

2017's fondest memories

Highlands News-Sun remembers 2017

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Memories of 2017 for the Highlands News-Sun tend to center around the big news stories, but the behind-the-scenes situations stick with us the most.

For those in the Highlands News-Sun office, memories of the year were sharp for Hurricane Irma, from the damage to homes and flooded neighborhoods to the many businesses and meeting rooms where the newsroom set up temporary shop because Irma had first cut power to the downtown office and then, with rains that followed, flooded that same building.

The newspaper now operates out of the old Highlands Today offices, 315 U.S. 27 S. in Sebring.

We remember the neighborhoods knee deep in water — too deep to drive through. We remember newspaper carriers “bulldozing” water as they drove through to deliver papers — free — for as long as the disaster lasted.

We remember a family who lost pets when their home caught fire after the storm and after power returned.

We remember residents of at least one community that should have drained after the storm, but ended up with a lot of standing water.

We have other memories besides Irma, though.

We recall the column of smoke from a muck fire west of Lake Placid that turned into a blanket of smoke over the town and State Road 70. It started on Valentines Day and didn't go out until summer rains returned in June.

We recall photos of a burned-out bulldozer where a wildfire in Okeechobee County overtook a driver who was cutting a fire break around the fire. He got

out in time, thanks to firefighters on scene.

We recall countless wrecks in which someone tragically perished or miraculously survived, and are thankful for wrecks that weren't bad, or didn't happen at all.

We're sad for the people we have lost through the year — from Monica Sauls to L.E. “Luke” Brooker — and all of them too soon.

We also remember the happy times, although we might not have thought about them at the time: The sweaty, perhaps a bit stinky, days just after Hurricane Irma when the newspaper departments met in various not-very air-conditioned and somewhat darkened places to keep putting out a daily paper for anyone and everyone in the county who had a subscription or not, just to make sure they had disaster recovery information.

Also, everyone in the office tried to make sure everyone else in the office, from newspaper carriers to the writers, advertising agents and editors had enough water, food, gasoline and sleep.

Executive Editor Romona Washington recalled a successful Women in Business event, postponed a week because of Irma.

We also remember how the community came together to help the Sebring Bowling Team after the members lost their equipment in a fire that sparked during Irma at Heartland Bowl in Sebring.

We also remember how so many volunteers worked to help people shutter windows and prepare homes for the storm, and then returned to help tarp roofs, clear downed trees and provide needed supplies, without asking anything in return.

They exemplified the spirit of the community.



FILE PHOTO

Out-of-state power company trucks roll south on U.S. 27 just two and a half weeks after Hurricane Irma roared through Highlands County. Some customers got power back within days, but some took weeks as power company crews would find new problems on lines after each repair.

Getting power back after Irma was on top of the list

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Highlands County residents best remember when the lights came on after Hurricane Irma roared through the county, and those who helped bring back the power, with much-missed air-conditioning.

A survey of favorite memories

from the past year centered mostly on Hurricane Irma. Comments ranged from simply “surviving Irma” to specifics about what happened that month, but mostly everyone was happy to get help.

Stacy Brasmer Osorio Robbins of Avon Park fondly recalls how convoys of electric company trucks, “from far and wide,” came to help restore power. She also

remembered all the help with food and water.

“I wish there was a way to thank each and every person that assisted after Irma's destruction,” Robbins said.

Denise Williams, Highlands County veteran service officer, said the way the U.S. Army National Guard troops ran a well-oiled machine, distributing ice, water, Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and tarps, is one of her fondest memories from the year, along with the opportunity each year to supply veterans with meals for Thanksgiving.

Wes Linscott said he also remembered getting power back, eight days after the storm.

“We don't take things for granted quite as much now,” Linscott said.

Tom M. Ciano also remembered getting the lights back on. John and Marjorie Studards of Avon Park also reminisced about how they survived Irma.

Robin Badgett Ballard of Sebring said when her family bought a house and moved into a new



FILE PHOTO

Volunteers help members of the Sebring community just a week after Hurricane Irma, as they shop for free groceries and household supplies at the First United Methodist Church of Sebring. Starting within a few days of the storm, volunteers and donors began staffing and supplying the church pantry, respectively.

MEMORIES | 10

County may borrow \$8M to cover Hurricane Irma

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — If Highlands County Commissioners agree to a proposed loan agreement, they could potentially add up to \$8 million in debt to cover hurricane recovery.

That's the proposal on this week's agenda for the Highlands County Board of County Commission, when it holds its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday at 600 S. Commerce Ave. in Sebring. It's the main action item on the agenda and one that Commissioners have discussed — and winced over



— for the last couple of months.

However, Commissioners are not being asked to sign the agreement or start using that debt right away. They will only have to sign for it if they need the money.

However, if the county

does use the money, it has to be withdrawn in \$1 million increments and must be paid back in no more than three years, according to a memorandum to the board from Business Services Manager Tasha Morgan.

In the letter, Morgan states that the county has racked up significant costs from Hurricane Irma.

“Although we anticipate reimbursement for a significant portion of these expenses, the County (sic) must first fund the expenditures and then submit

BORROW | 10

Fewer early release days in proposed school calendar

By MARC VALERO
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — There is not a lot of red — or two-hour early release days — on the proposed 2018-19 calendar the School Board of Highlands County will consider at its Jan. 9 meeting.

A few years ago, it seemed like there was an early release day every other week on a Wednesday. The number of early release days was

doubled from 10 in 2008-09 to 20 in the 2009-10 school year. That increase happened after state funding cuts ended teacher planning periods because educators had to teach every class period.

Many of the early release days were designated for teacher planning while some were used for training/professional development.

But half-way through the

CALENDAR | 10



Real Estate Sunday.....C1 Local Sports B1 ViewpointsA6
ObituariesA5 WeatherThe News Wire

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1. Cultivated since pre-historic times in China and India, black-eyed peas are related to the mung bean. The ancient Greeks and Romans preferred them to chickpeas.

2. They were brought to the West Indies from West Africa by slaves, by earliest records in 1674.

3. Originally used as food for livestock, black-eyed peas became a staple of the slaves' diet. During the Civil War, black-eyed peas (field peas) and corn were thus ignored by Sherman's troops. Left behind in the

fields, they became important food for the Confederate South.

4. In the American South, eating black-eyed peas and greens (such as collards) on New Year's Day is considered good luck: the peas symbolize coins and the greens symbolize paper money.

5. They are a key ingredient in Hoppin' John (peas, rice and pork) and part of African-American "soul food." Originally called mogette (French for nun). The black eye in the center of the bean (where it attaches to the pod) reminded some of a nun's head attire.

— Source: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/blackeyedpeas.html>

'First Day' Hikes at Highlands Hammock

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

SEBRING — Start off the New Year on the right foot at Highlands Hammock State Park. "First Day" Hikes are an annual tradition at parks all over the country, and three guided walks are scheduled for Monday morning. They include a hike from "Big Oak Trail to Hickory Trail," "Trek to the Historic Dam" and "Cottage Road Off the Beaten Path."

Those participating in the hike may park at the Orange Grove and walk back to the Alexander Blair Big Oak Trail where they will meet Ranger Laura McMullen at 8:30 a.m. Portions of this trail had to be reconfigured due to damage from Hurricane Irma.

Visitors will learn about the ecology of hydric hammocks and observe the impact of the storm on the hammock. The hike will continue through a narrow catwalk connecting the Big Oak Trail to the Hickory Trail, which has many large oaks and pig-nut hickories.

Visitors may return to their vehicles through the historic Orange Grove at a point where the Hickory Trail intersects with a path



COURTESY PHOTO

Visitors may take a guided "off the beaten path" hike to the historic dam on New Year's Day.

leading to the Orange Grove. The walk will take approximately 45 minutes to an hour and is approximately three-quarters of a mile total. The level of difficulty is rated easy to moderate. Registration for this field trip is required as space is limited. Sign-up by calling the Ranger Station at 863-386-6094 or via email to laura.mcmullen@dep.state.fl.us.

The second hike is a leisurely stroll through forested wetlands along the park's bike path to a historic dam with a scenic overview of cypress swamp. Hikers will explore the ecology of hammocks and swamps and learn about their associated flora and fauna.

Visitors may chance seeing an alligator or an otter at the swamp and observe birds along the way. Visitors will meet McMullen at 9:40 a.m.

at the Mammal Kiosk located between the Young Hammock Trail and Cypress Swamp on the Loop Road. The hike will cover 1.5 miles round trip and take between an hour to an hour and 15 minutes. The degree of difficulty of this field trip ranges from easy to moderate.

The third hike is another "off the beaten path" trek which leads from Cypress Swamp Trail down Cottage Road to pine flatwoods on the west side of the park. Visitors may park in the Cypress Swamp Trail parking area and meet Park Services Specialist Carla Sherwin at 11 a.m. The importance of fire and water in these natural communities, the assemblage of flora and fauna, and the ecotone connecting these two very different habitats are explored. Visitors

may observe an alligator, a red-shouldered hawk, deer and the gopher tortoise on this walk. The hike is approximately 1 mile round-trip and will take approximately one hour. The level of difficulty is rated easy to moderate. Registrations for the Trek to the Historic Dam and the Cottage Road Hike are requested, so staff will know how many to expect. Sign up by calling the Ranger Station at 863-386-6094 or via email to laura.mcmullen@dep.state.fl.us.

"We are hoping that Heartland area residents and visitors will mark New Year's by coming out to hike with us," said Ranger McMullen. "The 'off the beaten path' field trips offer the opportunity to walk in restricted areas of the park normally closed to the public."

Hikers are reminded to dress for the weather and wear hiking boots, long pants and protective clothing. A hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, water and snacks are also advised. Binoculars, walking sticks and cameras are useful.

Park entry fees of \$6 per vehicle (up to eight), \$4 per single occupant vehicle and \$2 for bicyclists and visitors walking on foot apply.

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Location: 315 US 27 North Sebring, FL 33870
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PUBLISHER
Tim Smolarick
863-386-5624
tim.smolarick@highlandsnewssun.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Romona Washington
863-386-5634
romona.washington@highlandsnewssun.com

EDITORIAL
Karen Clogston, Editor/Special Sections Editor
863-386-5835
karen.clogston@highlandsnewssun.com

Pallavi Agarwal, Contributing Editor
863-386-5831
pallavi.agarwal@highlandsnewssun.com

RETAIL ADVERTISING
Cliff Yeazel, Advertising Director
863-386-5844
cliff.yeazel@highlandsnewssun.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Rob Kearley, Circulation Director
863-385-6155
rob.kearley@highlandsnewssun.com

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Man shot, killed in Avon Park bar

STAFF REPORT

AVON PARK — Authorities Saturday were seeking information to help them identify who fatally shot a man in a bar Friday evening.

Anthony Paul Mathison, 62, Tampa,

was found dead inside the Kool Runnings bar at 220 Garrett Road Friday around 11 p.m.

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that only some of the people in the bar at the time of the shooting remained to

give statements.

Deputies are asking anyone who was in or near the bar at the time of the shooting or has any information about the case to contact detective Jody Stowers at 863-402-7200 or email

detectives@highlands.sheriff.org.

Anyone wanting to leave an anonymous tip and be eligible for a cash reward can contact Heartland Crime Stoppers at 800-226-TIPS (8447) or www.heartlandcrimestoppers.com.

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A rollover and a mystery: Driver missing when first responders arrived

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Highlands County Sheriff's deputies, EMTs, and DeSoto City firefighters responded to reports of a vehicle rollover on Friday afternoon.

However, when the first responders arrived

at the accident site on Kenilworth Boulevard, just a bit northwest of Haywood Taylor Boulevard, there was no driver there.

An older model black Jeep Cherokee was resting on the driver's side with the windshield and rear window knocked out, along with several other windows. The

vehicle was facing east and was on the west shoulder of the road.

Eyewitnesses told Highlands County Emergency Manager Brett Hogan that they saw a man climb out of the Jeep and get into another car that drove away southbound on Kenilworth Boulevard. What Hogan and the

other responders do know is that the Jeep was traveling southbound and lost control somehow. There were skid marks where the car entered the northbound lane and tore through the grass. The skid marks and debris field were spread about 50 yards before the vehicle stopped.



KIM LEATHERMAN / STAFF

A rollover crash on Kenilworth Boulevard Friday afternoon had officials scratching their heads. There was no one in the Jeep when they arrived.

Police Blotter

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 22:

Jessica Brook Martin, 23, Sebring, on charges of burglary, property damage-criminal mischief and battery.

Jason Thomas Palmer-Summerli, 42, Bartow, on charges of burglary, property damage-criminal mischief and larceny.

Joseph Angel Perez, 37, Sebring, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and possession of marijuana.

Roberto Rivera Ruiz, 26, Sebring, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment, drug possession of harmful legend drug without a prescription and resisting an officer without violence.

Stephen Gerald

Shuart, 31, Avon Park, on charges of larceny and trespassing.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 23:

David Michael Coxe, 46, Sebring, on charges of possession of cocaine and destroying evidence.

Jamie Joe Davis, 33, Lake Placid, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Cecil Edward Hodge, 49, Avon Park, on a charge of failure to appear.

Cody Lee Hunter, 24, Avon Park, on a charge of larceny.

Lisa Martin, 31, Lake Wales, on charges of possession of marijuana, possession of drug equipment and drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Michael Hector Rivera, 29, Lake Placid, on charges of drug possession of harmful legend drug without a prescription, possession of drug equipment, moving traffic violation and possession of marijuana.

Trellis Laverne Zackery, 41, Avon Park, on charges of battery and probation violation.

The following person was arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 24:

Jamie Jean Bentz, 32, Lake Placid, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and drug possession of harmful legend drug without a prescription.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 25:

Saul Cervantes-Gomez, 19, Lake Placid, on charges of moving traffic violation, possession of drug equipment,

selling cocaine and drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Homero Ivan Mendoza, 20, Lake Placid, on charges of possession of cocaine, selling cocaine and possession of drug equipment.

Deanthony Marques Shird, 23, Sebring, on charges of robbery and possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted Florida felon.

The following person was arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 26:

Raul Molina Fernandez, 46, Sebring, on charges of aggravated battery and drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 27:

Andrew Daniel Caridi, 52, Avon Park, on a charge of failure to

appear.

David Castillo, 69, Avon Park, on a charge of aggravated battery.

Melinda Jean Chilson, 48, Avon Park, on a charge of larceny.

Angela Kay Hughes, 36, Sebring, on a charge of probation violation.

Nakein Demesmion Justin, 33, Kissimmee, on a charge of probation violation.

Keri Merie Lynn McCollum, 24, Sebring, on a charge of larceny.

Bethany Jean Rodriguez, 28, Avon Park, on a charge of probation violation.

Edwin Shariff Santiago, 34, Sebring, on charges of possession of marijuana,

possession of drug equipment, resisting an officer without violence, destroying evidence, trafficking opium or derivative and drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Dec. 28:

Patrick Brownell, 19, Lake Placid, on a charge of aggravated battery.

Michael Anthony Couso, 23, Avon Park, on a charge of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Markei Florences, 25, Fort Lauderdale, on charges of trafficking drugs, resisting an officer without violence, destroying evidence and possession of drug equipment.

Khadijah Shaneka James, 23, Fort Lauderdale, on charges of trafficking drugs, possession of drug equipment and three charges of fraud.

Joseph William Martin, 31, Sebring, on a charge of moving traffic violation.

Ronald T. Rolle, 20, Hollywood, on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and resisting an officer without violence.

Audrey Jane Soper, 36, Avon Park, on charges of drug possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.



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OBITUARIES

Anita C. Irons

Anita C. Irons, 83, of Lake Placid, Florida went home to be with her Lord on Saturday morning, Dec. 16, 2017 at her residence surrounded by her loving family. Anita was born on Aug. 19, 1934 to Alfredo and Florence Silva in New York City. She moved to Miami when she was very young and grew up and married Wesley K Irons. her childhood sweetheart. In 1991, they moved to Lake Placid where Anita was an active member of Leisure Lakes Baptist Church, and the Lake Placid Art League Co-Op. Anita enjoyed sewing, painting, camping and spending time with her family. Mrs. Irons had a passion for sewing and had professional seamstress skills who could sew most anything. She had a greater love for painting, which she enjoyed teaching at the Co-op and for pleasure.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 61 years, Wesley K. Irons, and daughter, Amy Lee Carter. She is survived by her loving son, Mark E. Irons and his wife Cindy, and grandchildren Wesley, Melissa and her son Truth (a great-grandchild), Caleb, Jacob and his wife Nina, their son Darien (a great-grandchild), Marine PFC Mark Albert Irons, all of Orlando, and Matthew, Lydia, and Eva, all of Lake Placid. Anita is also survived by her daughter's children, David Hernandez, his wife Amanda, their daughter Amy (a great-grandchild), all of Lake Placid, and Dylan Carter and Tiffany Carter, both of Sebring.

A service to celebrate Anita's life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018 at Leisure Lakes Baptist Church, 808 Gardenia St., Lake Placid, with Pastor Don Roberts officiating. Anita loved vibrant colors and beautiful bright sunny days and specifically requested her service be filled with loved ones in vibrant colors. Words of comfort to the family can be made by visiting www.scottfuneralservices.com. Arrangements entrusted to the Scott Funeral Home, 504 W. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid, Florida; 863-465-4134.

Laura A. Melchert

Laura Ann Melchert, age 57, passed away on Friday, Dec. 22, 2017 in Sebring, Florida. She was born on June 13, 1960 in Fort Benning, Georgia to Harvey and Hilda (Lieten) Melchert. Laura moved to Sebring in 1990 from Pennsylvania and was of the Catholic faith. She enjoyed fishing, gardening, the ocean, her dogs, Ginger and Spice, and was a family woman.

Survivors include her husband, Jaime Santiago of Sebring, Florida; children, Jackie McCall (James) or Middleburg, Florida and David M. Oblock of Lake City, Florida; and four grandchildren.

Services entrusted to Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home, 4001 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870. Online condolences may be left at www.stephensonnelsonfh.com

Paul F. Rettig

Paul Francis Rettig, 79, of Avon Park, Florida, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 25, 2017, after a short illness.

Paul was born on Jan. 22, 1938 in Logansport, Indiana, the second of five children of Herbert Leslie Brenner Rettig and Julia Elizabeth Brenner. After graduating from high school, he joined the Coast Guard, served on an ice-breaker in the Arctic for several years and then was stationed in New York City as a recruiter. While visiting a friend in Constantia, New York, he met his future wife, Georgia Mae Dunn. They were married on Christmas Day, 1965, and were happily married until Georgia passed away in 1996. He worked in assembly and shipping/receiving at General Motors in Syracuse, New York, retiring when the plant closed in 1993. In January of 1998, he married Mary Jane Cimino Hoalcraft after a successful "fix up" attempt by his best friend and her sister, and their marriage lasted just short of twenty years until Paul's death.

Paul was a talented artist and painted several murals at various restaurants in Syracuse as well as Avon Park, Florida. The playful scourge of short-order waiters and waitresses everywhere he went with his constant questions about menu offerings and coffee refills, Paul was an extremely caring and generous man with both his possessions and his time, volunteering for a number of organizations, including but not limited to the Samaritans Purse and the Florida Home for Children. Paul's family was constantly enriched by the new friends that he introduced to them and opened his home to — the many examples include rescuing a non-English speaking family from Quebec that broke down in an upstate New York blizzard and sheltering them for the weekend, striking up a conversation with a total stranger from Taiwan on a flight and inviting him home — that stranger, Bill, became part of the family. Paul was a man who would literally give you

the shirt off of his back, although that became easier for him when he moved from snowy and cold upstate New York to sunny Florida, where the shirt wasn't quite as necessary. He was a faithful parishioner of Mallory Wesleyan Church and an organizer of the Celebrate Mallory festival. Paul served as a missionary in Novosibirsk, Siberia in the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, and in Albania in 1995. Through his kindness to others, generosity, and selfless service and love, Paul not only espoused Christianity; every day of his life he did his best to emulate the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ. The lives of his family members and everyone who was fortunate enough to know him were enriched immeasurably by his presence, and he already is and will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Cimino Hoalcraft Rettig of Avon Park; his daughter Rebecca Rettig Blish, son-in-law Scott Blish and grandson Elijah Blish of Newfield, New York; sister, Patty Fee of San Leandro, California; brother, Mike Allen of Riverside, California, and various nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his first wife, Georgia Mae Dunn Rettig; brother, Herbert Rettig, and sister, Sarah Rettig.

Two memorial services will be held for Paul — one in January in Avon Park, Florida, where he lived for the last decade of his life, and another in the spring in Mallory, New York. He will be interred in the spring at Union Settlement Cemetery in West Monroe, New York.

Elizabeth L. Stanley

Elizabeth Lynn Jackson Stanley, 61, of Lake Placid, Florida went to be with her Lord on Wednesday morning, Dec. 27, 2017 at her residence surrounded by

family. Lynn, as most people know her, was a native of Lake Placid who was born on Jan. 17, 1956 to parents JoAnna and Thomas U. Jackson Jr. Lynn was a graduate of Lake Placid High School class of 1974. She was a retired bookkeeper of the family business, Paradise Mobile Village. Lynn enjoyed taking family trips to North Carolina and St. Augustine, reading a good book, following her cooking shows and being around her animals. She loved to spend time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren.

Lynn is preceded in death by her father, Thomas U. Jackson Jr., and she is survived by her loving daughters, Kristin L. Stanley and Jessica L. Stanley (Kyle); two grandsons, Colby and Leland; her loving mother, Joanna Mae Jackson, and brother, Tommy Jackson (Terry).

A gathering and service for family and friends to celebrate and reflect on Lynn's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018 at Scott Funeral Home, 504 W. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid, with Charles Reynolds officiating. Words of comfort to the family can be made by visiting www.scottfuneralservices.com. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorial contributions be sent to Good Shepherd Hospice of Sebring. Arrangements entrusted to the Scott Funeral Home, Lake Placid; 863-465-4134.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes or individuals with verifiable source. Full obituaries and death notices will be subject to an advertising charge.

Deadlines: 1 p.m. Monday through Friday for the following day publication; 4 p.m. Friday for Sunday and Monday publication. The American flag accompanying an obituary indicates a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. Please send emails to legals@highlandsnewssun.com.

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Sebring's Pink Hotel — Harder Hall

Sebring's 90-year-old historic Harder Hall, on Golfview Drive, stands as a silent testimony to the throngs of land speculators and tourists who poured into the state during the Florida land boom of the 1920s. Massive publicity from Florida sent to northern markets offered cheap Florida land, thus causing a rush of buyers to Florida.

In 1925, Sebring was a very young town and very small town when Vincent Hall and Lewis F. Harder, both from West Palm Beach, and local realtor George Kline, decided to build a hotel.

It was first announced in the Sebring White Way newspaper that a \$1.5 million hotel was being planned for Sebring. It would be located on the shores of Little Lake Jackson and would be developed in conjunction with a 2,000-acre tract owned by Vincent Hall.

Hall's plans called for a three-story Spanish style building with 200 guest rooms. Adjoining the municipal golf course would be 40 homes to be built on the surrounding hotel complex. They would cater to the wealthy.

Soon the development was being hailed as the "Coral Gables of Central Florida." Plans for the development were submitted to the Sebring City Council for approval that included a baseball park, football stadium, airport, polo grounds, yacht club, casino and a \$15,000 clubhouse for the municipal golf course that was to be donated to the city. Opening date for the hotel would be the 1926 season.

Hall and his associates wanted to maintain control of the tourist industry in Sebring by purchasing the Kenilworth Lodge and Nan-ces-o-wee Hotel, both owned by George Sebring. The corporation fell into bankruptcy in



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING
Elaine Levey

1927 and lost most of its property to creditors due to the Depression and the Boom collapse.

Harder Hall opened for the first time in January, 1928. The massive Mediterranean Revival style building featured a 630-foot frontage overlooking Little Lake Jackson. The tower rose 108 feet above the ground. It contained six floors of guest rooms and an observation tower. A series of porches, patios and arcades and winding paths led guests through tropical flowering plants and palm trees. The staff consisted of over 100 trained workers from summer resorts in the northeast.

A six-course dinner celebrating the formal opening of the hotel was given on Jan. 21, 1928, attracting 250 guests. Ultimately, the opening celebration dinner proved to be the high point for the hotel. It stayed open for a few years during the Depression and never proved a profitable investment for its owners.

Harder Hall has been vacant since 1982. A few times the building barely escaped demolition before being added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. The City of Sebring has owned the hotel since 2007.

From: Sebring City on the Circle by Stephen Olausen and Harder Hall website.

Elaine Levey can be reached at emlevey@gmail.com

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VIEWPOINTS

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1919

Tim Smolarick
Publisher
tim.smolarick@highlandsnewssun.com

Romona Washington
Executive Editor
romona.washington@highlandsnewssun.com

Karen Clogston
Editor
karen.clogston@highlandsnewssun.com

Rob Kearly
Circulation Director
rob.kearly@highlandsnewssun.com

SUN
NEWSPAPERS

OUR VIEW

Ring in a safe New Year

Fireworks will be displayed in large settings and in back yards tonight as we ring in the New Year. For many, it is as traditional as watching the ball drop from New York City's Times Square or toasting the New Year in with a sip of champagne.

So, as we prepare for tonight's celebration, thinking about the party that is planned with family and friends, we need to also think about safety, not just for the children, but for adults alike.

According to National Fire Protection Association, on average each year, fireworks start 18,500 fires, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 16,900 outside and other fires. These fires cause an annual average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and \$43 million in direct property damage.

Thousands of children are injured by commercial fireworks each year. Those injuries range from burns, eye injuries, to even deafness.

Parents, or adults, should always keep a close eye on children of all ages when they are around fireworks. Firecrackers, rockets and sparklers, which all seem harmless to adults, can be quite dangerous for children who don't know what they're doing, or the small child who likes to pick things up off the ground.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) 2015 Fireworks Annual Report, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 11,900 people for fireworks-related injuries; 51 percent of those injuries were to the extremities and 41 percent were to the head. Two-thirds (65 percent) of the injuries were burns, Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for one-quarter (26 percent) of the estimated injuries. Sparklers were the leading cause of fireworks injuries. More than half of the fireworks injuries incurred by children under 5 years of age were caused by sparklers.

Don't ever allow a child to pick up pieces of fireworks off the ground.

If an eye injury occurs, don't allow the child to touch or rub it. In fact, don't even flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention.

If your child is burned from fireworks, remove the clothing from the burned area and run cool water over the burn. Although tempting, don't ever use ice.

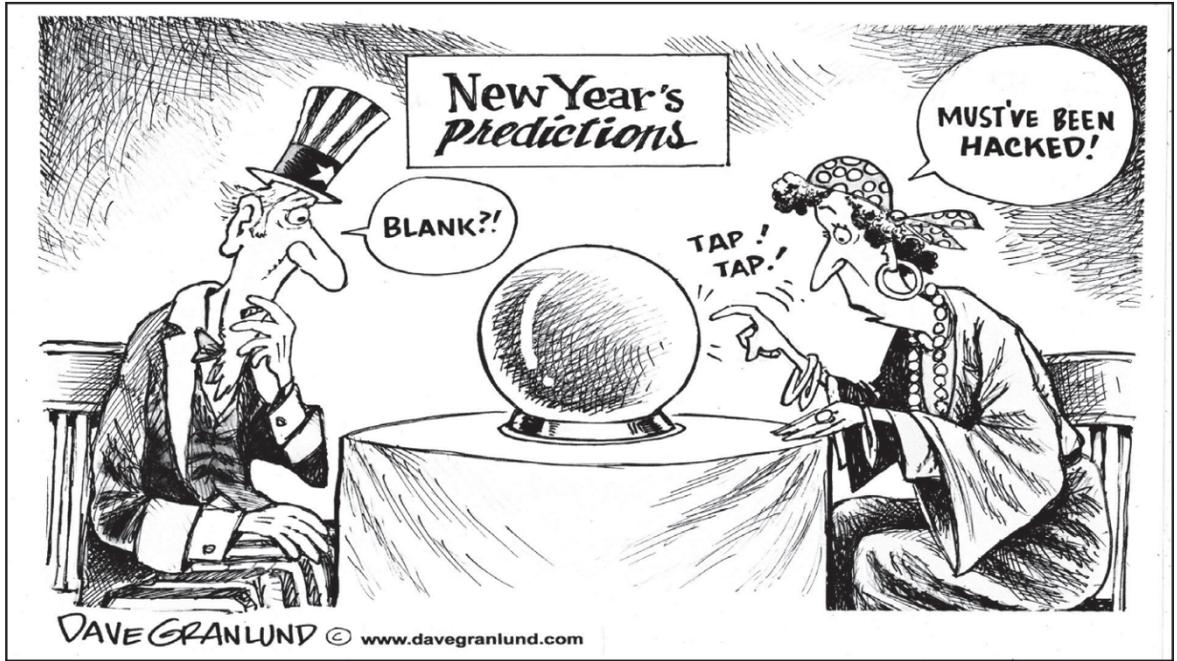
And don't forget your pets. Many of these furry family members are terrified of the booming sounds of fireworks. The best thing to do is keep your pets indoors to reduce the risk of stressing little Fido to the point he gets loose or hurts himself.

It's important also to remember that excessive alcohol and fireworks don't mix, just like driving and drinking don't mix.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety strongly recommends that anyone attending a party for New Year's Eve where consumer fireworks are being shot, should make sure that there is a designated shooter who has not been drinking any alcohol. Even a small quantity of alcohol can impair one's judgment and ability to properly set up and use fireworks safely.

The best thing for all to do is remember the words of Nancy Blogin, president of the National Council on Fireworks Safety: "In the past several years, there have been reports of accidents where the person that was injured had been under the influence of alcohol and did not handle the fireworks in a responsible way. The lesson is simple: alcohol and fireworks don't mix."

Also remember to not drink and drive. Keeping those two thoughts in mind will help all of us have a happier and safer celebration tonight as we ring in the New Year.



The smartest newspaper readers in America

Each week I hope to share with you something new or old in a new way. That's not easy because we have the smartest newspaper readers in America. But just how smart? It's time to find out.

This week's column has 10 year-end questions about the future. Read the questions and make your own predictions on what the future holds. At the end of 2018 we will compare notes to see just how smart we are.

My friend Dimitris Panos with Dimitri's Family Restaurant here in Sebring has agreed to provide a \$200 gift certificate to the most accurate predictor of our readers. \$100 to the second most accurate predictor. And \$50 to the third most accurate.

Here are the questions for you to hold forth on, in what I am now calling the Dimitri's Family Restaurant Fearless Forecast. To make it fun, I've included my predictions for what 2018 might hold.



INK IN MY VEINS

David Dunn-Rankin

1. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 24,675 Friday, Dec. 15, 2017. What will the Dow Jones Industrial Average value be on Friday, Dec. 14, 2018? I predict 22,000.
2. Manufacturers added 156,000 jobs since President Trump took office. How many manufacturing jobs will be added the next 12 months (December 2017 to November 2018)? I predict 75,000.
3. The average hourly earnings for all employees

on private non-farm payrolls was \$26.55 in November 2017. What will it be November 2018? I predict \$27.25.

4. Unleaded gas is \$2.29 for regular as of Dec. 15, 2017. What will it be on Dec. 14, 2018? I predict \$2.29.

5. The Republicans technically still have 52 seats in the Senate. How many will they have in December 2018? I predict 50.

6. The Republicans have 239 seats in the House. How many will they have in December 2018? I predict 220.

7. Winners of the Super Bowl, Soccer World Cup, Men's NCAA Basketball? I predict Pittsburgh Steelers, Germany, Michigan State.

8. Which Florida University football team will have the most victories in 2018 in the regular season? Which will have the fewest? The teams to pick from are Florida, Florida State, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Miami, UCF, and USF. I predict Miami

with the most wins and UCF with the fewest. (UCF had the most victories this year).

9. Bitcoin closed at 17,678 on Dec. 15, 2017. What will the price be Dec. 14, 2018? I predict 2,000.

10. How many hurricanes or tropical storms will strike Florida in 2018? I predict two.

Let's see how smart you are. I will compile all the answers from our readers and share with you all the wisdom of the crowd. To enter Dimitri's Family Restaurant Fearless Frenzy, please email me your answers to DavidDR@sun-herald.com, or mail the entries to David Dunn-Rankin, The Sun Newspaper, 23170 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980.

Share your thoughts. *David Dunn-Rankin is CEO of Sun Newspapers, the family- and employee-owned group that owns the Highlands News-Sun and Highlands Sun. He can be reached at daviddr@sun-herald.com.*

My war on shoelaces marches on

Will 2018 be the year when I finally stomp out my footwear malfunctions?

Perhaps I can even inspire others. A quick Google search reveals a distressing number of people are vexed and perplexed by shoelaces that suddenly, repeatedly unravel at inopportune times.

I often find myself gazing skyward and pleading for an answer to the question, "Why, oh why can I go six weeks without a slip-up and then have the same shoelaces fall apart twelve times in a single day?"

I have literally walked across a room and experienced freshly re-tied shoestrings coming undone. It's like I have my own "12 Steps" program. ("My name is Danny and I am really sorry I tripped and made you spill your alcohol.")

I'm self-conscious about the subject because my mother thinks unkempt shoestrings are one sign of being "slouchy," and I know that like-minded bystanders have a sixth sense for smugly announcing,

TYRADES!

Danny Tyree

"Hey, your shoe is untied!" just as I'm about to tend to it myself.

I feel that these people are judging me. I just know they are making unjustified extrapolations, such as "If you traipse around with untamed shoestrings, you must also lie about flossing, abuse the passing lane, eat endangered species and suffer from a low sperm count." These nosey losers probably also have the mistaken notion that I'm paranoid.

Uncooperative shoelaces have remained a mystery for 5,500 years; but more recently, mechanical engineers at the University of California (Berkeley) have been using accelerometers and slow-motion video to study the combination of swing and impact that supposedly causes the problem. More power to them; but I'm skeptical, partly because they have arrived at no explanation for the randomness of the malfunctions. ("Duh, it's Tuesday, so I'd better

suddenly start tying my shoelaces wrong. And forks are supposed to be stored in electrical outlets, aren't they?")

I also balk at research showing that shoelace knots experience more g-force than a rollercoaster. ("Look out! My Air Jordans are gonna hurl!") Although, admittedly, my shirt buttons do experience something akin to an intercontinental ballistic missile's reentry after I've hit a Golden Corral buffet.

Surely there must be other explanations for the rebellious shoestrings. According to folklore, a shoestring coming untied means you are in the thoughts of a friend. Hey, friends, don't think of me unless you see a post of me in flip flops on the beach!

I don't want to question the physicists, but maybe it's GREMLINS performing the mischief. I can just imagine William Shatner screaming, "Stewardess, there's something on the tongue of those wingtips!"

Maybe it's a Velcro conspiracy. Then again, one retail clerk confided in me, "I told you to get the

extended warranty."

I guess I'm really looking for sympathy/empathy and an all-encompassing explanation rather than a practical workaround. Video tutorials certainly abound, showing how much the squared off "reef knot" surpasses the "granny knot" and how retraining your brain to use the former will solve your knot problems, cure cancer and persuade Pres. Trump to have his pronouncements handled exclusively by monks with quill pens.

I'm trying not to have a meltdown over this. This is not the time for taking names and kicking derrieres. That's mostly because I'm afraid my size 14 would go sailing through the air. ("Uh, could you please return my sneaker... let's see, it's here on the list...Nathan?")

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page 'Tyree's Tyrades.' Columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily that of the Highlands News-Sun.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. We will not accept any Letters to the Editor that mention a business in a negative tone, as they have no means to defend themselves. Please keep Letters to the Editor to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as for grammar

and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name – not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. In the case of letters that are emailed, the same rules apply.

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

The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum

for community discourse, and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. The newspaper takes no responsibility for the content of these letters.

Please send or bring correspondence to the Highlands News-Sun, Letters to the Editor, 315 US 27 North Sebring, FL 33870, or fax to 863-385-1954. Readers may also email Letters to the Editor to editor@newssun.com.

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Woman accused of stealing lost wallet

BY JAY MEISEL
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — A woman who had the opportunity to be a Good Samaritan after finding a lost wallet instead ended up being arrested, according to a warrant released last week.

Melinda Jean Chilson, 48, 1803 N. Summit Ave., Lake Placid, was arrested by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and charged with third-degree grand theft.

The arrest stemmed from a man reporting on

Sept. 6 that he shopped at a convenience store in Avon Park and apparently dropped a wallet near the door when he was leaving. He told deputies that the wallet contained \$1,000 in cash.

After discovering he didn't have the wallet, the man returned to the store and looked for it without success, the warrant said.

Later examination of store video showed a woman with a cane reach down outside the store and pick up the wallet, the warrant said. The woman then entered

the store, went into the restroom and left without giving the wallet to the cashier, the report said.

With the help of the cashier, who provided information about the woman's vehicle, a deputy on Sept. 12 located the woman, who returned the wallet but the money was missing, the warrant said.

Highlands County Circuit Court records show that Chilson was charged with petit theft in 2010. The charge was dismissed after she completed a pretrial diversion program.

Woman arrested on shoplifting charge

BY JAY MEISEL
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — A Sebring woman is accused of stealing nearly \$500 of merchandise from Walmart in Avon Park, according to a warrant released this week.

Keri Merie Lynn McCollum, 24, of 1300 Persimmons Court, Sebring, was arrested by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and charged with third-degree grand theft.

The arrest came after a Walmart store video showed the woman and a man pushing a shopping cart through

the store and selecting several items. Those included a sleigh set, a computer notebook accessories kit and a game controller, the warrant said.



MCCOLLUM

The man and the woman pushed the shopping cart out of the store without paying for the items, the report said.

The pair talked outside, and the male accompanying McCollum then pushed the shopping cart back in the store and out again

without paying for the things, the report said.

Video showing the license plate number of the vehicle in which the man and woman. It led to the identification of McCollum as a suspect, the report said.

Highlands County Circuit Court records show that McCollum has other pending criminal charges.

On Dec 15, 2016, prosecutors filed charges of grand theft and scheme to defraud against her. On Dec. 27, 2016, prosecutors filed charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment against her.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Square dance lessons

LAKE PLACID — Square dance classes are available starting Monday, Jan. 8 and running through the end of March. Class meets from 2-4 p.m. in the clubhouse at Camp Florida Resort, 230 Shoreline Drive. When you arrive at the gate, key in the office code and indicate you are here to dance. Nelson Wakeman will be teaching. Cost is \$5 per person per lesson.

The Pine Ridge Promenaders

LAKE PLACID — The Pine Ridge Promenaders will host a "Happy Birthday 2018" cupcake square dance on Jan. 4 at the Sunshine RV Park on SR 70 East, Lake Placid. Sonny McCartney will be calling MS/PLUS from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Casual or square dance attire. For information, call 828-290-2147.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast

AVON PARK — The Highlands County NAACP Branch will host its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15 at Our Lady of Grace Grogan Center at 595 E. Main St.

This year's theme is "Steadfast and Immovable." Tickets are \$20 in advance, which include breakfast, souvenir booklet, entertainment and a speaker. A free membership with a table of eight is \$160. Call Al Hinson 863-399-2243 or email joseph45@centurylink.net.

Vegetable growing workshop

SEBRING — Learn the basics of vegetables gardening offered by UF/IFAS Extension, Highlands County. A workshop is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 6 at the Bert J. Harris Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring. Doors open 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$5. To register, call the Highlands County Extension Office at 863-402-6540.

Beginning Beekeeping class

SEBRING — Heartland Beekeepers Association and UF-IFAS Extension is offering a Beginning Beekeeping seminar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13 at the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center 4509 George Blvd. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

To be covered: Bee equipment, working

with hives, cottage laws, extracting honey, nectar sources, building and purchasing hives, obtaining bees, disease and pests, replacing and rearing queen bees. Cost is \$30 on pre-registering, \$40 at the door, \$10 for Heartland Beekeeping Association members and \$10 for Highlands County Master Gardeners.

To register, call the office at 863-402-6540.

Classic Country Band

LAKE PLACID — 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.

Law enforcement plans expanded New Year's Eve patrols

STAFF REPORT

SEBRING — Those who may contemplate drinking and driving New Year's Eve should think twice.

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office plans to have extra deputies on the streets to watch for people driving under the influence, said Scott Dressel, public information officer.

"We are going to be out in force," Dressel said.

He said deputies watching several areas. U.S. 27 will be focus, but not the only one, he added.

Sebring Police Department plans to have two additional officers on duty New Year's Eve to assist with DUI enforcement, he said.

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New Year's resolutions: Be smart

By **KIM LEATHERMAN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Every year, millions of Americans, roughly 45 percent of the population, make New Year's resolutions.

Even knowing that statistically the resolution will be abandoned within a few weeks, we promise to be good to ourselves, our waistlines and our bank accounts.

Dictionary.com defines the noun as a "formal expression of opinion or intention made." Those

few syllables can pack a punch if followed or they can prove to be a big letdown if the resolution is broken.

The most popular resolution in 2017 was weight loss and eating healthier, which 21.4 percent of the population decided they wanted to do for the new year, according to Statistics Brain. Other self improvements came next — better money management and the promise to quit smoking followed.

Age seems to be a factor in the success of maintaining a resolution. Twenty-something-year-olds have double the success of those who are over 50, at just 16 percent. Statistically speaking, millennials have kept their resolutions at a rate of about 38 percent.

The earlier it is in the year, the higher the percentage of people who keep their promises. As the year wans on, people seem to return to their pre-January bad

habits. In January, the percentage of people keeping their promise is nearly 73; by June, that number has decreased to just 44 percent.

There are ways to increase the chances of success by setting realistic goals. Weight loss should be whittled down to small goals such as a five-pound loss instead of a self-defeating and seemingly insurmountable 100 pounds. Ask a friend to be an accountability partner to walk or go to the gym with you.

Log any progress, regardless of how small the victory, with either photos or by journaling. A five-pound weight loss or a day without smoking should be documented and rewarded.

Any resolution should be achievable and not overwhelm an individual. Results should have a measurable outcome to them: Have you lost weight this week, have you smoked today or have you put \$10 in the bank?

Resolutions should be

relevant and not done because society points an accusing finger at you. Ask yourself if the reason you are making the resolution is because it is a benefit to you in some way.

For instance, weight loss and quitting smoking can have a medicinal benefit. Saving up for a trip that you always wanted to take offers adventures and happy memories.

Journal, use social media or even blog to keep yourself accountable and your progress visible.

School Board will vote on live streaming its meetings

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — After a test run in November, the live streaming of School Board of Highlands County meetings may start with the Jan. 23 meeting.

At its Jan. 9 meeting, the School Board will vote to authorize the live streaming, which will require one School Board employee to attend each meeting to manage it.

School Board member Jan Shoop believes the

board will approve the streaming of its meetings, especially since there were no equipment costs.

A camera was installed in the ceiling of the Garland Boggus Board Room and other equipment readied for a test of the streaming system during the School Board's reorganizational meeting on Nov. 21.

After the meeting, School Board of Highlands County Management Information Systems

(MIS) Director Darrell Layfield said: "Basically, we are all set up to do a live streaming at their (School Board's) earliest convenience."

School Board Attorney John McClure recommended that the School Board vote on authorizing the live streaming.

The Jan. 9 agenda item notes that regular School Board meetings and other School Board meetings will be streamed live using YouTube. A link to the meeting will be provided

on the School Board webpage and advertised in social media.

The live YouTube stream will not be archived, the agenda noted. The hardware to achieve streaming has been re-purposed from other School Board projects.

Layfield said, to keep the costs down, the camera will provide a static shot and the audio will come from the existing audio board that is used for the audio recordings of the meetings.

The agenda notes that the streaming will require that a School Board employee attend each meeting to begin, manage and end each live stream. Based on the annual combined length of the School Board meetings and an average salary of an employee, the annual cost estimate is \$800 to \$1,200.

The process to get the meetings online has been lengthy. In November 2015, citizen Larry Overfield stated the School Board

meetings should be streamed online for parents, grandparents and taxpayers who cannot attend the meetings in person. He noted that video of the Highlands County Board of County Commission meetings are available online.

Due to American with Disabilities Act compliance issues, the School Board had previously discussed that it may not archive its meeting videos online because it would require closed caption for the audio.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

4th annual Mah Jongg Tournament

SEBRING — The Garden Club of Sebring will hold its fourth annual Mah Jongg Tournament from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26 at the

Jack Stroup Civic Center. Play will be based on the 2017 National Mah Jongg Card. The \$25 entry fee includes cash prizes, drinks, snacks, and lunch. There will be two divisions of play this year. Division 1 will host the more

experienced, fast playing gamers, while Division 2 is designed to attract newer beginner players and provides for a slower game pace. Tables are limited. For reservations, call Dottee Cohen at 863-385-0759. Callers must identify the division

for which reservations are being made. Players provide their own Mah Jongg sets. Proceeds for scholarships.

Master Gardener Class

SEBRING — Master Gardener class is being

offered by UF/IFAS Extension starting Jan. 27.

Those interested in becoming a Master Gardener volunteer, should call the Highlands County Extension office at 863 402-6540 or email davidaustin@ufl.edu.

Master Gardeners are volunteers who assist the UF/IFAS Extension Residential Horticulture Program. The cost of the class is \$195 and will include 50 hours of horticulture training with several field trips included.

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FILE PHOTO/ROY ALLEN

A photograph shows flood water levels on Sept. 11 at the corner of South Country Club Drive and Southeast Snead Circle in Crystal Lakes Club of Avon Park. The park was one of many that suffered water over the roads, up into yards and both under and in houses after the storm.

MEMORIES

FROM PAGE 1

neighborhood this year, she wondered what her neighbors were like. Her favorite memory came from seeing her neighbors — her entire community — come together during adversity and shine.

“With the threat of Irma headed our way, we got to meet them. When (Irma) moved on leaving a path of destruction behind her, ... we got to know them,” Ballard said. “If one had something the other didn’t, sharing wasn’t even a second

thought.”

As for Nick Fisher’s best memory: “When my wife posted on Facebook — Aw no, Irma killed my van....and somebody that married a friend we hadn’t met yet called and gave her a car.”

A couple of people said how glad they were not to live in a hurricane-prone state. Jay Schreiner of Wasilla, Arkansas, said he remembers best “waking up every day and remembering I moved to (Arkansas) in the fall of 2016. No more snowbirds.”

Pennie Anne Wolf said she was glad for leaving Highlands County for the mountains of Tennessee.



FILE PHOTO

She’s now in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Unfortunately, those two didn’t get to see this community come together after a storm: Something not to miss.

Above: Justin Silva, left, and Jordan Belanger heft pine branches from a mass of debris left in the yard of Don Cowing and Patty Lloyd. They and other Sebring High School ROTC students came to help the couple clear up a week after Hurricane Irma dropped a tree in their front yard.



FILE PHOTO

A John Deere track loader deals with debris on Magnolia Avenue in Sebring, just north of Eucalyptus Street, one week after Hurricane Irma. Debris removal ramped up over the weekend, taking 7,300 cubic feet of debris to the Highlands County landfill in three days. Debris removal, throughout the county, took more than three months.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 1

school year, teachers found they didn’t reap the expected benefits, including more planning time, from the early release days.

Also, many parents believed there were too many of the shortened school days that came up about every other Wednesday.

The number of early release days were cut for

2012-13 school year, but some were added soon after the school year started.

Now it appears the number of early release days will be cut to just two in 2018-19.

Those two days are the last day of school before the winter break, which is Dec. 18, and the last day of the school year, which is May 23.

The 2017-18 calendar originally had eight early release days, but the number was cut to three with the other five converted

to regular school days to make up in part for the school days lost to Hurricane Irma.

The proposed 2018-19 calendar has a slightly later start to the school year — Aug. 12, a Monday. The current school year started on a Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017.

Superintendent Brenda Longshore noted that Deputy Superintendent Andrew Lethbridge prepared the proposed calendar with input from the district’s calendar committee.

BORROW

FROM PAGE 1

for reimbursement to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency),” Morgan wrote. “That reimbursement process is a lengthy process and we are unsure as to when we will actually see our first reimbursement check.”

To make sure the county doesn’t have a cash flow problem, Morgan and her office is requesting the board secure this financing to be used as needed. After talking with the Florida Local Government Finance Commission, county staff has secured a loan of up to \$8 million from J.P. Morgan, specifically for extraordinary expenses related to storm debris collection, cleanup and general expenses.

Morgan points out that there are no costs to securing the funds and the county has no obligation to use them. If the need arises, and the county has to use the funds, it can draw it down in \$1 million increments.

When that happens, the bank will set up a repayment schedule over a period of no more than three years. Issuance costs are \$2,000 per million drawn and the maximum aggregate cost will not exceed \$40,000, Morgan’s letter states.

There is no prepayment penalty.

At the last board meeting on Dec. 19, County Engineer Clinton Howerton Jr. estimated Highlands County’s bill for post-Irma debris collection and monitoring alone could reach \$12-13 million.

Howerton said when contracted debris haulers wrapped up their operation on Dec. 15, they had tallied 890,000 cubic yards of debris. With in-house crews still picking up debris throughout the county, he expected that number to top 1 million cubic yards.

Purchase orders, according to his office, were just a few thousand dollars less than \$13.5 million. Howerton expects FEMA to reimburse Highlands County for a minimum of 75 percent, but that would still leave \$2-4 million on the county’s bill.

That just happens to be in the same range as the initial debris collection cost estimate and smaller than the original \$6 million budget deficit estimate for this fiscal year.

Every department made cuts to close that gap by Sept. 30, but it took an influx of \$4.6 million from the fund balance to close the gap, according to Tim Mechling, senior manager in the Office of Budget and Management.



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Avon Park beats Blue Streaks

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN
SPORTS STAFF

The Avon Park Red Devils defeated the Sebring Blue Streaks by a score of 65-52 at the Wayne Gandy Christmas Tournament in Haines City on Friday. The Red Devils led

32-28 at halftime and took a 46-42 advantage into the fourth quarter, where they proceeded to outscore the Blue Streaks 19-10 to take the victory.

Javariuss Smith led the Red Devils with a game-high 22 points, while freshman

Malcom Dewberry scored 15, Eric Brown scored 14 and Isaiah Coomes scored 10 for Avon Park.

Norris Taylor led the Blue Streaks with 19 points and Alvin Tumblin added 11



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/CORRESPONDENT

Avon Park's Malcolm Dewberry pushes the ball up the court against Lake Placid. Dewberry scored 15 points to help the Red Devils defeat Sebring on Friday.

AVON | 4

Purposeful strides



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Avon Park sophomore Emily Vargas finished second at districts, fourth at regionals and 19th at the Class 2A state finals. For her ability and accomplishments, Vargas has been selected as the Highlands News-Sun 2017 All-Highlands Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year.

Avon Park's Vargas paces All-Highlands Girls Cross Country Team

By MARK PINSON
STAFF WRITER

Avon Park's Emily Vargas made her initial appearance on the high school cross country scene last year a meaningful one by reaching the regional meet and being selected the top girls runner in the county.

Vargas, a dedicated runner who enjoys putting in the hours of practice time required for the demanding sport, proved that last year's freshman campaign was no fluke.

The sensational sophomore finished second at this year's district meet with a time of 19:44, fourth at the regional meet in 19:44 and she capped off an outstanding season with her best time

of the year (19:06) to finish 19th at the Class 2A state finals in Tallahassee.

"Emily has a competitive nature and defeated her biggest rivals this year," said Red Devil cross country coach Chet Brojek. "She has a goal of a top 10 finish at state next year."

For her ability and accomplishments, Vargas, for the second consecutive year, has been selected as the Highlands News-Sun 2017 All-Highlands Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year.

"It actually means a lot to me to win this award again," said Vargas. "I enjoy running, going to new places, seeing new people and meeting the goals that I set. I love to run and compete and I want to get my time down into the 18s. I need to work on controlling my

breathing when I run because the top 10 medal at state and that's my goal for next year."

The Team

Hailey McMahon, senior, Sebring - McMahon qualified for regionals with a time of 23:58 for the Blue Streaks. "Hailey made it to regionals individually and was a very solid runner," said Blue Streak cross country coach Eric Foster. "I could always rely on her running her best every meet."

Francesca Chillemi, sophomore, Lake Placid - Chillemi started the season at the first meet with a 24:14

STRIDES | 2

Familiar faces for Paul Miller Racing

Sellers, Snow return for 3rd straight season

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

A new season of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship is set to begin in the first week of the New Year, and Paul Miller Racing will return for a full season effort in the GTD class with a familiar lineup. The team will enter the No. 48 TOTAL Lubricants/UIS Lamborghini Huracán GT3 in competition, piloted by Bryan Sellers and Madison Snow for the third consecutive year. Joining as endurance drivers for the opening

event, Bryce Miller and Andrea Caldarelli will race alongside Sellers and Snow for the Rolex 24 at Daytona International Speedway.

"I'm pleased we're returning to Daytona with the same lineup as 2017," said team owner Paul Miller. "Luck may have not been on our side during the race, but the performance from the car and drivers was there. We've put a lot of work in during the off season, and we're looking forward to it paying off on track this year."



ALLEN MOODY/HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

MILLER | 8 Paul Miller Racing driver Madison Snow.



HIGHLANDS BASS ANGLER

Dave Douglass

Cold front shuts down super full moon fishing

The Florida freshwater fishing forecast for the New Year's Eve and the first three days of the New Year will give anglers the super full moon phase and a slow moving cold front which will drop temperatures about 10 to 15 degrees for Monday through Friday.

All fishing factors considered, fishing will be best today, out of the next four days, due to a cold front negating all the effects of the super full moon that arrives Monday.

Starting Monday fish will be moving deeper into the warmer water depths and will remain at those depths until the cold surface water drops and the warmer water returns to the surface and shallow areas of the water column.

If the super full moon does cause fish to feed during the cold front changes, it will happen at deeper depths due to fish operating primarily according to metabolism speeds instead of high levels of positive ions, which the super full moon creates during the underfoot period during the midday hours.

Fishing slow will be the successful strategy; downsizing baits and employing long pauses, will attract attention in areas where fish suspend and wait for their bodies to normalize to the environmental changes. Short, fat, noisy, slow-moving bait will get the attention of fish who need to feed.

Don't expect the fish to run with the bait, but instead be looking for the bait to become heavy as if it has weeds on it. Fish will not feed aggressively until they adjust over several days. Thursday and Friday the nighttime low temperature is predicted to decline into the lower thirty degree range. So it could be next weekend before fish feed in a normal winter feeding pattern.

Best Fishing Days: With the slow moving cold front arriving tonight the effects of the super full moon will be negated significantly over the next three days. The best fishing day will be today as fish feed heavy ahead of the approaching front. Then after the midweek when fish acclimate to the temp change.

The Major Fishing Period: The moon is underfoot today at 10:40 a.m. and will create a feed intensity rating of 7 today from 8-11 a.m. Monday the rating will drop to 5 instead of 8 or 9 due to the slow-moving cold front arriving over the next two to three days. The best period will be during the warmest water temperature period of the day, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a 3-5 rating.

The Minor Fishing Period: The moonrise is at 3:54 p.m. and the sunset at 4:54 p.m. and will create a 6-7 rating today from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday the period moves later to the 4-6 hours of the afternoon

DAVE | 6

STRIDES

FROM PAGE 1

and concluded the season at districts with a best time of 23:26 for the Green Dragons. "Francesca always showed her best effort in practice and at meets," said Lake Placid cross country coach Sean Dolan. "She is a great runner and athlete."

Amy Schlosser, junior, Avon Park - Schlosser ran a 22:46 at the district meet and had a 23:18 on a tough Holloway course at regionals. "Amy had a super first year of cross country dropping over six minutes in her 5K time and finishing as our number two runner," said Brojek. "She is a hard worker and will break the 21:00 mark if she continues on the path she has set for next season."

Maci Leaphart, freshman, Sebring - Leaphart improved as the season progressed for the Blue Streaks. "Maci was new to running but that didn't hold her back," Foster said. "She was one of our top girls this season and finished the season with a 26:30 which is excellent for a first year runner."

Daniella Chillemi, freshman, Lake Placid - Chillemi had a solid first year competing for the Green Dragons with a best time of 27:50 this season.

Savannah Oldfield, junior, Avon Park - Oldfield had an excellent season with a time of 23:16 at districts and 24:10 at regionals for the Red Devils. "Savannah continues to help her team to victories," Brojek said. "A veteran of three seasons, we hope her senior season will be her chance to shine as one of the top runners in the area."

Vaidehi Persad, sophomore, Sebring - Persad had a very strong year when it counted with a personal best time of 26:49 at the district meet for the Blue Streaks. "Vaidehi is a very consistent runner," Foster said.

Sara Harris, sophomore, Lake Placid - Harris lowered her time by almost two minutes during the season for the



FILE PHOTO

The Avon Park, Lake Placid and Sebring girls cross country teams had solid seasons in 2017. The future is bright with a lot of talent returning for 2018.

Green Dragons. "Sara improved greatly by 1:59 and concluded the season at districts with a best time of 27:49," Dolan said. "She has a positive attitude for herself and others and is always encouraging her team."

Juliann King, junior, Avon Park - King ran a 23:55 at districts and a 23:50 season-best at regionals for the Red Devils. "Juliann is a standout hurdler in track and made a smooth transition to cross country," Brojek said. "She improved her times throughout the season. We expect her to have an awesome senior season."

Audrey Kirkegaard, junior, Sebring - Kirkegaard showed a lot of potential as a first-year runner for the Blue Streaks. "Audrey was another one of our first-year runners who are very talented," Foster said. "Every meet she improved little by little, leading to a season-best time of 28:18."

Fatima Martinez, sophomore, Lake Placid - Martinez worked hard to lower her times during the season. "Fatima has a great attitude and was determined to get better," Dolan said.

Leawna Egan, sophomore, Avon Park - Egan showed

steady improvement for the Red Devils with a time of 23:56 at districts and 24:04 at regionals. "Leawna has a terrific work ethic and made great improvement from her freshman year," Brojek said. "She is a rising talent on our team."

Hannah Bauer, sophomore, Sebring - Bauer looks to have a lot of potential as she finished

the season with a best time of 28:56.

Hannah Martin, freshman, Lake Placid - Martin showed great effort by lowering her time by 3:14 at districts with a time of 26:12.

Adriana Hernandez, junior, Avon Park - Hernandez ran a 24:48 before hurting her ankle. She is a strong runner and has

huge potential for next year.

Kirsten Oca, junior, Avon Park - Oca had a season best time of 25:58. "Kirsten worked very hard this year and improved her finish time," Brojek said.

Honorable Mention

Jaycee Holden, senior, Lake Placid - Holden was a team captain and overcame a very challenging season.

Becke Whitehead, sophomore, Lake Placid - Whitehead improved her time by an impressive 4:30 over the course of the season.

Leah Moore, senior, Lake Placid - Moore lowered her time by 2:40 and had a best time of 30:54.

Elizabeth Gonzalez, junior, Lake Placid - Gonzalez improved her time by 2:42 during the season and ran a personal best of 31:03 at the district meet.

Coach Of The Year

For leading the girls team to the regional meet and guiding Emily Vargas to the state finals, Avon Park's **Chet Brojek** was selected as the Highlands News-Sun 2017 All-Highlands Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year.



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Lake Placid's Fatima Martinez was selected to the Highlands News-Sun All-Highlands Girls Cross Country Team.

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JDC-Miller tabs additional drivers for Daytona

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

JDC-Miller MotorSports confirmed 19-year-old Ohio native Austin Cindric and 17-year-old Canadian Devlin DeFrancesco will join previously announced Simon Trummer and Robert Alon, to complete the team's Rolex 24 at Daytona lineup in the No. 85 entry.

Cindric is one of the brightest and most versatile young American talents having already made starts in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, IMSA WeatherTech Sportscar Championship, Pirelli World Challenge, Red Bull Global Rallycross and the NASCAR Xfinity Series. He spent most of

his time in 2017 competing in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series where he finished third in the championship and scored one win, one pole position and 17 top-10 finishes.

Cindric and Robert Alon were also teammates for the 2017 Rolex 24 at Daytona as part of the Lexus GTD program.

"It is no secret JDC-Miller MotorSports surprised a lot of people this year, showing that this group is more than capable of fighting with the big dogs," Cindric said. "It will be my first race in a prototype, so I have plenty to learn and absorb from my teammates. It is an exciting time in IMSA to be in a prototype, racing for an overall win, and I'm grateful to be part of



JDC-MILLER MOTORSPORTS PHOTO

The JDC-Miller Motorsports ORECA 07 Gibson LMP2. The team will field two cars in 2018.

it." DeFrancesco, an open wheel standout and winner in the FIA European Formula 3 championship as well as the current 2017 Spanish

Formula 3 champion, joins the team for his first run at the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona.

"I am looking forward for a great run with JDC-Miller Motorsports

in the Daytona 24," DeFrancesco said. "Will be a pleasure to compete against some of the best drivers in the world and I am 100 percent focused to do a

good job behind wheel of the No. 85 Oreca. I want to say 'thank you' to our partners that make it possible to join this team. Can't wait for the Roar and for the race weekend."

"Austin and Devlin are both enormous talents and we are thrilled to have them join us in the No. 85 for Daytona," commented JDC-Miller MotorSports team Principal John Church. "I have no doubt that both of them will familiarize themselves quickly with the ORECA 07 at the Roar and be up to speed in no time".

The team recently announced a major partnership with GAINSCO Auto Insurance for their two-car program in 2018 as well as confirmed 2016 FIA World Endurance LMP2 and 24 Hours of LeMans champion Gustavo Menezes as their fourth driver for the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona in the sister No. 99 Red Dragon car.



HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

The No. 85 JDC-Miller Motorsports Prototype runs at Sebring International Raceway.

AVON

FROM PAGE 1

points, nine rebounds and seven blocks for Sebring.

Sebring didn't help themselves with an 8 for 19 effort from the foul line.

The tournament was a bit frustrating for both teams, as close losses were the order of the day. One day after the Blue Streaks were unable to hold a lead against Hudson and fell 89-88, it was another one-point loss, this time to Lake Region by a score of 55-54, as Sebring saw a 36-22 halftime lead disappear, as they were brutal from the four line once again, going 11 for 27. Adolpus Lewis led the Blue Streaks with 16 points and Tumblin added 15 points to go with another nine rebounds and seven blocks.

The Blue Streaks had 25 turnovers in the game, although they did make 17 steals.

It wasn't much different for the Red Devils on Wednesday, as Avon Park found itself on the wrong end of a 48-40 contest against Ridge. The Red Devils started out slow, trailing 10-2 after the first quarter and 23-7 at halftime, before outscoring the Bolts 21-12 in the third quarter to get themselves back in the game, but were unable to keep their momentum in the fourth quarter, as Ridge held on for the victory.

On Thursday, it was a 58-55, double-overtime loss to the Strawberry Crest Chargers after the Red Devils rallied in the fourth quarter to force the overtime session. The Chargers led 38-32 after three quarters, but the Red Devils knotted the score after an 11-5

scoring margin over the final eight minutes.

Both teams scored seven points in the first overtime session, but Strawberry Crest had an 8-5 advantage in the

second overtime.

The Red Devils play Frostproof on Jan. 4, while the Blue Streaks play Somerset College Prep Academy the same day.

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Tanglewood hosting 4 Heartland Games events

By NEIL SIMPSON

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

South Florida State College, organizers of the Heartland Games For Active Adults, is very fortunate to have great partners willing to share their facilities for the enjoyment of Games participants. Tanglewood, owned by Hometown America, has hosted many events in the past few years and in 2018 will host bridge, euchre, pickleball and mah jongg once again.

Community Manager Tammy Martin is pleased to announce that all participants in bridge, euchre and mah jongg will be greeted at the Tanglewood clubhouse with complimentary coffee and donuts before the games begin. Pickleballers can fuel up on bananas, provided by Hometown America, when they take to the courts on Feb. 10 and 11.

Martin feels that Tanglewood has top-notch facilities and is proud to have guests come to see for themselves what a stellar park she manages. Tanglewood is very much an active adult lifestyle community and Martin is happy that Hometown America is able to help promote a healthy, active lifestyle for residents.

Bridge will take place on Feb. 2 to kick off the 2018 Heartland Games. Pat Reich, a bridge player since her late teens, will be coordinating the bridge tournament for the third time. She says that in previous years everyone who participated had a great day of party bridge. Reich reports that all the players

who came together from various communities got along well and their day sped by.

On Feb. 8, the Tanglewood clubhouse will be bursting at the seams with eager euchre players who will be competing under the direction of Carl Mys. He has always enjoyed the game which is a lot more relaxed than bridge. He knows that there will be lots of serious play mixed with an abundance of laughter as players make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Mys is also in charge of the weekly Tanglewood euchre tournaments which always draw large crowds.

Tom Stadler has been helping to organize the Heartland Games pickleball tournaments for years, taking charge when the event was held at the college, at Sun 'N Lake and now, for the second year, at Tanglewood where he will be proud to show off the excellent eight-court venue on Feb. 10 and 11. Stadler has been playing pickleball for more than a decade and manages to run the event efficiently while still taking time to partner with his sister in the tournament. He is always anxious to see how Tanglewood's players fare in competition with pickleballers from across central Florida.

The last event to be held at Tanglewood is mah jongg which will take place on Feb. 16. It is a game of strategy enjoyed by people around the world. Sandy Haka will be leading a large contingent of mah jongg devotees as they compete. She has



NEIL SIMPSON PHOTOS

Tanglewood Community Manager Tammy Martin, center, is flanked by the Tanglewood residents who will coordinate Heartland Games events to be held at Tanglewood in February. From left; Tom Stadler, pickleball, Pat Reich, bridge, Sandy Haka, mah jongg and Carl Mys, euchre.

been playing the game for nine years and has come up against players ranging in age from 15 to 90. Haka encourages mah jongg enthusiasts to sign up, come out and have a great day.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors; Newsom Eye, Edward Jones/Alan Holmes, Drs. Thakkar & Patel, VITAS, Florida Hospital and Turner Furniture, a complimentary lunch will be provided to all competitors in the events held at Tanglewood as well as at the following Heartland Games events; golf, shuffleboard, table tennis and tennis.

Registration for the

At right: Pat Reich is studying her bridge hand carefully at the 2017 Heartland Games bridge tournament.

Heartland Games has begun. All participants must get their registration, waiver form and payment into South Florida State College at least two weeks prior to their first event. The entry fee is just \$15 for one event or \$25 to take part in multiple events.

Registration forms are available at Tanglewood, local Chambers of Commerce, all campuses of SFSC or can be downloaded at www.southflorida.edu/heartlandgames.



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Lake Placid Senior Softball is currently practicing on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Lake June Ball Fields off Interlake Blvd. in Lake Placid. Men 60 and over who would like to participate in a fun league should bring their bats, gloves and enthusiasm to the field and sign-up for the regular season beginning in January and running through March. For further league information, please visit lpsoftball.com.

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

The 21st annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival is scheduled Jan. 24 – Jan. 29 and headquartered at Eastern Florida State College in Titusville. Festival activities feature unique birding, wildlife, nature, technology, cultural/historical field trips, special photography classes and field trips, off-shore birding boat trips, classroom and evening keynote presentations, as well as nature-based exhibits.

Nationally recognized naturalists, scientists, biologists, photographers and ornithologists lead the Festival events and are available to participants

for one-on-one discussions and instructions. For more information call 321-268-5224 email: festival@brevardnaturealliance.org.

Orange Blossom Shuffleboard Tournament

The Sebring Recreation Club on Pomegranate Avenue is once again hosting the Florida State Shuffleboard Orange Blossom Tournament on Tuesday, Jan. 2, The tournament will last several days. This is a huge State tournament bringing players in from throughout Florida.

Opening ceremony will take place on Tuesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. and play will begin at 9 a.m.

It is quite a prestigious tournament with many Highlands County shufflers playing. There is a men's division and a women's division with players required to have a partner. Most players are professionals but amateurs are allowed to play as well.

After School Tennis Program

The After School Tennis Program at the Thakkar Tennis Center at the Country Club of Sebring will resume on Jan. 8 and run through Feb. 2. The classes are for tennis players aged 4



HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

Runners take off at the start of a run at Highlands Hammock State Park. The Hammock Half Marathon and 5K takes place Jan. 13.

to 18 and are taught by USPTA Certified Tennis Professional Horace Watkis, formerly part of Chicago's famous Mid-Town Tennis Club Pro Staff and Head Pro at Frenchman's Cover in Port Antonio, Jamaica.

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

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

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

Highlands Hammock Half Marathon and 5K

The Friends of Highlands Hammock State Park will present the 10th Annual Highlands Hammock Half Marathon & 5K at the park on Saturday, Jan.13 with a 7:30 a.m. start for both distances. The Central Florida Striders running club under the direction

of Chet Brojek will manage race timing and scoring. All proceeds from the event will benefit park projects.

Entry fee for the 5K is \$20 and Half Marathon fee is \$40 thru January 6, 2018. Late fees are \$25 for the 5K and \$50 for the Half Marathon through race day registration. Participants will get a custom designed sport tech tee, awards in both

competitions, races, food, fun and a great chance to test their skills in the new year.

Checks payable to Central Florida Striders along with entry form may be snail mailed to race director Brojek at: 3310 Par Road, Sebring, FL 33872 or you may register online at: <http://endurance.sportstiming.com/race-calendar/>.

The Half Marathon may be run by an individual or by a team relay for the 13.1 mile distance. Those desiring to form a relay team should contact the coach at: cbrojek@comcast.net to discuss details and special relay pricing. The Half Marathon includes almost nine miles of the beautiful trails throughout the park. Anyone needing an entry form may email Brojek at: cbrojek@comcast.net and he will get one out to you right away.

DAVE

FROM PAGE 1

and perhaps a 3-4 rating. **Prime Monthly Periods:** Jan. 14 to 20 will be new-moon fishing. January and February will have strong full moon periods due to the lunar perigee influence. Note: A full or new moon in orbit perigee is almost 31,000 miles closer to earth than during an orbit apogee position.

Highlands Bass Angler Bass Guide-Trips are \$250 for one or two anglers. All gear, bait and tackle included for an artificial-bait six-hour trip. Cold water, Gatorade and weather protection provided. Custom bass fishing charters available. Call to plan and book your bass fishing experience today.

Istokpoga.info News: The lake level is at 39.45 feet above sea level, which is slightly below the max-level in the one-foot management-threshold range for the winter season. Currently the maximum and minimum levels are 39.50 and 38.50 feet above sea level, respectively. Three of four gates are currently open six inches and flowing a combined total of 650 cubic feet per second. Istokpoga.info website has links to the South Florida Water Mgmt. (SFWMD) real time S68 and S68X spillway gates status, and flow status data of all water way structures from Kissimmee to Clewiston.

Access this article online using, FloridaLakes FishingForecast.com or BassFishingForecast.com. Need a lake map? Go to FloridaLakesMaps.com for free lake contour maps for hundreds of your favorite lakes statewide.

Fishing from Shorelines: Learn where the deeper water comes closest to shorelines using a lake contour map. There are 45 Highlands County lake maps published at floralakesmaps.com. Each map is edited to include boat ramp locations and have been enlarged for easy reading of the lake-bottom contour delineations.

The only challenge you have is to not trespass on private shoreline properties when accessing the

best-fishing shorelines. The 'good news' is, the majority of the lakes' public boat ramps and docks are located within the better shoreline fishing areas.

HighlandsBassAngler.com offers bass fishing guide-trip options, fishing-help tools, 72 lake-contour maps and additional map sources, and fishing philosophy.

Personalized custom fishing packages for beginners to professional anglers are available upon request.

Dave Douglass is a bass fishing guide and teacher on 25 lakes, from the towns of Kissimmee to Clewiston. Visit HighlandsBassAngler.com for complete details. Phone: 863-381-8474. Email: DavidPDouglass@hotmail.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF MAP AMENDMENT

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing: January 16, 2018

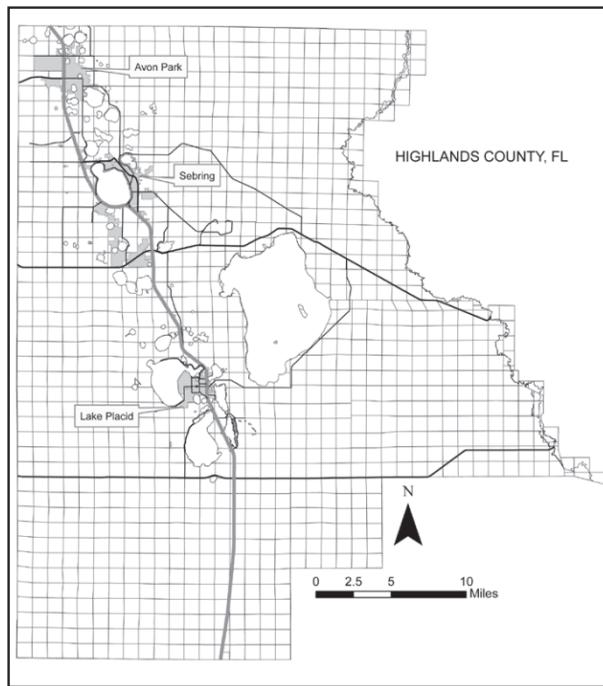
The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, acting as the Local Governing Body, proposes to review and adopt by ordinance Plan Amendment CPA-17-548LS, changing the Future Land Use Map of the Highlands County 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-18-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a public hearing will be held before the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, acting as the Local Governing Body of Highlands County, Florida, on the **16th day of January, 2018**, beginning at **9:00 A.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the County Commissioners' Board Room, in the **Highlands County Government Center Building, 600 South Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida**, to consider large scale Plan Amendment No. CPA-17-548LS, Ordinance 17-18-05, which consists of a change to the Highlands County adopted Comprehensive Plan, by amending the Future Land Use Map of the 2030 Highlands County Comprehensive Plan.

The County will consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 17-18-05 to change the designated land use within the area described, from "Agriculture" to "Public Water Supply" on second reading.



A copy of this notice is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners at the Highlands County Government Center, 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870. The proposed amendment may be inspected by the public at the Highlands County Planning Department, 501 South Commerce Avenue, Suite 2, Sebring, Florida 33870, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Inquiries or written testimony should be directed to Benjamin A. Dunn, Director/Development Services, or Susan BuChans, Planning Supervisor, at this address or by phone at (863) 402-6650. Photocopies may be obtained at this location for fifteen cents (\$0.15) per page. Please reference the amendment number when calling or writing.

All interested persons are invited to attend. All interested persons may appear and be heard at the time and place specified above. Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by this committee/group, in public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, do not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discriminatory policy involves every aspect of the board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or section 286.26, Florida statutes, should contact Ms. Pamela Rogers, ADA coordinator at 863-402-6509 (voice), or by e-mail: progers@hcbcc.org. Request for cart or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

Mr. R. Greg Harris, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners

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MILLER

FROM PAGE 1

In Sellers and Snow's first season together as co-drivers, the pair earned one win, two poles and one additional podium, resulting in a third place finish in the 2016 GTD championship standings. The following season, the No. 48 qualified on top to earn three pole positions, finishing on the podium twice in 2017. After completing off season testing and development, the pair is ready to shake off the 2017 gremlins and attack the 2018 season head on.

"I'm very excited to be returning with Paul Miller Racing," said Sellers. "It's a fantastic organization with a commitment to winning. I've spent two years there and have had great results and showed great promise. I hope this year we can contend for the title for the entire season. The competition level is high



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

The No. 48 Paul Miller Racing Lamborghini Huracán races at Sebring International Raceway.

and we will expect nothing less than a terrific battle."

"I'm glad to be back with the team with the same lineup we ran last year with," echoed Snow. "That gives an emphasis as to how solid our team is when we can have the same crew and drivers as

last year. Andrea and Bryce were great to drive with last year I am really excited to have them back again. Getting accustomed to a new team with new drivers really cuts down on setup time. The competition will be is hard as ever, so we will do our best

and see how we hold out over this 24 hour race."

The 2018 calendar features four endurance races, creating a championship within the existing championship: the Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup. The 2018 season will begin with

the longest race of the year, the Rolex 24 at Daytona. Bryce Miller and Andrea Caldarelli last raced the car in the 2016 Rolex 24 at Daytona, and will return to complete the Rolex 24 lineup.

"I'm grateful the team has provided me the opportunity to come back and join them after being out of the car for nearly one year," said Miller. "It's not lost on me the work I have to do to find my groove again, but I know Bryan, Madison, and Andrea will help where they can and it will be fun to work with them all again."

"I'm really happy to re-join my American family, Paul Miller Racing, for the second time," said Caldarelli. "I want to thank Lamborghini Squadra Corse and all the people at Paul Miller Racing for this chance. Daytona 24 hours is one of the greatest races in the world, and my debut last year gave me a great feeling. The atmosphere is great, and competition level is really high. I already have the chance to work with the team, so in the test days we'll be able to start from some good base levels from last year. I can't wait to meet my co-pilots Bryan, Madison, and Bryce to be focused on the target, which is to improve our seventh place finish from last year."

Rolex 24 participants will first complete the official test of the event, the Roar Before the 24, Friday through next Sunday at Daytona International Speedway. Competitors will receive eight hours of on track time for testing before qualifying on Saturday morning. The newly implemented qualifying session will not determine the starting positions for the Rolex 24 at the end of the month, but instead the session will establish the garage and pit lane placement for the event. The Rolex 24 at Daytona will take place Saturday, Jan. 27 to Sunday, Jan. 28.

For ticket information, visit imsa.com.



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

The No. 48 Paul Miller Racing Lamborghini Huracan exits Turn 1 at Sebring International Raceway.

2018

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- **TUESDAY Collection** Changed to Wednesday 1-3-18
- **WEDNESDAY Collection** Changed to Thursday 1-4-18
- **THURSDAY Collection** Changed to Friday 1-5-18
- **FRIDAY Collection** Changed to Saturday 1-6-18 "For Holiday Collection Only"

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Scandal, storms and sniping were the hallmarks of 2017 in, where political squalls and natural disasters created havoc in the Capitol and sent tremors through the Sunshine State. **See page 3.**



Extreme cold to test New Year's revelers; some events iced

By MARY ESCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dress in layers, lay off the booze and bring some hand warmers. Those are some of the tips offered for the huge crowd of revelers expected in Times Square for what could be one of the coldest New Year's Eve ball drops on record.

Brutal weather has iced plans for scores of events in the Northeast from New Year's Eve through New Year's Day, but not in New York City, where people will start gathering in Times Square up to nine hours before the famous ball drop.

"Hundreds of thousands have withstood very cold weather over the years



AP PHOTO

Visitors to the Washington Monument on the National Mall brave temperatures in the teens, Thursday, Dec. 28, in Washington.

for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we expect this year to be no different," said Tim Tompkins, president of the Times Square Alliance which puts on the event.

The coldest New

Year's Eve in Times Square came in 1917, when it was 1 degree at midnight. This year, the forecast is for 11 degrees with a wind chill around zero, which would tie for

COLD | 4



DAMIAN SEBOUHIAN/THE OBSERVER VIA AP

In this Tuesday, Dec. 26, photo, the surf from Lake Erie pounds the shore in Dunkirk, N.Y., driven by cold winds with lake effect snow.



AP FILE PHOTO

Rescue boats float on a flooded street as people are evacuated from rising floodwaters brought on by Tropical Storm Harvey on Aug. 28, in Houston. The storm, which later became a hurricane, dumped record rainfall throughout the Houston area.

Disasters pound North America in 2017; overall down globally

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

NEW ORLEANS — North America couldn't catch a break in 2017. Parts of the United States were on fire, underwater or lashed by hurricane winds. Mexico shook with back-to-back earthquakes. The Caribbean got hit with a string of hurricanes.

The rest of the world, however, was spared more than usual from the drumbeat of natural catastrophes. Preliminary research shows there were fewer disasters and deaths this year than on average, but economic damages were much higher.

While overall disasters were down, they smacked big cities, which were

more vulnerable because of increased development, said economist and geophysicist Chuck Watson of the consulting firm Enki Research.

In a year where U.S. and Caribbean hurricanes set a record \$215 billion in damages, according to insurance giant Munich Re, no one in the continental U.S. died from storm surge, which traditionally is the No. 1 killer during hurricanes. Forecasters gave residents plenty of advance warning during a season where storms set records for strength and duration.

"It's certainly one of the worst hurricane seasons we've had," National Weather Service Director Louis Uccellini said.

The globe typically averages about

325 disasters a year, but this year's total through November was less than 250, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters at the University of Louvain in Belgium. They included flooding and monsoons in South Asia, landslides in Africa, hurricane in Ireland, and cyclones in Australia and Central America. Colombia experienced two different bouts of floods and mudslides.

Disasters kill about 30,000 people and affect about 215 million people a year. This year's estimated toll was lower — about 6,000 people killed and 75 million affected.

Was it random chance, statistical

DISASTERS | 12

New protests in Tehran challenge Iran's government

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — A wave of spontaneous protests over Iran's weak economy swept into Tehran on Saturday, with college students and others chanting against the government just hours after hard-liners held their own rally in support of the Islamic Republic's clerical establishment.

The demonstrations appear to be the largest to strike the Islamic Republic since the protests that followed the country's disputed 2009 presidential election.

Thousands already have taken to the streets of cities across Iran, beginning at first on Thursday in Mashhad, the country's second-largest city and a holy site for Shiite pilgrims.

The protests in the Iranian capital, as well as U.S. President Donald Trump tweeting about them, raised the stakes. It also apparently forced state television to break its silence, acknowledging it hadn't reported on them on orders from security officials.

"Counterrevolution groups and foreign media are continuing their organized efforts to misuse the people's economic and livelihood problems and their legitimate demands to provide an opportunity for unlawful gatherings and possibly chaos," state TV said.

The protests appear sparked by social media posts and a surge in prices of basic food supplies, like eggs and poultry. Officials and state media made a point Saturday of saying Iranians have the right to protest and have their voices heard on social issues.

However, protesters in Tehran on Saturday chanted against high-ranking government officials and made other political statements, according to the

PROTESTS | 4

This year's top 10 news stories

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK — The wave of sexual misconduct allegations that toppled Hollywood power brokers, politicians, media icons and many others was the top news story of 2017, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The No. 2 story was Donald Trump's

tumultuous first year as president. A year ago, Trump's unexpected victory over Hillary Clinton in the presidential election was a near-unanimous pick for the top news story of 2016.

The first AP top-stories poll was conducted in 1936, when editors chose the abdication of Britain's King Edward VIII as the top story.

Here are 2017's top 10 stories, in order:

1. Sexual misconduct: Scandals involving sexual misdeeds by prominent men are nothing new in America, but there's never been anything remotely like the deluge of allegations unleashed this year by women who were emboldened to speak out by the accusers who preceded them. Luminaries toppled from their perches included movie magnate Harvey Weinstein, media stars Bill O'Reilly, Matt

Lauer and Charlie Rose, and several celebrity chefs and members of Congress.

2. Trump-First Year: The controversies started on Inauguration Day, with the new president challenged over his claims on the size of the crowd, and persisted throughout the year. Trump's approval ratings hovered around record-low territory, his base remained fiercely

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AP FILE PHOTO

In this Tuesday, May 2, file photo, a man watches a television screen showing U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea.

FINANCIAL

Oath Is a Failure Waiting to Happen

Dear Mr. Berko: I'm a financial adviser with lots of money under management, and I and two others in our office need your help. Here's the problem, and then perhaps a personal letter from you to Oath, which is the name Verizon gave to its newly merged AOL-Yahoo organization, would help.



Malcolm Berko

For two decades, we used the stock platform made available by Yahoo. It had all the data we needed to analyze thousands of companies. Yahoo's platform was easy to use; the information was easy to understand, and the presentation was clear. We didn't need other stock platforms, because the content was enormous. But 10 months before Verizon bought Yahoo, the platform was abruptly changed to its current format, which is disgustingly inferior to the old platform.

We wrote to Oath and its president, Tim Armstrong, twice. We offered to pay a fee for the return of the original platform and told him that dozens of other brokers we know in Miami, Tampa, Orlando, etc., would gladly pay an annual or monthly fee for the return of the old platform. And

we know brokers in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati who would also pay to have access to the old Yahoo platform again. None of us realized how good the old Yahoo stock platform was until it was taken from us. We have tried to call Mr. Armstrong, but we've had no luck reaching him. Do you know him? Could you help us? We would gladly pay \$1,000 a year for access to the old Yahoo stock platform.

— 3 Guys in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Dear 3 Guys: Two more guys and you'd have a hamburger franchise. Don't feel bad that Timmy hasn't responded. He doesn't give a hoot. He won't respond to my letters, either. I wrote to him in September because dozens of readers/investors asked me to write to Oath on their behalf. Timmy is too busy to care.

As you mentioned, Oath is a new

subsidiary of Verizon Communications (VZ-\$52). Oath serves as the umbrella company for VZ's digital division, including AOL, which was acquired in June 2015, and Yahoo, which was acquired in June of this year. Timmy Armstrong's strategy to generate advertising revenue is "to build global brands people love, build global brand platforms partners love" and "build a global company talent loves." Timmy believes that implementation of his "love" vision will increase user traffic from the current 1.2 billion to 2 billion, a 67 percent increase, in two years. I suspect that Timmy is smoking some of those left-handed Luckys. Timmy and what's left of his AOL people, plus the remaining Yahoo employees, have failed miserably in the past few years to build platforms sufficiently attractive to generate enough advertising dollars to pay the bills and provide a return on investment. For years, Yahoo and AOL failed to attract enough advertising as standalone entities. Now Timmy is playing double jeopardy. By combining two ignominious failures with zero proven talent, there's no flaming way in paradise Oath will

contribute a shilling or sixpence to VZ's bottom line. If the past is prologue, it's certain failure all over again, because the Oath folks haven't the foggiest idea what global brands the consumer will love. Timmy's failures at AOL are proof of his future failures. And a manager who doesn't respond to client letters is a failure waiting to happen. I've sent a list of six services I use. I won't mention their names publicly because it'd be considered unpaid advertising and other names I failed to mention would hound me. These services are not cheap, so I'd recommend that you three combine your purses to subscribe. I've used these research services for at least 20 years. Frankly, their recommendations are only slightly better than the free stuff, but the revenue statements, profit and loss statements, and cash flow statements they publish are wonderfully detailed and give me a clear picture of the company I'm investigating. Please address your financial questions to Malcolm Berko, P.O. Box 8303, Largo, FL 33775, or email him at mjbberko@yahoo.com.

FINANCIAL NEWS BRIEFS

Turkey, Russia sign loan deal for S-400 air system

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish media are reporting that Turkish and Russian officials have signed a financing agreement for the purchase of a Russian-made anti-missile system worth \$2.5 billion. The Hurriyet Daily News newspaper said the loan deal for four S-400 surface-to-air missile batteries was signed in the Turkish capital Ankara on Friday. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced in September that Turkey had signed a deal to buy Russia's most advanced air defense system, drawing concerns from some of Turkey's NATO allies. Some NATO countries have expressed worries that the S-400 system is not compatible with the alliance's weapons systems. Turkey plans to finance part of the purchase through a Russian loan.

New California laws cover immigration, marijuana, education

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California state lawmakers in 2017 passed nearly 900 laws then signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, most of them taking effect Monday. One makes California a sanctuary state in response to the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. And while sales of recreational marijuana will become legal under a 2016 voter initiative, it will be illegal to take and drive or

carry open containers of cannabis while behind the wheel.

Another law aims to make getting a college education more affordable, while several try to help ex-convicts get jobs.

The minimum wage goes up, smaller businesses must offer unpaid maternity and paternity leave, and drug companies will now have to give warning before big price increases.

Departing UK infrastructure czar vows to fight Brexit

LONDON (AP) — Britain's outgoing infrastructure chief is vowing to fight Prime Minister Theresa May on Brexit policy. Andrew Adonis said Saturday he will campaign next year to keep Britain inside the European Union because following May's Brexit plans may lead to economic calamity. "Very few of the people who voted for Brexit voted, I believe, to make themselves poorer," he told BBC radio. Adonis resigned Friday night as chairman of the National Infrastructure Commission to protest May's Brexit policy. The Labour Party peer is urging other senior figures to speak out against Brexit, which he said would rip Britain out of its key trading alliances. Britain voted in a 2016 referendum to leave the EU, but negotiations toward a new trading agreement with EU nations have been slowed by disputes.

TODAY / TONIGHT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Sunny and pleasant Partly cloudy HIGH 73° LOW 53° 0% chance of rain 15% chance of rain	Cooler; a morning shower, then showers 63° / 47° 85% chance of rain	A thick cloud cover with a shower in spots 59° / 47° 40% chance of rain	A little morning rain; mostly cloudy, cool 61° / 38° 55% chance of rain	Cool with partial sunshine 61° / 39° 10% chance of rain	Mostly sunny and remaining cool 63° / 40° 5% chance of rain

65° GULF WATER TEMPERATURE

FLORIDA CITIES

City	Today	Mon.
Apalachicola	59 40 c	49 30 c
Bradenton	70 55 s	61 45 sh
Clearwater	68 56 s	59 45 sh
Coral Springs	74 59 s	73 61 sh
Daytona Beach	64 49 pc	58 46 c
Fort Lauderdale	72 60 s	73 61 sh
Fort Myers	74 55 s	70 50 sh
Gainesville	61 39 pc	50 29 c
Jacksonville	58 42 pc	47 32 c
Key Largo	72 64 pc	76 63 sh
Key West	72 65 pc	76 63 pc
Lakeland	69 52 s	56 43 sh
Melbourne	69 54 s	65 54 sh
Miami	74 61 s	77 62 sh
Naples	73 56 s	72 52 sh
Ocala	65 45 pc	52 34 c
Okeechobee	70 51 s	63 52 sh
Orlando	69 51 s	59 45 sh
Panama City	57 36 sh	48 29 c
Pensacola	52 28 r	43 25 pc
Pompano Beach	73 61 s	74 62 sh
St. Augustine	59 43 pc	52 41 c
St. Petersburg	70 54 s	61 43 sh
Sarasota	70 53 s	64 43 sh
Tallahassee	54 36 c	48 26 c
Tampa	70 53 s	60 43 sh
Vero Beach	71 53 s	66 54 sh
West Palm Beach	72 58 s	72 60 sh

TIDES

Location	High	Low	High	Low
Punta Gorda	12:11a	8:25a	3:15p	7:01p
Englewood	1:52p	6:41a	11:33p	5:17p
Boca Grande	12:45p	5:33a	10:35p	3:45p
El Jobean	12:43a	8:54a	3:47p	7:30p
Venice	12:07p	5:20a	9:48p	3:56p

MARINE

Wind Speed Seas Bay/Inland direction in knots in feet chop

SUN AND MOON

Phase	Rise	Set
The Sun	7:17 a.m.	5:46 p.m.
The Moon	7:18 a.m.	5:46 p.m.

THE NATION Publication date: 12/31/17

U.S. Extremes (For the 48 contiguous states yesterday)

High 81° at Miramar MCAS, CA Low -35° at Rugby, ND

City	Today	Mon.	City	Today	Mon.
Albuquerque	58 25 pc	54 29 s	Jackson, MS	37 19 i	32 16 pc
Anchorage	30 23 sn	30 25 sn	Kansas City	5 -14 s	7 -13 s
Atlanta	40 22 c	34 19 s	Knoxville	31 14 s	26 8 s
Baltimore	24 8 pc	24 10 s	Las Vegas	64 42 pc	66 47 pc
Billings	-6 -16 c	5 0 s	Los Angeles	70 52 pc	73 55 pc
Birmingham	33 16 i	30 14 s	Louisville	21 7 pc	17 1 s
Boise	33 16 i	30 16 s	Memphis	28 10 c	22 8 pc
Boston	16 1 s	13 4 s	Milwaukee	15 -6 pc	8 -3 s
Buffalo	8 -1 sf	14 3 sf	Minneapolis	-3 -12 s	1 -6 s
Burlington, VT	3 -9 pc	4 -13 pc	Montgomery	39 21 i	37 18 pc
Charleston, WV	20 5 c	20 3 s	Nashville	27 10 pc	23 5 s
Charlotte	37 19 s	35 16 s	New Orleans	55 28 r	39 26 pc
Chicago	14 -7 sf	6 -7 s	New York City	20 9 s	20 13 s
Cincinnati	18 1 c	13 -4 s	Norfolk, VA	33 18 pc	27 16 s
Cleveland	16 1 sf	13 -1 c	Oklahoma City	22 6 pc	19 8 pc
Columbia, SC	44 24 pc	38 19 pc	Omaha	-1 -23 s	1 -20 s
Columbus, OH	16 0 pc	14 -4 s	Philadelphia	22 10 s	22 13 s
Concord, NH	8 -9 s	7 -7 s	Phoenix	72 46 s	75 47 pc
Dallas	35 18 i	31 19 pc	Pittsburgh	19 5 sf	16 5 pc
Denver	24 4 pc	31 12 pc	Portland, ME	11 -8 pc	8 -7 s
Des Moines	-3 -19 s	-3 -20 s	Portland, OR	46 32 s	44 33 c
Detroit	16 -1 pc	15 3 c	Providence	17 1 s	15 6 s
Duluth	-8 -18 pc	-1 -7 pc	Raleigh	34 15 pc	30 13 s
Fairbanks	-1 -8 pc	4 -7 pc	Salt Lake City	40 25 pc	43 26 s
Fargo	-11 -23 s	-2 -10 s	St. Louis	13 -5 s	10 -4 s
Hartford	14 -3 s	12 0 s	San Antonio	50 27 c	36 24 i
Helena	5 -6 pc	12 0 s	San Diego	68 50 pc	70 52 pc
Honolulu	80 68 pc	82 69 s	San Francisco	59 46 pc	60 48 pc
Houston	53 29 c	40 24 pc	Seattle	43 30 s	44 32 c
Indianapolis	12 -7 pc	3 -13 s	Washington, DC	27 14 pc	27 14 s

PORT CHARLOTTE

Punta Gorda through 2 p.m. Saturday

TEMPERATURES

High/Low 70°/54°
Normal High/Low 72°/52°
Record High 85° (2015)
Record Low 30° (1961)

PRECIPITATION (in inches)

24 hours through 2 p.m. Sat. 0.00"
Month to date 0.60"
Normal month to date 2.27"
Year to date 37.82"
Normal year to date 50.41"
Record 0.29" (1983)

SEBRING

Sebring through 2 p.m. Saturday

TEMPERATURES

High/Low 65°/50°

PRECIPITATION (in inches)

24 hours through 2 p.m. Sat. 0.00"

AIRPORT

Possible weather-related delays today. Check with your airline for the most updated schedules.

	Hi/Lo	Outlook	Delays
Ft. Myers	74/55	sun	none
Punta Gorda	73/53	sun	none
Sarasota	70/53	sun	none

CONDITIONS TODAY

UV Index and RealFeel Temperature Today

RealFeel Temperature is the exclusive AccuWeather.com composite of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

POLLEN INDEX

Pollen Index readings as of Saturday

Trees: 1
Grass: 3
Weeds: 3
Molds: 1

AIR QUALITY INDEX

Air Quality Index readings as of Saturday

0-50 Good; 51-100 Moderate; 101-150 Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200 Unhealthy; 201-300 Very Unhealthy; 301-500 Hazardous

Main pollutant: Ozone

WEATHER HISTORY

A snowstorm in El Paso, Texas, on Dec. 31, 1982, brought the monthly total of snow there to 18 inches.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: During a blizzard, must snow be falling from the sky?

WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Mon.	City	Today	Mon.
Amsterdam	53 41 r	45 40 c	Mexico City	71 47 pc	66 43 s
Baghdad	75 55 s	66 46 c	Montreal	-1 -17 s	-4 -19 s
Beijing	41 18 s	39 15 s	Ottawa	-3 -19 s	-4 -21 c
Berlin	52 45 r	48 38 c	Paris	55 43 r	49 41 sh
Buenos Aires	81 62 sh	78 58 pc	Regina	-9 -20 s	0 -10 s
Cairo	62 53 pc	64 53 pc	Rio de Janeiro	89 77 pc	88 75 pc
Calgary	-9 -18 s	19 15 s	Rome	59 47 t	60 48 sh
Cancun	80 67 sh	81 68 sh	St. John's	29 19 sn	27 21 s
Dublin	46 37 pc	46 37 pc	San Juan	85 75 pc	85 74 pc
Edmonton	-8 -17 s	9 8 c	Sydney	76 70 sh	84 70 pc
Halifax	17 9 pc	16 8 pc	Tokyo	44 39 c	53 39 s
Kiev	36 34 pc	42 36 pc	Toronto	6 -6 c	16 -4 pc
London	54 41 pc	46 39 c	Vancouver	38 28 s	39 31 c
Madrid	53 33 c	53 39 pc	Winnipeg	-11 -18 c	-1 -6 s

STATE

2017 Roundup: Turbulent times in Tallahassee

By DARA KAM

THE NEWS SERVICE
OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE

— Scandal, storms and sniping were the hallmarks of 2017 in Florida, where political squalls and natural disasters created havoc in the Capitol and sent tremors through the Sunshine State.

The resignations of not one, not two, but three state senators, the impacts of hurricanes Irma and Maria and infighting among Republican lawmakers were just some of the highlights of a year to which many are eager to bid adieu and perhaps even more wish never happened at all.

Sexual
Harassment,
Parts I And II

The political drama that gripped the Senate and rocked the Capitol this fall is atypical of an election off-year.

But the scandal that eventually forced out one of the Legislature's most powerful members mirrored the ignominies that brought down powerful men in the media, in the movies and in boardrooms across the country.

The toppling of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, accused of sexually assaulting or harassing dozens of women, and the ensuing #MeToo social-media campaign emboldened women to tell stories of abuse or inappropriate treatment that remained under wraps in state capitols like Florida's — among other work environs populated by powerful men — in some cases for decades.

In Florida, the focus on sexual conduct began in late October with the resignation of former state Sen. Jeff Clemens, who left the Legislature after admitting he had an extramarital affair with a lobbyist. Clemens, a Lake Worth Democrat who resigned after a report in Politico Florida about the dalliance, was slated to take over as leader of the Senate Democrats following the 2018 elections.

Instead, constituents in his District 31 will remain without a senator until after the legislative session ends in March.

Before Capitol insiders even caught their breath following Clemens' resignation, an even-more prominent senator — Jack Latvala — was in the spotlight.

For years, Latvala flexed his muscle as a power broker, often putting the brakes on right-wing priorities of his fellow Republicans and championing legislation that benefited teachers, firefighters, cops and prison guards.

But the Clearwater Republican likely will go down in history as a villain accused of engaging in a pattern of sexual harassment and possibly breaking ethics rules and laws.

To the end, Latvala steadfastly maintained his innocence, pointing the finger for his downfall at political foes and even a special master brought in to investigate the senator's alleged wrongdoing.

Latvala, 66, announced his resignation Dec. 20, less than a day after Special Master Ronald Swanson, a former judge, recommended a criminal

probe into allegations that the longtime lawmaker had promised legislative favors for sex.

Latvala quit amid increasing pressure — including from Gov. Rick Scott — to step down after Swanson found probable cause to support allegations that the senator had repeatedly groped Senate aide Rachel Perrin Rogers and engaged in a pattern of making unwelcome remarks about women's bodies.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is handling a preliminary inquiry into allegations of possible public corruption.

The inquiry is based on Swanson's findings related to an unidentified former lobbyist. Swanson found that the testimony of the former lobbyist and text-message exchanges between the senator and the woman indicated that Latvala may have violated ethics rules as well as "laws prohibiting public corruption" by agreeing to support the lobbyist's legislative priorities if she would have sex with him or "allowed him to touch her body in a sexual manner."

Latvala — a churlish and sometimes crass curmudgeon — has been a political player for four decades. He returned to the Senate in 2010 after an earlier stint that ended because of term limits.

But his political fortunes quickly plummeted in the aftermath of the revelations. Less than two months ago, he held the powerful title of Senate appropriations chairman, a post he lost after the allegations were made public.

In his resignation letter to Senate President Joe Negron, Latvala condemned the process that resulted in Swanson's damning report. The resignation is effective Jan. 5, four days before the start of the 2018 legislative session.

An unyielding Latvala — painted as a vindictive bully by witnesses — took some parting shots at Negron in what might have been his final words to the Senate, saying he hated to leave his constituents in the lurch.

Latvala's woes may not be over, due to the criminal investigation and a possible civil lawsuit by Perrin Rogers, who took to social media following the senator's resignation announcement.

Perrin Rogers, whose Twitter avatar is Wonder Woman, said she came forward "as the mother of a son."

"I could no longer look myself in the mirror; I could no longer in good faith encourage him to have courage and be kind," she tweeted on Dec. 21. "Because having courage means standing up against wrongdoing. Especially when others are in harm's way. To the women who have been harmed, I offer support, love and strength."

Sexual
harassment, part III

In the midst of the Latvala inquiry, allegations of sexual harassment ended the career of a utility regulator before it even began.

Ritch Workman, a former state representative picked by Scott for a spot on the Public Service

Commission, withdrew from the job after Senate Rules Chairwoman Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Fort Myers, said he manhandled her at a charity event last year.

Workman's appointment to the Public Service Commission was slated to take effect in January and would have been subject to later Senate confirmation. Benacquisto said she wouldn't put his appointment on her committee's agenda because of his "abhorrent" behavior more than a year ago.

Workman, a Melbourne Republican, "approached me from behind, pushed his body up against me and made vulgar and inappropriate gestures," Benacquisto said in a statement, describing the incident.

Benacquisto, who has said publicly that she was raped as a teenager, said she immediately asked Workman to stop, but he continued to make the comments and gestures until others intervened.

An emotional Workman told The News Service of Florida he did not recall the incident, but that "the right thing to do is to get out of the way."

"I have absolutely no recollection of being inappropriate with Sen. Benacquisto. I have nothing but respect and admiration for her. It breaks my heart that this has come out like this because it's not the kind of person that I am," he said.

A Different Kind
Of Harassment

Long before the #MeToo cultural revolution began, another state senator was forced to resign after a profanity-tinged and racially charged outburst at a private club near the Capitol.

Miami Republican Frank Artiles left the Senate after the 2017 legislative session began and less than six months after he defeated incumbent Democrat Dwight Bullard in a brutal contest for the newly redrawn District 40 seat.

The former House member — a tough-talking, U.S. Marine veteran who earned the moniker "Frank the Tank" from fellow lawmakers — stepped down amid a Senate investigation into reports that he had insulted two black colleagues and others at the members-only club.

Artiles faced widespread condemnation for a rant that reportedly included calling Sen. Audrey Gibson, D-Jacksonville, "girl," a "b****," and a "f****ing a**hole." Artiles also reportedly used the word "n*****," though he contended that he did not direct the word at anyone in particular.

"It is clear to me my recent actions and words that I spoke fell far short of what I expect for myself, and for this I am very sorry. I apologize to my friends and I apologize to all of my fellow senators and lawmakers. To the people of my district and all of Miami-Dade, I am sorry I have let you down and ask for your forgiveness," Artiles wrote in a resignation letter to Negron, R-Stuart.

'Cardiac Kids'
Make Peace

Lawmakers were



AP FILE PHOTO

This May 5, 2017 file photo shows Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee, Gov. Rick Scott issued a statement Wednesday, Dec. 20, calling on Sen. Latvala to step down after an investigation found credible evidence of sexual misconduct.

forced to return to the Capitol for a June special session after Scott — who could be gearing up for a U.S. Senate run next year — vetoed the state's public-education funding formula that had been included in a budget passed a month earlier.

House Speaker Richard Corcoran spent much of this year's 60-day regular session on a legislative jihad against the economic-development agency Enterprise Florida and tourism-marketer Visit Florida. Corcoran, R-Land O'Lakes, clashed frequently with Scott about the agencies.

Among the speaker's more prominent complaints about Visit Florida was a \$1 million deal with Miami rapper Pitbull, along with sponsorships of Fulham Football Club in England and the Visit Florida racing team.

After months of bickering between Scott and Corcoran, the June special session focused on funding for public schools and economic development.

But the special session quickly devolved into another opportunity for an intra-party boxing match, with Democrats gleefully painting a narrative of dysfunctional Republican leadership and rumors of a special session collapse.

Hours after the session seemed on the verge of falling apart, legislative leaders and Scott struck an agreement salvaging their priorities but setting off renewed criticism over backroom dealing. Among other things, lawmakers pumped more dollars into public schools, agreed on money for Visit Florida and set up a new economic-development fund.

Lawmakers also approved legislation setting the framework for the state's growing medical-marijuana industry after a voter-approved constitutional amendment broadly legalized the product.

The deal emerged after a 30-minute harangue on the penultimate day of the week-long session by Negron, who told reporters that the Senate would need more concessions from Scott and the House for the session to end successfully.

That led many observers to predict that lawmakers might miss a deadline to end the special session, much as they needed overtime to finish the state budget in May following a similarly chaotic process during

the regular session.

But on the final day of the special session, out of the backrooms came a compromise that Scott, Corcoran and Negron supported.

"We call ourselves the cardiac kids," Corcoran told reporters. "We get you guys all worked up, and then we come to a nice smooth landing and we accomplish a tremendous amount of policy."

Celebration,
Then Scandals

State Senate Democrats had some celebrating to do, at least for a while, after a closely watched victory in the race to replace Artiles.

In a campaign viewed as a litmus test of President Donald Trump and Florida Democrats' ability to make gains in local and statewide elections next year, Miami businesswoman Annette Taddeo coasted to victory, defeating former state Rep. Jose Felix Diaz, a Republican who stepped down from his House seat to run for the Senate.

Taddeo's victory in Senate District 40 bolstered the hopes of Democrats, who have been outnumbered in the Senate for more than two decades, as they prepare to combat Republicans in local and statewide races in 2018.

But fallout from sexual harassment scandals quickly put the damper on Florida Democrats' revelry.

Clemens, who was in charge of fundraising for Senate Democrats and took some of the credit for Taddeo's win, walked away from the Legislature in late October.

Less than a month later, then-Florida Democratic Party Chairman Stephen Bittel abruptly resigned. The hurried exit of Bittel, a veteran fundraiser chosen to head the state party in January after a fractious leadership contest, came hours after a news report accused him of creating an uncomfortable work environment by leering at women and making suggestive remarks.

Blowing
In The Wind

State officials have yet to put an overall price tag on Florida's costs from Irma, which left destruction from the Keys to Jacksonville.

But the historic storm caused an estimated \$2.5 billion hit on crops and agriculture facilities, \$6.55 billion in insured

losses and a more-than \$1 billion price tag for utility customers to cover the costs of power restoration.

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam's department estimated in October that the state's already-reeling citrus industry took a \$761 million hit from Hurricane Irma. Since then, a number of lawmakers and Putnam said the damage estimate has grown to possibly more than \$1 billion, as fruit continued to fall early from trees that were flooded by the September storm.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Maria — which battered Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands — also had a major impact on Florida, as evacuees from the territories continue to flood into the state.

According to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, more than 269,000 people have traveled from Puerto Rico to Florida in the past three months, but it is unknown how many are considered to have relocated from the island. More than 10,000 Puerto Rican children have enrolled in Florida schools since the storm.

Nearly one-third of the island remains without power, and water supplies are getting worse, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Hospitals also remain in disrepair, according to a report by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, who visited the island Thursday.

"The people of Puerto Rico are our fellow American citizens. They should not be treated like they're being treated. It's just not right," Nelson tweeted.

Story Of The Year:

Allegations of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct roiled the Capitol, resulting in Clearwater Republican Jack Latvala and Lake Worth Democrat Jeff Clemens resigning from the Senate and former Rep. Ritch Workman withdrawing from an appointment to the Public Service Commission.

Quote Of The Year: "But I have had enough. If this is the process our party and Senate leadership desires, then I have no interest in continuing to serve with you. I, therefore, will resign my seat in the Florida Senate at midnight, January 5, 2018." Clearwater Republican Jack Latvala, in a Dec. 20 letter to Senate President Joe Negron.

FROM PAGE ONE

COLD

FROM PAGE 1

second with 1962.

The New York City Health Department is advising people to cover all exposed skin, wearing a hat, scarf and gloves.

Drinking alcohol is discouraged because it causes the body to lose heat faster.

Extra New York Fire Department personnel are going to be on hand to provide medical support and a National Weather Service meteorologist will be on site with the city's emergency management officials to monitor weather conditions.

In other areas gripped by the cold, some events are being canceled or reconsidered. The annual Lobster Dip at Old Orchard Beach in Maine has been rescheduled for the first time in 30 years.

Organizers of the

Penguin Plunge in Narragansett, Rhode Island, say it's still on for New Year's Day but advised the thousands of expected participants to "use their good judgment" and avoid taking the plunge if they have a medical condition or have been sick.

In Philadelphia, officials are taking a wait-and-see approach to whether they should hold the annual New Year's Day Mummers Parade, which features thousands of performers in colorful costumes adorned with sequins and feathers strutting through the streets.

The village of Orchard Park near Buffalo, New York, has canceled its New Year's Eve event because subzero temperatures have been forecast. "With frigid weather, the chance of a water line break is higher, and I'd rather have my public works crew fixing it than hoisting a ball up



AP PHOTO

A woman braves temperatures in the teens as she makes her way to the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall, Thursday, Dec. 28, in Washington.



L. TODD SPENCER/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT VIA AP

Icicles hang from the fountain at Town Center in Virginia Beach, Va., on Thursday morning Dec. 28. Cold temperatures are expected through the week.

to drop," said Mayor Jo Ann Litwin Clinton.

At Long Lake in the heart of New York state's Adirondack Park, intrepid souls in swimsuits or funny costumes will jump into frigid water through a hole cut by the fire department for the fifth annual Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for High Peaks Hospice. With temperatures expected to top out around 13 degrees, the rescue squad will be checking participants' blood pressure and buses will provide warm shelter,



JACK HANRAHAN/ERIE TIMES-NEWS VIA AP

Logan Rogers pushes his bike along East Third Street in Erie, Pa., Wednesday, Dec. 27.

said Alexandra Roalsvig, the town's director of recreation and tourism.

"People get excited about the cold here; we grew up with it,"

Roalsvig said. "We're counting on a good cold winter and snow because we're so reliant on snowmobiling for the winter economy."

PROTESTS

FROM PAGE 1

semi-official Fars news agency. Hundreds of students and others joined a new economic protest at Tehran University, with riot police massing at the school's gates as they shut down surrounding roads.

Fars also said protests on Friday also struck Qom, a city that is the world's foremost center for Shiite Islamic scholarship and home to a major Shiite shrine.

Social media videos purport to show clashes between protesters and police in several areas. At least 50 protesters have been arrested since Thursday, authorities said. State TV also said some protesters chanted the name of Iran's one-time shah, who fled into exile just before its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi send a message by Twitter to the CEO of messaging service Telegram, Pavel Durov, saying: "A telegram channel is encouraging hateful conduct, use Molotov cocktails, armed uprising, and social unrest." Telegram responded saying it had suspended the account.

"A Telegram channel (amadnews) started to instruct their subscribers to use Molotov cocktails against police and got suspended due to our 'no calls for violence' rule. Be careful — there are lines one shouldn't cross," Durov tweeted.

The semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted the deputy commander of Tehran's Revolutionary Guard base, Brig. Gen. Ismail Kowsari, as saying: "Peace has returned to city of Tehran and its surroundings." He added that if inflation was the reason the protesters took to the streets they should not have destroyed property, according to the report.

In Tehran, some 4,000 people gathered at the



AP PHOTO

Iranian protesters chant slogans at a rally in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Dec. 30. Iranian hard-liners rallied Saturday to support the country's supreme leader and clerically overseen government as spontaneous protests sparked by anger over the country's ailing economy roiled major cities in the Islamic Republic.

Musalla prayer ground in central Tehran for the rally. They called for criminal trials for Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi, leaders in the 2009 protests who have been under house arrest since 2011. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, whose administration struck the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, campaigned on freeing the men, though they remain held.

Mohsen Araki, a Shiite cleric who serves in Iran's Assembly of Experts, praised Rouhani's efforts at improving the economy. However, he said Rouhani needed to do more to challenge "enemy pressures."

"We must go back to the pre-nuclear deal situation," Araki said. "The enemy has not kept with its commitments."

Ali Ahmadi, a pro-government demonstrator, blamed the U.S for all of Iran's economic problems.

"They always say that we are supporting Iranian people, but who should

pay the costs?" Ahmadi asked.

Iran's economy has improved since the nuclear deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the end of some of the international sanctions that crippled its economy. Tehran now sells its oil on the global market and has signed deals for tens of billions of dollars of Western aircraft.

That improvement has not reached the average Iranian, however. Unemployment remains high. Official inflation has crept up to 10 percent again. A recent increase in egg and poultry prices by as much as 40 percent, which a government spokesperson has blamed on a cull over avian flu fears, appears to have been the spark for the economic protests.

While police have arrested some protesters, the Revolutionary Guard and its affiliates have not intervened as they have in other unauthorized demonstrations since the 2009 election. The economic

protests initially just put pressure on Rouhani's administration.

Early on Saturday, Trump tweeted out his support for the protests.

"Many reports of peaceful protests by Iranian citizens fed up with regime's corruption & its squandering of the nation's wealth to fund terrorism abroad," he wrote. "Iranian govt should respect their people's rights, including right to express themselves. The world is watching! (hashtag) IranProtests."

It's unclear what effect Trump's support would have. Iranians already are largely skeptical of him over his refusal to re-certify the nuclear deal and Iran being included in his travel bans. Trump's insistence in an October speech on using the term "Arabian Gulf" in place of the Persian Gulf also has also riled the Iranian public.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's comments in June to Congress saying

American is working toward "support of those elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of that government" has been used by Iran's government of a sign of foreign interference in its internal politics.

The State Department issued a statement Friday supporting the protests, referencing Tillerson's earlier comments. "Iran's leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed and chaos," the statement said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry dismissed the comments.

"The noble Iranian nation never pays heed to the opportunist and hypocritical mottos chanted by the U.S. officials and their interfering allegations on domestic developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran," the state-run IRNA news agency quoted ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi as saying.

ALMANAC

Today is **Sunday, Dec. 31**, the 365th and final day of 2017.

Today in history

On **Dec. 31, 1879**, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light by illuminating some 40 bulbs at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

On this date

In **1775**, during the Revolutionary War, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed.

In **1857**, Britain's Queen Victoria decided to make Ottawa the capital of Canada.

In **1877**, President Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife, Lucy, celebrated their silver anniversary a day after the actual date by repeating their wedding vows during a reception in the White House.

In **1904**, New York's Times Square saw its first New Year's Eve celebration, with an estimated 200,000 people in attendance.

In **1946**, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.

In **1951**, the Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in foreign aid.

In **1986**, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In **1987**, Robert Mugabe was sworn in as Zimbabwe's first executive president.

In **1997**, Michael Kennedy, the 39-year-old son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident on Aspen Mountain in Colorado. Pianist Floyd Cramer died in Nashville at age 64.

Today's birthdays

TV producer **George Schlatter** is 88. Actor **Sir Anthony Hopkins** is 80. Actor **Tim Considine** (TV: "My Three Sons") is 77. Actress **Sarah Miles** is 76. Rock musician **Andy Summers** is 75. Actor **Sir Ben Kingsley** is 74. Producer-director **Taylor Hackford** is 73. Fashion designer **Diane von Furstenberg** is 71. Actor **Tim Matheson** is 70. Pop singer **Burton Cummings** is 70. Actor **Joe Dallesandro** is 69. Rock musician **Tom Hamilton** (Aerosmith) is 66. Actor **James Remar** is 64. Actress **Bebe Neuwirth** is 59. Actor **Val Kilmer** is 58. Singer **Paul Westerberg** is 58.

ODD NEWS

Judge: Woman unfit to care for horse after DUI while riding

BARTOW, Fla. — A Florida judge says a sheriff's office must retain custody of a horse whose owner was charged with drunken driving while riding the animal.

In a report by The Ledger, Polk County Judge Sharon Franklin said 53-year-old Donna Byrne was unfit to care for the horse. Franklin also said Byrne must complete treatment for alcohol addiction.

Byrne was arrested Nov. 2 after riding her horse down a highway. Police said her blood-alcohol level twice Florida's legal limit.

Byrne's attorney, Craig Whisenhunt, says he will revisit the custody issue at a Jan. 11 hearing regarding additional pending charges of disorderly intoxication, animal endangerment and culpable negligence.

Whisenhunt questions whether the charges applied to Byrne, saying she had not been disorderly and was a pedestrian under the law.

NATION

Ray of hope, then deep hostility between US and NKorea

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In the first month of Donald Trump's presidency, an American scholar quietly met with North Korean officials and relayed a message: The new administration in Washington appreciated an extended halt in the North's nuclear and ballistic missile tests. It might just offer a ray of hope.

North Korean officials responded defiantly. The nearly four-month period of quiet wasn't a sign of conciliation, they retorted, insisting supreme leader Kim Jong Un would order tests whenever he wanted. As if to ram the point home, North Korea only two days later launched a new type of medium-range missile that ended Trump's brief honeymoon.

The February launch heralded a year of escalating tensions that have left the U.S. and North Korea closer to hostilities than at any time since the Korean War ended in 1953. The North is now at the brink of realizing its decades-old goal of being able to strike anywhere in America with

a nuclear weapon. And two leaders untested in the delicate diplomacy of deterrence have exchanged personal insults and warned of the other nation's annihilation.

"Pyongyang and Washington are caught in a vicious cycle of action and reaction," Korea expert Duyeon Kim wrote in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. "If nothing happens to break the cycle, it will continue until one side either stands down, which is very unlikely, or, far worse, takes military action."

The exchanges at the unofficial U.S.-North Korea talks 10 months ago hadn't been reported before. They were recounted to The Associated Press by a participant who requested anonymity to describe them. No U.S. government officials took part.

Although North Korea at that time signaled interest in talks with Washington, its uncompromising position made plain the challenges Trump faced as he entered the White House, promising to sort out the North Korean "mess" he inherited. It also underscored how

much difficulty the U.S. has experienced gauging the North's thinking.

Before his inauguration, Trump blithely tweeted about the prospect of Kim having a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike America: — "It won't happen!" Almost a year later, and after an onslaught of new economic sanctions and U.S. military threats, the nuclear menace from Pyongyang is far worse.

And U.S. strategy is muddled. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson recently offered unconditional talks with North Korea only to be quickly shot down by the White House, where not only Trump has talked up the possibility of military confrontation. National security adviser H.R. McMaster also has warned the potential for war is "increasing every day."

Shortly before Christmas, the administration unveiled a new security strategy that offered few answers. It vaguely spoke of "improving options" to get the inscrutable North to abandon its nuclear weapons.

By the administration's own admission, its official North Korea policy of

"maximum pressure and engagement" hasn't to date included significant engagement.

The U.S. has scored successes in its international pressure on North Korea. It has won cooperation from the North's traditional backers such as China and Russia on restrictions that have put new strains on an economy Kim has promised to modernize in his half-decade as leader. The U.S. also says more than 20 countries have curtailed diplomatic ties with Pyongyang.

But Trump this past week strongly criticized China for still allowing oil supplies to North Korea, highlighting the likely limits on Beijing's willingness to put the squeeze on its unpredictable neighbor. So far, pressure hasn't accomplished the stated goal: forcing the North to abandon its nuclear weapons program or, at least, to enter negotiations over such a possibility. Kim has remained focused on developing a nuclear arsenal he views as guaranteeing regime survival. And his program advanced leaps and bounds during 2017.

After a rash of failed missile tests last year,

North Korea has conducted more than 20 missile launches since Trump came to office. It also tested what it described as a hydrogen bomb — an underground blast so big it registered as a 6.3 magnitude earthquake. Then in late November, it test-fired a new intercontinental missile in the clearest demonstration yet that all of America was within its striking range.

Trump has compounded the world's sense of alarm. While he has presented his own threats as proof of an America that won't be intimidated, critics at home and abroad have argued that he has elevated the risk of nuclear conflict through his personal insults to Kim.

Diplomacy isn't dead, however. The Trump administration was quick to restore a back channel for talks between the State Department and North Korea that disappeared in President Barack Obama's final months. The U.S. envoy on North Korea, Joseph Yun, secretly met North Korean officials in Oslo in May to press for the release of Americans imprisoned in Pyongyang.

Various officials have said that meeting could have augured more substantive U.S.-North Korean talks.

But the only release was college student Otto Warmbier, who had suffered brain damage in detention and died days after his return. Warmbier's shocking condition ended any hopes of a thaw. Trump tweeted angrily and Pyongyang promptly stepped up its weapons tests.

As 2018 beckons, the question now is whether the North will conduct more tests until it can confidently deploy its new long-range missile, and whether it will detonate a nuclear weapon over the Pacific to demonstrate once and for all its capabilities. That would dramatically increase the chances of war.

The Trump administration sees the time for diplomacy shrinking. Tillerson said in December he hopes sanctions get North Korea to negotiate.

"Otherwise, we wouldn't need to do this," Tillerson said of all the pressure. "We'd just go straight to the military option."

Transgender people cleared to join military, for now

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has made clear its proposed ban on transgender military recruits is on hold, meaning their enlistment can start Monday.

But the future for transgender people in the armed forces remains murky. The Justice Department isn't dropping its court fight to institute the ban on transgender enlistment but said Friday it would wait for a Pentagon study on the issue in coming weeks before deciding what to do next.

President Donald Trump said in July that the government would not allow transgender people to serve in the military, reversing Obama-era policy. So far he's been unable to achieve that prohibition.

On Dec. 22, a panel of the federal appeals court in the District of Columbia refused the Trump administration's request to let the ban start Jan. 1. Other federal judges have also refused to side with the administration. The Pentagon



AP FILE PHOTO

In a Wednesday, July 26, file photo, demonstrators gather in Times Square, in New York to protest after President Donald Trump declared a ban on transgender troops serving anywhere in the U.S. military.

said then that it would allow transgender enlistment to start with the new year and continue as legal struggles play out.

The Justice Department said late Friday the Pentagon "will be releasing an independent study of these issues in the coming weeks," so the administration will not litigate an appeal in the meantime. That stance clarifies that enlistments can start Jan. 1 and

existing transgender service members are protected from being discharged at least for now.

"We are relieved that we don't have to hit pause on the constitutional rights of transgender people who are willing and able to serve our country," said Peter Renn, senior attorney for Lambda Legal, one of the groups fighting the ban in court.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US university's 43rd list of words it would like to banish

Lake Superior State University's 43rd annual list of words and phrases nominated for banishment by members of the public:

- Unpack
- Tons
- Dish
- Pre-owned
- Onboarding/Offboarding
- Nothingburger
- Let that sink in
- Let me ask you this
- Impactful
- Covfefe
- Drill Down
- Fake News
- Hot Water Heater
- Gig Economy

Police in Tennessee shoot juvenile who drove car at them

JACKSON, Tenn. (AP) — Police in Tennessee say they shot and injured a juvenile who drove a stolen car toward officers on foot.

Jackson Police say officers began pursuing a car Thursday that was stolen in a home robbery the previous night.

Police say when the car stopped at a dead end, two of three males got out and ran.

According to police, the driver rammed a cruiser with an officer inside and was blocked when he tried to drive away through a yard.

Police say the juvenile drove in the officers' direction and they fired at him.

The suspect, who first sought medical assistance at a nearby house, was in stable condition at the hospital.

Police are charging the boy, who is black, with various crimes related to the chase and home invasion.

Civil suits allege sexual assault at Maryland Massage Envy

TIMONIUM, Md. (AP) — Two women in Maryland are among dozens across the

country who say they were sexually assaulted at a Massage Envy spa.

The Baltimore Sun reported Friday that the women say they were assaulted by a male therapist at a Massage Envy in Timonium, which is outside Baltimore.

The women sued 29-year-old Timothy Snyder and the spa. Snyder was acquitted on criminal charges. Snyder's criminal attorney, Kimberly Rothwell, said he followed his training and gave a normal massage.

The Sun was unable to reach Snyder, his civil attorney or the spa. The Arizona-based chain previously said it has tried to create "stringent, rigorous policies" for therapists.

The website BuzzFeed News recently reported that dozens of people have filed lawsuits, police reports and state board complaints against the company alleging misconduct.

2 people drop 20-year-old man's body at hospital, then leave

GREER, S.C. (AP) — Authorities say two people dropped off a dead 20-year-old man at a South Carolina hospital and left before anyone could ask questions.

Greenville County Deputy Coroner Kent Dill said Armani Wilson was pronounced dead around 5:30 p.m. Friday in the

Greer Memorial Hospital emergency room.

Dill says Wilson didn't have any obvious injuries and an autopsy has been ordered for Saturday.

Dill said in a statement that the coroner's office is helping Greer Police try to figure out what happened and who dropped Wilson off.

Prosecutor says body cam footage exists in teen beating case

TROY, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama prosecutor says police body cameras recorded the arrest of a teenager whose family says he was severely beaten by officers.

District Attorney Tom Anderson did not tell The Troy Messenger what the video and audio shows. He is waiting for the State Bureau of Investigation to finish its probe before commenting further.

The mother of 17-year-old Ulysses Wilkerson, who is black, posted an image of her son's swollen face on Facebook. The family says Wilkerson was startled by police in Troy on Dec. 23 and ran from officers who caught up with him and beat him while he was handcuffed.

Police Chief Randall Barr has said the teen struggled with officers and reached toward his waistband as if he was trying to grab a weapon.

Fear of ICE among reasons for church closing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — After more than 100 years, a Roman Catholic church in Detroit is closing, partly because Hispanics who worship there fear immigration agents.

The final Mass at All Saints Church will be celebrated Sunday on Detroit's southwest side. The congregation of 300 families will be encouraged to attend St. Gabriel, a nearby church.

All Saints was founded in 1896 and has been at its current site since the early 1900s, the Detroit Free Press reported Saturday.

The pastor at St.

Gabriel, the Rev. Marc Gawronski, said there are many reasons for the closing of All Saints. The church has weak finances, needs repairs and has been losing members. A construction project on Interstate 75 has hurt attendance.

Gawronski said there has been an increase in raids and enforcement by federal immigration agents in the community.

Immigration agents have an "informal agreement that they will not go into churches and not hassle people going to church," he said. Nonetheless, "people are even nervous about being able to get up in

the morning and go to church."

Only three people attended a Spanish Mass on a recent Wednesday night, the Free Press reported.

In 2012, the Detroit archbishop told All Saints and St. Gabriel to make plans for an eventual merger.

Ila Mae Lancendorfer, 81, lives just a few blocks from All Saints. It has been a place for many of her personal milestones, such as baptism, First Communion and marriage. She was the music director for 30 years.

"The church has been just a very important part of my life — all my life," Lancendorfer said.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

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WORLD

Media group: 81 reporters died, threats soared in 2017

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS — At least 81 reporters were killed doing their jobs this year, while violence and harassment against media staff has skyrocketed, the world's biggest journalists' organization says.

In its annual "Kill Report," seen by The Associated Press, the International Federation of Journalists said the reporters lost their lives in targeted killings, car bomb attacks and crossfire incidents around the world.

More than 250 journalists were in prison in 2017.

The number of deaths as of Dec. 29 was the lowest in a decade, down from 93 in 2016.

The largest number were killed in Mexico, but many also died in conflict zones in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

The IFJ suspected but could not officially confirm that at least one other journalist was killed Thursday in an attack by an Islamic State suicide bomber on a Shiite cultural center in Kabul, in which at least 41 people died.

IFJ President Philippe Leruth said that while the drop in deaths "represents a downward trend, the levels of violence in journalism remain unacceptably high."

He said the IFJ finds it "most disturbing that this decrease cannot be linked to any measure by

governments to tackle the impunity for these crimes."

Eight women journalists were killed, two in European democracies — Kim Wall in Denmark, who died on the submarine of an inventor she was writing about, and Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia who was blown up by a bomb placed in her car.

Beyond the deaths, the IFJ warned that "unprecedented numbers of journalists were jailed, forced to flee, that self-censorship was widespread and that impunity for the killings, harassment, attacks and threats against independent journalism was running at epidemic levels."

COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBERS OF MEDIA KILLINGS:

Mexico: 13
Afghanistan: 11
Iraq: 11
Syria: 10
India: 6
Philippines: 4
Pakistan: 4
Nigeria: 3
Somalia: 3
Honduras: 3

Turkey, where official pressure on the media has been ramped up since a failed coup attempt in July 2016, is becoming notorious for putting reporters behind bars. Some 160 journalists are jailed in Turkey — two-thirds of the global total — the report said.



AP FILE PHOTO

A Thursday, Sept. 7, file photo of an Indian man taking a photograph during a protest condemning the killing of journalist Gauri Lankesh, portrait in background, in New Delhi, India.

The organization also expressed concern about India, the world's largest democracy, where

it said that attacks on journalists are being motivated by violent populism.



NATIONAL ANTITERRORISM COMMITTEE VIA AP

This photo provided by the Information Center of the Russian National Antiterrorism Committee shows the damage inside a supermarket after an explosion, in St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday, Dec. 28,

Russian security agency arrests supermarket bombing suspect

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — A man was arrested Saturday in connection with a St. Petersburg supermarket bombing that wounded 18 people, Russia's main domestic security agency said.

Eight people remain hospitalized after a device exploded Wednesday in a storage area for customers' bags. Investigators said the homemade device contained 200 grams (7 ounces) of explosives and was rigged with shrapnel to cause more damage.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, did not identify the suspect or provide any details about his motive. The agency said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies that he organized and carried out the attack on his own.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the blast, but a member of the security committee in the lower house of Russia's parliament cast doubt on the claim, saying it might have been an attempt by IS to gain publicity.

"Now, when the IS defeat in Syria seriously dented its image, it will try to restore its authority and claim responsibility

for the attacks by others," Adalbi Shakhgoshiev said, according to Russian news wires.

The FSB said that it has handed over the suspect to the Investigative Committee, the nation's top investigative agency. The FSB normally deals with terror suspects itself, and the transfer could indicate that the man had other motives.

The Interfax news agency reported that the suspect was a 35-year old local resident who said he was a member of an occult movement and was taking drugs.

Russian law enforcement agencies stopped short of immediately describing the supermarket blast as a terror attack, but President Vladimir Putin called it one Thursday. He added that he ordered security agencies to kill terror suspects on the spot if they resist arrest.

Putin emphasized that Russia's two-year military campaign in Syria helped avert more terror attacks by eliminating militants who threatened Russia.

"What would have happened if those hundreds, thousands ... had come back to us, trained, armed and well-prepared?" he said.

The Russian leader previously said that over

4,000 citizens from Russia and some 5,000 people from other ex-Soviet nations have joined the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq.

In April, a suicide bombing in St. Petersburg's subway left 16 people dead and wounded more than 50. Russian authorities identified the bomber as a 22-year old Kyrgyz-born Russian national.

Earlier this month, Putin declared victory in Syria and ordered a partial withdrawal of Russian troops from the country. Russia waged an air campaign in Syria since September 2015, helping President Bashar Assad's forces rout both the IS and the rebels opposing his regime and recapture wide swaths of land.

Also earlier this month, Putin telephoned U.S. President Donald Trump to thank him for what the Kremlin described as a CIA tip that prevented more bombings in St. Petersburg, Putin's hometown.

The Federal Security Service said seven IS-linked suspects were arrested in connection to the alleged plot. The Kremlin said the suspects had planned to bomb the landmark Kazan Cathedral and other crowded sites.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Standoff at Ukraine post office ends with no one hurt

MOSCOW (AP) — All nine people taken hostage at a post office in Ukraine's second-biggest city have been released and the man who held them has been arrested, police said Saturday.

Ukrainian police chief Serhiy Knyazev said no one was injured in the standoff in Kharkiv.

Police didn't say whether the attacker, who said he had firearms and explosives, made any specific demands.

Initial reports said the man was holding 11 people, but Kharkiv police said after the siege was over that he had taken nine hostages.

They said that the hostage-taker first released three women and two children following talks. A boy interviewed in a video posted by a Ukrainian journalist said the man said he had a brain tumor and treated the hostages well, offering them tea or coffee.

The remaining four hostages were freed when police stormed the post office. Ukrainian television stations broadcast footage of the hostage-taker being escorted out of the building by police. The man faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

In a Facebook statement, President Petro Poroshenko thanked police and the national security service for taking part in the operation.

Liberia president-elect says he will build on nation's gains

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Liberia's new president-elect says he will build on the institutional gains of the country's outgoing leader, who was Africa's first female president.

George Weah on Saturday gave his first public address from party headquarters since he was declared president-elect of the West African nation. The former international soccer star says there's no place for corruption in Liberia.

He is calling on investors to consider the struggling nation, saying it's open for business, and calling on Liberians abroad to return home.

The 51-year-old senator

beat Vice President Joseph Boakai with 61.5 percent of the votes in Tuesday's runoff.

Weah will take office from Nobel Prize Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf later in January. It will be Liberia's first democratic transfer of power in decades.

Egypt says 3 militants killed in Giza shootout

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Interior Ministry says it has killed three members of a militant group it considers a splinter of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group.

Saturday's statement by the ministry says the militants, belonging to the Hasm movement, were killed in an exchange of fire during a raid on their hideout in Giza. It added that 10 other members of the group were arrested in other raids.

The militants, the ministry says, were planning attacks targeting the Coptic celebrations of Christmas on Jan. 7.

Hasm routinely targets security personnel. Militant attacks have surged in Egypt since the military's 2013 ouster of an elected Islamist president.

On Friday, a shootout outside Cairo church and at a nearby store killed at least nine in an attack claimed by the extremist Islamic State group.

German police union chief slams NYE 'safe zone' for women

BERLIN (AP) — The head of a German police union is criticizing the creation of a special safe zone for women at the annual New Year's Eve party in front of Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate.

Rainer Wendt of the DpolG union says establishing such an area sends a "devastating message" that women aren't safe from assault outside of it.

In an interview with the Neue Osnabruecker Zeitung daily, Wendt was quoted Saturday as saying the move appeared to ignore the "political dimension" in Germany, two years after hundreds of women reported being sexually assaulted or robbed during New Year's Eve celebrations in Cologne.

Organizers of the free, open-air event said the

"Women's Safety Area" was requested by Berlin police. Other security measures include concrete blocks to prevent vehicle attacks and bag searches at entrances.

Videos show Egyptian church gunman calmly walking away

CAIRO (AP) — Video clips circulating on social media show the gunman who opened fire outside an Egyptian church and a nearby store owned by a Copt in an attack that killed at least nine people as he leisurely walked on a residential street unchallenged for nearly 10 minutes. He stops only occasionally to shoot at his pursuers before he is shot himself.

The sight of the gunman showing an assassin's calm contrasted with the self-congratulatory mood in which the pro-government media basked on Saturday, with their coverage focused on how police have "successfully" prevented the Islamic State gunman from breaking into the church and using an explosive device said to have been found on him.

The videos, making the rounds Saturday, drew a flood of critical comments about the police's handling of the shooting.

German police warn parents as fireworks injuries mount

BERLIN (AP) — Police in Germany are appealing to parents not to let children light fireworks as reports of explosives injuries mount in the runup to New Year's celebrations.

Dortmund police say a 7-year-old boy was hospitalized with serious injuries to his hand and face Friday after a firecracker exploded in his hand.

The Berliner Morgenpost daily reported Saturday that a 13-year-old boy lost an eye in the capital due to a firecracker explosion.

Although most fireworks are only permitted to be used by people aged 18 or over, dozens of children suffer injuries every New Year in Germany from mishandled fireworks.

Authorities warn that especially powerful, illegal fireworks are responsible for many of the injuries.

TECHNOLOGY

Smart homes: Not just for tech geeks anymore

By ANICK JESDANUN

AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

A powerful voice

NEW YORK — Internet-connected lights, locks and laundry machines are close to becoming everyday household items, thanks in part to voice-activated speakers such as Amazon's Echo and Google Home.

Market research groups are seeing increased sales of lights that turn off when you say "good night," smart locks that let in your friends before you get home and similar smart-home gadgets.

While the devices are still relatively expensive — you can get six regular light bulbs for the price of a single smart one — demand is likely to pick up further as prices fall.

"This holiday, it's starting to turn the corner into the mass market," said Steve Koenig, senior director of market research at the Consumer Technology Association, which puts on the CES gadget show in Las Vegas each January.

Until recently, many people viewed these products as unnecessary luxuries, if they knew about them at all — not least because setting them up and using them sounded like a lot of work.

What's changed? The growing popularity of smart speakers and their digital assistants, mainly. From your couch, you can now ask the Echo's Alexa assistant to play your favorite music or check the weather. You can order pizza, track flights or play Jeopardy.

The more people use such speakers, it turns out, the more things they want them to do. In some cases, that leads directly to other smart gadgets for the home.

People who own an Echo are definitely more likely to install other smart gadgets, said David Limp, Amazon's senior vice president of devices and services. "They don't start by rewiring the whole home. They start with a switch."

That switch, known as a smart plug, can make any appliance or lamp remote-controllable by cutting or restoring its power — just ask an assistant to turn it off or on. From there, it's only a small step toward products with smarts already built in, ones that can dim the lights or even change colors based on mood — all through the speaker's assistant.



AP FILE PHOTOS

In this Sept. 27 photo, Amazon Echo Spots are displayed during a program announcing several new Amazon products by the company, in Seattle.

Now that people can simply talk to their gadgets, they "no longer have to learn so much about how to use a device and its intricacies," said Kara Alexander, senior product manager for Belkin's WeMo smart products. "It's much closer to how we work with people in our home."

Behind the growth

U.S. sales of smart speakers have more than tripled to nearly 25 million in 2017, about 11 million coming during the holiday quarter, according to a CTA estimate. They're expected to grow further in 2018, to about 36 million, as Apple's HomePod joins the fray.

It helps that such products are no longer limited to electronics stores such as Best Buy, but are now available at Home Depot, Target and other general retailers. And prices have dropped, with lower-end models costing just \$50.

Smart-home products such as lights and security cameras are behind, but catching up.

"We're still in the early stages," said Jeff Patton, a smart-home executive at General Electric. While the gadgets aren't yet "mainstream," he said, average people are much more aware of them.

Alex Hawkinson, CEO of Samsung's SmartThings smart-home business, said that about half of his new customers are

coming because of smart speakers "igniting a lot of excitement."

Once people get their first smart product, such as a smart plug, they are likely to buy more, market researchers say. They also tell friends and neighbors about them, and might buy some as gifts.

Remaining hurdles

Questions remain over whether inviting internet-connected products to the home also opens the door to hackers, notwithstanding manufacturers' promises of security and privacy protections. For that reason, Hawkinson said, smart lights tend to be more popular than cameras and door locks.

Sharonda Dozier, a 28-year-old in Detroit, said her boyfriend wants a smart speaker, but she worries: "What if it starts glitching and we're having an argument or something else is going on that's personal?"

Analysts say the privacy hurdle is surmountable, as people have shown a

willingness to set such concerns aside for convenience. The larger roadblocks, they say, are cost and awareness.

A pack of two smart plugs costs about \$30. Smart bulbs start at \$10; ones that let you control brightness and color can cost three times that. Equipping a few rooms with security cameras will set you back a few hundred dollars — or much more for a premium model such as Nest's Cam IQ.

Beyond the upfront costs, some products carry ongoing service fees. That's especially true of security cameras that offer online video storage. Nest, which shares a parent company with Google, charges \$10 or \$30 a month, depending on how long video is kept.

Still, smart products aren't going to be right for everyone.

"I walk over and lock the doors. I go over to the thermostat and just turn the thing down," said Rick Daigneault, 38, a former insurance research technician in Warwick, Rhode Island. "People are getting lazier and lazier. You need a device to think for you."



Sept. 27 photo, Amazon Echo and Echo Plus devices, behind, sit near illuminated Echo Button devices during an event announcing several new Amazon products by the company, in Seattle.

How to keep your smartened-up home safe from hackers

By ANICK JESDANUN

AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK — More people are getting voice-activated speakers and other smart devices for convenience and security. But doing so could also be giving hackers a key to their homes.

Many devices from reputable manufacturers have safeguards built in, but those can't guarantee against hacks. Gadgets from startups and no-name brands may offer little or no protection.

Before buying one, here are some risks to assess.

Listening in

Speakers with built-in microphones are increasingly popular. Devices such as Amazon's Echo and Google Home let people check the weather or their personal calendar with simple voice commands. Beyond that, many smart TVs and TV streaming devices now have voice-activated functions, often for playback controls and video search. Many newer toys also come with microphones so kids can talk to them and get canned responses.

Many of these devices are constantly listening for your commands; when they receive them, they connect to corporate servers to carry them out.

What if you're having private conversations at home? Are they getting sent over the internet, too?

In some cases, sound recordings will only leave home when you trigger the device. You might have to speak a command phrase like "OK Google" or press a button to get the device's attention. Check before buying to make sure a product includes such safeguards.

Some gadgets go further. Smart speakers, for instance, typically have a mute button to disable the microphone completely. Amazon says its mute function involves disconnecting the circuit, so that hackers cannot override the intent.

But there's no easy way for consumers to verify manufacturer promises, such as Amazon's assertion that the Echo never transmits recordings to the cloud unless it's been activated. That's where it helps to stick with reputable brands, as their reputations are at stake if they're caught in a lie. Bigger companies can also quickly fix security holes that crop up.

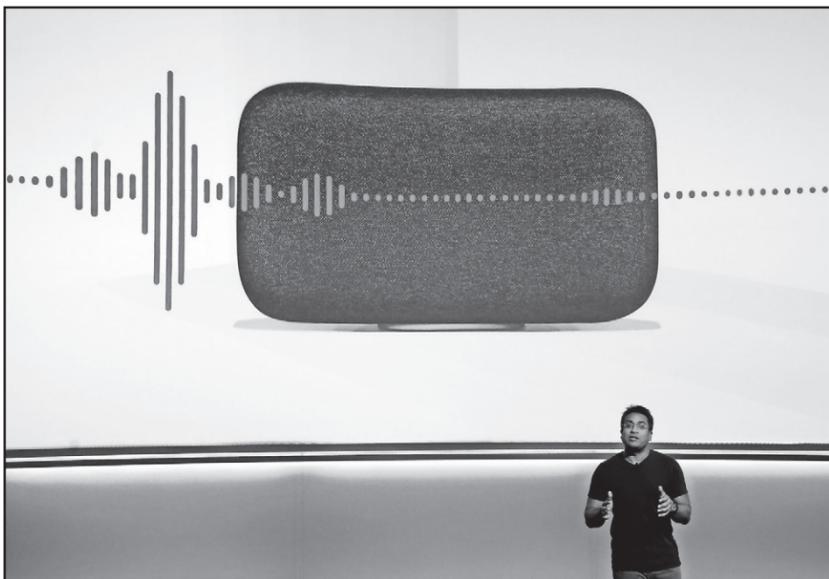
Missteps are still possible, even with reputable brands. One of the WikiLeaks disclosures alleged that the CIA commandeered some

Samsung smart TVs as listening devices even when the TV appeared to be off. And beware of internet-connected toys, as manufacturers frequently rush their products to market, sometimes skipping on privacy features in the process. (You can check online to see if other parents or consumer groups have identified problems.)

One more catch: Voice commands sent over the internet are typically stored indefinitely to help manufacturers personalize their services (and, potentially, advertisements). These voice snippets may include music or conversations in the background. They can be sought in lawsuits and investigations. Reputable brands let you review and delete your voice history; be sure to do so regularly.

Watching you

Online security cameras such as the Cam IQ, from Google sibling company Nest, let you check in on your pets or kids when you're not home. They also typically store video online, so you can see whether your housekeeper actually cleaned the kitchen last week. Some services routinely send video to online storage; others do so only when triggered by



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Oct. 4 photo, Google's Rishi Chandra speaks about the Google Home Max speaker at a Google event in San Francisco.

a sound or motion.

Again, reputable brands are likely to take security seriously, but no system is perfect.

If you want to be very careful, you might want to turn the camera to face the wall when you're home. You might also want to turn off the microphone, since it could capture background conversations. Or just unplug the camera altogether ... though you'll also have to remember to reconnect it when you leave.

Along similar lines, consider covering up the front-facing camera on your laptop with opaque

tape unless you need it regularly for video chats. Laptops aren't supposed to send video unless you activate an app that needs it, but malware has been known to activate the camera remotely.

Digital trails

Smart locks let you unlock doors with an app, so you can let in guests even when you're not home. Burglars might try to hack the system, though it's often easier for them to just break a window.

Some rental properties are also turning to smart

locks to control access. When you move out, the landlord can automatically disable your digital key. But these systems also let landlords track your whereabouts and those of your guests. If you create a guest key that's used daily, for instance, the landlord might suspect you have an unauthorized occupant.

Even if you own the home, these keys can leave a digital trail. In a child-custody dispute, for instance, your ex might subpoena the records to learn that you've been staying out late on school nights.

Sunday Television

VEN-VENICE E-N-ENGLEWOOD SAR-SARASOTA PC-PORT CHARLOTTE ARC-ARCADIA SPG-SOUTH PUNTA GORDA

DEC. 31	VEN	E-N	SAR	PC	ARC	SPG	FOS	PRIME TIME											
								6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	ABC 40	7	7	7	10	7	7	ABC World News Tonight (N)	News (N)	America's Funniest Home Videos Halloween is celebrated. (TVPG) (R)	Dick Clark's Primetime New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2018: Part 1 (HD)	Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2018: Part 2 (HD)	Dick Clark's Primetime New Year's Rockin' Eve 2018: Part 2 (HD)	ABC7 News @ 11pm (N)	Dick Clark's: Part 1 (HD)				
	ABC 26	-	-	-	7	11	7	ABC World News Tonight @ 6:30pm (N)	ABC7 News @ 6:30pm (N)	America's Funniest Home Videos Halloween is celebrated. (TVPG) (R)	Dick Clark's Primetime New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2018: Part 1 (HD)	Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2018: Part 2 (HD)	Dick Clark's Primetime New Year's Rockin' Eve 2018: Part 2 (HD)	ABC7 News @ 11:00pm (N)	Dick Clark's: Part 1 (HD)				
	CBS 11	213	213	-	5	5	5	(4:25) NFL Football: Buffalo Bills at Miami Dolphins from Hard Rock Stadium (Live) (HD)	60 Minutes	Make-A-Wish Foundation is discussed. (TVPG) (N) (HD)	S.W.A.T.: Octane Hondo lets new recruit to undercover. (R) (HD)	SEAL Team: Borderlines Jason & team rescue captured CIA agent. (R)	Bull: Dressed To Kill Bull is prime suspect in murder case. (TV14) (R)	News at 11pm (N) (HD)					
	CBS 10	10	10	10	-	-	10	(4:25) NFL Football: Jacksonville Jaguars at Tennessee Titans from Nissan Stadium (Live) (HD)	60 Minutes	Make-A-Wish Foundation is discussed. (TVPG) (N) (HD)	S.W.A.T.: Octane Hondo lets new recruit to undercover. (R) (HD)	SEAL Team: Borderlines Jason & team rescue captured CIA agent. (R)	Bull: Dressed To Kill Bull is prime suspect in murder case. (TV14) (R)	10 News Weekend at 11:00 (N)					
	NBC 20	-	232	-	2	2	2	NBC2 News @ 6pm - Sun (N)	NBC Nightly News (N) (HD)	Dateline NBC: Under the Prairie Sky A mother of three mysteriously disappears and her vehicle is the only clue. (R) (HD)	The Wall: Tomeka and Andre (TVPG) (R) (HD)	The Wall: Tomeka and Andre (TVPG) (R) (HD)	The Wall: Erin and Rachel (TVPG) (R) (HD)	NBC2 News @ 11pm - Sun (N)	To Be Announced				
	NBC 8	8	8	8	-	-	8	NewsChannel 8 at 6:00 (N)	NBC Nightly News (N) (HD)	NewsChannel 8: Year in Review (R)	Better Call Behnken (R)	The Battle at Home (R)	The Wall: Tomeka and Andre (TVPG) (R) (HD)	The Wall: Erin and Rachel (TVPG) (R) (HD)	NewsChannel 8 at 11:00 (N)	(35) Bucs Bonus Show			
	FOX 36	-	-	-	4	4	4	NFL Football: New Orleans Saints at Tampa Bay Buccaneers from Raymond James Stadium (Live) (HD)	The OT (Live) (HD)	(06) FOX's New Year's Eve with Steve Harvey: Live From Times Square, Part One Steve and guests celebrate year's end. (TV14) (HD)	FOX 4 News at Ten Local news report and weather update. (N)	FOX's New Year's Eve with Steve Harvey End of 2017. (TV14) (HD)							
	FOX 13	13	13	13	-	-	13	NFL Football: New Orleans Saints at Tampa Bay Buccaneers from Raymond James Stadium (Live) (HD)	The OT (Live) (HD)	(06) FOX's New Year's Eve with Steve Harvey: Live From Times Square, Part One Steve and guests celebrate year's end. (TV14) (HD)	FOX 13 10:00 News The top news stories are updated. (N) (HD)	FOX's New Year's Eve with Steve Harvey End of 2017. (TV14) (HD)							
	PBS 30	-	3	-	3	3	3	(4:30) Pledge Programming	Pledge Programming Acclaimed programming highlights a membership drive encouraging viewer support.	Masterpiece: Victoria: An Ordinary Woman Marriage. (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Live from Lincoln Center Leonard Bernstein. (TVG) (N) (HD)	Great Performances: Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn: The Broadway Musical adaptation. (TVG) (R) (HD)							
	PBS 3	3	17	3	-	-	3	PBS Newshour Weekend (N)	WEDU Arts Plus: Bodycon (R)	Father Brown: Lair of the Libertines Hotel guests. (TV14) (HD)	Masterpiece: Victoria: An Ordinary Woman Marriage. (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Live from Lincoln Center: New York Philharmonic New Year's Eve: Bernstein on Broadway Music by composer Leonard Bernstein. (TVG) (N) (HD)	Lang Lang's New York Rhapsody						
CABLE	CW 46	-	-	-	6	21	6	The Goldbergs Barry's shirt.	News (N) (HD)	Big Bang Theory Penny gets banned.	Big Bang Theory Stolen crush.	2 Broke Girls Eclectic cuisine. (HD)	2 Broke Girls Dessert Bar. (HD)	Modern Family Under house. (HD)	Modern Family Phil's ex. (HD)				
	CW 44	9	9	9	-	-	4	Mike Molly Visiting Carl's mom.	Mike & Molly Mike's car broke.	2 Broke Girls Eclectic cuisine. (HD)	2 Broke Girls Dessert Bar. (HD)	Blue Bloods: Backstabbers A man Danny helped put in jail escapes.	Blue Bloods: Rush to Judgment Jamie allegedly engages in brutality. (HD)	Saving Hope: Pink Clouds Alex must make a decision. (TV14) (HD)	CSI: Miami: Hostile Takeover Gunman attacks lab. (TV14) (HD)				
	MYN 38	11	11	11	-	-	14	Bones Scientist and cop investigate murders. (TVPG) (HD)	Family Feud (TVPG) (R)	Family Feud (TVPG) (R)	News Channel 8 News @ 8pm News, sports, weather and traffic. (N)	Full Measure Seinfeld Jerry helps NYPD with cases. (TVPG) (HD)	Elementary Sherlock Holmes helps NYPD with cases. (TV14) (HD)	Born to Ride Biker events.	Whacked-Out Sports				
	ION 66	2	2	2	13	26	17	NCIS: Los Angeles: Keeping It Real Marine's secret life is discovered.	NCIS: Los Angeles: Pushback Team uncovers key evidence. (TV14) (HD)	NCIS: Los Angeles: Ambush Stolen missile cache with militia discovered.	Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior. Two of a Kind Child abductions.	Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior: Lonely Hearts Businessmen Killer.	Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior: See No Evil Killer's message. (HD)						
	A&E	26	26	26	26	39	50	181	Live PD: Live PD - 06.03.17 (TV14) (R) (HD)					Live PD: Live PD - 11.04.17 (TV14) (R) (HD)					
	AMC	56	56	56	56	30	53	231	Break. Bad (TV14)	(28) Breaking Bad: Gray Matter Pridelful Wait.	(35) Breaking Bad Back to cooking. (TV14)	(42) Breaking Bad Cooking supplies. (TV14)	(49) Breaking Bad: Seven Thirty-Seven Horrified by Tuco. (TV14) (HD)	(56) Breaking Bad: Grilled Trapped with Tuco.					
	APL	44	44	44	44	36	68	130	North Wood (TV14) (R)	North Wood (TV14) (R)	North Wood (TV14) (N)	North Wood (TVPG) (N)	North Wood (TVPG) (N)	North Wood (TVPG) (R)					
	BBCAM	114	114	114	114	114	189	(3:00) Titanic ('97) Love and disaster.	Titanic ('97, Romance) ★★★½ A dashing vagabond falls in love with a rich girl aboard an ill-fated ship. (PG-13)										
	BET	35	35	35	35	40	22	70	The Temptations Iconic soul group. (TVPG)	Get on Up ('14, Drama) ★★★ Chadwick Boseman. James Brown rises from poverty. (HD)					Browns				
	BRAVO	68	68	68	68	254	51	185	Housewives (TV14) (R)	Housewives (TV14) (R)	Medicine (TV14) (R)	Housewives (TV14) (R)	The Break-Up ('06) ★★★½						
COM	66	66	66	66	15	27	190	The Hangover Part III ('13) ★★★ Three friends take their mentally unstable comrade to get treated.	(20) Wedding Crashers ('05, Comedy) ★★★ Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughn. Two friends sneak into weddings to prey on romantically inspired women.				The Hangover Part III ('13) Friend kidnapped.						
DISC	40	40	40	40	25	43	120	Street: Fake Race (N)	Street: Coronation (N)	Street Memphis, Tenn.	Street Outlaws: Countdown to Bristol: City Pride	St Outlaws (TV14) (R)							
E!	46	46	46	46	27	26	196	Prks & Rec	Prks & Rec	Prks & Rec	Prks & Rec	Prks & Rec	Prks & Rec	Prks & Rec					
FOOD	37	37	37	37	183	76	164	Iron Chef (TVG) (R)	Guy's Stick creation. (R)	Guy's (TVG) (R) (HD)	Diners: Rockstar Chefs	Diners (TVG) (R) (HD)	Diners (TVG) (R) (HD)						
FREE	55	55	55	55	10	46	199	(5:30) Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 ('10) ★★★½ Harry, Hermione and Ron scour the world for the pieces of the Dark Lord's soul. (HD)	(5:00) Jurassic World ('15, Action) ★★★ Dinosaur theme park gone awry.	Ted ('12, Comedy) ★★★ Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis. A man's vulgar, living teddy bear comes between him and his girlfriend.	Ted 2 ('15, Comedy) ★★★ After Ted and Tami-Lynn get married, they decide to have a baby. (R)								
FX	51	51	51	51	58	49	53	(5:00) Jurassic World ('15, Action) ★★★ Dinosaur theme park gone awry.	Ted ('12, Comedy) ★★★ Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis. A man's vulgar, living teddy bear comes between him and his girlfriend.	Mila Kunis. A man's vulgar, living teddy bear comes between him and his girlfriend.	Ted 2 ('15, Comedy) ★★★ After Ted and Tami-Lynn get married, they decide to have a baby. (R)								
GSN	179	179	179	179	34	179	184	Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	Millionaire.	Millionaire.	Millionaire.	Millionaire.	Millionaire.	Cash Cab				
HALL	5	5	5	5	17	137	240	Christmas Under Wraps ('14) ★★★ Holiday secret.	Coming Home for Christmas ('17, Holiday) (NR)	A Royal New Year's Eve ('17) Midnight kiss. (HD)									
HGTV	41	41	41	41	53	42	165	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery					
HIST	81	81	81	81	33	65	128	Forged in: Chakram (R)	Forged in: The Shotel	Forged in Rusted steel.	Forged in (TVPG) (R)	Forged in (TVPG) (R)	Forged in Suit of armor.						
LIFE	36	36	36	36	52	41	140	Stepmom ('98) A fatal illness binds two women.	The Holiday ('06, Comedy) ★★★ Two women swap homes over Christmas.				Married	Married					
NICK	25	25	25	25	24	44	252	Loud House	Loud House	The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie ('04) ★★★	The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water	Friends	Friends						
OWN	58	58	58	58	47	67	145	227 (HD)	227 (HD)	227 (HD)	227 (HD)	227 (HD)	227 (HD)	227 (HD)					
QVC	14	14	14	14	9	14	13	150	Diamond Jewelry: New Year's Eve Special	Sleep Number® Beds	FITNATION Flex	Style (TVG)							
SPIKE	57	57	57	57	29	63	54	Jurassic Park ('93, Science Fiction) Living dinosaurs escape captivity.	The Lost World: Jurassic Park ('97) Experts study dinosaurs on an island.										
SYFY	67	67	67	67	253	64	180	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn					
TBS	59	59	59	59	32	62	52	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	New Year's Eve ('11) ★★★½ Tales of love in New York City.	New Year's Eve ★★★½ Love is sought.						
TCM	65	65	65	65	65	65	74	230	(5:45) The Poseidon Adventure ('72) ★★★ Gen Hackman. A tidal wave capsizes a cruise ship. (PG)	The Thin Man ('34, Mystery) A sleuthing couple probes a murder case.	(45) After the Thin Man ('36, Mystery) ★★★½ William Powell, Myrna Loy. Nick and Nora aid a cousin.	Another Thin ('39)							
TLC	45	45	45	45	57	72	139	Four Wedd (TVPG) (R)	90 Day Fiance Marriage obstacles. (TV14) (R)	90 Day Fiance David's issues. (TV14) (N) (HD)	(01) 90 Day (TV14) (R)								
TNT	61	61	61	61	28	55	51	(5:50) The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1 ('14, Adventure) Katniss helps with the rebellion.	We're the Millers ('13, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. A drug dealer hires a fake family as a cover while shipping marijuana. (R)	Knocked Up ('07, Comedy) ★★★ Pregnancy brings mismatches together.									
TOON	80	80	80	80	46	20	257	Titans Go!	Titans Go!	Titans Go!	Titans Go!	King Hill	King Hill	Bob's Bgr	Am. Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	Rick Morty	Rick Morty
TRAV	69	69	69	69	260	66	170	Paradise (TVG) (R)	Ghost (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Ghost (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Ghost (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Ghost (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Ghost (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Ghost Trail of evil. (R)					
TRUTV	63	63	63	63	30	183	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (TV14) (R) (HD)	Jokers Guys in Hawaii.	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)					
TVL	62	62	62	62	31	54	241	Reba (HD)	Reba (HD)	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Mom (HD)	Mom (HD)	Queens	Queens			
USA	34	34	34	34	22	52	50	SVU (TV14) (HD)	SVU: Rape Interrupted	SVU: Chasing Theo	SVU: Bartender raped.	SVU: Motherly Love	SVU: Missing teen girl.						
WE	117	117	117	117	117	149	CSI: Miami: Killer Date	CSI: Miami: Recoil (HD)	CSI: Miami: Vengeance	CSI: Miami: Whacked	CSI: Miami: 10-7 (HD)	CSI: Miami: Killer Date							
WGN	16	16	16	16	19	41	68	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery ★★★	Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery ★★★	Bones Bounty hunter.							
CNBC	39	39	39	39	39	37	102	Shark Tank (TVPG)	Shark Tank (TVPG)	Shark Tank (TVPG)	Shark Tank (TVPG)	Shark Tank (TVPG)	Shark Tank (TVPG)						
CNN	32	32	32	32	18	38	100	CNN Newsroom (N)	Report Best of 2017.	New Year's Eve Live with Anderson Cooper and Andy Cohen	New Year's Eve. (N) (HD)								
CSPAN	18	18	18	18	37	12	109	NewsMkr	(32) James Clapper on Career (R)	Q&A: Donna Brazile (N)	Public Affairs Events Political events. (R) (HD)	Q&A: Donna Brazile (R)							
FNC	64	64	64	64	48	71	118	America's HQ (N) (HD)	FOX Report Sun. (N)	Countdown to 2018 Ed Henry; Dean Cain. (HD)	All American New Year Times Square. (HD)								
MSNBC	83	83	83	83	185	40	103	Meet the Press (HD)	Kasie DC (N) (HD)	Year's 10 Most (R)	Dateline (R) (HD)	Dateline (R) (HD)	Year's 10 Most (R)						
SNN	6	6	6	6	11	-	-	Weekend	Weekend	Your Life	Matter (N)	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Archives				
ESPN	29	29	29	29	12	58	70	College Basketball: Georgia vs Kentucky (Live)	SportsCenter (HD)	E:60 (HD)	E:60 (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)							
ESPN2	30	30	30	30	6	59	74	College Basketball: South Carolina vs Ole Miss	Harlem Globetrotters	College Basketball: Washington State vs USC	SC Top Plays (HD)								
FS1	48	48	48	48	42	69	83	College Bball (Live)	Big East	Knockouts	Knockouts	Knockouts	Knockouts	Knockouts					
FSN	72	72	72	72	72	56	77	Wom Bball	Xterra Adv	Wrid Poker (Reply)	World Poker Tour (HD)	UFC Main Event (HD)	Wrid Poker (Reply) (HD)	Wrid Poker					
FSSUN	38	38	38	38	45	57	76	NHL Hockey: Tampa Bay vs Columbus (Live) (HD)	Lightning	Lightning	Lightning	Heat (HD)	Heat (HD)	Heat (HD)	Heat (HD)				
GOLF	49	49	49	49	55	60	93	PGA Tour Golf: Presidents Cup: Final Day: from Liberty National GC in Jersey City, N.J. (Reply) (HD)	PGA Tour Golf (HD)										
NBCSN	71	71	71	71	54	61	90	Ironman	Classic	Classic	Classic	First Winter	Ninja Warrior: Finals	Ninja (TVPG) (R) (HD)	Ninja (TVPG) (R) (HD)				
PREMIUM	DISN	136	136	136	136	99	45	250	(05) Descendants 2 ('17, Family) Cameron Boyce, Sofia Carson. Mal, Evie, Carlos and Jay look to adjust to life in idyllic Auradon. (NR) (HD)	Andi Mack Celebrate new year. (R)	Andi Mack Students. (R)	Bizaardvark Prom plans. (TVG)	K.C. Undercover: Deleted! (R)	Liv Maddie Secret revealed. (R)	Girl Meets Riley's feelings. (R)	Austin & Jessie & Ally All Star New Year Austin's concert. (TVG) (R)			
	ENC	150	150	150	150	150	350	(4:58) Almost Famous ('00, Drama) Teen rock writer tours with a band.	(04) Navy SEALs ('90, Action) ★★★½ Charlie Sheen, Michael Blehn. Navy SEALs seek to destroy Middle Eastern terrorists' deadly arsenal. (R) (HD)	Kong: Skull Island ('17, Adventure) ★★★ Tom Hiddleston. Scientific expedition unknowingly crosses into realm of monsters on island. (PG-13) (HD)	King Arthur: Legend of the Sword ('17, Action) ★★★ Charlie Hunnam. A young man grows up on the streets following his father's sudden murder.								
	HBO	302	302	302	302	302	302	400	(5:35) Logan ('17, Action) ★★★ Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart. Logan's attempts to hide fail after encountering young mutant who needs help. (R)	Game of Thrones: Eastwatch Daenerys expects loyalty from soldiers.	(23) Game of Thrones: Beyond the Wall Party goes north. (TVMA) (HD)	(33) Game of Thrones: The Dragon and the Wolf Jon and Daenerys ask Cersei for help. (TVMA) (HD)	(55) Why Him? ('16, Comedy) Father copes with daughter's boyfriend.						
	HBO2	303	303	303	303	303	402	Thrones Special court. (TVMA)	(34) Game of Thrones: Spools of War Hope for alliance.										
	HBO3	304	304	304	304	304	404	The Sum of All Fears ('02) ★★★½	(25) The Dark Knight ('08, Action) A new district attorney joins Batman in the fight against crime, but the grandiose attacks of a giggling psychopath plunge Gotham City back into fear.	Wanted ('08, Action) ★★★ James McAvoy, Morgan Freeman. An ordinary accountant is recruited by an ancient league of assassins. (R) (HD)	The Layover ('17, Comedy) Two lifelong friends meet a firefighter whom they both want to go to bed with. (R)	Strange Days ('95) ★★★ Man is dragged into mystery & cover-up. (R)							
	MAX	320	320	320	320	320	420	The Big Lebowski ('98, Comedy) Jeff Bridges, John Goodman. A loser is mistaken for a wealthy man and becomes involved in a kidnapping plot.	Table 19 ('17, Comedy) ★★★½ Former maid of honor finds herself seated at back table full of odd strangers.	(40) The Belko Experiment ('17) Villain locks people in office and orders them to take part in deadly game.	(10) Predator ('87, Science Fiction) ★★★ Arnold Schwarzenegger. A commando unit in the Central American jungle is hunted by an invisible alien.								
	MAX2	321	321	321	321	321	422	Banshee Emmett's revenge. (TVMA)	Banshee: Homecoming Visiting a priest; inevitable showdown.	(36) Banshee: Bullets and Tears Preparing for an inevitable face off.	(40) The Belko Experiment ('17) Villain locks people in office and orders them to take part in deadly game.	(10) Predator ('87, Science Fiction) ★★★ Arnold Schwarzenegger. A commando unit in the Central American jungle is hunted by an invisible alien.							
	SHO	340	340	340	340	340	340	365	Billions: Ball in Hand Chuck's final plan comes to fruition. (TV14) (R)	(15) Office Christmas Party ('16, Comedy) ★★★½ Jason Bateman. A research team and save jobs, coworkers host epic Christmas party. (R)	Shameless: Frank's Northern Shuttle Express Successful business.	SMILF Dating app blunder. (R)	SMILF Dating app blunder. (R)	Shameless: Frank's Northern Shuttle Express Successful business.					
	TMC	350	350	350	350	350	385	(15) Conan the Destroyer ('84, Adventure) ★★★½ Arnold Schwarzenegger. The legendary barbarian and his companions rescue a young princess.	Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street ('07, Musical) A British barber, unrhinged by a corrupt judge's abuses, begins a murder spree.	Red Dragon ('02, Crime) ★★★ Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton. An FBI agent tracks a serial killer whose murders coincide with a full moon. (R)									

Today's Live Sports</

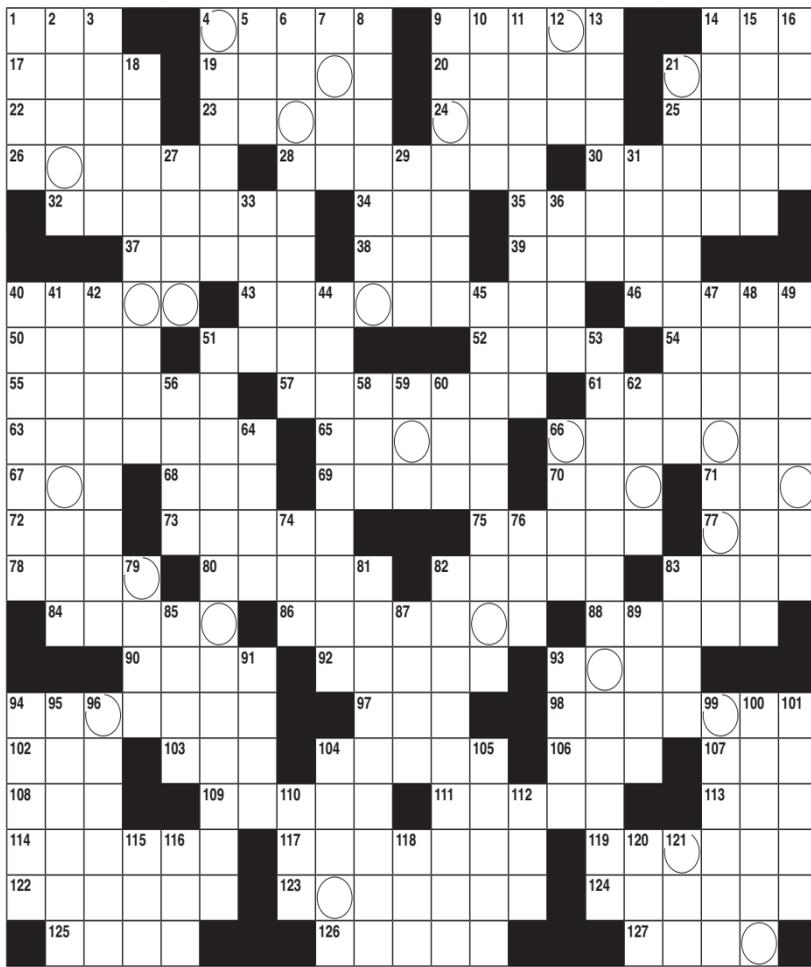
NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

No. 1224

MAKING A FAST BUCK

BY MARY LOU GUIZZO AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Speedway brand
 - 4 West Indies native
 - 9 Bounds along
 - 14 "Just a ___!"
 - 17 Drain opening
 - 19 Chip away at
 - 20 Symbol of the National Audubon Society
 - 21 Colorado tributary
 - 22 Plot device in "The Shining" that has significance when spelled backward
 - 23 Restaurant chain founded by the Raffel brothers (hence the name)
 - 24 Elevator choice
 - 25 Turns briefly?
 - 26 Some Carnival performances
 - 28 Called from the cote
 - 30 Telephotos, e.g.
 - 32 Ancient Greek
 - 34 Male that might be in a rut?
 - 35 Stymies
 - 37 Relative of a birch
 - 38 College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 - 39 Country singer Crystal
 - 40 Screwy
 - 43 Pitch
 - 46 One of the Wayans brothers
 - 50 Wine: Prefix
- 103 One of the record industry's former Big Four
- 104 Carpenter's aid
- 106 Hypotheticals
- 107 "Just kidding!"
- 108 Airer of "Christmas in Rockefeller Center"
- 109 Sanctuary
- 111 "Hey ___" (1963 #1 hit)
- 113 Mobile home: Abbr.
- 114 Actress Audrey of "Amélie"
- 117 Animal on Scotland's coat of arms
- 119 Kind of cabinet
- 122 Written history
- 123 Who's depicted in this puzzle when the circled letters are connected from A to Z and back to A
- 124 Games of chance
- 125 Prison part
- 126 Sorts, as chicks
- 127 Downsize?
- DOWN**
- 1 Tears to smithereens
 - 2 It's read from a scroll
 - 3 Large column of smoke
 - 4 Terminated
 - 5 Opposite of dep.
 - 6 Heists
 - 7 Description of rustic life
 - 8 Importune
 - 9 It moves a cursor back
 - 10 Body check?
 - 11 Whiz kids
 - 12 Want-ad abbr.
 - 13 Having streaks
 - 14 W.W. II ordeal at Leningrad
 - 15 Notably nonunionized workers
 - 16 Mama of song
 - 18 Decorates brilliantly
 - 21 One of a dozen good things?
 - 27 Friend
 - 29 Oodles
 - 31 Vulcan mind ___
 - 33 Beginning to do well?
 - 36 Kind of skirt
 - 40 "Fanfare for the Common Man" composer
 - 41 Hair straighteners
 - 42 Licorice-flavored brew
 - 44 Singer with a No. 1 hit about 123-Across
 - 45 Feature depicted in the upper left of this puzzle
 - 47 Hatmaker
 - 48 Like van Gogh, in later life
 - 49 Les ___, "WKRP in Cincinnati" news director
 - 51 & 53 123-Across, in song
 - 56 One of many in a Swiss Army knife
 - 58 Letters on some Navy carriers
 - 59 Infantry members, briefly
 - 60 Alternative to J.F.K.
 - 62 1990s tennis great Huber
 - 64 Align
 - 66 First name at Woodstock
 - 74 Political org. since 1854
 - 76 Shout of approval
 - 79 Three ___ Men
 - 81 Didn't hedge one's bets
 - 82 Starting point for an annual flight
 - 83 ___ City (Baghdad suburb)
 - 85 "In your dreams!"
 - 87 Result of a sack on third and long, maybe
 - 89 Bunks in barracks
 - 91 "Brava!" elicitor
 - 93 Punxsutawney prognosticator
 - 94 Deliverer of Christmas packages
 - 95 Capital whose name ends in its state's postal code
 - 96 Cousin of an alpaca
 - 99 Functioning robotically
 - 100 Repetitive bit of computer code
 - 101 A-listers
 - 104 Boy in "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
 - 105 Tombstone marshals
 - 110 California's Big ___
 - 112 Durham sch.
 - 115 Roofing material
 - 116 ___ Father Christmas
 - 118 Crew member
 - 120 Games org.
 - 121 Fiscal-year part: Abbr.



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FOR ANSWERS, TURN TO PAGE 5

Ask the Fool

A Taxing Problem

What should I do if I don't have the money to pay my taxes this year? — G.N., Opelika, Alabama

First, understand that even if you can't pay a penny, you need to file your return on time. Failing to do so will result in penalties. So file that return — and pay as much as you can, as that will minimize any penalties or interest charges.

When it comes to an inability to pay, you do have some options, which you can discuss with the IRS itself by calling 800-829-1040. The IRS may be able to offer you a brief extension, a payment installment plan or an "offer in compromise," where it gives you the chance to settle your obligation by paying less than you originally owed. The IRS may even be able to waive any penalties, though you will still owe any interest accrued.

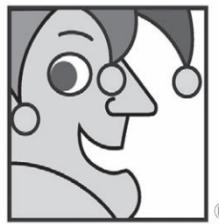
If you're thinking of solving your problem by charging your taxes to a credit card, think again if that debt is going to remain unpaid for a long while, racking up interest charges at perhaps 20 percent or more annually. (Credit card service providers will also charge you a "convenience" fee, which can be rather inconvenient.) A bank loan might be better, possibly charging you less than the IRS' interest and penalties.

Don't ignore your taxes, as that could lead the IRS to take collection action.

When changing brokerages, can I have my entire portfolio transferred to the new brokerage without having to sell anything and without generating any taxable gains? — T.W., Essexville, Michigan

Yup. Your new brokerage will likely be able to help you switch seamlessly. No selling or taxable gains need be involved.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.



Fool's School

Go Against the Crowd

One of the best ways to make money in stocks is to be a "contrarian" investor, going against the crowd. Superinvestor Warren Buffett would likely agree, having said, "I like to be fearful when others are greedy and greedy when others are fearful."

That's much easier said than done, though. When the market is undergoing one of its occasional crashes and gobs of investors are selling shares in a panic (thereby pushing stock prices even lower), it takes a lot of discipline to hang on to your holdings. It takes an even stronger stomach to buy shares of stocks that others are selling — but that's often the best time to do so, as you can buy into great companies at depressed prices.

Meanwhile, when the market has been booming and many people are seeing great gains in their stocks, it's often a bad time to buy, as shares may have been bid up to overvalued levels and they may be

due to retract a little soon.

Remember the old investing adage: "Buy low, sell high." It seems like common sense, but it can still be hard to do, and many people who succumb to their emotions end up buying high and selling low — a recipe for disappointing results.

When many investors turn away from a company, that could be an ideal time to consider buying shares. Plenty of great companies fall on temporarily tough times. Just be sure to research the situation thoroughly and determine whether its problems seem likely to be short-term instead of long-term.

It can also be effective to keep a chunk of your money on the sidelines, waiting for a great opportunity or two. Buffett, for example, talks about waiting for "fat pitches" to swing at. If you're patient, you can find some great companies on sale occasionally, and the lower the valuation, the greater the margin of safety.

Take time to learn more about investing and to think for yourself. Check out books by Peter Lynch, or John Bogle's "The Little Book of Common Sense Investing" (Wiley, \$25).

Name That Company

I trace my roots back to 1902, when a "Golden Rule" store was opened in Kemmerer, Wyoming. Some 12 years later, I launched the private-label Marathon Hats brand, followed later by Gaymode hosiery, Silver Moon lingerie, Big Mac work clothes and Towncraft menswear. I went public a week before the stock market crash in 1929. In 1963 I launched my first catalog. Today I'm a major apparel and home furnishings retailer, with about 875 stores nationwide. I have more than 2,500 suppliers, employ more than 100,000 people and rake in more than \$12 billion annually. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

My Dumbest Investment

Rite Aid or Wrong Aid?

My dumbest investment was buying into shares of Rite Aid in 2002, right before its former CEO and several other former and current employees were indicted for fraud. — T.F., online

The Fool Responds:

That was an ugly chapter in Rite Aid's history, with six former executives pleading guilty or being convicted of financial crimes, and five of them ending up in prison. It also resulted in the company having to restate \$1.6 billion in earnings on its financial statement — the largest restatement ever, at the time.

In 1999, Rite Aid briefly topped \$50 per share, while a year later, shares traded in the low teens. They were around \$2 per share by the time you bought. People often assume that stocks that have crashed can't fall any further and must be bargains, but Rite Aid is just one example of how that thinking is wrongheaded. Shares did rise and fall, but ultimately dropped to \$0.20 per share and recently were near \$1.80.

The stock may end up rewarding its believers, but it remains risky. The company has long struggled, carrying a lot of debt, not growing quickly and facing tough competition. It recently sold more than 1,900 stores to Walgreen Boots Alliance for \$4.4 billion, which will help it pay off debt. That leaves Rite Aid smaller but stronger, though it still faces challenges — such as Amazon looking to enter the pharmacy market.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I'm the product of a 1989 merger of two companies that traced their roots back to 1858 and 1887, respectively. One company's first product, a laxative mineral salt, was a best-seller. The other had the largest penicillin production plant in the world by 1943. Today I'm a pharmaceutical giant with annual sales topping \$20 billion. My cardiovascular drug Eliquis, with sales topping \$3 billion in 2016, has treated more than 5 million people globally, while my cancer drug Opdivo's 2016 sales approached \$4 billion. I employ roughly 25,000 people and am based in New York City. Who am I? (Answer: Bristol-Myers Squibb)



Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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The Motley Fool Take

Just Consider It

With its relatively low risk profile and a track record of dividend growth, Nike (NYSE: NKE) is a smart growth stock to consider.

The company's stock price has stagnated amid weak retail sector results, but there's much to remain optimistic about. Direct-to-consumer selling, an ongoing program to buy back shares and a cost-cutting initiative should give the company some near-term earnings momentum, while its biggest growth drivers will likely come from international markets such as China and Western Europe. In China alone, there are 400 million people active in sports and exercise today, and Nike believes that the Chinese market will eventually expand to become more than 10 times the size of Nike's North American consumer base.

Nike's dividend recently yielded 1.2 percent. That might not look like much, but Nike has increased its dividend annually for 16 years and has boosted its payout at an average annual rate of 15 percent over the last five years and 13 percent over the last decade. As it recently paid out just 32 percent of its earnings in dividends, there's still plenty of room for further substantial increases down the line.

Nike's time-tested brand and unmatched supply chain network form a defensive moat that should help it capture growth in the apparel industry. It's worth a closer look for long-term investors. (The Motley Fool owns shares of and has recommended Nike.)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

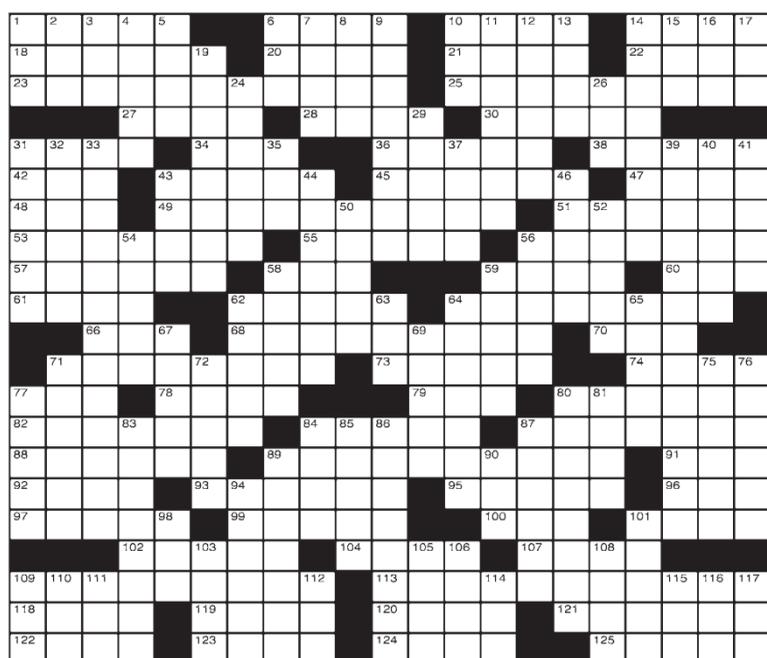
ALIEN NATION

By Robert E. Lee Morris

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ACROSS | 70 Issue opener? | DOWN | 58 Promised |
| 1 Turn in the box | 71 They're sold as is | 1 Power-increasing gadget | 59 Tradesperson |
| 6 Pour out forcefully | 73 Choral composition | 2 19th Greek letter | 62 Type type |
| 10 Sailing | 74 Former Laker star | 3 Lobster eater's accessory | 63 Channel for film buffs |
| 14 Dip providing potassium, for short | 77 Manhattan suffix | 4 Aid in planning a trip | 64 Tree with long beanlike pods |
| 18 Drink with an umbrella | 78 Partner | 5 Follow | 65 Houses with layers |
| 20 Scat legend, familiarly | 79 Pine | 6 One percent of a D.C. group—or the group itself | 67 Foss up |
| 21 Diamond slip-up | 80 Spot on a horse | 7 Earnest request | 69 Monopoly piece |
| 22 Austen classic | 82 Not insist on payment of, as a debt | 8 O'Neill's "Desire Under the ..." | 71 Word from the Greek for "not a place" |
| 23 "Menace to society" | 84 Weasel-like animal also called a honey badger | 9 Winning by a mile | 72 Succumbs to pressure |
| 25 "Old-school letters" | 87 Pirate's ship | 10 Six-pack set | 75 Singer Newton-John |
| 27 A or Angel | 88 Hydrocodone, e.g. | 11 Italian Riviera resort | 76 Just |
| 28 "Immediately, if not sooner!" | 89 "Hobby shop purchase | 12 Friend of Jerry, George and Cosmo | 77 Music to a bluffer's ears |
| 30 Jeweler's assortment | 91 "Got a Secret": old game show | 13 Comparable | 80 "Keep going!" |
| 31 Doc's orders | 92 Hemsworth of "The Hunger Games" | 14 Idaho nickname | 81 Square measurement |
| 34 Ryan in a 1998 film, e.g.: Abbr. | 93 Justice replaced by Gorsuch | 15 Actress Thurman | 83 Words a pinball wizard hates to see |
| 36 Macho guys | 95 Major artery | 16 Brest friend | 84 Hot streak |
| 38 Party animals? | 96 Zich | 17 Silent: White House nickname | 85 "So long, José" |
| 42 BWI posting | 97 Broad valleys | 19 Factory with frozen assets | 86 Kitchen cloth |
| 43 Word on a wanted poster | 99 Divvy up | 24 "Dr." with MVP awards | 87 "The Tonight Show" character with a turban |
| 45 Canine protection | 100 Part of Q and A: Abbr. | 26 Some smartphones | 89 Vague unease |
| 47 Prefix with polis | 101 "By Jove!" | 29 Rigatoni alternative | 90 Mauna |
| 48 Kind of milk or sauce | 102 "Gone With the Wind" family name | 31 Fit together | 94 Wine choice |
| 49 "Tropical cocktail" | 104 Nothing to write home about | 32 French star | 98 Short |
| 51 Pledged, in a way | 107 Loads | 33 "Soap, often | 101 Naval type |
| 53 Common FM radio fare | 109 "Deluge | 35 Playground game | 103 Extremely dry |
| 55 Hands over | 113 Remote region ... | 37 Fancy wheels | 105 Debate team, for example |
| 56 Sign off on | 118 Wheel connector | 39 "Flu symptoms and what literally ends each answer to a starred clue | 106 Gymnast Korbut |
| 57 Bring out | 119 "In that case ..." | 41 Doomed biblical city | 108 Yours and mine |
| 58 "Can I have a ___ of your drink?" | 120 Leg up | 43 Mine, in Metz | 109 Solo in "Star Wars" |
| 59 "That was close!" | 121 Body shop application | 44 Church gatherings | 110 PC file suffix |
| 60 Coll. term | 122 Close by | 46 Three-star mil. officer | 111 SEC powerhouse |
| 61 Trial version | 123 Legal document | 50 Hardly gung-ho | 112 Drop off |
| 62 Look forward to | 124 What Jack Sprat's wife couldn't eat | 52 "Crocodile Hunter" Steve | 114 Man cave setting |
| 64 Coolly | 125 Factions | 54 Brahms creation | 115 HBO competitor |
| 66 MLB stat | | 56 "Ooh! I know this! Gimme ___" | 116 Collecting Soc. Sec. |
| 68 "Neckwear for which Mr. T was once famous (but no longer wears)" | | | 117 What birthday candles represent: Abbr. |

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis



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12/31/17

GOREN BRIDGE

MIRACLES IN CARD PLAY

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 5
 ♥ Q J 10 9 8 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ A 8 4

WEST
 ♠ Void
 ♥ K 7 5 2
 ♦ Q 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 9 7 5 2

EAST
 ♠ A 10 9 8 3
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K 9 5 3
 ♣ 10 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ J 7 6 4 2
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ A 10 8 4
 ♣ K J

The bidding:
SOUTH 1♠ 2NT
WEST Pass Pass
NORTH 2♥ 4♠
EAST Pass All pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

East did well not to double the final contract. No sense in warning declarer about a foul split in trumps. West found the unfortunate lead of his fourth-best club. This was a reasonable choice, but it worked out poorly for the defense.

South won the opening club lead in hand with the jack, cashed the ace of

diamonds, and ruffed a diamond. He crossed back to his hand with the king of clubs to ruff a diamond with the queen of spades. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs, discarding his low heart, and led a heart to his ace. South's last diamond was ruffed in dummy with the king of spades.

Eight tricks had been played and South had won all of them. Both East and South were down to five trumps each with dummy on lead. A heart was led from dummy and East was helpless. Should East ruff with the three, South would over-ruff with the four and exit with a low spade. East would eventually have to give South a trick with the jack of spades. East elected to ruff the heart with the eight of spades. South over-ruffed with the jack and exited with the seven of spades. East could cash two more high trumps, but then had to give South his tenth trick. Declarer showed his class by saving the lowly four of trumps for his winner at the end. Well done!

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

CRYPTOGRAMS

PHILOSOPHERS by Myles Mellor

- Z P R X M C F H B L R B Q M N Z R B E F Z Z S A B T F G R N
 M Q H A F X A F N Z M Z Z P M Y O B E S G S Y E : " S
 L N S Y O Z P R N R X F N R S T M C ! "
- V Z T M R I H C G B G W T V R C R Q B E M S S I T K H R M
 K Z H W O , Z T V B E W O Z R N T W B N T O G B F W R Q
 V H G Z F W R Q - O B Z !
- E P R G P O I G P - N R Q U T X P R N F V X P U W E J F
 K V I C T S V H U O V F S X V X I N J W J S H W U J Q K J F S ?
 K W J C G R F H J G V C !
- H U K V M T C U P L M T G U W N D Q M F M W N L I
 D K G N D F ? " G N L V N U O U Y D A F N D W C L K G G M
 F L K O M T G , F M H I U G L F U I L Y L D K A Q M U O L O
 M K G N L O M H P . "

PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Puzzles on previous pages)



JUMBLE

Answer :

INSIST OCTANE GYRATE
 SLEEPY LOUNGE GERBIL

The weightlifters were in their 70s and 80s, but they were —

STILL GOING STRONG

- The famous Descartes got tipsy over a cup of port at Thanksgiving: "I drink therefore I yam!"
- When Aristotle was a young Grecian child, he would have loved to play with Play-doh!
- Which much-liked philosopher was found to be most popular at breakfast? Francis Bacon!
- Can you make out a philosopher in this? "They had a big shipment to send out, so crates are

being loaded on the dock."

HOLIDAY MATHIS HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anyone with money can buy goods and services, but smooth transactions take more than money; they take class. It's why you'll endeavor to learn the correct manner and etiquette so a cool experience can be had by all.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The more you are impressed by others the more they are impressed with you. Someone who needs attention will soak up all you're giving and be absolutely charmed by you in the process.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's an outcome you've been thinking about, and today is the day you'll reach the maximum number of thoughts you can have about the thing before action is an absolute necessity.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Good thoughts will glow up your aura. And if you don't believe in an aura, your aura will not suffer in the least. You will still enjoy the warmth of all who brighten up in your light.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you're more concerned than usual about your image, it's only because you want to make sure your contributions to others are effective and as useful as can be. You'll do what it takes to present yourself in a way that puts others at ease.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The race is long and currently not quite appealing enough to motivate you to train. However, helping someone else get through the finish line -- now that's a purpose you can get behind (and you'll wind up crossing, too!).
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you express your needs and wants, there are those who then shift the focus to their own similar story and call it empathy. That's not

empathy. Supportive people stick with your thing and investigate further.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Avoid being the bright star of the group today; you'll only attract haters. The brighter the light the more distinct the shadow. Instead, help others shine so everyone looks good together.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your sense of humor is an ever developing facet of your personality. Anyone who can't appreciate this probably isn't the best match for you. You don't always get to choose, but when you do, choose people who get you.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your powers of organization are remarkable. You'll put a mess back in order, and it won't even take you that much time. Today's results will be highly satisfactory on all counts.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Something that's supposed to be making your life easier may be doing the opposite right now, but stay the course. Once you're over the learning curve, this will be brilliant.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A whimsical mood prevails. There's a tangent you'd like to spin into. Sure it's light on logic, but there's something in this instinct that goes beyond reason and will serve you very well in the future.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31). You've been bold, courageous and impressive. All the attention taught you the value of less flashy attributes -- kindness, loyalty and reliability. Those qualities earn you money, friends and love. In January, advertise your services; the investment will quickly pay off. Your family will multiply in 2018. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 29, 14, 17 and 38.

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	SOLUTIONS
1 "City of Sails" (8)	_____
2 "Steel City" (10)	_____
3 "Biggest Little City" (4)	_____
4 "Paris of the Nile" (5)	_____
5 "Bluff City" (7)	_____
6 "Venice of the North" (9)	_____
7 "Pearl of the Danube" (8)	_____

TT	DA	SBU	LAND	RE
MEM	NO	PI	PH	BU
CAI	DAM	RGH	IS	RO
PE	TER	ST	AUCK	AMS

12/31
Today's Answers: 1. AUCLAND 2. PITTSBURGH 3. RENO 4. CAIRO 5. MEMPHIS 6. AMSTERDAM 7. BUDAPEST

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JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

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

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

Rating: GOLD

Solution

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

12/31/17

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DEAR ABBY

Animal advocate says waste lures wildlife into danger

DEAR ABBY: I am president and co-founder of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, one of the leading teaching and research hospitals for wildlife medicine in the world. We have treated more than 70,000 wild patients since our organization was established 35 years ago. Like the reader ("An Apple a Day," Aug. 11) who is under the impression that throwing an apple core out the car window is doing something positive for the Earth, many individuals make "little" decisions without considering the unintended consequences.

The example of the apple core has been at the heart of our education program for more than three decades. Before throwing that apple core out the window believing that some small animal will come finish what's left, people should consider what will happen if the animal coming to eat their scraps happens to be on the other side of the road.

Throwing out that apple core will lure that creature into harm's way. Countless opossums, raccoons, skunks and other small mammals are killed every



Dear Abby

day because of human food waste on the shoulder of the road. And it doesn't stop there. Predators like owls also suffer. They hunt along the side of the road, not because they eat apple cores, but because they eat the mice, voles and other small animals who are attracted to feed on that apple core. Then, when the opossum, raccoon or owl is killed by a car, scavengers are attracted to the pavement, where their lives, too, are at risk.

If readers want to help the Earth, they should take their waste home and dispose of it or recycle it properly. The small act of throwing an apple core out of a car window can cost the lives of the very creatures they claim to want to help. — EDWARD CLARK, WAYNESBORO, VA.

DEAR MR. CLARK: When that letter appeared, I received a flurry of mail about it. Many readers touched on some of the points you have expressed. Thank you for writing so eloquently to educate my readers — and me. Lesson learned.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 29 and I'm having trouble holding down a steady job. I am a college graduate, and it's not because I don't like to work. My problem is I have a strong personality and I tend to butt heads with management. Deep down, I think I'll only be satisfied with a job if I'm the boss or own my own business. Do you have any suggestions about positions for someone who can't handle having a boss? — MISS INDEPENDENT IN THE BRONX

DEAR MISS INDEPENDENT: No. Unless someone has rich parents or a magic lamp, most people have to work for — or with — others until they build enough capital to start a business. Even then, business owners must interact with clients they don't always agree with. Because you tend to butt heads with those in

management positions, you would be wise to start working on becoming more patient and less dogmatic. Both qualities will help you in the future if you can develop them.

DEAR READERS: Well, 2017 is at an end. Out with the old year, and in with the new one. Please accept my heartfelt good wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018. And — as I caution you every year — if you are partying tonight, PLEASE be safe! Appoint a designated driver and remind that person to drive defensively. — LOVE, ABBY

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.

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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.

12-31-17

TODAY'S ANSWERS

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BIBLE

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

— 1 Timothy 6:9.

If you thought money was the answer to all your problems, stop and consider this truth. Set your priorities on the things of God.

JUMBLE

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

SISNTI
PSYELE
CNATOE
NULEGO
TERAGY
GRILEB

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

I hope I can lift like that when I'm their age. I hope I get to their age. I hope I can make it until midnight tonight. You stay up late all the time.

THE WEIGHTLIFTERS WERE IN THEIR 70s AND 80s, BUT THEY WERE ---

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

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

HELOISE

Don't worry — be happy

Dear Heloise: My hint is simple: I don't worry about things I can't control. This mindset has given me freedom! — Annalisa G. in New York



Hints from Heloise

A handy list

Dear Heloise: I found a long pad of lined paper on which to make lists. It has a magnet on it and now hangs on the front of my refrigerator. When anyone in our family sees that we are running low on something, he or she simply adds it to the list of items on the pad that I need to get the next time I'm at a grocery store. This is why we never run out of milk, toilet paper, paper towels or coffee. — Janet T., Elmira, N.Y.

Stage setting

Dear Heloise: For Thanksgiving and Christmas, I like to use a long, beautiful tablecloth for the adult table. However, I set a children's table with a fancy paper tablecloth and paper plates with plastic cups.

They can sit down to a nice dinner without having to worry that they might spill something on a tablecloth or break a plate. When they're done, I recycle the plastic cups and then take each corner of the paper tablecloth, form a sack with all the paper dishes inside and toss it out. — Debra S., Naples, Fla.

Grounds out

Dear Heloise: I am a daily drinker of multiple pots of coffee, and I have lots of used grounds to dispose of.

Using a grocery bag to put grounds in before throwing them away works well. This cuts down on garbage aroma until it's time to take out the garbage. — Mary L., International Falls, Minn. Hi, Mary: Did you know

that used coffee grounds are rich in nourishment for acid-loving plants? They also can absorb odors in the freezer (poke holes in a margarine tub and pour some in).

Sprinkle a generous amount in the compost pile as well. One more reuse for coffee grounds? Pour dry into an old sock and tuck into stinky sneakers to absorb sneaker-feet smell! — Heloise

Free TV?

Dear Heloise: I was cleaning out my grandfather's garage after he passed away, and I discovered an old TV antenna, also called "rabbit ears." Apparently, there is a small but growing movement toward using rabbit ears to watch TV instead of signing up for cable. You can get one that costs anywhere from \$10 used to \$30 for brand-new ones.

Since major networks broadcast signals at no cost through the airwaves, you can pick up local channels with an antenna.

I can't say it works with all TVs or in every

area of the country, and you can't get as many channels as you'd get with cable. However, if someone is cutting his or her budget, this might be an alternative way to get local channels for less. — Howard K., Bowie, Md.

Tunic trouble

Dear Heloise: I have several tunic tops with drawstrings around the neck or waist, all with tassels. I put them in a lingerie bag first before washing; this prevents tangling! — Julie S., via email

An idea to 'dye' for!

Dear Heloise: Jeans seem to last forever, but they do fade. So, twice a year, I dye them with two bottles of navy blue on the soak cycle of my washing machine. Then I run them through the regular cycle and clean my washer according to the manufacturer's instructions. I wash them only with blue items or alone after that. I've been doing this for years, and my jeans still look good. — Edna R., Rineyville, Ky.

FROM PAGE ONE

STORIES

FROM PAGE 1

loyal, and his relentless tweeting — often in the early morning hours — provoked a striking mix of outrage, mockery and grateful enthusiasm.

3. Las Vegas mass shooting: A 64-year-old high-stakes video poker player, after amassing an arsenal of weapons, unleashed a barrage of gunfire from a high-rise casino-hotel that killed 58 people and injured hundreds among a crowd attending an open-air concert along the Las Vegas Strip. Weeks after the massacre, questions about the gunman's motives remained unanswered.

4. Hurricane onslaught: In a four-week span, hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria ravaged Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands. Harvey killed more than 80 people in Texas and caused an estimated \$150 billion in damage. Irma killed scores of people in the Caribbean and U.S., including 12 residents of a Florida nursing home that lost its air conditioning. Maria damaged more than 200,000 homes in Puerto Rico, caused lengthy power outages, and prompted an investigation into



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Oct. 2, 2017 file photo, drapes billow out of broken windows at the Mandalay Bay resort and casino on the Las Vegas Strip following a mass shooting at a music festival.

whether the official death toll of 64 was vastly undercounted.

5. North Korea: At times the taunts had a schoolyard flavor to them — a “dotard” versus “Little Rocket Man.” But they came from two world leaders with nuclear arms at their disposal — Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Fueling the tensions were North Korea's latest tests of a hydrogen bomb and of

ballistic missiles that potentially could reach the U.S. mainland.

6. Trump-Russia probe: Trump fired FBI director James Comey, but a former FBI chief, Robert Mueller, was soon appointed to investigate potential coordination between Russia and Trump's election campaign. By mid-December, Mueller's team had brought federal charges against four people,



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Jan. 20, 2017 file photo, President-elect Donald Trump waits to step out onto the portico for his Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.



AP PHOTO

This combination of photos shows, top row from left, broadcaster Bill O'Reilly, U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore, U.S. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., and broadcaster Matt Lauer. Bottom row from left are actor Kevin Spacey, conductor James Levine, broadcaster Charlie Rose and film producer Harvey Weinstein. The wave of sexual misconduct allegations that toppled Hollywood power brokers, politicians, media icons and many others was the top news story of 2017, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

including former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and former national security adviser Michael Flynn. Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

7. Obamacare: Despite repeated efforts, majority Republicans in Congress failed to repeal Barack Obama's health care law and replace it with new plan. At one point, a deciding vote against a GOP replacement bill was cast by Republican Sen. John McCain. But questions remained as to how Obama's plan would fare going forward without substantive help from the Trump administration.

8. Tax overhaul: Without a single Democratic vote,

Republicans in Congress pushed through a sweeping \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul that would cut corporate taxes while producing mixed results for individuals. GOP lawmakers, backed by Trump, said the bill would have broad benefits by accelerating economic growth. Critics said consequences would include higher budget deficits and the potential loss of health care coverage for millions of Americans.

9. Worldwide terror attacks: The first big terror attack of 2017 came on New Year's Day — a gunman killing 39 at a nightclub in Istanbul. Subsequent targets of global terror included an Ariana Grande concert in England, a

bike path in New York City and the historic La Rambla promenade in Barcelona. In October, a truck bombing in Somalia killed more than 500 people; in November, an attack on a crowded mosque in Egypt killed more than 300.

10. Islamic State: After lengthy assaults, an array of forces drove the Islamic State from its two main strongholds — the city of Mosul in Iraq, and its self-styled capital, Raqqa, in Syria. The defeats left the Islamic State without significant territory in either country, but affiliates elsewhere in the region, particularly in Egypt and Afghanistan, continued to operate.



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Aug. 17, file photo, people flee the scene in Barcelona, Spain, after a van jumped the sidewalk in the historic Las Ramblas district, crashing into a summer crowd of residents and tourists and injuring several people.

DISASTERS

FROM PAGE 1

quirk or better preparedness? Experts aren't certain, but say perhaps it's a little bit of each.

“This has been a particularly quiet year,” said Debarati Guha-Sapir who heads the disaster research center. “The thing is not to be ... complacent about this.”

But quiet depends on where you live.

The U.S. had gone more than a decade without a Category 3 storm or larger making landfall on the mainland. The last few Septembers — normally peak hurricane month — had been record quiet until this year when Harvey, Irma, Jose and later Maria popped up and grew to super strength in no time, said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

“September was just bonkers. It was just one after the other, you couldn't catch a break,” he said.

There were six major Atlantic hurricanes this year; the averages is 2.7. A pair of recent studies found fingerprints of man-made global warming were all over the torrential rains from Harvey that flooded Houston.

Researchers at the University of South Carolina estimated that economic damages from this year's disasters, adjusted for inflation, were more than 40 percent higher than normal, mostly because of Harvey, Irma and Maria. By many private measures, Harvey overtook Katrina as the costliest U.S. hurricane, but the weather service hasn't finished its calculations yet.

Much of the damage and deaths — storm surge and otherwise — from hurricanes striking the Caribbean are still unknown. The National Hurricane Center hasn't finished tallying its data.

Uccellini of the weather service said warmer than normal waters and unusual steering currents made the hurricanes especially damaging, combined with booming development in disaster-prone areas.

“We are building in the wrong places. We are building in areas that are increasing in risks,” said Susan Cutter, director of the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina.

Wildfires blazed nearly year-round in the U.S. fanned by relentless winds and parched conditions. Some 9.8 million acres of land have



AP FILE PHOTO

Rescue workers search for people trapped inside a collapsed building in the Del Valle area of Mexico City on Sept. 20, the day after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the area. Hundreds were killed by the earthquake.

burned, mostly in the West, nearly 50 percent more than the average in the past decade. A wildfire that ignited in early December in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties northwest of Los Angeles grew to be the largest in California history.

Scientists connect drier weather after heavy rains — leading to build-up of fuel that can catch fire and burn easily — to

a combination of both man-made warming and a natural La Nina, the climate phenomenon that's the flip side to El Nino, said Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb.

Worldwide significantly fewer people and less land were affected by drought this year, and extreme heat waves were less severe compared to the past.

Landslides were more frequent and deadlier this year, mostly because of the Sierra Leone landslide that killed 915 people, Guha-Sapir said.

Earthquakes worldwide were dramatically down. As of mid-December, there had been only seven earthquakes of magnitude 7 or larger compared to a normal year of about 15. Two powerful quakes struck

Mexico in September including one that hit on the anniversary of the devastating 1985 Mexico City quake.

The back-to-back Mexico quakes were unrelated, said geophysicist Ross Stein of Temblor, Inc., a company that provides information about seismic risk.

“We have to remember that coincidences really do happen,” he said.



Large pool home on golf course

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is located at 6028 Strafford Oaks Drive in Sebring. It is priced for \$379,000 and is listed with Kevin and Teresa Bock with RE/MAX Realty Plus.

This magnificent home is located in the Country Club of Sebring and is situated on two beautifully landscaped lots overlooking the golf course. It offers 3,424 living square feet and more than 4,500 total square feet under roof.

This home features three bedrooms, three baths, an office with coffered ceilings and wood flooring, extensive crown molding throughout and a 21 by 23 media/bonus room. The rear porch includes a wet bar, expansive salt water concrete pool with pool cage and plenty of room for relaxing and entertaining as well as a hot tub.

This home was made for entertaining and has a large entertainment center with gas fireplace and comes with an

BOCK | 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is located at 6028 Strafford Oaks Drive in Sebring. It is priced for \$379,000 and is listed with Kevin and Teresa Bock with RE/MAX Realty Plus.

DIRECTIONS

6028 Strafford Oaks Drive, Sebring
From U.S. 27 in Sebring, turn onto Hammock Road. Turn left onto Country Road 635. Turn right onto Haw Branch Road into the Country Club of Sebring. Turn right onto Strafford Oaks Drive. The home is on the left.

Ranch home in Lake Placid

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is located at 20 Glenside Ave. in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$359,900 and is listed with Anita Zahn with Advantage Realty in Sebring.

This is a gentleman's ranch with today's luxurious amenities. The home features 2,700 square feet under air, three bedrooms, two baths, a heated pool and two barns.

The kitchen has stainless steel appliances, dark wood cabinets, granite counter tops and modern tile.

The home's showcase room is the 25 by 30 family room. It has knotty pine on the walls and wood look vinyl plank flooring; there is enough room to make another bedroom and still have a great family space.

Attention to detail is throughout the home. The home has vaulted ceilings in the living and dining rooms.

This home was completely redone — new kitchen, baths, flooring, crown molding, paint and roof. A new air

ZAHN | 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is located at 20 Glenside Ave. in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$359,900 and is listed with Anita Zahn with Advantage Realty in Sebring.

DIRECTIONS

20 Glenside Ave., Lake Placid
From U.S. 27 in south Sebring, turn onto Lake Josephine Drive. Turn left onto Henscratch Road. Turn right onto Glenside Avenue. The home is on the left.

Gorgeous home in Tomoka Heights

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is located at 14 Rosewood Court in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$197,000 and is listed with Steve Fruit and Laura Shirley with Re/Max Realty Plus II in Lake Placid.

This gorgeous two-bedroom, two-bath home is located in the sought after Tomoka Heights area, a 55+ adult lifestyle living community. This home was built in 2005 and features cathedral ceilings and plant shelves. Natural light pours through this home.

The kitchen has quartz counter tops, pot and pan drawers. The pantry has pull out drawers and a gorgeous tiled back splash.

All of this opens to the family/dining room.

A separate living room sits between the spacious master bedroom and the guest room. The master bath includes a shower and a separate bathtub. His-and-hers

SHIRLEY | 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is located at 14 Rosewood Court in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$197,000 and is listed with Steve Fruit and Laura Shirley with Re/Max Realty Plus II in Lake Placid.

DIRECTIONS

14 Rosewood Court, Lake Placid
From U.S. 27 in Lake Placid, turn onto Tomoka Boulevard North, just north of Florida Hospital Lake Placid. Turn left onto Grandview Boulevard. Turn right onto Rosewood Drive North. Rosewood Drive North becomes Rosewood Court. The home is on the left.



COURTESY PHOTO

This home features a salt water concrete pool with pool cage, hot tub, wet bar, and plenty of room for relaxing and entertaining.

BOCK

FROM PAGE 1

awesome view overlooking the pool and porch area.

You will love the oversized kitchen with center island, tile back splash, Corian counter tops and an abundance of cabinets and counter space as well as stainless steel appliances and a panoramic mitered glass window in the large breakfast nook.

The formal dining area is located off the front entry and close to the kitchen. The large dining

room has plantation shutters, chair railing, crown molding and beautiful draperies.

The oversized master suite features high double step ceilings with crown molding, double closets, and an oversized bath with double sink vanity, cultured marble shower and soaking tub.

Both guest bedrooms are a nice size and have wood flooring and double closets. The third bathroom has direct access to the pool and porch area and has a tiled shower.

The oversized garage has room for two cars plus a golf cart. This

home also includes a whole-house generator and the media room includes a projection television and separate air conditioner.

This executive home offers plenty of privacy and is located in a golfing community with many activities available.

This list price has just been drastically reduced. For more information or to arrange for a showing, call Kevin and Teresa Bock at 863-381-9063 or 863-381-7884, visit www.teresabock.com or email Teresa@TeresaBock.com. Qualified buyers only.

PEOPLE IN REAL ESTATE



Kevin and Teresa Bock are with RE/MAX Realty Plus. Call 863-381-9063 or 863-381-7884.



Laura Shirley is with RE/MAX Realty Plus II. Call 863-441-4742.



Anita Zahn is with Advantage Realty in Sebring. Call 863-840-1420.

HOW TO APPEAR IN PEOPLE IN REAL ESTATE

Members of the Heartland Association of Realtors who want to submit articles about their professional achievements should call Eileen Powers at 863-386-5809. People in Real Estate submissions appear on a space availability basis. All submissions are subject to change.

SHIRLEY

FROM PAGE 1

closets are in the master.

The home's yard is beautifully landscaped with several private garden seating areas that can be enjoyed year round.

The Tomoka Heights community has a clubhouse, heated pool, and newly renovated tennis courts, which include shuffleboard and Bocce. If you have a boat, a boat ramp and fishing docks are available on Lake



COURTESY PHOTO

The home's yard is beautifully landscaped with several private garden seating areas that can be enjoyed year round.

Henry, one of the nicest lakes around.

For more information, call Fruit at 863-414-4919

or email Steve@TeamFruit.com or call Shirley at 863-441-4742. Ask about MLS 245380.



COURTESY PHOTOS

ABOVE: The screened salt water pool is heated, with a water fall and planter. The area around the pool has pavers.

LEFT: The property has a six stall barn with a large tack room, work area and corral.



ZAHN

FROM PAGE 1

conditioner was installed in 2015, and new pressure treated board fencing (not corral fence) and cross fenced was installed in 2014.

The outdoor living areas are just as fabulous as the inside with a 480 square foot outdoor entertaining area with wet-bar. The space is tiled and under air. The property has paver walking paths and a cozy fire pit area with Adirondack love seat swings.

The area surrounding the screened salt water pool is paved. The pool is heated, with a water fall and planter.

A six stall barn has a large tack room and work area and corral. In 2014, a 36 by 50 metal building/workshop was built.

The property has plenty of parking for an RV, horse trailer and guests. There is 50 amp electric, satellite and septic for RV hook up, two wells and pumps — one for home water supply and one for

irrigation. For more information or to schedule a

showing, call Zahn at 863-840-1420. Ask about MLS 244959.



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<p>MLS# 242366 Country charm on 18.21 Acres Zoned AG. Built 200. Open front porch 6 x 41. Foyer looks onto a large Living room w/ high vaulted ceiling. Formal dining room. Living areas have tile flooring. Bedrooms have wood flooring. Kitchen offers vaulted ceiling, breakfast bar, w/ room for a kitchen table, walk in pantry 9 x 6. Split bedroom plan for added privacy. Master side there an office/den 10x 10, next to the master bedroom. Laundry room has built in cabinets for extra storage. French door opens to the 10 x 35 patio, lovely private yard, fenced, water conditioner Block construction with vinyl siding for that country charm & low maintenance. \$389,000 • CONTACT ANITA ZAHN</p>	<p>MLS# 244959 Looking for WOW! A Gentleman's Ranch on 5 acres w/ today's luxurious amenities: 3 Bedroom 2 bath, Pool home, SIS Appliances, All Tile and vinyl plank flooring, knotty pine on the 30 X 25 trophy room walls. Attention to detail throughout this home. Vaulted ceilings, home was completely redone. New AC in 2015. 6 Stall Barn w/ Lrg Tack room, 4 board fencing & cross fenced, 36 X 50 Metal Building, 480 sq ft covered entertaining area with wet-bar, tiled and under AC. There are paver walking paths, a cozy fire pit area, RV parking w/ water and ele hook up. Must see to appreciate. Call for a showing, Anita 863-840-1420. \$259,900 • CONTACT ANITA ZAHN</p>

<p>MLS# 241838 Cute and cozy home has been updated. New windows in Front room and Kitchen. Kitchen has newer wood cabinets. From the kitchen and bonus room you have a view of Lake Olivia. Home has been freshly painted inside and out. Laminate wood flooring in all of home except bath rooms. Enter into a 12 x 14 room noted as the bonus room has lots of possibilities. Homes is on 3 lots with fenced back yard. One bath room is shared with the laundry room. \$103,750 • CONTACT ANDREA CRANMER</p>	<p>MLS# 245332 Beautiful Lake Front Home is a Must See! Starting with the impeccable landscaping and breathtaking views of desirable Lake Sebring from nearly every room you enter. It's been a wonderful weekend home for this family for many years. This charming home boasts 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms which includes a private guest suite or mother-in-law suite. Remodeled kitchen with granite counter tops, open to the family room and dining room! \$219,900 • CONTACT ANDREA CRANMER</p>
<p>MLS# 245350 1561 LAKEVIEW DRIVE # 949 Great location! Sought after community! Updated kitchen and baths. Open concept kitchen, dining and living room. Community pool, dock on Lake Jackson. No Pets, Long Term Rental, Assoc. Approval Required, Non-Smoking! CONTACT DANA OLSON</p>	<p>MLS# 245329 204 MIDDLE VIEW DRIVE, LAKE PLACID 2 bed/1 Bath Cute condo on Lake McCoy. Close to everything Community pool screened lanai. This home is small but very nice and has washer dryer included. Great for a single person or a couple. CONTACT DANA OLSON</p>

This month's outreach is New Testament Mission

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www.AdvantageHighlands.com www.RentHC.com

It's Time for New Ideas!

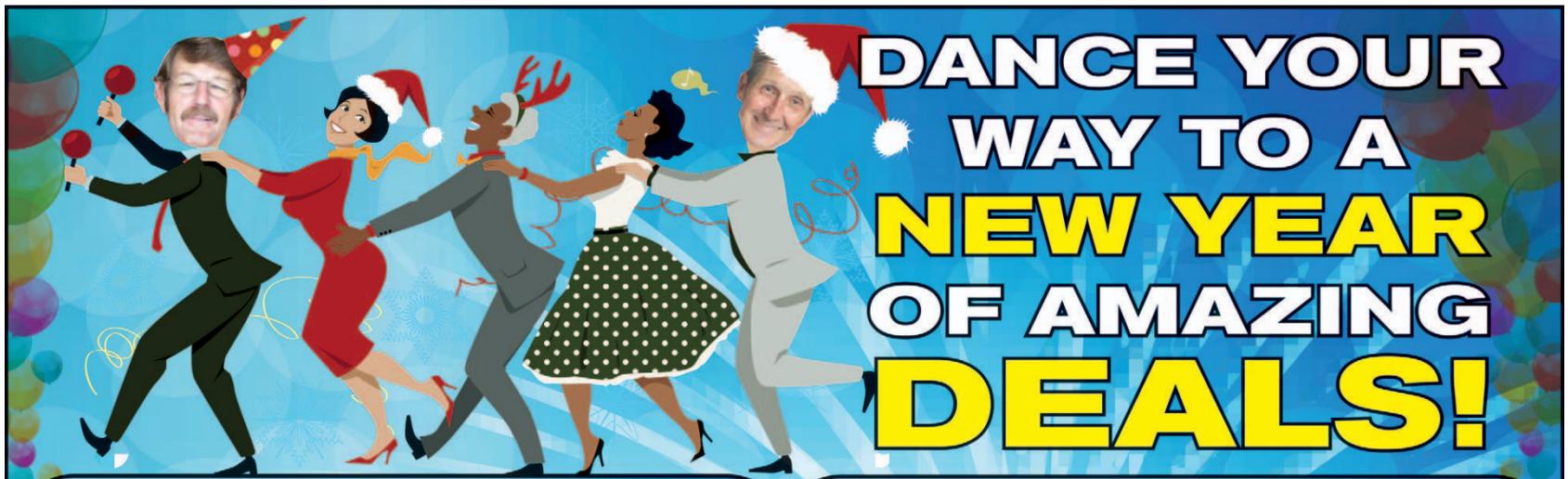


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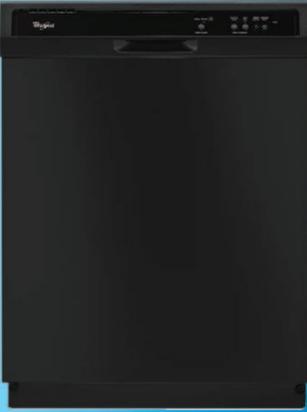


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Amana

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WTW4616FW & WED4815EW
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Whirlpool CORPORATION

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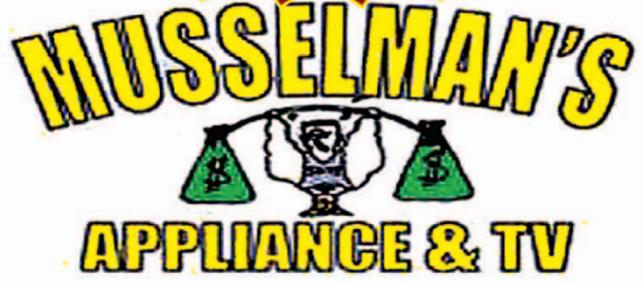
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Plant your veggie garden outside the box

GROWING PAINS

CHARLIE REYNOLDS

Those of us who live in a condo, trailer, or deed-restricted community with no room for a typical veggie garden do not have to give up on growing fresh vegetables. There are lots of ways to have your veggie and eat it too, to coin a phrase.

Space to grow applies primarily to the foliage. Most veggies are annuals, so the roots are usually shallow and can thrive in a suitable pot or other container.

My friend grew her veggies in old boots. She filled them with soil, cut the top of the toes off and planted radishes and lettuce in the toes of the old cast-off footwear. Some of my old boots should be classified as a bio-hazard according to my daughter.

This is just one example of planting outside the box, so to speak. Container gardening can be fun and rewarding as you pluck your salad greens right off the balcony or windowsill of your home. I like it because who needs 10 tomato plants, 10 bean bushes, etc.? Your neighbors will appreciate the extra goodies but for space considerations and veggies for your personal use, container gardening with one or two plants is the way to go.

The benefits of container gardening are obvious. If a frost is coming, carry or wheel your plant to safety. If your pot is really heavy, you may want to put it on wheels. There are dozens of wheeled platforms for sale in most garden centers.

Weeds are much more manageable in a pot and way less fertilizer is needed

in a container plant than a garden plot. Using store-bought soil in the pot can eliminate nematodes, cutworms, slugs, etc.

It's also possible to mix and match veggies in the same pot, taking care to select plants with the same water requirements and approximately the same height so one doesn't crowd out the other. If one does slightly out-grow the other, simply rotate the pot so the shorter one gets its fair share of sun.

Water is an issue that needs close attention when container gardening. Too much is just as bad as not enough. Too much and the roots can actually "drown." There isn't enough free oxygen for the roots to take up and the plant will look just like it doesn't have enough water so most folks keep pouring on water till the plant finally croaks.

The key to container gardening is ensuring the water can drain out the bottom. Holes are needed because the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science recommends that every time you water, make sure the water runs out the bottom of the pot. This flushes out fertilizer salts that accumulate over time and can be seen as a white crust on top of the soil in container plants.

Flushing out a pot may be difficult with a large pot on your patio or porch, so I would recommend a pan or saucer under the pot. Raise up the pot with three or four rocks or pieces of wood the same size under the pot so you can see when the water starts coming out the bottom hole. Don't let the water reach the hole or it can drown the plant.

An excellent vegetable gardening



COURTESY PHOTO

Container gardening can be fun and rewarding as you pluck your salad greens right off the balcony or windowsill of your home.

guide can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>.

For a more complete vegetable gardening experience be sure to check out our own Highland's County Horticultural Extension Agent David Austin's Beginning Vegetable Growing, from 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 6 at the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center on George Boulevard in Sebring. Cost \$5, includes a handout on when, what, and where to plant with 100 pages of informative University of Florida vetted gardening information. Register on Eventbrite.com or call 863 402-6540.

Got questions? We got answers.

Contact the Extension Office on George Boulevard at 402-6540 or stop by in person between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you have a question that may help others, submit it directly to Highlands News-Sun at karen.clogston@highlandsnewssun.com for possible publication.

Charlie Reynolds is a Highlands County Master Gardener and has been named the Florida Master Gardener of the Year by The University of Florida IFAS for 2017-2018.

The articles presented here originate from visitors' questions at the Master Gardener Help Desk.

How to save succulents from rot in winter

By MAUREEN GILMER
YARDSMART

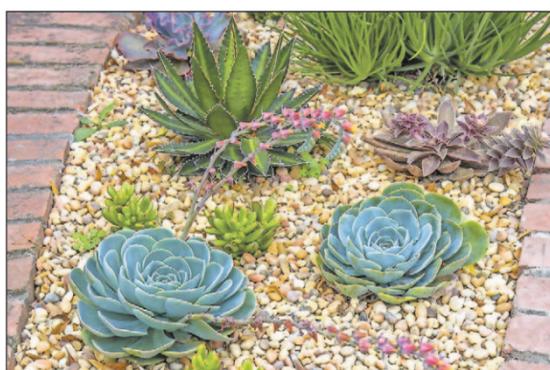
Are your succulents turning black? Are they gushy and soft when you touch them? The small accent color plants from warm dry climates slow down with the shortening of days into winter. They stop growing and therefore need no moisture besides what their bodies already hold. Yet water is continually applied, be it by rain or automatic sprinklers or a diligent overwater-er. This demonstrates why the small succulents rot out over winter, not necessarily from frost but lack of light and too much moisture.

When moisture accumulation meets morning frost, there's a perfect environment to start rot. This is the enemy of all succulents. Their water-holding interior tissues are sterile, protected by a hard outer skin that prevents moisture loss. When this outer skin gets damaged by frost, or any other cause, fungus and bacteria set in. They need evenly moist conditions to proliferate before the wound dries out and heals over.

Once you find rot on a succulent, be it a huge agave or a tiny lithops, you're already at a disadvantage. The rotting organisms are already inside doing their worst to spread throughout the entire plant body. They won't stop until the whole plant melts down into goo.

There is a remedy, if you have a strong hand and good eye. First observe the rot, which is usually a yellow or brown spot. It often begins at the soil line where too much moisture is in contact with the green skin of the plant, which is much like earth-to-wood contact rotting wood posts. Rotting can also be stimulated by tiny skin breaks during transplanting, particularly if it's a thin skinned species.

Use a fingertip to lightly press the rot to see how soft it is. Sometimes sunburn looks like rot but is just skin discoloring. Softness



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

Small succulents can rot out over winter, not necessarily from frost but lack of light and too much moisture.

is the clue. If rot is there, it will feel softer under gentle fingertip pressure than the surrounding unaffected skin. A little softness means the rot is localized. By the time it's so soft your finger goes right through the skin, it may be history.

Succulents are resilient, so once you assess where the rot is by sight and feel, strategize how to surgically remove it. Just like cancer, you must remove all the rot, especially residual tentacles extending further into normal tissue. These inevitably contain pathogens that will resurface.

It won't be pretty after you've cleaned out the plant, but don't give up. Succulents have truly amazing healing powers. Place the plant in the shade for a few days to help the skin callus into a new outer skin to hold

the moisture. If you had to remove part or all the roots, treat them the same before reinserting into media so root initials will develop quickly. If you can't salvage the plant itself, consider segmenting the healthy tissue and rooting it in moist clean sand.

Every encounter of ailing succulent plants is almost always a rot problem - they're really trouble-free as a group. It can lurk in the center of an old Beaucarnea caudex only to surface after a rainy period. In dry desert climates rot rarely occurs in succulents except when associated with irrigation.

The best way to protect your succulents from rot is to protect them from frost. When frost nips at the tips of your Euphorbia, it's an injury that is exacerbated into rot by rain at just the

right time. Maybe it's too high to notice until the whole top end discolors. So many homes feature large and very expensive specimen succulents that may be borderline tolerant of the climate. Keep Plankets or a bed

sheet on hand for those cold snaps this winter. For narrow tall cactus such as fence post, slide a recycled plastic foam coffee cup over the top to protect from tip burn.

The regions where most of these plants

come from are high UV in the winter, so overcast days put them into a funk, then rot sets in.

Maureen Gilmer is an author, horticulturist and landscape designer. Learn more at www.MoPlants.com






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Are housing bubbles emerging again?

THE MORTGAGE PROFESSOR JACK GUTTENTAG

Whenever home prices rise sharply, as they have in recent months in some markets, the housing bubble question is asked. It is an anxiety-laden question, since the housing bubble that emerged during 2000-2006 led to the collapse of the home mortgage market and the ensuing worldwide financial crisis. The crisis and its very costly aftermath have not been forgotten.

What is a housing bubble?

A bubble is a marked price increase fueled at least partly by an expectation that prices will continue to rise. What distinguishes a bubble price rise from a non-bubble price rise is that in the bubble a significant part of the demand that pushes up prices originates from speculators, whose intent is to resell quickly at a higher price. It is speculation that converts the price increase into a bubble.

Also contributing to the bubble are what might be termed speculative buyers, who are induced to become homeowners, or to upgrade by the lure of future price increases and the availability of easy financing terms. Absent the price increases, they would have waited, perhaps indefinitely.

Fueling the housing bubble is easy financing as lenders come to share the belief that the rising home prices will continue indefinitely. So long as house prices are rising, it is very difficult to make a bad home mortgage loan. In the worst case where the borrower cannot pay, the lender gets fully repaid because the appreciated collateral covers the cost of foreclosure

and sale.

When the expectation of price increase that prompts speculation comes into serious question, speculative demand collapses and prices drop sharply. Recent home purchasers find that their homes are not worth what they paid for them, and lenders find their expected profits converted into losses. The bubble has burst.

Houses are not the ideal speculative commodity. Speculators prefer markets with the following features:

—Product homogeneity, because it eliminates the risk that the price behavior of the purchased product won't be typical of the class.

—Low transactions costs, so they get to retain the largest part of any speculative profit.

—Low carrying costs for the same reason.

Houses rank very low on all three requirements. Every house is different, the cost of buying and then selling a house is very high, and the costs of carrying the property until the sale are also high. The housing bubble of 2000-2006 emerged despite these contra-indications, which means there must have been some powerful forces at work that encouraged speculation. What were they, and do they exist today?

Bubble financing The major force at work during 2000-2006 was easy financing at attractive terms, spearheaded by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The agencies sought to meet congressionally mandated targets of loans to disadvantaged groups. The development of a private secondary market in securities backed by subprime loans, which

were blessed as investment grade by credit-rating agencies, also played a major role. Those agencies shared the belief of lenders that house price increases would continue indefinitely.

In addition, speculative buyers had access to special types of mortgages designed to maximize their buying power. The most radical of these was the option ARM, which allowed the borrower to make payments in the early years that did not cover the interest. Instead of amortization, where the balance is paid down, the option ARM allowed negative amortization where the balance increased.

Is there bubble financing today?

The housing finance system today differs in important ways from the system that fueled the earlier housing bubble. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are no longer required to meet congressionally mandated targets of loans to disadvantaged groups. The secondary market in subprime loans is gone, which means that there is no subprime market other than the FHA program, which was not caught up in the earlier bubble. And option ARMs are no longer being written.

Also relevant is that people today remember the last bubble; it has only been 15 years or so. The bubble before that was in the 1920s, which by 2000 had been long forgotten.

While there are no indications that the current house price increases are a bubble, one could begin emerging at any time, which raises a question regarding recognition: What should we look for and where?

Fannie and Freddie

should open their automated underwriting systems to public scrutiny

My colleague Jack Pritchard believes that the next wave of house price bubble financing will be initiated by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac through liberalization of their underwriting requirements. Indeed, he argues that the process may already have begun. I can't confirm or dispute this because only

approved lenders have access to the automated underwriting systems of the agencies. That could and should be fixed.

There is no defensible reason for not making the automated systems available to the public. It would be easy to provide a version that would allow a non-lender to find the agency's requirements for hypothetical users and properties. With such

access, curious users like me could chart changes in requirements over time so that bubble financing, from that source at least, could not evolve unobserved.

Jack Guttentag is professor emeritus of finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Comments and questions can be left at mtgprofessor.com.

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union achieves milestone \$3 billion in assets

Special to Highlands News-Sun

LAKELAND — MIDFLORIDA Credit Union is proud to announce it has recently reached a staggering \$3 billion in assets, according to a recent press release.

The continued success of the credit union can be attributed to several successful mergers, which in turn have brought additional branches and a larger footprint; however, MIDFLORIDA is also well known for their face-to-face banking, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. drive-through hours, appealing incentives and special product offerings, attracting new members to the credit union who were previously unhappy with their banking relationships.

Hitting the \$3 billion mark is a remarkable achievement for this homegrown institution, which has flourished since its start in 1954 as a modest local teachers' credit union with a shoebox of deposits. And over the last 25 years under Kevin Jones's leadership as CEO, the credit union has enjoyed steady growth — from nearly \$110 million in assets when Jones first took the helm, to more than \$575 million in 2002, then continuously multiplying its assets to become the fourth largest credit union in the state.

"When I first started at MIDFLORIDA, I set a goal to significantly grow the organization — I believed we could do it then, and over time we proved we could," Jones said. "A large portion of our growth stems from the MIDFLORIDA family, the backbone of our organization. We are fortunate to have a strong team of highly talented managers who have proven to be instrumental to our

success."

Looking forward, the credit union has begun putting a succession plan in place for its future leadership. As part of that plan, a substantial group of promotions were announced, including staff from senior management, branch operations and support departments.

"The fact that we have so many employees recognized at one time, and in conjunction with hitting a milestone in assets, really illustrates the depth of expertise in our staff, and reinforces the overall strength of the credit union," Jones said.

The most significant promotions include those of Steve Moseley, Dennis Pershing and David Hand. Moseley has been named president of MIDFLORIDA Credit Union in addition to his current role as president of MIDFLORIDA Financial Services. Moseley's responsibilities will include an expanded focus on operations and finance.

Pershing was promoted to executive vice president of Consumer

Lending, earned through his 36-year tenure in varied leadership positions, ranging from operations to lending. Hand was appointed executive vice president of Commercial Lending, with nearly 20 years of credit union experience, including the development and growth of the Business Services Department. Jones will continue in his role as CEO of MIDFLORIDA.

Rounding out the collection of promotions is a group of 20 staff members, representing both member-facing and back office support divisions: Senior Vice Presidents Marta Negron, Ron Kidd, and Valerie Dollison; Vice Presidents Jennifer Stewart and Yamilet Contreras; Assistant Vice Presidents Grace Troise, Shrita Walker, Donielle Marco, Daniel Pfeffer, Jennifer Rhynes, Vicki Spires, Kim Campbell, April Clements, Jerry Clerveaux, Jason Calvo, Don Alexander, Jennifer Devereaux, Nalini Gajadharsingh, and Edina Remic; and Operations Manager Rashawn Alexander.

Average mortgage rates climbed this week

By JOSH BOAK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Long-term U.S. mortgage rates increased this week, although they're lower than a year ago.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages rose to 3.99 percent, up from 3.94 percent last week. That average marks a five-month high, but it's still lower than the 4.32 percent a year ago. The rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages increased to an average 3.44 percent from 3.38 percent in the prior week. The 15-year averaged 3.55 percent a year ago. The \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts President Donald Trump signed into law last week led to an increase in the interest charged on a 10-year U.S. Treasury note. This increase — likely reflective of both the debt and potential stimulus from the tax cuts — pushed up average mortgage rates.

The relatively low rates have helped preserve a degree of affordability for many would-be homebuyers amid rising prices. Many potential buyers are finding it difficult to buy a home as the number of listings on the market had drifted down to record lows for November.

The average on five-year adjustable-rate mortgages rose to 3.47 percent from 3.39 percent last week. A year ago, the five-year adjustable rate averaged 3.30 percent.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This July file photo shows new housing construction, in North Andover, Mass. On Thursday, Dec. 28, Freddie Mac reports on the week's average U.S. mortgage rates.

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Knowing the difference between prequalified and preapproved



TODAY'S REAL ESTATE
JULIO SEDA

Editor's Note: This column originally published Feb. 26, 2017.

It is important to understand the differences and value of a pre-qualifying or pre-approved status, for both the buyer and the seller. I found the information and explanation provided by Real Estate expert Brian O'Connell helpful:

Without proper preparation, many buyers get lulled into the mistaken notion that if a lender prequalifies them for a mortgage this means that they have been preapproved for a home loan. Unfortunately, there's a world of difference between these two terms. If you have ever been

confused by the two, let's bring you up to speed on how these terms differ — and why a misunderstanding can mean disaster for borrowers.

The skinny on pre qualified

Getting prequalified is the initial step in the mortgage process, and it's generally fairly simple. You supply a bank or lender with your overall financial picture, including your debt, income and assets. After evaluating this information, a lender can give you an idea of the mortgage amount for which you qualify.

Pre-qualification can be done over the phone or on the Internet, and there is usually no cost involved. Loan prequalification does not include an analysis of your credit report or an in-depth look at your ability to purchase a home.

The initial prequalification step allows you to discuss any goals or needs you may have regarding your mortgage with your lender. At this point, a lender can explain your various mortgage options and

recommend the type that might be best suited to your situation.

Because it's a quick procedure — and based only on the information you provide to the lender — your prequalified amount is not a sure thing; it's just the amount for which you might expect to be approved.

For this reason, being a prequalified buyer doesn't carry the same weight as being a preapproved buyer who has been more thoroughly investigated.

The skinny on pre approved

Getting preapproved is the next step, and it tends to be much more involved. You'll complete an official mortgage application (and usually pay an application fee), then supply the lender with the necessary documentation to perform an extensive check on your financial background and current credit rating.

Typically at this stage, you will not have found a house yet, so any reference to "property" on the application will be left blank.

From this, the lender

can tell you the specific mortgage amount for which you are approved. You'll also have a better idea of the interest rate you will be charged on the loan and, in some cases, you might be able to lock in a specific rate.

With preapproval, you will receive a conditional commitment in writing for an exact loan amount, allowing you to look for a home at or below that price level. Obviously, this puts you at an advantage when dealing with a potential seller, as he or she will know you're one step closer to obtaining an actual mortgage.

The other advantage of completing both of these steps — prequalification and preapproval — before you start to look for a home is that you'll know in advance how much you can afford. This way, you don't waste time with guessing or looking at properties that are beyond your means.

Getting preapproved for a mortgage also enables you to move quickly when you find the perfect place. When you make an offer, it won't be contingent on obtaining

financing, which can save you valuable time. In a competitive market, this lets the seller know that your offer is serious — and could prevent you from losing the home to another potential buyer who already has financing arranged.

Once you have found the right house for you, you'll fill in the appropriate details and your preapproval will become a complete application.

Getting committed

The final step in the process is what's called a "loan commitment," which is only issued by a bank when it has approved you, the borrower, and the house in question. This means the home should be appraised at or above the sale price.

The bank may also require more information if the appraiser brings up anything he or she feels should be investigated (i.e. structural problems, accessibility issues, outstanding liens or litigation in progress). Your income and credit profile will be checked once again to ensure nothing has changed since the

initial approval. A loan commitment letter is issued only when the bank is certain it will lend, so the commitment date on your purchase contract should be closer to closing than to the date of your offer. The seller can ask to see that letter as soon as the date has passed, so beware of anyone who tries to put an early commitment date into your contract.

The bottom line

Be warned. Preapproved and prequalified are not the same thing. Don't assume that the bank will provide your loan until you have the former. The mistake could cost you your new home, so before you meet with the banks, do your homework by getting preapproved.

Another important way to prep for getting a mortgage is researching interest rates using a tool like a mortgage calculator.

To submit questions, comments or topics, call Julio Seda at 786-991-8235 or email 0532315@gmail.com.

US home prices surge 6.2 percent, outpacing wage growth

By JOSH BOAK

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. home prices climbed a robust 6.2 percent from a year ago, amid strong demand from would-be buyers and a shrinking supply of properties for sale.

Standard & Poor's said Tuesday that its S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller national home price index stood in October a solid 6 percent above its previous 2006 peak. Prices are rising at more than double the pace of wage growth, creating some affordability pressures that have been offset by relatively low mortgage rates. Metro areas with booming job markets and the steepest home price gains could see more residents staying as renters.

"Since home prices are rising faster than wages, salaries, and inflation, some areas could see potential home buyers compelled to look at renting," said David M. Blitzer, managing director and chairman of the index committee at S&P Dow Jones Indices.

The strongest annual gains occurred in Seattle, where prices have shot up 12.7 percent since October 2015. Las Vegas has seen prices increase 10.2 percent, while San Diego notched growth of 8.1 percent. Of the 20 metro areas tracked by the index, Washington, DC reported the smallest price gain with 3.1 percent. As the economy has steadily recovered from the 2008 financial crisis, demand from would-be buyers has steadily improved. The 17-year low unemployment rate of 4.1 percent has left more Americans confident

enough to put bids on homes. Sales of existing homes in November reached their strongest pace since December 2006, according to the National Association of Realtors. But the sales growth hasn't compelled more people to list their homes for sale, as the

number of properties on the market has tumbled nearly 10 percent in the past 12 months.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac said last week that the rate on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages averaged 3.94 percent, down from 4.30 percent a year ago.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May file photo, a construction worker continues work on new town homes under construction in Woodstock, Georgia. The Standard & Poor's CoreLogic Case-Shiller home price index, which tracks the value of homes in 20 major U.S. metropolitan areas, came out Tuesday, Dec. 26.

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How do you update a popcorn ceiling?

By **MEGAN ALDERTON**
ANGIE'S LIST

BA popcorn ceiling, otherwise known as an acoustic ceiling, is a ceiling that's been sprayed with a textured coating. A popular design element between the 1950s and the 1980s, the texture is useful for hiding imperfections but is now considered outdated.

1. WHY REMOVE A POPCORN TEXTURE?

Popcorn ceilings are not only behind the times, but they're also difficult to repair and clean. What's more, they may deter potential buyers if and when the time comes to sell your home. There's also a chance that your popcorn ceiling may contain asbestos. Asbestos was used in popcorn ceiling treatments until the Clean Air Act banned its use in 1978. It's most commonly found in the ceilings of homes built in the 1950s and 1960s. If inhaled, asbestos can cause serious respiratory health issues.

2. WHAT'S INVOLVED?

If your home was built before 1980, you should start with an asbestos test (you can get one for around \$75 to \$100). If asbestos is present, you'll want to hire a qualified asbestos mitigation service to remove it. This will cost about \$3 to \$10 per square foot, and it will involve sealing the affected area and removing the hazardous materials and particles. If asbestos is not found to be present, or if your

home was built after 1980, you can either tackle your popcorn ceiling yourself or hire a professional to do it for you. A drywall professional will typically be able to offer the best results in this area.

To start, the popcorn texture must be scraped off the ceiling. This is a tedious and messy process, and it will probably uncover stains and other previously hidden flaws. To address these issues, the ceiling will typically need to be covered with multiple coats of drywall mud and retextured or sanded to a flat finish. Finally, paint and primer should be applied to complete the ceiling update.

3. HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL?

Experts say you can expect to pay about \$1.50 to \$3 per square foot to scrape, skim and retexture a popcorn ceiling, depending on the texture you choose and the height of your ceilings. A mottled texture known as a "knock-down" finish will typically be the least expensive option because it doesn't require the drywall professional to smooth every imperfection. A smooth ceiling finish will be the most expensive, as a flawless surface is the most difficult and time-consuming to achieve. Post-project painting will add to the overall cost.

4. SHOULD YOU HIRE A PRO OR DIY?

You'd expect updating your popcorn ceiling to be a



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

A popular design element between the 1950s and the 1980s, the texture of a popcorn ceiling is useful for hiding imperfections but is now considered outdated.

relatively simple DIY project. But it can be a messy and complicated process. And the debris and potential hazards involved make it one you might not want to mess with. If there's a chance that you may encounter asbestos - or if you

lack the time and experience it will take to successfully complete this project - it's probably well worth the cost to hire an appropriately licensed, insured and bonded professional. You can always save a little money by painting the finished new

ceiling yourself.

Megan Alderton is a reporter for Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers. Visit AngiesList.com.

10 modern home decorating ideas that'll transform any traditional space

By **GABRIELLE SAVOIE**
DOMAINE

Two rules interior designers consistently remind us about decorating are to keep in mind your home's original architecture and to try to stay true to your home's roots. This doesn't mean going full-blown Victorian with your furniture in a historic terrace home but rather to respect the original bones of the space, look for materials that were found in the era your home was created, and give a few nods to the time period in your decor. That said, you also don't want your home to feel as though it belongs in another era, so keeping that balance between traditional and modern home decorating is an art that could always use some fine-tuning.

Whether you've just moved into an Edwardian apartment in San Francisco or you're trying to give your Colonial house in Connecticut a little more edge, there are countless ways to modernize a traditional home. Of course, you could go ahead and browse contemporary shops to see what catches your eye, but if you need a little more direction, we have a few modern home decorating tricks for you below. Ready to give your home a modern flair? Just try a few of these easy updates.

1. HANG CONTEMPORARY ART

There are few things we love more than contemporary art juxtaposed with the thoughtful architectural detail of a traditional home. Seek out artwork with colors that complement your existing furnishings, and you've got a foolproof combination.

2. STACK YOUR BOOKS

Historically, books have always been arranged vertically in libraries,

so by stacking them horizontally you can easily give any room an updated look. To get super modern, create multiple stacks of books with several inches of space in between them. For a more transitional aesthetic, try a mix of vertically and horizontally arranged books.

3. BRIGHTEN UP

One of the simplest ways to freshen up any home is to integrate bright colors. A rich canary yellow will feel decidedly modern, while a bright yet soft mint green can create a youthful and traditional look. A Klein blue will instantly give your space a bold, modern edge. Choose your own adventure.

4. BE IN THE CLEAR

Be it a Lucite coffee table, a glass bar cart or an acrylic chandelier, a bit of transparency always lightens up the heaviness of dark woods and upholstered furniture you often see in traditional homes. Luckily, you don't have to worry about matching

as clear items blend right in! Add one piece for an instant contemporary touch.

5. STICK WITH SOLID COLORS

Fussy and intricate patterns can quickly take on a granny vibe, so if you want to modernize your space, sticking with solids is a safe way to do so. Use texture, mixed metals and finishes, and shapely furniture to add interest and keep the pattern to a minimum.

6. GO GLOBAL

European, American and Chinese furniture are common in traditional homes, so to infuse a little variety into the mix, seek out decor from Africa, South America, Southeast Asia or wherever life takes you. Vintage tiles or antique urns are a simple way to add a worldly flair to your space.

7. LAYER SIMILAR ELEMENTS

Displaying a series of art prints from the same collection is a staple in traditional decor, but

when it's a series of identical graphic prints, it feels decidedly bold. Is there another classic pattern or art movement you love? Lay it on thick for a twist on tradition.

8. CREATE AN UNEXPECTED MOMENT

We expect to see a console table and a mirror at the foot of a staircase, but what about a pair of chairs? Not so much. Or how about a low bench displaying leaning artwork and a single greenery branch? One wouldn't dare. Play around with unusual arrangements and surprising juxtapositions until you create something that wows you.

9. TRY A UNIQUE LAYOUT

Floating a daybed in the middle of a petite room isn't something one would naturally think of - unless you're an interior designer - but it works, and it's remarkably cozy. When it comes to your furniture layout, listen to your instinct, and then disregard it. You may love

what unfolds.

10. PLAY WITH SCALE

One of the easiest ways

to create a statement is to play with scale. Go big or go home.

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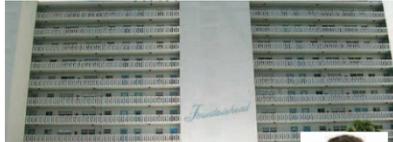




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Nurseries worthy of a Bohemian lullaby

By **KIM COOK**
RIGHT AT HOME

Traditional nursery decor tends to be a gently stirred mix of cute animals, soft hues and nicely matched furnishings. And there's much to be said for all that sweet serenity; these are rooms both peaceful and soothing.

But many parents and designers are looking to inject nurseries with a quirkier style sense, creating spaces that encourage creativity and individuality. Some want the nursery's decor to echo the decor in the rest of the home, and to have some longevity beyond the baby years.

These days, a baby's room might include global elements, like Moroccan rugs and poufs; carved wooden mirrors; French light fixtures; Indian tables or wall hangings. Handmade touches might include throws, baskets, artwork or garlands made by relatives, friends or a talented Etsy.com artist.

Boho nurseries tend to include imaginative prints and patterns, and the palette can range from neutral-with-a-twist to an all-out celebration of color. Eclectic, energetic and enchanting, boho nurseries are fun to decorate, and can be a visual feast for young children.

Los Angeles-based Justina Blakeney is an artist, designer and founder of the blog The Jungalow. Her latest book, "The New Bohemians Handbook" (Abrams, October 2017), gives readers painting, decorating and lifestyle tips.

"Boho style is about tapping into your free spirit and creativity," she says. "Since kids and babies have the freest spirits of all, it makes so much sense to me that their environments reflect that."

Blakeney advises taking an exuberant, upbeat approach, creating a child's room that's full of color, pattern and (non-toxic) plants.

She's just done a collection with Pottery Barn Kids that includes toy organizers, soft, plushy rugs, and a stick-on wallpaper called Jungalino.

"I also love to include things like disco balls, crystals and glow-in-the-dark elements that add sparkles, rainbows and magic to a room," she says.

"The artwork is based on an imaginary world I created for my daughter," she says. "The world is called Glump Glump Forest, and it's where all the fanciful creatures live."

Blakeney, who is biracial, likes bohemian style's inherent diversity, and designed a doll for the collection: "As a child, I never had dolls that looked like me. So I was very excited for the opportunity to design a doll with brown skin and curly hair for all the little girls that might feel the same way I did growing up."

Many mainstream retailers and smaller design studios are on the boho nursery trend.

Wallpaper is one quick way to amp up the sense of adventure in a nursery. Graham & Brown has a black-and-white illustrated London cityscape that would keep little minds busy exploring, while Anthropologie has Vouts studio's Garden Chinoiserie wall mural, full of hand-painted, oversize exotic birds,

flowers and vines.

Sydney Penner, an artist in Vancouver, British Columbia, with the Etsy site AneWallDecor, does moody murals of winter woods and forest creatures that might appeal to all ages.

And handcrafted elements can add charm and authenticity to a boho nursery. West Elm's got a collection of decorative mirrors made by Peruvian artisans that were inspired by the intricate carpentry in old colonial homes. Los Angeles artist Kim Baise sculpts mini versions of objects like ukuleles, fruit, birds and cowboy boots out of papier mache, and strings them into playful mobiles.

Also at West Elm: pretty snowglobes with colorful birds or cactus perched among the sparkles.

Interior designer and HGTV contributor Erica Reitman suggests adding kilim or faux sheepskin rugs, tribal textiles, abstract art and braided baskets.

"Larger baskets can hold toys or extra blankets, and smaller baskets can store extra diapers or burp cloths," she says.

Design studio Ace & Jig has a vibrant collection at Land of Nod that's based on antique textile patterns. A hand-tufted Indian and New Zealand wool rug features a bold, blue-and-white geometric motif. Toddler bedding comes in a black-and-white Southwestern pattern. And there's a style-savvy patchwork mat and tepee for play time.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This undated photo provided by Pottery Barn Kids shows a nursery decorated with items that are part of a new collection for Pottery Barn Kids, where Designer and author Justina Blakeney brings her imaginative, eclectic and playful style. Bold colors and hand drawn patterns are part of Blakeney's signature bohemian style, inspired by her travels and love of nature.



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This undated photo provided by Pottery Barn Kids shows a nursery decorated with items that are part of a new collection for Pottery Barn Kids, where Designer and author Justina Blakeney brings her imaginative, eclectic and playful style. Bold colors and hand drawn patterns are part of Blakeney's signature bohemian style, inspired by her travels and love of nature.



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This undated photo provided by Pottery Barn Kids shows a chair that is part of a new collection for Pottery Barn Kids, where Designer and author Justina Blakeney brings her imaginative, eclectic and playful style. Bold colors and hand drawn patterns are part of Blakeney's signature bohemian style, inspired by her travels and love of nature.



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This undated photo provided by West Elm shows a mobile by Los Angeles artist Kim Baise, where she sculpts mini versions of objects like ukuleles, fruit, birds and cowboy boots out of papier mache, and strings them into the playful mobiles. Showcasing decorative elements that are quirky, creative and fun give a boho nursery a unique look.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This undated photo provided by West Elm, shows a collection of decorative mirrors made by Peruvian artisans that were inspired by the intricate carpentry in old colonial homes. Global accents are key elements in a boho style nursery. Showcasing decorative elements that are quirky, creative and fun give a boho nursery a unique look.

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BOWL ROUNDUP

Penn State tops Washington; Iowa State beats Memphis; Mississippi State outlasts Louisville. **Page 4**

NFL: Bucs

Koetter still wants to groom Winston



TAMPA BAY TIMES PHOTO

Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Dirk Koetter gets another season to mold former top pick Jameis Winston into a top-flight quarterback.

By **RICK STROUD**
Tampa Bay Times

TAMPA — For the past three years, Jameis Winston has had a lot of people in his ear. Family, friends, fans — they all have taken turns telling him what they thought he needed to hear. But the voice he has had to trust the most belongs to Dirk Koetter.

He was the Bucs' offensive coordinator when Winston came to the NFL. As head coach, Koetter still is the play-caller and mentor entrusted to develop the

franchise quarterback and fulfill his promise as a No. 1 overall pick.

"Dirk has been here (since) my first year," Winston said. "He came in — then he was the OC — as the head coach, it has been kind of different, but Dirk is the man. I think he has taught me a lot, especially just me playing quarterback. You just don't understand that relationship in that quarterback room."

On Friday, Koetter and Winston learned that despite five straight losses and a 4-11 record, their relationship will

continue.

General manager Jason Licht has had discussions each week with the Glazer family that owns the Bucs about Koetter, about the direction of the team, about the many factors that have combined to produce a disappointing season.

The critiques have been sharp but honest. Injuries, especially the one to Winston's shoulder, are a big factor. The resources have been spent on the offense, to the detriment of the defense.

But they kept coming

to the same conclusion: Koetter, who was 9-7 in his first year as head coach, deserves the chance to return in 2018.

They agreed the outcome of the Saints game wasn't going to change their opinion. The only decision left was when to tell him.

So Friday afternoon, Licht walked into Koetter's office and told him he was the Bucs' head coach for 2018.

There still are evaluations to do with entire coaching staff, which

SEE WINSTON, 3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: Rose Bowl

SOONER TIME



AP PHOTO

Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield answers questions during his team's media appearance, Saturday. Oklahoma plays Georgia in an NCAA college football semifinal playoff game at the Rose Bowl on Monday, Jan. 1.

Mayfield set to push Oklahoma past Georgia in Rose Bowl

By **GREG BEACHAM**
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — You don't really think Baker Mayfield is the type of player to end his college football career with a whimper, do you?

The Heisman Trophy winner

is destined to go out with a bang, and Georgia will feel it in the Rose Bowl on Monday.

Oklahoma's swashbuckling quarterback lives for the big moments and craves the most daunting challenges. He propelled the Sooners (12-1) to a Big 12 title and into the

College Football Playoff semifinal during a season of coaching transition with a furious will and spectacular skill.

Mayfield's brilliance will be on full display when Oklahoma (12-1) beats the Bulldogs (12-1)

SEE SOONERS, 4

NFL: Saints



AP PHOTO

Atlanta Falcons strong safety Keanu Neal (22) tries to break up a pass intended for New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara (41) during the first half in New Orleans.

Saints' improvement through draft could be a model for Bucs

By **RICK STROUD**
Tampa Bay Times

TAMPA — The Bucs have had five head coaches in the past 10 years, a remarkable record of either impatience or incompetence for an organization that by all outward appearances seems dedicated to winning.

So the decision to give Dirk Koetter a third season despite a 13-18 record and no playoff appearances is not the norm for the Glazer family.

But in the NFL, with the draft and free agency, the system will work for those teams that stay the course and can identify talent.

Exhibit one is today's opponent, the New Orleans Saints.

After three consecutive 7-9 seasons, coach Sean Payton and Drew Brees were stuck in the gumbo muck of mediocrity. But if any team has shown that the distance from worst to first isn't that far to

SEE SAINTS, 3

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Duke 100, FSU 93

No. 4 Duke outlasts FSU

By **JOEDY MCCREARY**
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Marvin Bagley III and Wendell Carter Jr. kept cleaning up plenty of misses for No. 4 Duke. Florida State had no way to stop them, especially down the stretch

when the Seminoles' shots stopped falling.

Bagley had 32 points and a season-best 21 rebounds, and the Blue Devils pulled away to beat No. 24 Florida State 100-93 on Saturday.

SEE FSU, 3

INDEX | Lottery 2 | NBA 2 | NHL 2 | College Basketball 2 | World Juniors Hockey 3 | College Football 4 | Scoreboard 5 | NFL week 17 preview 6

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Florida Lottery

www.flalottery.com

PICK 2

Dec. 30N..... 1-3
Dec. 30D..... 6-0
Dec. 29N..... 5-1
Dec. 29D..... 6-3
Dec. 28N..... 8-1
Dec. 28D..... 8-6
D-Day, N-Night

PICK 3

Dec. 30N..... 1-4-1
Dec. 30D..... 7-5-9
Dec. 29N..... 5-9-1
Dec. 29D..... 5-4-3
Dec. 28N..... 9-7-8
Dec. 28D..... 6-7-9
D-Day, N-Night

PICK 4

Dec. 30N..... 7-0-6-9
Dec. 30D..... 2-0-2-7
Dec. 29N..... 1-6-9-3
Dec. 29D..... 4-0-2-2
Dec. 28N..... 2-8-0-1
Dec. 28D..... 6-4-8-3
D-Day, N-Night

PICK 5

Dec. 30N..... 1-5-9-5-2
Dec. 30D..... 0-5-4-3-5
Dec. 29N..... 6-7-9-7-0
Dec. 29D..... 5-8-6-7-1
Dec. 28N..... 8-6-3-5-9
Dec. 28D..... 0-4-9-7-3
D-Day, N-Night

FANTASY 5

Dec. 30..... 6-11-17-31-33
Dec. 29..... 11-20-23-33-36
Dec. 28..... 3-6-7-27-33

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 30
2.5-digit winners \$127,112.24
354.4-digit winners \$115.50
11,141.3-digit winners \$10.00

CASH FOR LIFE

Dec. 28..... 9-14-24-41-46
Cash Ball 2
Dec. 25..... 12-18-34-42-57
Cash Ball 3

SPORTS ON TV

(All times Eastern)
Schedule subject to change and/or blackouts

SUNDAY, DEC. 31

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Noon
BTN — Savannah St. at Michigan St.
2:30 p.m.
FS1 — Providence at Creighton
4 p.m.
ESPNU — Memphis at Cincinnati
ESPNEWS — UCF at East Carolina
5 p.m.
FS1 — St. John's at Seton Hall
6 p.m.
ESPN — Georgia at Kentucky
ESPN2 — South Carolina at Mississippi
ESPNU — Virginia Tech at Syracuse
8 p.m.
ESPNU — South Florida at SMU
9 p.m.
ESPN2 — Washington St. at Southern Cal
CRICKET
2 a.m. (Monday)
NBCSN — Big Bash League, Sydney Thunder vs. Hobart
NFL FOOTBALL
1 p.m.
CBS — Regional coverage
FOX — Regional coverage
4:25 p.m.
CBS — Regional coverage
FOX — Regional coverage

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 28
0.....5-of-5 CB..... \$1,000/Day
0.....5-of-5..... \$1,000/Week
4.....4-of-5 CB..... \$2,500
4.....4-of-5..... \$500

LUCKY MONEY

Dec. 29..... 20-21-22-29
Lucky Ball 15
Dec. 26..... 5-13-31-40
Lucky Ball 2

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 29
0.....4-of-4 LB..... \$2 Million
2.....4-of-4..... \$7,508.50
46.....3-of-4 LB..... \$713.50
800.....3-of-4..... \$121.50

LOTTO

Dec. 30..... 1-5-9-25-52-53
Dec. 27..... 6-16-30-31-51-53
Dec. 23... 14-16-17-35-46-50

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 30
0.6-digit winners \$10 million
42.5-digit winners \$2,839.50
1,890.4-digit winners \$54.50

POWERBALL

Dec. 30..... 28-36-41-51-58
Powerball 24
Dec. 27..... 3-9-16-56-60
Powerball 3

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 27
0.....5 of 5 + PB ..\$337 Million
0.....5 of 5 \$1 million
6.....4 of 5 + PB \$50,000
63.....4 of 5 \$500
ESTIMATED JACKPOT
\$384 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Dec. 29..... 4-10-18-28-62
Mega Ball 7
Dec. 26..... 10-12-20-38-41
Mega Ball 25

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 29
0.....5 of 5 + MB. \$306 Million
1.....5 of 5 \$1 Million
1.....4 of 5 + MB \$10,000
30.....4 of 5 \$500
ESTIMATED JACKPOT
\$306 million

RUGBY

2:30 p.m.
NBCSN — English Premiership, Exeter vs. Leicester (same-day tape)

SOCCER

7 a.m.
NBCSN — Premier League, Crystal Palace vs. Manchester City
11:30 a.m.
NBCSN — Premier League, West Bromwich Albion vs. Arsenal

WINTER SPORTS

1 p.m.
NBC — U.S. Olympic Trials: Ski Jumping, at Park City, Utah

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Noon
ESPNU — Tulane at South Florida
SEC — Tennessee at Kentucky
2 p.m.
BTN — Maryland at Penn St.
ESPN2 — Indiana at Ohio St.
ESPNU — Texas Tech at Baylor
SEC — Texas A&M at South Carolina
4 p.m.
BTN — Michigan at Iowa
ESPN2 — Florida at Auburn
SEC — Vanderbilt at LSU
4:30 p.m.
FSN — West Virginia at Texas
6 p.m.
SEC — Mississippi St. at Georgia

NBA: Heat 117, Magic 111

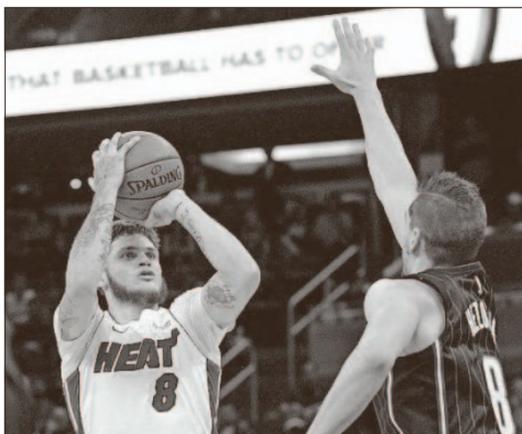
Heat rally from 18 down behind Tyler Johnson to upend Magic

By **IRA WINDERMAN**
Sun Sentinel (TNS)

ORLANDO — It took desperation — and a healthy dose of Tyler Johnson — for the Miami Heat to move within striking distance after a first half Saturday night at the Amway Center that picked up where Friday's blowout loss to the Brooklyn Nets at American Airlines Arena left off.

Down 18 early in the third, the Heat rallied behind 22 third-quarter points from Johnson, to create a nail-biter, and then a much-needed victory.

And that's when Erik Spoelstra's team dug in, moving to a 117-111



Miami Heat guard Tyler Johnson (8) goes up to shoot in front of Orlando Magic guard Mario Hezonja (8), right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday in Orlando. The Heat won 117-111.

AP PHOTO

victory to go into the New Year's break at

19-17. Johnson led the Heat

NBA ROUNDUP

Short-handed Pistons shut down Spurs in win

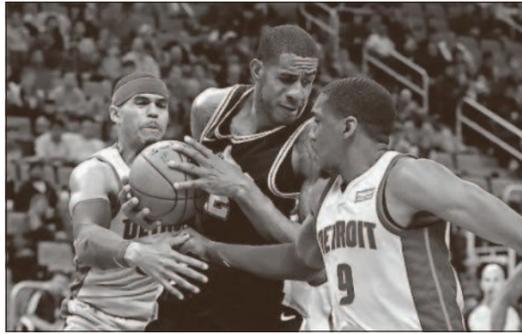
Associated Press

DETROIT — Andre Drummond had 14 points and 21 rebounds, and the Detroit Pistons held San Antonio to its lowest point total of the season in a 93-79 victory over the Spurs on Saturday night.

Playing without starting guards Reggie Jackson (right ankle sprain) and Avery Bradley (sore right groin), the Pistons defended gamely and never trailed. Reggie Bullock scored 22 points for Detroit and rookie Luke Kennard added 20 — both were career highs.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points for San Antonio, which shot 37 percent from the field and 5 of 26 from 3-point range.

Detroit led 24-13 after the first, which equaled San Antonio's lowest-scoring quarter of the season. It was 35-20 before the Pistons hit a dry spell of their own



San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) pulls down a rebound between Detroit Pistons forward Tobias Harris, left, and guard Langston Galloway (9) during the first half, Saturday in Detroit.

AP PHOTO

toward the end of the half. A 16-4 run by the Spurs left Detroit with only a three-point lead at halftime.

The Pistons managed to maintain their advantage, though. Kennard's outside shooting gave Detroit a lift on a night when neither team was impressive offensively, and Bullock was sharp throughout in just his 12th start of the season.

Detroit led 63-57 after three quarters, and it

looked like it would be a tense game down the stretch, but the Pistons broke it open early in the fourth. A layup by Bullock after a San Antonio turnover made it 78-63.

Knicks 105, Pelicans 103: Kristaps Porzingis scored 30 points, Jarrett Jack made two free throws to break a tie with 9 seconds remaining and the New York Knicks defeated the New Orleans Pelicans. Jack finished with 15 points, and Michael Beasley scored

with 31 points, supported by 25 from Goran Dragic and 17 from Kelly Olynyk. Center Hassan Whiteside added nine points and 13 rebounds for the Magic.

Aaron Gordon led the Magic with 39 points, the most by a Heat opponent this season, eclipsing the 38 of Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love, with Magic teammate Evan Fournier adding 23.

The Heat again were without Dion Waiters, James Johnson, Justice Winslow, Rodney McGruder and Okaro White, with the Magic without Jonathon Isaac, Terrence Ross and Nikola Vucevic.

NHL ROUNDUP

Panthers down Canadiens for fifth straight victory

Associated Press

SUNRISE — As the odor of desperation puffed from the visitor's bench on Saturday night at the BB&T Center, the scent of confidence emanated from the Florida Panthers' dressing room. The stench of a three-game losing streak followed the Montreal Canadiens. The perfume of a four-game winning streak hovered over the Panthers.

Two teams going opposite directions met on the ice. With a 2-0 Panthers win, the separation widened.

Florida continued its push to reenter the play-off picture in the Eastern Conference with its fifth straight win. Montreal's tumble down the Atlantic Division worsened. And for the first time since the season's third game, the Panthers (17-16-5, 39 points) rose above .500.

Connor Brickley's goal in the second period gave the Panthers a lead, and James Reimer made sure Florida kept it. Brickley's goal was his second in four games, and punctured the barrier named Carey Price. Vincent Trocheck added a goal at 11:49 of the third period to extend the Panthers' lead.

It was Reimer's second shutout in his last three games.



Florida Panthers' Connor Brickley (23) celebrates after scoring a goal against the Montreal Canadiens as teammates Denis Malgin (62), of Switzerland, and Vincent Trocheck, top right, follow during the second period of an NHL hockey game Saturday in Sunrise.

AP PHOTO

Price came up big in the first period for the Canadiens (16-19-4, 36 points), keeping the game goalless as both teams traded chances. But Brickley's quick shot from the left dot changed that. After Mark Pysyk fired a shot from the point that hit Brickley in front of the net, he gathered the puck and swung it on Price.

It beat Price short side, sending Brickley into a celebration that matched his fourth goal of the season. He turned to the Florida bench and dropped on to his left knee. He wound his left arm and brushed the ice before his teammates joined him.

CAPITALS 5, DEVILS 2: Nicklas Backstrom and John Carlson had a goal and two assists each, Alex Ovechkin had three assists and the Washington Capitals beat the New Jersey Devils 5-2 on Saturday night to move atop the Metropolitan Division.

Braden Holtby stopped 25 shots as Washington won its eighth straight home game. Christian Djoos had a goal and an assist, and Tom Wilson and Matt Niskanen also scored for the Capitals.

New Jersey had gone eight games without a regulation loss. John Moore scored ate in the first period and Travis Zajac midway through the third. Corey Schneider stopped 30 shots.

Marcus Johansson played in his first game as a visitor in Washington after seven seasons with the Capitals and assisted on both goals.

BRUINS 5, SENATORS 0: Ryan Spooner scored twice and Tuukka Rask made 25 saves in the Boston Bruins' victory over the Ottawa Senators. Noel Acciari, David Krejci and Patrice Bergeron also scored for the Bruins, 5-1 winners over the Senators on Wednesday night in Boston. Rask had his second shutout of the season and 40th overall. Mike Condon stopped 29 shots for the Senators. Ottawa was shut out five times in December, going 4-8-2 in the month.

ORANGE BOWL: Wisconsin 34, Miami 24
Hornibrook's four TDs carry Badgers over Miami

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS — Alex Hornibrook threw four touchdown passes, three of them to Danny Davis, and No. 6 Wisconsin capped off the winningest season in school history by topping No. 11 Miami 34-24 in the Orange Bowl on Saturday night.

Jonathan Taylor capped his record-setting freshman season with 130 rushing yards on 26 carries for the Badgers (13-1), who

rallied from an early 14-3 deficit. Taylor finished the year with an FBS-freshman-record 1,977 yards.

A.J. Taylor also had a scoring catch for Wisconsin — one where he mimicked ripping Miami's "Turnover Chain" off the neck of teammate Kendrick Pryor.

The Badgers dominated time of possession, holding the ball for nearly 40 minutes. Hornibrook completed 23 of 34 passes for 258 yards, going 20 for 25 in the final three quarters.

WINSTON

From Page 1

will begin Monday. But Licht believed this news would provide some positive energy for players to end the week.

Of course, the news may not sit well with disillusioned fans, who thought the buzzards were circling. They want instant gratification over growth.

Fueling the fire-Koetter movement was the belief that Jon Gruden, the former Super Bowl-winning coach who was inducted into the team's Ring of Honor Dec. 18, was considering leaving ESPN's Monday Night Football for a return to the sideline.

But both sides insisted Saturday that there was never one discussion about Gruden coaching the Bucs.

No failed negotiations. No unrealistic demands. It didn't happen.

"Bucs are in good shape," Gruden said in a text Saturday.

The truth is that Koetter and Licht have a lot of work to do.

Licht, who had a club option in his contract for 2018 picked up by the Bucs earlier this year, has to focus on rebuilding the mostly neglected defense with pass rushers and defensive backs through the draft and free agency. The Bucs are last in the NFL with 20 sacks, a prime reason why they can't close out games and are 2-5 in contests decided by one score.

The Bucs also have to get better at running the football. They will move on from Doug Martin, but the offensive line has to do a better job of being physical and moving people.

There could be changes on Koetter's staff. He may decide to give up the play-calling. Some believe defensive coordinator Mike Smith will be fired or at least re-assigned, but Koetter will likely prefer to let him soldier on.

The biggest improvement may have to come from Winston.

Since returning from his injury, he has never thrown the football better. The past four weeks, Winston leads the league in passer rating (114.5) and yards per attempt (9.25) while ranking third in completion percentage (72.0), fourth in passing yards (1,221) and tied for fourth in passing touchdowns with eight.

But when Winston came to the NFL, there were two glaring warning signs: He was careless with the football; and he lacked maturity.

While Winston has cut down on his interception rate by 35 percent this season, for the second year in a row he is tied for the league lead in lost fumbles.

Emotionally, Winston's outbursts have increased with the frustration of losing. He also is under investigation for allegations that he groped a female Uber driver in Arizona in 2016.

"There is a lot to put on a guy's plate that can paralyze you if you are not careful (with) a young quarterback," offensive coordinator Todd Monken said. "It can. You've got the weight of a franchise that is dying to win, and it is put on him a lot and having to fight through all of that."

But fight on, they will. Koetter and Winston, together for at least one more year.

HOCKEY: World Juniors



Canada goalie Carter Hart protects the net against the United States' Adam Fox, right, during the second period in an IIHF world junior hockey championships outdoor game in Orchard Park, N.Y. Friday.

AP PHOTOS

US rallies to 4-3 shootout win

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Out of the way, Canada. Brady Tkachuk and the Americans are just fine when it comes to handling snow and ice.

Tkachuk and Kieffer Bellows found plenty enough traction on a snow-covered rink to score shootout goals and cap the United States' 4-3 victory over Canada on Friday in international hockey's first outdoor game at a junior world championships.

Much like they did the similar two times against Canada at the world junior hockey championship, the defending gold-medal-winning Americans overcame a two-goal deficit by scoring twice in a span of 34 seconds in the third period.

"It just made it better with the snow coming down and the fans' excitement. You could definitely feel it," Tkachuk said of a game played with snow persistently falling from the opening faceoff. "We knew we were taking it to them in the second and third period and Coach was saying, if one goes in, two go in."

A snowball effect, perhaps. And it happened in front of a world junior tournament record crowd of 44,592 — some going shirtless in celebrating the bitter elements — at the NFL Buffalo Bills' home, New Era Field. The Americans (1-1-1) showed resolve in not only beating their cross-border



Finland's Aleksii Heponiemi skates against Slovakia during the first period of IIHF World Junior Championship preliminary hockey action in Buffalo, N.Y. Saturday.

rivals, but overcoming the disappointment of a 3-2 loss to Slovakia on Thursday.

"That talks a lot about our group and the locker room and how close we are as a family," Bellows said. "There was never a doubt in the whole entire locker room or on the bench at any point."

Tkachuk and Ron Perunovich scored in the third period, while Casey Mittelstadt had three assists to take over the tournament lead with six points (two goals, four assists). Bellows scored his tournament leading fourth goal, and goalie Jake Oettinger stopped 19 shots through overtime and all four he faced in the shootout.

Boris Katchouk, Cale Makar and Dillon Dube scored for Canada (2-0-1), which has lost four straight meetings to the Americans.

It was a familiar and disappointing result for goalie Carter Hart, who was also lost the championship game to the U.S. in January.

"Last year doesn't matter at all," said Hart, who stopped 32 shots through overtime Friday. "Tomorrow, we get the chance to finish in first place, so that's what on our mind's now."

By earning a point for the shootout loss, Canada still has the edge in the Group A standings in being two points ahead of the Americans. The Canadians can clinch top spot with a win in their preliminary round finale against Denmark (0-3) on Saturday.

In the only other tournament game, St. Louis Blues draft pick Klim Kostin scored twice in leading Russia (2-1) to a 5-2 win over Belarus (0-3). Russia clinched a Group B

berth in the quarter-final round Tuesday. Belarus closes the preliminary round against the Czech Republic on Saturday and is in jeopardy of finishing last in five-team Group B standings.

Bellows scored on the Americans' first shootout chance by snapping a shot through Hart's legs. Then Tkachuk scored by firing a shot in the top right corner.

Down 3-1, Perunovich cut the lead to 3-2 from the slot by capping a give-and-go passing play with Mittelstadt with 13:51 left. Mittelstadt, the Buffalo Sabres' first-round pick, then set up Tkachuk in front for the tying goal by gathering a loose puck behind the net after Canadian defenseman Kale Clague lost his stick. The Americans drew upon last year's win over Canada, in which they trailed 4-2.

SAINTS

From Page 1

travel, it's the Saints.

"I think oftentimes, our case in point, you're a good draft class away from a season turning really in a completely different direction," Payton said. "And I think the importance of the procurement of your players, be it through the draft and also through free agency, can't be undervalued."

The Saints will win the NFC South today with a victory over the Bucs. Both Payton and Brees point to the contributions they have gotten from an outstanding rookie class that includes two Pro Bowl players — RB Alvin Kamara and CB Marshon Lattimore.

Lattimore and RT Ryan Ramczyk fell to the Saints at 11 and 32 overall because they were coming off injuries. Utah S Marcus Williams

slid to No. 42. Then the Saints did something smart and traded back into the third round to select Kamara No. 67 overall.

"It's unusual. You're always hopeful and optimistic after a draft that you hit on players, and then when you look at Lattimore and some of the plays he's been able to make and then, of course, Alvin Kamara — look, it was important for us as a team to be right on so many of those picks," Payton said.

Kamara has helped provide balance for the Saints offense. He has produced 1,426 yards rushing (684 yards, seven touchdowns) and receiving (75 catches, 742 yards, five TDs). That, combined with Mark Ingram's 1,089 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns, has taken a lot of the pressure off Brees.

In fact, Kamara made such an immediate

impact that the Saints traded RB Adrian Peterson to the Cardinals after five games.

"What we realized through training camp and early in the season was, 'Wow, Alvin Kamara, this guy, we're holding him back if he's not on the field,'" Brees said. "We're stunting his growth if we can't get him more reps."

The Bucs also netted several starters and big contributors in TE O.J. Howard, S Justin Evans, WR Chris Godwin and LB Kendall Beckwith. Evans was picked 17 spots ahead of Kamara, who certainly could've helped the Bucs' ground game.

The point is, with patience and the right players, the Bucs could turn things around in 2018.

Free agent fallout

The ugly incident in the Bucs locker room following their 22-19

loss at Carolina involving DT Chris Baker was a long time brewing. Baker had a critical encroachment penalty on fourth and 3 at the Tampa Bay 5-yard with the Bucs clinging to a four-point lead. To make matters worse, he had just been warned by DT Gerald McCoy and others to watch the hard count.

The penalty made an easy fourth-and-1 conversion for RB Jonathan Stewart, and QB Cam Newton scored the go-ahead TD a play later.

Apparently, Baker was all smiles in the locker room and showed no remorse for his penalty, and several players loudly and profanely called him out for it. Several coaches wish players had imparted that kind of accountability on Baker in training camp when his laziness was merely a punchline at the rookie talent show. Nobody was laughing last

FSU

From Page 1

Fellow freshman Carter added 14 points and a season-high 16 rebounds, Grayson Allen scored 22 points and Trevon Duval scored 11 of his 16 in the second half to help the Blue Devils (13-1, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) win a back-and-forth game that had 14 lead changes and the feel of March.

"We couldn't stop each other," coach Mike Krzyzewski said, "and the will to score and will to win was evident every second from both teams. For us to win that game is sensational for our group."

Phil Cofer scored a career-high 28 points and Braian Angola finished with a career-best 23 for the Seminoles (11-2, 0-1), who shot nearly 45 percent and hit 15 3-pointers. Angola's 3 with just under 4 minutes remaining put them up 91-89, but they missed their final eight shots — six of which came from long range.

"I thought our kids were connected. We just didn't have an answer for keeping Bagley and Carter off the glass," coach Leonard Hamilton said. "They are such good athletes and have such great hands and timing and strength. ... That made the difference in the game. When you have two guys like that, they make up for misses."

Bagley and Carter combined for 37 rebounds — two more than the entire Seminoles team — and they helped Duke impose its will inside when it counted most. Of Duke's final 12 field goals during the last 10 1/2 minutes, all but one were layups or dunks.

Duval and Carter teamed to make several key plays down the stretch for the Blue Devils, with Krzyzewski saying he told Duval that "we're not going to call a play. Just go. And he went."

Duval hit a twisting layup that tied it at 93 with about 3 minutes left, then found an uncovered Carter underneath a possession later for the go-ahead dunk.

Carter — playing with four fouls — then drew a key charge on Trent Forrest on Florida State's next trip downcourt and Duval hit on another acrobatic drive two possessions later to make it 97-93 and make it a two-possession game to stay.

"I was just in the moment where I saw him driving at me, and during the scouting report, I knew he wasn't going to stop on a dime or dish it over," Carter said.

Sunday.

Baker earned \$6 million this season for his 31 tackles and half sack. He has no more guaranteed money after 2017, so it's unlikely he will be back next season.

The cautionary tale is that not many great players make it to free agency. It's a buyer beware system, and in this case, Baker didn't help the locker room.

The same can be said for the acquisition of S T.J. Ward for one year and \$4 million. Ward believed he was coming to be a starter, not a rotational player behind Evans and Chris Conte. That's on the Bucs.

In the case of WR DeSean Jackson, his 50 catches for 668 yards and three TDs had more to do with QB Jameis Winston's inaccuracy on the deep ball as anything else. He has \$23.5 million guaranteed in his first two years of his contract, so he will likely be back in 2018.

FIESTA BOWL: Penn State 35, Washington 28

No. 9 Penn State tops No. 12 Washington

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Trace McSorley threw for 342 yards and two touchdowns, Saquon Barkley ran for two more scores and No. 9 Penn State outlasted No. 12 Washington 35-28 in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday.

Penn State (11-2), No. 9 in the final College Football Rankings, had its way with Washington's vaunted defense early, building a 28-7 lead by the second quarter. Washington (10-3) woke up from an offensive slumber with two touchdowns and pulled to 35-28 on Myles Gaskins' 69-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

The Huskies, No. 11 CFP, allowed Penn State to work the clock to under a minute on the next drive and gave up a season-high 545 total yards.

Washington had a shot with a desperation play of multiple laterals and passes, but Dante Pettis passed up a chance to



AP PHOTO

Washington wide receiver Aaron Fuller (12) pulls in a touchdown pass as Penn State linebacker Jason Cabinda (40) defends during the second half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football game Saturday in Glendale, Ariz.

step out of bounds to set up another play, and threw a final lateral that was intercepted.

Washington had the nation's top run defense during the regular

season, allowing 92 yards per game, but Barkley matched that on one run in the second quarter. Barkley had 137 of the Nittany Lions' 203 yards rushing.

Penn State also was 13 for 17 on third downs, including touchdown passes by McSorley and three conversions on its final clock-draining drive.

The Nittany Lions lost a chance at the CFP with consecutive losses to Ohio State and No. 24 Michigan State, but ended up in a familiar place: The Fiesta Bowl, where they had not lost in six previous trips.

Penn State raced toward No. 7 by going to the air early against the run-stingy Huskies.

McSorley picked Washington's secondary apart, hitting nine receivers for 219 yards in the first half. He connected with DaeSean Hamilton on a 48-yard touchdown pass on the opening drive, and set up scoring runs of 2 yards by Barkley and 1 yard by Miles Sanders.

Barkley then did it all himself, bursting through the left side for a 92-yard touchdown run to put Penn State up 28-7.

The Nittany Lions had 367 yards by halftime against a defense that allowed 277.4 yards per game during the regular season.

Washington was in the Fiesta Bowl for the first time, but it was not the first go-round for Huskies coach Chris Petersen; he made a name for himself by trick-playing Boise State to a pair of Fiesta victories.

Petersen reached into his trick-play bag to spark Washington from an early funk, calling a double pass that led to 52-yard gain to tight end Drew Sample. That set up Jake Browning's 1-yard TD dive.

The Huskies turned a recovered fumble into a much-needed touchdown just before halftime, cutting Penn State's lead to 28-14 on Gaskin's 13-yard run.

Another big score came right after halftime: Browning's 28 yards to Aaron Fuller.

Washington's defense continued to have trouble slowing the Nittany Lions and McSorley threw another TD pass to Hamilton, a 24-yarder to put Penn State up 35-21.

LIBERTY BOWL: Iowa State 21, Memphis 20

Iowa State edges No. 19 Memphis in Liberty Bowl

By STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Iowa State proved its season-long bid to raise its standards was more than just a slogan.

Allen Lazard tied a Liberty Bowl record with 10 catches and put Iowa State ahead with a remarkable 5-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter Saturday, and the Cyclones beat No. 19 Memphis 21-20 on the Tigers' home field.

The victory gave Iowa State (8-5) its first bowl victory since a 2009 Insight Bowl triumph and marked the Cyclones' third win over a Top 25 team this season. That's the step forward Iowa State had in mind when it made "Raise The Standard" its team motto.

"The thing that finally resonates in our program is that this can happen, not only with our players but the people outside of our program, that success and winning football games at Ames, Iowa, can really happen," Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said.

Iowa State's progress was evident in the way it held on to win after its only lost fumble of the season. Iowa State was attempting to become the first Football Bowl Subdivision team to go an entire season without losing a fumble.

The Cyclones led 21-20 and had third-and-goal from the 1 when David Montgomery fumbled as he was crossing the



AP PHOTO

Iowa State players celebrate with their trophy after beating Memphis in the Liberty Bowl NCAA college football game Saturday in Memphis, Tenn. Iowa State won 21-20.

goal line. As replay officials reviewed the play, Campbell told his players he hoped the call wasn't overturned because it would enable the Cyclones to show how they'd matured since a heartbreaking 20-19 loss to Kansas State in their regular-season finale.

"Coach was out there preaching to us in the defensive huddle this is what we wanted, to show people that we'd learned from what we'd been through," Iowa State linebacker Joel Lanning said.

Memphis (10-3) drove to the Iowa State 40 but lost the ball when Riley Ferguson over-threw Phil Mayhue on fourth-and-10 with 1:52 remaining. Iowa State ran out the clock from there.

"It was kind of hard getting the ball out, but at the same time, I've got to find a way to make a play," said Ferguson, who went 21 of 33 for 286 yards and two touchdowns but

was sacked six times. "There on the last play, I've got to find a way to make that throw to Phil, no matter whether I have pressure on my face or not."

Iowa State pulled ahead 21-17 with 4:28 left in the third quarter when Kyle Kempt's pass appeared to get deflected just before Lazard caught it in the back of the end zone.

The touchdown came after a roughing-the-passer penalty on Genard Avery wiped out an interception by Memphis' Curtis Akins and gave the Cyclones first-and-goal.

"I was just playing the play out," Avery said. "I feel like it was a bad call."

Lazard had 142 yards receiving in his final college game and was named the Liberty Bowl's most valuable player. The only other players to catch 10 passes in a Liberty Bowl were Louisville's Deion Branch in 2000 and Arkansas' Bobby Joe Edmonds in 1984.

SOONERS

From Page 1

in the Granddaddy of Them All and advances to Atlanta.

Don't believe it? Ask Georgia coach Kirby Smart, who understands the intangibles facing his Bulldogs in the 6-foot body of a brilliant football player.

"The guy is a winner," Smart said of Mayfield. "He's a gunslinger. He is every defensive coordinator's nightmare."

The Rose Bowl has seen its share of phenomenal quarterback performances in the past

decade. Mark Sanchez, Andy Dalton, Marcus Mariota and Sam Darnold have all carved up defenses on Pasadena's hallowed turf, and Mayfield is poised to become the latest name in the record books.

Oklahoma has the nation's most productive offense at 583.3 yards per game and 8.44 yards per play, and its passing game is a work of art averaging 12.03 yards per attempt, easily the biggest number in the FBS.

Mayfield would be among the nation's best players even if he never left the pocket — but

when he does, he is one of the most elusive, confounding quarterbacks in football.

Mayfield has passed for 4,340 yards with 41 touchdowns and only five interceptions.

He is a remarkably efficient and exceptionally careful with the ball, and he runs the sophisticated nuances of coach Lincoln Riley's complex run-pass option schemes to perfection.

Georgia's defense is among the nation's best, but it hasn't seen anything as good as Oklahoma's offense.

Georgia's pass defense in particular is superb,

allowing a mere 5.58 yards per attempt — second-best in the FBS. But even the Bulldogs realize they haven't faced any passers on Mayfield's level during their SEC schedule.

Left tackle Orlando Brown and Oklahoma's outstanding offensive line — which allowed only 30 quarterback pressures all year — are ideally equipped to keep its quarterback upright against star Lorenzo Carter and Georgia's other speedy, physical pass rushers.

And even if Mayfield struggles to find open receivers against the

Bulldogs' excellent linebackers, the Sooners could run the ball. After all, they averaged 5.6 yards per rush this season, 13th in the nation.

The degree of difficulty in the Rose Bowl is likely to decline a bit when Georgia's deliberately paced offense takes on an Oklahoma defense that has looked good and poor at different points of the season. The Bulldogs' three-headed running game led by Nick Chubb is very effective, but the Sooners will be eager to test freshman Bulldogs quarterback

Jake Fromm, who excels as a game manager but is vulnerable to pass pressure.

By most measures, this game is a fascinating matchup of contrasting styles, strengths and strategies. After adding up every variable, these teams look remarkably even.

Except that Mayfield is in the final weeks of a historic career with the chance to take his place among the game's greats.

Don't be surprised when he plants his flag in the middle of Rose Bowl.

Prediction: Oklahoma 42, Georgia 31.

TAXSLAYER BOWL: Mississippi State 31, Louisville 27

Thompson carries Miss State to victory in TaxSlayer Bowl

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — It likely was Lamar Jackson's farewell performance.

It definitely was Keytaon Thompson's coming-out party.

Thompson, a highly touted freshman making his first start in place of injured quarterback Nick Fitzgerald, ran for 147 yards and three touchdowns to help No. 24 Mississippi State beat Jackson and Louisville 31-27 in the TaxSlayer Bowl on Saturday.

"He was phenomenal," Bulldogs interim coach Greg Knox said.

Thompson completed 11 of 20 passes for 127 yards, with an interception. He was more effective as a runner, carrying on 27 of the team's 55 running plays.

"We knew that's what he did best," Knox said. "If you go back and look at Mississippi State over the year, when Nick Fitzgerald ran the ball for a hundred yards, we were winning games. So we knew he had to run the ball today."

"We didn't care if he was a freshman. We didn't care if he was starting his first game. We knew we could scheme some things up for him to run the ball, and he could have success."

Thompson scored twice in the fourth quarter, including a 1-yard plunge with 3:39 remaining that put the Bulldogs (9-4) ahead for good.

Jackson had the Cardinals (8-5) on the move late,



AP PHOTO

Mississippi State quarterback Keytaon Thompson (10) crosses the goal line to score a touchdown while being tackled by Louisville cornerback Russ Yeast, left, during the second half of the TaxSlayer Bowl NCAA college football game Saturday in Jacksonville.

but safety Mark McLaurin intercepted his third pass of the game. Jackson got another chance in the waning seconds following a failed, fourth-down conversation. But his desperation heave was batted away in the end zone.

That set off a wild and tearful celebration for Mississippi State, which stuck together despite losing coach Dan Mullen and a number of assistants to Florida. Knox got doused on the sideline. Players ripped off jerseys in 50-degree temperatures and danced in the end zone.

"The last three, four weeks we've been together, it's been a tough time for everyone," Knox said. "A lot of emotions. ... I think that's what you saw on the field. It was a chance for everyone to just breathe a sigh of relief and say, 'Thank you God for this win.'"

Jackson, the 2016 Heisman Trophy winner,

had different emotions after probably ending his college career with a loss. Jackson has yet to declare for the NFL draft, but most outsiders believe the dynamic junior will turn pro.

"I got to sit down with my coach and my family," he said.

If he is leaving, he went out setting records.

Jackson ran 24 times for 158 yards and a touchdown, breaking the TaxSlayer Bowl record for most rushing yards by a quarterback. West Virginia's Pat White set the previous mark with 145 yards in 2007. He also broke his own school records for rushing yards and yards from scrimmage.

He had the longest run of his career, a 75-yarder late in the second quarter, and a 13-yard TD scamper earlier in the game in which he split two defenders and made another look silly. He also had a flip pass to Jaylen Smith for a score.

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL INJURY REPORT

The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT: definitely will not play; DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: full participation):

Today
N.Y. JETS at NEW ENGLAND — **JETS:** OUT: T Brandon Shell (concussion). **DOUBTFUL:** TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins (ribs/foot). **QUESTIONABLE:** DE Kory Ealy (knee), RB Matt Forte (knee), RB Akeem Judd (ankle). **PATRIOTS:** OUT: DT Alan Branch (knee), RB Rex Burkhead (knee), RB Mike Gillislee (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** WR Chris Hogan (shoulder), DE Eric Lee (ankle/finger), S Devin McCourty (shoulder), WR Matt Slater (hamstring), LB Kyle Van Noy (caif), T LaAdrian Waddle (ankle), RB James White (ankle).
WASHINGTON at N.Y. GIANTS — **REDSKINS:** OUT: LB Ryan Anderson (knee), LB Zach Brown (illness/knee/Achilles), DL Ziggy Hood (elbow). **QUESTIONABLE:** WR Robert Davis (concussion), LB Martrel Spaight (illness/ankle), WR Maurice Harris (back), G Kyle Kalis (ankle), DL Terrell McClain (toe), LB Ryan Kerrigan (caif). **GIANTS:** OUT: TE Evan Engram (rib), WR Tavares King (concussion), WR Sterling Shepard (neck). **QUESTIONABLE:** OT Ereck Flowers (groin), OT Bobby Hart (ankle).
CHICAGO at MINNESOTA — **BEARS:** **DOUBTFUL:** OL Bobby Massie (knee), OL Josh Sitton (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** DB DeAndre Houston-Carson (back), TE Adam Shaheen (chest). **VIKINGS:** OUT: CB Tramaine Brock (foot), C Pat Elflein (shoulder), LS Kevin McDermott (shoulder), DT Shamar Stephen (ankle).
DALLAS at PHILADELPHIA — **COWBOYS:** OUT: DE David Irving (concussion), DE Benson Mayowa (back/illness). **QUESTIONABLE:** DT Richard Ash (shoulder), WR Cole Beasley (illness), T La'el Collins (back), RB Rod Smith (back). **EAGLES:** OUT: DE Brandon Graham (ankle), LB Joe Walker (neck). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB Jalen Mills (ankle).
GREEN BAY at DETROIT — **PACKERS:** OUT: WR Davante Adams (concussion), G Jahri Evas (knee), RB Aaron Jones (knee), WR Jordy Nelson (shoulder), LB Nick Perry (ankle/shoulder), TE Richard Rodgers (shoulder). **QUESTIONABLE:** WR Geronimo Allison (illness), LB Clay Matthews (hamstring), CB Damarious Randall (knee), OT John Ulrich (back). **LIONS:** OUT: CB Nevin Lawson (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE:** DE Anthony Zettel (groin).
CLEVELAND at PITTSBURGH — **BROWNS:** OUT: RB Dan Vitale (groin). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB Brian Boddy-Calhoun (knee/not injury related), RB Matt Ryan (knee), S Derron Smith (hip), CB Jamar Taylor (foot). **STEELERS:** OUT: WR Antonio Brown (caif). **QUESTIONABLE:** C Maurkice Pouncey (hip).
HOUSTON at INDIANAPOLIS — **TEXANS:** OUT: G Jeff Allen (concussion), WR DeAndre Hopkins (caif), RB Jordan Todman (shoulder). **QUESTIONABLE:** T Kendall Lamm (concussion), LB LaTroy Lewis (shoulder). **COLTS:** T Denzel Good (knee), DT Johnathan Hankins (ankle), TE Jason Vander Laan (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE:** WR Donte Moncrief (ankle).
CINCINNATI at BALTIMORE — **BENGALS:** OUT: T Cedric Ogbuehi (shoulder). **DOUBTFUL:** LB Vontaze Buehler (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB William Jackson (knee), RB Joe Mixon (ankle). **RAVENS:** **DOUBTFUL:** WR Jeremy Maclin (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** G Jermaine Eluemunor (shoulder), T Austin Howard (neck), DT Patrick Ricard (neck), WR Mike Wallace (knee), DT Brandon Williams (back).
NEW ORLEANS at TAMPA BAY — **SAINTS:** OUT: T Terron Armstead (thigh), DE Trey Hendrickson (ankle), TE Michael Hoomanawanui (concussion). **BUCCANNERS:** **DOUBTFUL:** DE Robert Ayers (shoulder), LB Devante Brown (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** TE Cameron Brate (hip/knee), WR Chris Godwin (ankle), WR DeSean Jackson (ankle), DE Ryan Russell (shoulder).
KANSAS CITY at DENVER — **CHIEFS:** OUT: WR Tyreek Hill (not injury related). **DOUBTFUL:** DT Bernie Logan (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB Kenneth Acker (illness), T Cameron Erving (illness), LB Tamba Hali (knee), RB Akeem Hunt (shoulder), DE Rakeem Nunez-Roches (illness), LB Kevin Pierre-Louis (shoulder), RB Charcandrick West (illness). **BRONCOS:** OUT: DE Zach Kerr (ankle), WR Cody Latimer (thigh), WR Emmanuel Sanders (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** T Donald Stephenson (hand).
JACKSONVILLE at TENNESSEE — **JAGUARS:** OUT: WR Marqise Lee (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** LB Blair Brown (concussion), DT Abry Jones (back), T Cam Robinson (abdomen). **TITANS:** OUT: RB DeMarco Murray (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB Logan Ryan (ankle).
BUFFALO at MIAMI — **BILLS:** OUT: CB Shareece Wright (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE:** G Ryan Gray (illness), WR Deonte Thompson (back/shoulder). **DOLPHINS:** **DOUBTFUL:** QB Matt Moore (foot), T Laremy Tunsil (ankle), RB Damien Williams (shoulder). **QUESTIONABLE:** TE MarQueis Gray (hip), DE Charles Harris (thigh), LB Neville Hewitt (hamstring), S T.J. McDonald (shoulder), WR DeVante Parker (ankle), S Michael Thomas (not injury related), CB Alterraun Verner (hamstring), DE Cameron Wake (illness).
ARIZONA at SEATTLE — **CARDINALS:** **QUESTIONABLE:** LB Josh Bynes (ankle), TE Troy Niklas (ankle), RB Elijah Penny (hand/), G Earl Watford (ankle), RB Kerwyn Williams (quad/ribs/back). **SEAHAWKS:** OUT: LB D.J. Alexander (concussion), DT Nazair Jones (foot). **QUESTIONABLE:** G Luke Joeckel (foot), LB Bobby Wagner (hamstring), TE Luke Willson (ankle).
SAN FRANCISCO at L.A. RAMS — **49ERS:** No players listed. **RAMS:** **DOUBTFUL:** LB Mark Barron (Achilles). **QUESTIONABLE:** WR Cooper Kupp (knee).
OAKLAND at L.A. CHARGERS — **RAIDERS:** OUT: DT Trevor Hester (ankle). **DOUBTFUL:** T Vadal Alexander (concussion). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB David Amerson (foot), CB Dexter McDonald (knee), T David Sharpe (illness). **CHARGERS:** OUT: S Adrian Phillips (ankle), DT Corey Liuget (knee), T Russell Okung (groin), LB Denzel Perryman (hamstring).
CAROLINA at ATLANTA — **PANTHERS:** **QUESTIONABLE:** S Kurt Coleman (ankle), CB Ladarious Gunter (illness), G Trai Turner (concussion). **FALCONS:** OUT: TE Levine Tollofo (knee). **QUESTIONABLE:** C Alex Mack (caif).

TEXAS Bowl at Houston

Texas 33, Missouri 16

Dec. 28

Military Bowl at Annapolis, Md.
 Navy 49, Virginia 7
Camping World Bowl at Orlando, Fla.
 Oklahoma State 30, Virginia Tech 21
Alamo Bowl at San Antonio
 TCU 39, Stanford 37
Holiday Bowl at San Diego
 Michigan State 42, Washington State 17

Friday's Games

Belk Bowl at Charlotte, N.C.
 Wake Forest 55, Texas A&M 52
Sun Bowl at El Paso, Texas
 NC State 52, Arizona State 31
Music City Bowl at Nashville, Tenn.
 Northwestern 24, Kentucky 23
Arizona Bowl at Tucson, Ariz.
 New Mexico State 26, Utah State 20
Otto Bowl Classic at Arlington, Texas
 Ohio State 24, Southern Cal 7

Saturday's Games

TaxSlayer Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla.
 Mississippi State 31, Louisville 27
Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn.
 Iowa State 21, Memphis 20
Fiesta Bowl at Glendale, Ariz.
 Penn State 35, Washington 28
Orange Bowl at Miami Gardens, Fla.
 Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2), late

Monday's Games (Jan. 1, 2018)

Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla.
 Michigan (8-4) vs. S. Carolina (8-4), noon (ESPN2)
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)

Cleveland at Pittsburgh

RB Dan Vitale (groin). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB Brian Boddy-Calhoun (knee/not injury related), RB Matt Ryan (knee), S Derron Smith (hip), CB Jamar Taylor (foot). **STEELERS:** OUT: WR Antonio Brown (caif). **QUESTIONABLE:** C Maurkice Pouncey (hip).

Saturday, Jan. 20

East-West Shrine Classic at St. Petersburg, Fla.
 East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)
NFLPA College Bowl at Carson, Calif.
 American vs. National, TBA (FS1)

Saturday, Jan. 27

Senior Bowl at Mobile, Ala.
 North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)

FCS Playoffs

Championship Saturday, Jan. 6
At Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas
 North Dakota State (13-1) vs. James Madison (14-0), noon

TaxSlayer Bowl

MISSISSIPPI STATE 31, LOUISVILLE 27
 LOUISVILLE 7 14 3 3 0 — 27
 MISSISSIPPI ST. 14 3 0 14 — 31

First Quarter

MSST—Ae.Williams 5 run (Christmann kick), 10:47
 LOU—Standberry 5 pass from L.Jackson (Creque kick), 6:35
 MSST—K.Thompson 14 run (Christmann kick), 3:11

Second Quarter

LOU—L.Jackson 13 run (Creque kick), 10:29
 MSST—FG Christmann 23, 4:21
 LOU—Ja.Smith 11 pass from L.Jackson (Creque kick), :19

Third Quarter

LOU—FG Creque 23, 3:14
Fourth Quarter
 MSST—K.Thompson 2 run (Christmann kick), 13:22
 LOU—FG Creque 31, 7:38
 MSST—K.Thompson 1 run (Christmann kick), 3:39

Individual Statistics

RUSHING—Louisville, L.Jackson 24-158, M.Williams 5-13, Bonnafon 7-13, Dae.Williams 3-3, Mississippi St., K.Thompson 27-147, Ae.Williams 12-88, Hill 8-29, Gibson 6-13, Je.Jackson 1-1, (Team) 1-(minus) 1.
 PASSING—Louisville, L.Jackson 13-31-4-171, Mississippi St., K.Thompson 11-20-1-127.
 RECEIVING—Louisville, Ja.Smith 7-107, Dawkins 3-38, Standberry 2-10, Averett 1-16, Mississippi St., Je.Jackson 3-38, Jordan Thomas 2-36, Todd 2-32, Couch 2-28, D.Thomas 2-(minus) 7.
 MISSED FIELD GOALS—Louisville, Creque 37, Mississippi St., Christmann 42.

Liberty Bowl

IOWA ST. 21, MEMPHIS 20
 IOWA ST. 7 7 7 0 — 21
 MEMPHIS 7 3 10 0 — 20

First Quarter

ISU—Butler 52 pass from Kempt (Owens kick), 13:09
 MEM—Miller 10 pass from Ferguson (Patterson kick), 6:00

Second Quarter

ISU—Lanning 2 run (Owens kick), 4:28
 MEM—FG Patterson 34, :00

Third Quarter

MEM—Mayhue 36 pass from Ferguson (Patterson kick), 13:22
 ISU—Lazard 5 pass from Kempt (Owens kick), 4:28
 MEM—FG Patterson 30, 2:16

ISU MEM

First downs 22 17
 Rushes-yards 42-32 26-48
 Passing 314 286
 Comp-Att-Int 24-38-0 21-33-0
 Return Yards 43 86
 Punts-Avg. 4-36.25 4-37.0
 Fumbles-Lost 1-1 1-0
 Penalties-Yards 3-25 5-34
 Time of Possession 37:49 22:11

Individual Statistics

RUSHING—Iowa St., Montgomery 24-52, Lanning 6-20, Croncy 2-8, Downing 0-(minus) 2, Kempt 6-(minus) 12, (Team) 4-(minus) 34.
 MEMPHIS: P.Taylor 17-68, Pollard 1-8, Miller 1-(minus) 2, Ferguson 7-(minus) 26.
 PASSING—Iowa St., Kempt 24-38-0-314.
 MEMPHIS: Ferguson 21-33-0-286.
 RECEIVING—Iowa St., Lazard 10-142, Butler 5-111, Murdock 4-38, De.Jones 3-11, Montgomery 1-8, Ryan 1-4, Memphis, Mayhue 5-85, Miller 4-55, P.Taylor 4-34, Pollard 2-35, Coxie 2-31, KeD.Jones 1-22, Dykes 1-14, Slade 1-8, J.Williams 1-2.
 MISSED FIELD GOALS—Iowa St., Owens 51, Memphis, Patterson 38.

Fiesta Bowl

PENN STATE 35, WASHINGTON 28
 WASHINGTON 0 14 7 7 — 28
 PENN ST. 14 14 7 0 — 35

First Quarter

PSU—Hamilton 48 pass from McSorley (T.Davis kick), 11:10
 PSU—Barkeley 2 run (T.Davis kick), 1:34

Second Quarter

WAS—Browning 1 run (T.Davis kick), 14:57
 PSU—Sanders 1 run (T.Davis kick), 11:59
 PSU—Barkeley 92 run (T.Davis kick), 9:01
 WAS—Gaskin 13 run (Vizcaino kick), 4:15

Third Quarter

WAS—Fuller 28 pass from Browning (Vizcaino kick), 9:57
 PSU—Hamilton 24 pass from McSorley (T.Davis kick), 5:59

Fourth Quarter

WAS—Gaskin 69 run (Vizcaino kick), 6:52
WAS PSU
 First downs 14 25
 Rushes-yards 26-104 38-203
 Passing 227 342
 Comp-Att-Int 19-29-0 32-41-2
 Return Yards 68 71
 Punts-Avg. 6-45.16 2-43.0
 Fumbles-Lost 1-1 1-0
 Penalties-Yards 4-22 2-20
 Time of Possession 24:05 35:55

Individual Statistics

RUSHING—Washington, Gaskin 14-98, Coleman 4-11, Baccellia 1-9, Ahmed 1-1, Browning 6-(minus) 15, Penn St., Barkley 18-137, McSorley 12-60, Sanders 6-15, (Team) 2-(minus) 9.
 RECEIVING—Washington, Fuller 6-74, Ahmed 3-25, Dissy 2-59, Jones 2-23, Baccellia 2-9, Pettis 1-27, Sample 1-6, Gaskin 1-4, Coleman 1-0, Penn St., Barkley 7-38, Ju.HoJohnson 6-66, Gesicki 6-62, Hamilton 5-110, Stevens 3-(minus) 1, Thompkins 2-39, Blacknall 1-20, Sanders 1-4, Polk 1-4.
 MISSED FIELD GOALS—Penn St., T.Davis 45.

PASSING—Washington, Baccellia 1-1-0-52, Browning 18-28-0-175, Penn St., McSorley 32-41-2-342.

RECEIVING—Washington, Fuller 6-74, Ahmed 3-25, Dissy 2-59, Jones 2-23, Baccellia 2-9, Pettis 1-27, Sample 1-6, Gaskin 1-4, Coleman 1-0, Penn St., Barkley 7-38, Ju.HoJohnson 6-66, Gesicki 6-62, Hamilton 5-110, Stevens 3-(minus) 1, Thompkins 2-39, Blacknall 1-20, Sanders 1-4, Polk 1-4.
 MISSED FIELD GOALS—Penn St., T.Davis 45.

COLDS

PREGAME.COM LINE

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Today	FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Washington	7½	213½		Chicago
at Indiana	Off	Off		Minnesota
at Boston	10	209½		Brooklyn
at Oklahoma City	Off	Off		Dallas
at Sacramento	3	194		Memphis
at Houston	15	226½		L.A. Lakers
at L.A. Clippers	2½	214		Charlotte
at Philadelphia	2½	221		at Phoenix

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Today	FAVORITE	OPEN	UNDERDOG
at Seton Hall	10		St. John's
N. Iowa	2½		at Bradley
at Creighton	8½		Providence
Texas-Arlington	5		at Appalachian St.
at Tulane	1		Tulsa
at Coastal Carolina	6½		Texas State
at East Carolina	11½		at South Alabama
Georgia Southern	4½		at Indiana St.
at Illinois St.	6½		at Valparaiso
Missouri St.	1		Memphis
at Cincinnati	19½		Drake
at S. Illinois	7		Georgia St.
at Troy	5		at Arkansas St.
ULL	Pk		at UALR
Louisiana-Monroe	2		Utah
at Oregon St.	2		Georgia
at Kentucky	11		3 South Carolina
at Mississippi	3½		Virginia Tech
at Syracuse	9½		Washington
at UCLA	3½		South Florida
at SMU	23½		Washington St.
at Southern Calif.	14½		Washington St.
at Oregon	10½		Colorado
Monmouth	1		at St. Peter's
Iona	2½		at Canisius
at Niagara	PK		Rider
at Mercer	5		E. Tennessee St.
at SE Missouri	1		Tennessee State
N. Colorado	2½		Idaho
at North Dakota	1½		at North Dakota

PISTONS 93, SPURS 79
SAN ANTONIO (79)
 Leonard 4-11 9-9-18, Aldridge 6-15 3-4 15, Gasol 4-9 0-0 8, Parker 2-6 0-4, Green 2-6 0-0 6, Anderson 4-7 0-0 8, Bertans 0-1 0-0 0, Lauvergne 0-2 0-0 0, Mills 0-1 0-0 0, Forbes 4-12 0-1 0, Murray 2-6 0-0 4, Paul 1-2 0-0 2, Ginobili 2-6 0-0 4, Totals 31-84 12-13 79.

DETROIT (83)

Harris 5-13 2-2 12, Tolliver 0-4 1-2 1, Drummond 6-11 2-4 14, Smith 6-15 6-6 18, Bullock 9-14 0-0 22, Moreland 0-0 0-0 0, Ellenson 0-1 0-0 0, Marjanovic 1-2 0-0 2, Galloway 0-4 0-0 0, Buysks 2-5 0-4, Kennard 7-12 2-2 20, Montero 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals 36-81 13-16 93.

SAN ANTONIO 13 23 21 22 — 79

DETROIT 24 15 24 30 — 93
 3-Point Goals—San Antonio 5-26 (Green 2-4, Forbes 2-6, Leonard 1-3, Anderson 0-1, Paul 0-1, Parker 0-1, Aldridge 0-1, Mills 0-1, Lauvergne 0-1, Gasol 0-2, Murray 0-2, Ginobili 0-3), Detroit 8-24 (Kennard 4-5, Bullock 4-7, Buysks 0-1, Galloway 0-3, Tolliver 0-4, Harris 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 46 (Aldridge 11), Detroit 45 (Drummond 21). Assists—San Antonio 18 (Mills 4), Detroit 23 (Drummond 6). Total Fouls—San Antonio 13, Detroit 11. A—19,671 (21,000).

HEAT 117, MAGIC 111

MIAMI (117)
 Richardson 5-11 0-0 11, Olynyk 3-7 9-10 17, Whiteside 4-11 2-9, Dragic 11-22 1-1 25, T.Johnson 6-14 3-5 15, Mickey 3-5 0-0 6, Adebayo 3-5 0-0 6, Walton Jr. 0-0 0-0 0, Ellington 4-9 0-1 2. Totals 45-88 15-18 117.

ORLANDO (111)

Simmons 4-10 1-2 12, Gordon 14-22 6-7 39, Biyombo 5-6 0-0 10, Payton 4-10 0-2 8, Fournier 9-17 2-2 23, Ivundu 1-1 0-0 2, Speights 1-5 2-4 4, Augustin 2-4 0-0 5, Hezonja 3-5 0-0 6, Afflalo 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 44-81 11-15 111.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Today	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Calgary	-129		Chicago	+119
at Vegas	-133		Toronto	+123
at Anaheim	-200		Arizona	+180
Tampa Bay	-123		at Columbus	+113
Pittsburgh	-127		at Detroit	+117
at Edmonton	-137		Winnipeg	+127
at Dallas	-131		San Jose	+121
N.Y. Islanders	-110		at Colorado	+110

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES

Monday

Outback Bowl at Tampa, Fla.
 Michigan 7½ 7½ 42½ So. Carolina 10:47
 LOU—Standberry 5 pass from L.Jackson (Creque kick), 6:35
 MSST—K.Thompson 14 run (Christmann kick), 3:11

Citrus Bowl at Orlando, Fla.

Louisiana State 1 3 51½ Notre Dame 2
 Georgia +3 3 60 Oklahoma
Sugar Bowl at New Orleans
 Alabama 2 3 47 Clemson

National Football League

Today	FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Baltimore	11	10	40		Cincinnati
at Detroit	7	7	43		Green Bay
Buffalo	2½	2	42		at Miami
at Atlanta	3	3½	45		Carolina
New Orleans	8½	5	49½		at Tampa Bay</



WEEK 17

By the numbers

32-6: Steelers' record against the Browns since they rejoined the league in 1999.

EAST Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	432	290	5-2-0	7-1-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	280	343	6-2-0	2-5-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Miami	6	9	0	.400	265	371	4-3-0	2-6-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
N.Y. Jets	5	10	0	.333	292	356	4-4-0	1-6-0	5-6-0	0-4-0	2-3-0

SOUTH Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	407	253	6-2-0	4-3-0	9-2-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	319	346	5-2-0	3-5-0	7-4-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Houston	4	11	0	.267	325	414	3-5-0	1-6-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	1-4-0
Indianapolis	3	12	0	.200	241	391	2-5-0	1-7-0	2-9-0	1-3-0	1-4-0

NORTH Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	378	284	5-2-0	7-1-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	5-0-0
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	368	272	5-2-0	4-4-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	259	322	4-4-0	2-5-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Cleveland	0	15	0	.000	210	382	0-8-0	0-7-0	0-11-0	0-4-0	0-5-0

WEST Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Kansas City	9	6	0	.600	388	315	6-2-0	3-4-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	.533	325	262	4-3-0	4-4-0	5-6-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
Oakland	6	9	0	.400	291	343	4-4-0	2-5-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Denver	5	10	0	.333	265	355	4-3-0	1-7-0	4-7-0	1-3-0	2-3-0

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

QUARTERBACKS

Name	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Brady, NE	544	367	4387	30	8
Rthlsbrgr, PIT	561	360	4251	28	14
Rivers, LAC	538	332	4128	25	10
Al. Smith, KC	505	341	4042	26	5
Bortles, JAC	489	300	3529	21	11
D. Carr, OAK	487	304	3253	21	12
Dalton, CIN	452	274	3098	22	12
Mariota, TEN	432	269	3098	12	15
Brissett, IND	444	261	2984	12	7
Flacco, BAL	502	327	2938	16	12

PUNT RETURNERS

Name	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Mickens, JAC	23	274	11.9	72	1
Cmpnro, BAL	21	249	11.9	77	1
Benjamin, LAC	27	257	9.5	65	1
Jackson, TEN	30	271	9.0	46	0
Amendola, NE	23	207	9.0	40	0
McKneze, DEN	21	183	8.7	44	0
T. Hill, KC	25	204	8.2	82	1
J. Grant, MIA	23	178	7.7	27	0
Erickson, CIN	35	253	7.2	29	0
Peppers, CLE	29	182	6.3	25	0

RUSHERS

Name	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
K. Hunt, KC	271	1292	4.8	69	7
L. Bell, PIT	321	1291	4.0	27	9
McCoy, BUF	276	1128	4.1	48	6
Gordon, LAC	267	1012	3.8	87	8
Fournette, JAC	249	971	3.9	90	9
Anderson, DEN	227	946	4.2	40	3
A. Collins, BAL	192	895	4.7	50	5
Gore, IND	237	861	3.6	21	3
L. Miller, HOU	230	851	3.7	21	3
Crowell, CLE	191	832	4.4	59	2

KICKOFF RETURNERS

Name	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
D. Lewis, NE	23	570	24.8	103	11
A. Hunt, KC	25	611	24.4	42	0
Jackson, TEN	25	578	23.1	57	0
J. Grant, MIA	21	479	22.8	31	0
Erickson, CIN	31	646	20.8	41	0
Tate, BUF	27	527	19.5	29	0

SCORING TOUCHDOWNS

Name	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Hopkins, HOU	13	0	13	0	78
Gordon, LAC	12	8	4	0	72
L. Bell, PIT	11	9	2	0	66
Fournette, JAC	10	9	1	0	60
K. Hunt, KC	10	7	3	0	60
A. Brown, PIT	9	0	9	0	56
Crabtree, OAK	8	0	8	0	52
Grnkwski, NE	8	0	8	0	50

EAST Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
y-Philadelphia	13	2	0	.867	457	289	7-0-0	6-2-0	10-1-0	3-1-0	5-0-0
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	348	332	3-5-0	5-2-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Washington	7	8	0	.467	332	370	5-3-0	2-5-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	1-4-0
N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	.133	228	378	1-6-0	1-7-0	0-11-0	2-2-0	0-5-0

SOUTH Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
x-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	424	295	7-1-0	4-3-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
x-Carolina	11	4	0	.733	353	305	6-2-0	5-2-0	7-4-0	4-0-0	3-2-0
Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	331	305	4-3-0	5-3-0	8-3-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	304	358	3-4-0	1-7-0	2-9-0	2-2-0	0-5-0

NORTH Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
y-Minnesota	12	3	0	.800	359	242	6-1-0	6-2-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Detroit	8	7	0	.533	375	365	3-4-0	5-3-0	7-4-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Green Bay	7	8	0	.467	309	349	4-4-0	3-4-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	254	297	3-5-0	2-5-0	1-10-0	4-0-0	0-5-0

WEST Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
y-L.A. Rams	11	4	0	.733	465	295	4-3-0	7-1-0	7-4-0	4-0-0	4-1-0
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	342	306	4-3-0	5-3-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	269	337	5-3-0	2-5-0	4-7-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
San Francisco	5	10	0	.333	297	370	3-5-0	2-5-0	2-9-0	3-1-0	0-5-0

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

QUARTERBACKS

Name	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Stafford, DET	536	351	4123	26	10
Brees, NOR	506	364	4089	22	8
Cousins, WAS	503	327	3935	27	10
Goff, LA	477	296	3804	28	7
M. Ryan, ATL	484	314	3778	19	12
R. Wilson, SEA	524	321	3762	32	11
Keenum, MIN	452	304	3358	21	7
Manning, NYG	543	342	3336	18	12
Wentz, PHL	440	265	3296	33	7
Prescott, DAL	460	291	3145	21	13

PUNT RETURNERS

Name	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Agnew, DET	26	416	16.0	88	2
P. Cooper, LA	34	932	27.4	103	11
Switzer, DAL	23	586	25.5	61	0
Lockett, SEA	33	793	24.0	57	0
Tr. Davis, GBY	22	243	11.0	65	0
Sherels, MIN	32	321	10.0	46	0
Barner, PHL	24	229	9.5	76	0
Cohen, CHI	28	259	9.2	61	1
T. Taylor, SNF	27	249	9.2	39	0
Switzer, DAL	28	244	8.7	83	1
Roberts, ATL	23	183	8.0	27	0
McCffry, CAR	22	162	7.4	25	0

RUSHERS

Name	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Gurley, LA	279	1305	4.7	57	13
Howard, CHI	267	1113	4.2	53	9
Ingram, NOR	217	1089	5.0	72	12
E. Elliott, DAL	215	880	4.1	30	7
Hyde, SNF	225	850	3.8	61	6
Freeman, ATL	185	842	4.6	44	6
Murray, MIN	196	731	3.7	46	6
Blount, PHL	164	729	4.4	68	2
Newton, CAR	128	695	5.4	69	6
Kamara, NOR	111	684	6.2	74	7

KICKOFF RETURNERS

Name	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Gurley, LA	19	13	6	0	114
Kamara, NOR	12	7	5	0	74
Ingram, NOR	12	12	0	0	72
Graham, SEA	10	0	0	0	62
Adams, GBY	10	0	0	0	60
Jeffery, PHL	9	0	0	0	54
Agholor, PHL	9	0	0	0	54
E. Elliott, DAL	9	7	2	0	54
J. Howard, CHI	9	9	0	0	54

RECEIVERS

Name	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Ju. Jones, ATL	83	1364	16.4	53	3
Thielen, MIN	85	1215	14.3	65	4
Thomas, NOR	98	1151	11.7	35	5
Fitzgerald, ARI	101	1101	10.9	37	6
M. Jones, DET	57	1020	17.9	58	8
Evans, TAM	66	946	14.3	42	5
Goodwin, SNF	54	934	17.3	83	1
Baldwin, SEA	71	901	12.7	54	6
Tate, DET	85	899	10.6	45	4
Adams, GBY	74	885	12.0	55	10

2017 winners and losers:

Amazon, Boeing soared; GE, Mattel plunged



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Monday, Oct. 16, 2017, file photo, Zavian Tate, a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, pushes a large Amazon Dash button, in Birmingham, Ala. The buttons are part of the city's campaign to lure Amazon's second headquarters to Birmingham. Amazon had a very successful 2017.

By **MARLEY JAY**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — It was a strong year for the stock market, but 2017 was a great year if you made airplanes (think Boeing), were an online juggernaut (Amazon) or built homes (KB Homes). It was a year to forget if you were an energy company (Chesapeake) made Barbie dolls (Mattel) or if you were a storied industrial conglomerate

about to go on a radical slim-down program (General Electric).

The stock market had a banner year overall, but there were plenty of big winners, and big losers, among individual U.S. companies. Here's a look at a few of them.

THE WINNERS

— THE MIGHTY AMAZON:

Amazon's gain of 58 percent in 2017 was hardly shabby, but that

number only begins to tell of the enormous effect the company had on the broader market. No other company struck as much fear in its rivals, or potential rivals.

Department stores and mall-based retailers continued to plunge as Americans did more of their shopping at Amazon, while other companies like Walmart raced to build up their

YEAR | 2

Invest in antiques

Old Acquaintance Antiques and Gifts now open in Sebring

By **BILL ROGERS**
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING — For those looking to invest in something different, Rosalind Smile suggests antiques because, as she said, they are "like stocks."

"Right now, like a lot of things, the stocks on certain things are high and on certain things they are low," said Smile, who with her husband, Jack, have opened Old Acquaintance Antiques and Gifts. "Art still does well. Certain collectible items still do well. Silver is doing well."

The store is at 6770 U.S. 27 North, near The Bluffs of Sebring.

During the winter season it is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily with the exception of being closed Wednesdays.

"The shop is very eclectic," Jack said. "We have a lot of objects of art; we have original oil paintings and we have turn-of-the-century prints. We have handmade fairies and mermaids."

Rosalind said they do art restoration that includes oil paintings and acrylics.

They also appraise paintings, furniture, dishes and collectibles. Jack said cigarette lighters, especially sterling, are "highly collectible. He added that thimbles are "very collectible."

"I also do custom cases," he said. "If you collect turtles, and you find me an old curio cabinet or I find one for you, I could do designs with turtles themes on it. I've done dragon cases, mermaid cases, ferry cases."

Jack said he has a small work-



COURTESY PHOTO

Greenwich Bay Trading Co. soaps and lotions are available in the store.

They say upstate New York and Sebring are similar.

"I love nature, and I have a big garden," Jack said, noting that they were "amazed" to live with orange groves around them. "I grow my own herbs."

Jack said he plans to set up a section in the store called Beads and More. He said that as a result of their being involved with jewelry, they have a lot of crystals, chains and brass findings.

"We're known really in New York as accessory designers," he said. "We designed accessories for all the movie stars ..."

In addition to the antiques, they have items that people can buy as gifts that include soaps, candles, greeting cards, chimes and other things. Rosalind said the soaps, lotions and body wash are from Greenwich Bay Trading Co. She added that people who know about the company really like their products.

As far as how the name for the store came about, Jack said

ANTIQUES | 2



BILL ROGERS/CORRESPONDENT

Jack and Rosalind Smile opened the store, which has a Christmas room, last month.

shop in the back of the store where he will distress furniture. He will also paints furniture.

"That's what is popular," Rosalind said. "It's a sign of the times."

There is a room in the store that has Christmas items available all year. It is called Let It Snow.

The Smiles have been in the antique business for more than 40 years. Originally from New York, the couple moved to Sebring in 2011.

"We actually love the country," Rosalind said. "That's why we went from New York City to upstate New York."

ECONOMY



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017, file photo, customers carry bags as they shop for the holidays at Concord Mills mall in Concord, N.C.

US consumer confidence dips in December, remains strong

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Americans were a bit less confident about this economy this month than they were in November, but their spirits remained high overall during the holiday shopping season.

The Conference Board said Wednesday that its consumer confidence index dipped to 122.1 in December from a revised 128.6 in November.

"Despite the decline in confidence, consumers' expectations remain at historically strong levels, suggesting economic growth will continue well into 2018," said Conference Board economist Lynn Franco.

The business research group's index measures consumers' assessment of current conditions and their outlook for the next six months. Their view of today's conditions rose to the highest level since June 2001. But their expectations were the lowest since November 2016.

Economists watch the Conference Board report closely because consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic output.

Forecasters had predicted the index would drop this month from November's heights, but it fell more than expected. "This is an unexpected sign of weakness from the biggest driver of U.S. economic growth," Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, wrote in a research report. "I'm not convinced it will play out into weaker consumer spending but this is clearly worth watching."

The overall index hit bottom at 25.3 in February 2009 at the depths of the Great Recession before rebounding as the U.S. economy recovered.

In what might be a good sign for the real estate market, a solid 7.6 percent of survey respondents said they planned to buy a home in the next six months. More Americans have been shopping for homes as the economy improves.

Economic growth clocked in at a solid 3.2 percent annual pace from July through September after registering 3.1 percent in the second quarter. Unemployment has dropped to a 17-year low 4.1 percent.

SMALL TALK

Small retailers capitalized on strengths for holiday season

By **JOYCE M. ROSENBERG**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Independent retailers who've had a successful holiday season say they took advantage of the fact that there are strengths in not being huge.

Store owners report they were able to change pricing and other

strategies quickly. Many offered customers more personal service and a warmer atmosphere. And they said they used social media tools designed for smaller companies, including inexpensive ads on Facebook.

How successful the season was for the retail industry as a whole won't be known until figures from market researchers

and the government arrive in January. And after-Christmas business can make a difference.

Bekka Palmer, who sells baskets, tote bags and jewelry in New York, says she sold at pop-up markets where shoppers gave her feedback that let her know she's on the right track.

Jon Abt says his appliance and furniture store

held its own this holiday season, up against competition like Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy and more, by capitalizing on advantages it has over the big guys.

Abt offers free technical support for the life of a product and some free delivery. The store, in the Chicago suburb



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, photo, sales personnel at the Abt Electronics and single appliance furniture store work with customers in full view of a large aquarium in Glenview, Ill.

SMALL | 2

ANTIQUES

FROM PAGE 1

he is a big fan of Bette Davis. He said Davis was in a movie called "Old Acquaintance" and he remembered it. He noted

that he has a theater poster of the movie that he plans to frame and put in the store. "I said ... I love this name and let's go with it," he said. "It makes you feel like you're bumping into an old acquaintance when you see an antique

piece of furniture." Jack says they love what they do. "We're determined to make this work because we love the area," Rosalind said. The telephone number where they can be reached is 954-551-4218.

SMALL

FROM PAGE 1

of Glenview, is designed to be entertaining — it offers chocolate chip cookies, a Santa every weekend during the holidays, and an aquarium in the store year-round that give customers and their families an experience that goes beyond shopping for a TV.

"You've got to have a good price but you've also got to present some compelling reasons for why someone should buy from you," says Jon Abt, who says sales were up about 15 percent from the 2016 holiday season.

Independent retailers who've had a successful holiday season recognize that there are strengths in not being huge. They're able to change pricing and other strategies quickly. They can offer customers more personal service and a warmer atmosphere. And they're able to take advantage of social media tools designed for smaller companies, including inexpensive ads on Facebook.

How successful the season was for the retail industry as a whole won't be known until estimates from market researchers like ShopperTrak and a tally from the Commerce Department arrive in January. And after-Christmas business, when consumers are redeeming gift cards and looking for clearance sale bargains, can make the difference. But individual retailers including small and independent merchants already have a sense of how they've done, and what worked for them.

Bekka Palmer's baskets, tote bags and jewelry sold better than she expected because she made sure she got publicity. Palmer, owner

of the online retailer Closed Mondays, met an editor of Domino, a magazine and website that publishes a holiday gift guide, and that bit of networking led to several of her creations being featured on Domino. She also approached New York magazine and a website called Design Milk and got mentions.

People browsing the online gift guides and then deciding to buy gave Palmer nearly a quarter of her sales from mid-November until mid-December, when she processed her last orders before Christmas.

"I was so much busier than I was last year," says Palmer, who lives and runs her business in Brooklyn, New York.

Palmer timed her outreach to gift guides better this year. In 2016, she contacted websites too late to be included. This year, she got in touch with them sooner. She also sold at pop-up markets where shoppers gave her feedback that let Palmer know she's on the right track.

"Many of our customers this year were specifically looking for things made in the U.S.A.," she says.

This was the first holiday season for Garrett Ryan and Clark Passino, who started their online men's underwear company, Mr & Muse, in January. Sales have been better than expected after the partners used social media throughout the year to build their customer base. As they launched the Clarendon Hills, Illinois-based business, they began advertising on Facebook where they could inexpensively test their marketing campaign.

"We literally spent \$20 a week on five different ads, picked one or two that worked, and the next week spent \$30 on five

different ads with that image," Ryan says. "We continued pouring more money into ad types, copy and images that work."

They also invested in tracking the products potential customers look at, and then showing them the same products in other websites or apps, helping some shoppers decide to buy.

The partners increased their brand's visibility by selling on sites including Amazon and eBay, but 95 percent of Mr & Muse's sales came from its own website, Ryan says. The plan now is to keep using social media to increase sales throughout the year.

Joe Taylor's 18 hardware stores in the Hampton Roads and Richmond, Virginia, areas have had a good season, although they also have competition from Home Depot and Lowe's. Much of its appeal comes from the fact that it's not one of the big-box stores says Taylor, the company's CEO.

"Being the locally owned and known family business, located down the street from home, certainly helps drive business to our stores during the holiday season," says Taylor, who estimates sales were up about 15 percent from a year earlier.

A location in the middle of a community helps a retailer build relationships that keeps customers returning, Taylor says. The stores contribute to local organizations like churches and schools. They also have a rewards program, which gives customers a 5 percent rebate for every \$250 they spend.

"That creates loyalty. Our customers are thinking, 'They're taking care of us, so let's shop with them,'" Taylor says.

YEAR

FROM PAGE 1

own online offerings. And when Amazon snapped up Whole Foods in June, investors dumped the stocks of supermarket companies, certain they'd take a shellacking from their new competitor.

Blue Apron, a startup that went public in June, took a dive when Amazon got into the meal kit business. And in the fall, a number of drugstore companies tanked at the prospect that Amazon was thinking of getting into drug distribution.

— BOEING TAKES FLIGHT:

Boeing soared 90 percent, one of its best years on record. The aerospace giant has benefited greatly as the global economy kicked into a higher gear, increasing demand for airplanes. The U.S. economy continued to grow, while major regions like Europe and Japan did better than they had in recent years.

At the same time, military spending in the U.S. is expanding again. It had been declining as combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan wound down. Late in the year, Boeing became the highest-price stock on the Dow Jones industrial average, giving it more influence on the blue-chip index than any other company.

— BREAKING GROUND:

Homebuilders made huge gains for the year as housing prices continued to rise. There are relatively few homes on the market, but demand is strong thanks to the growing economy, solid hiring, and low mortgages rates.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In September, retailer Toys R Us filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Late in the year, sales of new homes reached a 10-year high, and many economists think the trend will continue in 2018.

The companies dramatically outperformed the market. NVR and KB Home both doubled, PulteGroup and D.R. Horton rose almost as much. Without a lot of houses for sale, people also spent more money on home improvement. That was good for Home Depot and Lowe's.

THE LOSERS

— GE'S DIMMING FORTUNES:

The icon of U.S. industry saw its stock price slump 45 percent as investors wondered what its future will look like. GE health care executive John Flannery replaced Jeffrey Immelt as chairman and CEO as Immelt's 16-year tenure came to an end. Soon after he took over, Flannery said GE will shed about \$20 billion in businesses over the next few years. He said 2018 will be a "reset" for GE as the company narrows its focus down to aviation, health care and energy. GE slashed its dividend for the first time in decades, its chief financial officer and two vice chairs departed, and its board will shrink from 18 to 12.

— FLAGGING ENERGY:

The price of crude oil barely moved in 2017, and energy companies faded after a big gain

the year before. While oil prices are stronger than they were and energy companies have cut spending, it's hard to see what would make oil prices go higher and stay there. U.S. crude has stayed between about \$45 and \$58 a barrel since early last year. Analysts think that if prices did peek above their current levels, companies — especially shale oil firms in the U.S. — would start producing more oil, which would knock prices down again.

Among energy companies, Baker Hughes dropped 51 percent. Hess fell 23 percent and Exxon Mobil lost 7 percent.

— FADED FUN:

Mattel didn't have much fun in 2017 either. Rival toy maker Hasbro continued to benefit from a partnership with Disney, as Hasbro's quarterly sales topped Mattel's at least twice. Mattel had outsold Hasbro every quarter for 17 years. In September retailer Toys R Us filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, which hurt both companies. But even with those problems and growing numbers of kids picking tablets over toys, Hasbro had a strong year and rose 19 percent. But Mattel plunged 43 percent. Its only real bright spot came in November, when the Wall Street Journal reported that Hasbro made an offer to buy Mattel. But those gains faded as Mattel reportedly rejected it.

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Newspapers have had their fair share of ups and downs since the emergence of digital media, but despite this, they have steadily maintained their local readership base and strength for local marketing.

Let's take a look at the many advantages of newspaper advertising:

- Advertising in a newspaper is not seen as an interruption. In fact, numerous surveys have shown one of the reasons people buy newspapers is to view the ads for their local stores and businesses. Consumers do want and need to be exposed to advertising; they simply want ads on their own terms.
- A newspaper ad can be cut out and saved for later. This means your coupon or contact information can and usually will land on someone's refrigerator or in their wallet or purse.
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- Unlike radio, which is often playing in the background and not really heard, newspapers can deliver true consumer engagement. When a person reads an advertisement it's because they choose to do so. They give their full attention to your message and will remember you when they need your product or service.
- You've probably heard newspaper subscriptions and readership have dropped in the last five years or so, and that's somewhat true, but not to the extent that many would like you to believe. The other side of that coin is, the readership of the online versions of newspapers is growing rapidly, much faster than the 7% or so losses in the physical subscriptions.



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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1919

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Samuel Johnson



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— Roseann B. Kiefer



US stocks mount mile-

By **ALEX VIEGA**

AP BUSINESS WRITER

US stocks mount milestone-shattering run in 2017

By **ALEX VEIGA**, AP Business Writer

Taken a look at your stock portfolio lately? It's a good bet it's racked up solid gains this year.

Wall Street has taken stock investors on a mostly smooth, record-shattering ride in 2017. The major stock indexes are closing in on double-digit gains for the year, led by Apple, Facebook and other technology stocks.

The gains have the Standard & Poor's 500 index, the broadest measure of the stock market, headed for its best year since 2013.

"This would go in the category of stellar year, with very little volatility in the market and pullbacks that were essentially minor," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial.

Several factors have kept the market on an upward grind for most of the year and repeatedly driven stock indexes to all-time highs. The global economy rebounded, while the U.S. economy and job market continued to strengthen, which helped drive strong corporate earnings growth.

Investors also drew encouragement from the Trump administration's and Republican-led Congress' push to slash corporate taxes, roll

back regulations and enact other pro-business policies. Congress passed the \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul bill, which reduces corporate taxes from 35 percent to 21 percent, last week.

The S&P 500 index is on track to finish the year with a gain of about 19.7 percent, more than double its increase in 2016. The index has notched 62 record highs so far this year.

Including dividends, the S&P 500's total return is on pace to be 22.1 percent. That means if you invested \$1,000 in an S&P 500 index fund at the beginning of the year you'd wind up with about \$1,221 at the end of the year.

Other major market indexes also were on course to deliver solid gains. The Dow Jones industrial average is on pace for a gain of 25.2 percent. The 30-company average set 70 all-time highs as it sped from just under 20,000 points to past the 24,000 mark.

The Nasdaq composite is headed for a 28.9 percent gain. The tech-heavy index blew past the 6,000-point mark for the first time in April.

Small-company stocks, which trounced the rest of the market in 2016, got a boost this year as investors bet that the companies would be big beneficiaries of a corporate tax cut bill. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks is on course for a 13.8 percent gain.

The market's gains

have been broad, with seven of the 11 sectors in the S&P 500 closing in on double-digit gains, led by technology, which is up nearly 39 percent. Only energy stocks and phone companies are lagging.

For the most part, markets overseas also fared better this year than in 2016.

In Europe, Britain's market is on track to close the year with a gain of 6.7 percent. Indexes in Germany and France are headed for gains of 13.8 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively. Japan's Nikkei and Hong Kong's benchmark index are on pace for gains of 19.9 percent and 34.5 percent, respectively.

The gains in overseas markets reflect how economies in Japan, Europe, China and many developing nations began growing in tandem with the U.S. for the first time in a decade.

The U.S. lagged the rest of those economies early in the year, but caught up by summer and delivered GDP growth of 3.1 percent in the second quarter and a 3.3 percent gain in the third, its fastest rate in three years.

"We hadn't seen that kind of growth all together in a long time," said Paul Christopher, head of global market strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute. "We had a pretty strong third quarter and we're going to have a pretty strong fourth quarter, too."

In 2016, S&P 500 companies increased



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A logo for the New York Stock Exchange is displayed above the trading floor, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017. Wall Street delivered big gains and shattered stock market records in 2017 as a global economic rebound, strong company earnings growth and the GOP-led push to slash corporate taxes and enact other pro-business policies encouraged investors to keep buying stocks even as share prices climbed ever higher.

earnings by 0.4 percent. Through the first three quarters of 2017, earnings are up about 11 percent from a year ago, said Lindsey Bell, investment strategist at CFRA Research.

Those stronger earnings are a key reason why the S&P kept climbing, as stock prices tend to track corporate profits over the long term.

The market rode out many negative headlines in 2017.

North Korea tested a ballistic missile for the first time in July. Then, reportedly, a hydrogen bomb in August. Major hurricanes slammed into Texas, Louisiana and Florida. And Congressional Republicans' failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act fueled worries on Wall Street that the Trump administration's plans for a sweeping corporate tax cut and other pro-business policies would

be delayed or derailed entirely.

Still, investors seemed determined to keep the market moving higher. On days when the market pulled back, stocks typically rebounded the next day.

"You had geopolitical risk with regard to North Korea and the saber-rattling on both sides caught the market's attention, but it became a buying opportunity," Krosby said.

The last time the S&P 500 had a correction, or a decline of 10 percent or more, was in February 2016. In 2017, the biggest single-day drop was less than 2 percent.

And the VIX, a measure of how much volatility investors expect in stocks, is on track to end the year down about 30 percent, at historic lows.

Traders repeatedly bought back in on bad news in 2017 because they, and corporations, have a lot of cash and

don't see better places to get a return as long as the economy and company earnings continue to improve, Christopher said.

"People have just been waiting for pullbacks to buy the dips," he said. "There's still a lot of cash on the balance sheets of businesses and households."

By some measures, the market is looking expensive. The S&P 500 is now trading around 18 times forward earnings. That's above the historical average of 16, which suggests stocks are expensive heading into 2018.

Even so, eight years into the bull market, many analysts expect stocks to keep climbing next year.

"We expect the bull market to continue in 2018, but at a more moderate pace," said Terry Sandven, chief equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

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CLASSIFIED HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Due to the holidays, please note our earlier deadlines for all of Classifieds.

- FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK:**
Mon. Dec. 18 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 20 edition;
Tues. Dec 19 at 1pm for Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 21 & 22 editions;
Wed. Dec. 20 at 1pm for Sat. & Sun, Dec. 23 & 24 editions;
Thurs. Dec. 21 at 1pm for Mon. & Tues. Dec. 25 & 26 editions;
Fri. Dec. 22 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 27 edition;
- FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEK**
Tues. Dec. 26 at 1pm for Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 28 & 29 editions;
Wed. Dec. 27 at 1pm for Sat. & Sun. Dec 30 & 31 editions;
Thurs. Dec. 28 at 1pm for Mon. & Tues. Jan. 1 & 2 editions;
Fri. Dec. 29 at 1pm for Wed. Jan. 3 edition.

The Highlands News-Sun office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

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INVITATION TO BID 14

INVITATION TO BID ("ITB")
 The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida ("County") will receive sealed Bids in the Highlands County Purchasing Division ("Purchasing Division") for:
ITB NO. 18-013 LAKE BLUE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Specifications may be obtained by downloading from our website: www.hcucc.net, or by contacting Jamee Soto, Buyer; 600 S. Commerce Avenue., Sebring, Florida 33870; Phone: 863-402-6526 or Email: jasoto@hcucc.org.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 10th, 2018, in the Engineering Conference Room at 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL. 33870. This meeting is not mandatory and the public is invited to attend.

BIDS MUST BE DELIVERED to the Purchasing Division, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870 so as to reach that office no later than 3:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 30th, 2018, at which time they will be opened. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

The Board does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, should contact Mrs. Pamela Rogers, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (Voice), or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: progers@hcucc.org. Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

Board of County Commissioners, Highlands County, FL Dec. 24, 31, 2017

2000 EMPLOYMENT



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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.

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 Is hiring 2 new positions:
 ★ PT BSN Nurse Supervisor (7-10 hrs. per wk);
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 Complete application online & email resume to: info@healthystarthhp.org or fax to 863-519-8111



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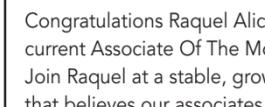
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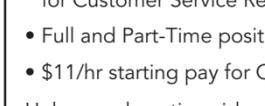
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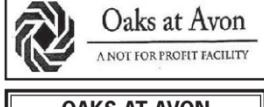
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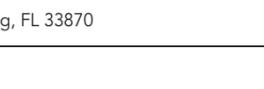
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MEDICAL 2030

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Full-Time Medical Assistant Position Available

Electronic Health Records & Clinical knowledge Required.
Call 863-386-9595

Occupational Therapist

Needed for Florida based rehabilitation provider in our Sebring, Florida facility. Send resume to: Hardee Services of Rehabilitation, Attn: Beatriz Gonzalez, 1330 U.S. Highway 17, Wauchula, FL 33873

Dental Care of Mid Florida is looking to add a Full-Time Dental Assistant to our team.

If you are able to multi-task in a fast-paced environment while having a great personality and the ability to serve others~ then we are looking for you! Experience is not necessary but candidate must bring a willingness to achieve and grow. Bilingual communication skills are preferred. Email us your resume today! hire.me.dcmf@gmail.com

RESTAURANT/HOTEL 2040

Chicanes
Chicanes is Now Hiring:
 ★ Assistant Manager
 ★ Line Cooks
Apply at 3101 Golfview Rd., Sebring. Email resume to: charmaine@innonthelakes.net 863-471-9400

RESTAURANT/HOTEL 2040

Cody's
"The Season is Here"
Cody's of Sebring now hiring all positions. Busy, fun, casual restaurant. Competitive Wages
Apply in person daily 2-4pm at 521 US Hwy 27 N. Or email your resume to: sebringcodys@gmail.com

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Heroes work here. You can too.

NOW HIRING Customer Service Reps

Congratulations Raquel Alicea, our current Associate Of The Month. Join Raquel at a stable, growing company that believes our associates are our greatest assets. One of North America's leading providers of roadside assistance offers:

- Comprehensive benefits package
- Monthly performance bonuses for Customer Service Reps
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- Full and Part-Time positions available
- \$11/hr starting pay for Customer Service Reps

Help people nationwide everyday at a company dedicated to using innovation to create the next generation of roadside assistance.

Apply online at Agero.com/careers or call **863-402-2786** to discuss your solid & stable future.

3310 Highway 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870

**GENERAL
2100**

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
For grove equipment. Clean Florida Driver License is required. Pay based on experience. Drug-free workplace. **Apply in person 8am - 11am & 1pm - 4pm Monday - Friday at 109 Arron Dr., Lake Placid, FL 863-465-2821** or email: **office@lpcip.com**

Classified = Sales

**PART TIME/
TEMPORARY
2110**

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



NOTICES

**LOST & FOUND
3090**

LOST- iPhone w/baseball on back; around US 27 S. near overpass. **REWARD!!** 860-819-4882 or 860-797-1480



MERCHANDISE



**CLASSIFIED
HOLIDAY
DEADLINES**

Due to the holidays, please note our earlier deadlines for all of Classifieds.

FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK:
Mon. Dec. 18 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 20 edition;
Tues. Dec. 19 at 1pm for Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 21 & 22 editions;
Wed. Dec. 20 at 1pm for Sat. & Sun. Dec. 23 & 24 editions;
Thurs. Dec. 21 at 1pm for Mon. & Tues. Dec. 25 & 26 editions;
Fri. Dec. 22 at 1pm for Wed. Dec. 27 edition;

FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEK
Tues. Dec. 26 at 1pm for Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 28 & 29 editions;
Wed. Dec. 27 at 1pm for Sat. & Sun. Dec 30 & 31 editions;
Thurs. Dec. 28 at 1pm for Mon. & Tues. Jan. 1 & 2 editions;
Fri. Dec. 29 at 1pm for Wed. Jan. 3 edition.

The Highlands News-Sun office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

**GARAGE SALES
6014**

Avon Park Jail Ministry Open 8a-5p Thurs & Fri at 1925 SR 64 W. 5-10 ton/pkg AC. Make offer. **863-453-6439** (lv msg)

Get BIGGER RESULTS with a Highlands News-Sun Garage Sale Ad- ONLY \$22 for 4 lines.....! Call 863-385-6155 in Highlands County

**AUCTIONS
6020**

Door hinges, (13), solid brass, new in boxes w/screws 3.5 inch, 5/8" radius \$5.00 per pair OBO, 863-402-2285

**SEWING
6026**

Sewing Machine- with cabinet. Hardly used, good condition! \$50. 863-386-4733

**DOLLS
6027**

Porcelain Doll, collectible, \$10 exc. condition, 863-453-3104

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS
6030**

Bake King Keeper w/cover, pure aluminum, vintage, \$30, 949-413-3706

Cake plate, glass, metal cover, vintage, \$20, 949-413-3706

Candle Sconces (2), gold, \$20.00 - 863-273-1834

Chandelier, 6 light, beige globes w/copper chain, beautiful, exc. cond., \$55.00, 863-273-1834

Collectible Glassware & household items, \$500.00 for all or can separate, call for info. 863-414-0481

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

Crockpot with little dipper warmer, 4-7qt. slow cooker, \$40.00 - 863-273-3731.

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

Drapes, light gold, 5 ft in length cover than 20 feet of windows, drape rods included, \$75, 863-465-2097

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

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.

Moving cart, 2 wheel, aluminum, folds flat carries 275 lbs, used very little, stores easily, \$40, 863-402-2285

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

Plastic storage containers, (39), 18 gal each, new \$6.00-10.00, \$50 for all, 863-414-1210

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 \$50.00, (863) 402-2285

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

**HOLIDAY ITEMS
6031**

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

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

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

**FURNITURE
6035**

Aluminum mail box \$7 (269) 830-2500



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

Bookcase with electric fire-place insert w/remote. Bookcase 4' wide x 36" high. Cost \$594 new, asking \$250, 863-655-0269.

**FURNITURE
6035**



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



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

Dual electric reclining sofa with console; matching swivel rocker recliner. Tan leather, new \$1800 sell \$1200, 309-337-6940

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

Liquor Cabinet, w/felt lined top drawer, sections large lower area w/glass storage under wine rack, \$50, 863-402-2285

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

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

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

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

Small computer desk, light wood, perf. condition for small room \$50 (269) 830-2500

Sofa Bed, queen size, \$300.00 863-402-1683

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

Table, authentic looking lobster, 24x40x16, w/glass top, \$50, 863-402-2285

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

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

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

**ELECTRONICS
6038**

APC, 350 battery back up, brand new in box, \$45. 863-465-0066

Next Book Ares 8A 8" Quad, cire and android, brand new, never used, in box, \$50, 863-402-2285

TV, Sony, 35" sound bar w/woofer and remote, \$100, 863-382-2075

**TV/STEREO/RADIO
6040**

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

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

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 modle #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**

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

Hats, lite up, Jacksonville Jaguars, \$15.00, 863-452-0246

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

**ANTIQUES
COLLECTIBLES
6070**



Antiques Wanted
Upscale Decorative Items, Art Glass, Sterling, etc. **812-535-1400**

Dishes, Dixie Dogwood, plates, cups & saucers, \$50.00 for all 863-385-4502

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

Quilt, Sun Bonnet Baby, perfect condition, beautiful, never used Very old. \$250. 863-471-1904

Vintage Military Padlocks (2) w/key-new in box-Eagle, shackle w/9" chain-key comes out when locked, \$20 ea. - 863-273-7625

**MUSICAL
6090**

Baldwin Upright Piano-Great cond., hardly used; needs tuning; incl. bench & music. \$900. **863-840-1396**

Guitar amp, Radio Shack, 50 watt, excellent condition, \$75, 863-471-1691

Karaoke Equipment, audio video pioneer receiver, JVC 3 disc. video CD player, 2 mics, \$250.00 - 863-385-0000

Karaoke Video CD's, hundreds, \$2.00 each or all for \$100.00 - 863-385-0000

Organ, light wood, great for Christmas, \$150.00, 201-207-4809

Roland Karaoke Piano- Electric, includes mic, stand & books. \$13K new, asking \$500. 863-381-4410

**MEDICAL
6095**

Bike Easy Seat Medically approved still in the box, (split seat), \$5.00, 407-385-4196

Lift Recliner, "Pride", electric, cost \$800+ new, exc. cond., \$275.00 - 863-243-2262

Mobility Scooter, Easy Mini Rider, batteries and accessories included. \$500. 239-405-3001

Walker, Rollator, 4 wheel & feet w/brakes & basket, folds up, great cond., \$75.00 obo, 863-451-1989 leave message

**BABY ITEMS
6120**

Infants Hand-knit Wear, (New) \$5-\$20. 863-453-3104

**EXERCISE/
FITNESS
6128**

Inversion Table, Teeter 217 model, like new, from QVC, call for more info., \$300.00 obo, 231-299-4306

Stationary Exercise Bike, Life Cycle, \$10.00 - 863-699-9995

Total Gym fitness machine, good condition \$75 (863) 314-6423

Trampoline- 10.5 ft, round. \$60. 863-699-6733

**SPORTING GOODS
6130**

Bowling ball and bag, ladies 12 pound, \$20, 863-452-2534

Bowling shoes ladies size 7, gray and black, \$5.00, 863-452-2534

**SPORTING GOODS
6130**

Bowling Shoes, ladies, size 6, \$30.00 - 863-385-4502

**FIREARMS
6131**

150 Rounds of .45 cal. **ammunition**, 1complete new Remington box of 100 & 50 reloads by gun shop, \$50, 863-273-1907

Glock, .45 cal. pistol, 2 clips, 13 rounds, like new, still in box, \$500, 863-273-1907

**FIREARMS
ACCESSORIES
6132**

Corner gun cabinet, lighted, oak, holds 16 guns, locking doors and storage doors on bottom, \$150, 863-402-2285

Gun Cabinet, Handmade, pine holds 7 guns w/lock drawer, glass shelves, for curio cabinet, \$100, 863-402-2285

**HUNTING &
FISHING SUPPLIES
6133**

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

Plastic baits, hard lures, braided lines, partial boxes, rods and reels, good ones, landing net, \$1.00-50.00, 605-251-3252

**BICYCLES/
TRICYCLES
6135**

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

26" Avalon, aluminum, dual suspension, 7 speed, diamond-back seat, mirror w/flashing light, basket, \$60, 563-505-6764

Bicycle, girls 24", purple Roadmaster, 18 speed, like new, \$50.00 - 863-385-4502

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, 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

Sequence game. \$13. (269) 830-2500

**LAWN & GARDEN
6160**

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

Lawn ornament, cement basket, 3x2 weights 80#, \$50.00 863-382-9355

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

**BUILDING
SUPPLIES
6170**

Awnings, aluminum (2) 5x3, good conition, \$40 each or \$75 for both, 812-372-7955

Dining benches, mattresses, work boots make the recall list

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A line of dining benches that can crack and collapse are among this week's recalled consumer products. Other items include mattresses and children's pajamas that fail to meet flammability standards.

Here's a more detailed look:

Dining benches

DETAILS: Vilo Home Marseille dining benches with four legs. The benches were sold in black and brown with beige linen seat cushions. The benches were made of rubber wood. The bench measures about 52 inches by 18 inches wide. The model number is VH1103 and can be found on the product label on the bottom of the bench. They were sold at Amazon.com, Wayfair.com, Hayneedle.com and various home furnishing stores nationwide from June 2017 through September 2017 for about \$150.

WHY: The foam seat cushion and base can crack in the middle and cause the bench to collapse, posing a fall hazard.

INCIDENTS: Vilo Home has received two reports of the benches cracking in the middle and collapsing. No injuries have been reported.

HOW MANY: About 200.

FOR MORE: Call Vilo Home toll-free at 833-321-2715 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or email at service@vilohome.net.

Work boots

DETAILS: Two styles of ACE men's work boots by Shoes For Crews, style #76054, "Ace Zeus," and style #77667, "Ace Republic." The style number is printed on the inside of the boot on the tongue label. They were sold by the Shoes For Crews catalog and website from August 2017

through October 2017 for between \$80 and \$135.

WHY: The work boots were advertised as puncture-resistant, but were not manufactured with the puncture-resistant plate, posing an injury hazard to users.

INCIDENTS: None reported.

HOW MANY: About 4,300.

FOR MORE: Contact Shoes For Crews toll-free at 888-770-7018 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.shoesforcrews.com and click on "Recall Notice" for more information.

Folding bicycles

DETAILS: Folding Brompton bicycles with "Brompton" printed on the bicycle's frame. Only bicycles with serial numbers 1403284144 to 1705150001 (manufactured from April 2014 through May 2017) are included in the recall. The serial number is printed on a curved plate or sticker, applied to the rear of the seat tube. If the barcode sticker on the bike is faded or rubbed off, submit the six digit frame number stamped into the metal plate behind the bottom bracket and seat tube via email to support@brompton.com to receive the correlating serial number. They were sold at specialty bicycle stores and Brompton dealers nationwide from April 2014 through September 2017 for between \$1,200 and \$3,000.

WHY: The bicycle's bottom bracket can break during use, posing a fall hazard.

INCIDENTS: None reported.

HOW MANY: About 8,400 in the U.S. and about 1,300 in Canada.

FOR MORE: Call Brompton at 800-578-6785 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.brompton.com and click on "Voluntary recall" for



CPSC.GOV

The work boots were advertised as puncture-resistant, but were not manufactured with the puncture-resistant plate, posing an injury hazard to users.

more information.

Portable generators

DETAILS: This recall involves Honda portable gasoline generators with model numbers EB2800i and EG2800i. The recalled portable generators have a red front cover and a black metal frame. The EB2800i has a silver-colored control panel and the EG2800i has a black-colored control panel. "HONDA" and the generator model number are printed on the control panel. The serial number is located on a lower black metal frame toward the rear of the generator. They were sold at authorized Honda Power Equipment dealers and Home Depot stores nationwide from September 2016 through November 2017 for about \$1,150.

WHY: The carburetor can leak gasoline, posing fire and burn hazards.

INCIDENTS: The firm has received 38 reports of fuel leakage from the generators. No fires or injuries have been reported.

HOW MANY: About 34,000.

FOR MORE: Call American Honda toll-free at 888-888-3139 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Monday through Friday or online at <https://powerequipment.honda.com/> and click on "Recalls and Updates" at the bottom of the page for more information.

Children's pajamas

DETAILS: Wohali Outdoors children's 100 percent polyester, 100 percent polyester, three-piece pajama sets that include a printed long-sleeve shirt, pants and a coordinating solid color robe that has matching printed lapels and cuffs. The sets have a printed label with "BASS PRO SHOPS" on the back of the neck of the long-sleeve shirt and robe and at the back of the pants. Each of the garments also has a sewn-in side label that has "RN number 74747" printed on it, and underneath that label another sewn-in label that has PO# 3515 or 3516, a style number, and the phone number 1-800-BASS PRO. Only sleepwear with a label identifying PO# 3515 or 3516 are included in the recall. They were sold at Bass Pro Shops stores, catalog, and online at basspro.com from October 2016 through August 2017 for about \$25.

RECALL | 8

MISCELLANEOUS 6260

DE-CLUTTER Your Castle! Sell items for FREE if \$500 and under! Email freeads@highlandsnewssun.com Please include your name, address & phone number



TROPICAL FRUIT TREES Avocados, Bananas, Citrus, Starfruit, Peach, Figs, Longan, Soursop, Lychee (6 Varieties), Blueberries, Mamay Sapote, Jujube, Mulberry, Papaya, Jackfruit, Guava, Tamarind, Coconut, Moringa, Olive, Jabatocaba, Miracle Fruit, Spiral Flag, Sapodilla, Custard Apple, Breadnut, Breadfruit, Persimmon (American & Japanese), Jamaican Red Sugar Apple, Barbados Cherry, Grumichama, Logquat, Mango (13 Varieties) & More! **DELIVERY & INSTALLATION** **Barrett's Tree Nursery** 91 Carefree Ct., Venus, FL 33960 305-216-8452

Gun cases, pistol holds 4, rifle holds 2, \$100/125, brand new in box, 863-382-9355

Ladder, extension, nearly new, Werner Model #D1224-3, \$111, 305-849-0148, go online for description and valve.

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

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

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

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

Suit Cases, rolling, used once, 1 small & 1 large, \$50.00 for both, 863-385-0000

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

FREE MERCHANDISE 6260

FREE Wood- plenty of free wood to a good home. 765-655-3397

TV - large 35" Sony TV, it has had TLC by 1 owner, U-haul away, 863-453-5983 Avon Park

7000



TRANSPORTATION

AUTOMOTIVE 7005

'07 Chevy Trailblazer- \$3,900
'03 Honda Civic- \$2,700
'01 Town & Country- \$2,300
Tony's No Hassle
863-446-1186

FORD 7070

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

TOYOTA 7210

2003 Blue Toyota Celica-152k mi., sporty look, cold A/C, nice interior & runs well. \$4,200 OBO, 863-453-0431.

ANTIQUES/ COLLECTIBLES 7250



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**

VANS 7290

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

GOLF CARTS 7327

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

✓Find Garage Sales

✓Find A New Employee

✓Sell Your Home

✓Sell Your Unwanted Merchandise

✓Advertise Your Business or Service

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BOATS-POWERED 7330

181 Champion-XR6 150 Merc 12/24 volt trolling mtr. Fully loaded, like new w/matching trailer. \$7,700. **317-494-3900**

2010 Carolina Skiff JX16- 60hp Honda 4-stroke. Exc. cond! \$11,900. **863-699-1528 LP.**

Bass Boat- 18' Winner; w/trolling motor; 150hp Mercury. Includes trailer. \$5,000. **863-699-0383**

MISC. BOATS 7333

Paddle Boat, tan & blue, seats 4, has bimini top, \$150.00 obo 863-414-6226

MARINE SUPPLY & EQUIP. 7338

Gas Tank, for boat, 6.5 gal, \$20, 574-209-2117

Trolling Motor, motor guide, 82# thrust 24 volt and digital, \$175 OBO, 574-209-2117

Find the perfect companion in the Classifieds!

TRAILER & ACCESSORIES 7341

Utility Trailer, 4x8 with 16" sides, \$225, 863-655-0269

MOTOR HOMES/ RVs 7380

2003 Allegro Bay 36', F53 Ford chassis, V10, gas, 33,000 original mi, 2 tipouts, 7k generator, 2 new coach batteries, good interior cond, etc., asking \$38,000, 603-921-0767.

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RECALL

FROM PAGE 6

WHY: The children's pajama sets fail to meet flammability standards for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burn injuries to children.

INCIDENTS: None reported.

HOW MANY: About 26,800 in the U.S. and 2,000 in Canada.

FOR MORE: Call Wohali toll-free at 833-282-0442 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or by email cs@wohalioutdoors.com.

Utility vehicles

DETAILS: John Deere models XUV825, XUV825 S4, XUV855, and XUV855 S4 Crossover Gator utility vehicles equipped with power steering. The model number and "John Deere" are printed on the side of the vehicle. The serial number begins with 1M0825 or 1M0855 and is located on the passenger side of the frame under the cargo box. The vehicles have seating for two or four passengers. Sold at John Deere dealers nationwide from March 2012 through November 2017 for between \$13,400 and \$16,100.

WHY: The steering shaft can separate from the steering rack assembly and result in a loss of vehicle steering control, posing a crash hazard.

INCIDENTS: John Deere has received nine reports of steering loss. No injuries have been reported.

HOW MANY: About 68,300

FOR MORE: Call Deere & Co. at 800-537-8233 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET or online at www.deere.com and select "Product Recall Information" on the drop-down menu under "Services & Support" for more information.

Fiber optic christmas trees

DETAILS: Bits and Pieces Fiber Optic indoor plug in Christmas tree. The full foliage branches have fiber optic light strands that change color. Each tree comes with an AC power adapter that is attached to the gold tone colored base that holds the tree in place. The AC power adapter plugs into a standard household outlet. The 18 inch tall tree item number is 43560 and weighs about three pounds. The 31 inch tall tree item number is 43559 and weighs about four pounds. The item numbers can be found on the UPC barcode label on the box. They were sold at Bits and Pieces mail order catalog and online at www.bitsandpieces.com from October 2017 through December 2017 for about \$50.

WHY: The AC power adapter can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

INCIDENTS: The company has received 449 reports of the AC power adapter overheating. There was one injury reported.

HOW MANY: About 1,700.

FOR MORE: Call Melville toll-free at 866-503-6395 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.



CPSC.GOV

The mattresses fail to meet the mandatory federal flammability standard for mattresses, posing a fire hazard.

bitsandpieces.com and click on "Product Recalls" for more information.

Off-highway vehicles

DETAILS: Polaris model year 2018 RZR XP 4 Turbo recreational off-highway vehicle (ROVs) with seating for four. "POLARIS" is printed on the front grill, "DOHC TURBO" and "EPS" on the front fenders, "POLARIS RZR XP" on the rear fenders, "POLARIS" along the bottom edge of the passenger compartment, and "POLARIS" on the rear light assembly. The VIN is printed on the right rear frame of the vehicle. They were sold at Polaris dealers nationwide from September 2017 through October 2017 for between \$22,500 and \$25,500.

WHY: The return fuel line can be improperly secured which can cause fuel to leak, posing a fire hazard.

INCIDENTS: Polaris has received one report of a fire resulting from an improperly installed return fuel line. No injuries have been reported.

HOW MANY: About 560.

FOR MORE: Call Polaris at 800-765-2747 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or online at www.polaris.com and click on "Off Road Safety Recalls" for more information. In addition, consumers can check vehicle identification numbers (VIN) on the "Product Safety Recalls" page to see if their vehicle is included in any recalls. Any consumer who has had this repair done should check their VIN on the "Product Safety Recalls" page to confirm their vehicle's repair status.

Ceiling fans

DETAILS: Two models of the Monte Carlo "Cyclone" ceiling fans with five blades. The model numbers are 5CY60RB for the Roman Bronze finish and 5CY60WH for the White finish and can be found on top of the motor housing. The Manufacturer Purchase Order numbers (MPO#) can also be found on top of the motor housing. For the Cyclone model ceiling fan in Roman Bronze finish, they are: 30082259, 30100285, 30103624, 30115763, 30126474, 30128431, 30139761, 30143432 and for the White finish, they are: 2020018, 30082259, 30139815, and 30139829. They were sold at Del Mar Fans & Lighting, Pacific Ceiling Fans, Wilson Lighting and other lighting stores nationwide and online from January 2016 through September 2017.

WHY: The brackets connected to the fan blades can break, causing the blades to fall, posing an injury hazard.

INCIDENTS: 10 reports of a bracket breaking,

causing a fan blade to fall. One report of minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

HOW MANY: About 3,400 in the U.S. and about 50 in Canada.

FOR MORE: Call Monte Carlo at 888-475-1136 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, send email to montecarlofans@generation-brands.com or visit www.montecarlofans.com and click on "Voluntary Recall" for more information.

Mattresses

DETAILS: Basic 6-inch and Basic 8-inch models Home Life mattresses sold in twin, full, queen and king sizes. Recalled mattresses are ivory with tan and gray. "Made For: Superior Importers company, 502 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901" is printed on a white tag located on the top side near the foot of the mattress. They were sold on Amazon.com from May 2016 through May 2017.

WHY: The mattresses fail to meet the mandatory federal flammability standard for mattresses, posing a fire hazard.

INCIDENTS: None reported.

HOW MANY: About 6,200

FOR MORE: Call Superior Importers toll-free at 833-502-2500 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, send email to superiorimporters@gmail.com or visit www.superiorimporters.com and click on "Contact Us" for more information.

Children's toilet step stools

DETAILS: SquattyPottymus children's toilet step stools used to assist a child in reaching a toilet seat. The step stool is designed to look like a gray hippopotamus with blue or purple eyes. It has a height-adjusting aqua blue hat top step and cut-outs that function as handles on each side. They were sold online at squattypotty.com and Amazon.com from September 2017 through November 2017.

WHY: The top removable step (hat) on the recalled children's toilet step stools can detach while a child is standing on it, posing injury and fall hazards.

INCIDENTS: Two reports of children falling from the toilet step stool, resulting in one child hitting her chin on the toilet and biting the inside of her mouth causing her to bleed. Another child fell and hit his head on a wall.

HOW MANY: About 2,400

FOR MORE: Call Squatty Potty at 855-628-1099 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday, send email to recall@squattypotty.com or visit www.squattypotty.com

ON THE MONEY

Factor in safety before choosing a new dresser or TV

By ALEXANDRA OLSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Thinking about getting a new flat-screen TV for the holidays, or a dresser for the baby's room? Factor safety into your choice.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warns TVs and furniture like dressers and chests pose tip-over risks if they are not properly anchored to walls. This is especially true in households with young children, who can be tempted to climb on anything. But plenty of adults get injured, too. Emergency rooms treat an average of 30,700 people — 52 percent of them children — each year for injuries related to falling televisions, furniture and appliances, according to a 2017 CPSC report. Between 2000 and 2016, 514 people were killed by tip-overs, more than 80 percent of them children.

The CPSC's "Anchor-It!" campaign encourages families to attach TVs and top-heavy furniture to walls.

Where to put it?

Take a look at the room where you want the item to go. What kind of walls does it have? In most homes, bedrooms have sheet rock walls, making it relatively simple to install anti-tip devices. It's just a matter of finding the studs and following the instructions properly.

Things get more complicated if you have an older home with plaster or brick walls. Stud finders are useless for plaster walls and drilling into brick can be tricky. That might mean a dresser may have to go against another wall than the one you had in mind. So, take that into account before settling on the size and shape of a dresser.

If plaster or brick walls are the only option, consider hiring a professional to avoid mistakes that will



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Tuesday, May 23, 2017, photo shows televisions on display at a Best Buy in Cary, N.C. Federal safety regulators recommend anchoring TVs and dressers to the wall to prevent them from tipping over, especially with small children around.

leave a bunch of holes, said Peter Kerin, owner of Minnesota-based Foresight ChildProofing, Inc.

Keep the same considerations in mind for old furniture or TVs that might get moved to make room for the new piece. Many families end up putting old TVs on top of furniture not meant to hold it and then forget to anchor it, Buerkle said.

Read up on safety standards

Most American furniture manufacturers adhere to safety standards developed by ASTM International for a wide range of products. Manufacturers' compliance is voluntary, however. Ikea has recalled more than 17 million chests and dressers that didn't meet the standards, after eight children were killed by toppled Ikea furniture. The Swedish retailer says it no longer sells furniture in the U.S. that doesn't meet the standards.

Dressers must pass two stability tests to meet the standards. The first requires the piece not to tip over when all drawers are opened to the "stop," or two-thirds of the way if there is no "stop." The furniture also must not tip over when all of its doors are opened 90 degrees. For the second test, the furniture must not fall over when a 50-pound weight — the average weight of a

5-year-old — is gradually applied to the front of the drawer. The furniture must also be sold with anti-tip restraint kits.

Check to see if the furniture has a permanent tip-over warning label attached, usually inside the top drawer. That will let you know it adheres to the standards.

If you are buying furniture online, avoid any product that does not specifically say it meets the standards, says Pat Bowling, vice president for communications of the American Home Furnishings Alliance.

Make sure you have all the hardware you need

Most new furniture comes with anti-tip restraints and instructions for installing them. But don't forget about the older furniture or TVs in your home. Anti-tip brackets are available at hardware stores, major big-box retailers and online. A stud finder and a drill are also a good idea.

Look for restraints that are detachable, for easy cleaning, and that comply with their own ASTM standards.

Kerin says he prefers metal buckle and nylon straps but the most important thing is to install them properly. For furniture, make sure to put the screws into solid wood, rather than the thin paneling usually found on the back.



CPSC.GOV

The foam seat cushion and base can crack in the middle and cause the bench to collapse, posing a fall hazard.

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the FUNNIES

PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

YOU'RE GOING TO BE PROUD OF ME, LUCY... I'VE DECIDED THAT THIS NEXT YEAR IS GOING TO BE MY YEAR OF DECISION!

THIS IS A LIST OF THINGS IN MY LIFE THAT I'M GOING TO CORRECT.. I'M GOING TO BE A BETTER PERSON!

NOT ME... I'M GOING TO SPEND THIS WHOLE YEAR REGRETTING THE PAST.. IT'S THE ONLY WAY, CHARLIE BROWN..

I'M GOING TO CRY OVER SPILT MILK, AND SIGH OVER LOST LOVES...

IT'S A LOT EASIER... IT'S TOO HARD TO IMPROVE.. I TRIED IT ONCE... IT DROVE ME CRAZY..

"FORGET THE FUTURE" IS MY MOTTO.. REGRET THE PAST! OH, HOW I REGRET THE PAST!

WHY DID I DO THIS? WHY DID I DO THAT? WHY? I REGRET IT ALL!

OH, WHAT REGRETS! WHAT REMORSE! WHAT ANGUISH! WHAT... *~ SIGH ~*

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



ARE YOU FIXING OR BREAKING??

I'M TRYING TO FIND THE DEVICE THAT LOCATES MY LOST KEYS.

AT TIMES I COULD JUST KILL HIM... IF ONLY HE HAD MORE LIFE INSURANCE.

WHY WOULD I WANT A TALKING CAR? I DON'T EVEN WANT A TALKING WIFE.

IS THERE A LONG WAIT TO SEE THE DOCTOR??

Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

IT'S BEEN A REALLY GREAT YEAR!
IT HAS?

CHIP'S BAND RECORDED A CD...

DOT GOT STRAIGHT A's...
DITTO SCORED A WINNING TOUCHDOWN...

TRIXIE TOOK HER FIRST STEPS...

YOU BROKE 90...
AND I LOST 10 POUNDS.

ALL OF WHICH HAS TAKEN OUR MINDS OFF THE REALLY BAD NEWS.

MARY WORTH

LOVE IS THE ONLY GOLD. - ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF ME?

WILL THEY APPROVE?

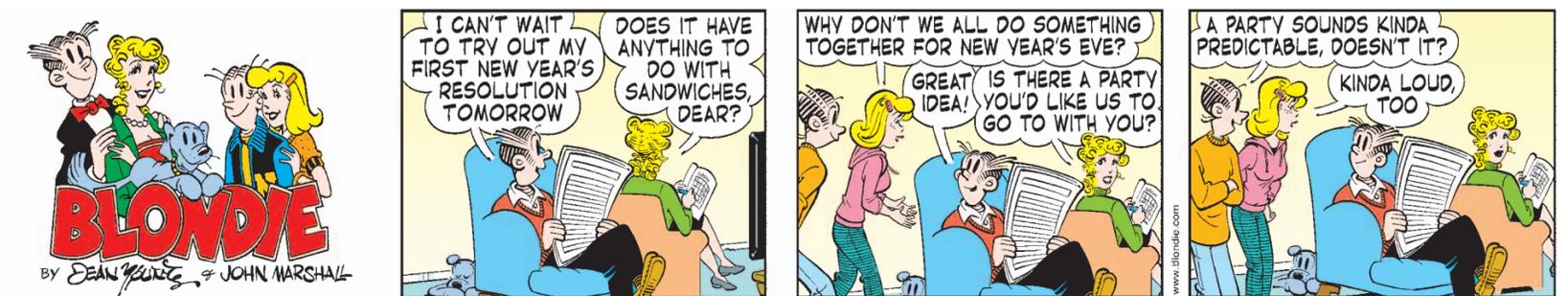
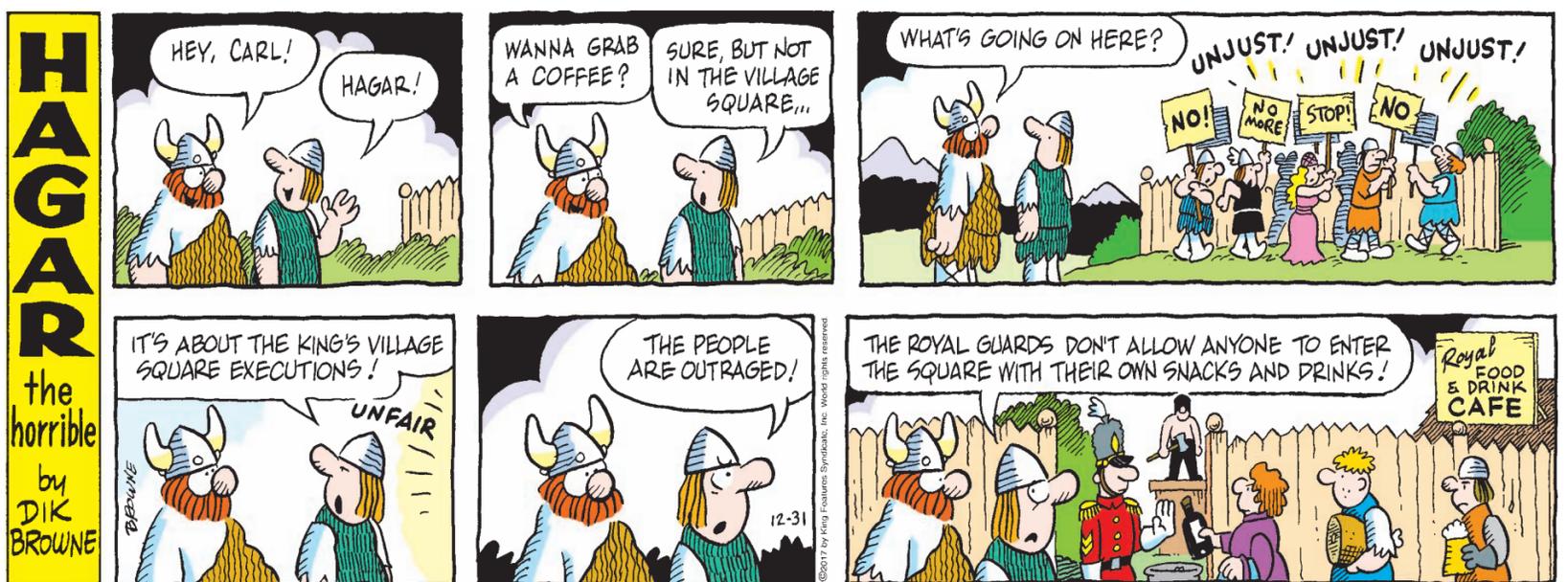
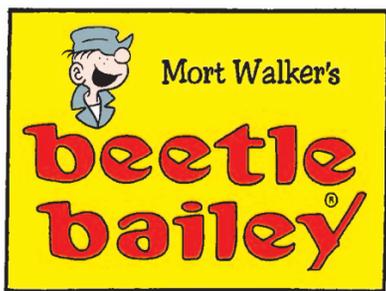
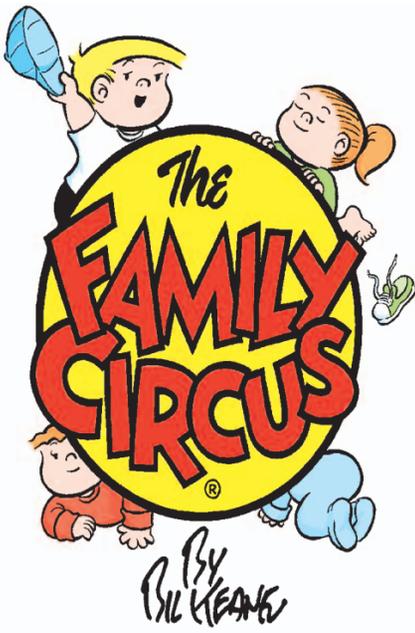
DON'T BE NERVOUS, IRIS. MY RELATIVES WILL LOVE YOU!

JUST AS I DO.

THANKS, ZAK. YOUR COUSIN'S WEDDING WILL BE GREAT!

I LOVE YOU TOO.

MOY BRIGMAN 12/31/17





FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By SYLVIA JOHNSTON

FARLEY, YOU LUCKY DOG!!!

YOU GET MY VERY FIRST HUG OF THE NEW YEAR!

WELL, HERE WE ARE IN A BRAND-NEW YEAR! I THINK WE SHOULD ALL MAKE SOME RESOLUTIONS, DON'T YOU?

OK, I RESOLVE NOT TO CRITICIZE, TO NAG LESS, AND TO BAKE MORE OFTEN.

I RESOLVE NOT TO LOSE MY TEMPER, AND TO FIX ALL THE THINGS IN THE HOUSE THAT NEED REPAIRS.

I RESOLVE TO BRUSH FARLEY TO KEEP MY ROOM CLEAN AN' NOT TO FIGHT WITH MICHAEL.

I RESOLVE TO PLAY ROAD HOCKEY, HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS, AN' TO WATCH MORE TV.

WAIT A MINUTE! WE ALL MADE REAL PROMISES! YOUR RESOLUTIONS ARE WORTHLESS!

I KNOW..... BUT AT LEAST MINE WILL BE KEPT!

GARFIELD

OKAY, EVERYONE!...

TEN!...NINE!...EIGHT!...

SEVEN!... SIX!...FIVE!...

ARE YOU READY TO OFFICIALLY KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR, ODIE?

FOUR!...THREE!... TWO!...ONE!...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

KICK!

Hal Foster's Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

BUKOTA, KAREN AND VANNI HAVE FOUND VAL AMIDST THE RUINS OF A LONG-DEAD VILLAGE. STRANGELY, ALL ABOUT THEM GROWS AN UNUSUAL ABUNDANCE OF PLANTS WITH KNOWN MEDICINAL PROPERTIES. KAREN AND VANNI COLLECT CUTTINGS AS BUKOTA HELPS STEADY VAL.

YEATES 12/31/17

VANNI WHISPERS TO HIS WIFE: "YOUR FATHER'S BELIEF THAT HE ENCOUNTERED A HEALER HERE SPEAKS TO HIS DELIRIUM. BUT - HOW DID HE LOCATE THE SALIX THAT HAS SAVED HIM?"

©2017 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

VAL, TOO, HAS QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH HIS FEVER IS GONE, THE MEMORIES OF HIS MOTHER, HORRIT AND JAHAN SEEM ALL TOO REAL. "WHAT IS THE DREAM AND WHAT IS REALITY?" HE WONDER. "IS ALL WE EXPERIENCE AN ILLUSION?..."

4221

"...IS LIFE NOTHING BUT A SHADOW PLAY?" WHEN THEY ARE BACK ON THE RIVER, BUKOTA BEGINS A MOURNFUL, WAILING SONG FROM HIS HOMETOWN. AS IF THEY ALL RECOGNIZE VAL'S PENSIVE MOOD, KAREN AND VANNI RESPOND WITH CHANTS FROM THE NORTH THAT MESH WEIRDLY WITH THE AB'SABAN'S CALL. "IF IT IS ALL A DREAM," THINKS VAL, "IT IS GOOD TO PASS THROUGH IT WITH COMPANIONS SUCH AS THESE."

NEXT: Raven craft

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

The waitress says that Butch the Burglar is off to steal copper wiring from a rental home. She explains that he chose his target by randomly opening a book of county homes for rent and copying the first address on the left-hand page. Slylock Fox flipped through the book and correctly guessed where Butch was going. How did he find the correct address?

BOB WEBER JR and SR 12-31

Spot six differences between these panels.

www.facebook.com/SlylockFox

HOW TO DRAW a napping kitty

YOUR DRAWING
Today's terrific artist is Hugh, age 11

Submit your drawing to www.kidcartoonists.com

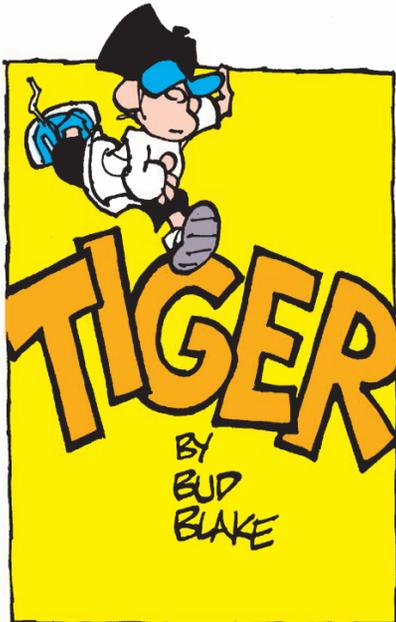
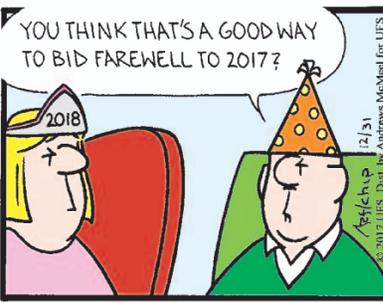
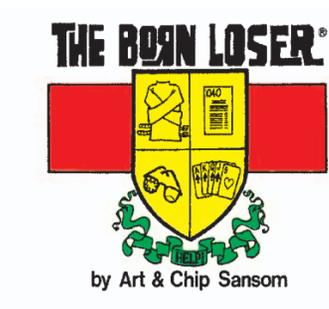
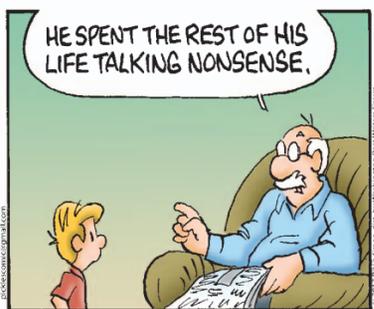
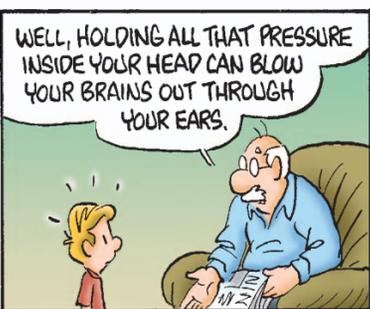
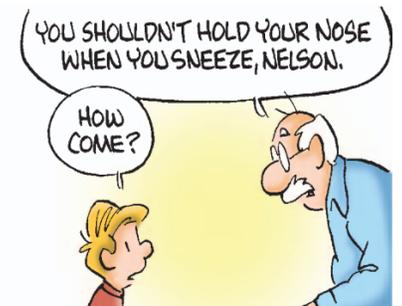
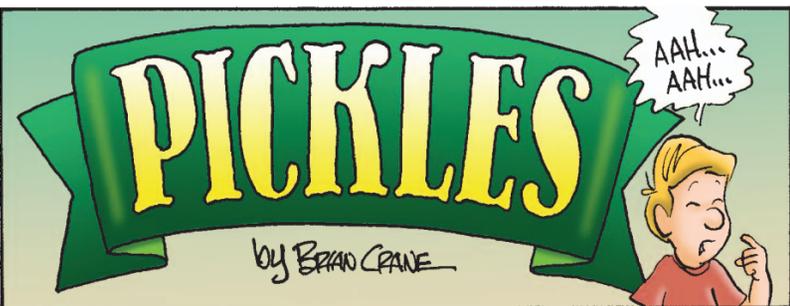
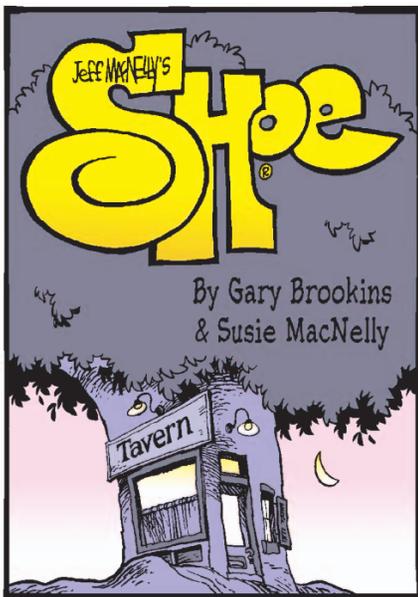
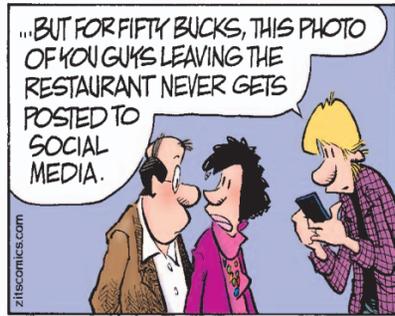
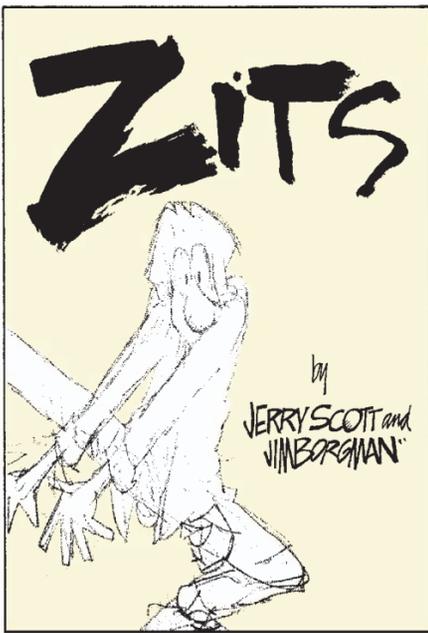
How many times does your heart beat a year?

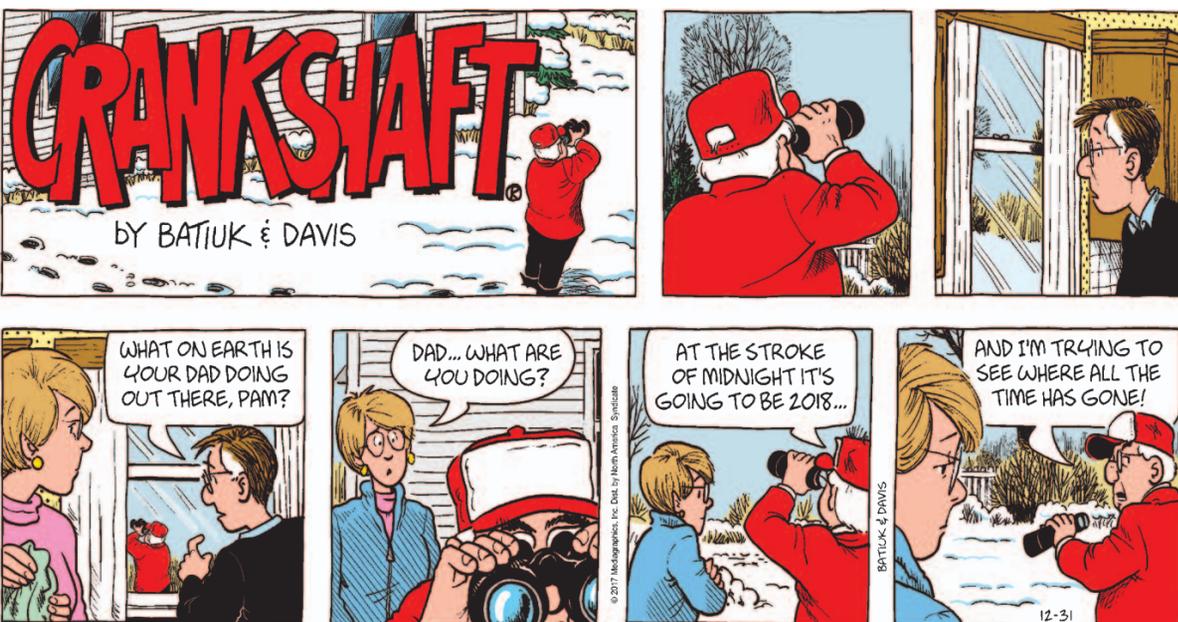
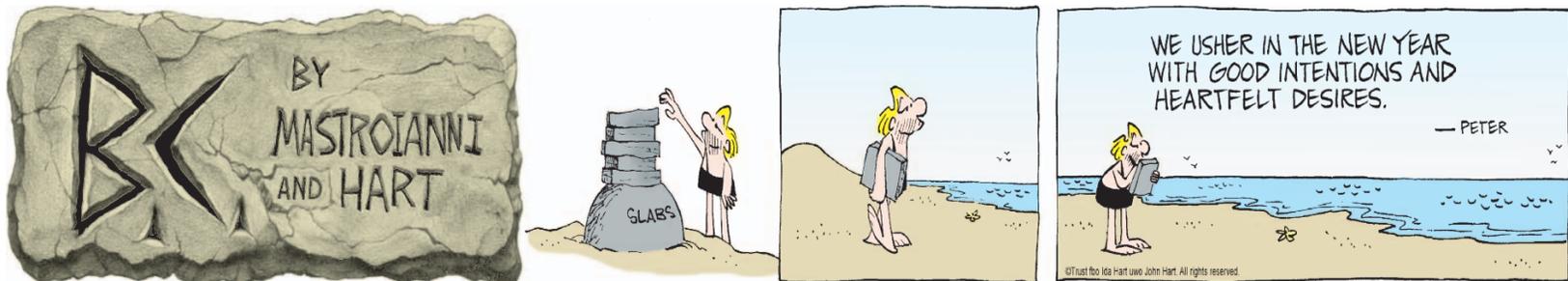
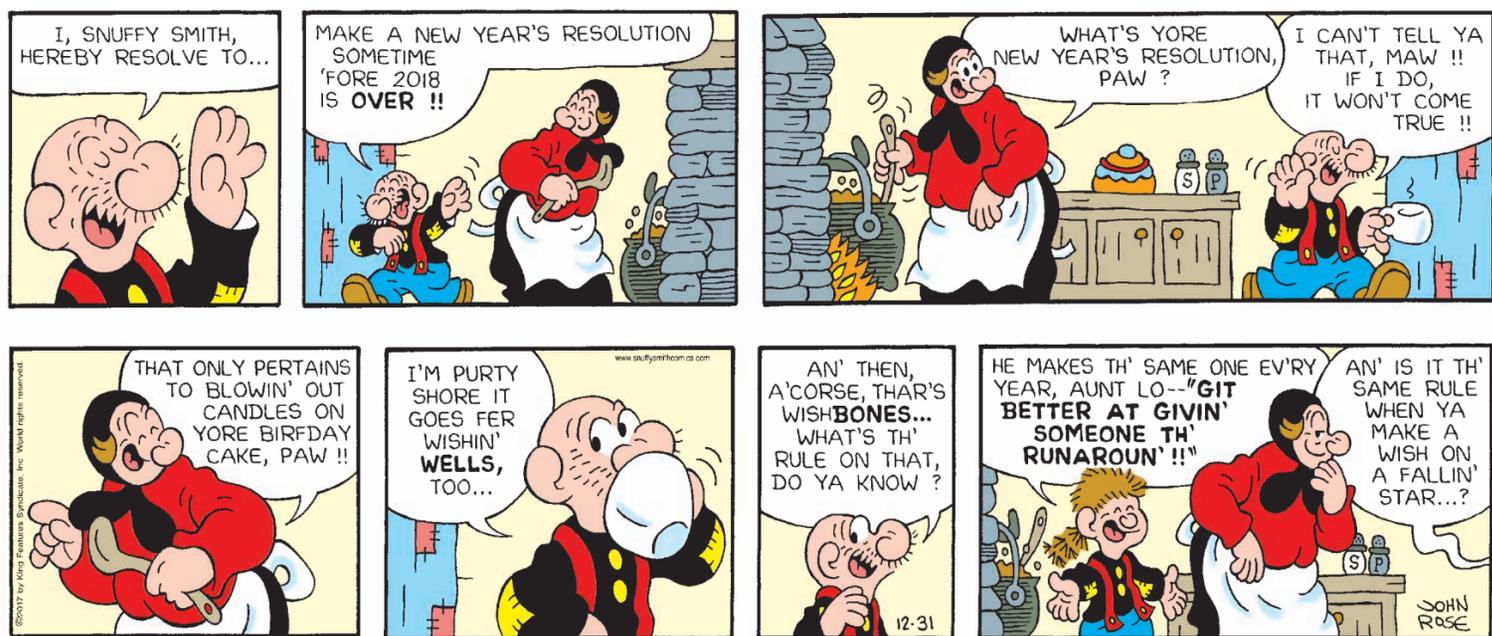
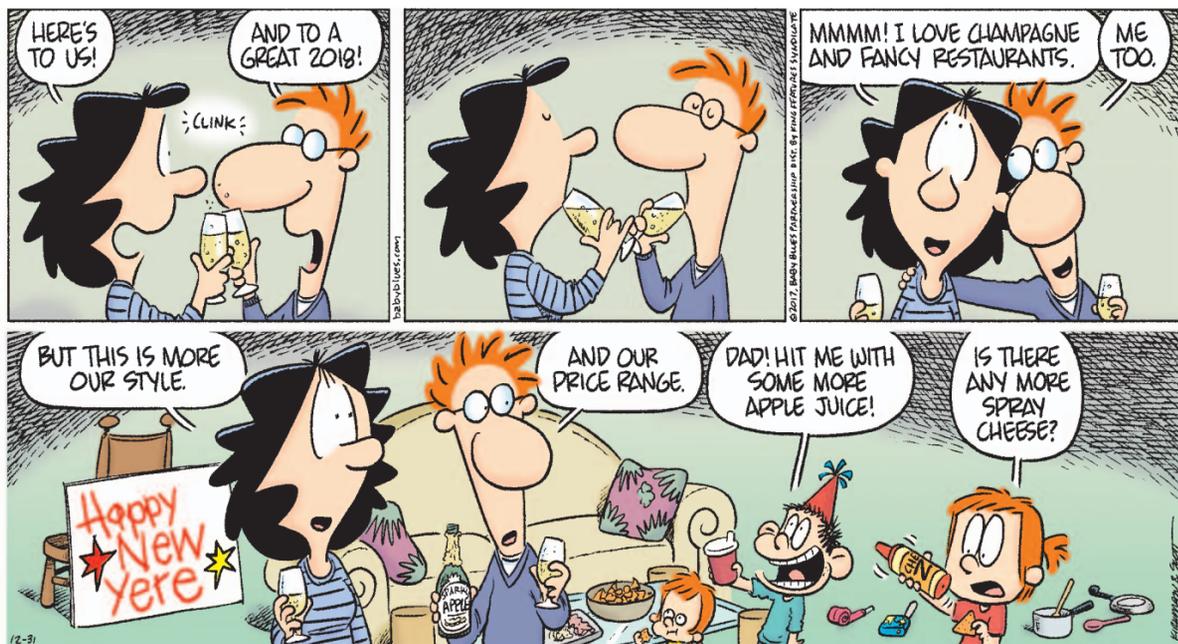
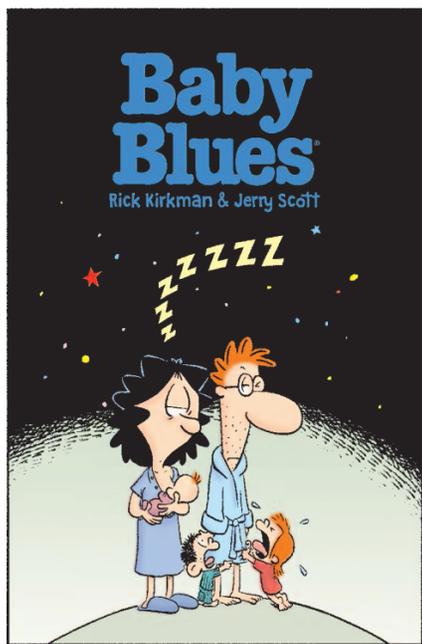
- 150 thousand
- 600 thousand
- 965 thousand
- 18 million
- 42 million

Answer -- (e) At an average rate of 80 times a minute, the heart beats 42 million times a year.

Answer -- key, page, crab, gill, starfish and seaweed.

The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803

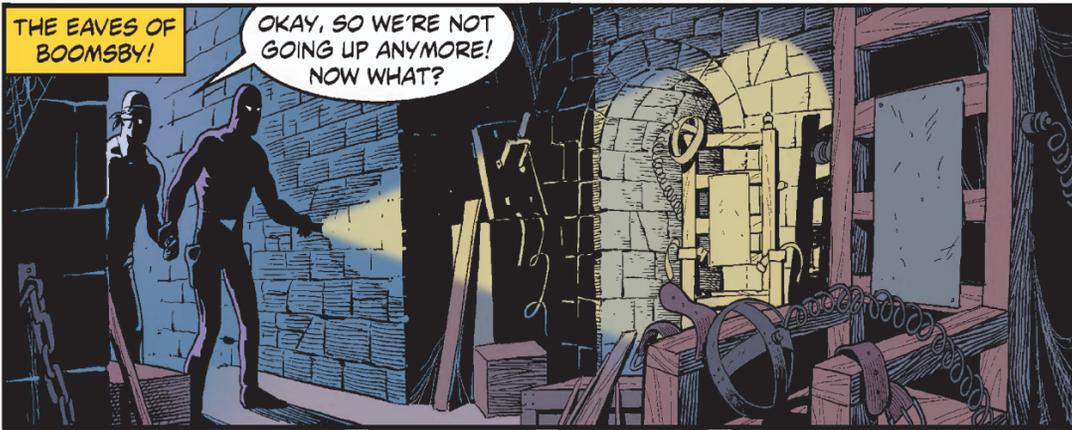






THE PHANTOM

BY LEE FALK



NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY

DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM

