of executive director of the Heartland Educational Consortium.

The closing date was Dec. 16 for the position that heads the six-county consortium.

The current executive director, Debra Elliot, will be retiring from the position next year.

The School Board of Highlands County's

Human Resources Department previously provided information on three earlier applicants.

Two of those applicants provided complete applications and meet the minimum requirements:

- 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.

Those added to the list of applicants are:

- Sherri Albritton of

Wauchula.

- Radiah Dent-Palmer of Clearwater.

- Donna Garcia of Okeechobee.

- Susan Potts of Ft. Myers.

- Daniel Rodriguez of Puerto Rico.

- John Varady of Lake Placid.

Albritton and Varady are currently coordinators with the consortium.

Albritton is the professional development coordinator and Varady is a (AVID) program coordinator.

The directors of the

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

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

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.

Woman accused of having sex with boy

By **JAY MEISEL**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — A woman was arrested after being accused of having sex with a 13-year-old boy, according to a warrant released last week.

Adriana Nichole Garza, 29, 335B Street E, Frostproof, was arrested by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and charged with sexual battery on a victim, age 12-18, and child abuse.

The victim told

authorities that Garza enticed and persuaded him to perform sexual acts between Sept. 23 and Sept. 25, according to the warrant.

The warrant noted that detectives looked at text messages sent from Garza's phone, but does not disclose the contents of those messages.

When a detective showed up at Garza's residence, she declined to speak without an attorney present.

Woman accused of child abuse

By **JAY MEISEL**
STAFF WRITER

LAKE PLACID — A woman was arrested after being accused of striking a 9-year-old girl in the face multiple times, according to an arrest report released last week.

Tina Marie Melvin, 45, no street address given, Lake Placid, was arrested by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and charged with child abuse.

The report said that "Redness and bruising

was seen on the victim's right side of the face and a bruise was seen under the left eye. This battery was done approximately 20 hours prior to receiving the complaint and the injury was still observed without assistance."

When authorities interviewed the victim, she "touched her left eye and winced in pain," the report said.

The victim told deputies that Melvin also hit her on the right side, the report said.

Boxing Day: English holiday has nothing to do with the sport

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Every year on Dec. 26, Americans scratch their collective heads as they hear about their neighbors to the north in Canada and across the pond in England, and in Australia, celebrating a curious holiday known as Boxing Day.

Thousands of people celebrate this statutory holiday, but what it is and how did it get started?

The origins of Boxing Day are a bit ambiguous and may be built upon as much rumor as fact. One fact we do know is that it has absolutely nothing to do with the sport of boxing.

The name is associated with the acts of the gentry giving presents called "boxes" to their staff and giving them the day off to enjoy their gifts with their families. In more modern times, the box gifts have translated into giving gifts or tips to those who have served well such as doormen and mailmen. Americans usually "tip

or give a monetary gift to servicemen as well on Christmas Day.

We know that many people recognize the holiday as St. Stephen's Day because the feast named after him falls on Dec. 26. St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr recorded in the Bible. Churches have also used "boxes" to collect money for the poor on St. Stephen's Day and were mentioned in the late Roman Empire, according to Stephen Moss of Google. This was probably the beginnings of St. Stephen's holiday co-mingling with Boxing Day.

References to the boxes have been found in writings in a diary from the 17th century's Samuel Pepys of England. No matter what the origins or the original intent of the holiday, it has become a commercialized holiday as so many holidays in the West are.

Boxing Day has been compared to America's Black Friday and in many countries it is referred to as the second day of

Christmas. Canadian Neil Simpson is also a part-time resident of Sebring and sees the capitalism involved with Boxing Day.

"Boxing Day has always been a big shopping day in Canada, Simpson said. "It is the time to take back those gifts that don't fit or are just totally inappropriate. But wait, in recent years, many stores have said no returns until the 27th. So, Boxing Day is the time to gather up all those store gift cards and cash that Santa or loved ones left and get out to spend, spend, spend. Traditionally, sales have been excellent on Boxing Day, trying to clear out all of the Christmas stock."

Whether the day is spent shopping or with family, the day is a paid holiday that will not be going anywhere, anytime soon.

"Boxing Day is one of several national statutory holidays," Simpson said. Others, such as Family Day in February, are only observed in some of Canada's ten provinces."

Sebring High art students seal it big

MARC VALERO/STAFF

From left: Sebring High seniors Kyla and Shonda Hardy and Sebring High art teacher Steve VanDam at the unveiling recently of a large version of the School Board of Highlands County seal on the wall of the Garland Boggus Board Room at the district office. Six Sebring High students from the Art Club and National Art Honor Society worked on the seal.



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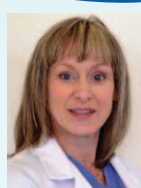
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THE PALMS
OF SEBRING

A 'glass' blowing experience in Illinois

I had the opportunity to travel with my family recently to Illinois. While there, we visited some people, felt the cold, and saw some amazing things. One of the best parts of the trip was watching two glass blowers make beautiful and creative pieces of art.



COLUMNIST

Annsley Bohlman was an herb garden and the workshop where the glass was created. Inside, on the second floor, was the gallery, where the artists displayed their work.

Items ranging from vases to wall art to perfume bottles were set out for display, all impeccably designed and crafted. Also on the second floor was the library, where there were several rows of books ranging from topics such as architecture and literature to, you guessed it, glass blowing. On the third floor was a yoga studio and another studio that was currently vacant. In the workshop there were machines and devices that I had no understanding of. Furnaces and crafting tables and many a piece of broken glass. The

artists told us that they had built it all themselves, and knew the chemical and physical aspects of the process like the back of their hands. They had built their own furnaces and worked out whatever kinks they encountered, until their shop was perfectly fitted to their needs. We got to watch them craft. First, they made an ornament, making it look like a simple process that anyone would be able to do. They collected glass from one of the furnaces and them molded and shaped it through different methods of

rolling and pulling with tools. Then, the glass was colored with different crushed up glass, some of which would not change color until after it had been heated and cooled. The artists pointed out that it is very important to keep the glass at a consistent temperature. Not too hot, and not too cold. If it is too hot it might become deformed, and if it is too cold you run the risk of it breaking. After the glass is shaped the way you want it, it must be put into a special cooling chamber, which is set to drop in temperature slowly throughout the

night. This means that while you might make a piece one day, it is likely that you will not see the finished product until tomorrow. Something else the artists told us is that it is important not to become invested in a piece until after it had been placed in the cooling chamber. This was perfectly demonstrated when a piece broke as one of the artists was showing it around the room. However, she did not seem upset. Instead, she just shrugged, knowing that she could make it again, possibly better, another time.

AWARD

FROM PAGE 1

have to know a lot of laws, he said. "I feel blessed to have had the privilege to work with such a fine group of men and women," said Ellis. "I'm pleased to continue to work with the FWC to ensure that our state's natural resources are there for generations to come." Besides cases involving non-native species, Ellis said, other cases include people catching too many fish, fishing in the wrong way, unlawfully taking alligators, and alligator and turtle eggs. Turtle eggs are in demand in other countries where turtles are virtually extinct because of humans, he said. Ellis said he has accompanied fish and wildlife officers during their investigations. In one case they caught deer hunters shining headlights on deer. That's considered an unfair way of hunting, he said.



JAY MEISEL/STAFF

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office's new unmanned aircraft is tested in Sebring.

DRONE

FROM PAGE 1

situations that warrant it," Crews said. Crews said the purpose is not for law enforcement to become big brother. "The public doesn't have to worry about us snooping in their backyard," Crews said. He said many Sheriff's

Offices have moved toward using such aircraft. In some cases, the unmanned aircraft can reduce the need for a real airplane, Crews said. The aircraft can also be used to quickly photograph crime scenes, Crews said. The biggest limitation is that the unmanned aircraft's battery can only last four hours, Crews said. When the battery power is down to a certain point, the drone



Highlands County Sheriff's Office Deputy Robert Crews helps Crime Scene Detective Stacy Andrews fly the office's new unmanned aircraft.

returns. Stacy Andrews, a detective with the crime scene unit, said the unmanned aircraft has sensors so that it avoids hitting a pole or another object. At Max Long Recreational Complex, Andrews had the unmanned aircraft go over a trash can. That allowed Andrews to see that nothing was in the can. The drone can travel as far as four miles, but Crews said they try to keep it within eyesight. Eventually, the Sheriff's Office wants to get an upgraded unmanned aircraft.

BIRD

FROM PAGE 1

bird species both old and new within 15 miles of the lake. The local event is held in conjunction with the National Audubon Society's 118th Christmas Bird Count, which began nationwide on Dec. 14, and will continue until Jan. 5. For more than a century, data collected through the bird count has proven vital in aiding conservation efforts, especially with dwindling bird populations. "When the American Black Duck entered a decline in the 1980s, for example, CBC data revealed the trend, and inspired policy changes that rescued its dwindling population," according to a news release. "And the CBC has been instrumental in documenting the impact of global warming — and in helping the world understand the future of bird conservation." Last year's count saw a record number of counts for the eighth straight season, according to the Audubon website, with a total of 2,536 counts—1,933 in the U.S., 447 in Canada, and 156 in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. Here in Lake Placid, the bird species with the largest count was the long-billed dowitcher, at 3,000, with the two

other biggest populations being the sandhill crane at 2,300 and tree swallow at 2,000. The overall outcome depends upon the weather. Warmer weather drives birds north, a trend noticed in recent years, with many birds moving north, possibly due to climate change, Obenchain said. Last year saw especially windy weather, which birds often avoid. As such, there were not that many birds spotted during last year's count, Obenchain said. As someone who has been participating ever since she has been coming down as a snowbird, Obenchain can attest that each year sees at least one or two new bird species. Last year alone saw 17 American Avocet, she said. The biggest challenge each year is rounding up enough volunteers to cover each of the 10 territories within the 15-mile range for the bird count. Each area is covered by a single party of at least two people, one to watch, and another to record the data, Obenchain explained. "Most everybody does the same area because you get used to seeing certain birds in that area, so it helps to have people who have been in that area before," Obenchain said. Regardless of whether you are an old or new birder, a professional or an amateur, the CBC provides locals an



COURTESY PHOTO

An ibis squats on a tree branch. Highlands County Audubon Society, in cooperation with the Archbold Biological Station, will be hosting its 31st Annual Lake Placid Count Dec. 29.

opportunity to help spot new and interesting birds and participate within a much rewarding conservation effort. "It is fun because you never know what you are going to see [and] where," she said. "It is a challenge to see what is there and who is going to show up." For more information, visit the Audubon Society website at: <https://www.highlandsaudubon.org>

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ANOTHER VIEW

End 2017 on a safe ride

For most of us, we wake up this morning knowing that the buzz of Christmas is done. Packages have been opened, torn wrapping picked up and in the trash can, leftovers have been put away for nibbling on through the week. Many of us will leave our Christmas tree up for at least another week, waiting until after Jan. 1 to take it down. Those who feel brave will take it down to burn Sunday night as the new year comes in.

Regardless of your holiday traditions, it is important to remember that the holiday traffic remains at peak this week. Some families may be heading back home; others may be trying to get to families for the rest of their winter break. Some may be trying to enjoy the only vacation they will get this year.

AAA forecasts that 107.3 million Americans will take to planes, trains, automobiles and other modes of transportation during what it calls the year-end holiday period that began Dec. 23 and will go through Jan. 1. It will be the highest year-end travel volume on record and a 3.1 percent increase in travel volume compared with last year.

Think about it, 107.3 million Americans traveling. Folks, that's a lot of people. The majority of those travelers – 97.4 million – will be traveling by automobiles. Five million of them will be taking to the roads right here in Florida.

2017 marks the ninth consecutive year of rising year-end holiday travel, according to AAA. Since 2005, total year-end holiday travel volume has grown by 21.6 million, an increase of more than 25 percent.

According to data from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, there were more than 10,000 crashes on Florida roads during the 2016 holiday season, which was one day longer, ending Jan. 2. That total number of crashes included 112 fatalities and almost 1,600 DUI arrests. The highest number of DUIs were issued on New Year's Day and Christmas Eve.

For almost 20 years, AAA and Budweiser have partnered to fight impaired driving by providing the Tow to Go program. They are doing it again this year.

If you failed to plan, or find yourself in an unexpected predicament, don't think you are indestructible. Do not get in your vehicle and think you can safely make it home.

Pick up the phone and call 1-855-2-TOW-2-GO (855-286-9246). A AAA tow truck will take you and your vehicle to a safe location within 10 miles of where they pick you up. The ride is confidential and free.

Regardless of where you are traveling this year, whether it's outside Florida or across town, make safety your top priority. Always buckle up and make sure everyone in the vehicle does the same. Leave early so there is no need to rush, and put down the phone. It's against the law to text and drive. Don't be a distracted driver.

If one of us works at it, we can make the rest of the year a safe one for all travelers and keep the smiles on our loved ones by safely arriving to our destinations.

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.

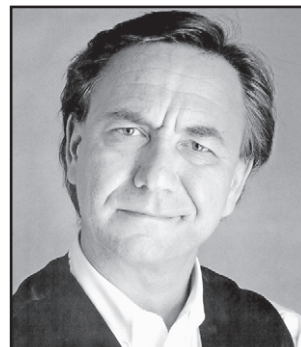
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A Democratic pulse



COLUMNIST

Will Durst

Let's send a big fat congratulatory shout out to former U.S. Attorney Doug Jones for capturing the Senate seat in Alabama, the first Democrat to be elected to that Yellowhammer State position since Richard Shelby won a second term in 1992, but then switched allegiances to the Republican Party two years later. Which, to be perfectly honest, is cheating.

Democrats are hailing Jones' upset victory over twice removed Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore as a rebuke to President Donald Trump's agenda and anticipate transformative midterm elections next year on the order of replacing all the hounds of hell with baby kittens. Or at least a simple impeachment-indictable majority.

The goal is to take the House and put a stop to the GOP corruption, malfeasance and trampling of the middle class, and replace it with their own corruption, malfeasance and trampling of the middle class. Which is the same, only with healthier snacks.

To nurture this dream

they willfully ignore their own suspicions that this is an isolated incident. To call Roy Moore a flawed candidate is like referring to the use of balsa-wood sledge-hammers to smash concrete as dodgy. Going swimming with the sharks in a raw meat wetsuit — not the best of ideas. Baking cookies in a 650-degree oven — a tricky proposition.

We're talking about a man who was kicked out of the Alabama Supreme Court twice, and the Gadsden Mall Food Court once. While Trump's ratings are mired in the low 30s and Congress hovers around the 20s, Roy Moore was dipping into the teens.

The 70 year-old

Republican West Point graduate wasn't a slam-dunk even before numerous accusations of inappropriate sexual behavior erupted. With a couple of the victims so young, they still played jacks.

It was, as they say, a binary choice, between an accused pedophile and a Democrat. And the Democrat won by the whopping margin of 1.5 percent. It was so close that if some of Roy Moore's accusers had been older and voted, they might have turned the tide. Roll Tide.

With this unexpected pickup in the Senate, Democrats are partying like Oprah just handed them a fleet of cars. The party hasn't been this optimistic since Hillary Clinton was a dead solid lock thirteen months ago.

Curiously, Republicans didn't cry too many tears and appear semi-relieved they don't have to defend this electoral albatross in every district next year. Just a series of unconscionable endorsements.

Democratic leaders went so far as to force Minnesota Senator Al Franken to resign so they

could assume the moral high ground in the area of sexual harassment. A ground that is not very moral and only considered high by the vertically challenged.

So, the big question is, how will Democrats screw this up? Because they will. These guys could fall off of a raft and miss hitting water. They possess the killer instinct of butter-scotch pudding. Have the unique ability to blow a twenty- point lead with less than a minute to go.

The smart move would be to make sure that Steve Bannon stays healthy for 2018. Because if anybody can unearth more Republican US Senate candidates who are also accused child molesters, he's their guy. They should consider shipping him a large package of supplemental vitamins for Christmas. It'd be downright neighborly.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comic and former sod farmer in New Berlin, Wisconsin. Columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily that of the Highlands News-Sun.

YOUR VIEW

The Solstice

The 21st of December, shortest day (in the Northern Hemisphere) was known as the Solstice. In Roman times it was followed by a brief period called the Saturnalia, party time, anything goes.

We, however, have to settle for the antics of President Trump. His recent cabinet meeting is a new treat. After some predictable self-congratulatory horn blowing, the vice president is invited to speak, predictably praising his leader for his greatness and foresight bringing the United States into its new greatness. Then, the secretaries, recite their hosannas in turn, while the "great one" beams his appreciation at their collective recognition of his greatness. One might suspect the format is borrowed from King Arthur and the Round Table.

Senator Orrin Hatch recently broke into the lead among sycophants

by declaring Trump may indeed be our greatest president ever. How's that for faint praise?

My personal concern is that all this cheering may encourage Trump to overreach his already heady triumphs (whether real or of the mind). Let not his final triumph be like the one Shelley recites in his poem: "My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings, look upon my works ye mighty, and despair." Overreaching does seem his long suit.

Randy Ludacer
Lake Placid

Seminole Brighton Casino grants Arc wish

On behalf of Ridge Area Arc's consumers, I would like to thank Seminole Brighton Casino. Ridge Area Arc was chosen as the recipient of Brighton Casino's Christmas Wish for 2017. At a private party held at the Casino on Monday, Dec. 18, Ridge

Area Arc was presented a donation of \$5,000.

Ridge Area Arc is a 501©(3) nonprofit and has provided services to persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Highlands County, celebrating their 60th year in 2017.

As part of its continuing community outreach effort, Seminole Brighton Casino partners with a nonprofit to fulfill their Christmas wish. Ridge Area Arc staffs five group homes in Highlands County, and the monies received from Seminole Brighton Casino are used to purchase gifts for those individuals and others who do not have family.

"Seminole Brighton Casino prides itself in partnering with nonprofit organizations, providing supportive means for fundraising through various donations, including charity bingo and sponsored community events," stated Marty Johns, general manager last year. "This season,

our holiday sponsorship recognizes The Ridge Area Arc for its ongoing service and advocacy for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. "Employing over 200 people, Seminole Brighton Casino not only appreciates the struggles of families affected by disabilities but also recognizes the blessings of the ongoing support and commitment of The Ridge Area Arc programs and volunteers."

Thank you Marty Johns, Seminole Brighton Casino's general manager; Brian Zappetini, marketing director; Marci Boswell, marketing manager; Mackenzie Johns-Bowers, marketing sales; Stefanie Immerall, player development executive, and the entire staff at Brighton Casino that helped make Ridge Area Arc consumer's Christmas wish come true.

Debra Snyder
Director of Development
Ridge Area Arc

Give Trump the TV remote, not nuclear button

The leader of the free world spends four to eight hours a day glued to the television, and sucking down Diet Cokes.

He's not the only angry old man who acts like that. You've probably got a surly loner uncle who has a similar routine.

During holiday visits you steer him to an empty room, plant him in front of the flat-screen and close the door, so the rest of the family can't hear him screaming at CNN.

We can afford to humor our crazy old uncles because they're relatively harmless, even when they're jacked up on caffeine. In our worst nightmares we wouldn't picture any of them as the president of the United States, one beet-faced tantrum away from pushing the nuclear button.

But America's cranky old Uncle Donald is in the White House, where — according to recent, chillingly detailed accounts — mood-management requires the full-time attention of his jittery staff. Russia is the touchiest subject.

Despite the tonnage of evidence that Vladimir Putin's government aggressively interfered in the 2016 elections, the Big Orange Trumpster won't acknowledge it and doesn't want to hear about it.

Insiders familiar with the president's daily intelligence briefings have told The Washington Post that classified information about Russian hacking and other covert activities is rarely delivered verbally to Trump for fear it will set off another rant.

Consequently, the latest intel about Russia is usually included only in the written portion of the briefings, because it is well known that president isn't a big reader.

As disturbing and surreal as this situation might seem, there's a comic element that practically defies satire.

Imagine the literary challenge that faces CIA analysts tasked with presenting cold facts in a way that ensures the president won't



COLUMNIST

Carl Hiaasen

take notice of them. This is a specialized talent.

Last year every U.S. intelligence agency concluded that Russian meddling in the election was real, widespread and well-orchestrated. Subsequent Congressional investigations — led by Republicans — have found the same thing.

Not a single informed person in government except crazy old Uncle Donald believes Putin's claim that Russia didn't interfere, culminating with the WikiLeaks release of internal emails from the Democratic National Committee.

Social media were also infiltrated to spread fake websites and blogs.

Facebook has admitted that more than 126 million users were exposed to content produced and distributed by Russian operatives. The company says it traced more than 470 suspicious accounts and 3,000 advertisements to Russia-controlled sources between 2015 and this year.

One operation, based in St. Petersburg, generated 80,000 posts that reached the news feeds of about 29 million people.

Two months ago, Google admitted that Russian state-sponsored actors posted more than 1,100 videos with 43 hours of content in a scheme to influence American voters on YouTube.

And Twitter, Trump's favorite social platform, recently revealed that Russian operatives controlled more than 2,700 accounts and 36,000 automated bots that tweeted more than 1.4 million times during the

presidential campaign.

Even more serious: In September, the Department of Homeland Security confirmed that Russian hackers attempted to breach voting data systems in 21 states, including swing states such as Florida, in advance of last fall's elections.

That revelation should alarm every American — whether you're a Democrat, Republican or independent — yet it brought not a soda burp of protest from our denier-in-chief.

We can only speculate about why Trump remains so infatuated with Putin, but we know he continually denounces the "Russia thing" as fake news meant to discredit his historic election victory.

By promoting that spin, he slurs and demoralizes the entire U.S. intelligence community, whose somewhat important mission is to keep us safe from foreign threats.

Trump has been slightly more cautious about bashing the special counsel investigating the campaign's contacts with Russian officials. The president's lawyers undoubtedly have pointed out the idiocy of provoking prosecutors while one's own son and son-in-law are at risk of indictment, so for now Trump seems to be restraining himself.

That won't last. It never does.

Trump's minders can edit his daily briefings, but they can't stop him from parking in front of the television for hours at a time. He always finds something that lights his fuse and, if we're lucky, all that happens next is a seething tweet.

That's the difference between the president and your cranky old uncle who's holed up in the back room, mainlining aspartame and "Fox and Friends."

The only button your cranky old uncle can press is on the remote control.

Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may write to him at: chiaasen@miamiherald.com.

Newsday Crossword

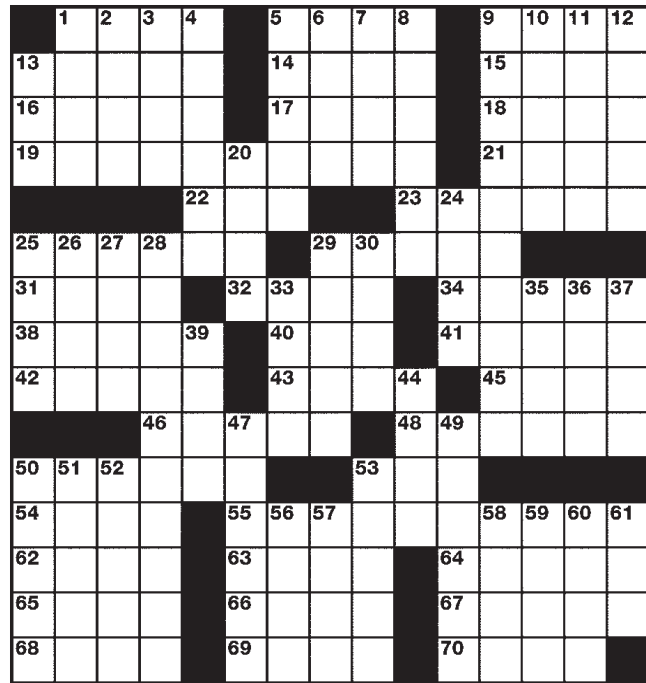
I LOVE NEW YORK by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Front of the hand
- 5 Annoys
- 9 Pickle herb
- 13 Cavalry sword
- 14 Scenic sight
- 15 "Understood"
- 16 Islam's Almighty
- 17 Notion
- 18 Wise person
- 19 Very, very small
- 21 Barber's expertise
- 22 Prosecutors: Abbr.
- 23 Makes into law
- 25 100-yard races
- 29 Autumn apple drink
- 31 Convertible or coupe
- 32 Make preparations
- 34 Accumulate
- 38 Three-person singing groups
- 40 Raggedy doll
- 41 Bottom-line amount
- 42 Agricultural soil
- 43 Toward sunset
- 45 ___ of the above (questionnaire category)
- 46 Is worthy of
- 48 Wrote a limerick, for example
- 50 Alter
- 53 Take to court
- 54 Luau dance
- 55 Hodgepodge
- 62 Metal in barbells
- 63 Garfield dog

DOWN

- 1 Become drained of color
- 2 Competent
- 3 Low in fat
- 4 Dr. Jekyll's alter ego
- 5 Climbing vines
- 6 Take a bus or train
- 7 Sharp, as vision
- 8 Convinced
- 9 Friction within a group
- 10 Sir ___ Newton
- 11 Authentic, informally
- 12 Impolite looks
- 13 Occupied a sofa
- 20 Stinging insect
- 24 Tidy
- 25 Go out with
- 26 Subtle glow
- 27 Mix together
- 28 Folk-singing gathering
- 29 Walking sticks
- 30 Rural hotels
- 33 Grass in front of a home
- 35 Molecule part
- 36 Sensible
- 37 Snow glider
- 39 Thick carpet
- 44 Factual
- 47 TV device with a mute button
- 49 Lent a hand
- 50 Set of fine dinnerware
- 51 One of the Great Lakes
- 52 So all can hear
- 53 Part of a play
- 56 Fan favorite
- 57 Titles for knights
- 58 VIP's vehicle, for short
- 59 Line of rotation
- 60 Evening, on marquees
- 61 "You bet!"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/26/17

Look for a third crossword in *The News Wire* section.

Answer to previous puzzle

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

12/26/17

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Champagne cocktail
- 7 Wrist-to-elbow bone
- 11 Young newt
- 14 Prepared (oneself), as for a shock
- 15 Be unsuccessful
- 16 The "A" in 59-Across
- 17 Dogs from Japan
- 18 Jamaican term for hot chocolate
- 20 Suffix with hip or tip
- 21 Stormy weather sound
- 22 Greek salad ingredient
- 26 Board game cubes
- 27 French friend
- 28 "-hol": "Everybody lift together!"
- 29 Scrutinized, with "over"
- 30 ___ majesty: high treason
- 32 Letter before omega
- 33 Leftover food bits
- 34 Car accessory that may be faux leather
- 38 Actor Brad
- 40 ___ kwon do
- 41 Start of a magical chant
- 45 Longed (for)
- 46 Minor fight
- 48 Tyrannosaurus ___
- 49 Norwegian patron saint
- 50 Glowing barbecue lump
- 52 Records again
- 54 Wolf's cry
- 55 Traitor, and a literal hint to this puzzle's circles
- 57 Ex-Soviet leader Brezhnev
- 59 Hoppy beer, for short
- 60 Use a stopwatch for
- 61 Painter or sculptor
- 62 Cleopatra killer
- 63 Winter coaster
- 64 Balance sheet items

DOWN

- 1 Management deg.
- 2 Annoying
- 3 Rum cocktails
- 4 Two foursomes
- 5 Look online
- 6 App interruptions
- 7 Mixed martial arts org.
- 8 "Tao Te Ching" philosopher
- 9 Specialized market segment
- 10 Baseball's Felipe or Moises
- 11 Humbly accept blame
- 12 Swindles
- 13 Got emotional, with "up"
- 19 Republic between Spain and France
- 22 ___ pal
- 23 Air filter acronym
- 24 Sunrise direction
- 25 Kicked out
- 29 Poet for whom the Edgar Awards are named
- 31 Miami Sound Machine singer Gloria

By Parikshit S. Bhat

12/26/17

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 35 Scheduled leaving hr.
- 36 Pledge
- 37 White House no
- 38 Multi-car collisions
- 39 Ensnared
- 42 Chocolate treat
- 43 Practical thinker
- 44 Rock singer Rose
- 45 "The Merchant of Venice" heiress
- 46 Opening word for Ali Baba
- 47 Unlisted stuff
- 50 Lubricate again
- 51 Codgers
- 53 Cuts for agts.
- 56 Danson of "The Good Place"
- 57 Anaheim MLB team, in crawl lines
- 58 Souse's woe

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Police blotter

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 15:

Jerry Dale Brezina, 58, Lake Placid, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Timothy Bennett Cummings, 40, Sebring, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and possession of marijuana.

Mark Anthony Dover, 44, Sebring, on a charge of larceny.

William Douglas Harris, 48, Avon Park, on a charge of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 16:

Kenneth Jerome Burroughs, 62, Avon Park, on a charge of battery.

Khaliah Sauntel DeBriaw, 38, Avon Park, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Paul Anthony Gomez, 29, Sebring, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Joseph Edward Ray, 61, Sarasota, on a charge of moving traffic violation.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 17:

Demetrius Dontrel Berrien, 35, Avon Park, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and probation violation.

Scott Jerome Bryan, 51, Cape Coral, on charges of possession of drug equipment, dui-unlawful blood alcohol and possession of marijuana.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 18:

William Neal Brite, 37, Sebring, on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Gregory Earl Brooks, 46, Sebring, on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Leonard Lewis Cochran, 40, Sebring, on a charge of larceny.

Stephanie Lili Hernandez, 21, Avon Park, on a charge of public order crime, five charges of larceny and six charges of fraud.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 19:

Christopher Tyler Ethan Best, 18, Sebring, on a charge of vehicle theft, two charges of burglary, two charges of larceny and two charges of property damage-criminal mischief.

Betty J. Carter, 57, Avon Park, on a charge of larceny.

Geneva Crouch, 47, Sterling, Kentucky, on charges of drug

possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Oscar Luis Del Rio Ramirez, 51, Sebring, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Samuel Garcia, 27, Sebring, on charges of burglary and larceny.

James Longstreet Gardner, 34, Frostproof, on charges of larceny, possess forged notes and fraud.

Anthony Sean Hayward, 19, Sebring, on charges of resisting an officer with violence, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a weapon or ammunition buy a convicted Florida felon and probation violation.

Richard Horold Jorgensen, 80, Sebring, on two charges of possessing obscene material.

Jacob David Knowles, 45, Venus, on charges of public order crimes, cruelty toward a child, larceny, fraud, possession of drug equipment, possession go cocaine, probation violation and two charges of health-safety.

Julio Angel Rojas Diaz, 24, Avon Park, on two charges of probation violation.

Dakota Shane Strickland, 24, Sebring, on a charge of probation violation.

Chad Eric Walterman, 40, Sebring, on a charge of probation violation.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 20:

Epifanio Alfaro, 65, Lake Placid, on a charge of lewd/lascivious behavior.

William James Gorby, 25, Sebring, on a charge of probation violation.

Rickey Harris, 29, Sebring, on a charge of probation violation.

George Burdell Keagy,

49, Lake Placid, on a charge of moving traffic violation.

Billy Ray Martin, 43, Sebring, on two charges of probation violation.

Luis Pacheco-Lugo, 27, Sebring, on charges of possession of marijuana, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and possession of drug equipment.

Henry Ellis Rimes, 37, Sebring, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Phillip Carl Steinmetz, 54, Lake Placid, on a charge of probation violation.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 21:

Tye Morgan Albritton, 24, Sebring, on charges of possession of drug equipment and vehicle theft.

Luis Manuel Cabrera, 51, Sebring, on a charge of moving traffic violation.

Jaja Osibisa Calhoun, 31, Orlando, on a charge of failure to appear.

Kyle Andrew Davis, 26, Sebring, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment, three charges of larceny and four charges of fraud.

Brandon Shane Dennison, 33, Avon Park, on a charge of probation violation.

Adriana Nichole Garza, 19, Frostproof, on charges of cruelty toward a child and sexual assault.

TyShawn Markess Hall, 21, Avon Park, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and tow charges of possession of marijuana.

Tina Marie Melvin, 45, Lake Placid, on a charge of cruelty toward a child.

Pet of the week



COURTESY PHOTO

Porky is one of five guinea pigs at The Humane Society looking for its perfect home. There are three males and two females in total. Adoption fee is \$25. The guinea pigs are all Abyssinian. The Humane Society of Highlands County, 7321 Haywood Taylor Blvd., is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Call the humane society at (863) 655-1522.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Cornerstone Hospice volunteers

SEBRING — Looking for a way to make a difference in the New Year? Consider joining Cornerstone Hospice as a volunteer and provide support to patients and families by being a friendly presence, running errands, honoring

veterans or visiting local nursing homes.

Four training sessions are scheduled for Jan. 9, Jan. 12, Jan. 16 and Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon each day, at Cornerstone's downtown Sebring office, 209 N. Ridgewood Drive, Suite 3. Refreshments will be provided.

To reserve a spot or for more information,

call Dorothy Harris at 863-382-4563 or email doharris@cshospice.org.

Classic Country Band

LAKE PLACID — The Classic Country Band will hold a free concert from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 at the Placid Lakes Town Hall at 2010 Placid Lakes Blvd.

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<p>COUPON REQUIRED</p> <p>GOLF</p> <p>AFTER 12 PM \$26⁰⁰</p> <p>AFTER 3 PM \$15⁰⁰</p> <p>EXPIRES 12/31/17</p>	<p>COUPON REQUIRED</p> <p>9 HOLES - AFTER 2 PM</p> <p>\$15⁰⁰ Per Person. Includes tax. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>EXPIRES 12/31/17</p>

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ABILIFY.....30MG G.....100 TABS.....	\$165.32
SPIRIVA.....18MCG.....90 X CAP.....	\$156.23
SYMBICORT TURBUHALER.....160/4.5MCG B.....360 DOSE.....	\$167.45
ELIQUIS.....2.5/5 MG.....180 TABS.....	\$259.00
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LOCAL SPORTS

NASA offers huge Spec Miata purse Series holding 6 events at Sebring in 2018

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

The National Auto Sport Association (NASA) announced a new Spec Miata competition at the 2018 NASA Championship at Circuit of the Americas that will award what they say is the largest purse in amateur racing history. The inaugural Toyo

Tires Classic will take place during the NASA Championships presented by Toyo Tires on Sept. 13-16, 2018.

This season, separate Eastern and Western championships were held, with Sebring International Raceway holding the Eastern States Championships in October.

The 2018 race will

award the overall winner at the event with a cash payout of up to \$80,000. More than \$131,000 in cash awards will be made available to Spec Miata racers taking part in the competition with two different random cash awards totaling \$5,000. A hard charger award will bring a \$10,000 payday, while many more unique incentives will be

announced. Qualifying requirements to enter the Toyo Tires Classic will be very straight forward and follow the usual NASA Championship qualification format.

"This will be the richest purse in Spec Miata competition," said Toyo Tires Senior Manager of Motorsports



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

NASA | 8 A group of Spec Miatas competes in NASA Eastern States Championships at Sebring International Raceway.

Disruptive defender



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Sebring senior outside linebacker C.J. Paul had 64 tackles and helped the Blue Streaks reach the Class 6A state playoffs. Paul was selected as the Highlands News-Sun 2017 All-Highlands Defensive Player of the Year.

Sebring's C.J. Paul heads All-Highlands Defensive Team

By MARK PINSON
STAFF WRITER

Sebring outside linebacker C.J. Paul used his quickness and speed to track down the opposition from sideline to sideline in an outstanding senior season.

The 5-foot 11, 205-pound Paul had 74 tackles and forced three fumbles for a physical and swarming Blue Streak defense that helped key a run into the Class 6A state playoffs.

"C.J. has great speed and is all over the field," said Sebring head football coach LaVaar Scott. "With today's spread offenses, his speed and ability to cover backs and receivers is important as an outside linebacker. He is also strong in stopping the run and is a good tackler."

For his ability and accomplishments, Paul has been selected as the Highlands News-Sun 2017 All-Highlands Defensive Player of the Year.

"It's an honor to win this award," Paul said. "My teammates helped me out a lot and it was fun to play with all my boys."

The Team

Buddy Jolley, senior, Lake Placid - Jolley had 54 tackles, three sacks, two forced fumbles and a blocked punt as a key player on the Green Dragons defense. "Buddy was our defense," said Lake Placid head football coach Jerry Hudnell. "He was everywhere and was a team player."



HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

DEFENDER | 8 Lake Placid's Buddy Jolley is not fooled by a misdirection as he hammers a Mulberry ball carrier for a huge loss.

Ginetta accepted by Trans Am Series kicks off 2018 season in Sebring

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

The Ginetta G55 GT4 has gotten better. Yes, really. Not only is the Ginetta G55 GT4 one of the most successful GT4 cars on the market, but now you get even more 'bang for your buck' as it's been accepted into the 2018 Trans Am

Series presented by Pirelli.

Adolpho Rossi, Ginetta's East Coast distributor, secured homologations for the G55 GT4 in the series' TA3 Class. This adds yet another series to the roster of accepted G55 GT4 entries in the USA, which already boasts the Pirelli World

Challenge, NASA and FARA championships.

The Trans Am Series presented by Pirelli is marketed as 'America's Road Racing Series' and dates back to 1966, making it almost as old as Ginetta itself. The series is split across four classes; TA, TA2, TA3 and TA4 with grids of 70 plus cars. If that

wasn't enough, the championship takes in some of the USA's most iconic circuits, including Sebring International Raceway, Homestead-Miami, Indianapolis, Road America, Watkins Glen, Circuit Of The Americas and Daytona



CHRIS CLARK/TRANS AM PHOTO

TRANS AM | 8 The No. 29 Ginetta races at Circuit of the Americas.

P1 Motorsports announces 2018 drivers

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

P1 Motorsports announced its 2018 driver lineup last week, which expands to a Liger JS P3 three-car effort in the LMP3 class within the IMSA Prototype Challenge series.



YACAMAN

Last season marked the team's first year racing within IMSA in IPC and the Lamborghini Super Trofeo North America series. Returning drivers, former Prototype Lites champion Kenton Koch along with Robby Foley, were highly successful, with Koch coming in second place in series competition, narrowly missing being crowned the LMP3 class champion. Newcomer Foley posted two podiums in his five races with the team, also in the LMP3 chassis.

Koch missed two rounds of competition at Sebring International Raceway but made the most of his shortened season, posting seven wins, 10 podiums, and six poles in the 11 rounds he raced. Koch made a run for the championship during the final weekend, in a close battle with Colin Thompson, ultimately ending the season just behind in points, 217-209.

"I'm very excited to be back with P1 Motorsports this year," Koch said. "With IPC's new format, I'll have the chance to co-drive with my close friend, Joel Janco. We go back a few years and it's an honor to be racing with him. Testing has been going well and we are looking promising for some good results next year."

Koch and Janco will be sharing the No. 25 Ligier, sponsored by Sonic Tools, Deathtolionfish.com, Donate Life and Justice Brothers.

P1 Motorsports, under the leadership of team owner JC Perez, also came away from the 2017 season winning the LMP3 Team Championship and finishing third in the LMP3 Masters Class.

In addition to Koch and Foley, joining P1's stable in 2018 are several new and returning faces, including Matt Dicken, Corey Lewis, Janco and Jim Garrett. Dicken finished in fourth in the championship last year, with eight top-five finishes. He will be sharing a car with sportscar veteran Corey Lewis, who will also serve as his driver coach.

"Words cannot describe how excited I am about the 2018 season with IMSA, P1 Motorsports and my co-driver Corey Lewis," Dicken said. "After a successful first year of sprint races the LMP3 prototype we are campaigning will now be entered into endurance races. I've always enjoyed the endurance aspect of racing because strategy and teamwork plays a major role."

"Behind JC Perez's leadership is Alberto Peña's management, which has created a team of experts

DRIVERS | 8

NASA

FROM PAGE 7

Marc Sanzenbacher. "Our goal was to put together a program that would bring Spec Miata competitors together in a way that has never been accomplished before. Our hope is that this new program will provide Spec Miata competitors with an annual pilgrimage that combines the camaraderie and festivities that NASA events are known for — combined with a financial benefit that has never been seen in the community. We look forward to the tremendous competition we expect to see at this event."

"We're really excited

to announce this new program with our long-time partner Toyo Tires," added NASA's Director of Business Development Jeremy Croiset. "This new program demonstrates a level of commitment to the amateur racing community that is nearly unprecedented. We fully expect this to be the largest Spec Miata competition in history at one of the best tracks in the country, and we're just getting started. Folks can expect much more info on this program in the coming weeks as we announce further details."

Additional event format details will be announced in early 2018.

NASA released its regular season schedule for 2018, including the



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

Jim Drago competes in the Mazda Spec Miata class in the NASA Eastern States Championships at Sebring International Raceway.

Florida Region, which will be holding six events at Sebring, beginning

Feb. 1. Additional racing dates at Sebring International Raceway

are March 1, April 21-22, June 23-24, Oct. 20-21 and Dec. 15-16.

For more information on NASA, visit www.nasaproracing.com.

DEFENDER

FROM PAGE 7

Johnny Perry, senior, Avon Park - Perry played middle linebacker and had 67 tackles, 28 assists and one interception for the Red Devils. "Johnny was a three-year starter and moved to middle linebacker this season," Avon Park head coach Wade Jackson said. "He's very tough and physical and was a team leader."

Phillip Sapp, senior, Sebring - Sapp played a key role on the defensive line with 62 tackles for the Blue Streaks. "Phillip was a force on the defensive side of the ball for us," Scott said. "He was co-defensive MVP this year and always found the ball. He played with a lot of effort and had a high motor."

Shamar Mitchell, freshman, Lake Placid - Mitchell had an instant impact at linebacker for the Green Dragons with 35 tackles, one sack and a defensive touchdown. "Shamar is a young ball hawk with high energy," Hudnell said.

Jalen Turner, junior, Avon Park - Turner played middle linebacker and had 64 Tackles and 25 assists to go with one caused

fumble and one fumble recovered for the Red Devils. "Jalen is fast, physical and plays sideline to sideline," Jackson said. "Jalen and Johnny were a great duo in the middle of our defense."

Nate Smith, senior, Sebring - Smith was a force on the line for a swarming Blue Streak defense. "Nate made a lot of big plays for us," Scott said.

Cade Simmons, junior, Lake Placid - Simmons had a solid season at cornerback for the Green Dragons.

Earl Collins, junior, Avon Park - Collins was a force at outside linebacker with 36 tackles, 12 assists, one sack, one fumble and one interception for the Red Devils. "Earl moved from corner to outside linebacker and brought a physical presence to the defense," Jackson said. "He is tough, physical and loves to play the game."

Jordan Rose, junior, Sebring - Rose had a big impact on the defensive line for the Blue Streaks with 34 tackles.

Logan Million, junior, Lake Placid - Million made a lot of big plays from his linebacker position for the Green Dragons.



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Avon Park senior linebacker Johnny Perry (5) returns a fumble 45 yards for a touchdown during the first quarter of the Red Devils' victory over South Sumter.

Ty Dellop, senior, Sebring - Dellop was a versatile player for the Blue Streaks. "Ty was our team MVP for the things he did offensively, defensively and on special teams," coach Scott said. "He was a dynamic play-maker and an asset to our team."

James Beck, senior, Avon Park - Beck played outside linebacker and had 22 tackles, 12 assists and one sack for the Red Devils. "James was a three-year starter on defense," Jackson said. "He moved from defensive end to outside linebacker for his senior season. Physical player who can play the run and the pass well. A

solid two-way player.

Roger Yarde, junior, Sebring - Yarde made numerous big plays from his linebacker position and had 29 tackles for the Blue Streaks. "Roger is athletic and can run," Scott said. "He played on defense and offense and is a big-time player."

Dylan Jones, junior, Lake Placid - Jones had a good year for Green Dragons on defense.

Dah'Quan Braswell, junior, Avon Park - Braswell played defensive end and had 33 tackles and three sacks to pace the Red Devils defense. "Dah'Quan is big, physical and fast,"

said Jackson.

JC Crenshaw, junior, Sebring - Crenshaw had a solid season at cornerback for the Blue Streaks with 39 tackles. "JC was another pleasant surprise," Scott said. "He did a lot of things for our defense and it's good to have him coming back next year."

Montrae Braswell, senior, Avon Park - Braswell played cornerback and had 18 tackles and one interception. "Montrae is a tremendous player and was always around the ball," Jackson said.

C.D. Lamadine, junior, Sebring - Lamadine

came through with some big field goals during the season for the Blue Streaks.

JJ Rooks, senior, Avon Park - Rooks had 13 tackles and one interception at safety for the Red Devils. "JJ was great at recognizing formations and was a great cover guy."

Honorable Mention

Tray Spencer, junior, Lake Placid - Spencer played tough as a linebacker for the Green Dragons.

Hunter Vanderpool, sophomore, Avon Park - Vanderpool was solid at defensive end for the Red Devils.

Qweshmail Sholtz, freshman, Lake Placid - Sholtz made a lot of big kicks for the Green Dragons.

Jordan Constant, junior, Avon Park - Had a solid season at cornerback for the Red Devils.

Coach Of The Year

For guiding their respective teams to the state playoffs, Avon Park's **Wade Jackson**, Lake Placid's **Jerry Hudnell** and Sebring's **LaVaar Scott** have been selected as the Highlands News-Sun Defensive Coaches of the Year.

TRANS AM

FROM PAGE 7

International Speedway, so you know it's going to be one heck of a ride.

This latest news continues Ginetta's international expansion, and you only need to look at the G55 GT4's results to know why. A winner on the international stage, in the four years since the G55 GT4 replaced the G50 GT4 in 2014, the Yorkshire marque has taken around 100 wins in some of the globe's biggest GT4 race series.

Ginetta drivers have stood on the top step at the Dubai 24 Hours five times in six years and the Mugello 12 Hours three times in three years. Not only that, but the car claimed a first and third in class on its Motul Sepang 12 Hours debut last season, two wins in the TCE series and class victory in the Euro GT4 Southern Cup. A Ginetta GT4 has also won British GT seven times in the past 10 years.

The 2018 Trans Am season begins at Sebring March 2 through March 4.

DRIVERS

FROM PAGE 7

and specialists who are needed to properly setup and maintain these highly sophisticated Prototypes. For next season, I'm thrilled to be co-driving again with Corey Lewis. Over the years, he has helped my immensely with my driving and he has proven himself time and time again to be very fast whether it be in GT cars, open-wheel cars or Prototypes."

"The new endurance platform for the IMSA Prototype Challenge gives a good feel what it would be like racing in the IMSA WeatherTech Championship series," Lewis said. "This will be a great way to groom teams and drivers. Throughout the 2017 season, I noticed that the professionalism and passion behind the P1 Motorsports team could not go unnoticed. Every race weekend, the cars looked brand-new, great presence in the paddock and goes without saying, performance on track was extremely dominant. "With every season, Matt [Dicken] continues to improve his driving and race craft. I really believe that the LMP3 car suits Matt's driving style and it has shown. I

am very excited for the 2018 season and putting our Strategic Wealth Designers LMP3 and P1 Motorsports on the podium!"

Other sponsors for the duo's No. 17 Ligier include American Tax Law Planning, Sonic Tools and Monster Energy.

IPC veteran driver Janco is making the move to the Ligier JS P3 with P1 Motorsports and will join Koch in the car next season.

"The new endurance format is what the LMP3 was designed to do," Janco said. "Having a pit stop this year will be fun, but even more fun will be the privilege of racing again with my co-driver Kenton Koch and my longtime friend and coach Jonaton Jorge. This year is the my first to race with P1 Motorsports and they have proven exceptional through several tests so far this year. The engineers and crew are just the best!"

Last season, Koch, Jorge and Janco raced in another sports car series in Europe.

Foley made his series debut in 2017 with P1 Motorsports. Foley will be sharing the Sonic Tools No. 42 Ligier with Jim Garrett.

"I think IMSA made the right decision introducing the new option to have two



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

P1 Motorsports owner JC Perez races his Ligier at Sebring International Raceway.

drivers, making the series more relevant for Pro-Am racing," Foley said. "I am really excited to join forces with Jim [Garrett] and I'm also thrilled to continue my relationship with P1 Motorsports. I've always been impressed with the team atmosphere, combined with the professionalism and experience of everyone; it's really a great place to be. I feel very lucky to be a part of what is already a very successful program and look forward to a strong 2018 season."

The Florida-based team is also expected to field entries in the GT Daytona class in the IMSA

WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, as well as the Lamborghini Super Trofeo North America

series, where Perez won the 2017 LB Cup Championship in just his first year of competition.

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From poverty to philanthropy



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

Sharion Hudson learned her work ethic from her mama. "She taught me to care for people, too," she said.

Sharion Hudson, 71, is wonder woman

By TOM MEISENHEIMER
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING — Sharion Hudson turned 71 on Christmas Eve. She's packed so much into that life that she deserves to be called a "Wonder Woman."

She is president and owner of All Around Septic & Sewer in Sebring. You'd think she would be sitting behind a desk all day enjoying others doing the hard work. But you still can find her driving a truck, working a backhoe, and best of all, supporting a plethora of area community organizations that contribute to the quality of life in Highlands County.

Hudson lives her company motto of "We Know Our Stuff." She learned her stuff at an early age.

She was born a Lumbee Indian in North Carolina, one of 12 children. Her mom taught her how to cook, and the job of feeding the 11 other kids became her assigned daily chore.

"When you're born poor, your mama teaches you how to work and how to care for other people. She gave me a work ethic and compassion," she said.

Those two qualities have been reflected in Sharion's life. Her step-dad moved the family to Lake Placid and worked for John Smoak. "Oh my gosh, since then, I've worked at every type of job you can

imagine."

The list is extensive. She spent 16 years working at a funeral home typing death certificates. From there she headed to work at Howard Johnson's.

She often worked two or three jobs at once to make ends meet. "I once had 28 girls work for me in my business of helping the elderly," she said. She's been a district manager for Sizzlers and worked in insurance.

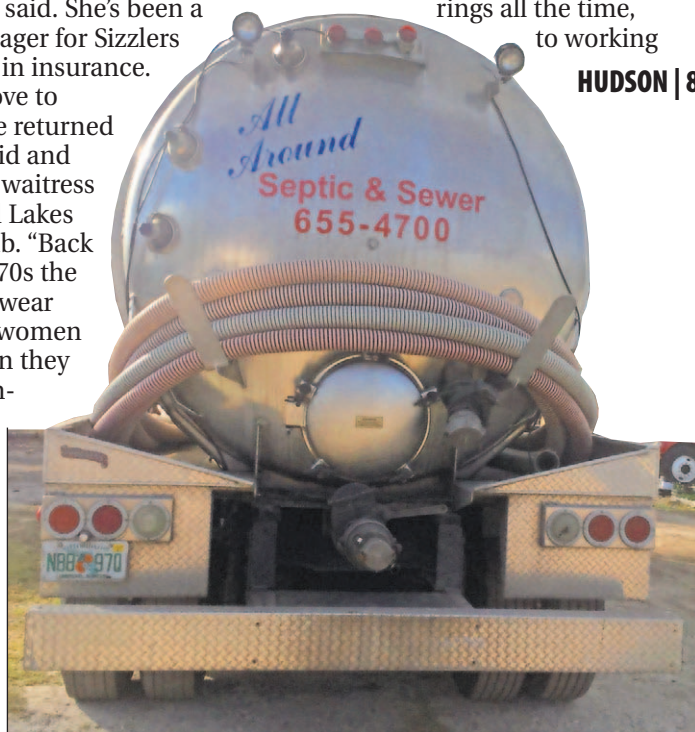
After a move to Alabama she returned to Lake Placid and worked as a waitress at the Placid Lakes Country Club. "Back in the early '70s the men had to wear jackets and women dresses when they came for dinner," she reminisced.

Her move to start All Around Septic began with a partner. After two years she wanted to go on her own. "I began

All Around Septic & Sewer Inc. with one truck. I was not yet in the phone book, so I painted signs with my business name and phone number and placed them all over town, as well as mailed letters to everyone I could think of.

"Over the years I've done everything my employees do, from answering the phone, which rings all the time, to working

HUDSON | 8



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

Sharion Hudson started her septic and sewer business with just one truck. She now has eight trucks in her fleet.



COURTESY PHOTO

Trying a recipe from Pinterest, like one for this roast chicken panzanella, is always a way to get out of your comfort food zone.

Meal monotony? 5 fresh options

Variety is the spice of life. There are more types of delicious nutritious foods and seasonings in the aisles of your local market than you could ever possibly count, so why eat the same thing over and over?

If your family has indicated that they would prefer to eat something besides meatloaf and potatoes for dinner, you might be in a meal rut.

Allow me to nudge you out of that rut with the following tips.

Pin away! Start a Pinterest board for New Recipes To Try. (If you are not on Pinterest, you can do this by starting a file on your computer where you copy recipes, or rip



DINNER DIVA

Leanne Ely

them out of a magazine and do it the old-fashioned way!) When you're planning your meals for the week, open up that Pinterest board (or file), and pick one or two of

DIVA | 8

Should you own multiple Instant Pots? These women do

By SUSAN SELASKY
DETROIT FREE PRESS

On Facebook, the official Instant Pot community page has nearly 800,000 followers. Nell Potter of New Boston, Mich., is among them. Potter loves using the Instant Pot so much that she actually owns four of them. The 49-year-old medical transcriber has two 6-quart models and two 8-quart models. And she uses them all.

Having four multi-cookers means she can do a main dish in one and side dishes in others. For a recent dinner, she made thick cut pork chops in one, a big batch of green beans in another and macaroni and cheese in the third.

"My husband bought

me a new stove with five burners when we remodeled the kitchen two years ago," Potter said. "And I look at it sometimes and I have to apologize to my stove, because it doesn't get used."

With Instant Pot, Potter likes that it cooks food quicker because "the longer you take cooking food, the more it loses its nutrients." An avid cook and runner who has participated in triathlons, Potter says nutrition is huge in her household.

"It's great (the Instant Pot) for people who want to eat healthy but feel they don't have the time," Potter says.

When Potter found

POTS | 8

Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2017: 'Feminism'

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — This may or may not come as a surprise: Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2017 is "feminism."

Yes, it's been a big year or two or 100 for the word. In 2017, lookups for feminism increased 70 percent over 2016 on Merriam-Webster.com and spiked several times after key events, lexicographer Peter Sokolowski, the company's editor at large, told The Associated Press ahead of Tuesday's annual word reveal.

There was the Women's March on Washington in January, along with sister demonstrations around the globe. And heading into the year was Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and references linking her to white-clad suffragettes, along with her loss to

President Donald Trump, who once boasted about grabbing women.

The "Me Too" movement rose out of Harvey Weinstein's dust, and other "silence breakers" brought down rich and famous men of media, politics and the entertainment worlds.

Feminism has been in Merriam-Webster's annual Top 10 for the last few years, including sharing word-of-the-year honors with other "isms" in 2015. Socialism, fascism, racism, communism, capitalism and terrorism rounded out the bunch. Surreal was the word of the year last year.

"The word feminism was being used in a kind of general way," Sokolowski said by phone from the company's headquarters in Springfield, Massachusetts. "The feminism of this big protest, but it was also used in a kind of specific way: What does it mean to be a

feminist in 2017? Those kinds of questions are the kinds of things, I think, that send people to the dictionary."

Feminism's roots are in the Latin for "woman" and the word "female," which dates to 14th century English. Sokolowski had to look no further than his company's founder, Noah Webster, for the first dictionary reference, in 1841, which isn't all that old in the history of English.

"It was a very new word at that time," Sokolowski said. "His definition is not the definition that you and I would understand today. His definition was, 'The qualities of females,' so basically feminism meant femaleness. We do see evidence that the word was used in the 19th century in a medical sense, for the physical characteristics of a developing teenager, before it was used as



AP PHOTO

This Monday, Dec. 11, photo taken in New York shows the word feminism listed in the dictionary. Merriam-Webster has revealed "feminism" as its word of the year for 2017 on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

a political term, if you will."

Webster added the word in revisions to his "An American Dictionary of the English Language." They were his last.

He died in 1843. He also added the word terrorism that year.

"We had no idea he was the

WORD | 8

A trying and triumphant year in TV for women

By LORRAINE ALI
LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)

Television asked a lot of us in 2017.

Keep up with nearly 500 scripted shows across multiple platforms, binge watch must-see series or risk spoilers, and consume enough news and late-night political satire to stay informed but not enough to lose it entirely and seek solace in "Murder, She Wrote" reruns.

In January alone that meant watching late night during the week, "Saturday Night Live" on the weekend, streaming "One Day at a Time" at work and filtering manic coverage of a brand new presidency. American women staged nationwide protests and the new White House press secretary insisted that Donald Trump's inauguration — not the Women's March — drew the biggest crowd. "Period!"

The death of Mary Tyler Moore was nearly lost amid all the noise of men asserting their dominance over whom-ever they were trying to best — be it on Capitol Hill, "Real Time With Bill Maher" or "The O'Reilly Factor." Moore's legacy being reduced to a footnote was a sad sign of the times.

Her defining role as a beloved young professional who embodied the nation's growing respect for smart, independent women was eclipsed by the same old "mine's bigger" bluster.

It was clearly going to be a long year.

But something funny happened on that regressive trip back to the 1950s or whenever it was that America was greater than it is now. Scripted programming with strong, smart and poignant female narratives arrived like a swaggering, pissed off Jessica Jones, obliterating notions that nasty women were gone with Hillary Clinton's candidacy.

Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale" and "Harlots," FX's "Feud" and Netflix's "Godless" all spoke to subjugated women outsmarting — if not blowing a hole through — the patriarchy. It's no coincidence that shows like these caused national conversations as powerful, accused sexual predators like Harvey Weinstein and O'Reilly fell.

The collective ADD we felt last year with the election coverage and onslaught of new shows that You Just Have to See! was somewhat remedied by a renewed sense of purpose



in 2017's lineup.

Even if the seventh season of "Game of Thrones" wasn't a response to Trump's admissions of sexual assault on that "Access Hollywood" tape, the return of its former female victims as armor-clad warriors and rulers felt like victory. Same goes for "Stranger Things." Forget passively watching Christmas lights for signs of her son's whereabouts, Joyce was out for Demogorgon blood.

That power dynamic extended beyond dramas. "SNL" became relevant again, which had as much to do with Melissa McCarthy and Kate McKinnon riffing on the entitlement of men like Sean Spicer and Jeff Sessions as it did Alec Baldwin portraying a self-aggrandizing commander in chief.

The sheer volume of shows made by, starring or telling the stories of women was both astounding and, yes, at times overwhelming. HBO's

"Insecure" and "Big Little Lies." Showtime's "SMILE" Netflix's "Alias Grace" and "The Crown." In its last season, "Scandal" still represents a remarkable breakthrough in a traditionally white, male medium. And in any other era, "The Deuce," HBO's drama about the 1970s sex trade in New York, would've been presented through the male gaze. We would have never known how different the porn industry looks through a woman's eyes.

"Wonder Woman" touched down on the big screen, and "Supergirl" Jessica Jones returned to the small one. Their mission is still to save mankind, though in 2017, there seemed to be fewer men worth saving. At least in the media.

The year's multiple accusations against powerful men, and the accounts of their alleged sexual misconduct, were often egregious enough to make "Game of Thrones" brothel owner Littlefinger

— who got his own comeuppance at the hands of women he once manipulated — blush. But more remarkably in 2017 was that the accusers were finally being heard, felling personalities too big to fail: Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose, Kevin Spacey, Louis CK.

Half of Hollywood seemed swept up in the #MeToo tsunami, which compelled Samantha Bee — one of the few female late-night hosts — to defend her reputation in the entertainment community.

"I can tell you one thing: There is a 1 million ... percent guarantee that I've never shown my [penis] to anybody in my office!" Bee joked recently.

It's a punchline that's now funny thanks to all the female voices that changed the course of scripted TV — and American culture — in 2017, a year that ended with the astounding and televised defeat of another symbolic figure with the name Moore.



This image released by Hulu shows Elisabeth Moss as Offred in a scene from, "The Handmaid's Tale." (George Kraychyk/Hulu via AP)

Serve Spanish-style crispy potatoes for New Year's

By SARA MOULTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The classic New Year's libation is champagne, but what to eat is a matter of broader choice. This year why not make it a tapas party — a feast of various little bites? And, if indeed that's how you choose to roll, one of those dishes should be these crispy baked potatoes with a garlicky red pepper mayo sauce.

Spanish Style Crispy Potatoes with Garlicky Red Pepper Sauce is a streamlined take on a Spanish classic called patatas bravas — deep-fried chunks of potato with a spicy tomato sauce and/or aioli — sort of like the Spanish equivalent of french fries. But given that most folks aren't keen on firing up a big vat of boiling oil, I've engineered a baked version. It's not quite as crispy as the fried, but it comes close.

How to make crispy potatoes without frying? Here are a few tricks: First, partially cook the potato slices in simmering water with a bit of baking soda, which makes the exteriors of the potatoes slightly mushy and releases their starch and sugar. Then toss the hot potatoes in a bowl with oil and salt, which encourages a starchy film to accumulate on the potatoes' exterior. When the potatoes are roasted, all of that starch and sugar on the outside helps to form a crispy brown crust.

As for the lip-smacking sauce — a mix of pureed red peppers, smoky paprika and garlic mayo — you can drizzle it on top of the potatoes or set it on the side as a dip. This dish of crispy potatoes and spicy dip pairs very



This Nov. 30 photo shows Spanish-style crispy potatoes in New York. This dish is from a recipe by Sara Moulton. (Sara Moulton via AP)

nically with bubbly wine or dry sherry, if you're in the mood to salute the dish's Spanish DNA. However, there's no reason to reserve this recipe for a special occasion like New Year's. It will make a very satisfying side dish whenever you serve it.

Spanish Style Crispy Potatoes with Garlicky Red Pepper Sauce

Start to finish: 1 hour 45 minutes (35 active)

Servings: 6

For the potatoes:
2 pounds medium Yukon gold potatoes, sliced crosswise 1/2-inch thick

1/2 teaspoon baking soda
4 tablespoons olive oil
Kosher salt

For the sauce:
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup chopped roasted red pepper
2 teaspoons sherry vinegar

1 teaspoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic

Pinch of cayenne
Prepare the potatoes: Preheat the oven to 450 F. Adjust an oven rack to the lowest position. In a Dutch oven or large saucepan combine the potatoes and baking soda with enough cold water to cover by 1 inch.

Bring to boil, reduce to a simmer and cook until the exterior part of the slices has softened but the centers are still slightly firm when pricked with a knife, about 5 minutes.

While the potatoes are simmering, place a rimmed sheet pan on the bottom rack of the oven to heat up. Drain the potatoes and return them to the saucepan. Cook over medium heat a few minutes, shaking the pan until there is no excess water on the surface of the potatoes. Transfer them to large bowl. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons of the oil and 1/2 teaspoon salt; toss well to combine. Drizzle with another 1 tablespoon oil and continue to toss until coated with a starchy paste.

Carefully remove the sheet pan from the oven and pour the remaining tablespoon of oil onto it, tilting the pan to coat the bottom. Add the potatoes and spread them out in one layer (the end pieces should be placed skin side up). Bake until the bottoms are golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes, rotating the pan after 10 minutes. Flip the potatoes and brown them on the second side, 15 to 20 minutes. Sprinkle with

salt to taste.

Make the sauce: In a blender puree the peppers. Add the remaining ingredients and blend, scraping down the sides several times, until smooth.

To serve: Transfer the potatoes to a bowl and drizzle with the sauce, or serve the sauce on the side.

Nutrition information per serving: 232 calories; 113 calories from fat; 13 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 3 mg cholesterol; 494 mg sodium; 27 g carbohydrates; 2 g fiber; 1 g sugar; 3 g protein.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sara Moulton is host of public television's "Sara's Weeknight Meals." She was executive chef at Gourmet magazine for

nearly 25 years and spent a decade hosting several Food Network shows including "Cooking Live." Her latest cookbook is "HomeCooking 101."



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Part Two - "Strange and Unfamiliar Terrain"

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Refreshments will be served by Chef Mac
725 S. Pine Street • Sebring, FL.
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863-385-0161 x0

Giving the gift of memory: 2 easy DIY projects

By **MELISSA RAYWORTH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

For elderly people struggling with memory loss, one of the toughest things can be forgetting the details of their own lives. What must it be like when you struggle to recall something you were sure you'd never forget — the name of an old friend, perhaps, or a favorite city where you once lived, or the meal you always cooked at the holidays?

"This is people's biggest fear, to lose their memory and to lose that sense of self," says Dr. Gwynn Morris, associate professor of psychology at Meredith College.

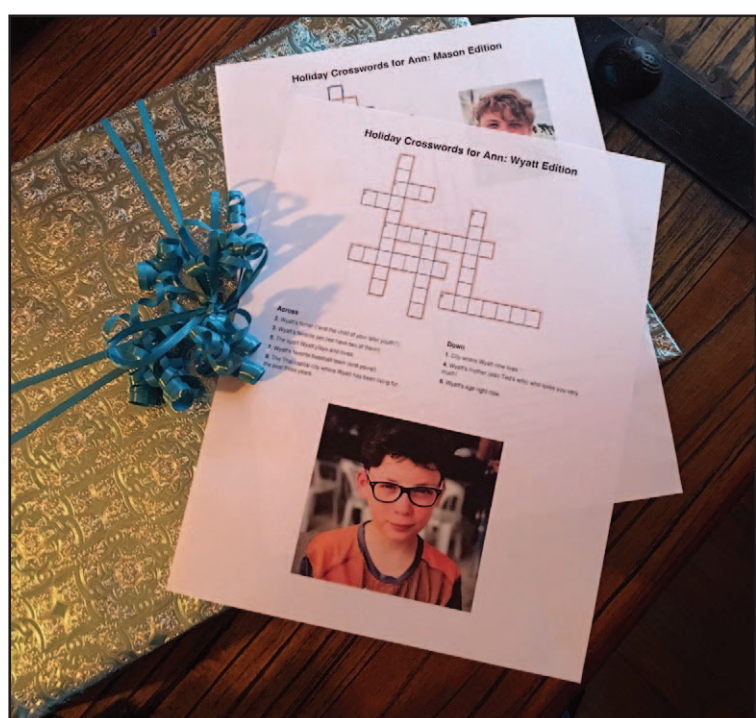
I reached out to Dr. Morris and to another expert on gerontology — Ann Norwich, director of the adult gerontology nurse practitioner program at York College of Pennsylvania — because my mother-in-law is finding it harder to remember details about her own, quite remarkable life. At 93, she has retained her memories longer than many people do. But as recall has become more difficult, I've been hunting for ways to help her hold onto the stories and details she once knew about herself.

I decided to design some customized memory aids for her this holiday season, but I wanted to make sure they were effective.

Morris and Norwich offered advice on how to jog an elderly person's memories and help them retain the knowledge they still have. Here are two craft projects built from this research, both perfect gifts that are easy and inexpensive to make:

CUSTOMIZED CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Crossword puzzles aren't quite the cure-all for aging brains that they're sometimes touted as, Morris says. But keeping the mind active



MELISSA RAYWORTH VIA AP

This Dec. 11 photo shows custom-made crossword puzzles. Practicing important information can help an elderly person retain it. One fun way to do that is by using custom-made crossword puzzles like the ones pictured here, rather than doing commercially available puzzles about random topics. Made for free online, these can help a person struggling with memory loss retain meaningful information such as the names of grandchildren and major details about them.

can help slow some aspects of cognitive decline. And practicing recall of important information regularly can help you retain it.

So if an elderly person once liked crosswords, as my mother-in-law did, it could be useful and fun to create custom puzzles using information they want to remember. Focus on valuable information, such as the names of grandchildren and some details about them, Norwich says. Elderly family members may be embarrassed to be struggling over remembering such information, so these puzzles can be a gentle way to jog those memories. "You want to play to things that are personally relevant to them," Norwich says, and "make sure that these are positive experiences."

Take time to choose the right topics. My mother-in-law

was an avid traveler, so I've designed puzzles about the foreign cities she most enjoyed living in and visiting. I've noticed that when I remind her of these experiences, she seems pleased and energized by the memories.

Once you have your topic (or topics) chosen, creating your puzzles is easy. There are many free puzzle-making sites online. Many are designed for teachers, but they're open to the public. One that's easy to use is crosswordlabs.com. You're given a blank space to enter your list of words and their clues. The site then builds a printable crossword puzzle with that information.

To print your puzzles, choose some heavy paper from a craft store in appealing colors and textures, and use a home printer. Or, to make the gift more substantial, give

the collection of puzzles a title, and design a cover page with the title and recipient's name. Have the title page and puzzle pages printed on heavy paper and bound with a spiral binding at a copy shop.

PERSONALIZED PLAYLISTS AND SONGS

Music can be especially valuable in triggering memories in older people, Norwich says, so she suggests making personalized playlists for elderly relatives.

How does this work? As we age, "semantic memory," which includes historical facts and other non-personal information, such as the lyrics to an old song, tends to be better preserved than personal memories. But that semantic memory is useful in triggering the "episodic memory" that includes our personal stories.

So old music can trigger different personal, episodic memories in each person who listens to it.

To select songs with the most impact, consider the research into something called the "reminiscence bump." Studies show that most people have particularly strong recall about events that happened

in early adulthood, specifically throughout their 20s, says Morris. So pick a selection of songs that were popular when your loved one was between 20 and 30.

These songs are most likely to spark the clearest personal memories. And for many people, these are especially energizing memories, because they were formed at a time when the person was young and active.

You can save the playlist to an iPod, which you set up in a dock with a timer or alarm function. That way, the playlist can begin at a specific time each day, and the person won't have to remember to turn it on. You can choose a "shuffle" function so the songs play in a different order each day.

Another option: Burn the playlist to a CD, then place it in a CD player with an alarm clock function that will play the music at a particular time of day.

Once it's ready, spend some time listening to the playlist together, and ask your relative what they remember about listening to these songs in the past and about the years when the songs were popular. You, and they, may be surprised what good memories surface.

GROUPS TO CHECK OUT

The Artist's Group: Holds classes in gourd artistry, clay work/ceramics, and watercolor, oil and acrylic painting. Beginning and intermediate students are welcome. For information or to register, call 784-7405.

American Contract Bridge Club of Sebring: Duplicate bridge games are played at noon, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 347 N. Fernleaf Ave., Sebring. If you are not signed up to play, arrive before 11:45 a.m. If you need a partner, call 385-4956.

For information, call 385-8118.

The Orchid Society of Highlands County: Meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday at the Jack R. Stroup Civic Center, 355 W. Center Ave., Sebring. Guests are always welcome and you don't have to be knowledgeable of orchids to attend. Call President Glenn Shellhammer at 863-471-6171.

Sebring Recreation Club: The club is located at 333 Pomegranate Ave. Call 385-2966.




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INVITATION TO BID 14

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR VARIOUS DRAINAGE PROJECTS & REMEDIATION RFP No. 17-13

The Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District hereby requests proposals from interested site contractors to clean/restore existing drainage ditches and remediate failed drainage systems within the District. Specifications and Bid Documents can be found at www.snlidistrict.org.

Sealed proposals may be hand delivered or mailed to the District office located at 5306 Sun 'N Lake Blvd., Sebring, FL 33872, Proposal for Drainage Projects & Remediation, RFP #17-13, Attention Tanya Cannady, General Manager by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2018. Proposers must provide one (1) original and three (3) copies of their proposal.

The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to re-advertise for proposals when deemed in the best interest of the District.

Dec. 26, 2017; Jan. 2, 2018

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. PC 17-455

Division
 IN RE: ESTATE OF
MERLE B. STAUFFER
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **MERLE B. STAUFFER**, deceased, whose date of death was **June 27th, 2017**, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE UPON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is **December 19, 2017**.

Personal Representative:
Sandy Rainwater
 1460 Schlosser Road
 Sebring, FL 33875
E. MARK BREED III, P.A.
 Attorney for Personal

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20

Representative
 325 NORTH COMMERCE AVENUE
 SEBRING, FL 33870-3206
 Telephone: (863)382-3154
 By: /s/ E. Mark Breed III
 E. MARK BREED III
 Florida Bar No. 338702
 Email Address:
 service@mbreedlaw.com
 Dec. 19, 26, 2017

1000



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 Richard Edwards
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Paradise Village MHP, Lake Placid- 2/1.5, furn. w/lrg FL rm, newer AC & fridge. Amenities incl. & sm. pet friendly. **863-840-1682**

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HELP WANTED 2001

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk
 Visit: www.cityofavonpark.cc
 For full details of position.
 Phone: (863) 452-4403

City of Avon Park Human Resources/ Risk Manager
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 For full details of position.
 Phone: (863) 452-4403

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Open Interviews January 8 - January 11, 2018 from 9:00am-3:00pm. **GENPAK LLC**, a leader in the manufacture of carry-out food containers in Sebring, FL has an immediate need for **MACHINE OPERATORS** to operate production machinery. Must be an energetic self-starter with a positive attitude. Experience in a manufacturing or production environment preferred. Mechanical and mathematical aptitude a plus. Must be able to work with heavy equipment. 12 hour shifts available. Competitive salary and benefit package. You also may submit a resume/work experience with your contact information in your response or stop by our office to fill out an application.

Genpak
 116 Shicane Drive
 Sebring, FL 33870
 863-655-1814



Open Interviews January 8 - January 11, 2018 from 9:00am-3:00pm. **GENPAK LLC**, a leading manufacturer in the plastic foodservice packaging industry in Sebring, FL area has openings for **MECHANICS** in our Maintenance Department. Minimum of three (3) years industrial maintenance experience. Applicants must have formal training or experience in related fields that would be useful in maintaining and repairing our production machinery and related equipment. Must have a strong industrial/ electrical/ electronic background. Troubleshooting and repair of mechanical, pneumatic & hydraulic production machinery. Should be familiar with all facets and procedures of plant manufacturing operations and will be expected to diagnose and repair faulty production and related plant equipment with a minimum of supervision. Must be able to troubleshoot and repair electrical control circuitry, motor/process controls and set up machinery for production. Welding and fabrication a plus. Applicants must maintain a full complement of tools to perform normal duties. 12 hour shifts available. Competitive salary and benefit package. You also may submit a resume/work experience with your contact information in your response or stop by our office to fill out an application.

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PT Handyman Wanted Must be experienced & have own tools. Duties include: painting, light plumbing, light electrical work & apt. turns. Call between 10-4 **863-452-6565** TDD 711 (Avon Park); or 941-685-6888. *This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

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PT Cleaning Tech Needed
Early mornings in Avon Park
Call **863-647-1163**

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6030**

Coffee Maker, Hamilton Beach, commercial, 2 burner w/5 coffee pots & case of filters included, \$75 - 863-385-6414

Coffee Maker~Cuisinart "Coffee on Demand" 12 cup cap.; xtra filters & instr. booklet. Clean \$25. 727-389-7812.

Coffee Maker~Keurig 1 cup; 12 cup cap. Clean, gently used. Only \$25. 727-389-7812.

Coffee Pot, Faberware, stainless steel, \$20 - 863-655-2523
Collectible Glassware & household items, \$500.00 for all or can separate, call for info. 863-414-0481

Cookie Press, Cuisinart, electric, new in box, paid \$30.00, selling for \$20 - 863-655-2523

Corning ware 6 piece place setting, casserole dishes, \$80, 949-413-3706

Dinnerware Service for 6, Corelle, small white flowers w/blue design, exc. condition, \$35.00 - 863-382-4375

Double size mattress and box spring with frame used 8 months pd \$495 asking \$275 OBO. (863) 655-0269

Dual Basket Fryer, Presto, stainless steel, 12 cup food capacity, 1800 watt, new, box unopened, \$30.00-863-273-7625

Fruit & Vegetable Peeler, automatic rotary, uses 4 AA batteries, never used, still in box, \$12.00 - 863-273-7625

Fruit bowl, West bend Aluminum, vintage, 14", \$10, 949-413-3706

Hand Mixer, Cuisinart, 7 hand mixer, new in box, paid \$70.00, selling for \$35 - 863-655-2523

Kitchen Island w/stainless steel top on wheels, wooden, \$30.00 - 863-304-8048

Longaberger Dishes~ 92pc; 12 piece place setting + serving bowls. Beige. \$100. 765-278-1540.

Matching Lamps, \$100.00, 201-207-4809

Mattress, king size 2" memory foam, \$38, 863-840-2129

Measuring cup, vintage, solid glass, 2 quart, \$15, 949-413-3706.

Nordic-Ware steak platters (6) No. 24010, vintage, \$5 each, 949-413-3706.

Oval Mirror, vintage 25" D 37" tall, gold-leaf trim, \$30.00, 949-413-3706

Sheet Set twin for King-split or twin beds, 100% pima, new in box, pale green Orig \$169, asking \$75.00 (863) 402-9181

Turkey Serving Platter, oval 16" by Gibson, fine ceramic, micro/dishwasher safe, unused, new in box, \$15-863-273-7625

Vacuum Cleaner, Bissell, upright, bagged/bagless, reconditioned, 30 day guarantee, \$20.00 - 863-402-2285

Vacuum Cleaner, Oreck upright, works great, light weight, new belt and bag \$40.00, (863) 402-2285

Vacuum, Dyson ball upright, only used once, user manual & all the extras, \$75.00, 863-655-2523

Wall Clock, Westminster Chimes, dark wood, from JC Penny, exc. cond., \$95.00, 863-453-3104

Wall Clocks (2), key wind excellent, strikes hour & half hour, 1 is light oak and the other is dark, \$40 ea. - 863-531-3297

**HOLIDAY ITEMS
6031**

Apple Baker by Villeroy & Boch, Santa's Apfelbraeter, \$35.00 - 863-414-6226

Asst. Silver Bells, 2002-2015 & Dashound Ornaments, 2004-2011, all for \$450 obo 877-243-2823-captel-863-385-7363

Christmas Decor~ tree; lights; ornaments, bags, boxes, tablecloth, bows, etc. \$30 for all. 863-453-3104

Christmas decorations, 5 full boxes and (2) 4ft artificial trees, \$45, 863-214-8179

Christmas Lights, white, large container, all work, some new, \$15.00, 814-796-0705

Christmas Tree, Blue Douglas Fir artificial 6ft, like new, \$28, 863-840-2129

Christmas Wreaths, 18" round and 24" round, some with lights, -\$15.00 each - 863-3856414

Lots of Christmas Paper & boxes & misc. all for \$30.00, caption tel. 877-243-2823-then 863-385-7363 when prompted

Nativity Set, hand made, 3 piece set 8 x 16, \$40.00 obo 949-413-3706

Nativity Water Globe, collectible, new and boxed, \$5.00, 863-452-6845

**HOLIDAY ITEMS
6031**

Snow village & train set, McDonalds steam engine 3 coach cars, 40' track, lighted houses 600+ pcs \$500 863-257-0259

**FURNITURE
6035**



Antique Bedroom~ dble head & footboard, nightstand, dressing table w/mirror & stool, dresser w/mirror, highboy, Exc. cond! \$2500 **863-385-6414**



Bedroom Set~ light ash wood; dble headboard, nightstands, dresser w/mirror & highboy Exc. cond \$800 **863-385-6414**

Couch, cherry red leather sectional, hardly sat on, \$500.00 201-207-4809

Desk~ vintage child's metal desk, side extensions \$20 - 949-413-3706

Desk~ 3 piece, solid oak desk. Excellent condition! \$450. 863-655-2612



Antique Dining Room~ China cabinet, Oval 3-pedestal table, 3 leaves, table pads, 6 chairs. Exc. cond! \$2500. **863-385-6414**

Dining Room Table on pedestal & 4 wooden chairs with cushions, \$250 - 863-402-0905

Dining Table w/6 chairs, \$125.00 - 863-441-4483 or 321-418-4275

Dining Table w/leaf, round oak inlay, 4 chairs w/claw feet, good shape, \$375.00 obo, 816-820-1442

End Tables & Coffee Table, beautiful metal silver & glass, \$165.00 - 201-207-4809

French provincial shabby chic 4 dr dresser winter white w/black hardware \$100 (561) 907-1950

Kitchen Hutch, 2 piece, oak, \$125.00 - 863-441-4483 or 321-418-4215

Kitchen Table & 4 leather padded chairs w/steel frames 42" round top w/pedestal base, EC, \$300.00, 863-385-6414

Kitchen Table, \$50, 614-452-3196 or 863-314-0107

Living Room Set, couch, chair, love seat & pillows, \$300.00 863-402-0905

Love Seat (Ashley), leather, electric recliner, brown, excellent condition, \$325, 863-655-3652

Loveseat~ 72" light green color, like new! \$350. 863-655-2612.

Mattress/box spring and frame, Full size Serta, brass headboard, like new, \$250, 863-386-5117

Office Chair, mid-back arm chair, black vinyl, adjustable up and down, exc. cond., \$25.00 863-385-6414

Porch Rocker w/rope caning, oak, excellent condition, must see, \$60.00 - 863-531-3297 or 651-491-5374

Recliner & Love Seat, brown micro fabric, \$400.00, 863-402-1683

Recliner, black leather, gently used, paid \$649.00, selling for \$375.00 - 863-471-2027

Recliner, wing tip flexsteel, good shape, \$125.00 obo, 816-820-1442

Reclining couch tan leather, middle seat folds up w/ cup holders /controls/ vibrating seats good condition \$50 (317) 402-0914

Rocking Chair w/ottoman, burgundy, \$35.00, 330-442-5439

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Swivel Barrel Chair, custom made, show piece, all white, \$150.00 - 863-465-0066

Table, wrought iron 42" round-glass top with 4 padded chairs, beige, \$75.00 - (863) 471-1691

TV Stand~ 32"x17"x28"; black, good cond. \$20 obo. 863-386-4733

**FURNITURE
6035**

Tables, 3 pc. glass top bamboo/rattan end tables & foyer table, exc. cond., pd \$300, sell for \$175.00 - 863-243-2262

Wood Chair for kitchen or desk, pretty, \$7.50 - 863-414-0481

**ELECTRONICS
6038**

On Star System for car, \$40.00 - 863-655-2523

Phone Base plus 2 cordless handsets, answering system w/caller ID & call waiting, AT & T \$25.00 - 863-655-2523

**TV/STEREO/RADIO
6040**

46" Samsung TV. LCD book & remote \$200 (863) 655-3556

APC, 350, brand new in box, \$45.00 - 863-465-0066

Converter box, zenith in the box, never used, digital TV tuner, \$15, 407-385-4196

Flat Screen w/stand, 32" Westinghouse 720p/60, VCR, DVD, w/all manuals, exc condition, All for \$200, 863-273-1922

King Tailgater for Dish, HDTV Satellite receiver w/remote, like new, \$225.00, 863-202-0139.

One trunk of new in boxes old tv and radio tubes, about 100-150 pieces, all brands, \$20, 863-402-2285

TV - 55" Samsung HDTV, manual & remote incl. perfect cond., \$100 obo - 863-253-1802

Wave Magnet Radio, Zenith model #5724, old, in good condition, \$150.00 - 863-699-0559

**COMPUTER
EQUIPMENT
6060**

Routers, modems, microsoft mouse, box full, some new in the box, \$10.00 for all, 407-385-4196

**CLOTHING / JEWELRY/
ACCESSORIES
6065**

Costume Jewelry, old and modern mix, \$2.50 each, 863-414-5536

Diamond Ring~ Over 1ct. heart-shaped w/blue tint. Last appraised over \$20k. Asking \$12k. **863-414-1535**.

Harley Davidson new motorcycle jacket 3X \$350 (863) 655-3556

Jacket, new 100% sheepskin, large, tan, paid \$200.00, selling for \$75.00 - 863-385-0000

Ladies Afternoon Dress, Size 12, aqua, exc. condition! \$20. 863-453-3104

Ladies Lined Skirt, new, black & grey, size 12, \$10.00 - 863-453-3104

Ladies Pure Wool Coat~Full length; size 12, royal blue, exc. condition! \$30 - 863-453-3104

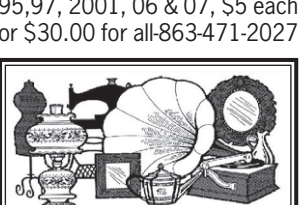
Leather Jacket~ Columbia Men's size 42 XL black. Barely worn. \$55. 863-243-9986.

Men's Pullover, fleece lined, large tall, dark grey, \$8.00, 863-382-8745

Watch, mens pulsar, new in box, paid \$110.00, selling for \$50.00 - 863-655-2523

**ANTIQUES
COLLECTIBLES
6070**

Calenders, vintage Porsche 356 calenders 1992, 93, 94, 95,97, 2001, 06 & 07, \$5 each or \$30.00 for all-863-471-2027



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Upscale Decorative Items,
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Hummel Plates w/boxes, 1972 - 1986, \$200.00 for all - (863) 699-9995

"Little Women" Dolls~ Amy, Beth & Mary. Very old, perfect condition. \$40 each. 863-471-1904

Porcelain Plates, set of 12, "Beauties of the Red Mansion", comes w/display rack, Japanese style, \$450-863-414-6226

Precious Moments (2), \$60.00 for pair, 863-414-5536

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Beach Fishing Buggy- has 7 pole holes. \$20 obo. 863-386-4733

Buckaroo Jigs, limited number and colors, 12 to a sheet, \$12.00 each sheet, 863-273-0807

BICYCLES/TRICYCLES 6135

2-Wheels Recumbent Bicycle, Rand-originally \$1,300, asking \$250. 812-249-1165

Bicycle Seat by Bell, large, 10" across, exc. cond., \$10.00, 863-382-4375

Bicycle, ladies schwinn sierra, front & rear lights, exc. cond., \$75.00 - 863-453-3104

Bike Inter tubes (7) or more, 1.75/2.125, \$5.00, 407-385-4196

Bike seat listed as the most comfortable available, no horn with extra belts, \$5.00, 407-385-4196

Bike, girls 20 inch schwinn, \$30.00 - 863-414-0815

Bike, Men's Denali Racer 7005, aluminum 21 speed, cost \$225.00, selling for \$150.00 - 863-243-2262

Bikes, 26" mens & 24" womens, SUN Retro Cruiser, cost \$245 ea., exc. cond., \$135 ea or both \$250 - 863-243-2262

Schwinn Bike, 27" ladies, skinny tire, 12 speed, curled handle bars, good shape, \$20, 863-402-2285

TOYS/GAMES 6138

2 Games in One! Pool Table/Tennis- 4'x7" like new! Includes all accessories & wall rack. \$200. 904-583-1764

Chess Set, gorgeous solid onyx handcrafted in Mexico, 17 x 17, black & brown, onyx pcs, like new, \$75.00-863-381-8739

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Edger-electric, good condition, \$20, 810-632-5483.

Lawn ornament, cement basket, 3x2 weighs 80#

Patio rocker and 2 end tables, all custom made, \$200, 614-452-3191 or 863-314-0107

Picnic Table, octagon, \$300, 614-452-3191 or 863-314-0107

Sunjoe CJ601E electric wood chipper/shredder \$60. (863) 465-4596

Trimmer, electric, Black and Decker, like new, \$20, 814-796-0705

OUTDOOR LIVING 6161

Outdoor Fireplace, Sun Joy Hardy, slate & steel, \$100.00 609-731-3049

TOOLS/MACHINERY 6190

Assorted Tools, \$2.00 to \$20.00 - 863-699-9995

Bush Route Table w/extra router bits, \$25 - 863-699-9995

Chain Saw, 20" Craftsman, w/carrying case, excellent condition, \$195, 706-809-0073

Chain Saw, Homelite Super 2, 14" bar, extra bar, chain, oil, gas can, case and sharpener, \$60.00, 863-273-6864

Delta 10 ft bench table saw, Model TS200LS, works great, no issues, \$75, 863-273-1907

Drill Press, 5 speed, \$35.00 863-699-0559

Extension Cord Reel, Craftsman, 20 ft. retractable cord, can be hung in garage for easy access, \$25.00-863-273-7625

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Hitachi 10 Ft compound saw, Model C10FCE, works great, newer carbide tip blade, \$50, 863-273-1907

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TOOLS/MACHINERY 6190

Tools, etc., entire box, \$15.00 call for details, 863-414-0815

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Microwave, LG, extra large capacity, counter top model, used only 6 months, \$50.00 - 863-304-8048

Refrigerator, 18 cu ft. Galaxy, white, works great, \$45.00, 330-442-5439

Refrigerator, Amana 17.6 cubic foot w/top freezer & ice maker, stainless look finish, \$80.00 - 863-304-8048

Refrigerator- top freezer with ice maker. White, 10 yrs old. \$175. 863-633-9389

Stove, GE, white, coil, self cleaning, used only 6 months, \$100.00 - 863-304-8048

MISCELLANEOUS 6260

AC Adapter, 15-12 volt, 6 adaptaplug, various volts DC 300ma, never out of the box, \$5.00, 407-385-4196

Anti Stress Neck Pillow, \$5. 863-453-3104

Bird cage, gold, very heavy, 4 ft, x2.5 w/no bottom, \$40, 863-382-9355

Books, Louis L'Amour, 173 paperback, \$100, 863-385-1563

Ceramic Tile, (4) cartons, subway and floor plank, \$50, 863-414-2574

Collector Plate, 1993 House Of Erte "Symphony In Black", Franklin Mint limited ed. cert. incl. EC - \$15.00-863-273-7625

Cow Dinner Door Bell, cast iron, hand painted, must see!! \$30.00 - 863-273-7625

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Empty propane tank for gas grill, \$15, 810-632-5483.

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Grey safe, Fire Fyter, combination lock and inside has 2 adjustable shelves and drawer, 20x16x17, \$40, 863-402-2285

Laptop Case, new with tags, grey fabric, \$15-863-382-8745

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Last Supper Tapestry, hardware included, 55"L x 36"H, \$100.00 - 863-414-6226

Liquor Decanter w/6 small glasses, blue glass with gold rims, exc. cond., \$12, 863-382-8745.

Luggage, 3 pc "ultralite", like new, \$60.00 - 863-414-5536

Paint for dock, wood RX red-wood, paid \$150.00, selling for \$50.00 - 863-655-2523

Photo Albums (5), \$10.00 863-453-3104

Platoon aluminum boat cradle w/bunks, excellent condition, \$475, 863-273-0956.

Pocket Watch w/stand, Timber Wolf, Franklin Mint, beautiful detail, chain/case incl., EC must see-\$135-863-273-7625

Quaker Oats Limited Edition 1982 tin, vintage, \$15, 949-413-3706.

Rack, Quilt or Bedspread, white wash finish, \$22.00, 863-840-2129

Rolling Cooler w/Speakers, telescopic handle, collapsible canvas, 18"H, blue, side pockets, ex cond-\$25-863-273-7625

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Tire Pump, manual foot pump, like new \$5.00, 407-385-4196

Twin Mattress, like new, \$100.00 - 863-699-9995

Typewriter-elec, Brother mdl 340, memory, spell check, line erase & more-incls script wheel & 2 ribbons, \$50-863-385-6414

US Catalytic Heater 8000 BTU-propane fuel/no venting required. Used a few times new \$400 sell \$150 (513) 293-7406

Wolf Musical Water Globes Tune is "Memory" for 1 & "You've got a friend" on the other, \$35 ea., 863-273-7625

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Cadillac CTS, needs transmission, \$800.00 - 863-441-4483 or 321-418-4215

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2004 Ford Focus-150k mi; new tires, battery, well-maintained. \$2,000. 863-381-4410

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1930 Ford Custom Coupe Chopped, dropped, rat rod; 327/auto; retro wire wheels, wide wht walls-One of a Kind! \$19,500 obo. **863-446-4588**

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Auto Luggage Cover, for most Prius, never used, \$5.00, 407-385-4196

VANS 7290

Ford Mark III Van, F150, 1998, new battery, tires & recent alignment, stereo, alarm sys, TLC needed, \$1300-863-385-0000

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2017 EZ-Go- 48 volt w/chip, windshield, full mirror, new rear seat. Immaculant condition! \$4,850. **863-446-4588**

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FIND A JOB! BUY A HOME! BUY A CAR!



This Dec. 5, 2017 photo shows a bedroom in a New York City apartment being used as a "woman cave," with a scarf hung on the wall, futon with throw pillows, a good reading lamp, small works of art and keepsakes from loved ones and other decorative touches. The room is kept as a chore-free tranquil space for relaxing, reading, crafts and other quiet pursuits. (AP Photo/Beth J. Harpaz)

No strife, no food allowed in the woman cave. Decaf tea's OK

By BETH J. HARPAZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When people find out that I'm an empty nester with a "woman cave" in my New York City apartment, they seem to have a lot of questions. So I recently created this FAQ about it for Facebook friends, which led to a whole other round of comments and questions.

If you're curious about woman caves or maybe you're dreaming of creating your own, here's my FAQ and the comments and responses it generated.

WOMAN CAVE FAQ
1) Where and what is this woman cave?

It is a bedroom in my apartment once occupied by children and other people who no longer live under my roof. At least at the moment, they don't.

2) Why do you need a woman cave?

Because the TV is often blaring sports in the living room (my husband lives in the apartment, too) and the kitchen's not comfy and my bedroom is for sleeping.

3) What do you do in the woman cave?

I sit on the futon and enjoy the calm. I do projects like organizing recipes. I write lists. Occasionally I nap or read. Over the years, we've had a lot of (mostly joyful) commotion in this relatively small three-bedroom apartment — including a few periods when we had five people living there, sharing one bathroom — so it's just nice to have a tranquil spot to relax now.

4) What is not allowed in the woman cave?

Food. Strife. Clutter. Noisy things. No beverages other than decaf tea.

5) What is in the woman cave?

A futon with nice pillows. A really good reading lamp. Beautiful things that loved ones have given me: a bowl, art, scarves (one draped on the sofa, one on the wall). A coffee table with a TV and old laptop that my son set up for me so I could watch a movie or show, but so far I haven't. Bunches of lavender and mint that I picked from my windowbox after the first frost, hanging upside down to dry.

6) Do you socialize in the woman cave?

No. It's a solitary place. Though I might consider letting my friends from high school visit.

7) Is there anything missing from the woman cave?

No. It's perfect.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Comment: "No food or beverages other than decaf tea?? I could forgo the food but would broaden



This Dec. 5, 2017 photo shows a bedroom in a New York City apartment being used as a "woman cave," with bunches of lavender and mint hung upside down to dry and other decorative touches. The room is kept as a chore-free tranquil space for relaxing, reading, crafts and other quiet pursuits. (AP Photo/Beth J. Harpaz)

the beverage menu." Comment: "No cheese?"

Response: My husband once brought me a snack to be nice, but it spilled and then I had to clean it up. I just want the woman cave to be neat and clean without any effort.

Comment: "Sounds blissful. What about a few joss sticks? Or would incense be distracting?"

Response: I have a tiny lavender pillow if I need aromatherapy. That's enough.

Comment (from a neighbor): "I'd like to invite you up to my woman cave. The thing I like most about it is that it's always clean. No one else's stuff."

Response: Exactly.

Comment: "There was a commercial a while ago that called it a 'She Shack.'"

Response: That suggests disorder and crudeness. Neither is allowed in my woman cave.

Comment: "Those are practically the same rules I have for my man cave/media room."

Response: Perhaps we are descended from the same cave dwellers.

Comment: "Because my dad is severely handicapped, they created a bedroom for him downstairs in the old den of my childhood home. My mom now has the whole upstairs to herself, so she converted my sister's old bedroom into her woman cave (although she doesn't call it that)."

Response: Women give a lot to other people in their families and sometimes a small tranquil space is really essential to keep them going. My years in this apartment are often a blur from when kids were little and there were never even five minutes of quiet or an inch of privacy. Part of the trance I go into in there is just processing all the memories and the ups and downs. A room of one's own is not just a metaphor (or the name of a book).

New Supreme Court cookbook dishes up history, recipes

By **JESSICA GRESKO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — At Christmastime, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor would send her colleagues gift-wrapped packages of homemade beef jerky from her family's cattle ranch in Arizona. Her colleague Ruth Bader Ginsburg pronounced it "very spicy."

Now, home chefs can try making their own, with guidance from

O'Connor's supplier, her brother. His jerky-making instructions, minus the family's secret sauce, are part of a new book on the Supreme Court's food traditions.

"Table for 9: Supreme Court Food Traditions & Recipes," out this month, is part history book, part cookbook. It includes more than three dozen recipes associated with justices and their families.

"Food in good company has sustained Supreme Court Justices through the ages," Ginsburg writes in the book's forward.

Food is a way the court's nine justices connect. There are welcome dinners for new justices and retirement dinners for those who are departing. O'Connor, the

court's first female justice, revived a tradition of the justices regularly eating lunch together. And when a justice has a birthday, there is wine, a toast and the singing of "Happy Birthday," a tradition begun by Chief Justice Warren Burger, who led the court in the 1970s and '80s.

Clare Cushman, the book's author, says her of-

really substantial topic and that it wasn't going to be fluffy or ridiculous to ask these extremely distinguished judges questions like: What are your favorite foods and what do you eat for lunch?" Cushman said.

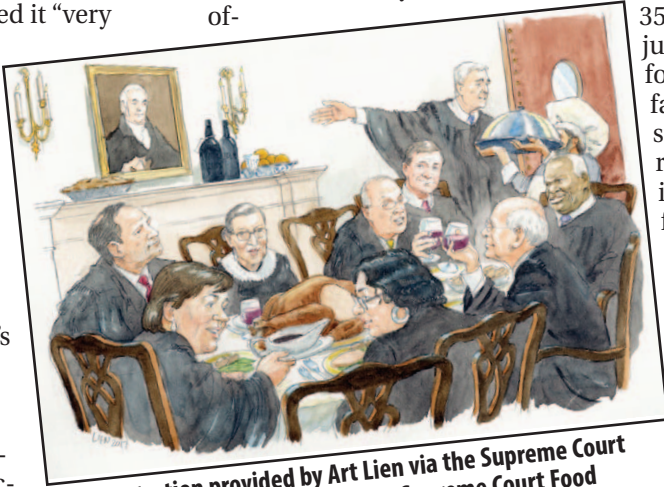
Cushman said that to research the book she, with help from Supreme Court curator Catherine

Fitts, contacted 35 families of justices to ask for recipes and family food stories. The results include instructions for the pineapple and coconut cake Chief Justice William Rehnquist's wife baked annually for his birthday. Maureen Scalia, the wife of the late Justice Antonin

Scalia, the first Italian-American to serve on the court, contributed a pasta sauce recipe.

Louise Gorsuch, the English-born wife of Justice Neil Gorsuch, shared her marmalade recipe. Gorsuch, the court's newest member, by tradition serves on the committee that oversees the court's public cafeteria.

Readers also learn about the justices' food habits. The first chief justice, John Jay, liked oysters for breakfast. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. brought his lunch in a tin ammunition box. And Justice John Paul Stevens' regular lunch



This illustration provided by Art Lien via the Supreme Court Historical Society from "Table for 9: Supreme Court justices eating Traditions & Recipes" shows the Supreme Court justices eating together, which they do regularly. The new book, out in December 2017, is part history book, part cookbook. It includes more than three dozen recipes associated with justices and their families. (Art Lien/Supreme Court Historical Society via AP)

fering is in part a response to visitors asking at the Supreme Court's gift shop whether the court had a cookbook. The White House visitor center's gift shop has several books on food and entertaining, and some tourists expected the court would too, said Cushman, the Supreme Court Historical Society's director of publications. So, for a decade, when Cushman came across a recipe or a food anecdote with a link to a justice, she'd put it in a folder.

"The more I researched the more I realized that this was a



Clare Cushman, director of publications at the Supreme Court Historical Society, the author of the new book, "Table for 9," that describes the food traditions of the Supreme Court — from eating behind the bench during the 1800s while arguments went on, to birthday singing instituted by Chief Justice Warren Burger and meals for new and retiring justices, poses for a photo at the Supreme Court in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 14. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

was a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with the crusts cut off.

Some of the photos accompanying the text have never been published before. There are pictures of justices eating together and pictures of birthday cakes served to the justices. There's a picture of justices preparing to eat a 28-pound salmon that Justice Stephen Breyer caught in Alaska and of Sonia Sotomayor serving homemade Chinese food long before she became a justice.

"For me, eating is sacred. You should not waste a meal, and so it can be simple and healthy but it has to be tasty," Sotomayor said during a 2016 event on the Supreme Court's food traditions at the National Museum of American History, an event that helped spur the book's creation.

The book has stories from the court's early history, too. It describes how in the early 1800s, the justices lived and ate together at a boarding house. Justice Joseph Story reported they drank wine, but only when it was raining. If he looked out the window and the sun was shining, he was sometimes told "it must be raining somewhere."

In the late 1800s, when arguments were scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. with no break for lunch, the justices would step away individually or in pairs to eat at small tables behind the bench, the rattle of their knives and forks audible to spectators.

The book is not the first associated with food and the Supreme Court. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's husband, Martin Ginsburg was a talented chef. After his

death in 2011, a book of his recipes, called "Chef Supreme," was compiled as a tribute.

Now, both books are available online through the Supreme Court Historical Society's website and at the court's gift shop.



Clare Cushman, director of publications at the Supreme Court Historical Society. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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HUDSON

FROM PAGE 1

my back hoe to install drain fields,” said Sharion. A favorite framed photo across from her desk pictures her on a back hoe, wearing flip flops, digging roots from a septic tank.

Her business smarts are reflected in the name she chose for the business. “Naming it ‘All Around Septic’ meant my name would be first in the phone book,” she proudly said.

Today Sharion often works seven days a week. She has eight trucks and seven employees as well as hundreds of faithful customers. She serves Highlands, Hardee and Okeechobee customers as well as various prison facilities.

Not only does the business clean septic tanks, clean grease traps and install and repair drain fields, she was approached by the race track asking for Porta Potties. “I did not have one, but told them I could help.

I found a supplier and got them what they needed. Now

I have over 275 of them that I rent for black tie events, construction sites and luxury mobile facilities.

“I’ve been offered cash for my business, but I believe it is worth a lot more than I’ve ever been offered. Besides, I love it.” And for those wondering where all that waste goes. “I bring it to a treatment plant and they charge me 10 cents a gallon to take it.” It is processed and solids are used as fertilizer.

Hudson claims she is a “jack of all trades, master of none.” Not true.

Besides running and mastering a most successful business, she is a master at giving. For nine years she ran Santa In the Park, devoted time and money to Miracle League, Children’s Museum of the Highlands, Police Bike A Thon, and the Boys & Girls Club.

She strongly supports the Artist Series at South Florida State College. This season she is a sponsor for over five concerts.

“I have season tickets for the theater and often bring homebound guests with me

who need to get out once in a while.” She also treats her customers and employee to various shows.

Once a year she plans a Christmas party at her house for her staff and customers. She always had a Christmas present for everyone. The past two years she decided to try something new.

Two years ago she asked her guests to bring a backpack for kids from broken homes. “We filled a van and gave a pack to over 140 needy children.”

This year, knowing that there are so many homeless veterans in Highlands County, she asked her customers to bring a gift to the party for the vets. “They brought sleeping bags, canned goods, insect repellent, underwear and piles of other things to make the vets’ Christmas a bit brighter,” Sharion said with a smile.

The office wall at All Around Septic & Sewer is filled with plaques from many groups, honoring Hudson for her passion for kids in need.

Her life philosophy is also reflected with meaningful sayings framed and hung on



COURTESY PHOTO

“When I could not get anyone to work it, I ran the back hoe to install a drain field,” said Sharion Hudson.

the office walls. A funny one reflects her sense of humor. “I burned 2,000 calories while taking a nap. I burned the brownies in the oven.”

All Around Septic & Sewer is located near the airport and

race track in Sebring. When you call her at 863-655-4700 Sharion will greet you with, “All Around Septic. What can I do for you honey?”

When you get to know her, that will mean a lot.

POTS

FROM PAGE 1

out the Instant Pot was a pressure cooker she thought it was a good idea.

“I’ve been intimidated by pressure cookers, but this sounded so controlled,” she says. After she got her first Instant Pot, Potter thought “where have you been all my life?”

While Potter makes plenty of main dishes,

sides, soups and desserts, she was impressed by its yogurt function.

Although she was intimidated at first, she was thrilled to be able to make yogurt.

“The very first batch was amazing,” she says.

Another Instant Pot Potter favorite is making sous vide egg bites — like the ones at Starbucks. The egg bites are made with cooked bacon placed in a small mason jar and topped with a blended mixture of eggs, cottage cheese, heavy

cream, cheese, salt and a dash of hot pepper sauce. Once filled, the jars are placed in the Instant Pot and covered with foil.

Instant Pot’s whole support system on Facebook for users is Potters favorite. It’s where she finds lots of recipes through all sorts of groups and sub groups.

Lori Chapo-Kroger of Traverse City, Mich., is another Instant Pot fan. Like Potter, the 58-year-old retired nurse loves

the Instant Pot so much, she has two.

“I can do potatoes or vegetables in one while the meat is cooking in the other,” Chapo-Kroger says. “I can preset it to cook at a certain time so they both end at the same time.

“I like how quick things cook and how I can cook things from frozen if I forget to thaw them out,” Kroger says. Chapo-Kroger says it’s like the commercial “set it and forget it.”

Blogger and cookbook author Coco Morante’s Instant Pot recipes Facebook page has more than 225,000 followers.

Out with her first cookbook, the Essential Instant Pot cookbook (Ten Speed Press, \$19.95) Morante says the Instant Pot got on her radar after a friend couldn’t stop talking about it and praising its usefulness.

“It’s truly different experience from a stove top pressure cooker,” she says. “What was surprising to me, is that it’s really quiet, you don’t have that rocking regulator noise.”

Since buying an Instant Pot she’s donated her slow-cooker because she no longer needs it. Morante first experimented with basics like oatmeal, chicken soup, batches of beans and rice.

What she really liked about the Instant Pot, and was surprised by, is its fail proof safety lock. “While it’s under pressure you can’t open the lid,” she says. “The safety and the quite operation was surprising to me.”

PORK ROAST WITH MUSHROOMS, CARROTS AND POTATOES
Serves: 4 / Prep time: 5

mins / Total time: 1 hour
2 pounds pork roast or pork shoulder
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 tablespoon grape-seed oil or olive oil
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 large russet potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks
8 ounces large cremini mushrooms, cleaned, sliced
2 carrots, peeled, cut into large chunks
2 tablespoons reduced sodium soy sauce
1 tablespoon grape-seed oil or olive oil
4 cloves garlic, peeled, minced
2 bay leaves
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
1 cup unsalted chicken stock or low-sodium broth
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons cold water

Turn the instant on and press the sauté button and adjust to Sauté More function. Wait until the indicator says HOT.

Cut the pork roast in half so it will fit in the pot. Generously season the pork shoulder meat with kosher salt and ground black pepper. Add grapeseed oil to the pot making sure it coats over the whole bottom of the pot. Add in the seasoned pork, then let it brown as much as possible on all sides. Remove and set aside to rest for 5 minutes on a chopping board. While the pork is browning, prepare other ingredients.

Add the butter to the pot. Add in the mushrooms, season with a pinch of kosher salt and ground black pepper. Stir to evenly coat the

mushrooms with butter. Mushrooms will start releasing their moisture. Let the moisture evaporate and stir occasionally until mushrooms are slightly crisp and browned, about 5-7 minutes.

While the mushrooms are sautéing, cut the browned pork into 1/2-inch thick slices.

Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the carrots and bay and saute another 2 minutes.

Add balsamic vinegar and deglaze the pot, scrapping up any browned bits on the bottom. Stir in the chicken stock and soy sauce. Mix in the chicken stock and the soy sauce.

Return the sliced pork shoulder meat with all the meat juice in the pressure cooker. Layer the potato chunks on the top. Close the lid and cook at High Pressure for 5 minutes. When time is up let sit for 10 minutes and then use the Natural Release method. Open the lid carefully.

Remove the pork roast slices, carrots and potatoes on a large serving plate. Taste the sauce and season with more salt if necessary. Stir together the cornstarch and water and stir the mixture into the gravy one third at a time until desired thickness. Pour the pork roast slices, carrots and potatoes back into the gravy and mix gently to coat them with the gravy.

Cook’s note: the High Pressure 5-minute cook time is correct. It’s due to the meat being cut into smaller pieces.
Adapted from <https://www.pressurecookrecipes.com> Tested by Susan Selasky for the Free Press Test Kitchen.

DIVA

FROM PAGE 1

those new recipes to add to your line up.

Create a second Pinterest board for Successful Recipes and move the pins over to that board as you experiment.

(Or, if you’re using a different method than Pinterest, just create a new document or physical file for Successful Meals and away you go.)

Dust off the cookbooks. You likely have a stack of cookbooks (or magazines) that you have maybe made one or two dishes from.

Go back through

them and use a sticky note to tag recipes you want to try. Then, when you’re meal planning, go through those tags!

Commit to trying one new recipe a week. Choose one that has enough familiar ingredients that even your picky eaters will try it.

Eat different foods. When you go out to eat, order unfamiliar foods. Maybe one of the reasons you keep making the same things is that you haven’t tried many different things! Stretch your boundaries a little, and you might pick up some ideas.

Shop at a different place. Maybe you’re growing bored of the selection available at

your usual market. Venture out to a new spot to shop!

Try different cuisines. Make a habit of cooking a food from a different ethnic culture every so often. This will naturally help you to try new things.

If you’re still short on meal inspiration, consider joining our Menu Mailer program and I’ll send you a variety of recipes to try ... one for every night of the week!

Leanne Ely is a New York Times bestselling author and the creator of SavingDinner.com, the original menu planning website, bringing families back to the dinner table for over 15 years.

WORD

FROM PAGE 1

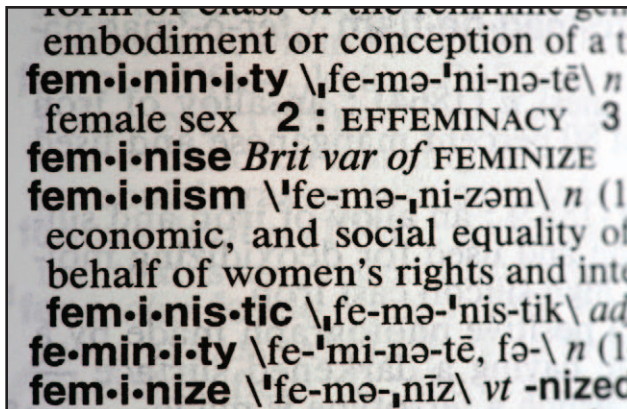
original dictionary source of feminism. We don’t have a lot of evidence of what he was looking at,” Sokolowski said.

Today, Merriam-Webster defines feminism as the “theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes” and “organized activities on behalf of women’s rights and interests.”

Another spike for the word feminism in 2017 occurred in February, after Kellyanne Conway spoke at the Conservative Political Action Committee.

“It’s difficult for me to call myself a feminist in the classic sense because it seems to be very anti-male and it certainly seems to be very pro-abortion. I’m neither anti-male or pro-abortion,” she said. “There’s an individual feminism, if you will, that you make your own choices. ... I look at myself as a product of my choices, not a victim of my circumstances. And to me, that’s what conservative feminism is all about.”

She was applauded, and she sent many people to their dictionaries, Sokolowski said.



AP PHOTO

This Monday, Dec. 11 photo taken in New York shows the word feminism listed in the dictionary. Merriam-Webster has revealed “feminism” as its word of the year for 2017 on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The company would not release actual lookup numbers.

Other events that drew interest to the word feminism was the popular Hulu series, “The Handmaid’s Tale,” and the blockbuster movie, “Wonder Woman,” directed by a woman, Patty Jenkins, Sokolowski said.

Merriam-Webster had nine runners-up, in no particular order:

— Complicit, competitor Dictionary.com’s word of the year.

— Recuse, in reference to Jeff Sessions and the Russia investigation.

— Empathy, which hung high all year.

— Dotard, used by Kim Jong-un to describe Trump.

— Syzygy, the nearly straight-line

configuration of three celestial bodies, such as the sun, moon and earth during a solar or lunar eclipse.

— Gyro, which can be pronounced three different ways, a phenom celebrated in a Jimmy Fallon sketch on “The Tonight Show.”

— Federalism, which Lindsey Graham referred to in discussing the future of the Affordable Care Act.

— Hurricane, which Sokolowski suspects is because people are confused about wind speed.

— Gaffe, such as what happened at the Academy Awards when the wrong best picture winner was announced. That was a go-to word for the media, Sokolowski said.

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White Christmas



AP PHOTO

Christmas brings Northeast blizzard, bitter cold in Midwest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — The good news for many in the Northeast and Midwest was that it has been a white Christmas. The bad news was that a blizzard swept into parts of New England and bitter cold enveloped much of the Midwest.

Even the usually rainy Pacific Northwest got the white stuff. The National Weather Service says it's only the sixth time since 1884 that downtown Portland had measurable snow — only an inch or two — on a Dec. 25.

A blizzard warning was issued Monday for portions of Maine and New Hampshire,

with forecasters saying snow of up to 10 inches and wind gusts up to 50 mph could make travel “dangerous to impossible.”

Most businesses were already shuttered on Christmas Day in New England. One of the few open was The Tobacconist cigar shop in Tewksbury,

Massachusetts, where area-resident Dwayne Doherty said he welcomed the fresh blanket of snow.

“I’m actually happy,” he said, chuckling as he made his way to his pickup. “We haven’t had snow on Christmas at all in the last few

WHITE | 6



AP PHOTO

President Donald Trump turns to talk to the gathered media during a Christmas Eve video teleconference with members of the military at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla., Sunday.

Trump celebrates Christmas like most of America, with family

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump is celebrating Christmas the way millions of Americans do: surrounded by family, the White House said.

But unlike most Americans, he released a brief video in which his wife, Melania, joined him to “wish America and the entire world a very Merry Christmas.”

The first lady says that at this time of year “we see the best of America and the soul of the American people” in children packing boxes to help brighten Christmas for service members and communities coming together to help one another.

“In this season of joy, we spend time with our families, we renew our bonds of love and goodwill between our citizens

TRUMP | 6

Dark Christmas



AP PHOTO

Dark, desperate life without power in Puerto Rico

By DANICA COTO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOROVIS, Puerto Rico — Three days before Christmas, Doris Martinez and daughter Miriam Narvaez joined their neighbors in a line outside city hall in Morovis, a town of 30,000 people still living without electricity in the mountains of central Puerto Rico more than three months after

Hurricane Maria battered the U.S. island.

They waited two hours under the searing sun for their twice-a-week handout — 24 bottles of water and a cardboard box filled with basic foods such as tortillas, canned vegetables and cereal.

Martinez, a 73-year-old cancer survivor, balanced the water atop the food and picked her way up a steep

hill to the home where she lives alone, washing and wringing out her clothes by hand and locking herself in at night, afraid of robbers. Her 53-year-old daughter loaded her food and water into her car and drove off to the public housing complex where she would then have to wait with dozens of other neighbors in another line to cook on one of six gas burners in the

administrator’s office.

“Things are not good,” Narvaez said as she headed toward home.

This is life in Puerto Rico more than three months after Maria destroyed the island’s electrical grid. Gov. Ricardo Rossello promised in mid-October to restore 95 percent of electricity delivery by Dec. 15,

DARK | 6



AP PHOTO

In this June 17, 2015 file photo, Rep. Stephen Fincher, R-Tenn. is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Buoyed by Alabama win, Democrats eye Tennessee Senate race

By ERIK SCHELZIG and JONATHAN MATTISE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Democrats eager to take control of the Senate next year are turning to the state of Tennessee, where a popular Democratic former governor is running for the seat being vacated by the retirement of Republican Sen. Bob Corker.

Neither of Tennessee’s two top GOP candidates, Rep. Marsha Blackburn and former Rep. Stephen Fincher, has the kind of personal baggage Republican Roy Moore had in the Alabama race won by a Democrat. But both have wholeheartedly embraced President Donald Trump at what Democrats hope is exactly the wrong time.

“Tennessee is clearly in play,” said Paul Maslin, a pollster who worked for the

SENATE | 6

INSIDE TODAY'S WIRE

Uptick in panhandlers is more than seasonal



Police say there is little police can do as long as the panhandlers aren't obstructing traffic.

See page 2.

Probation ending for 8-year-old who killed



The boy's father, Vincent Romero, 29, was found face-down on the staircase inside. The body on the porch was Timothy Romans, 39, who rented a room there.

See page 4.

Drought threatens Holy Land's waters



The Sea of Galilee stands at a century low, much of the Jordan River is a fetid trickle and the Dead Sea is rapidly shrinking.

See page 12.

STATE

Uptick in panhandlers is more than just seasonal swing

By CINDY SWIRKO
GAINESVILLE SUN

GAINESVILLE — Police say there is little police can do as long as the panhandlers aren't obstructing traffic.

If you travel on Archer Road or Southwest 16th Avenue near the hospitals, you may have seen Courtney Platz and thought, "jeez, these panhandlers are everywhere."

Platz herself joked about the prevalence of people on streets and roads. Asking people in stopped cars to proffer a few dollars is "horrifying and humiliating," she said, but something she and her husband need to do to pay her electric bill and other needs.

"We can't afford to pay our bills on the \$8.25 an hour my husband makes," Platz said. "I never thought I would be doing this."

Panhandlers have been road furniture on Gainesville streets for ages, but law enforcement and the public are noticing a lot more of them lately — seemingly on every corner in Gainesville and at all four Interstate 75 ramps on Newberry and Archer Roads.

Complaints have been lodged, mostly that some panhandlers are seeking

donations too aggressively or leaving behind a mess of litter when they pull up stakes.

Law enforcement rarely does anything, but there is little it can do as long as the panhandlers aren't obstructing traffic.

"We have gotten calls and numerous messages through social media with people complaining about it. Just about anywhere you go there is a noticeable increase in panhandling activity," said Alachua County sheriff's spokesman Art Forgey. "As long as they are on public property, we are not doing anything about it. Deputies just go on — unless they have a complaint, there is nothing they can do."

The city of Gainesville has panhandling ordinances on the books, but the Gainesville Police Department is not enforcing them due to federal court rulings, said GPD spokesman Ben Tobias.

"I understand the city is in the process of attempting to rewrite the ordinances, but we currently cannot enforce the ordinances as they are on the books," Tobias wrote in an email Tuesday.

Some panhandlers, such as Platz, have homes. Others, such as Leon Johnson and

Terry Debrule, don't.

The men were stationed on opposite sides of the Interstate 75 northbound exit ramp at Newberry Road and said they are just biding time in Gainesville until they can get home — Lake City for Johnson and Panama City for Debrule.

Johnson, carrying a sign reading "Share the love. God bless," said he is one of about 25 men who sleep in an embankment behind a Newberry Road gas station. He came to Gainesville to visit a friend, who died.

"Right now, I'm trying to get some money to get a motel room to stay out of the weather," Johnson said. "I'm going back to Lake City after Tuesday."

Debrule has a tent at the interchange for shelter. He came to Gainesville after visiting a brother in Live Oak.

"I'm fixing to go to Panama City. I have a job as soon as I get there. I just trying to get up the money to get there, or I'll hitchhike," Debrule said. "I have to eat. I don't have a job here, so I have no choice but to do it."

The Newberry Road/I-75 interchange is a particularly crowded spot for panhandlers. They can often be seen under the overpass and fragments of littered signs along the road hint at their stories



AP PHOTO

In a Saturday Dec. 9, photo, Courtney Platz holds her cardboard sign that reads "I am not a bad person, but one who made bad choices," as she panhandles along SW 16th Avenue, in Gainesville, Florida. Panhandlers have been road furniture on Gainesville streets for ages, but law enforcement and the public are noticing a lot more of them lately. Police say there is little they can do as long as the panhandlers aren't obstructing traffic.

— "prego wife. Please help," read one.

Platz is among many across the country whose lives have been turned upside down by drug addiction.

After attending college in Nashville, Tennessee, Platz came to Gainesville to attend the zoo animal technology program at Santa Fe College, she said. Her life took a turn south with an addiction

to painkillers following an accident, which led to the abuse of other drugs. She said she met her husband, John Schmidlapp, in rehab.

Both have been clean and sober for about a year, she said, and recently got involved with the University City Church of Christ — she was baptized — and hopes that the worst is behind her. She hopes she and

Schmidlapp won't have to ask motorists for money much longer.

"It's a complete dichotomy," Platz said. "People are either really understanding and they will listen and give you a chance or they have already decided that you're a junkie and if they give me money I'm going to buy a bottle or a pill. They've already made up their minds."

HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Florida woman celebrates 110th birthday on Christmas Day

ESTERO (AP) — A Florida woman is celebrating her 110th birthday on Christmas Day. In a Naples Daily News report, Mildred Lewis of Estero said her family often

slipped in extra presents or desserts to acknowledge her birthday amid the Christmas festivities.

But Lewis said the double celebration also has become bittersweet over the years, after the deaths of friends and family members.

Lewis was born Dec. 25, 1907, in Zebra, Missouri. She worked as an elementary

school teacher for about 30 years. She moved in with her daughter in Florida about 10 years ago.

Lewis' 70-year-old son Tom said his mother was a little hard of hearing but otherwise healthy.

Lewis said she had no tips for living such a long life. She said she just "went along with the flow."

Troopers: Toddler killed as dad backs truck out driveway

BRONSON (AP) — Authorities say a Florida boy was run over by a pickup truck his father was backing out of his driveway.

In a Gainesville Sun report, Florida Highway Patrol troopers said 1-year-old Logan

Holder was struck while in his driveway in Bronson on Sunday afternoon.

Troopers said Logan's father was driving his truck in reverse out his driveway when the vehicle ran over his son.

The boy was pronounced dead at a hospital.

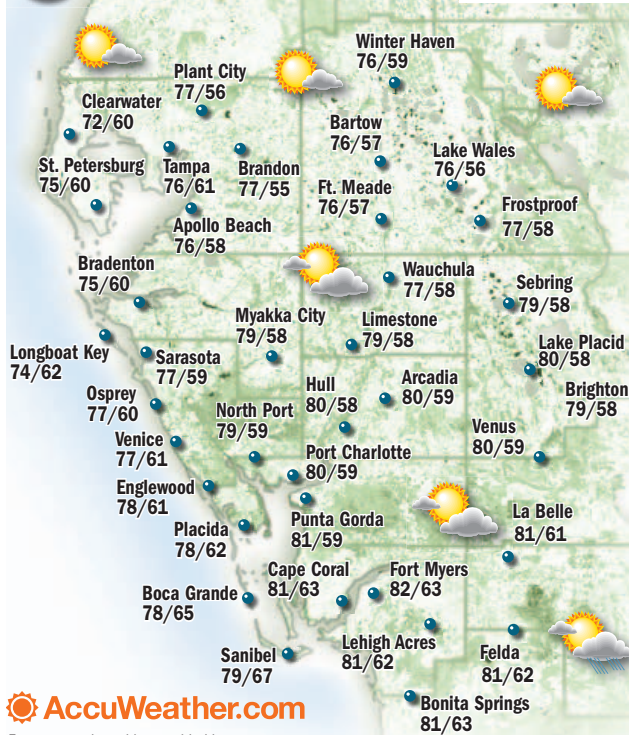
Troopers said their investigation was continuing and charges were pending.

TODAY / TONIGHT WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

<p>Mostly sunny</p> <p>High 80°</p> <p>5% chance of rain</p>	<p>Rather cloudy</p> <p>Low 59°</p> <p>5% chance of rain</p>	<p>Intervals of clouds and sun</p> <p>82° / 61°</p> <p>10% chance of rain</p>	<p>Clouds and sun</p> <p>81° / 61°</p> <p>15% chance of rain</p>	<p>Pleasant with clouds and sunshine</p> <p>78° / 56°</p> <p>25% chance of rain</p>	<p>Nice with times of clouds and sun</p> <p>75° / 59°</p> <p>10% chance of rain</p>	<p>Pleasant with times of clouds and sun</p> <p>79° / 60°</p> <p>25% chance of rain</p>
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70° GULF WATER TEMPERATURE

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



FLORIDA CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
Apalachicola	62 49 pc	59 49 sh
Bradenton	75 60 pc	78 61 pc
Clearwater	72 60 s	75 61 pc
Coral Springs	80 68 pc	82 70 pc
Daytona Beach	73 57 pc	73 60 pc
Fort Lauderdale	79 70 pc	81 70 pc
Fort Myers	82 63 s	83 64 pc
Gainesville	70 50 pc	67 49 pc
Jacksonville	68 50 pc	64 48 c
Key Largo	80 72 pc	80 71 s
Key West	80 70 pc	79 69 s
Lakeland	75 57 s	76 60 pc
Melbourne	77 62 s	80 65 pc
Miami	82 70 pc	83 70 pc
Naples	81 64 s	82 64 s
Ocala	73 52 pc	71 53 pc
Okeechobee	77 59 s	79 62 pc
Orlando	77 58 pc	79 60 pc
Panama City	61 46 s	58 45 sh
Pensacola	61 45 pc	53 44 r
Pompano Beach	80 70 pc	82 71 s
St. Augustine	68 54 pc	65 55 c
St. Petersburg	75 60 s	77 59 pc
Sarasota	77 59 pc	79 59 pc
Tallahassee	62 44 pc	57 43 sh
Tampa	76 61 s	79 61 pc
Vero Beach	77 62 pc	79 64 sh
West Palm Beach	79 69 pc	81 70 pc

TIDES

Location	High	Low	High	Low
Punta Gorda	Today 8:14a	3:13a	9:23p	3:06p
Englewood	Today 6:51a	1:29a	8:00p	1:22p
Boca Grande	Today 4:27a	12:29a	7:33p	12:07p
El Jobean	Today 8:46a	3:42a	9:55p	3:35p
Venice	Today 5:06a	12:08a	6:15p	12:01p

MARINE

Location	Wind	Speed	Seas	Bay/Inland
Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs	NE	7-14	1-2	Light
Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola	NE	7-14	1-3	Light

SUN AND MOON

Day	Rise	Set
Today	7:16 a.m.	5:43 p.m.
Wednesday	7:16 a.m.	5:43 p.m.

SOLUNAR TABLE

Day	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Today	11:51a	5:40a	---	6:03p
Wed.	12:15a	6:25a	12:37p	6:50p
Thu.	12:58a	7:11a	1:24p	7:36p

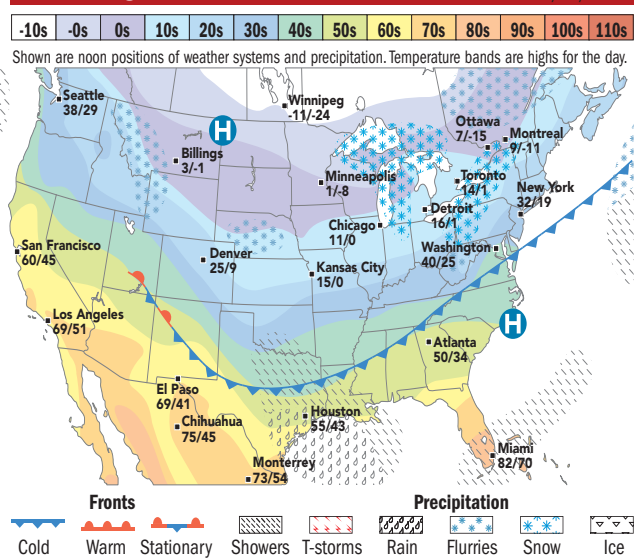
WEATHER HISTORY

Miami, Fla., was in a cold snap on Dec. 26, 1983. The 33-degree low temperature was a record for December.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What was the largest ice accumulation from freezing rain?

THE NATION



U.S. Extremes

High	83° at Hollywood, FL	Low	-31° at Park Rapids, MN
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City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Albuquerque	58 32 pc	59 29 s	Jackson, MS	53 36 c	46 36 c
Anchorage	22 14 pc	22 11 pc	Kansas City	15 0 c	19 16 pc
Atlanta	50 34 s	47 34 pc	Knoxville	42 25 pc	40 19 c
Baltimore	37 22 pc	30 14 pc	Las Vegas	63 43 pc	66 45 s
Billings	3 -1 pc	20 6 sn	Los Angeles	69 51 pc	73 52 s
Birmingham	50 30 pc	46 32 c	Louisville	33 13 c	25 14 pc
Boise	28 20 pc	34 21 c	Memphis	44 24 pc	35 22 c
Boston	27 13 pc	21 7 s	Milwaukee	7 -1 s	10 3 s
Buffalo	14 5 c	14 3 pc	Minneapolis	1 -8 s	5 0 s
Burlington, VT	17 -1 c	7 -8 s	Montgomery	51 36 pc	47 37 r
Charleston, WV	33 16 c	25 11 pc	Nashville	42 22 pc	34 20 c
Charlotte	48 30 pc	46 23 c	New Orleans	59 45 r	53 44 r
Chicago	11 0 c	12 5 pc	New York City	32 19 pc	27 17 pc
Cincinnati	26 6 c	21 8 pc	Norfolk, VA	43 27 pc	40 24 c
Cleveland	18 7 sf	14 8 c	Oklahoma City	36 18 pc	34 26 c
Columbia, SC	53 35 pc	49 29 c	Omaha	11 -7 pc	13 8 pc
Columbus, OH	22 7 pc	18 8 pc	Philadelphia	34 22 pc	28 18 s
Concord, NH	21 0 pc	15 -6 s	Phoenix	71 48 pc	75 47 s
Dallas	44 34 r	45 34 c	Pittsburgh	26 9 pc	20 8 s
Denver	25 9 s	48 23 s	Portland, ME	25 4 pc	16 -5 s
Des Moines	12 -4 pc	17 7 pc	Portland, OR	38 33 r	43 40 r
Detroit	16 1 pc	15 1 pc	Providence	29 14 pc	22 9 s
Duluth	-9 -19 s	-4 -13 s	Raleigh	45 25 pc	46 19 c
Fairbanks	4 -5 pc	3 -12 s	Salt Lake City	41 28 c	43 28 pc
Fargo	-6 -20 s	0 -4 s	St. Louis	20 5 c	20 8 pc
Hartford	26 9 pc	19 4 s	San Antonio	58 41 r	46 38 c
Helena	8 5 c	21 12 sn	San Diego	65 48 pc	68 48 s
Honolulu	81 69 r	80 67 pc	San Francisco	60 45 s	57 43 s
Houston	55 43 r	49 39 r	Seattle	38 29 c	41 39 r
Indianapolis	17 1 c	14 5 pc	Washington, DC	40 25 pc	34 19 pc

WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Amsterdam	45 38 r	43 36 r	Mexico City	71 44 pc	72 44 pc
Baghdad	67 45 s	69 46 pc	Montreal	9 -11 s	-2 -16 s
Beijing	37 16 s	39 19 s	Ottawa	7 -15 s	-4 -17 s
Berlin	49 34 pc	43 36 c	Paris	46 40 c	43 32 r
Buenos Aires	62 67 pc	61 67 s	Regina	-9 -19 s	-4 -11 pc
Cairo	99 51 s	98 55 pc	Rio de Janeiro	86 75 r	89 76 r
Calgary	0 -12 pc	4 -5 s	Rome	59 48 sh	58 46 r
Cancun	82 72 pc	83 70 pc	St. John's	32 21 c	25 17 pc
Dublin	40 32 c	39 29 pc	San Juan	83 76 pc	84 75 pc
Edmonton	-5 -10 s	-1 -12 c	Sydney	74 70 pc	78 71 pc
Halifax	28 14 pc	19 7 c	Tokyo	56 35 s	46 36 s
Kiev	42 33 pc	40 34 pc	Toronto	14 1 c	12 -11 sf
London	47 36 r	41 32 sn	Vancouver	35 27 c	36 32 sf
Madrid	50 42 pc	52 41 pc	Winnipeg	-11 -24 c	-7 -17 pc

PORT CHARLOTTE

Temperatures	High/Low	Record High/Low
Today	77°/57°	86° (2015)
Normal High/Low	75°/53°	27° (1989)

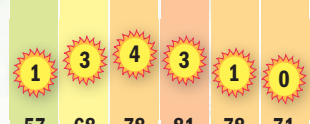
SEBRING

Temperatures	High/Low
Today	75°/62°

AIRPORT

City	Hi/Lo	Outlook	Delays
Ft. Myers	82/63	sun	none
Punta Gorda	81/59	part cldy	none
Sarasota	77/59	part cldy	none

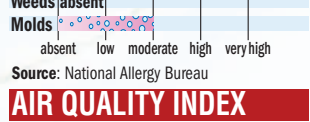
CONDITIONS TODAY



POLLEN INDEX



AIR QUALITY INDEX



Main pollutant: Ozone

STATE

Republican lawmaker Don Hahnfeldt dies

By **JIM SAUNDERS**
THE NEWS SERVICE
OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — Central Florida Republican Don Hahnfeldt, elected to the state House last year after a Navy career that included commanding nuclear submarines, has died, House Speaker Richard Corcoran announced Monday. "It is with deep sadness that I notify you of the passing of our friend and colleague Representative Don Hahnfeldt," Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, said in a memo to House members. "Don lived a life of extraordinary service to his country, his state and his community. Our thoughts and prayers

are with his family. We will pass along further details as they become available."

Hahnfeldt, who lived in The Villages retirement community, was elected to the House last year in District 33, which includes Sumter and parts of Lake and Marion counties. Hahnfeldt had opened a campaign account to run for re-election in 2018.

A 2016 campaign website said Hahnfeldt served 32 years in the Navy, commanding two nuclear submarines and serving as commander of the Pacific Fleet's Strategic Submarine Squadron. After moving to The Villages, he was elected to the Sumter County Commission in

2012, where he served until getting elected to the House.

Hahnfeldt, 73, drew praise from fellow House members after Corcoran announced his death.

"Very saddened by the passing of Don Hahnfeldt," Rep. Dane Eagle, R-Cape Coral, tweeted. "He lived an impressive life and was an immovable, principled force in the Florida House. Many prayers to his family. Hold your loved ones close this Christmas and everyday."

Rep. Chris Sprowls, a Palm Harbor Republican slated to become House speaker in 2020, tweeted: "Our whole Florida House family is saddened by the passing of our colleague Rep.

Don Hahnfeldt. Our hearts go out to his wife, his children and his grandchildren. As well as all their friends and neighbors. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers."

Hahnfeldt's death comes little more than two weeks before the Jan. 9 start of the 2018 legislative session. He served on six legislative panels, including serving as vice-chairman of the House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee."

Last week, Hahnfeldt and Rep. Lori Berman, D-Lantana, filed a bill (HB 1029) that would raise the legal age for smoking from 18 to 21. In a news release issued with Berman and Senate sponsor David

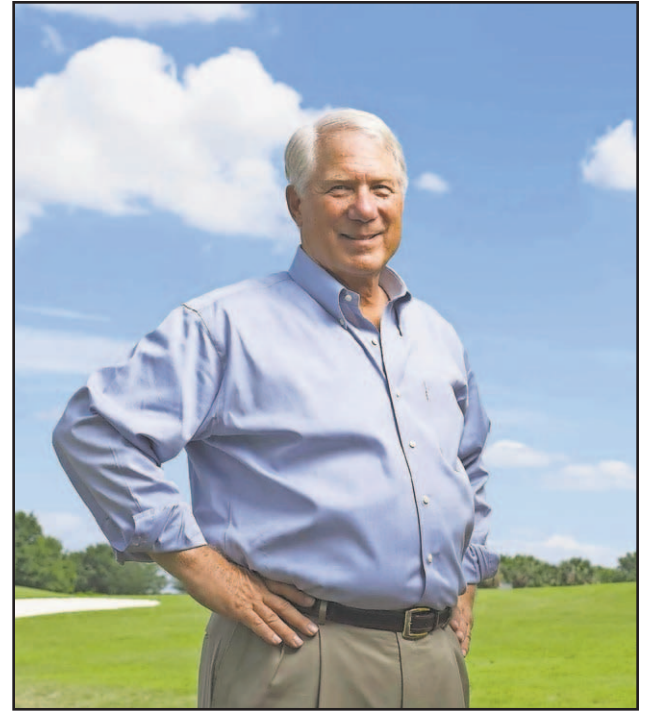


PHOTO PROVIDED

Don Hahnfeldt

Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, Hahnfeldt said raising the legal age "will save a projected 270,000 young lives and \$8.6 billion in health care costs, as well as \$8.3 billion in productivity losses."

HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Biologists: Counts of Florida grasshopper sparrows are low

ORLANDO (AP) — Biologists say surveys of endangered Florida grasshopper sparrows in the wild have been discouraging. The Orlando Sentinel reports 40 females and 74 males were counted last year. This year, however, only 22 females and 53 males were counted. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials say the bird could disappear from its native habitat within two years, despite conservation efforts. Larry Williams, the agency's supervisor for ecological services in Florida, said the likelihood for a sustaining a

wild population of Florida grasshopper sparrows is "low." The bird lives in remote, treeless prairies in central Florida. Last year, the Rare Species Conservatory in Palm Beach County began breeding Florida grasshopper sparrows in captivity. Director Paul Reillo says the project has been challenged by the emergence of a deadly disease linked to parasites in the birds' guts.

Florida man charged with murder after wife's body found

TITUSVILLE (AP) — A Florida man was charged with second-degree murder after

police found his wife's body in a wooded area. Timothy Upthegrove, 53, of Titusville, was held without bond Monday at the Brevard County jail. Police found the body of Upthegrove's 51-year-old wife Lori on Sunday morning in a wooded area near a storage facility. Lori Upthegrove had been missing for nearly a week. Police Chief John Lau told reporters that investigators believe she was killed during a violent struggle with her husband. In a Florida Today report, detectives said Timothy Upthegrove initially lied about seeing his wife drive away from their home, but he later

provided information about where to find her body. Timothy Upthegrove's father released a statement to the newspaper saying the family was cooperating with investigators. **Police: Florida boy killed in Christmas traffic crash** FORT PIERCE (AP) — Police say a boy celebrating his ninth birthday on Christmas Day was killed in a traffic crash in Florida. Fort Pierce Police spokesman Ed Cunningham said in an email that 9-year-old Isaac Santillan of Fort Pierce died early Monday when the car in

which he was riding crashed into an unoccupied pickup truck parked off the roadway. Cunningham said Isaac died at the scene. The boy had been sitting in the car's back seat with his 5-year-old sister. Cunningham said the girl was hospitalized in critical condition. The 5-year-old girl's father was driving the car. Cunningham said the man was hospitalized in stable condition, and an adult woman in the front passenger seat was hospitalized in critical condition. The crash was under investigation. Cunningham said Monday was Isaac's ninth birthday.

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NATION

Probation ending for 8-year-old who killed 2 men

By **FELICIA FONSECA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The call came in to police dispatch just after 5 p.m. on a cold November evening in the small Arizona town of St. Johns: There was a body on the front porch of a house.

Detective Debbie Neckel fastened her bulletproof vest and headed out. As she and Sgt. Lucas Rodriguez approached the blue two-story home, Neckel fixed her eyes on two people, a teenager and an 8-year-old boy standing nearby.

Rodriguez walked toward the house, and Neckel toward the boy, whom she knew from the neighborhood. His arms were outstretched, and he was near tears.

“My dad, my dad. My dad’s dead,” Neckel recalled him saying as she gave her first interview about the case to The Associated Press. “I think my dad’s dead.”

The boy’s father, Vincent Romero, 29, was found face-down on the staircase inside. The body on the porch was Romero’s friend and co-worker, Timothy Romans, 39, who rented a room there.

A swirl of suspects would emerge before a truth was revealed that no one saw coming: The 8-year-old killed both men.

The child came home Nov. 5, 2008, and killed his father with a single-shot .22-caliber rifle, holding the bullets in his small hand to reload after each shot. He called to Romans that something was wrong, then shot him, too.

Nine years later, the boy is days from his 18th birthday with a chance to move on from a crime that has defined his life. He will sign paperwork Friday freeing him from intensive probation, psychological evaluations, travel restrictions and having his every move monitored.

“Things will be fundamentally different,” said his attorney, Ron Wood.

The Associated Press isn’t identifying the teen because of his age at the time of the shootings.

The transition will be easier because of the support network he built since pleading guilty to negligent homicide in Romans’ death, said Wood and Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting, who prosecuted the case.

The charge for killing his father was dropped.

Whiting said at the time that it was in the boy’s best interest not to be forced to acknowledge killing his father.

The boy first was held at a youth treatment center near Phoenix, then moved to a group home and then a foster home. Besides a trio of probation violations when he was 12, he’s avoided trouble. He will likely stay in the foster home beyond his 18th birthday and continue treatment until he’s 21, Whiting said.

His probation officer declined to discuss the case, and periodic evaluations of the boy that might shed light on his treatment are sealed.

Whiting said he could not discuss specifics but noted that several people have gone out of their way to ensure the boy gets help. At one point, a psychiatrist who treated him offered to take him in.

Romero’s mother, Liz Castillo, has been the boy’s biggest supporter, regularly attending hearings and visiting him. She declined to comment but said early on she would not give up on her grandson.

The boy initially told authorities he found the men dead when he got home from school.

His role might have gone undiscovered much longer if Romans had not been on the phone with his wife while he waited for Romero to grab a car part, Neckel said. Romero went in, saw his son with a gun and scolded him for getting it from underneath his bed. The boy ran upstairs, turning and shooting his father as he followed.

Romans cut short his conversation with his wife, Tanya, when the boy called for him.

“Tim, I need you to come in here,” he said, according to court transcripts. “Something’s wrong with Dad.”

Tanya Romans urged police to talk to the boy. Still, no one thought he was a suspect.

But authorities came to think he might have witnessed the crime and was in danger. Neckel was the lead investigator, promoted to detective a day before the shootings. She and sheriff’s Cmdr. Matrese Avila interviewed the child, who confessed in a videotaped interview released early on by prosecutors.

The nation watched as the boy — sitting in an oversized chair, his feet dangling — gave

conflicting accounts before admitting to killing both men.

He buried his head in his jacket at the end, saying: “I’m going to go to juvie.”

Neckel told the AP this month that when they first started quizzing him, she believed the cheerful boy with a singsong voice was covering for someone.

She started to realize the truth after about 45 minutes, and when she watched the tape, it sank in. A key moment, she said, is when the boy demonstrated how one of the bodies shook and he kicked it with his foot.

“We had one focus — literally one focus — to get the name of the killer,” she said. “It was supposed to be an adult. And we were supposed to go out and save the day and get (the boy) out of danger.”

Neckel knew the boy from her neighborhood in the town of about 3,500 near the New Mexico border. He was the child who jumped on the trampoline with his cousin, played outside with his dog, tried to coax a cat from a culvert, called her “Mrs. Neckel” and said, “Have a good day at work” when she pulled out of her driveway.

After their interview, she went into the restroom and cried. Her regret, she said, was not including him in her suspect pool from the start.

No motive was revealed, but the boy mentioned he was spanked for not bringing home some school papers.

Neckel said the papers were a behavioral report from his teacher. Romero and his wife, Tiffany, told the boy he would be spanked once for each day he forgot them, Neckel said. That day he would have received four swats.

Police investigated possible abuse but found nothing that would have warranted charges, Neckel said.

Tanya Romans thinks the justice system forgot about her husband. She said she was asked to submit any concerns for an upcoming hearing but she and their two daughters decided it’s pointless.

She’s well aware the teen’s birthday is Dec. 29. Hers is, too.

“I can’t give up on a kid,” Neckel said. “I hope that releasing him isn’t the worst mistake ever made. But he was a little kid. You have to give him a chance.”

US fishermen fear forests of power turbines

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — East Coast fishermen are turning a wary eye toward an emerging upstart: the offshore wind industry.

In New Bedford, Massachusetts, the onetime whaling capital made famous in Herman Melville’s “Moby-Dick,” fishermen dread the possibility of navigating a forest of turbines as they make their way to the fishing grounds that have made it the nation’s most lucrative fishing port for 17 years running.

The state envisions hundreds of wind turbines spinning off the city’s shores in about a decade, enough to power more than 1 million homes.

“You ever see a radar picture of a wind farm? It’s just one big blob, basically,” said Eric Hansen, 56, a New Bedford scallop boat owner whose family has been in the business for generations. “Transit through it will be next to impossible, especially in heavy wind and fog.”

Off New York’s Long



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Aug. 15, 2016, photo three wind turbines from the Deepwater Wind project stand in the Atlantic Ocean off Block Island, R.I.

Island, an organization representing East Coast scallopers has sued the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to try to halt a proposal for a nearly 200-turbine wind farm. Commercial fishermen in Maryland’s Ocean City and North Carolina’s Outer Banks have also sounded the alarm about losing access to fishing grounds.

Supporters of offshore wind say they have learned from Europe’s long experience with it. They also point to the more recent

opening of America’s lone offshore wind farm, off Rhode Island, as evidence the actual impact to U.S. fishermen will be less than feared.

“We want to do this the right way, and I believe we have a path to do that,” said Matthew Morrissey, a vice president at Deepwater Wind, the Rhode Island company that opened that five-turbine operation off Block Island last December and is proposing larger farms elsewhere along the East Coast.

In New Bedford, where the state has already built a \$113 million heavy-duty terminal to take on turbine construction and shipment, city officials envision commercial fishing and offshore wind working hand in hand to revive a region that has long lagged behind nearby Boston.

For fishermen, the broader concern is that offshore wind farms will only lead to more stifling restrictions.

“Fishermen are losing ground one a nibble at a time,” said Joseph Gilbert, a Stonington, Connecticut fisherman who owns boats that range from Virginia to Maine. “Eventually, it adds up to a very large piece of the pie.”

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which oversees wind farm developments in federal waters, has taken steps to address fishermen’s concerns, among them excluding specific habitats off Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York from wind farm development, said spokesman Stephen

Boutwell.

It has also invested in studies looking specifically at questions raised by fishermen, from the effects of pile-driving during wind farm construction to the effect of electromagnetic fields on fish behavior, he said.

Deepwater Wind, meanwhile, said preliminary findings from environmental studies of its Block Island wind farm suggest fish and lobster populations are “just as strong” as before construction.

The company says it has compensated over a dozen fishermen who temporarily lost access to their fishing grounds during construction.

But while there haven’t been reports of fishing boats striking the turbines, about a dozen boats have reported trawls getting damaged by concrete structures covering undersea power cables, costing tens of thousands of dollars in equipment and lost fishing time, said Richard Fuka, president of the Rhode Island

Fishermen’s Alliance.

U.S. fishermen also cast a worried glance at to Europe, where a range of restrictions have been imposed on fishing around the more than 3,500 turbines spinning off the shores of 10 different countries. U.S. officials and developers stress similar bans aren’t being considered stateside, except during construction.

Studies in the North Sea suggest the turbines act as reefs, supporting mussels that draw fish and other sea life. But where advocates see biodiversity, commercial fishermen point to other studies noting modest effects on native species in Europe.

There have been at least two minor cases of fishing boats hitting turbines, he said. Fishermen largely rely on turbine platform lights as guides, but they’re not always well maintained. The most persistent problem has been sea currents exposing buried power cables, prompting restrictions while they’re repaired, he said.

HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

Illinois law treats pets more like children in custody cases

CHICAGO (Chicago Tribune) — Judges in divorce cases can consider the well-being of pets in allocating sole or joint ownership, under an Illinois law that takes effect Jan. 1.

“It sort of starts treating your animal more like children” instead of property, said Illinois state Sen. Linda Holmes, an animal lover who sponsored the legislation. “If you’re going before a judge, they’re allowed to take the best interest of the animal into consideration.”

The law, similar to one in Alaska, applies only to pets that are marital assets, not service animals.

Pets are another issue to hash out in a divorce, in addition to money, children and possessions. For years, pets have been treated no different from other pieces of property to be divided

between a divorcing couple.

Most couples are able agree on pets outside of court, said Jeffrey Knipmeyer, a partner at Nottage and Ward, a family law practice in Chicago.

But when a pet custody case does reach court, the state law could be helpful in giving judges guidance on how to decide, said Madeline Marzano-Lesnevich, president of the academy.

Over the past decade, the question of pet custody has become more prevalent, particularly when it involves a two-income couple with no children who shared responsibility for and are both attached to a pet, she said.

The new law gives judges more leeway in deciding what to do with a pet instead of simply giving it to one side or the other, Knipmeyer said.

The matter could be resolved with both parties sharing custody or, as the law calls it, joint ownership.

United apologizes to passenger who says US Rep got her seat

HOUSTON (AP) — United Airlines has apologized and given a \$500 travel voucher to a passenger who accused the airline of giving her first-class seat to U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Houston Democrat.

An airline spokeswoman said Monday that its internal systems show the passenger, Jean-Marie Simon, canceled her Dec. 18 seat from Houston to Washington, D.C. after a weather delay.

Simon denies that she canceled the flight. She was given a seat in Economy Plus on the flight, and told the Houston Chronicle she saw Jackson Lee sitting in the seat that was assigned to her.

United says it upgraded Jackson Lee automatically

and not because she was a member of Congress. The congresswoman says in a statement that she didn’t ask for anything “exceptional or out of the ordinary.”

Oklahoma school sued for alleged sex abuse of students

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — An Oklahoma school and its board of directors are being sued on behalf of 15 girls who say they were molested by a teacher’s aide.

The federal lawsuit filed Friday in Oklahoma City seeks unspecified damages from the Perry school district and the school board for allegedly failing to protect the elementary students from molestation by 86-year-old Arnold Cowen.

No attorney for the school or board is listed in court documents.

Cowen has pleaded not guilty to 19 felony charges of committing lewd or indecent acts to a child under 16, one count of making an indecent proposal and one count of possessing child pornography.

Former principal Kenda Miller and former teacher Jeffrey Sullins face misdemeanor charges of failing to report child abuse.

Sullins has pleaded not guilty while Miller has asked that the charge be dismissed.

Nevada man sentenced in sale of stolen Air Force ammunition

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Nevada man who sold smoke grenades and military-issued ammunition stolen from the U.S. Air Force has been sentenced to 18 months in prison and two years’ probation.

U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre says 38-year-old Temogen Tran Noguni of Henderson was sentenced Friday in Las Vegas after pleading guilty in August to one count of unauthorized sale of U.S. property.

Two co-defendants previously pleaded guilty to criminal charges in the case, including Jonathan Owens, a 27-year-old staff sergeant at Nellis Air Force Base.

Federal prosecutors say Noguni acknowledged he bought the items from Owens in 2015.

In addition to smoke grenades, the items included body armor vests, rifle scope, night vision binoculars and goggles. The ammunition included armor-piercing .50 caliber cartridges not available for public sale.

Myhre says Noguni was arrested after he listed the items for sale on the internet.

STATE-BY-STATE

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Birmingham: The Jefferson County sheriff's office will begin testing body cameras for deputies next year, AL.com reports.

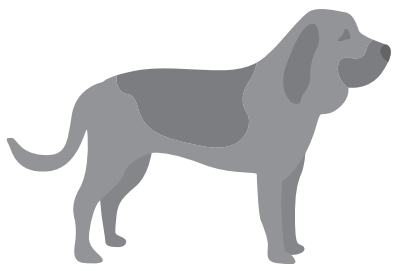
ALASKA Juneau: The city's Police Department is facing a shortage of 11 officers, with two more retiring soon, *The Juneau Empire* reports.

ARIZONA Williams: State game officials are investigating another poaching of a bull elk, at least the fourth in Arizona since last month.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: Recent rain has lifted burn bans in all but four counties, *The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reports.

CALIFORNIA Los Angeles: The Los Angeles Zoo euthanized its entire herd of threatened Nubian ibex goats last month because they were the source of an infectious and incurable strain of herpes.

COLORADO Aspen: Federal officials say they don't believe a proposed timber cut in the Fryingpan Valley will overrun Basalt with logging trucks, *The Aspen Times* reports.



CONNECTICUT Danbury: A police bloodhound went missing during the search for a man with autism in woods near Wooster Mountain. Authorities say another bloodhound located the missing man, but the dog named Texas couldn't be found.

DELAWARE Dover: Gov. John Carney is asking a federal judge to revisit a ruling that the state constitution requirement for courts to be politically balanced is unconstitutional.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Suburban Washington police investigating a fatal crash involving an intoxicated driver wound up making two DUI arrests of drivers who came upon the scene.

FLORIDA Leesburg: A medical examiner's office was temporarily shut down after mercury was discovered on human bones, *The Daily Commercial* reports.

GEORGIA Sandersville: A grand jury indicted three former Washington County sheriff's deputies who are white on murder charges in the stun gun death of a black man who they said acted "suspiciously" after asking a stranger for water, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reports.

HAWAII Wailuku: Rapidly increasing erosion on the Maui shoreline is threatening a cemetery temple building and has swept away close to 100 gravestones, *The Maui News* reports.

IDAHO Boise: Idaho Power is scaling back plans to boost hydroelectric capacity at its generating facility at Shoshone Falls.

ILLINOIS Springfield: A report finds that incidents alleging abuse and neglect of residents under the state Department of Human Services' care have increased by half since 2010.

INDIANA Indianapolis: The state Department of Transportation has a new mobile app that shows current traffic speeds, travel advisories and winter weather road conditions.

IOWA Des Moines: A state audit says a University of Iowa physics professor misused more than \$90,000 on hosting unauthorized conferences between 2011 and this year.

KANSAS Lawrence: The University of Kansas is cutting out-of-state tuition to attract high-achieving students, while sending more money to in-state students who need financial help, *The Topeka Capital-Journal* reports.

KENTUCKY Ashland: A former senior vice president at Town Square Bank has admitted to taking \$1.4 million by processing loans to fake customers, *The Independent* reports.

LOUISIANA New Orleans: Authorities say a city jail guard was arrested after acknowledging she had sexual contact with an inmate and gave him and others contraband drugs and cigarettes.

MAINE Waterville: Police arrested the owners of two pit bills that were

HIGHLIGHT: TENNESSEE



Danni Messina, right, endorses a \$190,000 check. THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Teen's tweet leads to \$190K hospital donation

Ron Maxey
USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee

MEMPHIS - It's been quite a month for Danni Messina, and both she and the patients of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are the richer for it.

"It's been insane," Messina said Wednesday inside the Danny Thomas/ALSAC Pavilion on the St. Jude campus.

Messina's coaster ride odyssey began with a tweet in November on the other side of the country.

Messina, 19, a Seattle native attending Washington State University, tweeted Nov. 25 that she would pledge 25 cents to St. Jude for each favorite she got on her tweet and 50 cents for each retweet. She expected the tweet to stay within her circle of friends and allow her to meet her plan to donate \$1,000 to the hospital.

Then things went sideways — or insane, to use Messina's word.

The tweet took on a life of its own, spread around enough to require roughly \$50,000 if Messina was to honor her commitment. A GoFundMe campaign stepped up to help, then St. Jude caught wind and hooked Messina up with corporate partner Kmart, which held a "Danni Messina Day" at its stores to raise funds.

By the time it was over, Messina's little tweet resulted in a

\$190,000 donation to St. Jude, which Messina was on hand to present in person Wednesday. Along with the presentation, Messina got a tour of the hospital and spent some time with St. Jude patient Madison Conklin, with whom Messina struck up a friendship during the course of the fundraising effort.

"It's just been so heartwarming," said Messina, who had never been to Memphis or St. Jude. She was inspired to help the hospital after talking with a friend who had spent Thanksgiving with his grandmother there. "Being here, it's just so real now."

Conklin, 20, became part of the story through, naturally, Twitter. She saw Messina's original tweet and began following her. When Conklin tweeted one of her friend's stories and wrote how that friend was running out of treatment options, Messina saw it and reached out.

"She (Messina) saw it and asked if I was a patient," said Conklin, who was diagnosed last November with Hodgkin Lymphoma. Conklin of Memphis was in school in east Tennessee at the time of her diagnosis but moved back home for treatment at St. Jude.

"We messaged back and forth, and Danni said she was coming to Memphis and would like to meet," Conklin said.

ordered euthanized for killing another dog and seriously injuring a woman, *The Morning Sentinel* reports. One of the owners claims the dogs ran off into the woods during a walk.

MARYLAND Baltimore: The number of people killed in city fires, 28 so far this year, is the highest in a decade, *The Baltimore Sun* reports.

MASSACHUSETTS Framingham: A woman was arrested for attempting to steal more than \$1,000 in goods from a Target store during a "Shop with a Cop" holiday event, *The Boston Globe* reports.

MICHIGAN Farmington: The owner of two Guinness World Record-holding cats says the animals died in a fire that destroyed their home. Arcturus was the world's tallest domestic cat; Cygnus had the longest tail.



MINNESOTA Minneapolis: The state isn't close to its goal of reducing road salt use, but Minneapolis shows slow progress, *Minnesota Public Radio* reports.

MISSISSIPPI Meridian: Mayor Percy Bland says the city will keep its pledge to donate \$1 million over 10 years to the new Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience museum set to open in April, but may have to delay some payments be-

cause of sales tax shortfalls, *The Meridian Star* reports.

MISSOURI Columbia: A longtime professor will be the interim provost at the University of Missouri starting Feb. 1. Jim Spain has taught in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources since 1990.

MONTANA Billings: Representatives of sex abuse victims and their survivors are suing the bankrupt Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings in an effort to ensure that more than \$70 million in assets are available for people abused by church officials.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: Lancaster County has a new roadside memorial sign program for families to honor loved ones killed in car crashes, *The Lincoln Journal Star* reports.

NEVADA Elko: The Elko County Sheriff's Office has acquired a new drone for special events, search and rescue, missing persons, crime scenes and traffic collisions. But officials tell the *Elko Daily Free Press* that it won't be used for random surveillance.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: A proposal to increase state tolls for the first time in a decade appears dead after Gov. Chris Sununu said he won't let it proceed. Transportation officials sought to increase tolls by 50%.

NEW JERSEY Asbury Park: The annual Catsbury Park Cat Convention is making its debut here April 7-8 at Convention Hall, *The Asbury Park Press* reports.

NEW MEXICO Tesuque Pueblo: A Native American tribe plans to build a new casino adjacent to the famed Santa Fe Opera.

NEW YORK Albany: Gov. Andrew Cuomo is proposing rules for online

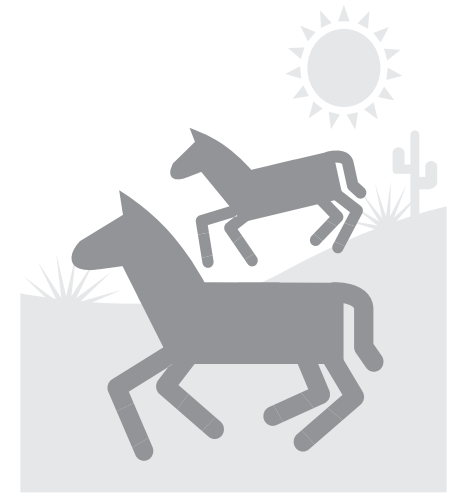
campaign ads to ensure that voters know who's behind the content.

NORTH CAROLINA Supply: Four Dollar General store employees are accused of stealing more than \$27,000 in items over several months.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: The Census Bureau says North Dakota's population shrank slightly over the last year after several years of growth.

OHIO Cincinnati: A rare white tiger was euthanized last week at the Cincinnati Zoo. Officials say Akere was recently diagnosed with non-treatable oral cancer.

OKLAHOMA Colgate: Mowdy Ranch offers visitors an up-close look at wild horses. The ranch is one of the Bureau of Land Management's three ecosanctuaries for mustangs.



OREGON Bend: The City Council has rejected a proposal to elect councilors from geographic wards but supports a recommendation for voters, rather than council members, elect the mayor, *The Bulletin* reports.

PENNSYLVANIA Pittsburgh: Witnesses tell police that the man suspected of setting a fatal fire stood around as the house burned, bragging that he set it. A 4-year-old girl and two women died.

RHODE ISLAND Providence: Two new charter schools have preliminary approval to open here, WPRI-TV reports.

SOUTH CAROLINA Myrtle Beach: The Coastal Conservation League has sued to block construction of Interstate 73 from North Carolina to Myrtle Beach, *The Sun News* reports. The environmental group has proposed the Grand Strand Expressway as an alternative, a U.S. 501 upgrade.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: A state investigation finds that a construction company renovating the Copper Lounge exposed workers and the public to asbestos before the building collapsed last year, the *Argus Leader* reports.

TENNESSEE Memphis: Items tied to Elvis Presley are on the Jan. 6 auction block at The Guest House at Graceland.

TEXAS Galveston: An ex-cop who became a seafood restaurant firm's bookkeeper must serve 20 years in prison for embezzling more than \$440,000 from the business.

UTAH Salt Lake City: Animal rights groups say the University of Utah mistreats lab animals, *The Salt Lake Tribune* reports.

VERMONT Bennington: The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum says a local family will match dollar for dollar all donations to help Basil the snapping turtle get a new tank, *The Bennington Banner* reports.

VIRGINIA Ashburn: A three-acre tract that once served as a slave cemetery is now in the hands of the Loudoun Freedom Center, a preservation group committed to honoring the slaves' memory.

WASHINGTON Seattle: A state report says ocean acidification is getting worse but that scientific advances are helping address the problem, which threatens shellfish and other marine life.

WEST VIRGINIA Keyser: A state lawmaker says he'll revive legislation to help homeless people get IDs needed to apply for jobs or public benefits.

WISCONSIN Madison: Truax Field is the military's top choice for the home of an F-35 fighter squadron. The new planes will arrive in 2022.

WYOMING Casper: Wyoming's population fell for a second straight year, *The Casper Star-Tribune* reports.

Compiled from staff, wire reports.

FROM PAGE ONE

WHITE

FROM PAGE 1

years. It's actually perfect."

States from Montana and the Dakotas to Wisconsin expected wind chill temperatures in places at 40 below zero, the National Weather Service said. The upper half of Iowa and northern Illinois also braced for subzero temperatures.

Minnesota was experiencing its most frigid Christmas Day since 1996, with wind chills as cold as 35 degrees below zero, KSTP-TV reported. The National Weather Service warned that those whose skin was exposed in such conditions could get frostbite in as little as 15 minutes.

Snow amounts in the Midwest were not large for this time of year. A storm system that swept from Nebraska through Iowa dropped around 2 inches of snow on Chicago, the weather service said.

That was just enough to provide a picturesque backdrop for those

gathering for Christmas dinners in the Chicago area. But it wasn't enough to cause havoc either on roadway or airport runaways.

Chicago's O'Hare International Airport was reporting just six cancellations and average delays of only 15 minutes around noon Monday. There were no cancellations at the city's other major airport, Midway, and delays were less than 15 minutes on average.

The nation's third largest city had comparatively little snow for the season until the weekend — just over 2 inches in all, the National Weather Service said.

The city of Milwaukee had 103 salt trucks treating slick spots Monday, according to WITI-TV. The trucks were using treated salt that's deployed when temperatures drop below 15 degrees.

In addition to slowing travel in New England, the storm was responsible for some power outages. Eversource reported more

than 20,000 customers in eastern Massachusetts without electricity, the bulk on Cape Cod which was feeling the brunt of strong winds.

Most of Indiana had been under winter weather advisory with officials urging motorists to stay put unless they absolutely had to travel. Northern Indiana had been expecting up to 5 inches with slightly less in the southern part of the state.

New England was expected to get up to 8 inches of snow. Strong winds were predicted for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island with gusts up to 65 mph.

Mountain areas in parts of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming received more than 1 foot of snow, which started Saturday. It was good news for holiday skiers and resorts which have struggled with a slow start this season.

But it meant a heightened warning of avalanches in higher elevations outside of ski areas.



AP PHOTO

Pedestrians walk down the middle of the road in Moncton, New Brunswick, as a winter storm blows through Atlantic Canada on Monday.

TRUMP

FROM PAGE 1

and, most importantly, we celebrate the miracle of Christmas," Trump said, noting the story of Jesus' birth.

"This good news is the greatest Christmas gift of all, the reason for our joy and the true source of our hope," the president said.

Trump is spending his first Christmas in office at his estate and private club in Palm Beach, Florida. The White House did not say which family members are with him at Mar-a-Lago, but the first lady and their son, Barron,

arrived days before he joined them last Friday.

Trump's daughter, Tiffany Trump, was seen getting off of Air Force One in Florida on Friday, and Donald Trump Jr. shared on social media photos of some of his five children at Christmas Eve dinner with their grandfather.

But the day was not without work. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president had been briefed on Monday's suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed at least six people.

Heading into the holiday, Trump took note of those he considers naughty (a top FBI official, the news media) and nice (U.S. troops stationed overseas and their families, kids eagerly awaiting Santa's arrival). He also squeezed in time for golf, time with family and time for church.

"Merry Christmas," Trump said Sunday night as he and the first lady arrived for a Christmas Eve service at the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, where congregants welcomed them with a standing ovation. The Trumps wed at the church in 2005.

Trump also sought to

cheer U.S. troops who are spending the holiday away from their own families.

"Every American heart is thankful to you and we're asking God to watch over you and to watch over your families," he told Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard members via video hook-up from his estate.

Trump complimented each military branch, but heaped his most effusive praise on the Coast Guard, which impressed him with its rescue operations during a devastating hurricane season.

"You've done such an incredible job in Texas and Florida and Puerto Rico,"

Trump said.

Trump opened Christmas Eve by tweeting against those he feels don't support him, including FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe and the news media.

After playing golf at his private club in neighboring West Palm Beach, the president joined his wife to field calls from children eager to know when Santa Claus would come to town. The calls came by way of a Santa tracking program run for more than 60 years by NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Trump ate Christmas Eve dinner with family before heading to church.

SENATE

FROM PAGE 1

campaign of Doug Jones, the first Democrat elected in a quarter-century in Alabama. Jones' rival, Moore, was besieged by decades-old accusations of sexual misconduct involving teenage girls when he was in his 30s. Moore denied the allegations.

Former Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen, a known quantity in Tennessee, has kicked off his Senate run from

a position of strength.

"He starts with credibility among Tennesseans that Doug Jones didn't have or almost no Democratic challenger in any of the other Republican states would have next year," Maslin said.

Voters both in Tennessee and Alabama went for Trump in a big way in 2016: Trump's margin of victory was 28 percentage points in Alabama and 26 points in Tennessee, though his poll numbers have slipped somewhat since. And while Fincher and

Blackburn slug it out to the primary for who can be the more pro-Trump candidate, Bredesen can concentrate on a message of being a problem-solver who can "fix the mess" in Washington.

"The risk is that when you have so embraced a public official that is fairly unpredictable, that if his numbers start to erode suddenly you're in trouble," said Kent Syler, a political science professor at Middle Tennessee State University and a former Democratic

congressional staffer.

With Republicans up 51-49 in the Senate next year, the stakes will be high in November.

Much was made of Democrats' 25-year losing streak in Senate races in Alabama until a Dec. 12 special election. In Tennessee it's been two years longer since Al Gore was the Democrats' last victorious Senate candidate in 1990. Tennessee Democrats have fallen short ever since Gore left the Senate to become Bill Clinton's vice president.

In his campaign launch video, Bredesen didn't even mention Trump. Bredesen told the Associated Press afterward that he's intent on winning back voters who supported him in 2002 and 2006.

"If you just do the basic arithmetic, there's got to be hundreds of thousands of people in this state who voted for me and then turned around and voted for Trump," Bredesen said. "I don't think they've totally changed — political views don't change in that way."

DARK

FROM PAGE 1

but normality remains far off. Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority says its system is generating at 70 percent of normal but it has no way of knowing how widely electricity is being distributed because the system that measures that isn't working.

A study conducted Dec. 11 by a group of local engineers estimated roughly 50 percent of the island's 3.3 million people remained without power. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said it likely won't be until May that all of Puerto Rico is electrified.

Local and federal officials blame the rough terrain and extensive damage for delaying restoration of a power infrastructure that was in dire need of maintenance due to Puerto Rico's 11-year-old recession. A growing number of Puerto Ricans say officials didn't prepare for the hurricane and didn't activate a mutual aid agreement

with power companies on the U.S. mainland quickly enough.

Government crews reconnected a handful of areas in Morovis over the weekend for the first time since the storm, but in the hundreds of neighborhoods and towns without power this holiday season, people are alternately despairing, furious, resigned, and sometimes in disbelief that the United States remains unable to help restore power to its citizens more than 90 days after a natural disaster.

A little after noon, Arelis Navarro steps out of her nail salon to restart her car. The hood is open, and Navarro, 38 weeks pregnant, has connected an inverter to the battery and plugged in a cluster of extension cords, lights and a fan for her salon.

"You have to make the effort because as you can imagine, I have debts to pay, a daughter to maintain and another one on the way," she says as she taps some powder on a woman's nails to prepare them for an acrylic artificial set.

Down the hill, past

the town's plaza and up another hill, 50-year-old Maria Rivera watches her husband and two friends remove broken furniture and soggy sheets from their home, which was destroyed by the storm. It is 2 p.m., and the three men toss the debris into a truck one of them owns. City officials never showed up to clear the debris, and crews with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency did not come until this month to assess the damage.

Tears moisten Rivera's eyes as she gazes at what remains of the home where she lived for 19 years with her husband and three children.

"I haven't been able to assimilate everything that has happened," she says, adding that she spends most of the day bracing for darkness. "When night falls, you start growing anxious, depressed. Everything has changed ... Sometimes I go to places that have power and I tell my husband, 'I don't want to go back.'"

By 4 p.m., some generators in Rivera's neighborhood start rumbling

as darkness approaches on the shortest day of the year. A teenager bounces a basketball and takes a couple of shots on a court before heading home, while several men wrap up reconstruction efforts at a roofless home that federal crews fitted with a blue tarp just two weeks ago.

Nearly 1,000 homes across Morovis lost their roofs and 90 percent of residents have not received federal assistance, Mayor Carmen Maldonado says. She expects it will be several more months before power returns to the entire town. Overall, more than 200,000 homes were damaged in Puerto Rico by the storm, whose destruction will cost an estimated \$95 billion to repair.

Darkness creeps across Morovis, and 56-year-old Jose Luis Gonzalez wipes sweat from his brow as he finishes helping rebuild a home in the Barrio Patron neighborhood, where people spent two months without water after Hurricane Maria hit with winds of up to 154 mph. They relied on a

nearby creek for bathing and washing clothes. Men visited the creek at 5:30 p.m. every day and women took their place a half hour later. One person was designated to guard the entrance as people disrobed. Water service finally returned in November.

"Don't think I haven't felt like crying," Gonzalez says, adding that he has flashbacks to the day of the storm. "Every time I close my eyes I see chaos ... I still hear the screams in my head."

Every night he takes six pills for depression and back pain. He says a relative who lived across from him took his own life three weeks after the hurricane. No note was left, but government officials say they are counting some suicides as part of the official death toll because people across the island have become so desperate amid the destruction left by the storm. The governor also recently ordered a review of all deaths reported since Maria amid accusations that the official death toll of 64 undercounts the true toll.

ALMANAC

Today is **Tuesday, Dec. 26**, the 360th day of 2017. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

Today in history

On **Dec. 26, 1947**, heavy snow blanketed the Northeast, burying New York City under 26.4 inches of snow in 16 hours; the severe weather was blamed for some 80 deaths.

On this date

In **1776**, British forces suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In **1799**, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In **1908**, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In **1917**, during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation authorizing the government to take over operation of the nation's railroads.

In **1967**, "Magical Mystery Tour," the Beatles' poorly received TV special, was broadcast (in black and white) on BBC1.

In **1980**, Iranian television footage was broadcast in the United States, showing a dozen of the American hostages sending messages to their families.

In **1996**, 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colorado. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

Today's birthdays

Actor **Donald Moffat** is 87. Actor **Carol Spinney** (Big Bird on TV's "Sesame Street") is 84. Rhythm-and-blues singer **Abdul "Duke" Fakir** (The Four Tops) is 82. Record producer (and convicted murderer) **Phil Spector** is 78. "America's Most Wanted" host **John Walsh** is 72. Country musician **Bob Carpenter** (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 71. Funk musician **George Porter Jr.** (The Meters) is 70. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher **Carlton Fisk** is 70. Retired MLB All-Star **Chris Chambliss** is 69. Baseball Hall of Famer **Ozzie Smith** is 63. Former Sen. **Evan Bayh**, D-Ind., is 62. Humorist **David Sedaris** is 61. Rock musician **James Kottak** (The Scorpions) is 55. Rock musician **Lars Ulrich** (Metallica) is 54. Actress **Nadia Dajani** is 52. Country singer **Audrey Wiggins** is 50. Rock musician **Peter Dinklage** (Candlebox) is 48. Rock singer **James Mercer** (The Shins; Flake) is 47. Actor-singer **Jared Leto** is 46. Actress **Kendra C. Johnson** is 41. Rock singer **Chris Daughtry** is 38. Actress **Beth Behrs** is 32. Actor **Kit Harington** is 31. Actress **Eden Sher** is 26. Pop singer **Jade Thirlwall** (Little Mix Actor) is 25. Actor **Zach Mills** is 22.

ODD NEWS

Man's 1944 love letter found within remodeled home's walls

GREENFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Massachusetts police have a new mystery to solve: Who wrote a 1944 love letter discovered within the walls of a house being remodeled?

The Greenfield Police Department took to Facebook on Saturday to ask for the public's help in figuring out the backstory behind the handwritten letter. Police say the letter is dated April 19, 1944, and was penned by a man who identified himself only as Walter.

The letter was addressed to Miss Betty Miller, of Greenfield. In the letter, Walter makes no attempt to hide his affections. He writes: "I have always thought more of you than any other girl, and I still do."

Police say they only have one motive: reuniting the letter with Miller or her family.

Tuesday Television

VEN-VENICE E-N-ENGLEWOOD SAR-SARASOTA PC-PORT CHARLOTTE ARC-ARCADIA SPG-SOUTH PUNTA GORDA

DEC. 26	VEN	E-N	SAR	PC	ARC	SPG	FIOS	PRIME TIME										
								6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
BROADCAST	ABC 40	7	7	7	10	7	7	ABC7 News @ 6pm (N)	ABC World News Tonight (N)	ABC7 News at 7 Florida Suncoast's news, weather & more. (N)	Happy New Year, Charlie Brown! Charlie Brown's book report. (TVG)	Rudolph's Shiny New Year Rudolph searches for the New Year baby. (N)	Kevin (Probably) Saves the World: Probably A righteous soul. (R) (HD)	ABC7 News @ 11pm (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (TV14) (R)			
	ABC 26	-	-	-	7	11	7	ABC7 News @ 6:00pm (N)	ABC World News Tonight (N)	The 7 O'Clock News (N) (HD)	Entertainment Tonight (N) (HD)	Happy New Year, Charlie Brown! Charlie Brown's book report. (TVG)	Rudolph's Shiny New Year Rudolph searches for the New Year baby. (N)	Kevin (Probably) Saves the World: Probably A righteous soul. (R) (HD)	ABC7 News @ 11:00pm (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (TV14) (R)		
	CBS 11	213	213	-	5	5	5	WINK News at 6pm (N) (HD)	CBS Evening News (N) (HD)	WINK News at 7pm (N) (HD)	Inside Edition (TVG) (N) (HD)	NCIS: Twofer Body of Navy lieutenant is found. (TV14) (R) (HD)	The 40th Annual Kennedy Center Honors Kennedy Center Honors celebrates artists who have shaped American cultural life. (N) (HD)	WINK News at 11pm (N) (HD)	(35) Late Show (TV14) (R) (HD)			
	CBS 10	10	10	10	-	-	10	10 News This Evening (N)	CBS Evening News (N) (HD)	Wheel of Fortune: Hawaii (N)	Jeopardy! (TVG) (N) (HD)	NCIS: Twofer Body of Navy lieutenant is found. (TV14) (R) (HD)	The 40th Annual Kennedy Center Honors Kennedy Center Honors celebrates artists who have shaped American cultural life. (N) (HD)	10 News Nightside (N) (HD)	(35) Late Show (TV14) (R) (HD)			
	NBC 20	-	232	-	2	2	2	NBC2 News @ 6pm (N) (HD)	NBC Nightly News (N) (HD)	Wheel of Fortune: Hawaii (N)	Jeopardy! (TVG) (N) (HD)	Ellen's Game of Games Game competition. (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Better Late Than Never: Munich The guys stop by a nude park. (TV14)	Chicago Med: Speak Your Truth The shooting of Dr. Charles. (TV14)	NBC2 News @ 11pm (N) (HD)	Tonight Show Kevin Hart. (R) (HD)		
	NBC 8	8	8	8	-	-	8	NewsChannel 8 at 6:00 (N)	NBC Nightly News (N) (HD)	NewsChannel 8 at 7:00 (N)	Extra (TVPG) (N) (HD)	Ellen's Game of Games Game competition. (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Better Late Than Never: Munich The guys stop by a nude park. (TV14)	Chicago Med: Speak Your Truth The shooting of Dr. Charles. (TV14)	NewsChannel 8 at 11:00 (N)	Tonight Show Kevin Hart. (R) (HD)		
	FOX 36	-	-	-	4	4	4	FOX 4 News at Six Community news; weather; traffic; more. (N)	Family Feud (TVPG) (R)	Family Feud (TVPG) (R)	Lethal Weapon: Flight Risk Riggs & Murtaugh investigate a robbery. (TV14)	The Mick Relationship tested. (TV14)	The Mick Visit mother. (TV14)	FOX 4 News at Ten Local news report and weather update. (N)	FOX 4 News at Eleven (N)	Family Feud Families compete. (N)		
	FOX 13	13	13	13	-	-	13	FOX 13 6:00 News (N) (HD)	FOX 13 6:30 News (N)	Access Milo Ventimiglia. (N)	TMZ (TVPG) (N)	Lethal Weapon: Flight Risk Riggs & Murtaugh investigate a robbery. (TV14)	The Mick Relationship tested. (TV14)	The Mick Visit mother. (TV14)	FOX 13 10:00 News The top news stories are updated. (N) (HD)	FOX 13 11:00 News News, sports, weather and traffic. (N)		
	PBS 30	-	3	-	3	3	3	BBC World News (TVPG)	Nightly Business Report (N)	The PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)	The Sultan and the Saint A Christian tries to convert a sultan. (TVPG)	Secrets of the Dead: Secrets of Spanish Florida The Spanish establish a settlement in modern Florida in 1565. (TV14) (N) (HD)	Amanpour on PBS (N) (HD)	BBC World News				
	PBS 3	3	17	3	-	-	3	BBC World News (TVPG)	Nightly Business Report (N)	The PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)	The Sultan and the Saint A Christian tries to convert a sultan. (TVPG)	Secrets of the Dead: Secrets of Spanish Florida The Spanish establish a settlement in modern Florida in 1565. (TV14) (N) (HD)	Secrets of the Dead: Secrets of Spanish Florida The Spanish establish a settlement in modern Florida in 1565. (TV14) (N) (HD)					
CW 46	-	-	-	6	21	6	Goldbergs Adam gets tapes. (HD)	WINK News at 6:30pm (N) (HD)	Big Bang Leonard's affair. (HD)	Big Bang Amy lies to Sheldon. (TV14)	The Flash: When Harry Met Harry ... Objects are alive. (TVPG) (R) (HD)	DC's Legends of Tomorrow: Helen Hunt Helen of Troy. (TV14) (R) (HD)	WINK News @ 10pm (N) (HD)	Inside Edition (TVPG) (N) (HD)	The Goldbergs Modeling scam. (N)			
CW 44	9	9	9	-	-	4	Mike & Molly Change in diet. (HD)	Mike & Molly Mike's hurt ego. (HD)	2 Broke Girls Racecar. (TV14)	2 Broke Girls Nash models. (TV14)	The Flash: When Harry Met Harry ... Objects are alive. (TVPG) (R) (HD)	DC's Legends of Tomorrow: Helen Hunt Helen of Troy. (TV14) (R) (HD)	Two & Half Chelsea's parents. (TV14)	Two & Half Alan goes to jail. (TV14)	Friends Joey written out. (HD)	Friends Estranged parents. (N)		
MYN 38	11	11	11	-	-	14	Extra (TVPG) (N) (HD)	Entertainment Tonight (N) (HD)	Family Feud (TVPG) (R)	Family Feud (TVPG) (R)	News Channel 8 News @ 8pm News, sports, weather and traffic. (N)	The X-Files: Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose Psychic sees death. (TV14)	The X-Files: War of the Coprophages Killer cockroaches. (TV14)	Seinfeld New couch ruined. (TV14)	Seinfeld A stolen wallet. (TVPG)			
IND 32	12	12	12	-	-	12	Mod Family Jay's competitor. (HD)	Mod Family Jay's competitor. (HD)	Big Bang Leonard's affair. (HD)	Big Bang Amy lies to Sheldon. (TV14)	Anger Horse riding. (TV14) (HD)	Anger Patients romance. (HD)	Last Man Standing: The Spotlight (TV14)	Man Stand. Vanessa's sister. (TV14)	Mom Helicopter mom. (TV14) (HD)	Mom Death Bonnie. (HD)	Family Guy (TV14) (HD)	Family Guy Holiday cheer. (HD)
ION 66	2	2	2	13	26	-	17	Criminal Minds: Brothers in Arms Killer targets Phoenix cops. (TV14)	Criminal Minds: Normal Female drivers shot on the freeway. (TV14)	Criminal Minds: Soul Mates Rich man suspected of kidnap & murder. (TV14)	Criminal Minds: Bloodline BAU looks into young woman's abduction. (TV14)	Criminal Minds: Cold Comfort Killer embalsms his victims. (TV14) (HD)	Criminal Minds: Zoe's Reprise Suspect copies famous killers. (TV14)					
A&E	26	26	26	26	39	50	181	Intervention: Tiffany D. (5:30) The Godfather ('72, Crime) ★★★★★ Marlon Brando, Al Pacino. A reluctant heir takes over crime family from ailing patriarch. (R) (HD)	Intervention: Kimberly (5:30) The Godfather: Part II ('74, Drama) ★★★★★ Al Pacino. Michael Corleone faces new challenges as he takes over the family crime empire. (R) (HD)	Intervention: Sarah (R)	Intervention: Andrew (3:30) The Godfather: Part II ('74, Drama) ★★★★★ Al Pacino. Michael Corleone faces new challenges as he takes over the family crime empire. (R) (HD)	Intervention: Brittany	Intervention: Tom (R)					
AMC	56	56	56	56	68	130	231	Rvr Mnstrs (TVPG) (R)	Rvr Mnstrs (TVPG) (R)	Rvr Mnstrs (TVPG) (R)	River Monsters: Legendary Wounded victims. (TV14)	Rvr Mnstrs (TVPG) (R)	Rvr Mnstrs (TVPG) (R)					
APL	44	44	44	44	36	68	130	Doctor Who (TVPG) (R)	Doctor Who (TVPG) (R)	Doctor Who (TVPG) (R)	Doctor Who Restoring. (TV14)	Doctor Who (TVPG) (R)	Doctor Who (TVPG) (R)					
BBCAM	114	114	114	114	114	189	189	(4:15) Diary ('05) ★★½ (2:0) Big Momma's House 2 (06) FBI agent in disguise watches suspect. (TV14) (R)	Beverly Hills (TV14) (N)	Housewives (TV14) (N)	Housewives (TV14) (N)	Stripped: All & Justin (TV14)	Like Son ('11) ★½ (HD)	Housewives				
BET	35	35	35	35	40	22	70	South Park: Wing (R)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)			
BRAVO	68	68	68	68	254	51	185	Moonshiner (TV14) (R)	Moonshiner (TV14) (N)	Moonshiners (N) (HD)	Moonshiner (TV14) (R)	(01) Death Ray (R)	Moonshiner (TV14) (R)					
COM	66	66	66	66	15	27	190	Wedding Planner ('01)	He's Just Not That Into You ('09, Comedy) Dating struggles. (TV14)	The Wedding Planner ('01) ★★ Wedding planner falls in love. (TV14)								
DISC	40	40	40	40	25	43	120	Chopped Grand finale. (TV14)	Chopped: Hero Chefs (TVG) (R)	Chopped (TVG) (R)	Chopped: Flavor Savor (TVG) (N)	Chopped (TVG) (N)	Chopped Scotch eggs. (TV14)					
E!	46	46	46	46	27	26	196	National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (4:05) Choccolate ('05) ★★½ (89) Members of an eccentric family try to create the perfect Christmas vacation. (TV14)	Kingsman: The Secret Service ('15, Action) ★★½ Colin Firth. A secret espionage organization recruits a promising youth off the streets. (R) (HD)	Kingsman: The Secret Service ('15, Action) ★★½ Colin Firth. A secret espionage organization recruits a promising youth off the streets. (R) (HD)	Kingsman: The Secret Service ('15, Action) ★★½ Colin Firth. A secret espionage organization recruits a promising youth off the streets. (R) (HD)	The 700 Club (TVG) (R) (HD)						
FOOD	37	37	37	37	183	76	164	(5:00) The Equalizer ('14) ★★ Denzel Washington. Ex-commando tries to save young girl. (R) (HD)	Best Christmas Party Ever ('14) Holiday issues. (TV14)	Switched for Christmas Twin sisters swap lives. (TV14)								
FREE	55	55	55	55	10	46	199	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Fam. Feud (TVPG) (R)	Cash Cab (TVG) (R)	Cash Cab (TVG) (R)	
FX	51	51	51	51	58	49	53	Christmas Cookies ('16) ★★ A factory closes. (TV14)	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R)	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R)	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R)	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R)	Hunters (TV14)	Hunters (TV14)	Hunters (TV14)	Hunters (TV14)		
GSN	179	179	179	179	34	179	184	Forged in Fire: Tabar (TV14) (HD)	Married at First Sight Parenthood. (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)		
HALL	5	5	5	5	17	137	240	Grey Anat. (TV14) (HD)	Married at First Sight Parenthood. (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)	Married (TV14) (N) (HD)		
HGTV	41	41	41	41	53	42	165	Henry (R)	Henry (R)	Henry: Hour of Power (TV14)	Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil ('11) (TV14)	Full House (TV14)	Prince (TV14)	Prince (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)		
HIST	81	81	81	81	33	65	128	Udr. Boss (TVPG)	Udr. Boss (TVPG)	Haves: A Broken Mirror (TV14) (R) (HD)	Haves (TV14) (R) (HD)	Haves (TV14) (R) (HD)	Haves (TV14) (R) (HD)	Haves (TV14) (R) (HD)	Haves (TV14) (R) (HD)			
LIFE	36	36	36	36	52	41	140	Cuddl Duds - Live (TV14)	Nonstop Style Holiday festivity. (TVG)	Inspired Style Army is inspired by the world around her. (TVG)								
NICK	25	25	25	25	24	44	252	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)	Friends (TV14)		
OWN	58	58	58	58	47	67	145	Green Lantern ('11, Action) ★★½ A ring grants superpowers. (TV14)	X-Men 3 (TV14)									
QVC	14	14	14	14	9	14	13	150	Future Friends (TV14)	Future Friends (TV14)	Future Friends (TV14)	Future Friends (TV14)	Future Friends (TV14)	Future Friends (TV14)	Future Friends (TV14)	Future Friends (TV14)		
SPIKE	57	57	57	57	29	63	54	Portrait in Black ('60, Crime) ★★½ Anna May Wong, Anthony Quinn. (NR)	90 Day Fiance: Molly & Luis: Our Journey So Far Molly reevaluates. (N)	90 Day (TV14) (R) (HD)								
SYFY	67	67	67	67	253	64	180	90 Day Fiance: Molly & Luis: Our Journey So Far Molly reevaluates. (N)	90 Day (TV14) (R) (HD)									
TBS	59	59	59	59	32	62	52	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
TCM	65	65	65	65	65	74	230	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
TLC	45	45	45	45	57	72	139	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
TNT	61	61	61	61	28	55	51	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
TOON	80	80	80	80	46	20	257	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
TRAV	69	69	69	69	260	66	170	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
TRUTV	63	63	63	63	50	30	183	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
TVL	62	62	62	62	31	54	241	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
USA	34	34	34	34	22	52	50	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
WE	117	117	117	117	117	149	149	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
WGN	16	16	16	16	19	41	68	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
CNBC	39	39	39	39	59	37	102	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
CNN	32	32	32	32	18	38	100	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
CSPAN	18	18	18	18	37	12	109	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
FNC	64	64	64	64	48	71	118	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
MSNBC	83	83	83	83	185	40	103	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
SNN	6	6	6	6	11	-	-	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
ESPN	29	29	29	29	12	58	74	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
ESPN2	30	30	30	30	6	59	74	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
FS1	48	48	48	48	42	69	83	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
FSN	72	72	72	72	72	56	77	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
FSSUN	38	38	38	38	45	57	76	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
GOLF	49	49	49	49	55	60	93	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
NBCSN	71	71	71	71	54	61	90	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
DISN	136	136	136	136	99	45	250	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
ENC	150	150	150	150	150	150	350	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
HBO	302	302	302	302	302	302	400	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
HBO2	303	303	303	303	303	303	402	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
HBO3	304	304	304	304	304	304	404	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (N)	(01) Major Crimes Search for clues. (TV14) (N)	Major Crimes Killer on the loose. (TV14) (R)							
MAX	320	320	320	320	320	320	420	Major Crimes Scoring convictions. (TV14) (R)	Major Crimes									

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've seen it time and again: The seemingly mundane becomes quite miraculous when you know a little more about it. That's why you look into what makes things work and why.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Of course you want to choose joy. Who wouldn't? But it's not always so easy to see where the joy is in the situation. A lot of times, the joy is elsewhere, and you have to take yourself out of the situation to find it.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are communication barriers that will come down once you learn

the other person's language. If the rewards look promising enough, you'll do just that today.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're the king or queen of compromise. You'll quite easily strike upon an arrangement that will make life easier for all. Your motivation may be something you promised your people, but truly everyone involved will benefit.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You think about what the other person's experience is in dealing with you. Is it pleasant? Is it easy? Do they like the person they are in your eyes? Nail this and your dealings will be stellar.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a lot that's competing for your attention today, but if you

follow the ancient wisdom of putting first things first, all problems will fall into a manageable form. You can do this!
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Expert performances will not arise out of genetic predisposition or super-intelligence, but out of thousands of hours of deliberate practice. Put in your time now and later you'll be glad you did.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Knowing the difference between what's important and urgent will allow you to focus yourself well today. Many of the so-called "urgent" matters vanish if you ignore them.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are many ways to work through your feelings. You can talk

them out, dance them out, exercise them out, you can write, paint, cry, shout them out. Do get them out, though, so you know what you're dealing with.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The pursuit will definitely take motivation, time and discipline. With the right motivation, the other two will be easier to obtain. If you don't have them, you'll absolutely make them.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No matter how far you get with what you know, there will always be new knowledge, adaptations and complex mental models to spur you to ever higher levels. It's a good thing you love to learn, because it's a continuous path.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The issue that appears weighty and diffused in the soft morning light will look very different to you as the sun steps higher in the sky. You'll correctly assess the big picture and get sharper details in the direct light of day.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 26). Good decisions get easier and easier for you. You'll be tuned in to the small things that matter — which is to say every small thing, as the miraculous essence of life shimmers under every surface. Friends and loved ones gravitate toward your positivity and joy. There's healing in February. Finances free up in March. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 28, 4, 44 and 18.

BIBLE

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." — 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

The great gathering of God's people is in the making. We shall meet again never to part. He has made it possible. "Even so come Lord Jesus."

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.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.
 Today's Challenge
 Time 0 Minutes
 29 Seconds
 Your Working Time Minutes
 Seconds

				12-26
	3			14
			3	17
			7	19
9				36
36	17	19	14	28

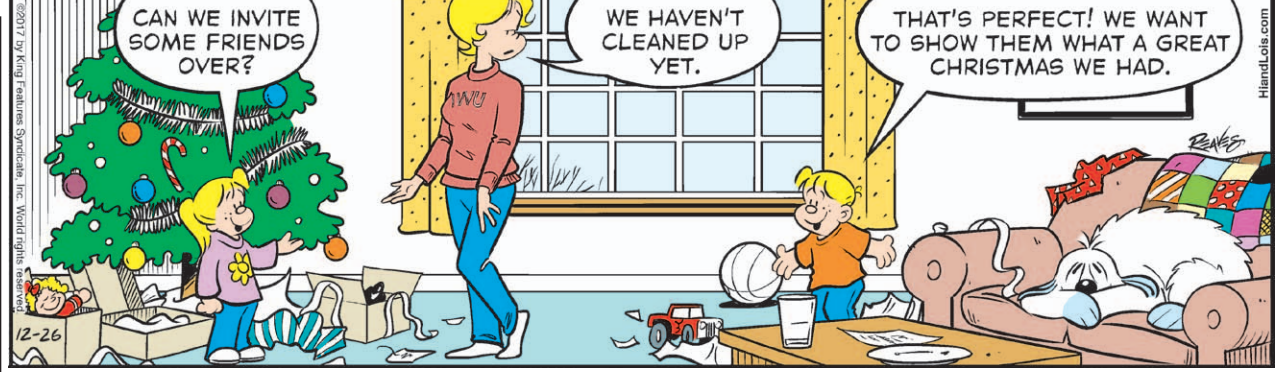
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Yesterday's Challenger Answers	solution	12-25	24
	4	7	9
	7	9	8
	1	8	9
	1	8	9
	7	32	35
		34	31

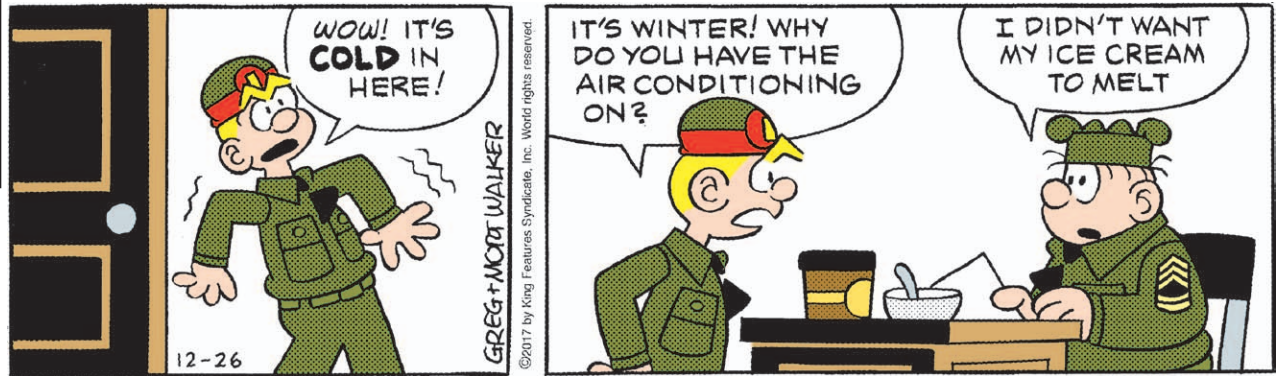
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



BEEBLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



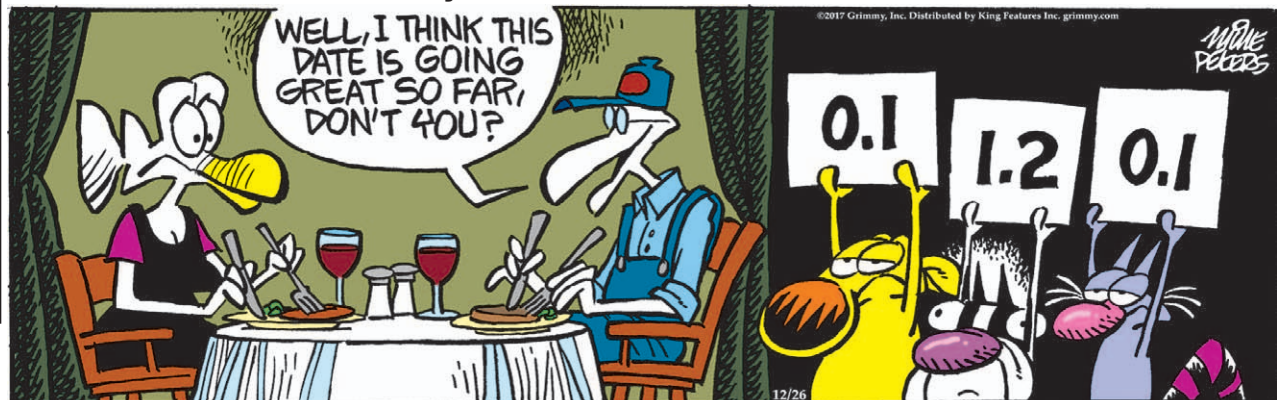
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



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



Cryptoquip

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12-26

G Z U W Z E O Z G E W M B
 K X K Y A A R N T E W R X T N
 X T K M X X N U F U W K , E
 G X T A M B Y R R X T ' F U Z Y M
 T W E W F E K U M O T B K B .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THICK, SPICY BEVERAGE SERVED FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND DISPENSED FROM SMALL BARRELS: KEG NOG.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals H

WORD SLEUTH

BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH "M"

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

Monday's unlisted clue: BREAD

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: A LARGE WINE BOTTLE

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Madam | Marxism | Minimum | Moonbeam |
| Magnesium | Maxim | Modem | Mushroom |
| Magnetism | Mayhem | Mom | Muslim |
| Mainstream | Midterm | Monogram | |

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12/26

Couple's oft-chilly marriage is subzero following election

DEAR ABBY: I'm at a loss as to how to stay in my 21-year marriage. In August, when our twin daughters leave for college, my wife and I will become empty nesters. We haven't had sex in more than 2 1/2 years, and before that it didn't happen more than a couple of times a year.



Dear Abby

My wife says she "doesn't feel a connection with me anymore" (or perhaps never really did). We have seen a counselor a couple of times over the last 12 years, but the most he has to offer now is that I will have to decide whether or not to accept this as my new normal. We don't fight, but we live like roommates, although we continue to share a bed.

We are on opposite sides of the political spectrum, and I suspect that may have something to do with her sense of disconnect. The little affection progress we were making died the night of the presidential election. She seems content to continue like this. I hate the notion of divorce, both for what it would mean spiritually and for what it would do to our families and friends. Can you help? — IS THIS MY NEW NORMAL?

DEAR "IS": Couples on opposite sides of the political spectrum can still have successful marriages IF they respect their mates and can discuss their differences intelligently and calmly. However, you state that your sex life has been the way it is for 21 years — which makes me wonder whether the chemistry was strong to begin with.

I do think you and your wife are overdue for a series of honest conversations, and the first should start with whether the difference in your political beliefs has affected the way she feels about you.

The next should start with asking her whether she was ever satisfied in the bedroom with you. If you can get her to talk about it, you may be able to find out where the two of you went off track and fix it. However, if you can't, then your counselor was correct.

DEAR ABBY: I've been single for more than a year and playing the field,

having casual relationships, but never anything I was too invested in. That changed recently when I met someone I'll call "Eve." We have hit it off spectacularly and are very much into each other.

The only issue is she has a kid. I'm only 23, and I'm not in a position to be any kind of father figure. That being said, I would still love to be with Eve and occasionally help out with her little one, but I don't know how to open up and tell her directly that I'm not prepared for the pressures of being a "dad" to a newborn. How do I express this to her? — NO WHITE KNIGHT IN KNOXVILLE

DEAR NO WHITE KNIGHT:

"Daddyhood" isn't a skill that every man is born with. Some men are naturals at it; others learn gradually through experience. Tell Eve that you care about her, but that at 23 you are not in a position to be a dad to her baby. In time, things may change — GRADUALLY — but not right now. It may or may not cause the end of the relationship. Her first responsibility must be to her child, and a romance right out of the delivery room is too soon, "white knight" or no white knight.

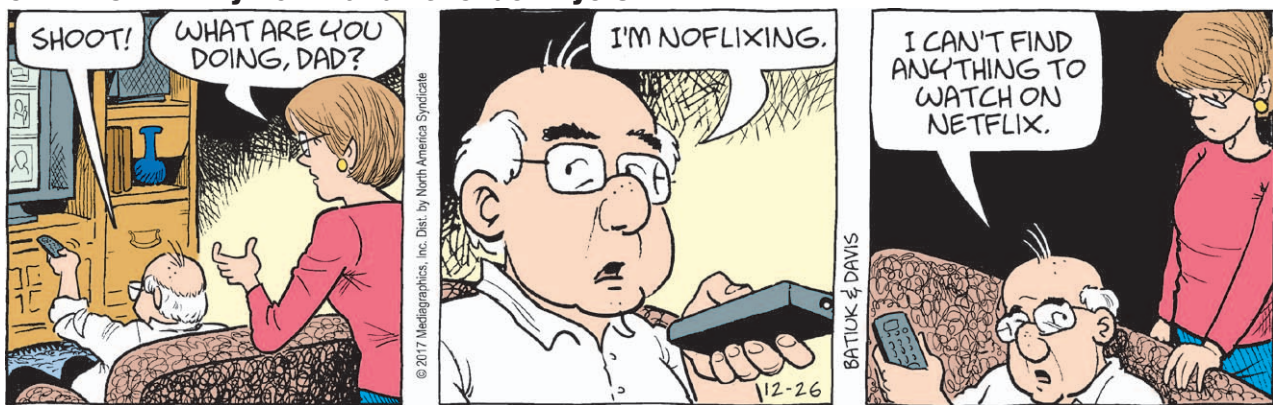
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



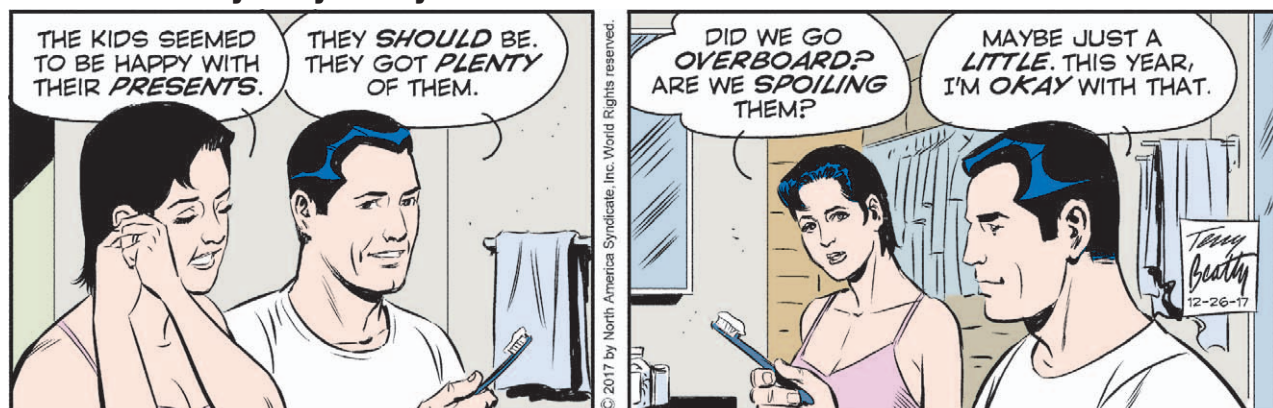
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



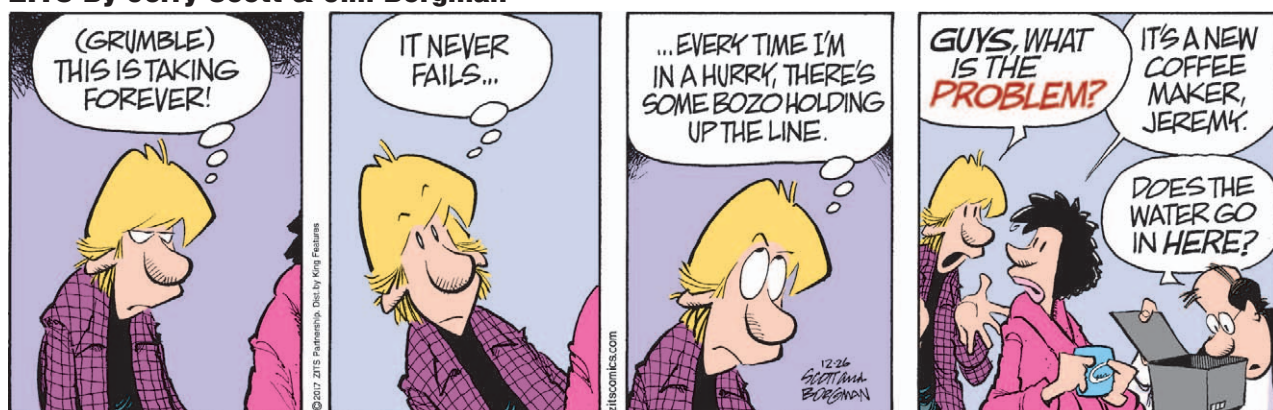
SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



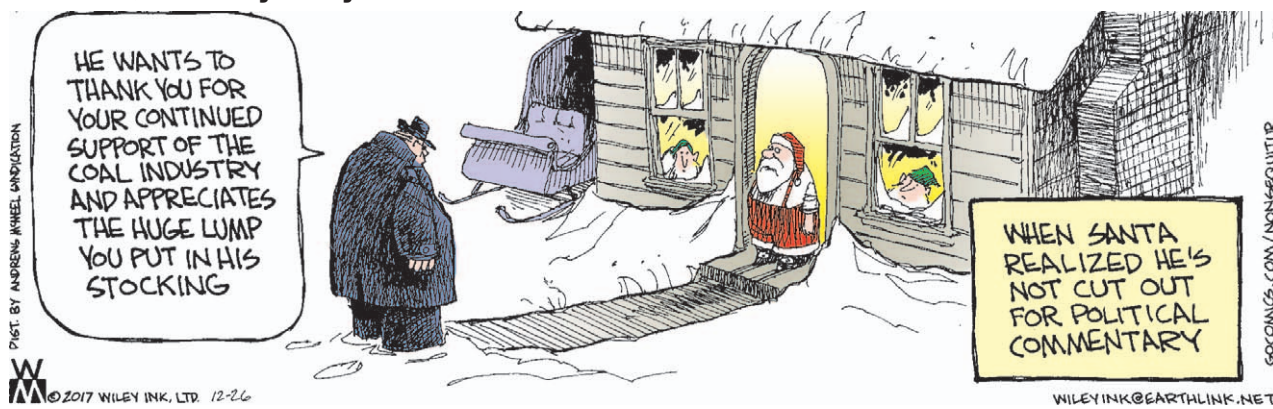
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



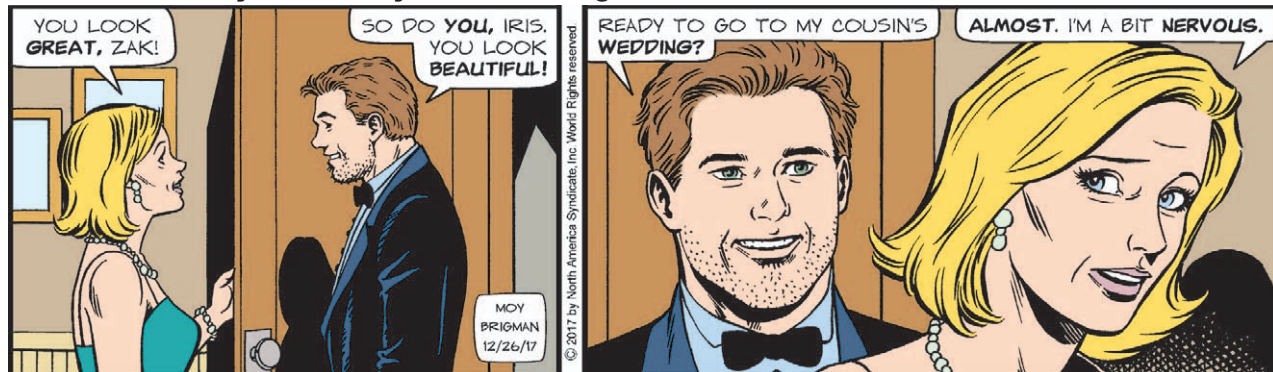
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



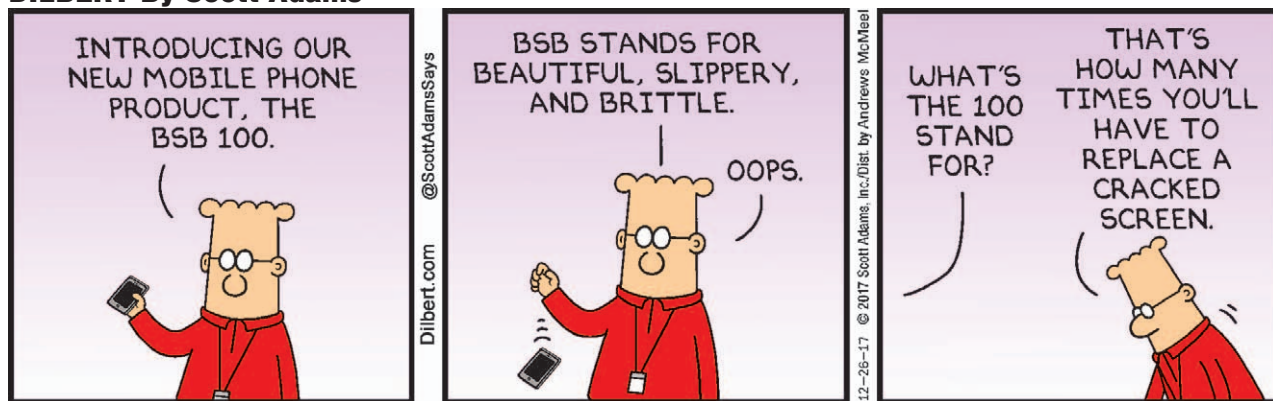
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



DILBERT By Scott Adams



Dollars on track

Dear Heloise: Another calendar year is soon to be upon us, and it's a great time to think about money management. My family and I like to get our finances back on track after holiday spending.

We write down every dollar we earn, every dollar we save, every dollar we donate and every dollar we spend. Then we look at our regular expenses: bills and payments. Finally, we can decide which purchases we need to make, and which purchases we want to make now and down the road.

Looking at our money together on paper, as a family, teaches everybody the value of work, and we've grown closer because of it! — Mary S., Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mary, the family that plans financial goals together can have smoother sailing than those who don't. — Heloise

Managing expectations

Dear Heloise: We have a big family, and while we teach our kids the meaning of Christmas and to give, of course there are toys, games, etc., they want for themselves. It's

only natural! We start a list today, the day after the big day, on the refrigerator of items that might have been forgotten, so that when birthdays, Easter and other holidays roll around, we'll have some good ideas for gifts. — Ronald W., Erie, Pa.

Wallet woes

Dear Readers: If you carry your wallet in your back pants pocket, you can be in line for back pain, especially when sitting for long periods of time and when driving.

A bulky wallet can push against the nerves of the spine and compress them; this means back pain! Do clean out your wallet and carry as little as necessary in it. When sitting a long time, or driving a long time, take it out of the back pocket! — Heloise



Hints from Heloise

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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TRICK ONE DECISIONS

North-South vulnerable, North deals

NORTH

♠ A 5 4
♥ A K 8 7 4 2
♦ A 8 7
♣ 8

WEST

♥ K J 10 2
♠ Q J 10 5 3
♦ K 10 3
♣ 5

EAST

♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ 9
♦ 6 2
♣ A K J 10 7 4

SOUTH

♠ Q 7
♥ 6
♦ Q J 9 5 4
♣ Q 9 6 3 2

The bidding:

NORTH 1♥
EAST 3♣
SOUTH Pass
WEST Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

Many a makeable contract has failed after a careless play by declarer at trick one. The literature of bridge is filled with examples. The same is often true about trick one play by the defenders. The opening lead is often a guess, and a poor guess can lead to disaster. Third hand play by the defense can be very important also. Consider East's play at trick one in today's deal. It's easy for us to see

that East can win the first trick and shift to a spade, which would defeat the contract easily. East, however, had no way of knowing that West had a singleton club, so East played the 10 of clubs at trick one. This is by no means a terrible bridge play, but it was a disaster on this deal.

South gratefully captured the first trick with his queen. He led a heart to the ace and continued with the king of hearts. When East showed out, declarer continued with a low diamond to his queen. West won with the king but was in a poor position. Cashing his hearts would set up the dummy's long heart, and leading a spade would make the queen of spades declarer's ninth trick.

West exited with the 10 of diamonds to dummy's ace. Declarer continued by cashing the eight of diamonds and then exiting with a heart. West could cash as many hearts as he liked, but he would then have to lead away from his king of spades, simultaneously giving South a trick with the queen of spades and an entry to the long diamonds. 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.)

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 examine a text for errors (5)
- 2 attractive item (4)
- 3 blotch from blubbering (9)
- 4 outline (5)
- 5 receptacle for hiking gear (8)
- 6 plagiarized (6)
- 7 noticed (7)

SOLUTIONS

FT	TE	PR	IN	LU
RE	CK	ARS	IEF	PA
TA	ED	BA	OOF	OTT
SP	ED	LI	CK	BR

Monday's Answers: 1. FULBRIGHT 2. THROUGH 3. CORRECTION 4. FOCUS 5. CORNERBACK 6. GADZOOKERY 7. DRIPPY 12/26

JUMBLE

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

CAINP

KRELC

SLAVYT

HWOTNR

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

It's great that the national club is reading the same book.

I'm glad we can get together here in town to discuss it.

I couldn't put it down.

I loved this part.

THE NEW NATIONAL BOOK CLUB HAD

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

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWORN HOWDY SNAPPY BUNKER
Answer: In a race with another reindeer, Rudolph — WON BY A NOSE

BORN LOSER By Art and Chip Sansom

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

DID YOU GET EVERYTHING YOU ASKED SANTA FOR?

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH...

BLONDIE By Dean Young and John Marshall

by Dean Young and John Marshall

THIS FOOTBALL TEAM SWEATSHIRT WAS A GIFT FROM MY BEST FRIEND, AND I'D LIKE TO EXCHANGE IT.

WRONG SIZE?

NO, IT'S HIS ALMA MATER AND MY TEAM'S BIGGEST RIVAL.

I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

by Patrick McDonnell

I'VE MADE SHOME NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR YOU, EARL.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE THEM FOR YOURSELF!

WHAT FUN IS THAT !?!

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

by Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

IS TREVOR HOME?

NO, HAMMIE, HE'S OUT WITH HIS DAD.

OH.

ARE ANY OF HIS COOL CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT HOME?

COME BACK LATER, HAMMIE.

DOONSBURY By Garry Trudeau

by Garry Trudeau

PROCONSUL DUKE TALKS TO PANAMA'S NEW "PUBLIC FORCE."

THE IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU TO REMEMBER IS THAT IN THE NEW PANAMA, YOU GOTTA GO BY THE BOOK — OUR BOOK!

NOW, I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU, BUT THAT'S THE DOWN SIDE OF A REAL DEMOCRACY — FOR SOME REASON, CRIMINALS HAVE RIGHTS!

WHAT KIND OF RIGHTS, SENIOR PRO-CONSUL?

UM... WELL, FOR STARTERS, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING CRUEL OR UNUSUAL.

BUT YOUR SOLDIERS MADE NORIEGA LISTEN TO RAP MUSIC FOR A WEEK!

THAT WAS STILL PART OF THE INVASION. DOESN'T COUNT.

SENOR, WILL WE GET TO WEAR ITALIAN SPORTS JACKETS?

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston

by Lynn Johnston

KNOCK-KNOCK

CAN I COME IN, AUNT ELLY? I NEED MY BARBIE DOLLS.

KNOCK-KNOCK

MY FEET ARE COLD. I'M JUST GETTIN' MY SLIPPERS.

KNOCK-KNOCK

I WANNA GET SOME CLOTHES — CAN I TURN THE LIGHT ON?

UP EARLY AGAIN? WHY DON'T YOU AND JOHN SLEEP IN, IN THE MORNING?!

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

6x	3-		2÷
	7+	3+	
3-			3
	2	4+	

WORKSPACE:

CHALLENGING

3	60x	2÷	5-
3+			11+
			11+
	10+		
2-	3-	5	3÷
1-	1	1-	36x
	3+		4

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

9x	2	3-	1	4
3	2			
		9+	2	
1	3		4	2
2÷	3-		2	3
4	1			
		2-		
2	4		3	1

WORLD

Russian officials bar Navalny from running for president

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Russian election officials on Monday formally barred Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny from running for president, prompting calls from him for a boycott of next year's vote.

The Central Election Commission decided unanimously that the anti-corruption crusader isn't eligible to run.

Navalny is implicitly barred from running for office because of a conviction in a fraud case which has been viewed as political retribution. He could have run if he was given a special dispensation or if his conviction was cancelled.

Incumbent Vladimir Putin is set to easily win a fourth term in office in the March 18 election, with his approval ratings topping 80 percent.

Over the past year, Navalny has mounted

a grassroots campaign which reached out to the most remote corners of Putin's heartland.

Navalny, 41 is the most serious challenger that Putin has faced in all his years in power, and the court cases against him have been widely seen as a tool to keep him from running for office.

In a pre-recorded video message that was released minutes after the Election Commission handed down the decision, Navalny called on his supporters to boycott the vote.

"The procedure that we're invited to take part is not an election," he said. "Only Putin and the candidates he has hand-picked are taking part in it."

"Going to the polls right now is to vote for lies and corruption."

Central Election Commission chief Ella Pamfilova told Navalny ahead of its vote to bar him that "maybe we

would be interested if you were running," but said the conviction doesn't allow the commission to put him on the ballot.

Speaking before the vote, Navalny told the commission that their decision to bar him would be a vote "not against me, but against 16,000 people who have nominated me, against 200,000 volunteers who have been canvassing for me."

While Putin is all but certain to win an easy victory, the Kremlin wants his performance to be as strong as possible and has been concerned by growing voter apathy.

Navalny's call for a boycott could hurt the Kremlin's hopes for boosting turnout.

The involvement of Ksenia Sobchak, a 36-year-old star TV host, could raise public interest in the race. While Sobchak has denied colluding with the Kremlin, she could attract some of Navalny's



AP PHOTO

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who submitted endorsement papers necessary for his registration as a presidential candidate, center, sits at the Russia's Central Election commission in Moscow, Russia, on Monday. Russian election officials have formally barred Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny from running for president.

supporters and help boost attendance.

Sobchak criticized Navalny's call for boycotting the vote, saying Monday that the "election is the only way to change something, and boycotting them is inefficient and harmful."

She proposed that Navalny join her

campaign if she gets registered for the race.

Other veterans of past elections — liberal Grigory Yavlinsky and ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy — are also running. Communists nominated a new face, Pavel Grudinin, director of a big strawberry farm just outside Moscow.

Guatemala says it is moving embassy in Israel to Jerusalem

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUATEMALA CITY — Guatemala's president announced on Christmas Eve that the Central American country will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, becoming the first nation to follow the lead of U.S. President Donald Trump in ordering the change.

Guatemala was one of nine nations that voted with the United States and Israel on Thursday when the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a non-binding resolution denouncing Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Trump didn't set any timetable for moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and

neither did Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales.

In a post on his official Facebook account Sunday, Morales said that after talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he decided to instruct Guatemala's foreign ministry to move the embassy.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki criticized the decision Monday, saying in a statement Morales was "dragging his country to the wrong side of history by committing a flagrant violation of international law."

Al-Malki called it a "shameless act of lawlessness" and "a brazen act of disrespect and disregard" to international alliances of which Guatemala is part.

Guatemala and Israel have long had close ties, especially in security matters and Israeli arms sales to Guatemala.

No other country has their embassy for Israel in Jerusalem, though the Czech Republic has said it is considering such a move.

In a statement, Netanyahu praised Morales' decision and said that he was waiting in Jerusalem.

"God bless you, my friend, President Morales," he said. "I told you recently that there will be other countries that would recognize Jerusalem and announce the transfer of their embassies to it. Well here is the second country and I reiterate: It is only the beginning and it is

important."

Trump upended decades of U.S. policy with his Dec. 6 announcement that he was recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Though Trump said he was merely recognizing reality and not prejudging negotiations on the future borders of the city, Palestinians saw the move as siding with Israel on the most sensitive issue in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its capital, while the Palestinians claim the city's eastern sector, which was captured by Israel in 1967 and is home to sensitive religious Jewish, Muslim and Christian sites. Many governments

have long said that the fate of Jerusalem must be resolved through negotiations.

Trump's announcement has set off weeks of clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli security forces that have left 12 Palestinians dead.

Netanyahu has made great efforts to reach out to Latin America in recent years as part of a campaign to counter longstanding support for the Palestinians at the United Nations.

The resolution passed by the General Assembly declared the U.S. action on Jerusalem "null and void." The 128-9 vote was a victory for Palestinians, but fell short of the total they had predicted. Thirty-five nations abstained and 21 stayed away from the vote.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mexico nabs alleged mastermind of reporter's killing

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican authorities have arrested a man suspected of ordering the March killing of journalist Miroslava Breach.

The National Security Commission said in a statement that the 43-year-old suspect was detained along with two others Monday morning in the town of Bacabampo, Sonora state.

It identified him as the head of a criminal gang with a strong presence of parts of Sonora and Chihuahua states.

Chihuahua Gov. Javier Corral alleged in a tweet that the man was the "intellectual author" of the murder.

Breach was a correspondent for the national newspaper La Jornada. She was shot eight times outside her garage in Chihuahua city the morning of March 23.

At least 10 journalists have been killed this year in the country, one of the world's deadliest for the profession.

Syrian troops capture new areas near Israeli-occupied Golan

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government forces have captured new areas south of the capital Damascus near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, increasing pressure on insurgents.

The government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media reported that Syrian troops and their allies captured Monday three new areas from al-Qaida-linked Levant Liberation Committee. It added troops are now about 500 yards from the shrine of Sheikh Abdullah that is sacred to the country's Druze community.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Right said the fighters are now besieged in the village of Beit Jin and nearby areas after a 10-day intense offensive. It added that negotiations are underway to evacuate insurgents to the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib.

Critics of Turkish coup decree fear death squad formation

ISTANBUL (AP) — A new emergency decree in Turkey that grants immunity to civilians deemed to have helped thwart an attempted coup has sparked an outcry.

Critics fear that it could lead to violence through impunity, including the possible formation of death squads.

The new law, passed Sunday, says people who acted to "suppress" the July 2016 coup attempt wouldn't face prosecution. Previously, it only applied to officials and law enforcement.

Ex-President Abdullah Gul and an ally of Turkey's current president called the law "worrisome" and said Monday it should be re-evaluated.

A new opposition party said that the decree could provoke groups to attack and kill opposition protesters, and link it to the failed coup.

The government has been under a state of emergency since the coup blamed on a U.S.-based cleric.

Lingering drought threatens Holy Land's waters

By ODED BALILTY
and ILAN BEN ZION
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — As Israel heads into its fifth consecutive year of drought, the Sea of Galilee stands at a century low, much of the Jordan River is a fetid trickle and the Dead Sea is rapidly shrinking.

The biblical bodies of waters — pilgrimage sites for baptisms and beach parties alike — are crucial to the survival and stability of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians. But more and more of the river the ancient Israelites crossed to enter the Holy Land is drying up — the result of climate change, growing populations and the increasing use of its water for agriculture.

The water basin is dotted with sacred sites for Jews, Muslims and Christians. Jesus, who was baptized in the Jordan, is said to have walked on the waters of the Sea of Galilee and multiplied loaves and fishes on its shores. The medieval Jewish scholar Moses Maimonides is buried by the lakeshore, and companions of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad are buried on the eastern banks of the Jordan.

For visitors with high expectations for such iconic sites, the scenes can be shocking.

"If you blink when you cross the Allenby Bridge," which links Jordan and the West Bank, "then you'll miss seeing the Jordan River," said Gidon Bromberg, the Israeli director of EcoPeace, an organization of Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian environmentalists.

The Jordan River rises as the confluence of several tributaries at the northern end of the Great Rift, a 3,700-mile tear in the Earth's crust. It flows south into the Sea of Galilee, also known as Lake Kinneret, then squiggles 220 miles to the lowest place on the planet, the Dead Sea.

The Sea of Galilee, Israel's main water source, is less than 1 percent of the size of Lake Ontario, and years of drought have further lowered its surface.

Israeli meteorologists predicted in early December that the coming months would be drier than an average winter, prolonging an already troubling drought. As of the last reckoning, the water level in the Sea of Galilee stood at 703 feet below sea level, several feet (about a meter) below the point at which ecologists predict damage to the ecosystem and water quality.

"The amount of water that's flowed into the Kinneret in the past four years is the lowest ever,"



AP PHOTO

In this Dec. 8, photo, an aerial view shows the Jordan River estuary of the Sea of Galilee near the community settlement of Karkom, northern Israel. Israel is heading into its fifth consecutive year of drought, putting three celebrated biblical bodies of water at risk.

said Doron Markel, the Israel Water Authority's Kinneret director, attributing the drop in volume to meager rainfall during the normally rainy winter season.

Markel was optimistic, however, that a good year of rain could replenish the lake and help reverse the damage of years of drought. "We still have time," he said.

The situation in the lower Jordan River is even worse. Around 95 percent of the river's historic flow has been diverted for agriculture since the

1960s, including around 14.5 billion gallons per year that are given to Jordan as part of a 1994 peace treaty.

Today, the river's flow is down to just 7.9 billion gallons per year, less than a quarter of its historical levels. London's River Thames, in comparison, discharges about 530 billion gallons annually.

Bromberg says Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians are all responsible for the dire state of the river. He said instead of fresh water keeping the lower

Jordan alive, it is filled with sewage and waste. "That's actually what's kept the river wet — a combination of agricultural runoff, sewage water and saline waters," he said.

The meager flow, in turn, has contributed to 60 percent of the shrinking of the Dead Sea, leaving sinkholes and abandoned beachfront resorts along its shores. Israeli and Jordanian industries extracting minerals and salts from the salty lake are responsible for the other 40 percent of losses.



ZEKE OR NO ZEKE

Even with the return of star RB Ezekiel Elliott, the Dallas Cowboys found a way to lose to Seattle Seahawks on Sunday. **Page 6**

NFL: Bucs

Does Gruden really want to return?



AP PHOTO
Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Peyton Barber (25) runs away from the Carolina Panthers' defense during the first half in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday. The Panthers won 22-19.

By **RICK STROUD**
Tampa Bay Times

An open letter to Jon Gruden

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — That's right, this is a dear Jon letter.

It seems like a good time to write you, Coach Gruden, after the Bucs just lost another heart-breaker, this time 22-19 to the Carolina Panthers. You always called them the North Carolina Panthers. Same guys, man.

Grumor has it you are considering leaving ESPN's Monday Night Football to return to the

sideline. There was a report Sunday that you are even checking in with some of your former assistants to see if they are available.

That's a lot of smoke, and frankly, Dirk Koetter's head coaching seat with the Bucs is hot enough to start a fire.

The word is, if Koetter is dismissed after next Sunday's season finale against the Saints, you would have a real interest in coaching the Bucs again.

Let me take a few minutes to tell you what you would be getting yourself into.

This isn't anything like

the Bucs team you took over in 2002 from Tony Dungy. You deserve all the credit in the world for winning Super Bowl XXXVII. You're in the Ring of Honor. So don't take this the wrong way. But this 2017 Bucs team doesn't have a championship defense like that one did.

This Bucs defense had the best team in the NFC South on the ropes and then they took off the gloves. Started catching punches with their face.

Five times the Bucs have had the lead or been tied in the fourth quarter this season. They won one of them.

It happened again Sunday at Bank of America Stadium.

The Bucs were up 19-15 with 3:05 to play and the ball on the Panthers 31-yard line. It was fourth and 7. Koetter tried to make it a seven-point lead. But you know kickers, Jon. Remember when Martin Gramatica went from Automatica to Erratica?

Patrick Murray missed a 51-yarder wide right, just like he did on the 54-yarder that would've tied Atlanta last week. SMH. Kickers.

Anyway, Cam Newton

SEE GRUDEN, 6

NHL: Bobby Orr

Iconic goal remains top NHL moment

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
Associated Press

Growing up in Brantford, Ontario, Wayne Gretzky always heard his father, Walter, wax poetic about Bill Barilko's 1951 Stanley Cup-winning goal for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"We didn't really even have TV back then and there was kind of clips of it, there was kind of pictures of it — moments of it, so to speak," Gretzky said.

At age 9, Gretzky watched in the same kind of awe as Bobby Orr scored in overtime to win the Cup in 1970 for the Boston Bruins. Orr beat St. Louis Blues goaltender Glenn Hall, leaping through the air to celebrate what has become the most iconic goal in NHL history.

"People from the '50s and '60s remember the Barilko goal and then the new generation of kids who got to see the goal like myself could relate to what our parents and grandparents were talking about," Gretzky said. "Time sort of stopped in a moment that you could compare something so unique."

"The Great One" downplays his own accomplishments but considers Orr's goal an unforgettable moment in hockey history. As the NHL celebrates its 100th anniversary, Orr's goal is so important that it reached the finals of the "Greatest Moments" bracket 47 years after it happened.

While Barilko's goal inspired the Tragically Hip song "Fifty Mission Cap," Orr's has inspired decades of highlights and conversation.

Almost 50 years later, the goal is still revered and remembered, from Ray Lussier's timeless photo to Dan Kelly's

SEE ORR, 3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: Buckeyes

WHAT'S NEXT?



Many departing players will change the face of Buckeyes

By **MITCH STACY**
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Reloading is going to be more challenging than usual this time for Ohio State coach Urban Meyer, who is accustomed to losing much of his talent to the NFL each year.

Seven fifth-year seniors who were key contributors this season are departing, including quarterback J.T. Barrett — a four-year starter who holds nearly every Ohio State passing and scoring record — and defensive end Tyquan Lewis, the 2016 Big Ten defensive player of the year.

Another handful of this season's best players could leave early to enter the 2018 NFL draft in the next few weeks, including All-American cornerback and likely first-rounder Denzel Ward, defensive end Sam Hubbard and linebacker Jerome Baker.

Meyer said it's going

SEE BUCKEYES, 3



AP PHOTO
Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett runs with the ball during the second half of the Big Ten championship NCAA college football game against Wisconsin in Indianapolis. Next fall, seven fifth-year Ohio State seniors are departing, including four-year starting quarterback Barrett.

NFL: In case you missed it

Week 16: Patriots benefit again on TD reversal

By **EDDIE PELL**
Associated Press

The Patriots got a big break when officials overturned a touchdown catch for the other team. No, this is not a repeat.

For the second straight week, the exact definition of a catch and the officials' ability to discern that became a hot topic in the NFL. And for the second straight week, New England came out ahead in the deal.

On Sunday, referees on the field ruled that Buffalo's Kelvin Benjamin had both feet in bounds in the back corner of the end zone and called it a touchdown, which would have given the Bills a 16-13 lead just

No Sunday night game on New Year's Eve

NEW YORK — The NFL has announced there will be no Sunday night game on New Year's Eve to ensure matchups with playoff implications that impact each other are played at the same time on the final week of the season.

The league said Sunday night all Week 17 games will begin at either 1 p.m. or 4:25 p.m. EST. The league moved Cincinnati-Baltimore, Buffalo-Miami,

before halftime.

But after the review, which goes to the NFL's senior vice president of officials in New York, the call was overturned. Buffalo settled for a field goal and went on to lose

Jacksonville-Tennessee, Carolina-Atlanta and New Orleans-Tampa Bay to the latter time slot.

Every division except the NFC South has already been clinched.

Both wild cards in the AFC are up for grabs between Baltimore, Tennessee, the Los Angeles Chargers and Buffalo, while Atlanta and Seattle are competing for the final NFC wild card.

37-16.

The Bills were outraged.

"Does anyone even know what a catch is anymore? I definitely

SEE PATRIOTS, 6



AP PHOTO
Buffalo Bills wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin (13) can't make a catch in the end zone in front of New England Patriots cornerback Stephon Gilmore, left, during the first half Sunday.

Florida Lottery
www.flalottery.com

3 4-of-5 CB.....\$2,500
9 4-of-5.....\$500

PICK 2

Dec. 25N..... 2-8
Dec. 25D..... 7-3
Dec. 24N..... 8-3
Dec. 24D..... 6-3
Dec. 23N..... 9-0
Dec. 23D..... 8-6
D-Day, N-Night

PICK 3

Dec. 25N..... 2-1-3
Dec. 25D..... 0-3-3
Dec. 24N..... 8-1-5
Dec. 24D..... 4-0-2
Dec. 23N..... 8-5-7
Dec. 23D..... 6-4-2
D-Day, N-Night

PICK 4

Dec. 25N..... 2-0-2-4
Dec. 25D..... 0-0-0-9
Dec. 24N..... 8-3-9-2
Dec. 24D..... 7-8-9-5
Dec. 23N..... 2-9-0-1
Dec. 23D..... 4-1-5-5
D-Day, N-Night

PICK 5

Dec. 25N..... 3-2-5-4-6
Dec. 25D..... 6-0-2-1-1
Dec. 24N..... 2-0-1-9-5
Dec. 24D..... 8-7-1-4-0
Dec. 23N..... 2-4-3-1-2
Dec. 23D..... 2-5-8-0-6
D-Day, N-Night

FANTASY 5

Dec. 25 late
Dec. 24 10-15-17-27-35
Dec. 23 13-21-27-29-30

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 24
0 5-digit winners.....\$0.00
317 4-digit winners...\$555.00
9,343 3-digit winners...\$17.00

CASH FOR LIFE

Dec. 18 late
Cash Balllate
Dec. 21 1-9-25-37-60
Cash Ball1

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 21
0 5-of-5 CB..... \$1,000/Day
0 5-of-5..... \$1,000/Week

LUCKY MONEY

Dec. 22 15-28-31-35
Lucky Ball..... 11
Dec. 19 10-15-37-40
Lucky Ball.....17

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 22
0 4-of-4 LB\$1.7 Million
4 4-of-4.....\$1,513.00
46 3-of-4 LB\$288.00
677 3-of-4
\$57.50

LOTTO

Dec. 23 ... 14-16-17-35-46-50
Dec. 20 ... 25-35-40-45-48-53
Dec. 16 6-12-32-38-40-45

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 23
0 6-digit winners..\$8 million
20 5-digit winners..\$5,145.00
1,039 4-digit winners..\$88.50

POWERBALL

Dec. 23 1-3-13-15-44
Powerball 25
Dec. 20 1-20-61-64-69
Powerball20

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 23
0 5 of 5 + PB\$300 Million
0 5 of 5\$1 million
2 4 of 5 + PB\$50,000
101 4 of 5\$100
ESTIMATED JACKPOT
\$337 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Dec. 22 1-20-30-33-42
Mega Ball16
Dec. 1928-37-39-42-58
Mega Ball2

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 19
0 5 of 5 + MB\$223 Million
0 5 of 5\$1 Million
0 4 of 5 + MB\$10,000
11 4 of 5\$500
ESTIMATED JACKPOT
\$253 million

Some lottery numbers were unavailable due to early deadlines because of the holiday. Yesterday's numbers will be updated in tomorrow's paper.

SPORTS ON TV

(All times Eastern)
Schedule subject to change and/or blackouts

TUESDAY, DEC. 26

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
1:30 p.m.
ESPN — Heart of Dallas Bowl, West Virginia vs. Utah, at Dallas
5:15 p.m.
ESPN — Quick Lane Bowl, N. Illinois vs. Duke, at

Detroit
9 p.m.
ESPN — Cactus Bowl, Kansas St. vs. UCLA, at Phoenix

NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
NBA — Chicago at Milwaukee
10:30 p.m.
NBA — Sacramento at L.A. Clippers

NFL: Steelers 34, Texans 6



AP PHOTO

Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Artie Burns intercepts a pass intended for Houston Texans wide receiver Will Fuller (15) in the end zone during the first half Monday in Houston.

Steelers clinch first-round bye with win over Texans

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ben Roethlisberger threw for 226 yards and two touchdowns, and the Pittsburgh Steelers clinched a first-round playoff bye with a 34-6 win over the Houston Texans on Monday.

Roethlisberger threw passes to six players as Pittsburgh (12-3) romped over the lowly Texans (4-11) despite missing NFL leading receiver Antonio Brown, who sat out with a calf injury.

The Steelers led 20-0 at halftime after taking advantage of

two turnovers by the Texans. Le'Veon Bell added a 10-yard TD run late in the third quarter and rookie JuJu Smith-Schuster made it 34-6 with an 18-yard touchdown grab in the fourth.

Bell finished with 14 carries for 69 yards and Smith-Schuster had six receptions for 75 yards.

T.J. Yates was 7 of 16 for 83 yards and a touchdown for the Texans, who lost their fifth straight game and for the eighth time in nine games.

Yates made his second straight start since Tom Savage sustained a concussion.

NBA: Sixers 105, Knicks 98

76ers beat Knicks, end 5-game skid

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joel Embiid has endured too much misery in the NBA to miss one of the fun days on the schedule.

So as soon as he knew his back felt up to it, he couldn't wait to get on the court for his first Christmas Day game.

Embiid had 25 points and 16 rebounds, JJ Redick scored 24 points, and the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a five-game losing streak with a 105-98 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday.

"Especially after what we've been through the past four years, I was so excited to play tonight because we've been through so much losing," Embiid said. "And to be able to be one of the few teams in our league that can play on this day, it just shows you how much we've improved."

Neither Embiid nor Redick was cleared to play until going through pregame warmups, and their presence gave the 76ers just enough to win their first Christmas Day appearance since 2001.

Embiid, who has been battling a bad back, powered through a big-man duel with Enes Kanter, who had a season-high 31 points and tied a career best with 22 rebounds.

He joined Wilt



AP PHOTO

Philadelphia 76ers' T.J. McConnell, second from left, drives to the basket through New York Knicks defenders during the second half Monday in New York. The 76ers defeated the Knicks 105-98.

Chamberlain, Bill Russell and Bob Lanier as the only players with a 30-20 game on Christmas, according to research provided to the Knicks by Elias.

"I respect the guy a lot because that guy didn't play three, four years and coming back (at the level he's playing right now)," Kanter said of Embiid. "So it's cool to play against, go against a guy like that."

Redick, who missed the last game with right hamstring tightness, helped the 76ers pull

away from an 89-all tie midway through the fourth quarter. He's played in Christmas games before — and made clear again he's not a fan of them — and he thought his young teammates responded well to their first opportunity.

"There's a tendency to try to put on a show instead of just going out and competing, and I think we did a great job of just going out and competing," Redick said.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 22 points for the Knicks, who fell to

22-30 on Christmas with their fifth straight loss on the holiday.

Backup point guard T.J. McConnell had Philadelphia's final eight points of the third quarter, and the 76ers pushed the lead to nine with about 9 minutes left in the game.

The Knicks battled back to tied it 89 on Porzingis' three-point play with 5:20 left, but Philadelphia promptly scored the next seven to go up 96-89 on Redick's 3-pointer with 3:34 to play.

NBA: Warriors 99, Cavs 92



AP PHOTOS

Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) blocks a shot by Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love (0) during the second half in Oakland, Calif. on Monday.

Durant delivers on both ends in Warriors win

By **JANIE McCAULEY**
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Klay Thompson hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:33 left, Kevin Durant defended LeBron James and delivered on both ends against Cleveland just as he did six months ago to earn Finals MVP, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Cavaliers 99-92 on Monday in a Christmas Day rematch of opponents from the past three NBA Finals.

Durant's block against a driving James with 24.5 seconds left went to official review and was ruled clean. Durant finished with 25 points, seven rebounds and five blocked shots.

Kevin Love had 31 points with six 3-pointers and a season-best 18 rebounds, while James contributed 20 points, six rebounds and six assists in a rivalry missing one

key piece: the Warriors' two-time MVP Stephen Curry, who missed his eighth straight game with a sprained right ankle.

Thompson scored 24 points and Draymond Green had a triple-double with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists. It was Golden State's 12th win in 13 games after its 11-game winning streak was snapped by Denver on Saturday night.

Warriors rookie Jordan Bell traveled with 2:13 left and James tied it before Thompson came through with his fourth 3.

James' 3-pointer with 10:39 left pulled Cleveland within 73-72, but Green immediately answered with a 3 and Andre Iguodala scored two of his nine points the next time down. In another key sequence, Durant blocked Tristan Thompson's shot with 6:23 to go and dunked moments later.



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Dwyane Wade (9) drives to the basket against Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson.

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Advertisement

Advertisement

New Pill Triggers All-Day Arousal in Men

Key ingredients stimulate the production of a molecule required to achieve firm, long lasting erections; clinical studies show users experience significant improvements in sex drive, erection quality, and performance.

By Ryan Steele
Mens Health News
Syndicate

MHNS, San Diego – Although drugs like Viagra®, Cialis® and Levitra® all promise harder erections, more stamina and a better sex drive, for the vast majority of men these promises never come true.

And that's because these drugs do not stimulate a man's desire or interest in sex!

But now Nobel Prize winning research has inspired the creation of a new kind of pill, created just for older men.

It's called Vesele® and its formula is designed to stimulate a man's body and his brain which studies show significantly improves sex drive and erection strength.

MADE FOR THE AGING MAN

According to experts, Vesele® is not a drug. It's something completely different.

And because Vesele does not require a prescription and is not sold in stores, the makers are doing everything they can to keep up with the demand.

"Orders are coming in so fast we may have to start a waiting list," reports the head of fulfillment at Innovus Pharma Laboratories, the makers of Vesele®.

KEEPS YOU AROUSED ALL DAY

Vesele is a pill that focuses on restoring blood flow, allowing it to work on both the brain and body.

It does this by stimulating the production of a key sex molecule known to dilate the small arteries in the penis that support a strong erection.

As men age, they lose their ability to create this critical molecule and their sex life suffers. Vesele contains the active ingredient which gets men producing it again!

And unlike other sex pills, this doctor formulated formula contains a patented ingredient called Bioperine® which has been shown in clinical studies to increase absorption of this miracle molecule by as much as 1544%.

This means your brain and your body receive more of this crucial sex compound resulting in harder, firmer, longer lasting erections.

STIMULATES DESIRE

Vesele® uses the same science found in drugs like Viagra® but then amplifies it four-fold.

And since it's natural there are no unwanted side effects, only a stronger desire, more



Enhances Sex Drive and Triggers Erections: Vesele is a 2-in-1 doctor formulated pill that stimulates a man's brain and body, resulting in significant improvements in every area of sexual health.

passion and a renewed interest in sex as well as rock hard erections that last.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND VESELE®

According to the *Journal of Vascular Research* changes in blood flow to and from the penis are thought to be the most frequent cause of male erectile dysfunction.

Vesele® combines two clinical strength, pharmaceutical grade circulation boosters into one easy to use pill. Research shows that they work by increasing the production of a key molecule in the male body, which triggers blood flow to the penis.

Studies on Vesele show that it can increase levels of this molecule by a staggering 95%, which is why so many users report stunning improvements in the quality of their erections.

Pills like Viagra® work in a similar way, but only focus on blood flow to the penis and not the brain, which is why man men never feel an improvement in sex drive like they do with Vesele.

IMPRESSIVE CLINICAL TRIALS

In a recent clinical study men between the ages of 45 to 65 were asked to take the main ingredient in Vesele® once a day. They were then instructed not to change the way they eat or exercise.

The results were truly amazing. Virtually every single man who took Vesele® reported a huge difference in their desire for sex. They were like teenagers again. They also reported experiencing harder erections that lasted for almost 20 minutes. The placebo group experienced no change.

In a separate double-blind study reported in *The Journal of International Impotence Research*, participants were given nutrients like those found in Vesele® and asked to record their sexual function/dysfunction in diaries. After just one month erectile function was restored to normal, and intercourse frequency doubled.

OVERWHELMING DEMAND

Because of the amazing results users are achieving and the fact that Vesele® doesn't require a prescription – men are reaching for it first before trying other more costly or dangerous alternatives.

"When the results came in, we knew we had something every aging man would want and need, said Dr. Damaj. Our phones ring non-stop daily with order requests, It's been really crazy. We know how important it is so we're doing everything in our power to meet the overwhelming demand for Vesele®."

VESELE® 2 PILLS IN 1

According to experts it takes more than just getting an erection to enjoy sex. That's because arousal and desire are key elements to the joy of sex. That's where drugs like Viagra® and Cialis® miss the boat. By stimulating just an erection without the passion or intensity the experience will be less enjoyable for you and your partner.

"As an expert in the development of sexual dysfunction, I've studied the effectiveness of Nitric Oxide on the body and the brain and I'm impressed by the way it increases desire as it increases penile blood flow. The result is evident in the creation of Vesele®", said Dr. Damaj.

HOW TO GET VESELE®

This is the first time we offered Vesele® to the public since its news release. In an effort to get Vesele® in the hands of as many men as possible, Innovus Pharma is offering one time discounts for first time buyers. A special hotline has been set up for readers in your area to take advantage of this limited offer. The Special TOLL-FREE Hotline number is 1-800-361-2785 and will be open 24-hours a day. If you miss out on our current product inventory you will have to wait until more becomes available, which could take 6 weeks or more. We advise you to call 1-800-361-2785 now.



AP PHOTO

Ohio State cornerback Denzel Ward, left, knocks the ball away from Nebraska receiver Stanley Morgan during the first half of an NCAA college football game in Columbus, Ohio. All-American cornerback Ward could depart early to enter the NFL draft.

BUCKEYES

From Page 1

to be especially tough to replace this departing group.

"These fifth-year guys are not just fantastic players, they are the nuts and bolts of this program," he said. "They own this program."

Before fully focusing on filling the holes, Meyer has to worry about motivating his troops to beat No. 8 USC in the Cotton Bowl Dec. 29, a consolation prize after the No. 5 Buckeyes just missed out on the fourth national playoff spot.

The game is big to the Buckeyes who are playing – or may be playing – in their last college game.

"After this game, I'm hoping I can celebrate in Dallas," said Baker, who was third on the team in tackles this season but still didn't meet expectations. "But I don't worry about (possibly going to the draft). It comes with the sport. You make decisions, but right now I'm worried about beating USC. You always played USC in the video games, and to play them in real life is kind of cool."

Four of the team's top

receivers also are draft eligible and could go early – K.J. Hill, Parris Campbell, Terry McLaurin and Johnnie Dixon.

Barrett's departure clears the way for an intriguing quarterback derby as this year's backup, Dwayne Haskins, battles Joe Burrow, who was supplanted as the No. 2 signal-caller when he broke his hand before the season. Tate Martell, a dual-threat QB who was redshirted this season, also will be in the mix.

Barrett, a fifth-year senior who doesn't have a lot of interest among NFL teams, was nonchalant about playing in his last college game in his home state of Texas.

"I am not sad or excited or anything. I have been here a while, guys. People joke around and say I have played college football for seven years. I think that's a little extreme," he said. "I'm just grateful for the opportunity to be at a place like Ohio State."

All-American center Billy Price will be gone next year, as will starting tight end Marcus Baugh, a valuable target for Barrett the past two seasons.

Ohio State's defensive

line will be gutted even if all the NFL-eligible players stay put. The depth this season, particularly at defensive end, allowed a rotation without a drop-off in talent. Defensive ends Lewis and Jalyn Holmes are seniors, as are defensive tackles Tracy Sprinkle and Michael Hill. Tackle Dre'Mont Jones is an NFL prospect and could leave, too, along with Hubbard.

The bright side of that situation will be more snaps for second-team All-American defensive end and rising junior Nick Bosa. His brother Joey was a first-team All-American at Ohio State and now leads the Los Angeles Chargers in sacks.

"I'm not even close to where I could be," Nick Bosa said. "I watched film on Joey, I watched his freshman, sophomore, junior film and the biggest jump he made was the year from sophomore to junior year. His stats weren't the same, obviously, because he was getting triple-teamed and everybody knew who he was, but the jump he made as a player is why he's doing what he's doing right now."

ORR

From Page 1

play-by-play call of Orr's give-and-go with Derek Sanderson to complete the Boston sweep. Orr's goal was voted one of the two most memorable moments in NHL history finishing behind only Mario Lemieux scoring goals five different ways in one game in 1988.

Many current fans weren't even alive when Orr scored the goal, let alone remember it. Yet among the 17 Cup-winning overtime goals, it sticks out as the most memorable.

"There's some moments in hockey that are just so special that we'll never be able to ever sort of recreate that moment again," Gretzky said. "And that's one of those iconic moments that we'll never be able to recreate."

It has become such a flashpoint that Orr recalled in the NHL's 100 years documentary: "Each time I see Glenn Hall, Glenn says, 'Is that the only goal you ever scored?'" It was actually one of nine goals Orr scored in 24 games during the 1970 playoffs.

So why has Orr's goal become one of the central moments in hockey history? Lussier's snapshot, Orr's legendary career, the advent of television and the importance of the goal for the Bruins' franchise all contribute.

Lussier took the famous photo for the Boston Record American, and recreations of it are everywhere, including on the wall of TD Garden where the Bruins



AP PHOTO

Boston Bruins' Bobby Orr goes into the air after scoring a goal against the St. Louis Blues that won the Stanley Cup for the Bruins in Boston. As the NHL celebrates its 100th anniversary, Orr's goal is so important that it reached the finals of the Greatest Moments bracket 47 years after it happened.

now play. Orr saw it in the newspaper the next morning in its full glory.

"That picture, it's probably one of the top five photographs in sports journalism – not just hockey," said actor Jon Hamm of "Mad Men" fame, a longtime Blues fan from St. Louis. "It's amazing. It captures the whole thing. It's Bobby Orr's commitment. He's horizontal to the ice, it's the winning goal, it's the whole thing."

Orr told author Andrew Podnieks for "The Goal: Bobby Orr and the Most Famous Shot in Stanley Cup History" that he jumped as soon as he saw the puck go in to seal the Bruins' first title since 1941.

The other five "Original Six" teams had all won the Cup at least once in those 29 years.

"So it wasn't like Montreal, Toronto or Detroit," Hamm said. "It was some new blood on the Cup."

It was one of just two Cup rings for Orr, who was forced to retire young because of knee injuries.

"The only thing is I wish

I could've played longer," Orr said in 2013. "I didn't play that long, so (I think about) the years I could have played if I had been healthy. That's the only regret I have."

Even though he played only 10 full NHL seasons and parts of two more, the Parry Sound, Ontario, native won the Norris Trophy as top defenseman eight times and the Hart Trophy as NHL MVP three times.

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly said a Hockey Hall of Famer and one of the best players of all-time scoring the goal fuels the powerful memories to this day. Gretzky said Orr being "one of the greatest players if not the greatest player to ever live" makes the goal even more special.

NHL chief content officer and executive vice president Steve Mayer compared it to Babe Ruth calling his shot on a home run during the 1932 World Series because the picture of Orr has been seen by sports fans for generations.

These statements have not been reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Vesele is not a drug. Results based upon averages. Models are used in all photos to protect privacy.

adno=50527329



HOOPS INSIDER

INSIDE ONE OF COLLEGE BASKETBALL'S PREMIER CONFERENCES | COMPILED BY PATRICK STEVENS, SPECIAL TO GATEHOUSE MEDIA

STORY OF THE WEEK

Market correction for the SEC: The first month of the season suggested the SEC might be stronger from top to bottom than at any point in the last decade. Saturday was a decided mixed bag on that front for the league. While Kentucky beat Virginia Tech and Auburn handled Middle Tennessee, the conference saw Georgia (at Massachusetts), Louisiana State (against Stephen F. Austin) and Mississippi (against Illinois State) lose to non-power conference teams, and Florida stumble against an often overlooked Clemson bunch.

STOCK RISING



Auburn: Faced with a tricky opponent against a Middle Tennessee team with plenty of postseason experience and a recent history of causing headaches for SEC programs, the Tigers earned a 76-70 victory over the Blue Raiders. It's not a game Auburn would have won in recent seasons, and it's the latest sign Bruce Pearl might finally be nudging the Tigers around the proverbial corner. A weekend meeting with Connecticut — which may not be as strong as usual but is still a brand name — provides Auburn another opportunity to keep things rolling as conference play approaches.

STOCK FALLING



Vanderbilt: The Commodores' stock already had its freefall, dropping a game at undefeated Arizona State is hardly a stunning outcome and there won't be much of a point piling on once league play arrives. But it bears mentioning that Vanderbilt's 3-7 start is its worst since going 3-10 during the 1945-46 season. The Commodores had lost six of seven entering the week and have not collected back-to-back victories all season, something that could presumably change against Houston Baptist and Alcorn State this week. Even if that happens, Matthew Fisher-Davis and his teammates will still be in a big hole entering conference play.

WEEKEND SPOTLIGHT



Kentucky's Quade Green shoots during the first half against Virginia Tech Dec. 16 in Lexington, Ky. Green injured his eye during practice and was wearing vision protection for this game. [JAMES CRISP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Kentucky vs. UCLA

Saturday, 4 p.m., Smoothie King Center, New Orleans, CBS

When these teams last met, Kentucky's De'Aaron Fox was torching UCLA's Lonzo Ball for 39 points in a regional semifinal victory in Memphis last March. Much has changed since then for both programs. Kentucky exported another group of players to the NBA, then reloaded to field the ultra-young lineup that has produced a 9-1 record in the season's nascent stages. Ball turned pro as well, and UCLA's offensive efficiency — so brilliant a year ago — has suffered in his absence. The Bruins have dropped games against Creighton, Michigan and Cincinnati, and their best victory to date is against a struggling Wisconsin bunch. As a result, this is the last real chance for Steve Alford's team to lock up a quality nonconference victory. They'll have to play better defense than they have this season to slow down Kevin Knox and the Wildcats.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

• **F Jordan Barnett, Missouri:** Delivered 18 points and 11 rebounds as the Tigers cruised past North Florida 85-51.

• **G Hamidou Diallo, Kentucky:** Recorded 20 points, five rebounds and three steals to help Kentucky outlast Virginia Tech.

• **G Darryl Macon, Arkansas:** Had 25 points, five assists, three rebounds and three steals in a victory over Troy.

• **F Bruce Stevens, Mississippi:** Had 27 points and seven rebounds in an overtime setback against Illinois State.

Weekend slate All times EST

Time	Game	TV
FRIDAY		
1 p.m.	Temple at Georgia	SEC
7 p.m.	Bradley at Mississippi	SEC+
7 p.m.	Incarnate Word at Florida	SEC
7 p.m.	Alcorn State at Vanderbilt	SEC+
8 p.m.	North Florida at Louisiana State	SEC+
9 p.m.	Alabama vs. Texas	ESPN2
SATURDAY		
12:30 p.m.	Tennessee at Wake Forest	ESPN2
2:30 p.m.	Connecticut at Auburn	ESPN2
7 p.m.	Mississippi State vs. Southern Miss	SEC+
8 p.m.	Missouri vs. Illinois (St. Louis)	ESPN2

RANKING THE LEAGUE *



1. Kentucky (9-1): The Wildcats should feel good about their offense after dropping 93 points on Virginia Tech. It's a number they could easily match Saturday against UCLA. (Last week: 1)



2. Texas A&M (9-1): Balance remains a virtue for the Aggies, who have taken back-to-back games against overmatched foes since stumbling in the desert against Arizona. (LW: 2)



3. Tennessee (7-2): Yes, the Volunteers lost at home to North Carolina. But they led most of the way against the defending national champions and did plenty to validate what's been a strong start to Tennessee's third season under Rick Barnes. (LW: 3)



4. Arkansas (8-2): After a week-long break, the Razorbacks ripped Troy by 25 in North Little Rock. That's exactly what a team as talented as Arkansas should do in the situation. (LW: 4)



5. Missouri (9-2): The Tigers appear poised to end a four-game losing streak to Illinois in the Braggin' Rights game; the Illini are coming off a loss last weekend to New Mexico State. (LW: 7)



6. Auburn (9-1): It's still hard to know just what to make of the Tigers, but they've won seven in a row and haven't absorbed a silly, inexplicable loss. That qualifies as progress. (LW: 10)



7. Alabama (7-3): The Crimson Tide return to action this week after a 10-day layoff. Saturday's game against Texas will feature two of the nation's top freshmen (Alabama's Collin Sexton and the Longhorns' Mo Bamba). (LW: 8)



8. Florida (6-4): At some point, the cliché is right — you are what your record says you are. Right now, it says the Gators aren't as good as everyone thought they would be this season. (LW: 6)



9. South Carolina (8-2): Nothing different to note here after the Gamecocks had a 10-day break for exams. They'll next face Division II Limestone two days after Christmas. (LW: 11)



10. Georgia (7-2): Just when you start to think the Bulldogs are NCAA tournament material, they go and lose to a so-so Massachusetts team (albeit one that also beat Providence this month). Georgia's last eight games have been decided by 10 points or less. (LW: 5)



11. Mississippi State (9-1): The Bulldogs were trounced at Cincinnati in their first significant test of the season. There's no shame in dropping a game to the Bearcats, but it reaffirms Mississippi State has plenty of work ahead of it. (LW: 9)



12. Louisiana State (6-3): It was a wild week for the Tigers, who beat Houston and then lost to Stephen F. Austin in a pair of tight games. It might not have been the split many would have guessed LSU would secure, but it's probably about right for a rebuilding team. (LW: 12)



13. Mississippi (5-5): Overtime is definitely not the Rebels' time; they've dropped all three of their games requiring an extra period this season. (LW: 13)



14. Vanderbilt (3-7): The bottom's fallen out of the Commodores' 3-point shooting percentage — and, in a related development, their winning percentage. (LW: 14)

*Records through Dec. 18

NUMBER OF NOTE

9-1

Start for Auburn this season, its best since the 1999-2000 Tigers got off to a 15-1 start en route to a round of 32 appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Stapleton's 3s help Mississippi St top Southern Miss 70-64

By **BRANDON SHIELDS**
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Xavian Stapleton scored 12 points on four 3-pointers as Mississippi State held off Southern Miss 70-64 in the second annual Capital City Show-down at the Mississippi Coliseum on Saturday night.

The Bulldogs have now four in a row over Southern Miss and are off to their first 11-1

start since the 2011-2012 season.

"Xavian was big for us tonight especially when he hit two big threes," said third-year Mississippi State coach Ben Howland. "Fortunate to get come out of here with a win, Southern Miss had a great game plan and was patient on offense. Good teams find a way to win even though things weren't going great."

Mississippi State shot

52 percent from the field and would out-score Southern Miss 28-20 in the paint.

Aric Holman, Nick Weatherspoon and Lamar Peterson would add 10 points apiece for Mississippi State. Tyson Carter and Quindary Weatherspoon would chip in seven points each for the Bulldogs.

"We made a bunch of big plays down the stretch in the second half when we had to,"

Howland said. "We also had a lot of fortunate bounces go our way."

Cortez Edwards led Southern Miss (7-6) with 22 points and four steals, Kevin Holland added 11 points.

Trailing 36-27 at halftime, Southern Miss would open the second half on a 19-9 run to take a 46-45 lead with 10:07 left in the game off a Tim Rowe lay-up.

The Golden Eagles would take their biggest lead 53-49 with just

under six minutes to go, but then Stapleton would hit back-to-back 3-pointers to give Mississippi State the lead for good at 56-54 with 4:49 left.

The Golden Eagles have lost two in a row following a four-game winning streak.

BIG PICTURE

Mississippi State: The Bulldog bench would outscore Southern Miss 28-7. Mississippi State

did turn the ball over 16 times for the second time in the last three games and shot just 35 percent from three-point range (7-for-20).

Southern Miss would score 26 points off turnovers, but the Mississippi State size was a little too much for them to overcome. The undersized Golden Eagles only shot 34 percent from behind the arc (9-for-26).

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL
All times Eastern

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	432	290
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	280	343
Miami	6	9	0	.400	265	371
N.Y. Jets	5	10	0	.333	292	356

SOUTH

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	407	253
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	319	346
Houston	4	10	0	.286	319	380
Indianapolis	3	12	0	.200	241	391

NORTH

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Pittsburgh	11	3	0	.786	344	278
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	368	272
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	259	322
Cleveland	0	15	0	.000	210	382

WEST

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Kansas City	9	6	0	.600	388	315
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	.533	325	362
Oakland	6	8	0	.429	281	324
Denver	5	10	0	.333	265	355

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Philadelphia	12	2	0	.857	438	279
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	348	332
Washington	7	8	0	.467	332	370
N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	.133	228	378

SOUTH

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	424	295
x-Carolina	11	4	0	.733	353	305
Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	331	305
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	304	358

NORTH

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Minnesota	12	3	0	.800	359	242
Detroit	8	7	0	.533	375	365
Green Bay	7	8	0	.467	309	349
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	254	297

WEST

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-L.A. Rams	11	4	0	.733	465	295
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	342	306
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	269	337
San Francisco	5	10	0	.333	297	370

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

WEEK 16

Dec. 23

Baltimore 23, Indianapolis 16
Minnesota 16, Green Bay 0

Sunday's Games

Chicago 20, Cleveland 3
New England 37, Buffalo 16
L.A. Chargers 14, N.Y. Jets 7
Washington 27, Denver 11
Carolina 22, Tampa Bay 19
Cincinnati 26, Detroit 17
Kansas City 29, Miami 13
L.A. Rams 27, Tennessee 23
New Orleans 23, Atlanta 13
Seattle 21, Dallas 12
Arizona 23, N.Y. Giants 0
San Francisco 44, Jacksonville 33

Monday's Games

Pittsburgh at Houston, late
Oakland at Philadelphia, late

WEEK 17

Sunday, Dec. 31

Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 4:25 p.m.

WEEK 17 PLAYOFF SCENARIOS

AFC

CLINCHED: New England - AFC East and first-round bye, Pittsburgh - AFC North, Jacksonville - AFC South, Kansas City - AFC West

NEW ENGLAND (12-3) (vs. N.Y. Jets (5-10), Sunday)

If Pittsburgh Wins at Houston Monday:
Clinches home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs with:
• Win, or
• Pittsburgh loss, or
• Tie and Pittsburgh tie

If Pittsburgh Loses at Houston Monday:
Clinches home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs

PITTSBURGH (11-3) (at Houston (4-10), MONDAY; vs. Cleveland (8-15), Sunday)

If Pittsburgh Wins at Houston Monday:
• Clinches first-round bye
Clinches home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs with:
• Win and New England loss or tie, or
• Tie and New England loss

If Pittsburgh Loses at Houston Monday:
Clinches first-round bye with:
• Win and Pittsburgh loss
BALTIMORE (9-6) (vs. Cincinnati (6-9), Sunday)
Clinches playoff berth with:
• Win or tie, or
• Buffalo loss or tie, or
• Tennessee loss or tie

TENNESSEE (8-7) (vs. Jacksonville (5-10), Sunday)
Clinches playoff berth with:
• Win, or
• Tie and Buffalo loss or tie and L.A. Chargers loss or tie, or
• Buffalo loss and L.A. Chargers loss

L.A. CHARGERS (8-7) (vs. Oakland (6-8), Sunday)
Clinches playoff berth with:
• Win and Tennessee loss or tie and Buffalo loss or tie, or
• Win and Tennessee loss or tie and Baltimore win or tie, or
• Tie and Tennessee loss and Buffalo loss or tie

BUFFALO (8-7) (at Miami (6-9), Sunday)
Clinches playoff berth with:
• Win and Baltimore loss, or
• Win and L.A. Chargers loss or tie and Tennessee loss or tie, or
• Tie and L.A. Chargers loss and Tennessee loss

NFC

CLINCHED: Philadelphia - NFC East and first-round bye, Minnesota - NFC North, Los Angeles Rams - NFC West, New Orleans - playoff berth, Carolina - playoff berth

PHILADELPHIA (12-2) (vs. Oakland (6-8), tonight; vs. Dallas (8-7), Sunday)

If Philadelphia Wins vs. Oakland Monday:
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs

If Philadelphia Loses vs. Oakland Monday:
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
• Win, or
• Minnesota loss, or
• Tie and Minnesota tie

MINNESOTA VIKINGS (12-3) (vs. Chicago (5-10), Sunday)

If Philadelphia Wins vs. Oakland Monday:
Clinches first-round bye with:
• Win or tie, or
• Carolina loss or tie, or
• New Orleans win

If Philadelphia Loses vs. Oakland Monday:
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
• Win and Philadelphia loss or tie, or
• Tie and Philadelphia loss

CAROLINA (11-4) (at Atlanta (9-6), Sunday)
Clinches NFC South with:
• Win and New Orleans loss or tie, or
• Tie and New Orleans loss

ATLANTA (9-6) (vs. Carolina (11-4), Sunday)
Clinches playoff berth with:
• Win, or
• Seattle loss, or
• Tie and Seattle tie

SEATTLE (9-6) (vs. Arizona (7-8), Sunday)
Clinches playoff berth with:
• Win and Atlanta loss or tie, or
• Tie and Atlanta loss
• Tie and Dallas-Seattle tie and Detroit loss or tie

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2017-18 BOWL RESULTS/SCHEDULE
(National TV in parentheses)

Dec. 16

Celebration Bowl at Atlanta
NC&A&T 21, Grambling State 14

New Orleans Bowl
Troy 50, North Texas 30

Cure Bowl at Orlando, Fla.
Georgia State 27, Western Kentucky 17

Las Vegas Bowl
Boise State 38, Oregon 28

New Mexico Bowl at Albuquerque
Marshall 31, Colorado State 28

Camellia Bowl at Montgomery, Ala.
Middle Tennessee 35, Arkansas State 30

Dec. 19

Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
FAU 50, Akron 3

Dec. 20

Frisco (Texas) Bowl
Louisiana Tech 51, SMU 10

Dec. 21

Gasparilla Bowl at St. Petersburg, Fla.
Temple 28, Florida International 3

Dec. 22

Bahamas Bowl at Nassau
Ohio 41, UAB 6

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl at Boise
Wyoming 37, Cent. Michigan 14

Dec. 23

Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
South Florida 38, Texas Tech 34

Armed Forces Bowl at Fort Worth, Texas
Army 42, San Diego State 35

Dollar General Bowl at Mobile, Ala.
Appalachian State 34, Toledo 0

Sunday's Game

Hawaii Bowl at Honolulu
Fresno State 33, Houston 27

Today's Games

Heart of Dallas Bowl
West Virginia (7-5) vs. Utah (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Quick Lane Bowl at Detroit
Northern Illinois (8-4) vs. Duke (6-6), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Cactus Bowl at Phoenix
Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday's Games

Independence Bowl at Shreveport, La.
Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Pinstripe Bowl at Bronx, N.Y.
Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Foster Farms Bowl at Santa Clara, Calif.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 8:30 p.m. (FOX)

Texas Bowl at Houston
Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday's Games

Military Bowl at Annapolis, Md.
Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Camping World Bowl at Orlando, Fla.
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl at San Antonio
Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl at San Diego
Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 9 p.m. (FOX)

Friday's Games

Belk Bowl at Charlotte, N.C.
Wake Forest (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl at El Paso, Texas
NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona State (7-5), 3 p.m. (CBS)

Music City Bowl at Nashville, Tenn.
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Arizona Bowl at Tucson, Ariz.
New Mexico State (5-6) vs. Utah State (6-6), 5:30 p.m. (CBSN)

Cotton Bowl Classic at Arlington, Texas
Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday's Games

TaxSlayer Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla.
Louisville (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), noon (ESPN)

Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn.
Iowa State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2), 12:30 p.m. (ABC)

Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, Ariz.
Washington (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Orange Bowl at Miami Gardens, Fla.
Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 8

Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla.
Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), noon (ESPN)

Peach Bowl at Atlanta
UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Citrus Bowl at Orlando, Fla.
Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)

Rose Bowl (CFP Semifinal) at Pasadena, Calif.
Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Georgia (12-1), 5:10 p.m. (ESPN)

Sugar Bowl (CFP Semifinal) at New Orleans
Clemson (12-1) vs. Alabama (11-1), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 8

College Football Championship at Atlanta
Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 20

East-West Shrine Classic at St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

NFLPA Collegiate Bowl at Carson, Calif.
American vs. National, TBA (FS1)

FCS PLAYOFFS

Championship Saturday, Jan. 6

At Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (13-1) vs. James Madison (14-0), noon

ODDS

PREGAME.COM LINE

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Today

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
Mississippi	Off	Off	Chicago
Toronto	5	207	at Dallas
Detroit	2	208½	Indiana
Miami	Off	Off	Orlando
San Antonio	11½	208½	Brooklyn

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES

Today

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
Heart of Dallas Bowl at Dallas				
Utah	4½	6½	56	West Virginia
Quick Lane Bowl at Detroit				
Duke	2½	5½	47	Northern Ill.
Cactus Bowl at Phoenix				
Kansas State	2½	6½	59½	UCLA

Wednesday

Independence Bowl at Shreveport, La.
Florida State 14 17 49 Southern Miss.

Pinstripe Bowl at New York
Iowa 14 18 49 Boston Col.

Texas Bowl at Houston
Missouri +1½ 2½ 60½ Texas

Foster Farms Bowl at Santa Clara, Calif.
Arizona 4½ 3½ 66 Purdue

Thursday

Military Bowl at Annapolis, Md.
at Navy 3½ 1½ 55 Virginia

Camping World Bowl at Orlando, Fla.
Oklahoma State 6½ 4 63 Virginia Tech

Alamo Bowl at San Antonio, Texas
Texas Christian 2 2½ 49 Stanford

Holiday Bowl at San Diego
Michigan St. +4½ 1 46 Wash. St.

Friday

Belk Bowl at Charlotte, N.C.
Wake Forest 2½ 3 68 Texas A&M

Sun Bowl at El Paso, Texas
North Carolina State 5 6½ 59½ Arizona State

MUSIC CITY BOWL at Nashville, Tenn.
Northwestern 6 7½ 51 Kentucky

Arizona Bowl at Tucson, Ariz.
Utah State 2½ 4 62 NMSU

Cotton Bowl at Arlington, Texas
Ohio State 6 7½ 64½ Southern Cal

Saturday

TaxSlayer Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla.
Louisville 4½ 6½ 63 Miss. State

Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn.
at Memphis 3 4 65½ Iowa State

Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, Ariz.

Penn State	3	1½	55	Washington
Orange Bowl at Miami				
Wisconsin	6	5½	45	at Miami

Monday, Jan. 1

Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla.
Michigan 7½ 7½ 42½ S. Carolina

Peach Bowl at Atlanta
Auburn 8½ 9½ 67 Central Florida

Citrus Bowl at Orlando, Fla.
Louisiana State 1 3½ 51½ Notre Dame

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Jan. 1

Rose Bowl at Pasadena, Calif.
Georgia +3 2 60 Oklahoma

Sugar Bowl at New Orleans
Alabama 2 3 47 Clemson

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Sunday

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Baltimore	11	10	40½	Cincinnati
at Detroit	7	7½	42½	Green Bay
Buffalo	2½	3	43	at Miami
at Atlanta	3	3½	46½	Carolina
New Orleans	8½	7½	50	at Tampa Bay
at Tennessee	Off	Off	Off	Jacksonville
at New England	17	Off	Off	N.Y. Jets
at Indianapolis	1	Pk	Off	Houston
at Pittsburgh	16	Off	Off	Cleveland
Washington	3	3	38½	at N.Y. Giants
at Minnesota	12	12½	Off	Chicago
Dallas	3	Off	Off	at Philadelphia
at L.A. Chargers	7	7½	Off	Oakland
at Seattle	7	9	40	Arizona
at Denver	4	3½	39	Kansas City
at L.A. Rams	6	4½	43½	San Francisco

Updated odds available at Pregame.com

TRANSACTIONS

None reported

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	PCT.	GB
Boston	27	9	.750	—
Toronto	23	8	.742	1½
New York	17	16	.515	8½
Philadelphia	15	18	.455	10½
Brooklyn	12	20	.375	13

Southeast Division	W	L	PCT.	GB
Washington	18	15	.545	—
Miami	17	16	.515	1
Charlotte	12	21	.364	6
Orlando	11	23	.324	7½
Atlanta	8	25	.242	10

Central Division	W	L	PCT.	GB
Cleveland	24	10	.706	—
Indiana	19	14	.576	4½
Detroit	18	14	.563	5
Milwaukee	17	14	.548	5½
Chicago	10	22	.313	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	PCT.	GB
Houston	25	6	.806	—
San Antonio	23	11	.676	3½
New Orleans	17	16	.515	9
Memphis	10	23	.303	16
Dallas	9	25	.265	17½

Northwest Division	W	L	PCT.	GB
Minnesota	20	13	.606	—
Oklahoma City	18	15	.545	2
Denver	18	15	.545	2
Portland	18	16	.525	3
Chicago	15	19	.441	5½

Pacific Division	W	L	PCT.	GB
Golden State	27	7	.794	—
L.A. Clippers	13	19	.406	13
L.A. Lakers	11	20	.355	14½
Sacramento	11	21	.344	15
Phoenix	12	23	.343	15½

Sunday's Games

None scheduled

Monday's Games

Philadelphia 105, New York 98
Golden State 99, Cleveland 92
Washington at Boston, late
Houston at Oklahoma City, late
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, late

Today's Games

Indiana at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Utah at Denver, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Boston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New York at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Utah at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Detroit at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Houston at Boston, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
New York at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

76ERS 105, KNICKS 98

PHILADELPHIA (105)
Covington 2-8 3-4 8, Saric 4-15 2-2 10, Embiid 8-17 7-8 25, Redick 6-10 8-8 24, Simmons 4-8 0-8 2, Johnson 2-3 0-0 4, Booker 1-5 1-1 3, McCollum 6-11 1-1 15, Bayless 2-6 3-4 8, Totals 35-83 25-30 105.

NEW YORK (98)
Thomas 1-2 0-0 2, Porzingis 6-19 9-14 22, Kanter 12-21 7-8 31, Jack 0-5 0-0 0, Lee 8-13 2-2 20, McDermott 2-6 0-0 5, Beasley 5-12 0-2 10, O'Quinn 2-4 0-2 4, Ntilikina 2-8 0-0 4, Baker 0-4 0-0 0, Totals 38

NFL: Cowboys

Playoff hopes fade to black despite Elliott return



AP PHOTO
Dallas Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott stands on the field during warmups Sunday in Arlington, Texas.

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott carried 15 times in the first half of the star Dallas running back's return from a six-game suspension.

Last year's NFL rushing leader didn't touch the ball when the Cowboys had a first down inside the Seattle 5 trailing by nine points in the fourth quarter of a 21-12 loss to the Seahawks that knocked Dallas out of the playoff race Sunday.

"My job is not to coach, and not to call plays," Elliott said after rushing for 97 yards on 24 carries while the Dallas offense didn't get in the end zone despite the boost of getting Elliott back.

"Coach (Scott) Linehan has been doing this for a long time, and he knows what he's doing, so I trust his judgment."

Dak Prescott threw two more interceptions, including his fourth pick-six of the season on a 30-yard return by Justin Coleman after throwing just four interceptions his entire first season when he was the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year and the Cowboys had an NFC-best 13 wins.

Dez Bryant dropped a pass, complained loudly on the sideline and then fumbled after

a catch. A dazzling, sliding 33-yard grab on a scrambling throw by Prescott didn't help since the Cowboys had to settle for four field goals and usually reliable kicker Dan Bailey missed twice in the fourth quarter.

The first miss — from 34 yards — came after the ill-fated sequence when Elliott didn't get a carry, and the Cowboys backed up 13 yards. It was particularly damaging since it kept the Cowboys two scores behind with 5:39 remaining.

"I'll be damned if myself or anyone else gets up here and says it's because he is missing field goals," said Prescott, who has 13 interceptions. "First and foremost, we are surprised, I am sure."

Owner Jerry Jones was surprised the Cowboys (8-7) lost with Elliott, figuring his return from a ban for domestic violence allegations was the spark Dallas needed to continue a three-game winning streak after losing the first three without him.

Instead, the Dallas offense had critical breakdowns similar to those from the losing streak that forced the Cowboys to win out with five games remaining.

They lost the turnover battle 3-0 and couldn't convert on four trips inside the Seattle 25.

One of those was Prescott's other interception, a throw behind Bryant that went through his hands and was grabbed by K.J. Wright at the Seattle 20.

"Turnovers change momentum," said Elliott, who was seen talking to Bryant after the receiver's fumble that set up Seattle's first touchdown. "I was just letting my teammates know that we were still in the game and had to keep our heads up."

The only thing Dallas is playing for in the finale at Philadelphia next week is a second straight winning season, which hasn't happened since 2008-09. It's been 10 years since the Cowboys went to the playoffs in consecutive seasons.

"They got the spot we wanted," Jones said of the Seahawks. "You can't do the kinds of things we did out there, no matter what the effort. We did, and we lost a game that probably we all thought could have gone the other way for us. We obviously did benefit early from Zeke being there. I really thought that would carry us."

NFL: Titans

Skid pins Titans' hopes of ending playoff drought on finale

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The playoff math for the Tennessee Titans couldn't be simpler now.

A three-game skid equals a regular-season finale against the Jacksonville Jaguars with a postseason berth on the line with Tennessee needing a victory to end a postseason drought stretching to 2008.

First, the Titans will need to figure out how to score more touchdowns than field goals after settling far too often Sunday against the high-powered Los Angeles Rams in a 27-23 loss that allowed the Jaguars to clinch the AFC South title.

"We still have an opportunity to get into the playoffs, and that is the next objective," Titans coach Mike Mularkey said.

The Titans (8-7) will host Jacksonville

in the regular-season finale, and need a win to clinch a playoff berth that would ease the disappointment and frustration of dropping three straight games by a combined 11 points.

"Unfortunately, we kind of put ourselves in this situation," Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "But we're in it, and we just got to go out there again, put one together, put a full, complete game together as a team and see what happens."

On Sunday, the Titans can pin their loss on their struggles inside the Rams 20. Even when they had first-and-goal at the 1 in the first quarter, Tennessee went backward with a penalty and a sack before an incompletion. That forced them to settle for the first of three field goals by Ryan Succop.

"When you play a team that scores a lot of points, you've got to



AP PHOTO
Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Sammy Watkins (12) scores a touchdown on a 3-yard pass reception against the Tennessee Titans in the second half Sunday in Nashville, Tenn.

score a lot of points, and obviously that was the difference in the game," Mularkey said.

Tight end Delanie Walker made his frustration even clearer.

"Those are things we can't have, especially playing a team like the Rams," Walker said. "You can't do that. That shot us in the foot."

Only once did they score inside the red zone with DeMarco Murray running for a 6-yard TD. Tennessee even got its first defensive touchdown of the season with Jurrell Casey forcing the ball away from Jared Goff with Wesley Woodyard picking it up for a 4-yard return for a TD and a 10-6 lead in the second quarter.

That Tennessee lead

lasted all of 56 seconds thanks to Todd Gurley II and an 80-yard TD run off a screen pass.

After Murray scored on a 6-yard run, the Titans recovered an onside kick. Succop said the official signaled live ball, so he tried the onside kick to steal a possession.

"When I saw that the Rams weren't out there, I turned around real quick and saw this was an opportunity to steal a possession," Succop said. "Credit to our guys because they were aware. Obviously, that was not called. ... I'm not exactly sure what the ruling on it was or why it didn't count."

Brynden Trawick recovered for Tennessee as an official threw a flag.

PATRIOTS

From Page 1

don't after watching that," tweeted Jessie Pegula, the daughter of the team's owner.

"The (officials) always seem to get it right for the Patriots, but that's not why we lost," Buffalo running back LeSean McCoy said.

He was referencing the call that helped New England last

weekend, when Pittsburgh's Jesse James appeared to have scored the winning touchdown, only to have it overturned on an equally confounding call.

Ben Roethlisberger threw an interception two plays later and the Patriots held on for the victory.

Nobody was more fired up about Sunday's call than former NFL officiating vice president Mike Pereira.

GRUDEN

From Page 1

took over at the Tampa Bay 41 and moved the Panthers like they were on skates. In four plays, they were knocking on the door. The Bucs got them to fourth and 3 at the 5-yard line.

Then defensive tackle Chris Baker jumped offsides.

Get this, right before the play he was told by Gerald McCoy and others to watch the hard snap count.

"I just got anxious and made a bad play," Baker said.

You may have lost a headset over that one. Jonathan Stewart (he's in your nightmares), picked up the fourth and 1. Then Newton fumbled the shotgun snap but still ran for the winning touchdown.

But I'll tell ya what, man, this Jameis Winston is a hell of a quarterback.

As you would say, he's like a ride on the Sheikra. Winston has played amazing the past two weeks. His shoulder feels healthy. He shredded the Panthers defense, going 21-of-27 for 367 yards with a touchdown and no interceptions. That's the second 130-plus rating he's had in consecutive weeks.

"It doesn't really matter if you have those games and lose," Winston said. "Like I've said, some unfortunate things have happened to us."

You've never had a young quarterback like Winston. That's got to make you want to quit the FFCA.

But Winston still has trouble protecting the football. He lost three fumbles Sunday. He was sacked six times. He dropped a snap. He swore he recovered the fumble that ended Tampa Bay's final drive, and went nuts when the officials gave it to Julius Peppers.

He's got weapons, too. Mike Evans caught six passes for 107 yards. This rookie Chris Godwin didn't blink and had three catches for 98 yards. Oh, and they have DeSean Jackson, who was out Sunday. Somehow you got that App State receiver Dexter Jackson. The GM, Jason Licht, gets a lot of things right.

But this team doesn't know how to win. It's tough for Koetter, who may be watching his dream die.

"It's the same stuff that wins football games every week," Koetter said. "It's not an effort issue. It's not a hustle issue. It's not a physical issue."

Gerald McCoy, Lavonte David and Kwon Alexander play their tails off. But there's no Sapp, Brooks and Lynch.

Anyway, who knows what happens. As you say, I don't want to get too deep and philosophical.

Have a Merry (Jiminy) Christmas.

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