

Don't bring Juuls to school

Juuling is like vaping, e-cigarettes



KIM LEATHERMAN /STAFF

These Juuling devices deliver nicotine in a vapor. They can fit inside a hand and are very discreet.

By KIM LEATHERMAN
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Although the number of youths smoking cigarettes is down, the number of those Juuling is on the rise.

Juuling is essentially the same as an

e-cigarette or vaping. Juul is a name brand of the tobacco-less nicotine delivery system.

Kids think the Juul is cool because the vapor has flavors like cool mint, fruit medley and cool cucumber. High school students also like that there is less smoke from

these "nicotine pens" than e-vapors and e-cigarettes, making them discreet to handle and use — even in class. The "pens" look close enough to a thumb drive and re-charge in the computer, so even the most diligent parent or teacher might think it was one.

The "un-cool" part of Juul? It delivers high doses of nicotine and is considered addictive. Tobacco Free Florida has stated on its website that if a teen that uses one nicotine product, they generally use two. They

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Roundtable talk: How to boost county's economy?

By BILL ROGERS
CORRESPONDENT

Florida has identified 12 counties, including Highlands, that haven't recovered from the recession, and state officials want to determine what is needed to improve the economy in those communities.

In an effort to do that, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity will hold a roundtable discussion this week in Sebring. It will run from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center Auditorium, 4509 George Blvd.

Gov. Rick Scott has created a special initiative to work with counties whose economies have not recovered as quickly as other areas in Florida.

The project is called the 12 Counties Initiative.

In addition to Highlands, the other counties are: Glades, Hendry, Calhoun, Gadsden, Taylor, Putnam, Marion, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter and Indian River.

The criteria used by the state to identify counties involves employment, wages and the labor force. They include: high unemployment, minimal labor force growth, low labor force participation rate, annual wages that are below state average, rate of individuals with disabilities is above state average, low population growth, few job opportunities, high percentage of workforce commutes to another county, poverty rate above state average, food stamp recipients above state average and low educational attainment.

Taylor Benson, the county's economic development manager, said 20 to 25 representatives from various state agencies are expected to attend.

Enterprise Florida, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Transportation are possibly among them.

In an email, Benson said the event is designed to bring together state agencies, local government, businesses and community organizations.

She added that her office has contacted more than 150 stakeholders locally. Among them are: Highlands County Commission, municipalities and special improvement districts in

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It's 'Summer' tune time

By MARC VALERO
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Eddie Cochran sang, along with a host of other artists over the years, "But, there ain't no cure for the Summertime Blues."

Short of a long vacation, beating the summertime blues may be as easy as dialing in some summertime tunes.

As musical styles and genres come and go and evolve so has the summer song changed over the years. "Summertime Blues" from 1958 cowritten by Cochran, an American rockabilly artist, has been reinterpreted by many artists including a rock version by The Who with John Entwistle's upfront bass playing, a straightforward early Beach Boys version on their first album "Surfin' Safari," a psychedelic version in 1968 by Blue Cheer and a fiddling country version by Alan Jackson.

A listing of "summer" songs should delve back to the 1930s to include "Summertime" from the English language opera "Porgy and Bess" from composer George Gershwin with the opening line "Summertime, and the livin' is easy."

In the 1950s the Jamies doubled up the title with "Summertime, Summertime," an early rock 'n roll/doo-wop tune.

One of the biggest "summer" hits didn't need a vocalist to achieve nine weeks at number one on the Billboard singles chart in 1960. A great arrangement and sweeping strings drove Percy Faith's "Theme from a Summer Place" to the top of the charts.

Of note, Faith's version was not in the movie "A Summer Place," which was a romantic drama featuring Sandra Dee and Troy Donahue.

Hugo Winterhalter recorded the instrumental version for the film. He had number one hit in 1956 with "Canadian Sunset."

The most notable vocal versions of "A Theme from a Summer Place" are by Andy Williams and The Lettermen.

The Lovin' Spoonful, fronted by John Sebastian, hit it big with "Summer in the City" in 1966 a tune that included car horns and jackhammer sound effects to give it a city feel.

Jumping to 1969 Sly and the Family Stone offered the soulful "Hot Fun in the Summertime." The Beach Boys covered the song, with a lot less soul and plenty of their signature harmonies, on their 1992 album "Summer in Paradise."

The funk band War had amassed enough hits including "Low Rider," "Why Can't We Be Friends" and "The Cisco Kid" to put out a greatest his album in 1976. The album featured a new tune "Summer" that was released on the first day of summer in 1976.

The song references the long defunct magnetic tape cartridge music reproduction format known as the "eight track" with the lyric line, "Eight track playing all your favorite sounds."

A summer tune from 2002 also referenced an old music reproduction format referencing the 45 rpm record. "Soak

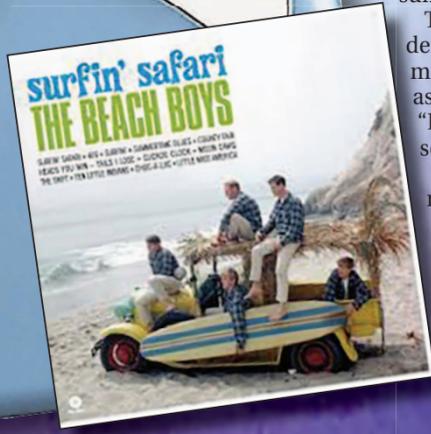
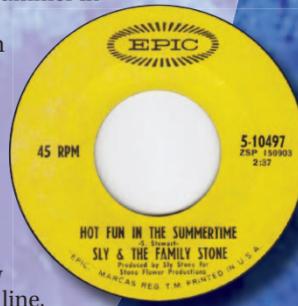


A SHORT LIST OF A FEW MORE NOTABLE SUMMER TUNES

- "The Summer Wind" - Frank Sinatra.
- "Summer Breeze" - Seals & Crofts.
- "Summer of 69" - Bryan Adams.
- "Boys of Summer" - Don Henley.
- "Sounds of Summer" - Dierks Bentley.
- "Beat this Summer" - Brad Paisley.
- "Summertime" - Kenny Chesney.

Different songs with same title:

- "Summer Nights" - Van Halen.
- "Summer Nights" - John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John from "Grease."
- "Summer Nights" - Rascal Flatts.
- "Summer Nights" - Lil Rob.
- "Summer Nights" - Iration (reggae group from Santa Barbara, Calif).



SUMMER | 10



Comics.....NEWS WIRE
Classifieds.....D6-7
Highlands Homes.....C1

Local Sports.....B1
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Fire scare occurs during anniversary party



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

This house at 48 Catfish Lane was the sight of a fire scare as the local volunteer firefighters put out smoldering insulation that was blamed on a lightning strike.

BY KIM LEATHERMAN
STAFF WRITER

LAKE PLACID — Charlie and Liz Swift will have a unique memory to look back on when remembering their 50th anniversary party — the threat of a fire. Lake Placid Fire Chief Adam Hess confirmed that a lightning storm has been blamed on setting the attic insulation on fire.

A group of friends and family had gathered at 48 Catfish Lane Friday night in order to celebrate the Swifts' anniversary on Saturday. They were fortunate in their choice of anniversary guests when Tallahassee Fire Lieutenant Rob Koegel was in the house.

Koegel was fixing a door when he said,



Lake Placid and Placid Lakes Volunteer Fire Departments came to the aid of the inhabitants of 48 Catfish Lane on Friday evening after they smelled smoke coming from the attic.

"Something smells bad; you had better call 911."

Of course, the fireman was right and Lake Placid and Placid Lakes Volunteer Fire Departments responded quickly to the scene, as well as Highlands Fire

Services Supervisor Scott Canaday. Duke Energy was also on scene to shut off power to the home.

It wasn't long before the firefighters cleared the scene and Duke Energy hooked up the power once more.

5 THINGS That Will Make You SMARTER



1. Kumquats are a type of citrus fruit that grow on small trees, that have edible skin and flesh, and they are believed to be native to China.

2. "Kumquats" are also known as "cumquats," and the name is taken from Cantonese word, pronounced "kamkwat."

which literally means "gold" or "golden" and "orange" or "tangerine."

3. The official species name of a kumquat tree is *Citrus japonica*, from the family Rutaceae, the family of citrus; however, they were formerly of the *Fortunella* genus, and as such, the old scientific names for the fruit are still commonly used.

4. Kumquats are typically sturdy fruit, and the plants generally have the

ability to withstand fairly hot and cold growing temperatures, unlike many other citrus species.

5. The flesh of kumquats is particularly strong and sour, however the skin is usually sweet in comparison, and for this reason, it is common for the flesh and skin, or "peel" as it is often called, to be eaten together.

Source: <http://tenrandomfacts.com/kumquat/>

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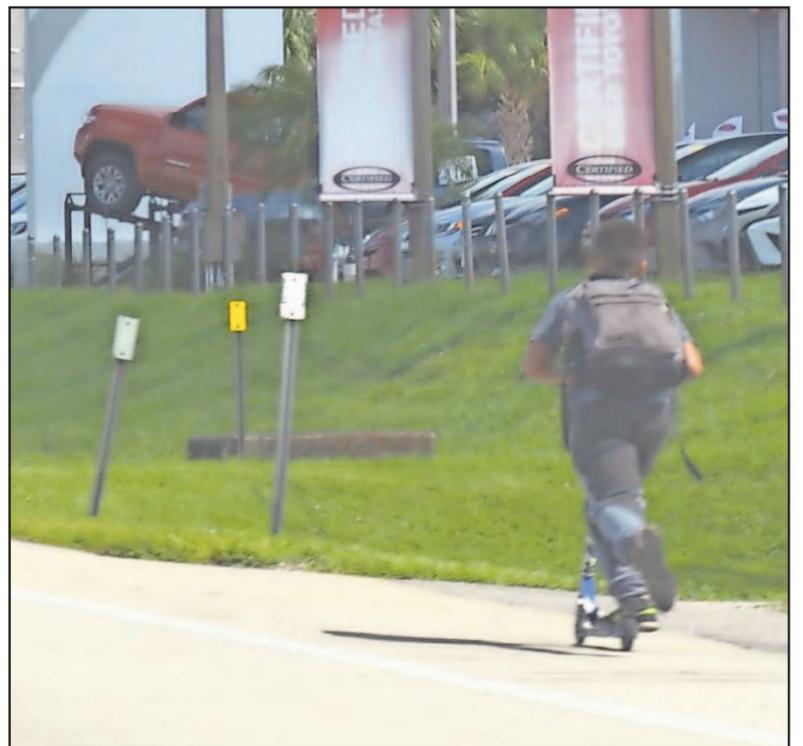
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PHIL ATTINGER/STAFF

Zippering along

A youth on a foot-powered scooter Thursday morning zips down the widened shoulder on the northbound lanes of U.S. 27 near Flare Road. The bike lanes were added in the last couple of years as part of a Florida Department of Transportation intermodal system, allowing human-powered vehicles to share space with gasoline and diesel motor vehicles of all sizes.

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Tuesday is low cost vaccination clinic. It is open



Tanya

COURTESY PHOTO

A year and a half old, Tanya is very friendly and playful.

from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointment needed. They do vaccines, worming, and nail trim. Now offering low-cost dental

care. They also have low cost spay/neuter on Tuesday by appointment only. Call 863-655-1522 to schedule.

Sebring man charged with drugs, driving while license suspended

By **MELISSA MAIN**
 STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Deputies from the Highlands County Sheriff's Office pursued a Sebring man as he escaped on foot following a traffic stop.

When they apprehended him, they discovered he had 7 grams of methamphetamine, an arrest report stated.

Bradley Wayne Jones, 32, of Sebring, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting an

officer without violence and driving an unregistered motor vehicle.

According to the arrest report, deputies spotted a black moped that did not have a license plate attached. Although the deputies turned on lights and sirens, Jones did not stop his vehicle.

The deputies continued the pursuit, and Jones came to a stop, jumped off the moped and began running towards a mobile home park, the report stated.

Deputies reportedly found Jones in the

carport of a trailer within the mobile home park. The report stated that a clear plastic bag with a crystal-like substance was found next to Jones.

This substance field tested positive for methamphetamine, the arrest report stated.

Upon checking Jones' driver's license status and the vehicle identification number, deputies found that the license had been suspended in 2014 and the vehicle was not registered.

The moped was towed from the scene.

AP man charged with drugs, obstructing investigation

By **MELISSA MAIN**
 STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Highlands County Sheriff's deputies responded to reports of an altercation that was causing a disturbance at a gas station, and when the person involved with the dispute was searched, deputies found illegal drugs, according to the report.

On July 3, David Isaac Delreal, 33, of Avon Park was charged with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia and obstructing an investigation without violence.

According to the arrest report, Delreal, who was allegedly involved in a dispute with a female

at the gas station, denied that any altercation had taken place. The deputy told Delreal that he was concerned for the female's welfare, and he wished to speak with her.

Delreal told the deputy that she was not at the gas station but she was later found in the closet area of the gas station's car wash, the area where Delreal worked, the report stated.

According to the arrest report, while the deputies were speaking with Delreal, they noticed a bulge in his sock. This bulge held a clear plastic bag, commonly used for



DELREAL

illegal drugs.

Deputies asked Delray to show them what was inside the bulge, but he refused, according to the report.

Delray was arrested for allegedly obstructing the investigation and knowingly hiding the female, the report stated. Delray was searched, and deputies reportedly found a clear, crystal-like substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine. Arrest reports indicated that a total of 2.4 grams of methamphetamine were recovered during the arrest.

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Sebring woman charged with drug possession

By **MELISSA MAIN**
 STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — While conducting a watch order at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Lemon Avenue on July 3, Sebring Police Department officers heard a woman yelling, who was later found with drugs and drug paraphernalia, authorities said.

Carol Brown, 57, of Sebring, was charged with cocaine possession and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to the arrest report, officers heard a noise that sounded like a female yelling. When they walked toward the direction of the noise, they allegedly found Brown in her vehicle, which was parked partially on the roadway.

The car was turned on, the report stated, and officers reportedly noted



BROWN

an open beer can on the floorboard, and the odor of alcohol on her breath. The report also stated that her speech was

slurred.

At this point, officers requested that Brown step outside the vehicle and turn it off, and she complied, the report stated.

However, the arrest report stated that she refused to give the officers permission to search her car, but she did give them permission to remove the open container of alcohol, which was still cold to the touch.

Brown allegedly attempted to reach into the vehicle. According to the arrest report, officers told Brown to refrain from her search; however, she

continued to search and said that she did not have anything illegal in her car but she might have a knife and a gun.

Due to the statement about a knife and a gun, officers guided her out of the car, the report stated. Officers reportedly found a yellow knife, which was covered with a yellow sheath, and a glass smoking pipe with burnt residue in her hands.

After they searched her, they found two plastic baggies with white residue that field tested positive for cocaine, the report said.

They also discovered white residue in a Halls cough drop wrapper that field tested positive for cocaine. Brillo pads, which are commonly used for filters when smoking illegal drugs, were found in her vehicle, the report stated.



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Report: Sebring ranked top city in U.S. for paramedics, EMTs

By **MELISSA MAIN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — For U.S. cities with a population under 30,000, Sebring was ranked number 21 in the Top Cities for Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technicians report published by SecurityChoice.com.

Even though the Emergency Medical Services is countywide for Highlands County, the report compared 645 cities.

Cities were ranked based on their salaries for EMTs and paramedics, the amount of crime, paramedic job projection and cost of living. The study also considered how many EMTs and paramedics were employed in Sebring compared to other places with a similar population.

Sebring's low crime rate and low cost of living helped bolster the city in the rankings. In addition, the study examined the amount of growth projected for paramedics. EMTs often desire to improve their education and skills so that they can become paramedics, who have higher salaries and more responsibilities.

Sebring offers them plenty of opportunity for advancement, said Dr. Donald Geldart, medical director for the EMS.

"Our EMS is open to progression within the ranks," he added. This possibility of promotion boots the morale of EMTs and encourages them to pursue additional education, he explained.

Gloria Rybinski,



FILE PHOTO

A nationwide report ranked Sebring as a top city for paramedics and EMTs.

Highlands County's public information coordinator, provided data on the salaries of EMTs and paramedics. Based on calendar year 2017 data, the average salary for EMTs was \$45,900 and the average salary for paramedics was \$58,567.22 (This includes regular, shift differential and overtime pay.) Pay ranged from \$34,000 to \$84,000.

According to Rybinski, EMTs and paramedics receive overtime during each pay period because they work 24 hours on and 48 hours off. This means that paramedics and EMTs receive approximately 20 hours

of overtime for a three-week period.

Geldart believes that it is important to pay the EMTs and paramedics well. "We must stay competitive in that area." He stressed that it's also necessary to give them a work schedule that allows them to further their education. The current schedule of 24 hours on and 48 hours off allows EMTs and paramedics to have family time and improve their skills, he explained.

"The 13 original EMTs in our county raised funds to improve their education and EMS services," Geldart said. "They did this on their

own, and they have passed on a heritage of wanting to improve themselves and the EMS system."

According to Geldart, "The EMTs and paramedics in our county work well together. They support each other.

"In addition, the community is appreciative of their response time, which is usually within five minutes of dispatch calls, except in remote areas," Geldart said.

Rybinski agreed with Geldart's assessment of Sebring's EMS system. "Our EMS system is wonderful. We have a group of very talented people. They are here

because they like what they do. They are all like a family."

Acting EMS Manager David Fitch said: "Our EMTs and paramedics are career minded and hold their positions, many for their entire career. Our turn-over rate is low compared to surrounding agencies."

Fitch explained that this longevity increases the knowledge and skills for emergency service personnel. Instead of having to retrain a constant influx of new staff, EMS personnel continue to gain education and become more proficient in their duties. "We work in rural service. We

rely on highly-trained paramedics. Our sense of professionalism and compassion puts patients at ease. We are a complete advanced life support service," Fitch said. "Every ambulance has a minimum of one paramedic and one EMT."

"We have one of the best working relationships with our local hospitals," Fitch said. "Our hospitals trust us to make field judgments, and this provides better patient care when they arrive at the hospital."

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OBITUARIES

Jack A. Brown



Jack A. Brown, 91, passed away on July 5, 2018. He was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on Aug. 9, 1926 to Charles R. and Anna Leistikow Brown. He had been a Highlands County resident since 1989. Jack joined the U.S. Navy in October of 1943 and then U.S. Army in May of 1947. He worked as a heavy equipment operator and retired from civil service in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He is survived by his children, Billy Donnell of Avon Park, Florida, Danny (Cindy) Brown

and David (Liz) Brown, both of Dallas, Georgia, Debbie (Terry) Windhorst of Louisville, Kentucky, and Darla (Mike) McCorkle of Hixson, Tennessee, and also five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy Sisk Brown.

A memorial service will be held at Fairway Pines at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Good Shepherd Hospice or Avon Park Christian Church.

Services entrusted to Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home, 111 E. Circle St., Avon Park, FL 33825. Online condolences may be left at stephensonnelsonfh.com.

John R. Hollenberg



John Ralph Hollenberg, 87, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on

June 9, 2018. Ralph was born on May 7, 1931 in Sebring, Florida, where he lived most of his life. He married Jean Stauffer Breidenstine of Lebanon, Pennsylvania on June 7, 1953 and shared 64 years of life together until she preceded him in death in June of 2017. Ralph was a graduate of Sebring High School, class of 1950. Together with his friend, Archie Wolfe, he founded the construction

company Hollenberg & Wolfe, Inc. in 1956 and also established Built-Rite Cabinets Company. Throughout 50 years in business together, they built and remodeled many homes and businesses in Highlands County and beyond.

Ralph was a life member of the Sebring Church of the Brethren. He served in various leadership roles as well as serving as a deacon. Ralph was a member of the Rotary Club and helped to organize its annual apple sale for many years. He was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a fond supporter of Camp Ithiel, a Church of the Brethren camp in Gotha, Florida, including building several buildings on the grounds of

the camp.

In addition to his wife, Jean, he was preceded in death by his parents, John H. and Ada D. Hollenberg; a sister, Viola; a brother, George; a daughter, Anita M. Byng (Terry); and a son, Dean W. Hollenberg (Pat). He is survived by his sisters, Edna Rutkosky of Sebring, Florida and Dorothy Light (Harry) of Columbia, Pennsylvania; son, Bruce A. Hollenberg of Westminster, Maryland; son, Rev. Keith E. Hollenberg (Beth) of York, Pennsylvania; son-in-law, Myron "Terry" Byng (Martha); daughter-in-law, Pat; grandchildren, Rev. Jeremy S. Byng (Ginger), Darren M. Byng (Lara), Adam J. Hollenberg

(Jennifer), Rev. Nathan P. Hollenberg (Kate), Stephanie M. Hollenberg, Melissa D. Nunez (Shawn), Rev. Audrey N. Hollenberg-Duffy (Rev. Tim), Justin M. Hollenberg, Matthew D. Hollenberg and Jonathan A. Hollenberg and 10 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 14, 2018 with visitation at 10 a.m. at Sebring Church of the Brethren. His pastor, David Smalley, and former pastor Cecil Hess will be officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts should be made out to the Sebring Church of the Brethren, 700 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870 in memory of J. Ralph Hollenberg. morrisfuneralchapel.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Caladium Festival floral arrangement

LAKE PLACID - The Lake Placid Garden Club will host a floral arrangement competition at the Caladium Festival to be held July 27-29. Entries must be fresh flowers with no less than 80 percent caladiums. Children ages 6-12 are also encouraged to enter. Arrangements must be delivered to Mid-Florida Credit Community Room by Thursday, July 26 between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. For information, call Paula Fabik at 863-835-2419 or email yorkima@comcast.net or contact Janet Earnshaw at 863-699-1262 or email earnjan@gmail.com.

Agricultural Flea Market

LAKE PLACID - Ecoventure LLC presents an Agricultural Flea Market from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday, 111 South Sun N' Lakes Blvd. in Lake Placid. This is a free community event. For information, call Jacques or Yvette at 305-255-1114 or 305-469-4769. Please RSVP, space is limited.

Tea party candidate forum

During June, July and August, the Highlands tea party will be presenting the following 2018 candidates. Bring questions and points of concern. Meetings happen Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Homer's Restaurant, 1000 Sebring Parkway.

- July 24: Charlene Edwards - candidate for Highlands County School Board (incumbent)
- July 24: Isaac Durrance - candidate for Highlands County School Board
- Aug. 7: Matt Caldwell - candidate for Florida Agriculture Commissioner
- Aug. 7: Cary Pigman - candidate for Florida State Representative (incumbent)
- Aug. 14: Jill Compton - candidate for Highlands County School Board (incumbent)

The public is invited to attend all meetings. Party affiliation is not an issue.

Smart driver class scheduled

SEBRING - The next AARP Smart Driver class will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, July 9, at Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 3115 Hope St. in Sebring. To register, call Mary Jane Lloyd at 863-452-0335.

Christmas in July scheduled

LAKE PLACID - The

Greater Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon will take place from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, at Lake Placid Elks Lodge, 200 E. CR 621. Lunch costs \$12 and is grilled chicken with alfredo sauce. RSVP on or before July 9. For information, call 863-465-4331 or visit chamber@lpfla.com.

Republican women to meet

SEBRING - The Highlands Republican Women's Network will hold its next meeting at noon on Wednesday, July 11, at Chicanes Restaurant, 3101 Golfview Road in Sebring. Chief Fansler will be giving a CPR class. For information, call Penny Rae at 863-633-0375.

Ask-a-lawyer clinic

SEBRING - Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. will hold a free ask-a-lawyer clinic for low income individuals from 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, at the Sebring Public Library, 319 W. Center Ave. To be screened for eligibility and secure a consultation, call Sheena Robinson at 863-688-7376, Ext. 3018 by Tuesday, July 10.

Princess Day at dance studio

SEBRING - Extreme Dance Studio will have their 2018 Princess Summer Day Camp from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, at

Extreme Dance Studio, 253 U.S. 27 N. in Sebring (same plaza as Five Guys). Cost is \$65 and is for ages 3-6. Lunch and snacks provided. For more information, call 863-386-5425.

Summer church youth program

AVON PARK - Resurrection Lutheran Church will host its summer youth program for grades 1-5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 16, 18, 20, 23, 25 and 27, at the church on the corner of Main Street and Memorial Drive in Avon Park. Lunch and snacks provided. Program is free but space is limited so register early. To register or for information, call 863-453-6858.

Vet Jam Summer Fest

SEBRING - Vet Jam Summer Fest will take place from noon until 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 14, at Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 2259, 11675 U.S. 98 in Sebring. Opening ceremony is at 11:30 a.m. Live music, raffles, 50/50, food and car show. Free admission.

Open to the public. For information, call 863-440-1554.

Summer youth program at church

AVON PARK - Resurrection Lutheran Church will host its summer youth program for grades 1-5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 16, 18, 20, 23, 25 and 27, at the church on the corner of Main Street and Memorial Drive in Avon Park. Lunch and snacks provided. Space is limited so register early. To register or for information, call 863-453-6858.

Tanglewood Friday night jazz

SEBRING - The Broadway Lights Theatre Company invites you to the Tanglewood Community Clubhouse for Friday Night Jazz, 7 p.m. on Friday, July 20, at the Tanglewood Clubhouse, across from Denny's. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$5 and tickets sold at the door. Free to all disabled vets. Bring your own beverage and snacks.

Christmas in July,

member drive

SEBRING - The Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 will have a membership drive open to the public and on two different stages. Friday, July 20 is Christmas in July, along with turkey dinner, Cowboy Jody and special guest. Dinner from 5-6:30 p.m. Dance is from 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. For information, call 863-471-3557.

Shannon Reed concert on tap

SEBRING - The Shannon Reed Band will be in concert Saturday, July 21 at the Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 from 7-11

p.m. Tickets on sale for \$12 per person. Includes pulled pork dinner. For information, call 863-471-3557.

VFW roast turkey and dressing dinner

AVON PARK - The VFW Auxiliary Post 9853 will serve a roast turkey/dressing dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 20 at VFW Post 9853, 75 N. Olivia Drive in Avon Park. Includes traditional sides and dessert. Cost is \$8. Carryout available until sold out. Smoke free dining room. Open to the public. Celebrating Christmas in July.

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VIEWPOINTS

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OUR VIEW

Sharpen those pencils

In the past the Highlands News-Sun has supported the idea that Highlands County is ready for a county-wide fire service, and we still do. But not at an extreme expense to our businesses.

The Highlands County Board of County Commission held a workshop last month regarding the proposed fire assessment at which time they heard from a number of disgruntled owners of RV parks and representatives of churches. They will meet Tuesday evening in a second workshop to further discuss the proposed assessments, this time with instruction to county staff to provide budgets for commissioners to study showing what can and cannot be done if the assessment was funded at 50, 60, 70 and 80 percent of the proposal.

Last week, a small group of agriculture representatives also stepped forward to present their case that the proposed fire assessment is too high.

We have to agree with them. When you look at the increases to businesses versus the increase to residential properties, the assessment is out of proportion. What the county is charging the businesses is highway robbery.

Take for example, a person living in an 1,800-square-foot house will pay the same amount as the owner of a 7,000-square-foot home. The homeowners will each pay \$91 per year, as proposed by the county. A business, on the other hand, will pay 15 cents per square foot for their commercial property, regardless of size. If you compare what the homeowner in the 1,800-square-foot example pays per square foot, which is \$.05, to what the owner of a 480,000-square-foot business would pay at \$.15 a square foot, the business owner will be paying three times the amount as a property owner.

But even if that business pays the same amount as the small house, it would pay an assessment of \$24,000, which is 160 times more than the flat rate the commercial property is currently assessed.

If you change the size of the residential property to 7,000 square feet, even more imbalance is shown among homeowners because the cost per square foot for the proposed fire assessment goes to as little as \$.013.

Sure, the business owner is making money year round to help offset the fire assessment, but most commercial buildings are also built to a higher standard than residential homes.

Most commercial properties have a sprinkler system installed, where most residential homes simply have smoke detectors. While both residential homes and commercial properties have to pass inspections before occupancy, those standards for the commercial properties are more stringent.

As it is now, local commercial entities have paid flat fees for years. Now the county wants to base those fire assessments on square footage, and do it all at once. At 15 cents per square foot, Lakeshore Mall would go from paying the historic \$150 flat rate to paying \$72,000 a year. The Shops at Shelby Crossing would go from \$150 to \$40,000 per year. Lowe's would go from the \$150 to \$24,000 a year.

These businesses are already working hard to meet their customers' needs and provide affordable services and merchandise.

We think the county needs to sharpen its pencils and come up with a better plan to fund the countywide fire service. The new plan needs to be reasonable for all – business owners, as well as homeowners, regardless of the size of their home.

If a better plan isn't put in place, there won't be any need for the higher fire assessments or a countywide fire service because there won't be any businesses or residents here for whom to provide the service.

The businesses will have to close their doors because they won't be able to afford the exorbitant assessments, and the county can forget about attracting other big box stores to the area. They won't come.

And ultimately, without business here, who will want to move here.

Without either, why would a countywide fire service be needed?

Make sure to attend Tuesday's County Commission workshop at 5:30 p.m. at the Government Center.

The goal established at the previous workshop is to vote on the assessment Tuesday night.

SCOTT PRUITT'S REPLACEMENT AT THE E.P.A.

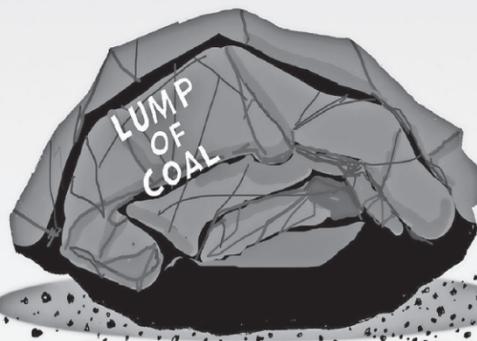


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The great task before us

In the famous words of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: "...our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...It is for us (now) to be dedicated to the great task before us..."

As we celebrate our country's independence and enjoy these summer months, what is the greatest task presently before us? If we could choose just one thing that would guarantee a positive change in our community, our society, the world; would you commit to it? If I could promise you that by affecting one aspect of our community, we would see dramatically reduced violence, school drop-outs, and poverty for generations to come? Well, we in fact can, and that one aspect is our children. Protecting, educating and uplifting our children.



OUR CHILDEN, OUR FUTURE

Carissa Marine

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, a dedicated, compassionate physician, explains in her book, "The Deepest Well," "We all know that adversity, tragedy, and hardship are a part of life. As much as we'd like to shield our children from illness, divorce, and trauma, sometimes these things happen. What the research tells us is that those daily challenges can be overcome with the right support from a loving caregiver. When we understand that the source of so many of

our society's problems is exposure to childhood adversity, the solutions are as simple as reducing the dose for kids and enhancing the ability of caregivers to be buffers."

The Champion for Children Foundation stands on the belief that our children are our future. Our community must remain united and committed to the work necessary to protect our children, encourage our youth, and mentor the next generation. We must be "completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love," as the Apostle Paul teaches in Ephesians 4:2. We must stand on the core founding values of our nation, the fact that we are all created equal. We must glean from the integrity, leadership and pure dedication to accomplishing the mission demonstrated by our military men and women. Our mission is our

children. Elbert Hubbard jotted down the story of a young lieutenant carrying "A Message to Garcia," emphasizing the "sheer courage and indomitable spirit" required for carrying out the mission. How motivated are you to protect, positively impact, and enable our youth to reach their greatest potential?

The investment we pour into the next generation will pay dividends. The greatest task before us is our children.

Carissa Marine serves as CEO for the Champion for Children Foundation of Highlands County, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization providing prevention programs and early intervention services to local children and families. Write to the Foundation at 419 E. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870 or visit www.ChampionforChildren.org to learn more.

Don't drink America's future

"Get all the gusto you can" was the slogan of one brewery.

What is America's future when we look to alcohol, opioids, and other drugs for our "gusto"? There were more than 42,000 opioid overdose deaths in 2016.

Gary Chapman, in his book "Loving Your Spouse When You Feel Like Walking Away," states, "Alcohol is the most widely used and most readily available drug." He also points out that millions of Americans are married to alcoholics.

America in the early 1900s completely banned alcohol; they knew alcohol destroyed life, marriage, and family. They found gusto in marriage, family, and hard work. Many valued reading the Bible and attending church. They had guns, but students didn't find gusto in killing other students. Schools had the freedom to read

GUEST COLUMN

Virgil Ullom

As we look at America in the early 1900s, we better understand where we are now and the direction we are going. The school shootings reveal the consequences of leaving God and the Bible out of our culture. America is now looking at many destructive areas for "gusto."

The CDC states that alcohol contributes to the death of 88,000 Americans every year. That is an average of 241 people every day. If the 241 alcohol fatalities received headline priority, they would dominate the news, and there would be a great public outcry.

The drink of any beverage can never justify 88,000 annual deaths. Alcohol-promoters will not share the facts because the truth torpedoed the promotion.

need to be acknowledged for honest debate:

1. Beverage alcohol is classified as an intoxicant. "Intoxicating" means "poison" or "to excite or stupefy by alcohol or a drug especially to the point where physical and mental control is markedly diminished" (Merriam-Webster.com).
2. It is toxic. Every ounce has to be detoxified.
3. One 12-ounce can of beer can intoxicate some drinkers.
4. The first part of the brain that this drug impairs deals with the ability to make rational decisions.
5. Not surprisingly, we see around 88,000 deaths each year.
6. Cirrhosis, destruction of the liver, kills many who thought they could "hold their liquor."
7. Alcohol is an addictive product. Many are struggling to get free from this drug.

American economy \$249 billion in 2010 (CDC). If the alcohol producers had to pay for all of this destruction, they could not continue to operate.

9. Regarding the misinformation about the health benefits, the CDC states, "No one should begin drinking or drink more frequently based on potential health benefits."

10. It is unconscionable to place the value of money above the value of life, marriage, family, and harmony in society.

America's future depends on where we look for gusto in life — in drugs or in the Bible? Gratefully, many have found the real gusto in Jesus. See Romans 6:23.

Dr. Virgil Ullom is a resident of Babson Park. Guest 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.

Out of control iguanas infesting South Florida

By **ELLIE RUSHING**

SUN SENTINEL

DEERFIELD BEACH (AP) — South Florida's not quite Jurassic Park, but it's getting close.

Packs of green iguanas are swarming seawalls, roaming yards and parks, and leaving a path of destruction and filth in their wake. Like a shot of espresso, the hot summer sun has stoked activity in the cold-blooded creatures, which experts say may be at record numbers.

"This year is the most iguanas I've seen and I've been in business for nine years," says Thomas Portuallo, owner of Fort Lauderdale-based Iguana Control. He says the invasive lizards are out of control with "many hundreds of thousands" creeping around Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

The prehistoric populations are multiplying like rabbits, and causing internet, phone and power outages (barbecued lizard, anyone?), damaging landscapes, levees, seawalls, roofs and patios, and contaminating pools with poop.

"There's no real way to come up with a valid estimate of the number of green iguanas in Florida. But the number would be gigantic," says Richard Engeman, a biologist for the National Wildlife Research Center. "You could put any number of zeros behind a number, and I would believe it."

And the critters have residents steamed up — literally.

About 8 percent of power outages, or 9,200 a year, are caused by

animals and birds, says Richard Beltran, a Florida Power and Light spokesman. In South Florida, iguanas are the second leading cause of power outages, behind squirrels. But that's well behind power failures caused by vegetation, Beltran points out. FPL uses raptor guards and bird diverters to cover 75,000 miles of power lines, switches and conductors at 600 substations, he says. If an animal touches two of the three power lines attached to a pole, that's when current zaps them, Beltran says.

Grace DeVita, of Hollywood, says she can't escape iguanas at home or work. A few months ago, internet and phone service at her office went down after iguanas climbed power lines and chewed through cables.

"There was an iguana with a piece of wire hanging out of his mouth," DeVita says. It took two days for power to be restored the first time, and then it happened again two days later.

DeVita even pulled an iguana out of her toilet after it latched on to a plunger a few years ago. "In one of my bathrooms, my roommate kept hearing something in his toilet and saw something poking its head out," she says. "It was very aggressive."

Incidents like these keep business booming for Portuallo, 57, whose fast-growing company helps homeowners and businesses fight infestations. Iguana Control has four offices in South Florida and Collier County.

Portuallo, of Parkland, says homeowners can

control the beasties by regularly inspecting yards for iguana burrows, often found next to seawalls, and collapsing the holes and adding dirt. They love to eat hibiscus and bougainvillea, so landscape with plants they don't care for, such as crotons, ixora and oleander. "Make it known that they aren't welcome on your property," he says.

The creatures can grow up to five feet long and are fast on land and in water, making them difficult to catch. They have no natural predators.

If you have a few, live and let live. Ten or more are a problem because populations grow exponentially, he says.

Portuallo says his company humanely and lawfully exterminates iguanas using \$1,000 pre-charged pneumatic pistols to deliver one shot to the head. "We don't shoot to injure, we shoot with intent to kill," Portuallo says. "My men are well-trained. We follow all laws in every municipality we work."

It is legal to shoot iguanas in the head with a pellet gun, stab them in the brain and even decapitate them as long as they don't suffer, according to state law. University of Florida researchers say bashing in an iguana's head and destroying its brain quickly is the most humane way to kill one.

It's a crime to drown, freeze or poison iguanas. "When you put out rat poison, you can't control what's going to consume it," Portuallo says. "The animals die a slow, excruciating death, which is inhumane."

Contrary to popular belief, dogs and cats aren't

at risk from iguana feces.

"Most pet instances are trauma injuries," says Douglas Mader, a Marathon veterinarian who specializes in exotic animal medicine. "I have seen a couple dozen dogs come in with injuries from getting bit by iguanas or slashed by their tails."

The species are native to Central and South America and the Caribbean and thrive in Florida's subtropical climate. They reach sexual maturity in 18 months, laying an average 40 eggs per clutch per year, Engeman says.

Florida's iguana problem began in the 1960s after the reptiles escaped from captivity during hurricanes and as unwanted pets released into the wild. Cold snaps keep the populations in check. However, South Florida hasn't seen one extensive enough to make an impact since 2009, he says.

"Florida's got one of the worst invasive species problems in the world. It is at the top," says Engeman, who has been doing research on the reptiles for 20 years. He says iguanas were able flourish while biologists were busy studying environmental impacts of pythons and feral pigs.

The public needs to understand the environmental threats iguanas pose, he says. But love 'em or hate 'em, people are fascinated by the creatures.

"They're just kind of a lounge-y lizards that people like to look at," Engeman says. "People think they're just prehistorically cute."

FLORIDA NEWS BRIEFS

Man charged with having handgun at airport

FORT MYERS (AP) — Authorities say a Florida man tried to take a loaded handgun through airport security.

The News-Press reports that 23-year-old Joshua Lee Smith was arrested Thursday at Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers and charged with carrying a concealed weapon.

Officers responded to a security checkpoint after TSA agents noticed the .40-caliber handgun while screening a black backpack. An arrest report says the chamber was empty, but an inserted magazine had nine rounds.

The report says Smith eventually admitted to having the gun during a secondary screening. He told officers he had taken a concealed weapons class but hadn't had the money to complete the process.

Smith was released from jail Friday with an Aug. 6 court date. Jail records didn't list an attorney.

Animal shelter planned to honor woman attacked by alligator

DAVIE (AP) — Relatives of a Florida woman killed in an apparent alligator attack say they plan to open an animal shelter in her honor.

In an interview with The Palm Beach Post, Yukio Matsuki said his 47-year-old wife Shizuka treated her rescue dogs like her children and even set out heat lamps for iguanas that fell from

trees during winter cold snaps.

Shizuka Matsuki's body was found in a Davie lake June 8 after apparently being bitten by an alligator over 12 feet (3 meters) long. She was last seen walking her dogs near the water.

Yukio Matsuki says he will be raising donations to build the shelter.

The couple moved from Tokyo to Florida in 1996. Yukio Matsuki says his wife enjoyed fishing and bird-watching and thought of South Florida as a nature preserve.

Baby sitter gets year in jail for infant's death

WEST PALM BEACH (AP) — A Florida baby sitter has been sentenced to a year in jail for an infant's death.

News outlets report that 28-year-old Jessica Amster pleaded guilty Friday to aggravated battery with bodily harm as part of a deal with prosecutors. She had been charged with manslaughter.

Amster will get credit for time already served, meaning she'll be free in less than a month.

Authorities say Amster had been watching 5-month-old Christian Bent at her Boynton Beach home in August 2015. The child's parents noticed he was unresponsive after picking him up and rushed him to the hospital. Doctors declared Christian brain dead two days later.

Detectives say two children present at Amster's home told authorities the woman hit the child's head against the wall. One child said Amster had told Bent to stop crying.

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Former CIA spies try to lead average lives in St. Petersburg

By **CHRISTOPHER SPATA**
TAMPA BAY TIMES

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Leaving the Air Force as a nuclear missile officer meant he already had the highest security clearance available. But he was “still a hippie at heart,” so he applied to the Peace Corps, thought he’d feed hungry children, maybe learn to play guitar.

The caller ID read “703.” The voice asked: Would you consider serving your government in some other way?

Much of what happened next is classified, but Andrew Bustamante, 38, will say what he can about being an officer in the National Clandestine Service, the undercover arm of the CIA. He’s brought his particular set of skills to a public audience with *Everyday Espionage: The Knowledge, Art and Impact of Spying*, a series of lectures in St. Petersburg.

The talks aim to help people think in new ways to boost businesses, careers and relationships. Proceeds support Big Brothers Big Sisters LGBTQ programs.

Though there’s no way to verify exactly what Bustamante did between 2007 and 2014, timelines, tax records and employment documents suggest his story is true. According to him, it goes like this:

At “the farm,” the CIA taught him helicopter operations, fast rope rappelling, how to fight, how to drive, how to navigate. Disguises. Changing his body language to appear

decades older. How to be ignored.

Most importantly, they taught him to manipulate. Espionage is about carefully crafted relationships that uncover hidden truths. Using a scientific, cognitive base, people can be programmed to do things that make no sense, Bustamante said, things not in their best interests. They taught him to steal without getting caught.

“You feel torn, like a good guy and a bad guy at the same time. You understand how narrow that line is,” Bustamante said. “We all rationalize it as something a hero does in service to their country, but you do realize it’s the same set of skills criminals use to smuggle drugs and steal identities. The difference is that we’re trained exactly how to do it. Criminals have to do trial and error.”

He met a fellow officer named Jihi at an orientation. Don’t get to know the other people in this auditorium too well, they were told. They did not listen, but at the start of their relationship, they didn’t even know each other’s full names and communicated through a secure system. Years later, she would redact their early conversations so there would be a non-classified record of their getting-to-know-you courtship chit-chat.

Once married, they worked cases together. Her specialty was targeting. His was operations.

“We were kind of the right and left hand for our government

wherever we needed to go,” he said.

He was an Asia expert, but “the target” took him to every continent but Antarctica, knowing a wrong move could imprison them in a foreign country. Plausible deniability meant the United States wouldn’t have to acknowledge their existence.

Once, they visited his wife’s family in St. Petersburg. He saw palm trees with Christmas lights. He thought, “Wow, you can drink the water here without fear of getting sick.”

They were in Thailand when they found out about the baby. In her second trimester, they were on assignment somewhere. There was a terrorist attack. That was a close call.

When the time came, the doctor had to induce labor. Also expected around that time: a coup in sub-Saharan Africa. He was worried he might have to leave.

In his son’s first year, he got a call. He couldn’t tell his wife what country he was going to, and she wouldn’t be able to reach him. Sometimes it was she who might have to fly off.

Many spies have nobody to talk to, but when Bustamante decided his priorities as a husband and father had changed what he was willing to risk, she could understand. When he realized that even as master manipulators, their masters at the CIA would always, in a way, be manipulating them, she heard him. When

he said, let’s get out and go to St. Petersburg, she eventually agreed.

But a clandestine officer’s cover can’t be lifted overnight. When he got to St. Petersburg in 2014, Bustamante’s past was fake. His resume, written by the CIA, was a fabrication.

He networked his way to a job with CVS Health. He didn’t want to lie anymore, but took comfort knowing he really did have the skills to be a great project manager. A year and a promotion later, he received word from the CIA that his cover was lifted. He set up an unusual meeting with his boss, who already thought it odd that Bustamante had traveled the world and was fluent in Mandarin.

“Everything on my resume is stuff I can do, but it’s not really accurate, because I actually used to work for the CIA,” Tony DiPerillo, a senior manager for CVS Health, recalled Bustamante telling him. “I kind of chuckled and shook my head and said, ‘OK, thank you for your service.’ How often do you hear that? But it wasn’t shocking. You could tell he was used to writing reports, because his assessments for us were always top notch.”

He still works at CVS Health as a senior advisor. Jihi Bustamante, 37, works from home as a partner in their consulting business, SKB Communications, “specializing in strategic research and investigation.” Their son Sina is 5, and they have an

11-month-old daughter, Alai.

They’re a normal family, but do some things differently, Jihi Bustamante said. Trips to the mall come with an operation plan. They keep “go bags” packed. They drive a burgundy Honda Odyssey minivan.

She misses the CIA life more than he does. He feels 80/20 about being out of the game. Eighty percent of him is relieved — no more lying to about his job, no possibility of 13-hour days in a secret SCIE. The other 20 percent misses the knowing — the truth about what’s really going on in North Korea, in the upper echelons of the Chinese government, at the G7 Summit.

“Secrets I was once privy to,” he said, “now I have to trust the news, and trust my own background and knowledge of how things work to navigate toward a truth. ... I used to be able to confirm. Now I hope I’m right.”

He tries to fish, and volunteers with kids at church.

“To me, he’s just Andy,

a really nice guy who’s very strategic in helping us identify gaps in our ministry,” said Janessa Moore, community director at Restoration Church in Trinity. “But I’m pretty sure our middle and high schoolers think it’s the coolest thing ever.”

He’d like to live overseas again so his children can feel his deep appreciation for the United States, but there are some countries they can’t go back to, at least not yet.

His mission is to help people to “build, collaborate and succeed,” rather than the intelligence community mandate of “deny, disrupt and destroy.” He’d like to apply his skills for predicting behavior to the school shooting problem.

While she lies a bit lower, he’s getting more public speaking gigs, and recently wrote *Everyday Espionage: Winning the Workplace*. He had to send the book to CIA headquarters to have it reviewed, redacted and approved, just like anything else he writes for the rest of his life.

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Rock shrimp's rise to fame in Florida

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TITUSVILLE (AP) — After trawling the Atlantic Ocean for days, Rodney Thompson returned to his Florida home and dropped buckets of rock shrimp in the middle of the kitchen.

He ordered his four school-age children to stop playing and figure out a way to cook them. Rock shrimp were considered trash. Their hard, spiny shells would split thumbs open and take forever to peel. Thompson's challenge to his children lasted for months, until his oldest daughter, a teenage Laurilee, had the idea to split them open, cut out the sand veins and broil them like lobsters. They were delicious.

That was 50 years ago. The Thompson family's discovery led to the popularization of a cuisine that today is served all along the Florida Atlantic coast — most famously at a restaurant owned by Thompson's family in Titusville.

"We call him the Daddy of the rock shrimp industry," said Bob Jones, executive director of the Southeastern Fisheries Association. "He was the only one who saw the opportunity to get the meat out so you could eat them because they were so hard."

It all began with Thompson's quixotic dream of building a 73-foot (22-meter) fiberglass shrimp boat. Back in the 1960s, shrimp boats were still made of wood and many fishermen resisted fiberglass.

Thompson, a taciturn man with an inventive mind, was a boat builder by trade in Titusville, which by then had gone from a citrus and fishing town to a bedroom community for NASA workers laboring at the neighboring Kennedy Space Center to land a man on the moon.

His staff worked on the boat for a year. But it was built on spec, and there were no buyers. So, Thompson turned to shrimp fishing to show off the boat's prowess, and began catching buckets of the inedible rock shrimp.

He asked his four children, Laurilee, Sherri, Tom and Tim, to help him find a way to cook them.

"When I figured it out finally: We were sitting there in our misery one day, wishing we were playing pool, and riding horses, and not looking at big piles of stupid rock shrimp on the table," said Laurilee Thompson, now 65.

Laurilee suddenly grabbed a steak knife and began cutting a half-dozen rock shrimp open along their bottom edges. Her mother, Mary Jean, melted butter, poured it over them, and stuck the shrimp in the broiler. And then the whole family gathered around and stared for two minutes it took them to cook. The rock shrimps' tails curled up and the flesh pulled away from the shell, just like a lobster. They pulled them out of the oven and tasted them.

"That was probably the

biggest, 'Eureka!' moment of all of our lifetimes," Laurilee Thompson said.

Rodney Thompson enlisted the neighborhood kids to form an assembly line in his wife's kitchen after school each day. One kid would crack open the shrimp, another would wash it and others would pack the shrimp into boxes, which were delivered to dozens of bars and grills up and down the Indian River. The rock shrimp were salty, which the bar owners liked because their patrons, who fished off their docks, would eat them and buy more beer.

The demand quickly outgrew the capacity of the family kitchen, so Thompson rented space at Port Canaveral and started hiring grown-ups. Using a sewing machine motor and a vacuum cleaner belt, he also built mechanized splitters that could crack the rock shrimp's hard shell. The Thompson children returned to their play.

Rock shrimp span from the Atlantic coast of the southern U.S. states into the Gulf of Mexico as far as Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. Their Spanish name is camarones de piedra. Considered no more than bycatch before the Thompson family's efforts in the late 1960s, the annual haul — still predominantly caught in Florida waters — grew to thousands of tons a year by the 1980s.

Thompson, meanwhile, continued to build boats through the 1970s. But he overextended himself, and when interest rates soared and a recession hit in the early 1980s, he was forced to sell his businesses. Thompson lost all three of his boats, two restaurants and the shrimp-processing plant.

Not long afterward, Rodney and Mary Jean Thompson started over with a tiny diner. Their restaurant, "Dixie Crossroads," struggled. For three years, customers wanted rock shrimp but Thompson couldn't serve them because he didn't have a boat and couldn't get a loan.

One day, friend and fisherman Sam Vona invited Thompson down to his port office and showed him a freezer with a padlock. He told Thompson that the rock shrimp inside were his and that the freezer always would be full. He knew Thompson couldn't pay him back, but he would keep track and Thompson could repay him when he got back on his feet.

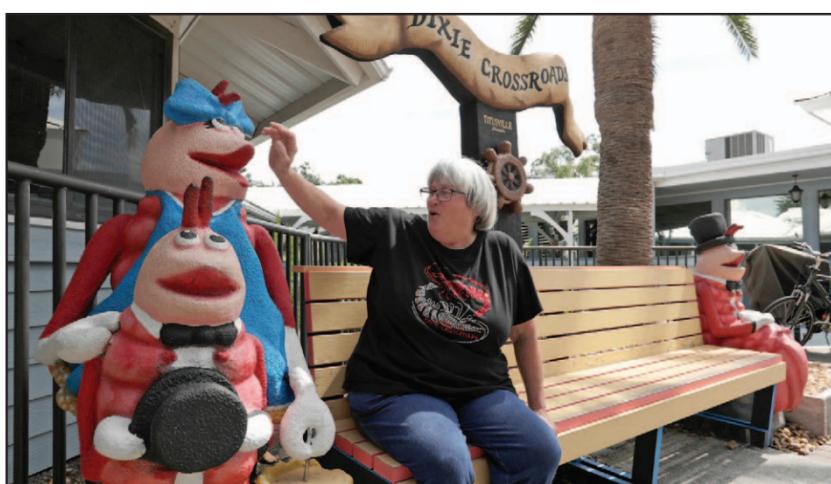
"They were really good friends and my dad had a lot of faith in Rodney doing what he did and getting a market for that shrimp," said Vona's daughter, Cissy Shipley. Thompson installed shrimp splitters in Dixie Crossroads' kitchen and started selling rock shrimp off the menu. Lines into the restaurant started winding around the building, with two-hour waits.

Over the decades, he built additions to the restaurant, which today seats 465 people. NASA

officials used to bring astronaut families there before space shuttle launches. In recent years, the restaurant and a separate seafood retailer run by the family have each had around \$6 million in sales annually.

Thompson died a year-and-a-half ago. His daughters, Laurilee and Sherri, run the businesses today. Though Vona died in 2012, the Thompsons will never forget his kindness in helping to launch one of Florida's best-known restaurants.

"Look where it is now," Laurilee Thompson said. "We sell a lot of rock shrimp."



AP PHOTO

In this Thursday, June 7 photo, Laurilee Thompson talks about several rock shrimp characters on a bench outside the Dixie Crossroads restaurant in Titusville. Rock shrimp, once considered trash is celebrating 50 years as a popular Florida cuisine.

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This Thursday, June 7 photo shows the entrance to the Dixie Crossroads restaurant, famous for rock shrimp, in Titusville. Rock Shrimp, once considered trash is celebrating 50 years as a popular Florida cuisine.

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AP Photo/Chris Wedel

JUUL

FROM PAGE 1

can become addicted and are more likely to continue using tobacco as an adult.

Juuls have a top and a bottom that has a temperature control and a battery. The top has pods, which includes mix of glycerol and propylene glycol, nicotine, benzoic acid and the flavorants. Vaping hasn't been around long enough to determine the longterm effects of inhaling the chemicals. There are about 200 puffs in each pod and the nicotine is equivalent to a pack of cigarettes.

Business Insider reported that Juul Labs is worth \$15 billion; the company is raising \$1.2 billion to push for an overseas expansion.

The Juul apparatus runs between \$35-50 and a four-pack of pods runs \$16 each, averaging \$4 per pod — a bargain in comparison to a pack of cigarettes.

Highlands County Deputy Superintendent Andrew Lethbridge said he has heard that some kids had Juuls in the schools but was not sure if the students were using them in class. He did say that it was against the school rules, county-wide.

The Highlands News -Sun caught up with Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services Melissa Blackman who said that the Juuls have been used in schools and she has seen the referrals for them. She does not have data to be able to tell if the previous year was worse than this past year.

"It is in the code of conduct handbook," Blackman said. "The e-cigarette wording was added for the 2017-2018 school year. There are no changes planned to that part of the handbook for this year."

The code of conduct is separated into elementary and secondary consequences. This article is focused on the latter. The first offense would be at the principal's discretion, from parent meeting to in-school suspension. The second offense carries a minimum of three days out-of-school suspension and the third offense requires a five day out-of-school suspension.

Tobacco Free Florida has been keeping up with trends by watching statistics over the years. According to them, the number of high school

students who smoked cigarettes between 2011-2017 has been virtually cut in half, from 15.8 to 7.6 respectively.

E-cigarettes are the most popular forms of nicotine. They are billed as a tool to get cigarette smokers to cut back or stop smoking. Some vapors have pods or liquids that do not contain nicotine. The problem with Juuling is that those who never smoked cigarettes and use the Juul pods could get addicted to the nicotine and begin smoking regular cigarettes later, according to TFF.

"However, studies have shown that probable cancer-causing chemicals, such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, are measurable in some e-cigarette vapor," a TFF news release said. "There are more than 460 brands on

the market, which vary widely in chemicals used and in the amount of nicotine they deliver."

Business insider reported that the nicotine concentration in Juul is twice that of the leading e-cig, and addiction rates could be higher. Juul has also been called out for marketing toward children with the popular flavors.

Florida's tobacco rates for 2017 high school students are below the national average for smokeless, cigar and cigarettes. It is not until e-cigarettes come into the picture that statistics do a dramatic upward turn. The statistics are based on those use in the past 30 days of the survey. Hookah use was nearly double at 6.2 percent the national average of 3.3 percent; vaping was at 15.7 percent in Florida to 11.7

percent nationwide.

The e-cig manufacturers are not being forced by the Food and Drug Administration to be cleared as a smoking cessation product. Sylvia Burwell, secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, had a message for the readers of the surgeon general's 2016 report:

"We have more to do to help protect Americans from the dangers of tobacco and nicotine, especially our youth. As cigarette smoking among those under 18 has fallen, the use of other nicotine products, including e-cigarettes, has taken a drastic leap. All of this is creating a new generation of Americans who are at risk of nicotine addiction."

For information on smoking cessation visit Tobaccofreeflorida.com.

SUMMER

FROM PAGE 1

Up the Sun" by Sheryl Crow has the ending lyric line, "Got my 45 on, so I can rock on."

Special mention to the Beach Boys who

conjured up visions of summer with their early surf tunes including "Surfer Girl" and then morphed into a more progressive sound on their "Pet Sounds" album before heading back to the beach, and number one on the chart, in 1998 with "Kokomo"

Also, a special mention

to The First Class and their Beach Boyish opus "Beach Baby" - "Beach Baby, Beach Baby, there on the sand"

From July to the end of September, surfin' was fun, we'd be out in the sun every day."

Interestingly, The First Class was not from California nor Florida

nor even the U.S. It was a pop music studio-based group from Great Britain.

Here is a short list of few more notable summer tunes:

- "The Summer Wind" - Frank Sinatra.
- "Summer Breeze" - Seals & Crofts.
- "Summer of 69" - Bryan Adams.

- "Boys of Summer" - Don Henley.
 - "Sounds of Summer" - Dierks Bentley.
 - "Beat this Summer" - Brad Paisley.
 - "Summertime" - Kenny Chesney.
- Different songs with same title:
- "Summer Nights" - Van Halen.

- "Summer Nights" - John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John from "Grease."
- "Summer Nights" - Rascal Flatts.
- "Summer Nights" - Lil Rob.
- "Summer Nights" - Iration (reggae group from Santa Barbara, Calif).

ECONOMY

FROM PAGE 1

the county, CareerSource Heartland, the Industrial Development Authority/ Economic Development Commission, the School Board of Highlands County, the county's five constitutional officers, top employers in Highlands, the county's state and congressional delegations, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, representatives from the real estate and development business, all three chambers of commerce, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, South Florida State College, all community redevelopment associations and the Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity.

"This is an important opportunity for Highlands County to better connect with our state partners and leverage the resources that are available to help advance our community," Benson said in the email. "This is a proactive effort by the state to learn more about the needs of our community straight from the source. It's our opportunity to ensure that they focus their efforts on what we truly want and need."

The event will begin with a brief overview of the county presented by the economic development office.

Grey Dodge, policy director for the Department of Economic Opportunity, will then lead attendees through a moderated discussion about the strengths, challenges and top priorities of economic development in Highlands. The priorities identified by the group will be used by the state to develop a roadmap for recovery as well as match the priorities with potential state and federal resources.

Benson is grateful the state included Highlands in this initiative and appreciates the effort they are making to visit the county.

"We look forward to working with them on this project, and we're eager to see the impact this will have on our community," she said in the email.

The event is open to the public.

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LOCAL SPORTS

Sertoma golfers swing on

Junior golfers post solid scores at SpringLake Golf Resort

By **MARK PINSON**
STAFF WRITER

SPRING LAKE - The latest installment of the Sertoma Junior Golf tour was held Thursday at SpringLake Golf Resort.

The one-day tournament attracted 40 youngsters ages 6-18, who battled the heat, humidity and high rough to shoot some solid scores on the demanding and wet SpringLake layout.

"We had a good turnout and the kids did a good job playing in some tough conditions," said Sertoma Junior Golf Tour Director Andy Kesling. "It was hot and humid

and the rough was pretty high. It's hard to believe we're halfway through the summer season and there are some good battles in most of the age groups."

In the boys 16-18 age group, Will Redding finished first with a fine score of 80, Zach Deuberry placed second with an 86, Dylan Crawford shot a 90, Zach Taylor had a 119, Clayton Osha carded a 122, Nick Piccione shot a 124 and Andrew Graham came in at 130.

"That's a pretty good score by Will when you consider the conditions and how wet it was,"

said Kesling. "Zach and Dylan keep playing and improving."

Hannah Revell finished first in the girls 14-16 division with an 84, while Ashley Engle placed second at 89 and Samantha Payne came in at 126.

"Hannah and Ashley struggled with the rough, but still managed to shoot decent scores," Kesling said.

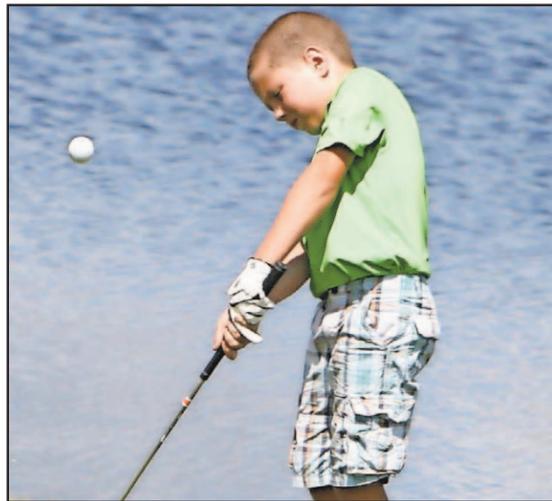
In the boys 14-15 age group, Cade Scarborough and Avery Hurst tied at 88, but Scarborough won on the third playoff hole.

Lane Revell and Zach Doorlag each shot a 93,

Ranen Carmichael had a 95 and Owen Schraeder came in with a 116.

"That's Cade's first win of the season," said Kesling. "The playoff went three holes and Cade got the victory."

Ben Trevino won the boys 11-13 division with a 41 for nine holes, while Marquez Angeles came in second with a 46, Jay Walkup shot a 48, Matthew Suarez shot a 51, Ian Frasier had a 53, Brody Hall shot a 54, Cole Fann came in at 57, J.R. Redding had a 58, Jarett Hornick carded a 59, Trent Bray shot a



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Eight-year-old Devin Wortinger chips up to the 18th green during Thursday's Sertoma Junior Golf Tour event at SpringLake Golf Resort.

SWING | 4



HIGHLANDS BASS ANGLER
Dave Douglass

Summer super new moon fishing heats up

The Freshwater Fishing Forecast for the second week of July gives anglers the best fishing days of the month and a steady predictable rainy season weather forecast. All fishing factors considered, a rainy season fishing forecast never looked so good. The super new moon arrives Thursday and the weather will be predictable with just enough 'factor change' to cause fish to feed well above average rates.

The new moon and lunar orbit perigee occur Thursday, just five hours and 40 seconds apart. The usual daily solar energy levels will be interrupted at the greatest rate possible by the moon, Tuesday through Saturday. This will in turn, trigger longer and more intense solar energy periods; moon moves out of the direct path of the sun's energy toward earth, releasing a strong midday burst.

More food is eaten during a super new moon period by living beings, than during any other condition experienced on earth. And when this occurs during the Florida summer heat, humans require air conditioning to comfortably consume all that extra food...and fish accomplish the same result by going deeper, feeding only when air movement and pressure increases, i.e. nature's fish air conditioner.

Water temperatures are presently well above the 'ideal feeding temperature range' of 70-85 degrees at 86 degrees for a low each morning this week. Therefore fish will be holding 2- to 5-feet deeper to discover the best 'summer oxygen zone depth' of 6 to 12 feet.

Each month's new moon phase

FISHING | 5

Isett captures Sebring Golf Club qualifier



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

Players line-up for a group photo before Saturday's Heartland Golf Championship qualifier at Sebring Golf Club.

BY **ALLEN MOODY**
HIGHLANDS SUN EDITOR

SEBRING — To say it was a tightly bunched field at Sebring Golf Club for Saturday's second Heartland Golf Championship qualifier would be an understatement. All 16 players were separated by just 10 points, but when the final scores were tallied, it was Neil Isett who came out on top with a score of 42.

"I'm an employee here and I wanted to help the turnout by playing and I had the opportunity and I just love to play," Isett said. "I don't get the opportunity to play in a lot of the tournaments because I'm usually working Saturday and Sunday, but this was in the morning and I don't work until the afternoon so I thought I'd take the opportunity to play."

Isett said he moved to the area four years ago in hopes of getting a job at a golf course and finding some people to hit the links with, so he's definitely happy in that regard.

He said the tournament format is a good one, as it gives everybody an equal chance of coming out on top.

"It levels the playing field and it may even skew it a little towards the higher handicap players," he said. "Overall I shot what I normally would shoot from those tees, I didn't do anything spectacular. I made a couple of putts that I probably shouldn't have. I'm looking forward to the championship

match." Right on the heels of Isett was Michael Jackson, who placed second with a score of 41.

"To finish second by one point is kind of hard to take, but I had fun," he said. "I'm proud to have placed second."

Jackson said the tournament format is a good one and he sees it as essentially as having taken the place of the Highlands County Amateur.

"I think it's great," he said. "Hopefully we can get some more participation because it's good for golf in the area."

Jackson did say he would be hitting the links plenty before the championship, which will take place on Sept. 15 at a course that has yet to be selected.

"I'm looking forward to the championship and kicking Mr. Neil's butt," he said with a laugh.

He said he played with a great group of guys, who along with his family, make golfing so enjoyable.

Ryan Chandler placed third with 40 points after shooting 62 over the course, while Jim Gullick was fourth with 38 points.

There was a three-way tie for

GOLF | 2

ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

Ryan Chandler blasts a tee shot during Saturday's Heartland Golf Championship qualifier. Chandler placed third with 40 points after shooting a 62.

CORE autosport still showing speed



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

The No. 54 CORE autosport Prototype and the No. 5 Mustang Sampling Cadillac race at Sebring.

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

For the second consecutive week, the No. 54 CORE autosport ORECA LMP2 machine finished Friday's practice sessions atop the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship time charts.

Colin Braun did the honors Friday in practice for today's Mobil 1 SportsCar

Grand Prix, clocking a best lap of one minute, 6.902 seconds (132.318 mph) in the afternoon session. Last week, it was Braun's endurance racing teammate, Romain Dumas, who led the way at the end of practice at Watkins Glen International.

Last week's fast times on Friday led to a Motul Pole Award on Saturday for Braun and a runner-up race result

for Braun, Dumas and team owner/driver Jon Bennett. Braun and Bennett have three American Le Mans Series/WeatherTech Championship Prototype Challenge (PC) class victories at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, but this weekend marks their first run in Prototype at the track formerly known as "Mosport."

"I think it was, for us, a good day," Braun said.

"Obviously, we've never been to Mosport before [with this car], so we're just trying to understand what this track needs. We didn't get a chance to test here. Yeah, for us and the first time here, and it's one of my favorite racetracks. I really like this place. I liked it back in the PC days."

"The guys worked hard between Watkins Glen

CORE | 6

GOLF

FROM PAGE 1

fifth place at 38 points between Rick Haas, Whitney Hungerford and Mike Lingenfelder.

"I had a great time," Haas said. "I shot a 2-under par 70."

Haas said he was down as a scratch golfer, which

makes it a bit difficult at times, but he enjoyed himself, which is the main reason he plays the sport, and enjoyed the group he was paired with.

"There was one new guy I didn't know, but they were all good guys," he said. "They were all good golfers, too. That makes it a difference."

Haas also said the

handicap Pr-Am points format is good because it puts everybody on equal footing.

"I like it," he said. "It's different and I'm looking forward to the championship."

There was a five-way tie for eighth place and all five advanced to the championship

GOLF | 3



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

Neil Isett, left, and Whitney Hungerford at Sebring Golf Club.



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

Mark Hopkins watches a tee shot during Saturday's Heartland Golf Championship qualifier.



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

Michael Jackson watches a shot Saturday at Sebring Golf Club.



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GOLF

FROM PAGE 2

round. Mike Sayre, Mike Moore, Kevin Walton, Kyler Hodge and Floyd Osborne each scored 37 points.

Ennis Caldwell scored 36 points, Tony Mordenga tallied 35, Mark Hopkins had 33 and Mike Cleghorn scored 32.

"I didn't do too well, but I had a good time," Mordenga said. "When you play with good guys you're going to have a good time, so everybody else should have had a good time."

Mordenga said the tournament is a great idea, as players have the option of choosing where they want to qualify.

"The format is slightly different than normal," he said. "They can play any course they want. If they don't qualify here they can go somewhere else so you don't have to



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

Mike Kleghorn watches the flight of an approach shot at Sebring Golf Club on Saturday.

worry about qualifying the first time."

Mordenga said he helps run three groups at Sebring Golf Club and works at the County Club and thought it would be a fun event to play in.

He was matched with Kyler Hodge, who he hadn't played with before, and said he was a great person to play golf with.

"The young kid I played with (Hodge) was just a nice kid," he said.

"He's a city police officer and he can hit the ball a mile-and-a-half."

The next qualifying tournament will take place at Pinecrest Golf Club on Saturday, July 14. A shotgun start will take place at 8:30 a.m.



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

Mike Sayre watches the flight of a shot during Saturday's Heartland Golf Championship qualifier at Sebring Golf Club.



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

Kevin Walton blasts out of a sandtrap at Sebring Golf Club on Saturday.



KIM LEATHERMAN/STAFF

From left; Rick Haas, Ryan Chandler, Mike Moore and Kevin Walton wait to tee off in Saturday's Heartland Golf Championship qualifier at Sebring Golf Club.

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HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1919

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SWING

FROM PAGE 1

60, Jayden Boling had a 63 and Samuel Braxton finished at 66.

"Ben has been playing well and that's a real good score," Kesling said. "There is a lot of talent in that age group."

In the girls 11-13 age group, Melanie Suarez finished first with a 57, while Madelyn Depner placed second with a 68.

"Melanie continues to dominate that age group," Kesling said. "I wish we could get some more girls to play in that division."

Dillon Parnell shot a 50 to finish first in the boys/girls 9-10 age group, while Devin Wortinger was second at 59.

"Dillon and Devin are good players who work



Six-year-old Ashlyn Wortinger follows through on an approach shot to the 15th green during Thursday's Sertoma Junior Golf Tour event at SpringLake Golf Resort.

hard and enjoy playing golf," Kesling said. "They have bright futures

ahead of them."

In the boys/girls 6-8 age group, Liam McCann finished first with a 29, Jordan Castillo came in second place with a 33, Jenesi Trevino had a 37, Hannah Castillo shot a 42, Gabriel Perez came in at 52 and Ashlyn Wortinger shot a 59.

"That's another talented division that's fun to watch," Kesling said. "They've been battling all summer and we'll see what happens in the last five events of the season."

The next event on the Sertoma Junior Golf Tour is set for Thursday at Highlands Ridge North.

"We're looking forward to playing at Highlands Ridge North," said Kesling. "It's a fair course to play and I know the kids will enjoy teeing it up there. Golf is a great game and we invite any youngster that wants to come out and join us."



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Eight-year-old Hannah Castillo prepares to putt on the 15th green during the Sertoma Junior Golf Tour event at SpringLake Golf Resort on Thursday.

Performance Tech retires in Canada



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

The No. 38 Performance Tech Motorsports Prototype races in this year's 12 Hours of Sebring.

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

An incident late in the weekend's opening practice session has forced the retirement of the No. 38 Performance Tech Motorsports ORECA LMP2. Kyle Masson made heavy contact with the barrier in Turn 1, a crushing blow to a team that scrambled to get to Canadian Tire Motorsport Park following an incident one week earlier at

Watkins Glen.

"We've got 200 hours of work on the car since that again," said team owner Brent O'Neill. "They did a great job last weekend after The Glen so we're just going to switch our focus to the MPC guys [in the IMSA Prototype Challenge Presented by Mazda series] and work on some podiums there. We hate to see the weekend end like

this, but after such a hard hit it's the right choice for everyone."

One of those IMSA Prototype Challenge Presented by Mazda entries is that of Dr. Robert Masson, who leads the MPC standings in the Mazda-powered No. 11 Masson Spine Institute Elan DP02. Dr. Masson will be joined by his son Kyle for the remainder of the season beginning with this weekend's race.



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FISHING

FROM PAGE 1

produces the best 'daytime fishing conditions' due to the following reasons. One; a total lack of moonlight causes a high rate of unsuccessfully nighttime feeding. Two; daily for five consecutive days, the moon blocks the greatest amount of solar energy in the 28 day orbit cycle and thus releases the greatest amount of energy afterward. Three; the weather-factor daily change-rate variable, increases to the highest level of the month producing favorable daily periods with ideal pressure change, sun-to-cloud ratio, changing wind speed and direction, and greater humidity decline.

This week's weather forecast predicts normal rainy season conditions, with perhaps a major rain event entering our area during the mid-week—would negate our much anticipated fishing plans. Hopefully 'if there happens to be a major storm' it will track 200 miles east of us so we gain just the positive effects of pressure change and ideal changing winds and an even mix of clouds and sun.

Best Fishing Days: Tuesday through Saturday, solar noon, sunset and sunrise periods—best-listed-first order.

The Major Fishing Period: Today the moon is overhead at 9:12 a.m. and the sunrise at 6:36 a.m. which will create a feed intensity rating of 5-6 today from 6-10 a.m. Due to low dissolved oxygen levels at this time of day, I believe the peak feeding activity will occur from 8:30-10 a.m. after the sunlight starts photosynthesis oxygen production in thriving vegetation areas. Daily this rating will increase by one number, peaking at a 10-rating by Wednesday through Friday.

The Minor Fishing Period: Today the moonset occurs at 3:50 p.m., which is when the highest dissolved oxygen rate starts to occur in our lakes this time of year. And it is also when atmospheric pressure tends to peak quickly as storm activity randomly forms over the state. So therefore from 4 p.m. through the sunset period at 8:24 p.m. fish will be triggered by increased oxygen, and will feed as pressure rises, wind picks-up, and temperature and humidity drops. A rating of 4-5 today is likely, and will increase daily by a half number and moves

later into the day by an hour daily.

Prime Monthly Periods: July 10 through July 16, super new moon; July 24 to July 29, weak full moon; Aug. 8 to Aug. 13, super new moon; Aug. 24 to Aug. 28, full moon.

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Seasonal Safety Notes: Alligators are in their 'mating season' which occurs from April through August. Males are very aggressive and dangerous so be alert. Expect gators to be in your pools and other areas near small waterways, or in other words, 'where they usually are not', so scan areas for gator activity.

Istokpoga.info News: The lake level is at 38.25 feet above sea level, which is the maximum level in the nine-inch management-threshold range for July. The minimum level for the beginning of July is 37.50 feet but it will be raised six inches over the next six-weeks.

This seasonal 'rain-buffer schedule' is necessary because the lake fills six times faster than water is able to be released during major rain events. Currently three of four S68 spillway gates are open 15 inches and flowing a combined 1,100 cubic feet per second.

Interested in fishing the Istokpoga spillway? Visit Istokpoga.info

website and click on the links to the South Florida Water Mgmt. (SFWMD) real time S68 and S68X spillway gates status webpage. You'll find water level and flow status data of all water way structures from Kissimmee to Clewiston. Also provided is a link to the Army Corps of Engineers' graphical plot, annual water-management schedule website link.

Access this article online using, FloridaLakesFishingForecast.com or BassFishingForecast.com.

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 package options, from 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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dave Douglass shows off a Kissimmee bass caught in a 10- to 12-foot grass bed on a Caroline rigged top water frog.



Highlands Bass Angler Dave Douglass holds up a 5-pound bass and a beautiful 10-pound bass he caught in Kissimmee.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Please be advised that the Sebring City Council will hold a Special Council meeting on July 18, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to (1) announce the prior year millage rate, (2) announce the current year proposed millage rate, (3) announce current year rolled back rate and (4) announce the date, time and meeting place of the tentative budget hearing. The meeting will be held at Sebring City Hall, 368 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL.

Any person who might wish to appeal any decision made by the Sebring City Council is hereby advised that he will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be made. The Sebring City Council does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodations as provided for the American with Disabilities Act should contact Mrs. Kathy Haley, City Clerk at (863) 471-5100.

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CORE

FROM PAGE 1

and Mosport to get our car ready. Just business as usual. Jon did a really nice job in the last practice, so yeah, I'm feeling good about it."

The two-hour, 40-minute Mobil 1 Sports Car Grand Prix begins at 2:05 p.m. and will be televised on FS1 on a delayed basis beginning at 4 p.m.

Tandy tops GTLM charts in Friday practice

The last time Nick Tandy and Patrick Pilet shared a No. 911 Porsche GT Team 911 RSR at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, the weekend ended with the two of them standing atop the podium, drenched in champagne.

That was back in 2015. But if Friday practice at CTMP is any indication, there's a reasonable chance this weekend could end the same way. Tandy ended the afternoon session with the fastest lap of the day for the GT Le Mans (GTLM) class, turning a 1:14.357 (119.052 mph).

It capped a good day



ALLEN MOODY PHOTO

The No. 911 Porsche 911 RSR picked up the GTLM class victory at Sebring.

for the two-car Porsche GT Team, as Laurens Vanthoor led the day's opening WeatherTech Championship practice session in the No. 912 Porsche he shares with Earl Bamber.

"The track is quick today, so the cars feel really fast out there," Tandy said. "It's fun to drive. Turn 1 and 2, it's a lot of fun with the high-downforce GTLM cars. It's obviously nice to be quick, to have both cars top both sessions."

Thanks to the generous support of SiriusXM Canada, the No. 86

Meyer Shank Racing Acura NSX GT3 co-driven by Katherine Legge and Alvaro Parente once again will be on the grid for Sunday's Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix.

No. 86 Meyer Shank Racing Acura stays hot in GTD

Parente showed his appreciation for the support on Friday by posting the fastest lap in GT Daytona (GTD) practice with a lap of 1:16.574 (115.605 mph).

"Look, [Practice] doesn't mean anything," Parente said. "It'd be nice if [this] afternoon, the

results were like that, but we'll see. No, we had a really good day, tried a few things we wanted. Now the whole time is going to think what we're going to do setup-wise for the whole race. It was a very good, positive day."

It was another solid day in what has been a solid season so far for the No. 86 squad. Legge and the team head into Sunday's race one point behind the class-leading No. 48 Paul Miller Racing Lamborghini Huracán

GT3 and drivers Bryan Sellers and Madison Snow.

"Every race apart from Sebring, we've finished on the podium," Parente said. "I think the momentum's always been there. It'd be really nice to get a win. The team has, unfortunately I wasn't there at Detroit (when Legge won with Mario Farnbacher as Parente was unable to compete due to a commitment elsewhere). I'm really looking forward to trying to get a win, finally, but the momentum's always been there. We've been on the top all the time, so we'll see."

Tequila Patrón ESM focuses on one-car effort

With a quick turnaround from last Sunday's Sahlen's Six Hours of The Glen to this weekend's Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix, the Tequila Patrón ESM is fielding only its No. 22 Nissan DPi this weekend. Regular No. 22 driver Pipo Derani will be joined this weekend

by Ryan Dalziel, as regular drivers Johannes van Overbeek (No. 22) and Scott Sharp (No. 2) sit out.

The team encountered multiple engine issues last weekend at Watkins Glen, and a shortage of parts led to the decision to run the single car at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. The team expects to field both entries in the next WeatherTech Championship Prototype event, the Continental Tire Road Race Showcase at Road America on Aug. 3-5.

"Due to our spare engine availability after the weekend we have decided to focus all of our available resources and run just one car at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park," said team owner/driver Sharp. "Ryan and Pipo will share the driving duties and we look to rebound in a seriously positive way. CTMP has always been a strong track for Tequila Patrón ESM."



Pipo Derani drives the No. 22 Tequila Patrón ESM Nissan DPi on the way to victory in the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring Presented by Advance Auto Parts. The No. 22 car will be the only ESM to race today.



The No. 86 Acura of Meyer Shank Racing at Sebring International Raceway.

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Castroneves fine after ugly crash



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

The No. 7 Acura races at Sebring International Raceway.

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

The good news on Friday for driver Helio Castroneves was that he posted the third-quickest time of the afternoon practice session in the No. 7 Acura Team Penske ARX-05 DPi at 1:07.881 (130.410 mph). The bad news came to an early end for the Brazilian driver when he spun and crashed into the tire barrier at Turn 5. He was treated and released in

the infield care center. And although he wasn't seriously injured in the incident, adding insult to injury was the fact that Castroneves' beloved Brazilian soccer team was eliminated from the World Cup in its quarterfinals match against Belgium. "Bad day for Brazil," Castroneves said. "I had spun before a little bit in Turn 5. I'm not sure, we kept on locking the power steering wheel, but the Acura car was really good. I was just learning and pushing and obviously, as the tires go a little bit away, I should understand a little bit more."

"I was just trying to push it as much as I could, and as soon as I hit the bottom before (Turn) 5, the rear just snapped before even going into the corner. It was a big one. I'm very happy that everything's safe. "Hopefully, it didn't damage the chassis. It's a shame to put the boys in this situation, but I'm counting on my man Ricky to put a big lap in and see what happens."

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Pickwick Lake to host B.A.S.S. Nation Championship

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — The Academy Sports + Outdoors B.A.S.S. Nation Championship presented by Magellan Outdoors features a field as diverse as any you'll find in bass fishing.

It's not unusual for a boater from North Carolina to be paired with a non-boater from California or Oregon on the first day. Then on Day 2, that same boater might be paired with someone from Australia or Japan.

No matter where they're from, this year's B.A.S.S. Nation Championship venue should offer a little something to make them all feel right at home.

B.A.S.S. officials announced today that Pickwick Lake — a 43,000-acre Tennessee River fishery that sports excellent populations of both largemouth and smallmouth bass — will host the annual year-end event, which is scheduled for Nov. 8-10. More than 125 anglers will take off from McFarland Park in Florence each competition day and weigh-ins will be held at the same location.

"We're really excited to be having the Championship at a venue with as much to offer as Pickwick Lake," said Jon Stewart, director of the B.A.S.S. Nation, which has chapters in 47 states, nine countries and the province of Ontario. "When you go to Pickwick — especially during that really good stretch in the fall — you never know what it's going to take to win."

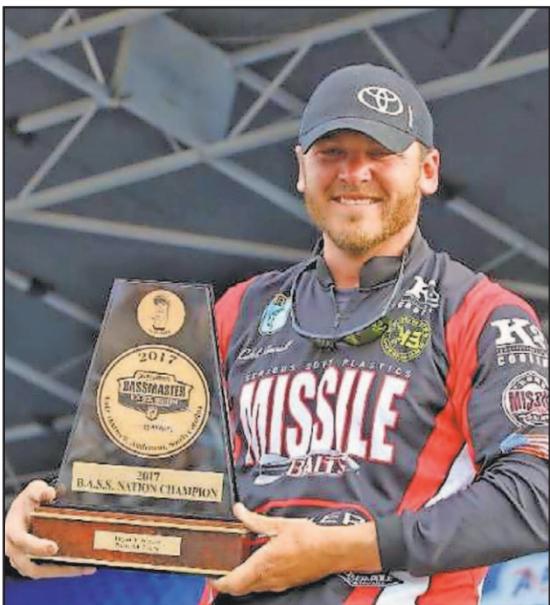
"You'd better have a plan going in, plus a backup plan and a second backup plan — and you'd better consider largemouth and smallmouth because they're both usually going to play."

Pickwick has been the site of numerous B.A.S.S. events, dating back to the early 1980s. Former pro angler and current Bassmaster LIVE host Davy Hite of South Carolina won a Bassmaster Elite Series event on the lake in 2011 with a four-day total of 84 pounds, 9 ounces.

The fishery's historical significance makes it a fitting venue for the Championship, considering the tremendous effect the event has on the pro-fishing world each year.

The Top 3 finishers from the Championship will earn a spot in the 2019 Bassmaster Classic presented by DICK'S Sporting Goods, which is set for March 15-17 in Knoxville, Tenn. The list of anglers who qualified for the Bassmaster Classic through the Nation Championship at the start of their careers includes Idaho's Brandon Palaniuk, New Jersey's Michael Iaconelli and Connecticut's Paul Mueller.

The Top 3 finishers from the Nation Championship will receive the "Nation's Best" package, which includes paid entry fees into the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens division of his choice in 2019 and the use of a fully rigged Phoenix boat for the year.



GETTYS BRANNON PHOTO

The 2018 Academy Sports + Outdoors B.A.S.S. Nation Championship presented by Magellan Outdoors will be held on Alabama's Pickwick Lake, Nov. 8-10. Caleb Sumrall, who is now an Elite Series rookie, won the title last year and a berth to compete in the 2018 GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by DICK'S Sporting Goods.

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asthma & allergy friendly™ Certificate applies to Carpet Cleaning services only. Minimum charges apply. Not valid in combination with other coupons or offers. Valid at participating locations only. Certain restrictions may apply. Call for details.

asthma & allergy friendly™

CARPET CLEANING SPECIAL

4 ROOMS & A HALL

CLEANED & PROTECTED

ONLY \$184

Cleaning Completed By: 7-28-18

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asthma & allergy friendly™

CARPET CLEANING SPECIAL

5 ROOMS & A HALL

ONLY \$159

Cleaning Completed By: 7-28-18

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HOME CARE PACKAGE

ONLY \$70

INCLUDES 2 DOORMATS & A BOTTLE OF SPOT REMOVER

Cleaning Completed By: 7-28-18

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UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SPECIAL

HAVE 1 PIECE CLEANED, GET THE SECOND HALF OFF

Cleaning Completed By: 7-28-18

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HARDWOOD CLEANING SPECIAL

\$25 OFF

Cleaning Completed By: 7-28-18

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TILE & GROUT CLEANING SPECIAL

HAVE 2 AREAS CLEANED, GET THE THIRD FREE

Cleaning Completed By: 7-28-18

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Residential only. Cannot be used for water emergency services. Combined living areas, L-shaped rooms and rooms over 300 sq. ft. are considered 2 areas. Baths, halls, large walk-in closets and area rugs are priced separately. Sectional sofas may not be separated. Sofas over 7 ft. and certain fabrics may incur additional charges. Offer not applicable to leather furniture. Offer does not include protector. Offer not applicable to certain types of flooring.

adno-3591959

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MSRP \$17,150
 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE
Red's Price #18496 **\$14,037**
30 MPG

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\$139 Per Month
 \$3,132 due at signing

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 10-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty
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NEW 2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE M/T



MSRP \$18,080
 0% 72 MONTH!
Red's Price #18629 **\$14,817**
37 MPG

NEW 2018 HYUNDAI SONATA SE



MSRP \$23,280
 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE
Red's Price #18715 **\$19,026**
35 MPG

NEW 2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE



MSRP \$23,980
 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE
Red's Price #719798 **\$20,204**
27 MPG

NEW 2018 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT



MSRP \$26,500
 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE
Red's Price #18561 **\$21,347**
36 MPG

NEW 2018 HYUNDAI IONIQ HYBRID BLUE



MSRP \$27,135
 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE
UP TO #096162 **59 MPG**

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<p>2013 HYUNDAI VELOSTER KELLEY BLUE \$7,980 BOOK \$10,500</p>	<p>2008 HYUNDAI SONATA KELLEY BLUE \$8,990 BOOK \$9,125</p>
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PRE-AUCTION WHOLESALE
 ALL GOING TO AUCTION SOON!
 WE SAVE AUCTION FEES.
 YOU BUY AT WHOLESALE.

<p>2015 HONDA CR-Z KELLEY BLUE \$13,965 BOOK \$15,990</p>	<p>2007 FORD MUSTANG GT KELLEY BLUE \$13,990 BOOK \$15,285</p>
<p>2009 NISSAN VERSA \$3,520</p>	<p>2008 SATURN AURA \$3,600</p>
<p>2015 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN KELLEY BLUE \$15,500 BOOK \$18,235</p>	<p>2013 CHRYSLER 300C KELLEY BLUE \$15,980 BOOK \$18,125</p>
<p>2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 KELLEY BLUE \$24,990 BOOK \$28,697</p>	<p>2016 RAM QUAD CAB SLT KELLEY BLUE \$25,990 BOOK \$28,044</p>
<p>2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA LIMITED \$5,980</p>	<p>2011 KIA SEDONA EX \$8,500</p>
<p>2012 TOYOTA YARIS \$6,244</p>	<p>2008 SATURN VUE XR \$5,280</p>

<p>2010 CADILLAC CTS PREMIUM KELLEY BLUE \$12,980 BOOK \$18,998</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY EQUINOX KELLEY BLUE \$12,980 BOOK \$17,367</p>
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<p>2008 MERCEDES BENZ S550 KELLEY BLUE \$14,500 BOOK \$15,475</p>	<p>2013 TOYOTA AVALON XLE TOURING KELLEY BLUE \$14,622 BOOK \$15,846</p>
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<p>2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT KELLEY BLUE \$16,980 BOOK \$20,450</p>	<p>2015 CHEVY IMPALA LTZ KELLEY BLUE \$21,925 BOOK \$22,625</p>
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<p>2015 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED KELLEY BLUE \$29,900 BOOK \$31,936</p>	<p>2010 FORD F150 RAPTOR 4X4 KELLEY BLUE \$29,990 BOOK \$31,825</p>
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North Korea says talks with Pompeo were 'regrettable'

By **ANDREW HARNIK** and **MATTHEW LEE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYONGYANG, North Korea — High-level talks between the United States and North Korea appeared to hit a snag on Saturday as Pyongyang said a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had been “regrettable” and accused Washington of making “gangster-like” demands to pressure the country into abandoning its nuclear weapons.

The statement from the North came just hours after Pompeo wrapped up two days of talks with senior North Korean officials without meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un but with commitments for new discussions on denuclearization and the repatriation of the remains of American soldiers killed during the Korean War.

While Pompeo offered a relatively positive assessment of his meetings, North Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the U.S.

betrayed the spirit of last month's summit between President Donald Trump and Kim by making “unilateral and gangster-like” demands on “CVID,” or the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea.

It said the outcome of the follow-up talks was “very concerning” because it has led to a “dangerous phase that might rattle our willingness for denuclearization that had been firm.”

There has been growing skepticism in the U.S. over how serious Kim is about giving up his nuclear arsenal, and both sides have said they needed clarity on the parameters of an agreement to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula that Trump and Kim reached in Singapore.

“We had expected that the U.S. side would offer constructive measures that would help build trust based on the spirit of the leaders' summit ... we were also thinking about providing reciprocal measures,” said



AP PHOTO

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, right, and Kim Yong Chol, left, a North Korean senior ruling party official and former intelligence chief, return to discussions after a break at Park Hwa Guest House in Pyongyang, North Korea, Saturday.

the statement, released by an unnamed spokesman and carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

“However, the attitude and stance the United States showed in the first

high-level meeting (between the countries) was no doubt regrettable,” the spokesman said. “Our expectations and hopes were so naive it could be called foolish.”

According to the spokesman, the North raised the issue of a possible declaration to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, which concluded with an armistice and not a peace treaty, but the U.S. came up with a variety of “conditions and excuses” to delay a declaration. The spokesman also downplayed the significance of the U.S. suspending its military exercises with South Korea, saying the North made a larger concession by blowing up the tunnels at its nuclear test site.

In criticizing the talks with Pompeo, however, the North carefully avoided attacking Trump, saying “we wholly

Announcement of Trump Supreme Court choice nears

By **CATHERINE LUCEY, ZEKE MILLER** and **KEN THOMAS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. — President Donald Trump was closing in on his choice to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy Saturday, making final deliberations from the privacy of his New Jersey golf club.

Clearly relishing the mounting suspense, Trump tweeted early in the morning: “Big decision will soon be made on our next Justice of the Supreme Court!”

The president, who is planning a Monday night announcement from the East Room in the White House, has told reporters that he was focused on four people and “of the four people I have it down to three or two.” He had dinner Friday night with Vice President Mike Pence, who has also been meeting with some of the finalists.

The president's top contenders include federal appeals court judges Brett Kavanaugh and Raymond Kethledge, with judges Thomas Hardiman and Amy Coney Barrett also considered in the mix. As part of the rollout process, the White House has been preparing information packages on all four, said two people familiar with the process who were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Starting from a list of 25 names vetted by conservative groups, Trump has also given serious consideration to federal appeals court judges Amul Thapar and Joan Larsen.

The president enjoyed the suspenseful process leading up to his announcement last year that he was nominating Neil Gorsuch for the high court and is hoping to keep the guessing game going until he announces his pick Monday in prime time.

The president and White House officials involved in the process have fielded calls and messages and have been on the receiving end of public pleas and op-eds for or against specific candidates ever since Kennedy announced on June 27 that he would retire this summer.

TALKS | 4

COURT | 4

Members of the North Korean military salute the motorcade carrying U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as it makes its way to the Park Hwa Guest House in Pyongyang, North Korea, Friday. Pompeo is on a trip traveling to North Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Abu Dhabi, and Brussels.



1-year-old goes to court to get reunited with family

By **ASTRID GALVAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — The 1-year-old boy in a green button-up shirt drank milk from a bottle, played with a small purple ball that lit up when it hit the ground and occasionally asked for “agua.”

Then it was the child's turn for his court appearance before a Phoenix immigration judge, who could hardly contain his unease with the situation during the portion of the hearing where he asks immigrant defendants whether they understand the proceedings.

“I'm embarrassed to ask it, because I don't know who you

would explain it to, unless you think that a 1-year-old could learn immigration law,” Judge John W. Richardson told the lawyer representing the 1-year-old boy.

The boy is one of hundreds of children who need to be reunited with their parents after being separated at the border, many of them split from mothers and fathers as a result of the Trump administration's “zero-tolerance policy.” The separations have become an embarrassment to the administration as stories of crying children separated from mothers and kept apart for weeks on end dominated the news in recent weeks.

Critics have also seized on the nation's immigration court system that requires children — some still in diapers — to have appearances before judges and go through deportation proceedings while separated from their parents. Such children don't have a right to a court-appointed attorney, and 90 percent of kids without a lawyer are returned to their home countries, according to Kids in Need of Defense, a group that provides legal representation.

In Phoenix on Friday, the Honduran boy named Johan waited over an hour to see the judge. His attorney told Richardson that the boy's father

had brought him to the U.S. but that they had been separated, although it's unclear when. He said the father, who was now in Honduras, was removed from the country under false pretenses that he would be able to leave with his son.

For a while, the child wore dress shoes, but later he was in just socks as he waited to see the judge. He was silent and calm for most of the hearing, though he cried hysterically afterward for the few seconds that a worker handed him to another person while she gathered his diaper bag. He is in the custody of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department in Arizona.

Richardson said the boy's case raised red flags over a looming court-ordered deadline to reunite small children with their families. A federal judge in San Diego gave the agency until next Tuesday to reunite kids under 5 with their parents and until July 26 for all others.

Richardson repeatedly told the Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorney who was acting as the prosecutor that he should make note of the cases involving young children because of the government's obligation to meet the reunification deadline. The attorney said

REUNITED | 4

New wildfires sweep through California, burning homes

By **JOHN ANTCAK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters toiled in stifling heat Saturday on the lines of destructive wildfires across the U.S. West, making progress against some blazes while struggling to tame others that have forced evacuations of hundreds of homes.

In heat-stricken Southern California, powerful winds that sent an overnight inferno hopping through the Santa Barbara County community of Goleta vanished in the morning, allowing firefighters to extinguish smoldering ruins of an estimated 20 structures, including homes.

The fire's spread was stopped at about 100 acres or less and teams were working on an accurate tally of damage in the neighborhood, where some houses were in ruins while homes next door were intact.

Eric Durtschi stood outside his destroyed house, where a burned-out car stood in the driveway and kids' bicycles were strewn about.

Durtschi, his wife and six children had left Utah and moved in just a few weeks ago. He said he hadn't yet told his two oldest children their home was gone.

A neighbor's home across the street was spared. The man had stayed through the night spraying down other people's houses.

Elsewhere in Southern California, firefighters increased containment of a central San Diego County fire that rapidly spread over 400 acres, destroyed 18 structures and damaged eight, and a wildfire in the San Bernardino National Forest was holding at 1.5 square miles and forced evacuation of about 700 homes in the mountain community of Forest Falls.

Fires also burned on the Marine Corps' sprawling Camp Pendleton base in northern San Diego County.

The Southern California fires erupted Friday as strong high pressure over the West spawned an epic heat wave that saw parts of Los Angeles broil in temperatures up to 117 degrees. There was little relief



AP PHOTO

Flames consume a home on N. Fairview Ave. as the Holiday fire burns in Goleta, Calif., on Saturday. The blaze has destroyed multiple homes.

overnight.

“Temperatures at 8 a.m. were ridiculously over 100 degrees” in foothills near Forest Falls and many inland valleys, the National Weather Service said.

Forecasters said the region's siege of heat would

gradually ease through the weekend, but the unstable air mass unleashed downpours that triggered flash-flood warnings for the mountains northeast of Los Angeles.

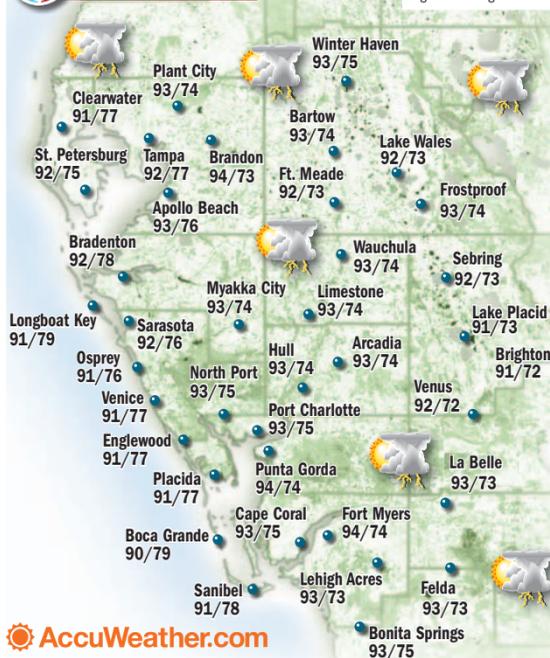
Further up north and just south of the

California-Oregon border, the 34-square-mile Klamathon Fire in rural Siskiyou County was just 5 percent contained. The body of a resident was found Friday in the

WILDFIRES | 4

TODAY / TONIGHT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
A thunderstorm in spots HIGH 93° 40% chance of rain	Partly cloudy and humid LOW 75° 25% chance of rain	Partly sunny and humid; a p.m. t-storm 93° / 75° 55% chance of rain	Brief morning showers, then a thunderstorm 88° / 74° 65% chance of rain	Watch for a strong afternoon thunderstorm 91° / 74° 40% chance of rain	Rather cloudy and humid with a t-storm 90° / 76° 60% chance of rain	Mainly cloudy and humid with a t-storm 92° / 76° 55% chance of rain

86° GULF WATER TEMPERATURE



FLORIDA CITIES

City	Today	Mon.
Apalachicola	88 75 t	90 76 t
Bradenton	92 78 pc	91 76 pc
Clearwater	91 77 pc	91 77 pc
Coral Springs	91 78 t	91 76 t
Daytona Beach	87 73 t	87 73 t
Fort Lauderdale	90 78 t	90 76 t
Fort Myers	94 74 pc	93 75 pc
Gainesville	91 74 t	89 74 t
Jacksonville	86 73 t	86 72 t
Key Largo	88 81 t	89 79 s
Key West	89 83 pc	91 83 pc
Lakeland	92 74 pc	89 73 t
Melbourne	90 74 t	90 76 t
Miami	90 77 t	90 75 t
Naples	93 76 pc	94 76 pc
Ocala	89 72 t	88 73 t
Okeechobee	90 72 t	89 72 t
Orlando	89 73 t	88 72 t
Panama City	88 75 t	89 75 t
Pensacola	86 75 t	87 77 t
Pompano Beach	91 80 t	91 79 pc
St. Augustine	86 75 t	85 74 t
St. Petersburg	92 75 pc	91 75 pc
Sarasota	92 76 pc	92 76 pc
Tallahassee	90 73 t	89 73 t
Tampa	92 77 pc	91 76 pc
Vero Beach	90 72 t	91 73 t
West Palm Beach	90 76 t	89 77 pc

TIDES

Location	High	Low	High	Low
Punta Gorda	Today 11:20a	5:11a	---	7:13p
Mon.	1:18a	5:55a	12:03p	8:13p
Englewood	Today 9:57a	3:27a	11:55p	5:29p
Mon.	10:40a	4:11a	---	6:29p
Boca Grande	Today 9:06a	2:01a	11:30p	4:23p
Mon.	9:41a	2:40a	---	5:18p
El Jobean	Today 12:13a	5:40a	11:52a	7:42p
Mon.	1:50a	6:24a	12:35p	8:42p
Venice	Today 8:12a	2:06a	10:10p	4:08p
Mon.	8:55a	2:50a	11:35p	5:08p

MARINE

Wind direction	Speed	Seas	Bay/Inland chop
Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs	E	6-12	1-2
Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola	E	3-6	0-1

SUN AND MOON

Event	Time
The Sun Rise	6:41 a.m.
The Sun Set	8:26 p.m.
The Moon Rise	6:41 a.m.
The Moon Set	8:26 p.m.
New Moon	Jul 12
First Quarter	Jul 19
Full Moon	Jul 27
Last Quarter	Aug 4

SOLUNAR TABLE

Time	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Today	1:58a	8:10a	2:23p	8:36p
Mon.	2:43a	8:57a	3:11p	9:24p
Tue.	3:32a	9:47a	4:02p	10:16p

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

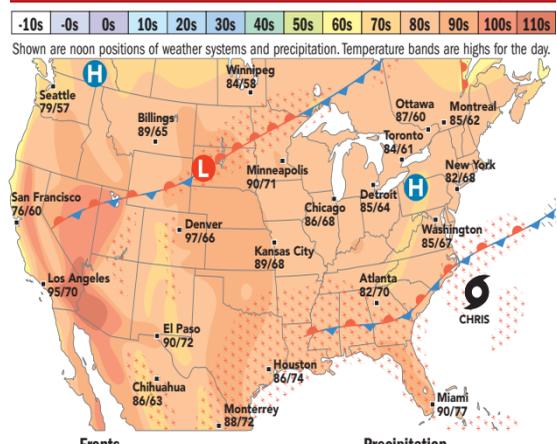
WEATHER HISTORY

Ten inches of rain fell July 8, 1935, near Cortland, N.Y., with similar amounts southward to Pottsville, Pa.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: How many U.S. forest fires are started each year by lightning?

THE NATION Publication date: 07/8/18



U.S. Extremes (For the 48 contiguous states yesterday)
High 111° at Riverside, CA Low 27° at West Yellowstone, MT

City	Today	Mon.	City	Today	Mon.
Albuquerque	87 67 t	84 66 t	Jackson, MS	87 71 t	90 72 t
Anchorage	63 55 c	61 52 r	Kansas City	89 68 s	92 71 s
Atlanta	82 70 pc	87 71 pc	Knoxville	87 66 pc	87 68 s
Baltimore	84 62 s	88 68 s	Las Vegas	110 88 pc	107 88 t
Billings	89 65 s	94 69 s	Los Angeles	95 70 pc	91 71 pc
Birmingham	85 72 pc	86 72 t	Louisville	90 71 pc	90 73 s
Boise	99 66 s	102 65 s	Memphis	88 73 pc	88 75 t
Boston	82 65 s	87 69 s	Milwaukee	82 66 s	89 69 s
Buffalo	83 65 s	83 67 s	Minneapolis	90 71 s	89 70 pc
Burlington, VT	87 62 s	91 66 s	Montgomery	88 70 t	90 73 t
Charleston, WV	85 59 s	87 63 s	Nashville	88 71 pc	89 73 pc
Charlotte	85 62 pc	88 66 s	New Orleans	86 74 t	89 76 t
Chicago	86 68 s	91 73 s	New York City	82 68 s	87 70 s
Cincinnati	87 66 s	89 71 s	Norfolk, VA	82 69 pc	83 68 s
Cleveland	84 66 s	88 72 s	Oklahoma City	89 68 s	87 69 t
Columbia, SC	89 68 pc	92 70 pc	Omaha	90 65 s	93 66 s
Columbus, OH	86 65 s	89 69 s	Philadelphia	85 63 s	88 68 s
Concord, NH	86 55 s	91 62 s	Phoenix	110 86 s	104 86 t
Dallas	92 74 pc	88 74 t	Pittsburgh	82 60 s	85 66 s
Denver	97 66 s	96 65 s	Portland, ME	83 60 s	86 66 s
Des Moines	87 65 s	92 68 s	Portland, OR	86 59 pc	79 59 pc
Detroit	85 64 s	92 70 s	Providence	82 61 s	87 67 s
Duluth	85 65 t	83 58 pc	Raleigh	83 60 pc	87 63 s
Fairbanks	69 54 pc	72 53 pc	Salt Lake City	101 76 pc	99 77 pc
Fargo	89 63 t	88 62 pc	St. Louis	88 72 s	91 75 s
Hartford	86 59 s	90 64 s	San Antonio	91 72 t	89 71 t
Helena	89 60 s	94 63 s	San Diego	82 72 pc	82 72 pc
Honolulu	86 75 sh	87 76 sh	San Francisco	76 60 pc	76 61 pc
Houston	86 74 t	87 74 t	Seattle	79 57 pc	73 57 pc
Indianapolis	87 68 s	88 71 s	Washington, DC	85 67 s	88 71 s

WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Mon.	City	Today	Mon.
Amsterdam	75 58 s	73 56 c	Mexico City	71 54 t	73 53 t
Baghdad	115 84 s	115 87 s	Montreal	85 62 s	88 67 pc
Beijing	79 69 t	85 69 t	Ottawa	87 60 pc	90 64 pc
Berlin	79 59 pc	76 54 c	Paris	87 61 pc	85 60 pc
Buenos Aires	57 38 pc	55 38 pc	Regina	79 53 s	81 63 s
Cairo	99 78 s	99 79 s	Rio de Janeiro	86 70 s	74 67 r
Calgary	74 50 s	82 56 pc	Rome	86 68 s	85 67 s
Cancun	86 77 t	88 77 t	St. John's	71 55 s	71 51 pc
Dublin	76 55 pc	71 50 pc	San Juan	87 79 pc	84 78 r
Edmonton	72 51 pc	82 55 pc	Sydney	63 51 s	62 49 s
Halifax	73 58 s	73 58 s	Tokyo	87 77 pc	88 77 pc
Hankou	79 60 pc	79 60 pc	Toronto	84 61 s	89 64 s
London	86 61 pc	85 58 c	Vancouver	72 56 pc	71 56 pc
Madrid	96 67 s	98 69 s	Winnipeg	84 58 pc	80 56 s

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

PORT CHARLOTTE

Temperatures	High/Low	Normal High/Low
High/Low	91°/75°	92°/74°
Normal High/Low	92°/74°	92°/74°
Record High	97° (1998)	97° (1998)
Record Low	68° (1994)	69° (1971)

SEBRING

Temperatures	High/Low	Normal High/Low
High/Low	88°/70°	88°/70°
Normal High/Low	88°/70°	88°/70°
Record High	97° (1998)	97° (1998)
Record Low	68° (1994)	69° (1971)

AIRPORT

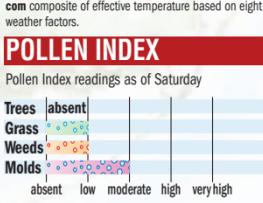
Month	2018	2017	Avg. Record/Year
Jan.	1.98	0.88	1.80 (9.93/2016)
Feb.	0.66	0.94	2.52 (11.05/1983)
Mar.	0.53	0.80	3.28 (9.26/1970)
Apr.	1.15	1.59	2.03 (5.80/1994)
May	15.98	2.74	2.50 (15.98/2018)
Jun.	6.23	14.79	8.92 (23.99/1974)
Jul.	3.08	9.02	8.22 (14.22/1995)
Aug.		13.12	8.01 (15.60/1995)
Sep.		12.46	6.84 (14.03/1979)
Oct.		2.54	2.93 (10.88/1995)
Nov.		0.44	1.91 (5.53/2002)
Dec.		1.04	1.78 (6.83/2002)
Year	29.61	60.36	50.74 (since 1931)

CONDITIONS TODAY

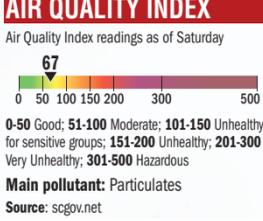


RealFeel Temperature is the exclusive AccuWeather.com composite of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

POLLEN INDEX



AIR QUALITY INDEX



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2013 CHEVROLET EQUINOX.....	LT, V-6, LEATHER.....	SUNROOF
2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX.....	LT, ONE OWNER.....	46,000 MILES
2013 FORD EDGE.....	SEL, LEATHER, V-6.....	49,100 MILES
2008 TOYOTA TACOMA.....	V-6, PRERUNNER.....	SR5 MODEL
2015 HYUNDAI ELANTRA.....	30871 MILES.....	SUNROOF
2013 RAM 1500.....	QUAD CAB, HEMI, SHARP.....	\$16,800
2014 CHRYSLER 200.....	CONVERTIBLE.....	34,900 MILES
2009 TOYOTA TACOMA.....	5 SPEED, REG CAB.....	\$8,750
2014 KIA SOUL.....	ONE OWNER, AUTOMATIC.....	\$8,918
2017 TOYOTA TACOMA.....	X-CAB-SR, AUTO.....	\$20,918
2015 NISSAN ALTIMA.....	31,500 MILES, NICE.....	\$14,718
2016 KIA FORTE.....	ONE OWNER LX, RED.....	\$11,886
2016 TOYOTA COROLLA.....	27,000 MILES, LE.....	WHITE
2015 NISSAN ALTIMA.....	SL, LEATHER.....	NAVIGATION
2014 NISSAN ROGUE.....	SV, NEW DESIGN.....	\$15,718
2012 KIA SPORTAGE.....	EX MODEL, SHARP.....	\$11,887
2016 TOYOTA CAMRY.....	SE MODEL, LEATHER.....	NEW
2016 TOYOTA COROLLA.....	S PLUS.....	ONE OWNER
2015 CHRYSLER TN&CTRY.....	TOURING.....	STOW N' GO
2015 KIA SOUL.....	AUTO, 47,000 MILES.....	EXTRA CLEAN

2011 BUICK LACROSSE.....	ONE OWNER.....	17,500 MILES
2015 FORD FUSION.....	36,000 MILES, RED.....	\$13,788
2017 DODGE JOURNEY.....	V-6, THIRD SEAT.....	\$18,918
2016 RAM 1500.....	4X4, QUAD CAB, HEMI.....	18,800 MILES
2012 NISSAN ROGUE.....	SL, LEATHER, NAV.....	\$10,518
2015 NISSAN ROGUE SELECT.....	PEARL WHITE.....	NICE
2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA.....	TOURING-L.....	LEATHER
2015 NISSAN SENTRA.....	SR MODEL, BLACK.....	\$11,818
2013 FORD F-150.....	LOADED, SHORT BED.....	\$13,918
2017 DODGE GR CARAVAN.....	LOADED SXT.....	\$18,918
2016 CHEVY CRUZE LIMITED.....	LT, LEATHER.....	\$12,818
2014 HYUNDAI ELANTRA.....	ONE OWNER.....	\$10,918
2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA.....	8 PASSENGER.....	NAVI
2016 CHRYSLER TN & CTRY.....	LOADED.....	15,000 MILES
2017 HYUNDAI SANTA FE.....	CANYON COPPER.....	NICE
2016 HYUNDAI SANTA FE.....	LEATHER.....	SOLD!
2008 CHRYSLER TN & CTRY.....	NAVIGATION.....	X-CLEAN
2015 CHRYSLER TN & CTRY.....	TOURING-L.....	LOADED
2015 JEEP GR CHEROKEE.....	LIMITED.....	LEATHER
2016 RAM 1500.....	QUAD CAB, 4X4, NAVIAGATION.....	SLT

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1st PLACE

Beryl loses hurricane strength as it maintains a course for Caribbean

By **DAVID FLESHLER**
SUN SENTINEL

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The year's first Atlantic hurricane lost strength Saturday morning, declining to Tropical Storm Beryl as it headed for the eastern islands of the Caribbean. The storm produced top winds of 65 mph and continues to pose no threat to Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Beryl had triggered a hurricane watch for Dominica and tropical storm watches for Barbados, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, St. Martin and St. Barthelemy. But the hurricane watch has been discontinued, although tropical storm watches remain in force. Forecasts for the small storm's winds were reduced, with it no longer expected to generate 100 mph winds as it nears the Caribbean. The hurricane center

had said the storm's extremely small size — hurricane-force winds extended only 10 miles from its center — makes its intensity difficult to predict. By the time it reaches the central Caribbean Tuesday, the storm system could dissipate into a just an area of low pressure. Beryl, "Weakening is expected once Beryl reaches the eastern Caribbean Sea on Monday," forecasters said.

Capital Gazette staff: Colleague charged shooter

By **DANIELLE OHL**
CAPITAL GAZETTE

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — When a man with a shotgun shattered the glass door of the Capital Gazette newspaper office and began to shoot, Wendi Winters stood up. Weeks before the June 28 attack in Annapolis, Winters had taken active-shooter training at her church, where a police officer presented the options: Run if you can run. Hide if you can hide. Fight only if you must.

Winters fought. Janel Cooley, a survivor of the shooting that killed Winters and four others, said she watched from under her desk as the 20-year newspaper veteran rose to meet her attacker.

Winters charged forward holding a trash can and recycling bin, said Cooley, a sales consultant. Winters shouted something like "No! You stop that!" or "You get out of here!" like she was warding off an unwanted dog.

"She may have distracted him enough that he forgot about me, because I definitely stood up and was looking at the door," Cooley said. "I'm sure he wasn't expecting anyone to charge him."

Winters' colleagues agree she saved their lives. Of the 11 employees in the office during the attack, six survived.

But the training shouldn't get all the credit — not according to those who knew Winters.

From the details her family has of the attack, Winters' son Phoenix Geimer said, "it sounds like her."

"She's got four kids, she's not going to take it from anyone," he said.

When Cooley heard the wall-shaking bang that began the attack, she was the only sales representative in the office.

She saw an intruder with a gun and dropped to the floor, where she heard Winters confront the shooter and heard the weapon fire. After the attacker passed her, Cooley was able to run from her hiding spot and out of the building.

Paul Gillespie heard Winters yell a defiant "No!" from his hiding place a few

steps away. Reporters Phil Davis and Rachael Pacella didn't see Winters charge, but they saw her body in the newsroom walkway, not at her usual seat. Anthony Messenger saw the same.

The gunman killed Winters and four others — editor Rob Hiaasen, editorial editor Gerald Fischman, reporter John McNamara and sales assistant Rebecca Smith. Jarrod Ramos, a man with a longtime grudge against the paper, has been charged in their deaths.

Cpl. Jim Shiloh told trainees at the Unitarian Universalist session Winters attended that creating a distraction could buy time for others. Police use the "run, hide, fight" training nationwide, said police spokesman Lt. Ryan Frashure.

If a threat is imminent and people are dying, Frashure said, anything — a fire extinguisher, a stapler, a trash can — can be used as a deterrent.

Winters bought time for Pacella, Davis and Messenger, they said, who were at their desks toward the back of the newsroom when the shooting started. Pacella hid under her desk. Messenger grabbed his keys and headed for the back door, which was barricaded, and then hid. Davis looked toward the crashing glass, then hit the floor.

Davis has a snapshot in his mind of everyone where they were when the gunman blasted in, he said. Winters was originally at her desk. Messenger said he remembers seeing Winters there with a puzzled look on her face as the attack began.

As Pacella and Davis hid, they heard the same shots Cooley did. Then there was a pause. They thought it was over.

The pause, Davis said, could have been Winters intervening. It gave Pacella time to get up from under her desk, run for the back door, and then hide between filing cabinets.

"I think that Wendi doing what she did served as enough of a distraction that maybe he didn't see us," Pacella said. "I absolutely think that Wendi Winters saved my life."

HEADLINES AROUND THE NATION

Mar-a-Lago wants to hire 61 foreign workers

PALM BEACH (AP) — President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club wants to hire 61 foreign workers for its upcoming season, which begins in November. According to applications filed this week with the U.S. Labor Department, Mar-a-Lago wants to hire 40 waiters and waitresses at \$12.68 an hour and 21 cooks at \$13.31. On the application, club managers attest they can't find enough Americans qualified, willing and available to do the work. Trump has criticized U.S. companies for employing foreign workers, but has defended Mar-a-Lago's hiring practices, saying there aren't enough local applicants. Last year the club hired 70 foreign workers under the H-2B visa program, which is for seasonal, non-agriculture employees. Many resorts in the Palm Beach area use the program to find seasonal help. Trump frequently visits Mar-a-Lago from November to May.

Chicago march leader: 'the people won today'

CHICAGO (AP) — The leader of an anti-violence march that shut down a Chicago freeway says "the people won today." Thousands of people marched a roughly 1.5-mile stretch of Interstate 94 to draw attention to gun violence. The Rev. Michael Pfleger, who organized the march, says people of many races and ages came together to say, "We're tired of the damn violence in Chicago." Saturday's march ended around 1 p.m., roughly three hours after protesters first entered what's known as the Dan Ryan Expressway and less than

90 minutes after Illinois State Police shut down all northbound traffic. Pfleger says the next step is for the governor, mayor and other officials to meet with the community and come up with a plan to help neighborhoods on Chicago's South and West sides. Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner called the shutdown of a Chicago interstate by anti-violence protesters "unacceptable." The Republican said in a tweet Saturday that he was "disappointed" in Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. He called on Emanuel to "take swift and decisive action to put an end to this kind of chaos." Emanuel responded in a tweet: "It was a peaceful protest. Delete your account." Thousands of protesters marched on Chicago's Dan Ryan Expressway on Saturday to draw attention to the city's gun violence and pressure public officials to do more to stop it.



Protesters march on the Dan Ryan Expressway, Saturday, in Chicago.

Lawmaker: Tent shelter for immigrant teens open indefinitely

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A state senator says he's been told the temporary tent shelter in far West Texas for immigrant minors will stay open indefinitely. Texas Democratic Sen. Jose Rodriguez told the El Paso Times that he toured the Tornillo

facility Friday morning. More than 300 teens are being housed at Tornillo, which the U.S. government opened last month because its existing shelters were at capacity. More than 2,000 children have been put in government shelters after being separated from their parents under the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy. Rodriguez says an official at the facility told him it would stay open past a previous July 13 deadline on the facility's initial contract. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services did not immediately respond to questions Saturday.

Police: Man says he'd kill supporters of Trump, congressman

NESCONSET, N.Y. (AP) — Police say an angry Long Island man nearly backed over a campaign worker moments after saying he wanted to kill supporters of President Donald Trump and U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin, both Republicans. Martin Astrof was charged Friday with making a terroristic threat and reckless endangerment. The 75-year-old was jailed pending a Saturday arraignment. Information on his lawyer wasn't immediately available. A message on his home phone wasn't immediately returned. Suffolk County police say Astrof confronted campaign worker Donato Panico at Zeldin's campaign headquarters. They say he aggressively backed up his car and nearly struck Panico before speeding off. Zeldin has represented parts of Long Island since 2015. He says he's received threats since Trump's election. He tweeted on Saturday that Trump's son, Donald Jr., had reached out to make sure Panico was OK.

European peace activists march against Trump's NATO visit

BRUSSELS (AP) — European activists protested Saturday against U.S. President Donald Trump's upcoming appearance at NATO, marching through Belgium's capital to plead for less military spending and more public money for schools and clean energy. The "Trump Not Welcome" march and a companion concert came as European and North American leaders prepare for an annual summit at NATO's Brussels headquarters. Trump accuses NATO allies of not doing enough to defend themselves and is demanding that they increase their military budgets. The protest organizers oppose more military spending, and attracted a high-spirited, diverse crowd of thousands that wended through central Brussels while demonstrating on behalf of multiple causes during the peaceful march. "NATO Game Over" read one banner; others read "Pro-America, Anti-Trump." Some protesters waved rainbow banners and Palestinian and Cuban flags.

Others campaigned for keeping immigrant families together or stopping austerity plans that hurt the poor; for the closure of coal and nuclear plants; or for an end to racism and sexism. The U.S. president is heading for Europe as his protectionist trade policies and withdrawal from the Paris climate accord have angered some of the leaders he will see at the NATO summit on Wednesday and Thursday. Members of the western military alliance have agreed on a goal of each country devoting 2 percent of GDP to defense within a decade. The alliance agreed to stop cutting defense budgets after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea in 2014. Trump's aggressive stance toward NATO allies who have not advanced toward the target has created tensions. He wrote the leaders of Denmark, Norway, Canada and Germany last month to ratchet up the pressure, saying "the United States is increasingly unwilling to ignore the European failure to meet shared security commitments."

HEADLINES AROUND THE WORLD

Insider attack kills US service member in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S.-led coalition headquarters in Kabul has confirmed that a U.S. service member has been killed in an apparent insider attack in southern Afghanistan. A Saturday statement by the Resolute Support Mission said that two other U.S. service members were wounded but in stable condition. It added that the name of the deceased service member was being withheld until next of kin is notified. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yosuf Ahmadi, said in a message to media Saturday that the shooting, which took place in the southern Uruzgan province, was carried out by a member of the Afghan security force who acted alone, but that the group "appreciated" his attack. It was not immediately clear what became of the shooter.

At least 9 killed in attack on Somalia's interior ministry

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — A least nine people were killed in an attack on Somalia's interior ministry and security forces killed all three attackers after a two-hour gun battle inside, police said Saturday, as the

al-Shabab extremist group claimed responsibility. A number of people, mostly government workers, were trapped in the ministry on what had been a normal business day. Witnesses said some staffers died or were injured while leaping from windows or walls in an effort to escape. At least 13 people were wounded, paramedic Mohamed Adam said. The morning attack began when a suicide car bomber detonated at the gates of the interior ministry compound, which is close to the presidential palace and parliament headquarters and also holds the security ministry, police Capt. Mohamed Hussein told The Associated Press. Dozens of people eventually were rescued in the operation, Hussein said, as ambulance sirens echoed and soldiers opened fire to disperse bystanders and motorists. The Somalia-based al-Shabab, an arm of al-Qaida, often targets high-profile areas of the capital, Mogadishu. The group was blamed for the October truck bombing that killed more than 500 people in the deadliest attack in the country's history. The United States under the Trump administration has stepped up military efforts in Somalia, including dozens of drone strikes. At least two U.S. military personnel have been killed.

Haiti suspends fuel price hike after protesters riot

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The Haitian government suspended a fuel price hike Saturday after widespread violence broke out across the capital and in the northern city of Cap-Haitien. Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant said the country needed to raise prices to balance the budget and gave no indication he would back down. But his administration bowed to pressure after demonstrators took to the streets in protest. A journalist from The Associated Press reported seeing several hundred people on Saturday attack a Best Western Premiere hotel in Petion-Ville, one of the capital's wealthiest

neighborhoods. Guests were forced to remain inside as rocks were hurled through windows. Security manned the building, but rioters shattered the main entrance before moving to another hotel. No injuries or deaths were reported during the day's incidents, but at least three people were killed Friday as protesters used burning tires and barricades to block major streets. At one point they attempted to set a gas station on fire but were held off by police. The demonstrations began after the Commerce Ministry and Economic Ministry issued a joint statement announcing an increase of 38 percent to 51 percent for gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

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COURT

FROM PAGE 1

As Trump's list tightened, there was some internal concern that the president's options could be narrowed by the public outcry — particularly what had appeared to be mounting conservative reservations about Kavanaugh. But in recent days the White House has seen the pressure ebb, as Kavanaugh's defenders — most recently Alberto Gonzales, who served as attorney general under President George W. Bush — have provided balance.

Now, advisers believe, all of Trump's finalists can earn the support of the president's party, and ultimately confirmation. All he has to do is make up his mind.

Pence met in person with Kethledge and Barrett while he was vacationing in Indiana earlier this week and met with Kavanaugh at the Naval Observatory on Wednesday, said a person familiar with the process who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Pence has also spoken to Republican senators, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, about the process.

As Trump closes in on his second court pick in two years — a nominee who could tip the balance toward conservatives and revisit landmark rulings on abortion access, gay marriage and other issues — momentum is also growing among GOP supporters and detractors of the top contenders.

Aware that judicial picks are key voting issues, Trump has stressed that he wants a justice who will be a strict constitutionalist. Viewed warily by his party's conservative base, Trump has been keen to note that all of his picks have been vetted by conservative groups like the Heritage Foundation and the Federalist Society.

Conservatives and some libertarian-leaning Republicans, including Paul, have raised concerns about Kavanaugh, warning he could disappoint Republicans if his past decisions are a guide. Paul and Cruz are supporting fellow Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, who is not said to be under serious consideration by the White House but is the only lawmaker Trump has considered for the position.

Woman says Trudeau apologized after encounter

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — A former newspaper reporter confirms that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologized to her after what she says was an inappropriate encounter nearly two decades ago.

Rose Knight also confirms she is the reporter who was referred to in an

editorial 18 years ago in the Creston Valley Advance that said she was groped by Trudeau while covering a music festival in British Columbia.

She said in a statement Friday that she doesn't plan to take the matter further.

She wrote: "I enjoyed my career as

a reporter, but it ended a long time ago. I avoided issuing a statement earlier out of concern for my and my family's privacy."

Trudeau said Friday that he respects Knight's decision to speak out but remembers the encounter with her differently.

TALKS

FROM PAGE 1

maintain our trust toward President Trump," but also that Washington must not allow "headwinds" against the "wills of the leaders."

In comments to reporters before leaving Pyongyang, Pompeo said his conversations with senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol had been "productive," conducted "in good faith" and that "a great deal of progress" had been made in some areas. He stressed that "there's still more work to be done" in other areas, much of which would be done by working groups that the two sides have set up to deal with specific issues.

North Korea said it offered to discuss the closure of a missile engine test site, which would "physically affirm" a move to halt the production of intercontinental range ballistic missiles, and setting up

working-level discussions for the return of U.S. war remains.

Pompeo said a Pentagon team would be meeting with North Korean officials on or about July 12 at the border between North and South Korea to discuss the repatriation of remains and that working-level talks would be held soon on the destruction of North Korea's missile engine testing facility.

In the days following his historic June 12 summit with Kim Jong Un in Singapore, Trump had announced that the return of the remains and the destruction of the missile facility had been completed or were in progress.

Pompeo, however, said more talks were needed on both.

On the destruction of the missile engine plant, Pompeo said, "We talked about what the modalities would look like for the destruction of that

facility as well, and some progress there as well, and then we have laid out a path for further negotiation at the working level so the two teams can get together and continue these discussions."

The trip was Pompeo's third to Pyongyang since April and his first since the summit. He and Kim Yong Chol met for nearly three hours Friday and then had dinner.

Unlike his previous visits, which have been one-day affairs during which he has met with Kim Jong Un, Pompeo spent the night at a government guesthouse in Pyongyang and did not see the North Korean leader, although U.S. officials had suggested such a meeting was expected.

As they began their talks on Saturday, Kim Yong Chol alluded to the fact that Pompeo and his delegation had stayed overnight in Pyongyang. "We did have very serious discussions on very important matters

yesterday," Kim said. "So, thinking about those discussions you might have not slept well last night."

Pompeo, who spoke with Trump, national security adviser John Bolton and White House chief of staff John Kelly by secure phone before starting Saturday's session, replied that he "slept just fine." He added that the Trump administration was committed to reaching a deal under which North Korea would denuclearize and realize economic benefits in return.

Kim later said that "there are things that I have to clarify," to which Pompeo responded that "there are things that I have to clarify as well."

There was no immediate explanation of what needed to be clarified, but the two sides have been struggling to specify what exactly "denuclearization" would entail and how it could be verified to the satisfaction of the U.S.

REUNITED

FROM PAGE 1

he wasn't familiar with that deadline and that a different department within ICE handled such matters.

ICE spokeswoman Jennifer Elzea said the attorney was familiar with the injunction but didn't know the specifics of the timeline requirements off the top of his head "and did not want to misspeak about any timeline commitments without that knowledge."

The agency's Enforcement and Removal Operations is leading the review of cases who are a part of the class impacted by the judge's order, while the rest of the agency is supporting them in the effort to complete it in as efficient and accurate a manner possible.

In the end, Johan was granted a voluntary departure order that would allow the government to fly him to Honduras so that he could be reunited with his family. An attorney with the Florence Project, an Arizona-based nonprofit that provides free legal help to immigrants, said both his mother and father were in Honduras.

The boy's case was heard on the same day that the Trump administration said it needed more time to reunite 101 children under 5 years old to ensure the children's safety and to confirm their parental relationships. The two sides had a hearing on the matter Friday in San Diego and will determine over the weekend which cases merit a delay. Justice Department attorney Sarah Fabian stressed to the judge that the government is deploying significant resources to ensure that children

are being reunited with parents in timely fashion.

Around the same time as the San Diego hearing, other kids who had been separated from their parents made their way to court in Phoenix.

A boy from Guatemala dressed in a vest and tie was asked by the judge how old he was, and the child simply put five fingers up.

His attorney said his father had brought him to the country and had been returned two weeks ago to their home in Guatemala. He asked for a voluntary departure to be issued for the boy.

The family separation issue is especially urgent for the parents of young children who are even more dependent on their mothers and fathers. Studies show that major stress at a very young age can create a lifetime of emotional and even physical problems.

WILDFIRES

FROM PAGE 1

ruins of a home, among 15 destroyed structures tallied so far.

Authorities described "extreme fire behavior with movement in multiple directions," with threats to the California communities

of Hornbrook and Hilt as well as Colestin, Oregon. Ray Haupt, chairman of the county Board of Supervisors, said losses included homes and livestock.

The 138-square-mile County Fire northwest of Sacramento was nearly 50 percent contained. Ten structures were counted destroyed but

damage assessments were continuing.

With fires occurring statewide, a Colorado-based Boeing 747-400 supertanker was deployed to California.

Scott McLean, deputy chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said the supertanker was undergoing checks at an

airfield near Sacramento.

Software issues needed to be resolved before the aircraft owned by Global SuperTanker Services of Colorado Springs could be activated under a call-when-needed contract.

In Colorado, firefighters took advantage of occasional rainstorms to extend their containment lines at several large wildfires.

Should you invest in a disreputable company?

Dear Mr. Berko: I won't own stock in companies that sell guns, sell tobacco, sell liquor, poison the environment or cheat the American public as banks and health insurance companies have. My stockbroker recommended that I buy 300 shares of Pfizer. But I don't want to invest in a pharmaceutical company that is being sued for hundreds of millions of dollars because it hurts and deceives people. He says I am "being stupid." We have disagreed over this frequently. Please give me your thoughts. — LN, Wilmington, N.C.



Malcolm Berko

pharmaceutical industry. It's as natural as rain and as normal as sunshine. In 2017, Americans spent \$3.6 trillion on health care, and that amount should grow by 7.4 percent annually over the coming decade. According to the Rand Corp., over \$98 billion of our annual health care spending was prosecutable last year. (That's a low estimate, according to an unnamed source who's a big shot with a large publicly traded health insurer.) That \$98 billion would buy enough marshmallows to fill Yankee Stadium 48 times over.

Meanwhile, Pfizer's (PFE-\$35.50) missteps are small beans. In 2016, PFE agreed to a \$785 million fraud settlement, claiming that between 2001 and 2008, it overcharged

Medicaid for its acid reflux drug Protonix. In 2009, PFE paid \$2.3 billion to settle criminal allegations that it had illegally marketed a painkiller called Bextra, which effectively and quickly relieves most arthritis pain. And in 2004, PFE paid \$392 million because of excessive charges to Medicare and Medicaid for Neurontin, a highly effective anti-seizure drug.

PFE isn't alone; others, including Merck and Eli Lilly, are guiltier than sin. Hospital Corporation of America, Tenet Healthcare and LifePoint Health have also paid billions in fraud charges. And because of their importance to the health care industry, these companies and others are considered TBTF — too big to fail. Though fraud, embezzlement, kickbacks and graft are inimical to our economy, they're also a normal cost of doing business in most industries that depend on federal government funds. And like it or not, fraud, artifice and deception are natural phenomena in many business and social episodes. All this plunder

is factored into the market prices of the shares you buy.

Pfizer, the company that gave us Viagra and is as naughty and dastardly as past events claim, is a jim-dandy, classy and conservative member of the big pharma gang. PFE — with expected 2018 operating margins of 47 percent, expected net profit margins of 22 percent and a frequently raised dividend — is, in the opinion of many on Wall Street, among the most attractive stocks in the pharmaceutical industry. PFE's portfolio of pharmaceuticals is unmatched in terms of breadth and depth in the global drug market. If you watch TV, you'll recognize Lyrica, a treatment for nerve pain and epileptic seizures; Prevnar 13, a vaccine widely used to prevent 13 types of pneumococcal bacterial infections; Ibrance, for breast cancer; Enbrel, for rheumatoid arthritis; and Viagra, which speaks for itself. There are other biggies, too, such as Eliquis, which treats pulmonary

embolism and blood clots, and Xeljanz, for severe rheumatoid arthritis. Then there are Lipitor, Celebrex, Zithromax, Diflucan and numerous over-the-counter products, such as Advil, ChapStick, Dimetapp, Robitussin and Preparation H, to name just a few.

Many in the brokerage community believe that if PFE continues its TV advertising, it will produce steadily growing revenues, earnings and dividends, plus an even more fecund pipeline. PFE enjoys an A++ financial rating and has a policy of annual share buybacks. Its balance sheet and income statement are solid, and cash flow should exceed \$3 a share this year. I wish you would buy PFE and — like Vanguard, J.P. Morgan, Wellington Financial and T. Rowe Price — enjoy its sweet 3.7 percent dividend.

Please address your financial questions to Malcolm Berko, P.O. Box 8303, Largo, FL 33775, or email him at mjbberko@yahoo.com.

ALMANAC

Today is Sunday, July 8, the 189th day of 2018. There are 176 days left in the year.

Today in history

On July 8, 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

On this date

In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.

In 1907, Florenz Ziegfeld staged his first "Follies," on the roof of the New York Theater.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson received a tumultuous welcome in New York City after his return from the Versailles Peace Conference in France.

In 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the Roswell Daily Record, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a "flying saucer" that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon. (To this day, there are those who believe what fell to Earth was an alien spaceship carrying extra-terrestrial beings.)

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)

In 1965, Canadian Pacific Air Lines Flight 21, a Douglas DC-6B, crashed in British Columbia after the tail separated from the fuselage; all 52 people on board were killed in what authorities said was the result of an apparent bombing.

In 1986, Kurt Waldheim was inaugurated as president of Austria despite controversy over his alleged ties to Nazi war crimes.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

Today's birthdays

Singer Steve Lawrence is 83. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 74. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 72. Actress Kim Darby is 71. Actress Jonelle Allen is 70. Children's performer Raffi is 70. Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 69. Actress Anjelica Huston is 67. Writer Anna Quindlen is 66. Actor Kevin Bacon is 60. Actor Robert Knepper is 59. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 57. Country singer Toby Keith is 57. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 56. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 56. Actor Corey Carroll is 55. Actor Corey Parker is 53. Actor Lee Tergesen is 53. Actor Michael B. Silver is 51. Actor Billy Crudup is 50. Actor Michael Weatherly is 50. Singer Beck is 48. Country singer Drew Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 48. Actress Sophia Bush is 36. Actor Jake McDorman is 32. Actress Maya Hawke is 20. Actor Jaden Smith is 20.

Bible verse

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall also bring it to pass." — Psalms 37:5.

This verse brings guaranteed satisfaction. Focus your attention on the Lord and enjoy His blessings.

ODD NEWS

Florida city manager could lose job over bundt cake

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida city manager could lose his job after allegedly throwing a tantrum over a coupon for a bundt cake.

Dannie Augustin told city commissioners this week that Sunrise City Manager Richard Salamon became enraged when the bakery refused to honor his coupon for a free cake because the coupon had expired. Augustin said the city manager told employees to break the rules and just give him the \$3.99 deal.

One of the commissioners is calling for Salamon's resignation.

Salamon could not be reached for comment.

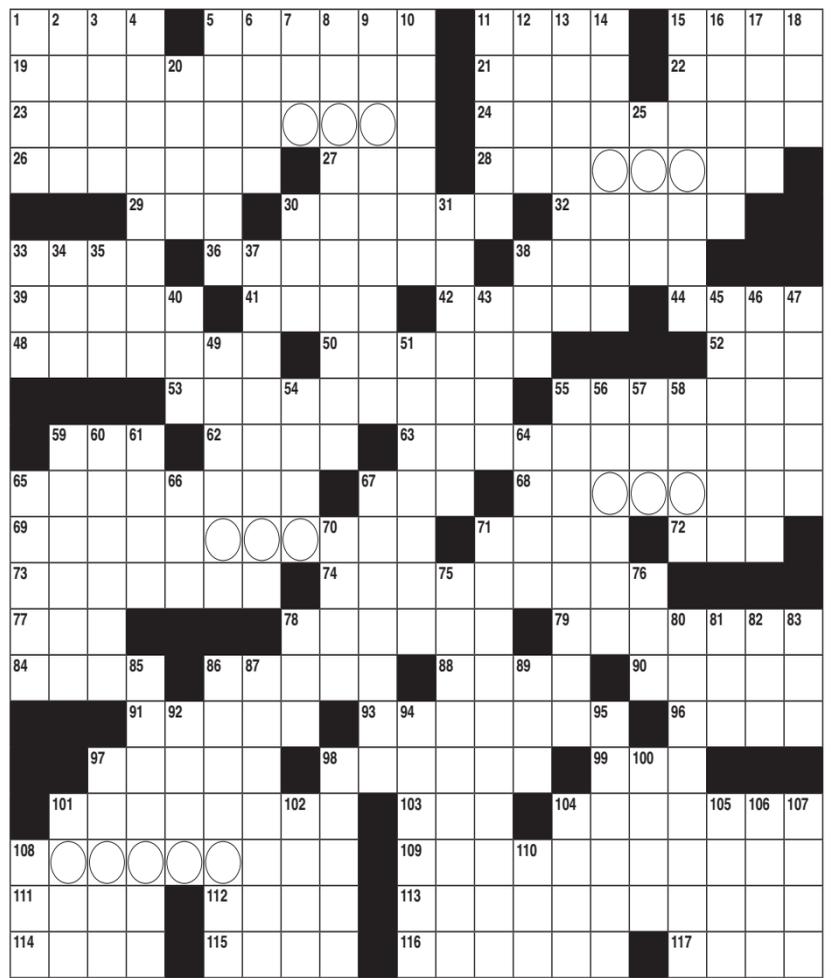
The Sun Sentinel reports the commissioner has set a special meeting for July 5 to discuss the matter.

NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

No. 0701

DRIVING AROUND
BY SAM TRABUCCO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Played for a fool
 - 5 Total mess
 - 11 Big piece of cake
 - 15 Buzzed
 - 19 "It's all good"
 - 21 Guido ____, painter of the "Crucifixion of St. Peter"
 - 22 "Do I ___!"
 - 23 Trying to show no signs of life
 - 24 Show out?
 - 26 Metaphorical time in hell
 - 27 Future exec, maybe
 - 28 Began a PC session
 - 29 Seminary study: Abbr.
 - 30 One who "went a-courtin'," in a children's song
 - 32 Hurried along
 - 33 Asian berry marketed as a "superfood"
 - 36 "Darth Vader is Luke's father," e.g.
 - 38 Kind of yoga
 - 39 Lily Potter's maiden name in the Harry Potter books
 - 41 Fair
 - 42 Attention getters
 - 44 Longtime CBS police procedural
 - 48 Voodoo, e.g.
 - 50 Quite a bash, in slang
- DOWN**
- 19 It's left on a highway ... or a path used by five answers in this puzzle?
 - 20 Endure
 - 25 Per
 - 30 ____, News
 - 31 Annoy, in a way
 - 33 Goal for many a H.S. dropout
 - 34 Donations to certain clinics
 - 35 Pantry item
 - 37 David ____, C.I.A. director under Obama
 - 38 "Watch it!"
 - 40 Took a breather
 - 43 Possess, as thou might
 - 45 Old Testament land
 - 46 "Pick me! Pick me!"
 - 47 Certain Spanish murals
 - 49 Elapse, as years
 - 51 Braided floor covering
 - 54 Where coal miners work
 - 55 Doesn't bother
 - 56 Telly pitch
 - 57 1040 reviewer, for short
 - 58 Humerus connection
 - 59 "How uncool!"
 - 60 "Yer darn ___!"
 - 61 It may bring a tear to one's eye
 - 64 "___ Is Us" (65-Down drama)
 - 65 See 64-Down
 - 66 Bout result, in brief
 - 67 Like a game with equal winners and losers
 - 68 Nickname for a devil
 - 69 Another name for a porpoise or dolphin
 - 70 "Absolutely!" to Alejandro
 - 71 Help grow
 - 72 Certain domain suffix
 - 73 Subject of a 2001-02 scandal
 - 74 Caught congers
 - 75 Strong desire
 - 76 ___ Reader
 - 77 Shade of green
 - 78 104 "Absolutely!" to Alejandro
 - 79 Capital of Okinawa
 - 80 Chew (on)
 - 81 Match makers?
 - 82 Get all blubbery
 - 83 Show with Kate McKinnon, for short



Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

FOR ANSWERS, TURN TO PAGE 3

Ask the Fool

Buybacks: Good or Bad?

Q Are stock buybacks a good thing? — *K.G., Adrian, Michigan*

A They can be. A stock buyback is when a company buys back some of its stock, essentially retiring those shares. It can be a great way to reward shareholders, because when there are fewer shares of the company, each is worth more.

Imagine, for example, if a pizza is suddenly cut in six pieces instead of eight — each piece is bigger. Consider this extreme example: If you own 10 of a company's 100 shares, you own 10 percent. But if it buys back 50 shares, your 10 now make up 20 percent of the company.

Buybacks can destroy value, though, if a company spends that money on overvalued shares. They should only be executed when shares are undervalued (or fairly valued). Otherwise, that money would be better spent, say, paying out a dividend, paying down debt or growing the business.

Q What are "Spiders"? — *J.J., online*

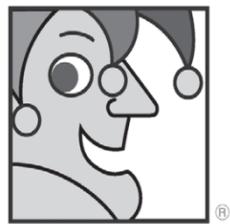
A That's a nickname for Standard & Poor's Depository Receipts (SPDRs), which trade with the ticker symbol SPY.

Much like S&P 500-based index funds, Spiders include ownership stakes in all 500 companies in the index, such as Apple, Boeing, Costco, CVS Health, ExxonMobil, Facebook, Ford, Kroger, McDonald's, Nike, Pfizer and Visa. Unlike index funds, though, which operate much like traditional mutual funds, Spiders are exchange-traded funds (ETFs), structured more like shares of stock.

While mutual funds sometimes require minimum investments of thousands of dollars, you can buy and sell as little as one Spider share at a time. (Recent price: \$274 per share.) Learn more at fool.com/etf/etf.htm and morningstar.com/etfs.html.

Spiders are a simple and handy way to be invested in much of the U.S. stock market.

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



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Fool's School

Panning for Gold With Screens

There are thousands of stocks out there, and it can be hard to sift through them to find the ones that are likely to perform well for you. Screens are a tool that can make the job easier — especially online screeners.

Screening online involves setting some criteria that describe the kind of stocks you seek and then clicking a button to see which stocks make it through your screen. For instance, you might specify that you want to see companies in the S&P 500 that have market capitalizations of at least \$10 billion, price-to-earnings (P/E) ratios of 20 or less, dividend yields of 3 percent or more and profit margins of at least 15 percent.

The online screener will survey the universe of stocks and eject any that don't meet all of your criteria. Ideally, you'll get a manageable number of companies to research further. (There are screeners for mutual funds, too.)

Screening prevents you from wasting time on companies that

don't fit your preferences and can also help you discover intriguing companies that you may not otherwise have noticed. It can also make you think more clearly about your investing style, as it forces you to test and refine your criteria.

Don't simply buy a stock based on screening results. You may have screened for four measures, but each investment has many more measures to assess and requires more research. Important qualitative considerations, which include management, brand strength and competitive position, are hard or impossible to screen for.

Understand, too, that screening depends on the accuracy of the underlying data, and since accounting rules permit manipulation of earnings, revenue and other measures, some numbers used by screens can be problematic. Screening can also cause you to omit an otherwise excellent investment that misses the mark on just one of your criteria, perhaps by just a smidge. It's smart to be flexible and play around with your settings.

Give screening a try. You'll find free screeners at sites such as finance.yahoo.com/screener and finviz.com.

My Dumbest Investment

"What Have I Done?!"

My dumbest investment? In June 2010, I sold more than half of my shares of Netflix. The holding had become a three-bagger for me — the value of my investment had increased threefold. That night I kept thinking to myself, "What have I done?! I sold Netflix!" The next day I bought back the same number of shares.

I've trimmed my position since, four times, each time because it had grown to make up more than 15 percent of my portfolio. — *R.H., online*

The Fool Responds: Netflix has been hugely profitable for many people. The company had its initial public offering (IPO), when it began trading on the open market, 16 years ago, in May 2002. Since then, its shares have risen in value by more than 30,000 percent. (You read that right!) That's an average annual gain of 44 percent.

It's easy to see what a great investment Netflix was — in retrospect. Years ago, though, many wondered how well it would compete with video stores, cable companies and other streaming services. The stock has had some big ups and downs, demonstrating the value of being patient and holding on as long as you believe in the company. It's smart to trim holdings that grow to dominate your portfolio, because you don't want your portfolio to implode if they do fall apart. (The Motley Fool has recommended and owns shares of Netflix.)

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to First Omaha Securities, established in Nebraska in 1975. I was a pioneering discount brokerage, with commission fees as low as \$8 as early as 1998. (Today my online stock trades cost \$6.95.) Over the years I merged with or acquired K. Aufhauser, Datek, National Discount Brokers, thinkorswim and Scottrade. I was first to offer automated trades via touch-tone phone back in 1988. Today I have more than 10,000 employees, more than 11 million funded client accounts, and more than \$1 trillion in client assets. I execute more than 900,000 trades daily. Who am I? (Answer: TD Ameritrade)

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.



Name That Company

I'm a young company, born in 2007 to develop games. With my early games hosted on Facebook, where they were quite successful (remember Mafia Wars?), I grew extremely rapidly. My market value topped \$10 billion in 2012. It has since retreated and was recently near \$3.5 billion. Based in San Francisco, I'm a top global gamer now, with offerings such as FarmVille, Words With Friends, Hit It Rich! Slots, CSR Racing and a version of poker. More than a billion people have played my games. I'm named after a dog that graces my logo. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

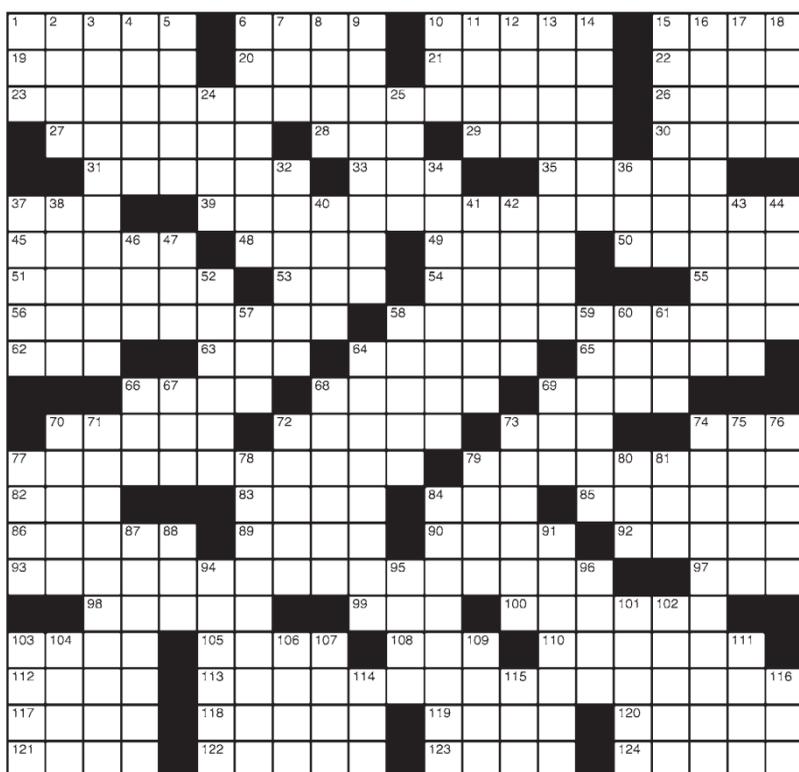
STRAIGHT A'S

By Victor Barocas

- ACROSS
1 Derby town
6 One of 256 in a gal.
10 Davis of "Dr. Dolittle"
15 Pale tone
19 Bread in a Hillel sandwich
20 Learn
21 William Scott of "American Pie" films
22 Second person in Paris?
23 One who has blown a gasket, perhaps
26 Top-notch
27 Livestock identifier
28 Greek vowel
29 Jay or A
30 Dr.'s hours, e.g.
31 Soviet Union: Salyut :: USA ::
33 Inventor Whitney
35 Classic fruity drinks
37 Living area in "The Martian," with "the"
39 AAA, to a 23-Across
45 Chilly
48 Cleveland's lake
49 One-time Jets home
50 Indiana Jones' real first name
51 "House" star Hugh
53 Friend of Tarzan
54 "Three and out" football play
55 Shell propeller
56 Old recording accessory
58 AAA, to a 56-Across, usually
62 Pre-op test
63 Wrath
64 Friend of Che
65 Brontë sister
66 "The cookies are done!" sound
68 Religious acts
69 Like some ukes
70 Baggy
72 First name in sci-fi
73 School opening?
74 Faux
77 North Carolina baseball team
79 Office builder?
82 Convoy member
83 Pop singer Brickell
84 Debtor's letters
85 Adverb in the "Star Trek" intro
86 Rock with bands
89 Put on a mission
90 Wanton want
92 Like the center of attention
93 AAA, for the 77-Across
97 Frehley of Kiss
98 Dismal, poetically
99 Sgt.'s underling
100 Stills, say
103 Transit map dot
105 1003, to Tiberius
108 Verdi's "tu"
110 Copy illegally
112 "Daily Planet" byline name
113 AAA, for 79-Across
117 MLBer with 696 home runs
118 Fist fight fists
119 Soothing agent
120 Prisoner's place, in an 1894 adventure novel
121 Snowblower brand
122 Thus far
123 Are inclined
124 Rye blight
DOWN
1 Common core?
2 Liver spread
3 European Parliament meeting city
Missouri's Mountains
"Spamalot" name
What's "afoot," to Holmes
Home for a tulip
Likewise, with "the"
Doolittle, to Higgins
Bear, in Barcelona
Blood fluids
Move easily
Lacking feeling
Major course
Like many a politician's answers
Deep-fries
Mystical character
Like many eBay products
Glen relative
Cooper work
Read the riot act to
Big-time
Title for Kate Middleton, briefly
Split in two
Shakespearean cry of woe
Ready to pick
Inclined channels
Streisand title role
Nonsensical
Charlotte's Jane
Bobby enshrined in a Toronto hall
Shakespearean cry of disgust
"The Monster" rapper
Website suffix
Small servings
Surf music feature
Sumac of Peru
RSVP part
Topped off
Cry from Homer
"Love Battlefield": Pat Benatar hit
Court decision
Member of Sauron's army, in Tolkien
Video game brother
Certain transplant need
Where Herod reigned
Pope during the French Revolution
Offering downloadable content
Company with a duck in its logo
Flair
Nip at a bar
"Stop fooling around!"
Pouty face
Wind-knocked-out sound
Cal Poly campus site, initially
Behave cruelly towards
Sea battle weapon
"I kissed thee I killed thee": "Othello"
Trying to resist the rich dessert, say
Wavelength symbol
Even once
Retreat
Barely hit
Food processor?
Venetian blind part
Root for a luau
Black
Output from Rodin's thinker?
Not in operation
Prefix with skeleton
Minn. winter hours
Bromide particle
Gangster's piece

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis



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7/8/18

GOREN BRIDGE

NO QUIBBLES

Both vulnerable, North deals

NORTH

- ♠ Q 4 2
♥ A 7 4
♦ J 6 4
♣ A K 10 6

WEST

- ♠ J 9
♥ K 10 9 3
♦ Q 10 2
♣ Q J 8 2

EAST

- ♠ A K 10 8 3
♥ 6
♦ K 8 7 5
♣ 5 4 3

SOUTH

- ♠ 7 6 5
♥ Q J 8 5 2
♦ A 9 3
♣ 9 7

The bidding:

Table with 4 columns: NORTH, EAST, SOUTH, WEST. Row 1: 1♣, 1♠, Dbl*, Redbl. Row 2: 1NT, 2♦, 2♥, All pass. Row 3: *Negative.

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

What does the redouble of a negative double mean? It shows a useful hand that can't raise, usually with a doubleton in partner's suit. The West hand fits that definition, but many would have chosen to bid one no trump instead.

The defense took the first three spade tricks, with West discarding a club on the third. A low diamond was

ducked to West's queen and West continued with the 10 of diamonds to the jack, king, and ace. South cashed the nine of diamonds and led the queen of hearts, covered with West's king and won in dummy with the ace. Declarer cashed dummy's ace-king of clubs and ruffed a club. This established dummy's 10 of clubs to no avail, as South's last three cards were all trumps.

Declarer had been paying close attention, and he had a perfect count on the hand. He knew that West had started with 2-4-3-4 distribution and therefore had all three of the missing trumps. He led a low heart toward dummy's seven. West won this with his nine, but then hand to lead away from his 10 and give South the last two tricks. Making two!

We might quibble about some of West's defensive plays. The return of the 10 of diamonds didn't work out and he would have defeated the contract had he not covered the queen of hearts. All of his plays, however, were reasonable. Let's not bother with quibbles and just credit declarer with paying attention and making a nice play.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper or tcaeditors@tribpub.com)

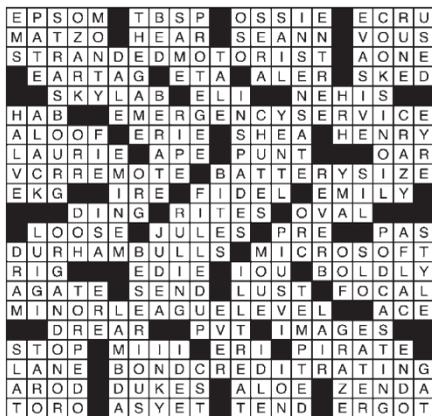
CRYPTOGRAMS

CRYPTOGRAMS MUSIC TO MY EARS 2 by Myles Mellor

- 1. P X D D E J P A C G A J B M F V G U
V M W T F B D L J M F Q C D C S A E D P
T P J J A M Q P B D X L P W W U H A Q Q D L ? A B
H P J P - C D S S .
2. J G O H X M E H O M W O M H X , B H J J S
E G T W M O E H E X B M S R H T B G X X B M
B G W B R ' E !
3. C Q M E N A W J M N W M X L N A C M W C F
V H X I S M I H Q R V L R J W M X G I V R S R N A V V F
Q M V M A C C Q M G N G M G F C F E V Q N X H !
4. J E M C R A S Q U A J N F A Z Z A F M Z E M Q
Z A X B H O T C H G B S M N G H C I T C H C
H X H Q Z L M C Z , Z E M O J M Q M U H B B M I
Z E M L A A N T U T H C N T C H - R B H Z .

PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Puzzles on previous pages)



JUMBLE

Answer :

- ACTUAL NESTLE BOTHER
IMPEDE GLITCH TIPTOE

When it came to drawing tourists, London's famous clock and great bell were a —

BIG-TIME ATTRACTION

- 1. A geek said his touchy computer sounded like a passionate Grammy winner? It was A-Dell.
2. Pirates are great, happy singers as they can hit the high C's!
3. The bandleader wanted to spruce up his wilder musicians so he sent them a memo to B Sharp!
4. When four cows got together to play in a blues band in an apartment, they were called The Moosicians in A-Flat.

HOLIDAY MATHIS HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Don't give up. If you want it enough, you'll keep trying new ways until one clicks in. Probably, this has to do with striking the right deal with the one in charge. You are one good negotiation away from the prize.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've no social agenda except to have and be a good time. For you, this means getting to know people, being curious about them and bringing out the surprise in everyone you meet.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You often feel upbeat about the way life is going for you, and then sometimes you don't. For instance, you'll have to talk yourself into optimism today. It will be the best talking you'll do.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). The main action of the day will come with a ticking timer. The good thing about not having much time to make a decision is that one way or the other, it gets made, sometimes by default.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Gossip is a poison spell. It's better not to talk about people or listen about people. Be a part of what's good and you'll be surrounded by the best people.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You accept that there will be bad moments, and you're willing to work through whatever comes. With this mature approach to life, you'll cut out a lot of unnecessary noise inside your own head and get to work creating more good.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People say "no limits" as though the absence of rules makes for a better existence, when often the opposite is true. Today creativity and productivity will thrive under certain rules.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The milk is placed in the back of the grocery. To get to it, you'll have to pass a number of enticements that aren't on your list. This will be true of more than just milk. Put blinders on and go straight to what you need.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sing, laugh and dance and you will be happy. Oddly, it won't happen the other way around today. You'll have to get into motion, and then the motion will make the emotion.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Are you under-confident? It's an advantage. The ultra-confident won't ask, "How am I doing?" And that's the question that will get you valuable feedback or endearment or both.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's so much goodness that will get set in motion when you reach out to the right person at the right time. The instinct to do so will be intuitive. You'll feel it and follow through, to tremendously positive effect.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've gone long stretches without changing, and you've also had everything change overnight. This time, it will be something in the middle — a slow growth situation. Be patient.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 8). Your top aims are not what they used to be. Make a list and give it a think, and then take it to the mountaintop and give it another think. Once you figure out your priorities, you'll nail the leading items on your list before the year ends. Communicate clearly to loved ones about the support and resources you need and they'll oblige. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 33, 18 and 45.

Please Remember to VOTE! Ballots Must Be Postmarked No Later Than July 11th To Be Counted in the Charlotte Sun Readers Choice.



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BALLOT #152

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Thank you for your support and votes!

Acupuncturist #102
Nicole Noles, DOM AP3128
Chiropractor #116
Patrick Dower, DC or Gary Thompson, DC
Massage Therapist #135
Rachel Cote, LMT or Kellie Shanks, LMT
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Spacious home on almost an acre

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is at 1905 Bignonia Drive in Sebring. It is priced for \$249,500 and is listed with Dawn Dell with Heartland Real Estate Corp.

Welcome to Sebring Heights, a neighborhood that is in Sebring city limits but has large lots and is located in one the highest points of Sebring. This property welcomes you with an oversized yard that it enhanced with lots of scrub oak trees, native plants and a large fence around the backyard.

You will enjoy the fact this home features over 2,100 living square feet and a total of almost 3,000 under roof square feet.

When you walk in the door you will see the home has an open inviting floor plan with the kitchen opening to dining room and living room. The home has three oversized spacious bedrooms and two bathrooms. No carpet in this home makes for easy clean up.

There is an in house laundry room and a 31 by 17 family room with a Mitsubishi

DELL | 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is at 1905 Bignonia Drive in Sebring. It is priced for \$249,500 and is listed with Dawn Dell with Heartland Real Estate Corp.

DIRECTIONS

1905 Bignonia Drive, Sebring

From U.S. 27 in Sebring, turn onto Lakeview Drive. Turn left onto Hiawatha Avenue. Turn left onto Bignonia Drive. The home is on the left.

Updated canal home in Placid Lakes

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is at 249 Cumquat Road N.E. in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$197,500 and is listed with The Elliott Team with Keller Williams Realty.

Nestled on the banks of a deep water canal to Lake June, this Placid Lakes beauty has undergone some major renovations and is ready for a new buyer to make it a home. The brand new roof is just a couple months old, in addition to newer dock, boathouse with lift, flooring, paint, kitchen and more. The home is turn key and move-in ready.

The awesome, spacious floor plan boasts both a living room and a family room plus two bonus rooms — enclosed porches under air — so the possibilities are endless for these spaces; they could be used as a den/office, game room, Florida room, guest room, etc.

A beautiful new galley-style kitchen

ELLIOTT | 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is at 249 Cumquat Road N.E. in Lake Placid. It is priced for \$197,500 and is listed with The Elliott Team with Keller Williams Realty.

DIRECTIONS

249 Cumquat Road N.E., Lake Placid

From U.S. 27 in Lake Placid, turn onto Interlake Boulevard. At the traffic circle, take the third exit to stay on Interlake Boulevard. Turn left onto Catfish Creek Road. Turn left onto Placid Lakes Boulevard. Turn left onto Cumquat Road. The home is on the right.

Lovely home in Cormorant Point

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

This home is at 3706 Golf Haven Terrace in Sebring. It is priced for \$134,000 and is listed with Helen Ferry and Kim Reed of The Reed-Ferry Team with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group.

Lovely landscaping graces the exterior of this two-bedroom, two-bath home in the sought-after active-adult community of Cormorant Point in Golf Hammock. Pretty plantings line the sidewalk as you step up to the porch, which has plenty of room for a table and chairs.

Inside you'll be greeted by the tasteful decor of this home, with its wood laminate flooring throughout the living areas and painted accent walls in a peaceful shade of light teal. This is the perfect Florida color to make you think of water and palm trees.

The kitchen has been upgraded with solid surface counter tops, appliances

FERRY | 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This home is at 3706 Golf Haven Terrace in Sebring. It is priced for \$134,000 and is listed with Helen Ferry and Kim Reed of The Reed-Ferry Team with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group.

DIRECTIONS

3706 Golf Haven Terrace, Sebring

From U.S. 27 in Sebring, turn onto Hammock Road. Turn right onto Golf Hammock Drive. Turn right onto Par Road. Turn right onto Cormorant Point Drive. Turn right onto Waterwood Drive. Turn left onto Golf Haven Terrace. The home is on the left.



COURTESY PHOTO

The home has a solar heated pool with a newer cage enclosure. The pool's surface was redone a couple of years ago.

DELL

FROM PAGE 1

20-year ductless air conditioner.

Upgrades to this property include a whole home generator with an in-ground propane gas tank, double hung impact resistance windows, all the plumbing has been redone and electrical service expanded for 200 amp., gas on demand

hot water heater, propane dryer, newer air conditioner, solar heated pool and metal roof.

The property has central water and well for irrigation with a 4-inch well and 2 hp motor. Irrigation has six zones. There is a sump pump for sewer.

The location of this property is outstanding, it is close to everything, yet you feel very private in your almost acre setting. Enjoy the solar

heated pool with a newer cage enclosure. The pool's surface was redone a couple of years ago.

This property is virtually move-in ready. Enjoy the energy-efficient matching appliances and other modifications to the home to help maintain efficiency.

For more information, call Dell at 863-381-0400 or view more photos at homesforsaleinsebring.com. Look for MLS 247463.

PEOPLE IN REAL ESTATE



Dawn Dell is with Heartland Real Estate Corp. Call 863-381-0400.



Norman and Mandy Elliott are with Keller Williams of Highlands County. Call 863-443-0480 or 863-273-2861.



Helen Ferry is with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group. Call 863-381-1089.

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.

ELLIOTT

FROM PAGE 1

has sleek black appliances, lots of counter space and cabinet storage. The kitchen also features a pass through window and bar to the family room.

There is a large dining area as well as a quaint breakfast nook space in the kitchen.

The split floor plan

features two bedrooms and two full baths. The master bedroom has a private en suite.

Wood laminate flooring is throughout the home with the exception of the kitchen and bathrooms, which are tiled. Both porches have walls of windows overlooking the canal.

The home has an indoor laundry room as well as a large two-car attached garage. The big cement patio out back is

the perfect location for a outdoor patio set, fire place and barbecue grill. The property has lush landscaping with tropical foliage. It is just a short boat ride to Lake June.

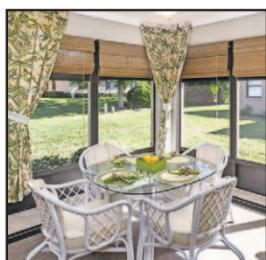
There is a voluntary annual \$25 homeowners association fee, which provides access to Tobler Park and Lake June boat ramps.

For more information, call The Elliott Team with Keller Williams Realty at 863-658-3780.

FERRY

FROM PAGE 1

and fixtures. It has an eating area as well as sliding glass doors leading to the front patio area, perfect for grilling or just enjoying a morning cup of coffee. There is a large solid surface pass-through bar area between the kitchen and the dining/living



COURTESY PHOTO

The 12-by-12 screened lanai is the perfect place for relaxing.

room area.

The dining and

living areas are open giving plenty of space for gatherings with family and friends. The wood laminate floors give a rich feel to this spacious area. The teal accent wall pulls your eyes toward the lanai and green area beyond.

The 12 by 12 screened lanai is the perfect place for relaxing with a cool drink and good book.

The owner's suite is spacious enough for a

desk or sitting area and has sliding glass doors leading the lanai. It is separated from the guest suite for privacy. Both are painted a soft shade of green evoking a relaxing feel.

The laundry room acts as a mud room between the oversized 22 by 16 one-car garage. There are cabinets in the laundry room and plenty of room for storage in the garage.

Other upgrades and

features of this home include a new roof and exterior paint, and newer air conditioner and heat pump.

Cormorant Point's low maintenance fee of \$90 a month includes mowing, edging, fertilizer and bug spray giving you plenty of time to enjoy the many community amenities, which include the golf course, tennis courts and RV/Boat storage area.

The community of Golf Hammock is just across the street from the walking trail that goes to Highlands Hammock State Park to the right or up to and all around Lake Jackson to the left.

For more information or to schedule a private showing, call Ferry at 863-381-1089 or email Hbferry@comcast.net or call Ferry at 863-381-6575 or email Kimbreed@comcast.net.

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SB2257 (2/2)
\$29,900
The Hammond Team (863) 450-3339

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT LISTINGS



LOT RENT IN THE LOW 300 RANGE
21.5 Bath home is in a great 55 plus park. Brand new screened lanai. Windowed Florida Room. Fully furnished all kitchen equipment included. Inside Laundry. All This and More with A Low Lot Rent Of \$10.00.
SB2155
Kathy Rose (844) 802-7751
\$16,900



EVERYTHING YOU WANT AND MORE!
2/2 home has updated kitchen cabinets, new tile splash and slate appliances, all new electrical wiring throughout. New AC in 2016 with all new 14-inch duct work. Never shingled roof, new wood laminate. New shower surround in master bath and new tub surround in guest bath. SB2242
Kathy Rose (844) 802-7751
\$99,000



GREAT SNOWBIRD OR YEAR-ROUND LIVING HOME!
2/1 home has been beautifully remodeled. New paint on outside and inside. Heavily insulated with new sheet rock, plumbing is now PVC. The 12x17 kitchen, laminate flooring SS sink, fridge, stove and microwave. The 9x19 living FL room with added AC. The 12x37 Attached Garage is an added plus. SB2167
The Hammond Team (863) 450-3339
\$29,900



CALLING ALL SNOWBIRDS
2/2 BR 2 BA home is being sold fully furnished equipped with a BBQ grill. Light, bright with living room, kitchen, dining room open floor plan. Has a breakfast bar, pantry, inside laundry room. Side lanai is perfect to start or end your day
SB2123
Amy Siane (863) 450-3336
\$25,900



UPDATED & SPACIOUS PERIMETER LOT HOME!
Huge updated 22 home in 55+. Grey laminated flooring, new baths, master w/S walk in shower, new kitchen, grey washed cabinets, black granite tile counts, new white appl, extended into dining for great storage. Freshly painted, new landscaping, desk office area, side FL room, rear patio perfect for entertaining. Golf Cart included. SB2094
Kim Strasser (863) 450-3336
\$43,500



LARGE AND NICELY DECORATED COMPLETE HOME
2/2 home relax and enjoy entertaining in your sunroom, side lanai, eat in kitchen, huge master suite has large closet an on suite has garden tub, inside laundry with built in desk, formal dining room, plenty of room here. SB2244
Kim Strasser (863) 279-3387
\$26,700



BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED AND MOVE IN READY
2/2 home well maintained home is being sold completely furnished and well equipped all you need to bring is your clothes. Extended painted carport, front lanai, and covered porch, pantry plus storage closet, with laundry hookups, large rooms and more. SB2220
Kim Strasser (863) 279-3387
\$31,500



YOU'LL LOVE THE LAMINATE FLOORS THROUGHOUT!
SELLER PAYS LOT RENT THRU OCTOBER 31, 2018!
2/2 is furnished and turn key. Just bring clothes and toothbrush. Large master bedroom w/huge walk in closet and French doors to bath suite. Never life time rubber roof, never extra-large capacity Trane AC, Heat pump, never refrigerator, never floors and more. SB2192
Orla Or Don Cox (863) 825-3955
\$36,900



FABULOUS FORMER MODEL HOME
2/2 with many upgrades large office grants spacious living. Craftsmanship is evident by features like the double tray living room ceiling, bull nose corners and extended foundation base. New AC, Heating in 2015. New roof with architectural shingles in 2017. Double painted driveway to your large garage. SB2209
Orla Or Don Cox (863) 825-3955
\$75,900



LUXURY LIVING! PRICED TO SELL!
2/2 Motor Port Home. Totally remodeled kitchen, New Appliances, new Cabinets and granite counter top. Finished lanai, laminate and tile floors. Additional skylights, large shed with stand-up attic. Two large covered carports. This is a beautiful executive home meticulously kept. Pat Free. New Roof in 2017. SB2135
Donald Lariviere (863) 450-3340
\$69,500



BACK ON THE MARKET AND REDUCED!
3/2 home being sold fully furnished and office space. The home has fresh paint and new Air conditioning December 2017, golf cart shed and carport for 2 cars. Priced for quick sale so do not hesitate. SB2166
Donald Lariviere (863) 450-3340
\$39,900



MUST SEE! BEAUTIFUL & READY TO MOVE IN!
2005 home has 2 BR 2 BA & 2 car driveway! Bright & immaculate! Remodeled in 2014. Partially furnished. Laminate floors in Dining, living room & bedrooms. New roof in 2014, new AC, over range microwave. Open space living room, large kitchen w/wrap around cabinets. Golf cart garage w/automatic door opener. SB2250
Jack Walden (239) 825-8401
\$45,500



ADORABLE HOUSE, MOVE RIGHT IN
3/2 split floor plan home. Extended carport with large lanai is perfect for entertaining or relaxing outdoors, golf cart shed, new landscaping, fresh paint, ready for you to add your personal style and touch, inside laundry, spacious master with on suite and more. SB2163
Jack Walden (239) 825-8401
\$32,500



SPACIOUS HOME WITH OPEN FLOOR PLAN
2/2 with an office or den. Great open floor plan for entertaining. This home also offers a gourmet kitchen with pantry, center island, beautiful cabinetry, updated sink and faucets, spacious Florida room with access to covered back patio. Front screened lanai, 2 Car finished garage with utility sink and shelving, many updates, Flood, AC, Appliances. SB2262
Wendy Jager (863) 812-4675
\$127,900



MUST SEE! BEAUTIFUL & READY TO MOVE IN!
2/2 Adorable Furnished home. Windowed lanai with AC, Great Floor Plan, Large Kitchen with loads of cabinets, double covered carport, large closets, huge master bedroom and bathroom with vanity and double sinks, roof is 3 years old. Beautiful landscaping. SB2243
Wendy Jager (863) 812-4675
\$39,900



DREAM CATCHER BEAUTY!
2005 home has 2 BR 2 BA & 2 car driveway! Lovely private screened lanai. New Roof 2016, New Hot Water Heater 2017, Golf cart garage with EZ GO golf cart included. Walk in Jacuzzi Tub. Inside washer and dryer. AC is original. Call for Personal Showing. SB2254
Pete Blake (702) 579-5155
\$29,900



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211 US Hwy. 27 N.
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Golf Hammock
1 Hammock Falls Cr.
Sebring, FL 33872

Country Club
4800 Haw Branch Rd..
Sebring, FL 33875

Lake Placid
15 N. Main St.
Lake Placid, FL 33852

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Golf Hammock : 863-382-6575

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Sebring STUNNING CUSTOM HOME
 • 4BR/3.5BA, 3232 Sq.Ft.
 • bamboo flooring, crown molding
 • 6 burner gas stove w/ pot filler. More!
\$499,900 MLS#246357
 Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Lake Placid LAKE JUNE LAKEFRONT
 • 3BR/2.5BA, 2954 Sq.Ft.
 • Custom wood cabinetry
 • Gas fireplace, handicap friendly
\$435,000 MLS#245779
 Carol Edwards (863) 441-2994



Sebring WELL APPOINTED EXECUTIVE HOME
 • 4BR/3BA, 2853 Sq.Ft.
 • 11x17 Den/Office w/built-in cabinets
 • Gourmet kitchen w/breakfast bar, & wine station
\$385,000 MLS#248078
 Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Lake Placid BEAUTIFUL NEW CONSTRUCTION
 • 3BR/2.5BA, 1978 Sq.Ft.
 • Metal roof, split plan, 2 car garage
 • Under construction & on Lake Sirena
\$374,900 MLS#241942
 Brooke Foster (863) 441-0781



Sebring NEW PRICE
 • 3BR/2BA, 1939 Sq.Ft.
 • NEW PRICE! Private setting
 • ICF built home means lower energy bills
\$299,999 MLS#244134
 Melba Starling (863) 465-7100



Sebring ON THE SHORES OF LAKE SEBRING
 • 3BR/3BA, 2436 Sq.Ft.
 • Gas fireplace, 16x20 Family room
 • Light bright kitchen, beautiful lake views
\$279,500 MLS#247030
 Kim Reed (863) 381-6575



Sebring BEAUTIFUL GOLF VIEW PROPERTY
 • 3BR/2BA, 2113 Sq.Ft.
 • Pool home. Completely remodeled
 • New roof, gourmet kitchen, SS appliances
\$265,000 MLS#245940
 Hyacinth Baxter (863) 443-7285



Sebring ORANGE BLOSSOM ESTATES
 • 3BR/2BA, 2011 Sq.Ft.
 • Brand new construction
 • Planned tile flooring throughout
\$224,900 MLS#247080
 Lazaro Martinez (863) 458-0532



Highlands Ridge BEAUTIFUL GOLF COURSE HOME
 • 2BR/2BA, 2110 Sq.Ft.
 • Screened lanai overlooks golf course
 • Kitchen w/custom wood cabinets
\$224,500 MLS#247672
 Jamie LaMere (863) 381-5763



Highlands Ridge BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED HOME
 • 2BR/2BA, 1626 Sq.Ft.
 • Completely furnished
 • Eat-in kitchen w/granite, golf course view
\$214,911 MLS#246525
 Jamie LaMere (863) 381-5763



Lake Placid LAKE BLUE HOME
 • 3BR/2BA, 1428 Sq.Ft.
 • Peaceful back porch overlooks lake
 • Private dock. New windows, storm shutters
\$199,900 MLS#247568
 Jeorje & Amy Mulrooney (863) 381-6866



Lake Placid HIGHWAY FRONTAGE
 • 31,238 Sq.Ft. Irregular Lot
 • Also has water frontage on Lake Blue
 • Great property w/income potential
\$199,900 MLS#247733
 Debra & Dennis Rutledge (863) 441-2039



Sebring NEW HOME
 • 3BR/2BA, 1841 Sq.Ft.
 • Cathedral ceilings, crown molding
 • SS appliances, granite, large pantry
\$198,500 MLS#245409
 Kim Reed (863) 381-6575



Sebring LOVELY SEBRING RIDGE HOME
 • 3BR/2BA, 1502 Sq.Ft.
 • Remodeled in 2015 w/top of line items
 • 2nd garage/workshop. Fenced backyard
\$189,900 MLS#247873
 Elease DeYoung (863) 414-1450



Highlands Ridge DESIRABLE HIGHLANDS RIDGE
 • 2BR/2BA, 2013 Sq.Ft.
 • Volume ceilings, crown molding
 • Kitchen w/wood cabinets, large pantry, island
\$189,900 MLS#247323
 Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Lake Placid CANAL TO LAKE GRASSY
 • 2BR/2BA, 1345 Sq.Ft.
 • Tile floors, oversized garage
 • Enclosed Florida room under air
\$169,900 MLS#247103
 Ann Freeman (863) 243-3418



Sebring GREAT HOME IN DESIRABLE AREA
 • 2BR/2BA, 1480 Sq.Ft.
 • Kitchen w/newer white appliances & cabinets
 • French doors from kitchen to screened lanai
\$169,900 MLS#247606
 Jamie LaMere (863) 381-5763



Sebring MOVE IN READY!
 • 4BR/2BA, 2093 Sq.Ft.
 • Desirable Manor Hill
 • New SS appliances, new flooring
\$168,500 MLS#247095
 Michael Garey (863) 202-0080



Highlands Ridge BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED
 • 2BR/2BA, 1302 Sq.Ft.
 • Large kitchen w/pass thru & pantry
 • Newer roof, AC, & windows
\$164,900 MLS#248349
 Lisa Terrell (863) 414-0358



Lake Placid WELL MAINTAINED HOME
 • 2BR/2BA, 1016 Sq.Ft.
 • Bonus 15x20 room under air
 • Covered boat house w/lift
\$164,500 MLS#243229
 Mary McCoy (951) 204-0667



Sebring MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE
 • 2BR/2BA, 1584 Sq.Ft.
 • Living & dining rooms, lanai
 • Newer roof & water heater
\$159,900 MLS#247274
 Hyacinth Baxter (863) 443-7285



Lake Placid BRING YOUR BOAT & FISHING POLE
 • 2BR/2BA, 1455 Sq.Ft.
 • Newly painted in & out, newer roof
 • Deeded Lake Carriie access, boat slip avail.
\$153,500 MLS#248002
 Kim Reed (863) 381-6575



Lake Placid COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY!
 • Professional office building
 • 1200 Sq. Ft. Central water
 • Layout for multiple office/conference rm
\$150,000 MLS#247767
 Carol Edwards (863) 441-2994



Sebring SEBRING COUNTRY ESTATES
 • 3BR/2BA, 1240 Sq.Ft.
 • New roof, new AC, new flooring
 • Updated counters & fixtures. MORE!
\$149,000 MLS#248363
 Lazaro Martinez (863) 458-0532



Lake Placid GREAT LOCATION!
 • 2BR/1.5BA, 1410 Sq.Ft.
 • On canal to Lake Francis
 • Large detached workshop w/electric
\$147,900 MLS#246631
 Carole Polk (863) 840-1083



Sebring SEBRING COUNTRY ESTATES
 • 3BR/2BA, 1447 Sq.Ft.
 • All tile flooring, 1 car attached garage
 • Cathedral ceilings, patio, nice size yard
\$135,000 MLS#247954
 Lazaro Martinez (863) 458-0532



Sebring DESIRABLE COMMORANT POINT
 • 2BR/2BA, 1191 Sq.Ft.
 • Solid surface kitchen counters
 • Newer AC & heat pump
\$134,000 MLS#247136
 Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Okeechobee OKEECHOBEE HEIGHTS
 • 2BR/1BA, 1215 Sq.Ft.
 • Oversized lot w/fence backyard
 • New kitchen cabinets, counters, appliances
\$129,900 MLS#248355
 Lazaro Martinez (863) 458-0532



Lake Placid IMMACULATE HOME
 • 2BR/2BA, 1085 Sq.Ft.
 • Lg fam rm opens to large yard
 • Add'l lot included. New AC 2017
\$129,900 MLS#247198
 Rona Port (863) 414-6570



Sebring FURNISHED VILLA
 • 2BR/2BA, 1398 Sq.Ft.
 • Kitchen w/breakfast bar
 • 14x20 AC Florida room, golf course view
\$129,900 MLS#247228
 Helen Ferry (863) 381-1089



Sebring VANTAGE POINTE
 • 2BR/2BA, 1264 Sq.Ft.
 • New flooring, updated bath, fresh paint
 • Family rm w/pass through from kitchen
\$125,000 MLS#246884
 Elease DeYoung (863) 414-1450



Sebring SUN N LAKE HOME
 • 2BR/2BA, 1846 Sq.Ft.
 • New metal roof in 2018
 • Bonus room for office or BR
\$115,900 MLS#246937
 Linda Shievdayal (863) 214-7607



Sebring WELL MAINTAINED HOME
 • 2BR/2BA, 969 Sq.Ft.
 • Fully furnished includes washer/dryer
 • Back porch w/tiled floor overlooks big yard
\$109,900 MLS#246990
 Lori Brown (863) 835-1196





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Sebring CORNER UNIT TOWNHOUSE
 • 3BR/2.5 BA, 1526 Sq.Ft.
 • Golf course/pool view
 • In ground heated pool steps away
\$89,900 MLS#243406
 Aixa DeJesus (863) 243-4770



Sebring COZY HOME
 • 2BR/1BA, 874 Sq.Ft.
 • New bedroom carpet, new laminate
 • Freshly painted in & out. New roof.
\$74,900 MLS#246967
 Lori Brown (863) 835-1196



Lake Placid BEST VALUE!
 • 2BR/2BA, 1006 Sq.Ft.
 • Renovated condo w/enclosed porch
 • Updated baths, completely furnished!
\$69,900 MLS#246541
 Carol Edwards (863) 441-2994



How to fertilize your garden organically

By **LEE REICH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In gardening, whether you're talking about pest control or fertilization, "organic" generally means natural. The word "organic" refers to "organic matter," the linchpin of organic gardening and, traditionally at least, all good gardening. "Organic matter" is material derived from what is or was once living.

Plants are most hungry for three nutrients — nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium — and organic fertilizers can supply them just as synthetic (chemical) fertilizers can. The three prominent numbers on any fertilizer label indicate the percentages of these three nutrients that the bag contains. In the world of organics, many different sources exist for each of these major nutrients.

Nitrogen

Let's begin with nitrogen, because it's the nutrient needed in greatest amounts and the one most readily lost from the soil.

The richest organic sources of nitrogen are manures, ground-up animal parts (blood meal, feather dust, leather dust) and seed meals (soybean meal, cottonseed meal). Nitrogen concentration in any manure varies not only with the kind of animal, but also with the kind of bedding used, the age of the manure and how it

was stored.

Ground-up animal parts and seed meals generally have the highest concentrations of nitrogen. Because they undergo some processing, they are more consistent in their nitrogen concentration.

Organic sources

Major organic sources of phosphorus include, again, certain manures, as well as bone meal and pulverized rock phosphate.

Rock phosphate is a phosphorus-rich rock that is ground into fine particles that release their phosphorus slowly and over the course of many years. Hence, only infrequent applications are needed — I spread some every 10 years. Colloidal phosphate is especially fine, so releases its phosphorus somewhat more quickly.

Manures contain some potassium as well as nitrogen and phosphorous, but richer sources of potassium include seaweed, wood ashes, and the minerals greensand and granite. Wood ashes are alkaline so should not be used on rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, mountain laurels and other plants that thrive only in very acidic soils.

Some commercially available organic fertilizers are blends of one or more individual organic fertilizers, so can offer a balance of all three major nutrients. Particular blends vary in their nutrient concentrations



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This undated photo shows application of an organic fertilizer in New Paltz, New York. Soybean meal is only one of a number of organic material that can be used to fulfill plant nutrient needs.

and in how quickly these nutrients are available to plants. For instance, blood meal, bone meal, seaweeds and wood ashes release their nutrients into the soil relatively quickly, while leather dust and pulverized rocks release their nutrients slowly. Read the label carefully if your plants need food quickly.

Compost for all

The Cadillac of balanced organic fertilizers is compost. Besides offering a wide spectrum of nutrients, especially when made from a wide spectrum of raw

materials, compost also is a good source of organic matter. So good, in fact, that its nutrient concentrations are not high enough for compost to be legally sold as "fertilizer"; it must be classified as a "soil amendment."

Nonetheless, compost spread over the ground can provide all the nourishment that even the hungriest plants need for a season. All that organic matter that hitchhikes along with the nitrogen has far-reaching benefits, indirectly bolstering biological activity in the soil, and helping it retain air and moisture.

Sometime each year, usually in autumn or early spring, all the beds in my organic vegetable garden get blanketed with an inch of compost.

Nutrients in compost are available slowly over the span of a number of years, so yearly additions keep my plants very well nourished.

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Average US 30-year mortgage rates fall

By JOSH BOAK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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In this Wednesday, June 27, 2018, photo, an open house sign is seen on a street corner in Waukee, Iowa. On Thursday, July 5, Freddie Mac reports on the week's average U.S. mortgage rates.

WASHINGTON — Long-term U.S. mortgage rates fell this week, offering a slight degree of relief to would-be homebuyers.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages dropped to 4.52 percent from 4.55 percent a week ago. Rates have declined in five of the past six weeks. Still, the average rate has increased from a year ago when it stood at 3.96 percent.

The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate loans slipped to 3.99 percent from 4.04 percent a year ago.

Mortgage rates have declined as investors have bought 10-year U.S. Treasury notes, causing their yield to decline. The yield peaked in May at 3.11 percent and has

since dipped to 2.83 percent as the financial markets have sought a haven amid risks of a trade war.

Despite the recent declines, long-term loan rates remain near their highest levels in seven years. The average 30-year mortgage rate reached a high this year of 4.66 percent on May 24; the 15-year rate hit 4.15 percent that day.

To calculate average mortgage rates, Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country between Monday and Wednesday each week.

The average doesn't include extra fees, known as points, which most borrowers must pay to get the lowest rates. The average fee on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages was unchanged from last week at 0.5 point.

Renting a room in your home



TODAY'S REAL ESTATE
JULIO SEDA

When you are considering to rent out a room in your home it is to your advantage to hire a Realtor who specializes in renting and leasing property in your community. Your Realtor shall guide you on the bells and whistles your city and county requires, if any.

The fact that it is a room inside the house you own and live in, it is not exempt from regular home renting terms and conditions. You become a landlord, the same as if you're renting a separate unit, home, apartment not attached to the home you live.

Renting a room in your living homestead property can be good income. Be sure to structure and handle it in a fair, legal way between you and the tenant. This will prevent and control misunderstandings especially since the rented space is inside the landlord's home and kitchen, family room, entrance garage and it is shared space.

Some homes have in-law quarters with a separate entrance, bathroom, kitchenette or a bedroom inside with its own bathroom plus kitchen access or not. Regardless of the space, realize you have a person living with you sharing common areas, meaning allow a reasonable time for both parties to adjust, and that there will be times of getting along wonderfully and times where people will be getting on each other nerves.

Remember that renting out a room is different than subletting, which happens when you are renting a place you don't own, but rent your space to someone else, while still being responsible for rent to the landlord.

Renting out a room in the property you own and live is a different situation, which is more of a landlord/tenant relationship than two renters together. Your Realtor can guide you with the municipalities' rules and restrictions about renting rooms in homes, so make sure your desire to rent out unused space will keep you compliant with the local law.

There are a number of conditions that might affect whether or not you can even rent out space in your home. Your city or town might also have zoning laws that prevent residents from renting to people who are unrelated to them without a license or permit. There could also be restrictions on the number of unrelated

roommate. However, you can include a preference for the sex of the roommate in your ad. In other words, if you are a female, you can advertise for a female tenant, but can't include any other qualifiers in the ad.

When it comes to making the decision about which applicant to choose to live in your home, however, new court rulings have opened the door to allow homeowners and tenants seeking roommates to choose based on their own personal criteria, even if it is discriminatory.

Recently, the 9th circuit court held that applying a nondiscrimination requirement to a homeowner or tenant's roommate selection would be a serious invasion of privacy. When selecting a roommate, therefore, the anti-discrimination provisions of the FHA don't apply. You can be free to choose your new roommate, even by discrimination, because of the shared space factor.

Because selecting a roommate increases personal risk and affects an owner's quality of life, the court allows more particular reasons for selection. If you were selling or renting an entire unit separate from your own living space, nondiscrimination laws would, of course, apply.

One thing to ask for in a room rental/roommate situation is to get references for previous roommates if the applicant is willing. It's easier to find out what a person is like from a former living partner than to ask the landlord, who probably won't know what that person is like in the day-to-day.

Owning a condo does have a complete different set of rules and regulations due to your homeowners association, which can prohibits additional occupants who aren't family members and have a maximum to occupy the unit, based on the square footage. Be sure to ask for the amendments on renting a room in your unit.

Remember there are Realtors who cater to residential rentals and who can assist you with the management giving you the owner and landlord, peace of mind.

To submit questions, comments or topics, call Julio Seda at 786-991-8235 or email 0532315@gmail.com.

Challenges to the private retirement system

The private pension system in the U.S. is in transition. The shift is from defined benefit pension plans wholly controlled by employers to defined-contribution 401(k) plans that are partially controlled by the employees enrolled in them. This is happening largely because 401(k) plans provide greater flexibility to employers, avoiding the large balance-sheet liability generated by the employer's commitment to provide defined benefits over an indefinite future period.

From a retiree perspective, however, defined-contribution plans have two major weaknesses. The weakness that has generated the most attention is that employees have not been saving enough in their 401(k) to assure a comfortable retirement. Some of the reasons for this, along with initiatives aimed at encouraging higher 401(k) saving rates, were noted in a recent article by Anne Tergesen in the Wall Street Journal. She cited the following measures aimed at raising saving rates, which either have been adopted or are pending in legislative proposals:

- Systems that enroll employees into 401(k) plans automatically, requiring laggards and procrastinators to opt out.
- Authorization of multiple employer plans for small firms that have no plans of their own.
- More convenient methods that employees who are changing employers can use to transfer their accounts to the new employers, avoiding cash-outs that can result in spending splurges.
- Emergency funds that would co-exist alongside 401(k) accounts so employees do not raid their 401(k)s to meet emergencies.
- An option for investing 401(k) funds in an annuity.

The second major weakness of 401(k)

MORTGAGE PROFESSOR

Jack Guttentag

plans, which has not generated much if any attention, is that they do not include any way for the individual retiree to manage mortality risk. Such management is an integral feature of defined-benefit plans because the employer delivers pensions for life to a group of employees with markedly different lifespans. In contrast, employees with 401(k)s are on their own.

While allowing retirees to purchase annuities might be viewed as a step in that direction, the wisdom of purchasing annuities before to retirement is highly questionable. In my view, the retirees' objective during working years ought to be to accumulate as large a nest egg of financial assets as possible. Annuities do not fit that objective.

After retirement, however, when financial assets begin to be drawn down to meet living expenses, that judgment flips. If there is any likelihood that the retiree could outlive the assets, some of the assets should be allocated to the purchase of a deferred annuity. But doing that makes sense only within the framework of a financial plan that integrates the annuity with a scheme for drawing down financial assets over time. Further, if the retiree is a homeowner, the plan can also include a reverse mortgage.

Here is an example of an integrated retirement plan: The retiree at 63 has a nest egg of \$1 million of common stock and a house worth \$400,000 with no mortgage. The plan objective is to maximize the spendable funds available to the retiree that will increase by 2 percent a year, subject to investment risk that the retiree finds tolerable.

The retiree's \$1 million nest egg is divided into two parts. One part for \$567,122 remains invested and will be

drawn down as a source of spendable funds over 20 years. The remaining \$432,878 is used to purchase a monthly annuity deferred 20 years. The allocation of the \$1 million between the two uses is such that the initial draw amount from the assets plus a HECM term payment, amounting to \$6,047, growing by 2 percent a year, after 19 years will be just 2 percent below the initial annuity payment of \$8,986 that begins in the following year.

A plan of this type must also be managed in response to deviations between the rate of return assumed in calculating the amounts that could be drawn from month to month, and actual returns. My example assumed a 20-year return of 11.24 percent, which was the median return on common stock during all 20-year periods between 1926 and 2012. The return that materializes is equally likely to be lower or higher. If the return is larger than assumed, the retiree can draw more, accumulate financial assets, or both.

If the return is lower than assumed, the retiree must scale down the draw amounts to avoid asset depletion. The size of the adjustment depends on the size of the earnings shortfall. The retiree will be aware of the adjustments that might be required by earnings short falls, and will take account of them in deciding on the amount to draw from assets. For example, if the adjustment that might be required using the median draw is viewed as excessive, the retiree could scale down the initial draw, making a shortfall less likely, and the adjustments associated with a shortfall smaller.

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.

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What tiles go where?

CONTRIBUTED COLUMN

Shelly Sapp

Ceramic tile, porcelain tile, travertine? Lions, and tigers and bears! Oh my?

As I walk through a store and look at the plethora of options on the tile aisle, I try to imagine how my client will see these samples. It's confusing. Lots of gray and beige. What's for floor and what's for walls? Why is one more expensive than the other and do they all need to be sealed?

Here's a guide to get you started. I promise, no lions or bears!

There is a difference between floor tile and wall tile however with advances in manufacturing and new materials popping up all the time there can be some cross over. Professional designers usually start with what is called a "PEI Rating." I know, here she goes again with the science of design. Boring!

This one is super simple, no tigers. PEI rating is the resistance to wear and is measured on a scale from 0 to 5. A rating of "0" is a light use tile and should only be considered for the wall. A rating of "5" is extremely resilient and will work great on kitchen floors. Any tile with a rating between 1 and 5 will be suitable for the floor.

Wait a minute, the big box store associate is not going to know the PEI rating of a tile? They might not, but they do know where to look. Pull up the tile name, manufacturer and/or item number online and within the description section you will see language like this: "PEI rating of 3 for light to moderate traffic is perfect for residential use." If there is no PEI rating information, assume it is for walls only.

So what's the difference between all these different floor tile materials?

There are generally four types of floor tile. Ceramic, porcelain, natural stone and what I refer to as "mutant materials." We will talk about "mutant materials" next time.

Ceramic tile is softer and is the least expensive

of the floor tile choices. It can chip more easily, and you will find more inconsistency on the beveled edges. It's not a bad thing, just be prepared to see what appears to be variable widths of grout lines. Better in less formal rooms. Porcelain tiles are more dense and harder to chip.

Think about it, your toilet is porcelain. Consequently, porcelain is generally more expensive than ceramic tile options.

Travertine, all varieties of marble, slate and limestone are natural stone floor tile options and are in my opinion the most luxurious as well as timeless choices. They generally do require sealing unlike ceramic or porcelain and are more expensive than those options. Also depending on their absorption rating and grade, they can crack and stain easily.

Absorption ratings range from "non-vitreous," which is a nice way of telling you this stone acts like a sponge so it's probably not a good idea for the shower floor. To "impervious," which would be something a designer would select for a commercial floor, like a hotel lobby. This information too should be in the product description online.

The "grade" of the natural stone tile refers to how it looks. A grade of "1" is consistent in color, free from cracks and chips and is uniform in shape. Usually more expensive. A grade of "2" has some issues and is what you might find in a discount flooring warehouse. Not necessarily a bad thing and can sometimes be preferable in casual or rustic spaces. It's just a way of communicating what your expectations should be with this product.

The third grade is stone that is only appropriate as accent tiles. They are considered too flawed to be used as floor tile. These are used most frequently in the mosaic accent sheets you see

in the big box store on the wall tile aisle. They are mixed with other complimentary stones or glass and assembled on a 12 by 12 sheet for ease of installation.

One final lesson on natural stone floor tile, you will sometimes also see a "COF" or "SCOF" rating when looking through the descriptions of natural stone floor tiles. This stands for the "coefficient of friction" or "static coefficient of friction" and is simply telling you how slippery a surface is.

A low COF means you will probably break a hip on this tile while a higher COF makes more sense for the shower floor. Look for a COF rating of around 0.5 for the bathroom. (I know... again with the science... when did design get so nerdy!)

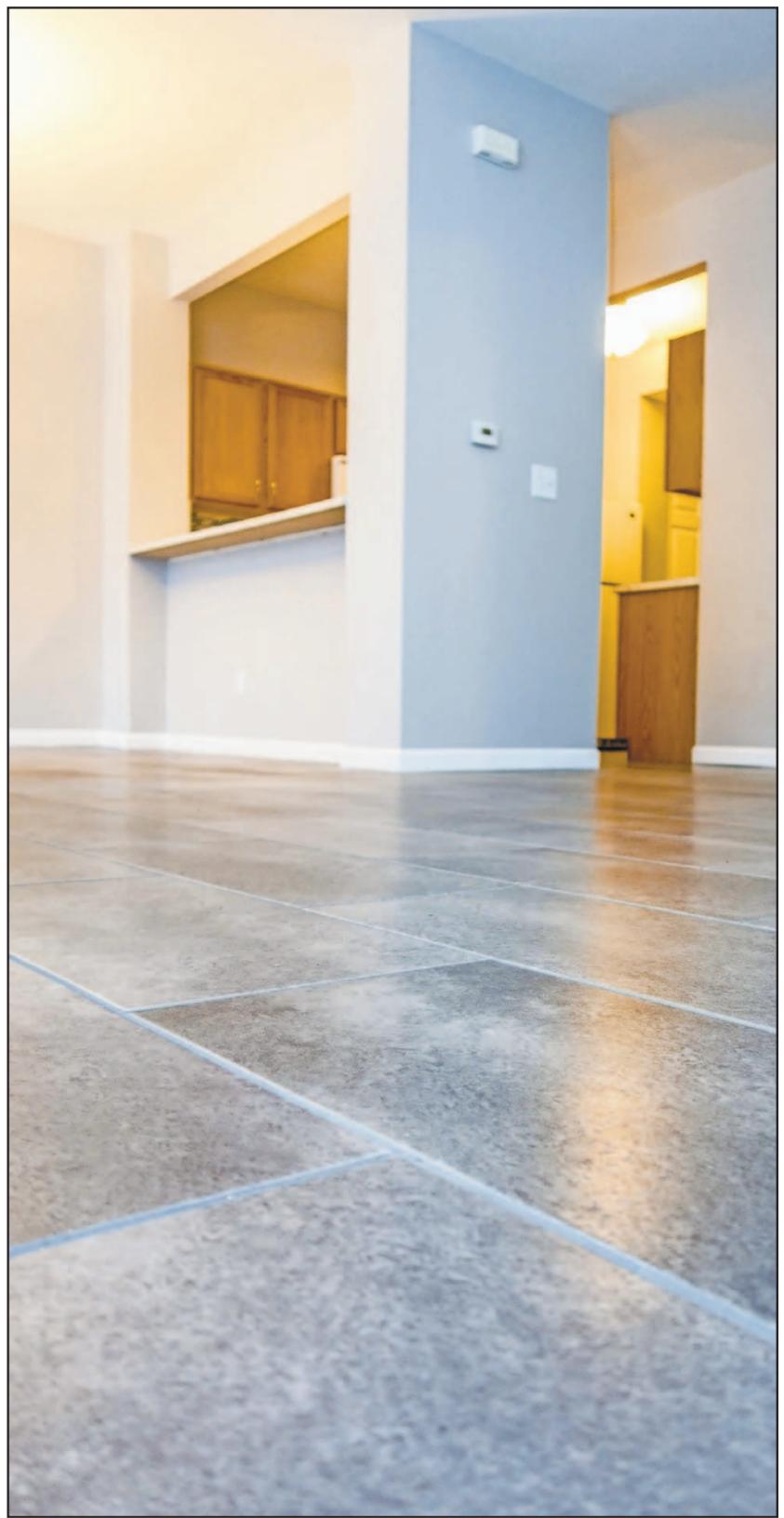
A couple of designer notes on floor tile.

If a wall tile is too beautiful to ignore, ask your tile installer about using a sanded and/or epoxy grout to balance out the durability and make the tile a little less slippery for floor installation. This happens mostly when a client wants to use a real marble on the floor which is in its nature, very porous and likely to chip easily. (But it looks awesome!)

Dye lots matter. This is the shade of color your tiles are in the same finish. Usually a code or number on the box. Order more than you need so if a box is broken you have enough tile to finish the job in the same dye lot. Even if you can return the broken tile box, more of the dye lot you need to match can be hard to come by. Always know your source's return policy.

Ask your tile installer about using pre-mixed grout. Inconsistency in color can occur when a dry grout is mixed with water on site. Humans are not machines and dry grout powder can age on the store shelf. Pre-mixed grout is more expensive however less trouble than fixing an unsightly installation.

Work closely with your tile installer and



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

PEI rating is the resistance to wear and is measured on a scale from 0 to 5. Any tile with a rating between 1 and 5 will be suitable for the floor.

listen to their feedback. Grout width is usually dependent on the area to be grouted and the type of subfloor; not the tile itself. A large tile installed over the entire home's floor may require leveling the subfloor surface and a much wider grout width to ensure there is

no cracking in the future. "Wood-look tiles" are best with a very dark gray, brown or black thin 1/8 inch to 1/16 inch grout line. This becomes more of a shadow than a grout line and will recreate the "micron-bevel" of traditional real hardwood floors. A very nice detail.

Have a question about floor tile? Ask on my blog at <http://shellysappinteriors.com/blog/>

Shelly Sapp is with Shelly Sapp Interiors. Call 863-991-2578, email shelly@shellysappinteriors.com or visit shellysappinteriors.com.

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Tips for prospective first-time landlords

By **BILL ZIMMERMAN**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

David Diaz, head of operations at Florida-based property management company Great Jones, talks about some useful tips for people who are thinking about being a landlord of a rental property for the first time.

The wheels are turning in your head: Rent prices in Metro Orlando are rising, and real estate has long been seen as a top investment.

Is it time to take the leap and become a landlord?

“Owning a rental property can be a great source of cash flow and future equity appreciation,” said David Diaz, head of operations at Florida property management company Great Jones.

Diaz took a few minutes recently to outline a few tips to succeed as a first-time landlord. Here are five key points:

— Screen tenants, and screen them some more

“Find great residents. The quality of your resident will determine the outcome of your investment more than anything else. Income verifications, criminal background, all those things ... Any gaps and you could find yourself with a problem coming downstream.”

— Know your tenants’ rights up front — and yours too

“Landlord-tenant law is hugely important. If you’re going to individually manage, or if you’re going to manage through

a property manager, you want to make sure you’re always staying up to date. Florida has very strong landlord-tenant laws that are very specific about what a landlord is obligated to. You can get stuck on technicalities. ... There are a lot of forms available online. Make sure they’re attorney generated, and that you’re doing it right.”

— Choose the right money-maker property

“Often people when they individually invest will buy more expensive homes than they potentially should be renting, where the highest and best use of that home is not necessarily a rental property but an end-user home, so they won’t see those same margins” of 60-65 percent that a large Wall Street real-estate investment firm generates.

— Expect to spend thousands on maintenance

“Your maintenance and turnover should be budgeted in the \$2,000 per year range. If you really include all of the big stuff and what we call amortized turnover, so if somebody moves out every three years, you’re going to have costs of painting and those sorts of things that you want to spread across a three-year period when you’re figuring out your numbers. I very often see estimates where people have 100 percent occupancy assumption and some really low maintenance number, and then they can’t figure out why

they’re not hitting their expected yield on their investment.”

— Improve it while it’s empty

“A lot of owners make the mistake of going into a project and saying, ‘Oh, I’ll do that when somebody moves in.’

“The reality is, it is vastly more efficient to get work done while the property is empty and much more cost efficient and time efficient to get as much done.”

— Plan for vacant months but try to avoid them too

“A property that rents for \$2,000 a month, if vacant for one month, just lost \$166 of effective rent (for each month of the year), so you’re now just over \$1,800 in effective rent. ... Don’t non-renew a resident over a small rent increase when the vacancy is going to cost you more than the rent increase.”

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3 pros discuss creating an outdoor room

By **MELISSA RAYWORTH**
ASK A DESIGNER

Designers often talk about the perfect “outdoor living room” — a deck or patio that combines the comfort and style of indoor decorating with the pleasure of relaxing outside. But what separates these outdoor entertaining spaces from more typically decorated backyards?

We’ve asked three interior designers — Brett Beldock of New York-based Brett Design Inc., Abbe Fenimore of Studio Ten25 in Dallas and Dan Mazzarini of the design firm BHDM — about what items they use to elevate a simple deck or patio to true “outdoor room” status.

The perfect rug

“Adding textiles underfoot,” says Mazzarini, brings “that added tactile quality that’s expected to be only indoors, and

helps sort of redefine the outdoor space.”

Beldock agrees, and says companies like Sunbrella and Perennials offer soft rugs made of durable, dyed acrylic yarns in gorgeous patterns and colors. “It doesn’t feel like plastic,” Beldock says, but “you can hose it down.”

And fortunately, says Fenimore, you don’t have to invest a lot — even big-box stores like Sam’s Club sometimes offer good-quality outdoor rugs in geometric prints or stripes.

Some of these may actually dry more quickly after rain than more expensive, thicker outdoor rugs. Choosing a rug that drains and dries well is especially important if you have a concrete floor or little direct sunlight.

But, Fenimore says, don’t skimp too much on the price: Very thin acrylic rugs may not last long and may fade quickly. In choosing the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This undated photo provided by Abbe Fenimore shows fans for hot days and space heaters for cold nights can help make a patio feel even more like an “outdoor living room,” as seen in this backyard sitting area designed by Abbe Fenimore. Designers say that outdoor furnishings have come a long way. Look for rugs, lighting, sofas and more.

number of rugs and their placement, consider defining separate entertaining areas: one rug for the dining area under the table and chairs, and another to define a seating area that serves as a living room.

Living room lighting

Typical outdoor lighting can be harsh and unflattering, and “overhead lighting is nobody’s friend,” says Mazzarini. So look for outdoor table lamps and floor lamps to add the soft glow of indoor lighting.

Although they vary in what weather conditions they can handle, outdoor lamps can be used throughout much of the year, Mazzarini says.

Fenimore agrees: “Bringing in lamplight,

especially outside, is really beautiful and subtle,” she says, and it’s easy to find a wide range of styles and prices for outdoor lamps at home decor retailers.

As a finishing touch, Beldock loves adding to the glow by using lots of candles with glass hurricane covers.

Temperature control

Managing the air is another indoor touch you can work with outdoors.

For clients in Texas, Fenimore often suggests fans to circulate the air on an outdoor patio. At her own home, “we have a wall-mounted fan hanging under one of the eaves,” she says, to keep air moving and hopefully deter mosquitoes.

For colder evenings,

standing space heaters can take the chill out of a space and complement the warmth from a firepit.

Upholstery and fabrics

Just as with your indoor living room, choose a comfortable, stylish sofa for outdoors and pair it with a loveseat or comfortable upholstered chairs. Indoor/outdoor fabrics have come a long way, these designers say, so choose a texture that feels like indoor upholstery. And don’t just stick with one color, says Beldock: “Mix and match fabrics the way you do in an indoor situation.”

Although outdoor sofa styles vary widely, Beldock says the sectional “peanut sofa” by Bonaldo is popular for

outdoor living rooms, and it’s available in a wide range of soft outdoor fabrics.

Velvety, chenille fabrics durable enough for outdoors have become popular, says Fenimore. Despite their cozy texture, she says, these fabrics don’t trap heat and can be comfortable all summer long.

To complete the look, add throw pillows to your outdoor sofa. Many outdoor throw pillows are available with stuffing that can dry easily without getting moldy.

Another option, Fenimore says, is using beautiful indoor throw pillows when you entertain outside and then bringing them in when the party is over. A deep pile of pillows will bring indoor comfort to your outdoor sofa, encouraging guests to stay and relax, she says.

Finishing touch: Fenimore suggests keeping a container filled with soft, lightweight throw blankets so that guests lounging outdoors in the evening can have that extra touch of softness and luxury if the wind begins to blow.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This undated photo provided by Abbe Fenimore shows an outdoor rug in a rooftop sitting area designed by Abbe Fenimore, which brings the softness of a living room to an outdoor space. Designers say that outdoor furnishings have come a long way. Look for rugs, lighting, sofas and more.



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Contact: Dana Olson: 863-451-1775
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620 MEMORIAL DR, SEBRING

Dream no more! 2 BR, 2 BA w/ 1 CA, on 494 Acre Lake all on a Pretty lot. 1598 under air, new roof, new dock, new lanai. Master bedroom has a den/office or convert it to another bedroom. Large eat-in kitchen. Great room has awesome views of Lake Sebring. Relax in the lanai looking at the lake or just enjoy the back yard. There is a shed and dock for your boat or jet skis. White sandy beach ready for you to come and enjoy. Great home for enjoying the water and entertaining your family. MLS 247952 **\$199,000**

Contact: Anita Zahn: 863-840-1420
anitazahn@gmail.com

6327 COLUMBUS BLVD, SEBRING

SUN N LAKE - 2BR/2BA2CA, Great split floor plan w/large master, updated master bath, remodeled guest bath, new kitchen, vaulted ceiling in living & dining rm w/french doors leading to enclosed porch. MLS#248262 **\$163,900**

Contact: Andrea Cranmer: 863-451-6400
acranmerrealtor@gmail.com

119 MURRAY CT, NW, LAKE PLACID

Freshly painted, large 3/2 family home in a great area! High ceilings. Large rooms. New flooring in living area and bedrooms, new appliances and roof. Laundry room is large and has washer and dry (as is) Lots of space for entertaining. New sod w/irrigation system. Golf course across the street and 8 blocks from Lake June. MLS#243866. **\$1550/mo.**

Contact: Diana Williams: 863-386-0303
dwilliams90@htn.net

5500 GRANADA BLVD, SEBRING

Available first of July, Great court yard w/ french doors from Master. Newer flooring, nice bedrooms & good size kitchen
MLS#242148 **\$950.00/mo.**

Contact: Dana Olson: 863-451-1775
dolsonrealtor@gmail.com

1544 CHURCHILL ST, LAKE PLACID

Well maintained 2BR/2BA home in Sylvan Shores. Kitchen /plenty of storage, large living rm w/vaulted ceiling. Master BR has large closet, split bedroom plan. A must see!
MLS 248150 **\$139,900**

Contact: Anita Zahn: 863-840-1420
anitazahn@gmail.com

1377 NANCESOWEE AVE, SEBRING

Charming 2BR/2BA near Lake Jackson. Open floor plan /living & dining room, large family room. Spacious kitchen & breakfast nook. Tile flooring throughout. MLS#248151 **\$99,500**

Contact: Andrea Cranmer: 863-451-6400
acranmerrealtor@gmail.com

106 VOSS COURT

Fully furnished, charming 2 BD, 2 BA villa on quiet cul de sac in sought after Golfing Community of Spring Lake. Close to great fishing on Lake Istapoka. Recently remodeled w/open floor plan, large rooms & Lanai overlooking the greenbelt. Just bring your toothbrush and enjoy Florida living at it's best! Price listed is for annual lease...seasonal pricing available. MLS#241358 **\$950/mo.**

Contact: Diana Williams: 863-386-0303
dwilliams90@htn.net

7 VICTORY WAY, LAKE PLACID

Available July 2018 This 3 BR,2.5 BA home has lots of space & storage. Freshly painted new laminate wood floors in family room & part of the second floor. French doors to the enclosed front porch from dining room . Screened lanai off the family room fire place. MLS#237031 **\$1100/mo.**

Contact: Dana Olson: 863-451-1775
dolsonrealtor@gmail.com

How should I decorate a kid's room?

ASK ANGIE'S LIST
PAUL F. P. POGUE

Everyone benefits from a space that's uniquely their own — especially kids. Kids love to help plan and design their bedrooms. After all, the place where they sleep and play is their own little part of the world, and it gives them a sense of ownership when they're able to put a personal touch on it. Here are three ways to customize your child's room without breaking the bank:



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

Neutral walls and colorful accents make for the best basic building blocks of a child's room.

As an added bonus, built-in shelves provide a safety bonus for smaller children, since they can't tip over.

Create a unique look with custom painting

The paint job in your child's room provides the baseline for the rest of the look and design.

Look for paints free of volatile organic compounds. They're the best choice for anyone sensitive to allergies or prone to headaches.

Satin and semi-gloss paint finishes are

excellent choices for kid's rooms — their water base makes them easy to clean with soap and water. Plus, satin paint is forgiving of imperfections.

To really fire up your child's creative instincts, consider chalkboard or dry erase paints. They'll let your budding young Picasso draw to their heart's content with an easy cleanup later.

You can also place a layer of magnetic paint primer underneath standard colors, which will allow you to easily stick artwork or magnetic art projects right against

the wall. For a truly unique experience, mural painters can offer a distinctive and personalized look for a child's room. Some will even mount art on canvas the size and shape of the wall, so it can be taken down and preserved when a child gets older.

Think about flexible options

Neutral walls and colorful accents make for the best basic building blocks of a child's room. Don't worry about adding any bright color — all

the toys and accessories in the room can do that!

When it comes to developing a theme for the room, consider using easily changed elements. This flexibility will come in handy as kids grow and their tastes change. If they're on a baseball kick, get baseball-themed blankets and pillows for now and swap them out for the next obsession later. If they're into trucks or dolls, place some on a shelf. You can also

change these as their interests evolve.

Interior designers specialize in all aspects of home design and can give you pointers on how to involve your kids in the process.

Paul F. P. Pogue 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 Angie's List.com.

Consider built-in furniture

Think about hiring a carpenter for built-in beds, dressers, bookshelves or seating. This way, you can maximize space while designing a room that will grow with your child for years to come. A twin-sized loft bed will be great at any age beyond toddlerhood, for example. Smaller children will enjoy using the space below the bed for toy storage (or an impromptu playhouse with a few cleverly hung curtains), and older kids and teens can use the space for a desk.

Window seats provide an outside view that connects kids to nature, and they can be decorated to suit their changing interests as well.

Built-in shelving saves space and offers great flexibility over the years. A toddler's Dr. Seuss books can be replaced by toys, which can be replaced by schoolbooks.

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COUNTRY CLUB OF SEBRING \$188,500
Lovely 2 BR/2BA home in this desirable active adult community. This home is move in ready. Upgraded features incl solid surface counter tops in the kitchen, wood laminate flooring throughout the living areas, new roof, exterior paint and newer A/C and heat pump. MLS#244488

HIGHLANDS RIDGE \$163,500
No work necessary in this lovely 2BR+Ofc/2BA updated home - just concentrate on your golf or pickleball game! Kitchen boasts white cabinets with granite cabinets, tiled backsplash and newer appliances. New roof in 2017 and 14 x 19 screened/tiled Lanai in back. MLS#247687

LAKE JACKSON \$385,000
Elegant custom executive 4 BR+ofc/3 Ba/3 Car gar with over 4,000 sf of living area is sure to please even the most discerning buyer. Amenities galore incl curved cherry and wrought iron staircase, gourmet kitchen and screened porch with fantastic view of the lake. MLS# 248078

HIGHLANDS RIDGE \$189,900
Exquisite 2BR+ofc/2BA home features abundant crown molding, volume ceilings and a 21x13 LR with hand scraped wood laminate flooring. Wood cabinets and gorgeous glass tile back splash in Kitchen. 12x28 Florida room w/ windows & screen, plus a paver brick patio. MLS# 247323

SEBRING COUNTRY ESTATE \$198,500
Don't miss this rare opportunity to buy NEW CONSTRUCTION and pick out your colors to make this 3 BR/2BA/2 Car Gar home truly your own! Upgrades include granite, SS appls, wood-like tile & upgraded wood cabinetry. A 10x34 Lanai is perfect for entertaining. MLS# 245409

THE BLUFFS \$144,900
Beautiful corner villa lives like a single-family home! You'll love the view of the lake from nearly every room in this 2BR/2Ba/2 Car gar home. Open floor plan boasts a Kit with newer SS appls. Cathedral ceilings, a wood burning FP and built in shelves in the LR. MLS# 247416

4800 HAW BRANCH RD. • SEBRING, FL 33875

FOOTBALL: Buccaneers

Staring through the Bucs abyss

By Tom Jones
Times sports columnist

Bucs training camp is now less than a month away, and it feels like dark clouds have gathered around One Buc Place.

It happened suddenly. Just a few weeks ago, I wrote how it felt as if the Bucs were starting to take steps toward improvement and there was a case for optimism in 2018. The glass was half-full.

Now? It has all

changed.

Now, it's hard to see through the abyss.

Surely I'll be accused of being a Debbie Downer, but haven't the past few weeks just sucked the life out of this thing? That's what the Jameis Winston suspension has done. It has changed everything.

The Bucs are taking a beating nationally off the field for the Winston mess. Predictions for what is going to happen on the field are more pessimistic every day.

It's hard to find hope. It's hard to get excited. Tampa Bay has a real chance to get off to a horrendous start that could set the tone for another depressing season.

All because of the three-game suspension of Winston for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy that has cast a dark shadow over the season before it has even started.

The first three games were already a reason for concern. Even the

most optimistic Bucs fan had to swallow hard when the schedule came out. And that's when we all thought Winston was going to be behind center.

Now? Gulp, and more gulp.

The Bucs open at New Orleans, home of the defending NFC South champion.

Then the entire state of Pennsylvania invades Tampa Bay.

First, the defending Super Bowl champion

SEE BUCS, 3



MONICA HERNDON | TIMES

Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Dirk Koetter talks to the media after mandatory mini camp on June 12, 2018 at One Buc Place in Tampa, Fla.

HOCKEY: Lightning

Meet 'the girl behind' the St. Louis sign

By Allana Barefield
Times Sports

ST. PETERSBURG — When the call from the Hall came, there she was again.

The girl with the "I Love You Marty" sign, in the newspaper again, this time on the cover of the June 27 Times Sports section. Frozen in time, doing what she always did at Lightning games, what she still does.

Kathleen Harrod, through all the years, continues to support Marty St. Louis.

When news broke that St. Louis would be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, Times page designer Sean Kristoff-Jones searched the electronic archives for a picture that captured Marty's 14-year career in Tampa. He selected one that illustrates a connection with Lightning fans — one in particular.

In the photo, St. Louis is hunched over, his stick resting on his



DIRK SHADD | TIMES

Kathleen Harrod, then 15, is shown pressing her Marty St. Louis sign against the glass, hoping to get the Tampa Bay Lightning star's attention before a 2003 preseason game against the Carolina Hurricane.

knees, the hint of a smile on his face. Behind him is a 15-year-old St. Petersburg girl with strawberry-blond hair, pressing her sign against the glass, waiting for St.

Louis to notice her.

Times photographer Dirk Shadd certainly did that day, just as the Lightning's 2004 Stanley Cup season was dawning. That picture

that keeps showing up is from a Sept. 21, 2003 preseason game against Carolina. Its archive caption includes a note:

SEE HOCKEY, 3

WORLD CUP: Croatia 4, Russia 3

Croatia ends Russia's run, advances to World Cup semifinals

By TALES AZZONI
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Nyet this time.

Although Russia made it further at this year's World Cup than most anyone expected, it was Croatia that advanced to the semifinals with a 4-3 shootout victory Saturday following a 2-2 draw.

The overachieving hosts, the lowest ranked team in the tournament at No. 70, were trying to make it to the World Cup semifinals for the first time since the Soviet Union finished fourth at the 1966 tournament in England.

Even Russian President Vladimir Putin

was taken in by the host nation's surprising run, at least according to Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov.

"Putin called me during the day, and he called me right now," Cherchesov said. "He congratulated us on a very good game. He said what we showed on the field was great. I told him we were disappointed. He said we should have our eyes open and make the next steps."

The Croats hadn't advanced to the semifinals at the World Cup since 1998, when the country made its first appearance. Croatia will

SEE CROATIA, 2

AUTO RACING

NASCAR race at Daytona begins with Chase Elliott on pole

By MARK LONG
AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Chase Elliott is on the pole and the green flag has dropped for the start of the NASCAR Cup Series race at Daytona International Speedway.

Elliott and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Alex Bowman are on the front row at Daytona, a needed boost for both the team and manufacturer Chevrolet.

Chevy is trying to snap a 0-for-17 streak. It's the longest losing winless stretch for the American manufacturer

since a 31-race drought in 1981-82.

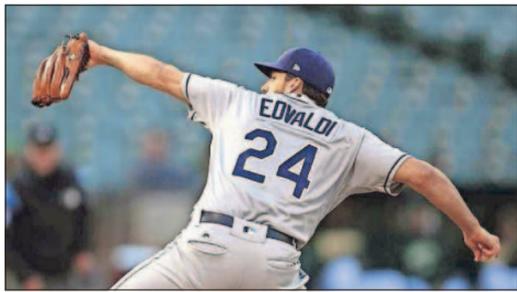
Austin Dillon gave Chevy its lone win of the season at the season-opening Daytona 500. The American automaker hasn't been to victory lane since and hadn't really gotten close to a checkered. Toyota and Ford have pulled away in the standings.

Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson starts fourth in the No. 48 Chevrolet, giving Hendrick three of the top four spots.

More AP auto racing: www.racing.ap.org

BASEBALL: Rays

Rays Tales: Who might be going, and why



AP PHOTO

Nathan Eovaldi was sharp on Wednesday.

By Marc Topkin
Times Sports

There is so much Rays to chat about right now, what with the still evolving pitching plan, Sunday's expected All-Star berths for C Wilson Ramos and LHP Blake Snell, and the stadium reveal coming Tuesday. Under cover are the

calls, text messages and occasional GIFs GM Erik Neander, senior VP Chaim Bloom and other execs are sharing with teams on possible trades.

And they have a lot to talk about, too.

Even after all the Rays did during the winter, spring and first

SEE RAYS, 3

INDEX | Lottery 2 | Golf 2 | Tennis 3 | Pro Baseball 4 | Scoreboard 5 | Soccer 6 | Cycling 6 | NBA 6

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PICK 2

July 7N	6-5
July 7D	6-3
July 6N	2-0
July 6D	7-8
July 5N	0-6
July 5D	1-1

PICK 3

July 7N	5-7-3
July 7D	4-9-5
July 6N	5-9-0
July 6D	8-6-2
July 5N	9-0-7
July 5D	1-3-9

PICK 4

July 7N	8-7-2-4
July 7D	5-2-3-2
July 6N	3-3-5-5
July 6D	3-1-5-8
July 5N	0-2-7-8
July 5D	3-1-8-5

PICK 5

July 7N	1-1-3-4-7
July 7D	2-3-4-4-0
July 6N	6-9-2-4-1
July 6D	5-9-1-0-0
July 5N	1-7-0-4-9
July 5D	6-2-9-7-2

D-Day, N-Night

FANTASY 5

July 6	3-12-14-24-33
July 5	1-19-21-23-36
July 4	4-7-21-30-36

PAYOFF for July 5

0	5-digit winners \$0
233	4-digit winners \$555.00
8,465..	3-digit winners 20.50

CASH FOR LIFE

July 5	16-21-28-31-44
Cash Ball	4

SPORTS ON TV

Sunday, July 8

AUTO RACING

9:05 a.m.
ESPN — Formula One, British Grand Prix, at Silverstone, England
2:30 p.m.
NBCSN — IndyCar, Iowa Corn 300, at Newton, Iowa
4 p.m.
FS1 — IMSA, WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix, at Bowmanville, Ontario (same-day tape)

CYCLING

7:30 a.m.
NBCSN — Tour de France, Stage 2, from Mouilleron-Saint-Germain to La Roche-sur-Yon, France
4:30 p.m.
NBC — Tour de France, Stage 2, from Mouilleron-Saint-Germain to La Roche-sur-Yon, France (same-day tape)

DRAG RACING

1 p.m.
FS1 — NHRA, New England Nationals, finals, at Epping, N.H.

GOLF

7 a.m.
GOLF — European PGA Tour, Dubai Duty Free Irish Open, final round, at Donegal, Ireland
1 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier Classic, final round, at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
3 p.m.
CBS — PGA Tour, A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier Classic, final round, at White Sulphur Springs, WV.
GOLF — Web.com Tour, LECOM Health Challenge, final round, at Clymer, N.Y.
5:30 p.m.
GOLF — LPGA Tour, Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic, final round, at Oneida, Wis.

MLB BASEBALL

2 p.m.
TBS — Atlanta at Milwaukee
7 p.m.
ESPN — MLB All-Star Selection Show
8 p.m.
ESPN — L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels
MOTOR SPORTS
5 p.m.

PAYOFF FOR July 5

0	5-5 CB \$1,000/Day
0	5-5 \$1,000/Week
7	4-5 CB \$2,500
8	4-5 \$500

LUCKY MONEY

July 6	16-27-37-45
Lucky Ball	16

PAYOFF FOR July 3

0	4-of-4 LB \$1.5 Million
6	4-of-4 \$969.50
53	3-of-4 LB \$240.50
819	3-of-4 \$45.50
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	\$1.8 Million

LOTTO

July 4	12-28-34-43-48-52
--------	-------------------

PAYOFF FOR July 4

0	6-digit winners \$2 million
13	5-digit winners \$4,943.00
639...	4-digit winners \$83.50
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	\$2.5 million

POWERBALL

July 4	4-7-15-41-44
Powerball	10

PAYOFF FOR June 27

0	5-5 + PB \$50 Million
0	5-5 \$1 Million
1	4-5 + PB \$50,000
19	4-5.....\$100
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	\$60 Million

MEGA MILLIONS

July 6	2-10-46-50-56
Mega Ball	16

PAYOFF FOR July 3

0...	5 of 5 + MB \$ 192 Million
0	5 of 5 \$1 Million
1	4 of 5 + MB \$10,000
17	4 of 5 \$500
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	\$283 million

NBCSN — AMA, Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Series, RedBud National (250 Moto 2 class), at Buchanan, Mich. (taped)

NBA BASKETBALL

3 p.m.
NBA — Summer League, Minnesota at Toronto, at Las Vegas
3:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Summer League, Washington vs. San Antonio, at Las Vegas
5 p.m.
NBA — Summer League, Charlotte vs. Miami, at Las Vegas
5:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Summer League, Portland vs. Atlanta, at Las Vegas
7 p.m.
NBA — Summer League, Dallas vs. Milwaukee, at Las Vegas
7:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Summer League, Golden State vs. Houston, at Las Vegas
9 p.m.
NBA — Summer League, Utah vs. New York, at Las Vegas
9:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Summer League, Memphis vs. Orlando, at Las Vegas
11 p.m.
NBA — Summer League, Sacramento vs. L.A. Clippers, at Las Vegas
11:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Summer League, L.A. Lakers vs. Chicago, at Las Vegas

SOCCER

7 p.m.
FS1 — MLS, N.Y. Red Bulls at N.Y. City FC
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
2 p.m.
ABC — 2018 Special Olympics USA Games, at Seattle
SPECIALS
2 p.m.
ESPN — 2018 World Series of Poker, Main Event, at Las Vegas
SWIMMING
6:30 p.m.
NBCSN — TYR Pro Swim Series, at Columbus, Ohio
TENNIS
3 p.m.
ABC — Wimbledon Championships, Week 1 highlights, at London

Mario Fernandes scored with his own header in the 115th to send the match to yet another penalty shootout.

Fernandes, who was born in Brazil but rejected a chance to play for that country's national team in 2011, sent his penalty kick wide of the net in the

BASEBALL: Rays 3, Mets 0

By **SCOTT ORGERA**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tampa Bay's Blake Snell and Wilson Ramos are hoping they both get selected to the American League All-Star team. Saturday afternoon's performance at Citi Field may have strengthened the batterymates' chances.

Snell blanked the Mets over a career-high-tying 7 1/3 innings, Ramos drove in a pair of runs and the Rays downed New York 3-0 on Saturday.

"I'd be pumped," Snell said about the possibility of playing in the Midsummer Classic. "I'd be stoked."

A late afternoon start under clear blue skies featured two young lefthanders at the top of their game in recent weeks, both successfully dodging

a slew of baserunners early.

Ranked among the league leaders in several categories, the 25-year-old Snell was as advertised — keeping the Mets off the board despite allowing the leadoff runner to reach in six out of eight frames including each of the first four.

Snell (12-4) struck out nine, scattering six hits and three walks while lowering his AL-leading ERA to 2.09.

"Blake has been tremendous for us. He's been the workhorse."

Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "We're talking about a potential All-Star candidate."

The lanky lefty has yielded two runs or fewer in nine of his last 10 starts and is 4-0 with an 0.63 ERA over his last four outings, two against the

Astros.

"He deserves to be in the All-Star Game because he's had an awesome year," Ramos said of the Rays starter. "There's nothing better than being with your teammates in the All-Star Game."

The feeling is mutual. "He needs to go," Snell said, rallying for his backstop. "It would be even cooler if I did go and pitch to him. I think that would be special for the both of us."

After being held scoreless in 34 of their previous 36 innings, Tampa Bay finally broke through in the fifth. Matt Duffy lined a leadoff double down the right-field line, the fourth two-bagger surrendered by Mets starter Steven Matz to that point, advancing to third on a groundout.

Ramos followed with a sharp grounder to shortstop. A charging Amed Rosario booted the ball before recovering and throwing to first for the out.

With Duffy running on contact, Rosario likely would have cut down the run at home had he fielded the ball cleanly. Instead, the Rays took a 1-0 lead.

"He just came in on it hard," Mets manager Mickey Callaway said. "He looked up just to see where the runner was and it hit off his heel."

Matz (4-6) continued his recent surge, charged with one run on five hits and three walks in 6 1/3 innings — striking out five. The Long Island native has allowed four earned runs across his last three starts, a span of 18 2/3 innings.

BASEBALL

Stone Crabs power past Threshers

Staff Reports

The long ball helped propel the Stone Crabs to an 8-3 victory Saturday against the Clearwater Threshers at Spectrum Stadium.

And for the second time this week, a familiar face from the parent club, started a game for the Stone Crabs. Jake Faria, on a rehabilitation assignment, started for Charlotte, pitching two innings, allowing two hits, including a home run, in his appearance.

Chris Archer threw four no-hit innings Tuesday night.

However, it was Florida State League all-star Willy Ortiz, who earned the victory, hurling six innings, allowing five hits and two runs, while striking out six, raising his record to 5-2.

The Stone Crabs opened the scoring in the 2nd inning as third baseman Jermaine Palacios doubled to center, the first of his three hits, scoring left fielder Miles Mastrobuoni.

Charlotte would plate three more runs in the 4th inning. Designated hitter Rene Pinto would be the next to deliver with a double to center scoring Jesus Sanchez. The Stone Crabs would load the bases, and former Rice Owl Tristan Gray would factor into the equation, drawing a base on balls to force home Pinto.

The Stone Crabs tacked on another run as catcher Zacrey Law's sacrifice fly to center field scored

Mastrobuoni.

Josh Lowe and Rob Tenorowicz hit back-to-back solo shots in the 7th inning to give Charlotte an authoritative 6-2 advantage.

The Stone Crabs would add to their cushion in the 8th inning, as Tristan Gray hit a two-run home run to left.

Alexis Tapia, came into finish the game, pitching a scoreless inning of relief, striking out two while allowing two hits.

GOLF

Varner, Kraft tied for lead at Greenbrier

By **John Raby**
Associated Press

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. Va. — Harold Varner and Kelly Kraft are looking to add to the crop of first-time winners on the PGA Tour in West Virginia.

Varner shot a 4-under 66 Saturday to tie Kraft at the top entering the final round of A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier.

Both are seeking their first tour wins in their 85th starts. Since this tournament debuted in 2010, there have been four first-time champions, but no third-round leader has won.

"I wish we could go play right now,"

Varner said. "I'm pretty hungry. This is what you work for. This is what I get so pumped up to do."

Varner had four back-nine birdies after 10 consecutive pars to catch Kraft, the second-round leader who let a four-stroke lead slip away and shot 1-under 69.

Both were at 14-under 196.

Varner's best finish on tour was a tie for fifth at the OHL Classic in Mexico in 2016. He has one top-10 finish in each of the past two years and won the Australian PGA Championship in 2016.

"I guess this whole thing's new to me

because I've never had a lead going into the last day," Varner said. "But I don't really lack confidence. That's never really been a problem. I just need to slow down and take it all in. Because there's going to be something that happens tomorrow where I can learn and I can grow and I can get a lot better. So it goes back to keeping it in perspective."

"That was deep. Sorry."

Kraft, who finished fifth in last year's tournament, refused to get down on himself despite bogeys on two of his final three holes Saturday.

"I'm just going to stay patient tomorrow," he

said. "I hit a lot of good shots today."

Fifteen golfers were within five shots of the lead.

The tournament has been decided by two or fewer strokes every year and has gone to a playoff three times. The 2016 tournament was canceled after devastating floods.

The Old White TPC dried out on a sunny Saturday and scores weren't as low as the first two days when rains softened the course and yielded eight rounds of 63 or better.

Kraft had a one-stroke lead entering the round, the first time he's led after 36 holes on the PGA Tour.

AUTO RACING

Newgarden looks for 2nd straight win

By **LUKE MEREDITH**
Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — Defending IndyCar champion Josef Newgarden's up-and-down season is back on an upswing after a dominant win at Road America two weeks ago.

Newgarden is back at Iowa Speedway — the scene of perhaps his most impressive performance back in 2016 — in hopes of closing the gap further on series leader

Scott Dixon.

Newgarden is fourth, 50 points behind Dixon, despite a series-high three wins in 10 starts. That's because the Tennessee-born Newgarden finished eighth or worse in a five-race stretch that began in Indianapolis and ended in Texas.

Newgarden got things going in the right direction in Wisconsin two weeks ago, leading all but two of 55 laps, and he feels as though his No. 1 Chevy will have an

advantage after testing the newly designed aero package at Iowa on June 27.

Indianapolis 500 winner Will Power won his 52nd career pole on Saturday, with Newgarden set to start second. Ryan Hunter-Reay was third, followed by Simon Pagenaud.

"Us testing here is a benefit...(and) I think it's more important this year just because it's a new car — and Iowa is its own animal," said Newgarden, who led a

record 282 of 300 laps to win at Iowa two years ago.

"Even having been to Phoenix, another short oval, I don't think a lot of that really applies here because Iowa is just crazy unique. It's a lot bumpier."

Despite being one of the few drivers to run in each of Iowa's previous 11 races, Dixon has never won here.

His best finish was third in 2016 — even though he has claimed the pole three times.

CROATIA

From Page 1

next final England in the semifinals on Wednesday in Moscow.

With the crowd silenced following an extra-time header from Croatia defender Domagoj Vida in the 101st minute, Russia defender

shootout, giving Croatia the advantage.

Both goalkeepers made early saves in the shootout, with an injured Danijel Subasic stopping the opening shot from Fyodor Smolov. Igor Akinfeev later blocked an attempt from Mateo Kovacic.

At 1-1, Fernandes

missed his shot — only the second player to miss in any of the four shootouts at this year's World Cup.

The teams then traded two scores each before Ivan Rakitic calmly converted the winning penalty.

"We should have finished the job before

penalties but maybe it's written in the stars we have to go through the extra drama," said Luka Modric, whose penalty bounced off Akinfeev's hand and the post before entering the other side of the net.

Denis Cheryshev gave Russia the lead in regulation time with a

long-range shot into the upper corner in the 31st minute. Croatia equalized with Andrej Kramaric's header near halftime.

"I left everything on the field and unfortunately we were unlucky," Russia midfielder Roman Zobnin said. "We gave everything we could."



DIRK SHADD PHOTOS | TIMES

Kathleen Harrod, 31, shows off the picture of herself in 2004 with an "I Love You Marty" sign as Tampa Bay Lightning Marty St. Louis huddles in front of her during the pregame warm up before a game. Harrod is also sporting a "XXVI" tattoo for Marty who was number 26. Marty St. Louis was recently elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame. When that news broke, the Times re-ran that photo and she remarked how she was still making the Times all these later.

HOCKEY

From Page 1

"the fan on the left is unidentified."

Not any more.

"Fifteen years later and me and my Marty sign are still making the Tampa Bay Times Sports section," Harrod tweeted the day after St. Louis received the call from the hall of fame. She included the hashtag #thegirlbehindthesign.

"It's just crazy because that the picture literally have been in the paper at least 10 times," said Harrod, now 31.

Looking at the picture, Harrod remembers her routine: Every home game during warm-ups she would leave her seat in section 211, row A, to get closer to the ice while her dad got them food.

"My dad and I growing up had season tickets for 10 years, so him and I went to every single Lightning game since they were at the St. Pete Times Forum," she said. "It was a huge part of my childhood."

Harrod's dad, Rick, said he introduced hockey to her, and she fell in love with the sport instantly.

"In the early 1990s or late 80s I just became interested in hockey. I lived in Florida my whole life, so I wasn't around it that much until Tampa Bay got a team," said Rick Harrod, who is 66 and living in Brooksville. "She ended up loving the game."

And Marty.

Every game, as he warmed up, Harrod would try to the same seat by the glass.

"There was a group of ladies every single game that we would all sit and watch him," Kathleen Harrod said. "He knew the sign, every game he would come over and stand in front of it and kick the board."

St. Louis wasn't the biggest player, and that's why Harrod liked him even more.

"He was just always fun to watch. He was a underdog," she said. "He is small for being a hockey player but really fast."

Harrod's connection with St. Louis wasn't just a teenage fantasy, said Debbie West, 55, of Dunedin. West is a Harrod family friend and would sit right next to Kathleen and Rick Harrod for many years.

"She would arrive to the game several hours before, as soon as the doors would open," West said. "She stayed true to him throughout all the years he played."

Harrod has many St. Louis collectibles, from a Marty-signed puck to the game-worn jersey her dad bought in a charity auction for \$1,000.

"My dad surprised me," she said. "I came home one day and it was



Kathleen Harrod, 31, shows off her "XXVI" tattoo for Tampa Bay Lightning Marty St. Louis who was number 26.

sitting on the dining room table."

For some Lightning fans, the love affair with St. Louis went cold when, during a 2014 playoff push, he successfully lobbied to be traded to the Rangers. By then, Harrod was already committed.

In 2013, the year she turned 26, she got a Marty tattoo.

"I have his number tattooed on me," she said. "It was always my lucky number, it was his number, so it's on my wrist in Roman numerals."

The tattoo? No regrets. The junior class trip to Europe, the one that cost her \$6,000 and a chance to attend four 2004 Stanley Cup Finals games — including the Game 7 clincher? That, she regrets.

"I tried to not go to Europe. People think I'm crazy because I wanted to go to a hockey game," she said. "Looking back I still would of stayed, to see them win the Cup, I could go to Europe anytime."

Her other regret: She's never spoken to St. Louis.

She's had multiple chances, the best coming when he walked by her during the Lightning's ceremony to retire his jersey on Jan. 13, 2017. Her heart started racing and she couldn't speak.

She's hoping to break the ice — and fetch her "I Love You Marty" sign out of storage — on Nov. 12 when St. Louis is inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

"My instant thought when he was going into the hall of fame was I need to figure out a way to get to Toronto," she said.

Brittany Slater has known Harrod since they were freshmen at St. Petersburg High School. She calls her "the smartest girl in the room when it comes to hockey." Slater also knows the real reason Harrod fell for the sport and then for Marty: Her father.

"With hockey it was kind of like their religion," said Slater, who tagged along often on the Harrods father-daughter hockey outings. "It was unspoken. 'This is what we do. This is how we do it,' and it's been like that since she was a little girl all away through now."

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TENNIS

After loss, No. 1 Halep calls self 'tired'

By Howard Fendrich
Associated Press

LONDON — Simona Halep was ready for a vacation. It's going to start a week earlier than she wanted after she gave away a big lead, wasted a match point and lost at Wimbledon, joining the procession of top women on the way out.

Ranked and seeded No. 1, fresh off her winning first Grand Slam title at the French Open, so sure she had figured out how to overcome the big-moment anxiety that

was so problematic for so long, Halep chastised herself as "unprofessional" after bowing out in the third round at the All England Club on Saturday, dropping the last five games while being beaten 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 by Hsieh Su-Wei of Taiwan.

"I just was too negative to myself, talking too much. I think because I was tired, because I'm tired, I couldn't stay focused for every ball," Halep said. "Mentally, I was tired. Also physically, I feel tired. My muscles are

gone."

For the first time in Wimbledon history, none of the top five women's seeds reached the round of 16. Only one of the top 10 seeds will be in action in Week 2: No. 7 Karolina Pliskova. The only past champion at the grass-court tournament left is Serena Williams. Only two other women among the 16 left even own a Grand Slam singles title: Angelique Kerber has two, Jelena Ostapenko one.

"I mean, I'm not surprised anymore," said 2017 French Open

champion Ostapenko, a 6-0, 6-4 winner against Vitalia Diatchenko, who eliminated five-time major champion Maria Sharapova in the first round. "Because every day, something strange is happening in the draw."

Far less so in the men's bracket, although No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev did depart Saturday with a 7-6 (2), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-0 loss to Ernests Gulbis, a Latvian ranked 138th who is the first male qualifier since 2012 to reach Wimbledon's fourth round.

BUCS

From Page 1

Eagles visit. They're followed by the mighty Steelers.

Saints. Eagles. Steelers.

The Bucs were starting at, potentially, 0-3 even with their starting quarterback.

Without him? I'm not sure there's enough Fitzmagic in 35-year-old Ryan Fitzpatrick to steal even one victory in the first three games. True, Fitzpatrick went 2-1 as a starter last season filling in for an injured Winston, but do you remember those two victories?

One was at home against Josh McCown and the Jets. The other was on the road against Matt Moore and the Dolphins. Hey, those wins count. They don't ask how, but how many.

RAYS

From Page 1

three-plus months of this season, they have the potential to be quite busy leading up to the July 31 deadline for non-waiver trades. And they should be.

Besides maybe a winning record, all the Rays are playing for now is the future. So in continuing to transition to their young core, it makes sense to keep clearing out veterans (and some younger players) who are not part of that plan, sorting out which prospects look legit, and further assessing areas of need (such as a promising young catcher, which should be No. 1).

Also, from a practical standpoint, creating 40-man roster space to make room for more call-ups.

More than any other year, and more than any other team, the Rays, at least in terms of volume, should have the most to talk about, with a dozen players at least in conversations.

The bigger issue, in these days of front office austerity, will be getting what they consider a value-worthy return, though in some cases they may be better off taking what they can get.

Here is our look at the possibilities, in some order of relevance:

Thanks for playing, and good luck

RHP Nathan Eovaldi

Suddenly the hottest commodity among scouts tracking the Rays, with 10 teams expected to watching Sunday's start. The strong interest makes sense: He's pitched well (2-3, 3.92), appears healthy, has experience and is cheap, due less than \$1 million and a free agent to be. The Rays need starters right now, but if they can get a potential

But let's be realistic.

We're not talking about the Jets or Dolphins. This time around, there are no McCowns or Moores waiting. This time, it's Drew Brees, Ben Roethlisberger and whichever great quarterback the Eagles throw out there.

If the Bucs start 0-3, that might be curtains.

Typically, 0-3 is a death sentence.

Since 1980, there have been 173 teams that have started 0-3. Only five went on to make the playoffs.

Now, a couple of things.

Maybe the Bucs don't start 0-3. Maybe the 14-year veteran Fitzpatrick discovers that Fitzmagic. Maybe he and his beard pull out a victory along the way. And, well, five other teams have come back from 0-3 holes to make the playoffs, so it's not impossible. Maybe Tampa Bay could be the

sixth.

But if we're being honest, of all the scenarios, 0-3 seems the most likely, doesn't it? And, if we're really being honest, 0-3 to the playoffs is a shot in the dark.

An 0-3 start for a team went 5-11 last season is not exactly the foundation for a turnaround season.

An 0-3 start could put the team in full panic mode. It could turn up the heat on coach Dirk Koetter's seat. It should turn up the heat on general manager Jason Licht's seat. An 0-3 start is more likely to send a team into a seasonlong tailspin than serve as incentive for a historic comeback.

So let's try to look at it as glass half-full. There's still a lot to like about this team.

The Bucs have plenty of skill at the skilled positions. Mike Evans, DeSean Jackson,

future piece he's headed elsewhere.

C Wilson Ramos

As we've said, Ramos has played really well for the Rays, and it makes no sense for him to keep playing for them. Knowing they're not going to re-sign him as he hits free agency seeking something like \$40 million over three years, it's up to the Rays to get something valuable before he walks away, plus save the nearly \$5 million owed. The challenge is getting the Nats to budge, or another team engaged.

SS Adeiny Hechavarria

Assuming the Rays have been trying to deal him for three weeks since calling up Willy Adames, this may be a tougher sell than you'd think. Hechavarria's defense is unparalleled and he's a pending free agent, which should make him an appealing rental for any contender seeking to upgrade. Maybe it takes clarity of the Manny Machado market for teams to set lower sights on Hechavarria?

RHP Sergio Romo

He's done pretty much whatever asked: Close games, work in middle relief, be the pioneering opener, all with relative success. But with a stack of young relievers who'd benefit from working those highest-leverage situations, Romo's time here has passed. His postseason experience, and at times still sweeping breaking ball, should have some value given how contenders are always looking for bullpen upgrades.

OF Carlos Gomez

The Rays should have a better use for the at-bats he's getting. The .195 average and .596 OPS obviously don't make him very appealing, and there is a bit of a "loose cannon" factor. But

the energy, passion and experience could have some slight value elsewhere. At least enough to dump the \$2-million left of his salary?

LHP Jonny Venters

A late June hamstring strain may keep him sidelined past the deadline, which is too bad because it would have been interesting to see how much other teams valued his performance (and heartwarming story) over concern for his oft-repaired elbow. But the Rays have younger arms to handle this role, too.

RHP Matt Andriese

It wouldn't seem like there's much reason to trade Andriese, who is heading to arbitration for the first time. But if his role here has been reduced to working a couple innings every few days, the Rays should find a team that values him higher as a starter.

RHP Chris Archer

One of these years, the Rays are going to trade Archer. But, they still don't have to, as he is under control for three more seasons after this one for just \$27.5 million total. So the ongoing question remains one of timing: When are they likely to best maximize their return? The Rays expected his value to keep rising, but inconsistent performances have raised the question if they waited too long, especially with teams now reluctant to trade a passel of prospects, such as how the Rays got him from the Cubs. Returning from the DL on Monday, albeit on a limited pitch count, should give him enough time to show he is healthy. The bigger question is whether teams will pay the Rays' still hefty price.

Well, that's an interesting question

3B Matt Duffy

Unlike some of the

Chris Godwin, Adam Humphries, Cam Brate and O.J. Howard. You could make a case that no team has six pairs of hands that good. If rookie Ronald Jones can provide a running game, the offense could be pretty good.

The defensive line is much improved and maybe that helps a defense that is probably going to have to carry this team, especially in the first three weeks.

It's possible this won't be a nightmare season after all.

But that's hard to see right now.

The schedule is tough. The division is hard. And the first three weeks look impossible to navigate.

Right now, the abyss looks deep and wide and long.

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other veterans, the Rays have no reason to trade Duffy, who ranks among their best hitters (sixth in the AL) and all-around players, doesn't start making any real money until next year (around \$4 million) and won't be a free agent until 2021. But those are all reasons why he appeals to other teams that could use a third baseman, such as the Angels, Braves and Phillies. And the Rays do have a glut of infielders. Most likely, they'd have to be overwhelmed.

RHP Chaz Roe

Also seems worth keeping around, what with his filthy slider and, before Friday's walkoff grand slam, an extended run of dominance with a 0.51 ERA over 18 appearances. Plus, he's cheap and not a free agent for three more years. Like with Duffy, they'd have to be talked into this one.

Hmm, would they even consider ...

CF Kevin Kiermaier

He is the (handsome) face of the franchise and signed long-term, due \$40 million-plus over four years, plus a 2023 option. Despite missing extended time for a third straight season and having a bad year at the plate (.147), his defense could, obviously, be game-changing for a contender.

LHP Blake Snell

He's broken through as one of the best starters in the majors at 25, and the Rays should be much more interested in trying to sign him long-term than even considering a trade.

But they've always been a sell-high organization, and he certainly could bring back a haul, though it would be a bad message to send.

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Boston	60	29	.674	—	—	8-2	W-4	28-12	32-17
New York	57	29	.663	1½	—	6-4	W-1	33-13	24-16
Tampa Bay	44	44	.500	15½	11	6-4	W-1	23-17	21-27
Toronto	41	47	.466	18½	14	4-6	L-1	24-24	17-23
Baltimore	24	64	.273	35½	31	1-9	L-5	12-29	12-35

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Cleveland	49	38	.563	—	—	6-4	L-1	28-14	21-24
Minnesota	38	48	.442	10½	16	4-6	W-3	23-20	15-28
Detroit	40	51	.440	11	16½	4-6	W-2	25-22	15-29
Chicago	30	59	.337	20	25½	2-8	L-4	16-27	14-32
Kansas City	25	62	.287	24	29½	2-8	L-7	11-33	14-29

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	60	31	.659	—	—	7-3	W-5	28-17	32-14
Seattle	56	34	.622	3½	—	7-3	L-2	30-17	26-17
Oakland	49	40	.551	10	6½	8-2	W-1	24-21	25-19
Los Angeles	45	44	.506	14	10½	4-6	W-1	21-21	24-23
Texas	39	51	.433	20½	17	4-6	L-2	19-28	20-23

BOX SCORES

ROCKIES 5, MARINERS 1

COLORADO	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
LeMahieu 2b	5	0	0	0	1	274	
Blackmon cf	5	0	0	0	4	276	
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	2	306	
Desmond 1b	4	1	1	0	0	216	
Iannetta c	4	0	0	0	3	239	
Gonzalez dh	4	1	2	1	0	274	
Valaitka ss	3	1	2	0	1	151	
Parra lf	3	1	2	1	0	303	
Cuevas rf	4	1	3	3	0	267	
TOTALS	36	5	10	5	11		

Runners left in scoring position—Philadelphia 3 (Herrera, Knapp 2) Pittsburgh 2 (Bell, Freese). RISP—Philadelphia 1 for 5, Pittsburgh 1 for 6. GIDP—Valentin. DP—Pittsburgh 1 (Harrison, Mercer, Bell). **PHILADELPHIA IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Arrieta, W, 6-6 7 6 2 2 1 8 101 3.47 Dominguez, H, 10:11 0 0 0 2 19 1.82 Arano, S, 2-2 1 1 0 0 0 2 15 2.25 **PITTSBURGH IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Tallon, L, 5-7 6.2 5 3 3 0 6 77 4.05 E.Santana .1 1 0 0 0 0 13 5.58 Crick 1 2 0 0 0 0 21 2.25 Vazquez 1 1 0 0 2 2 25 3.47 Inherited runners scored—E.Santana 1-1. WP—Arrieta. Umpires—Home, Larry Vanover First, Mike Estabrook Second, Chad Fairchild Third, Alfonso Marquez. T—2:48. A—28,150 (38,362).

CARDINALS 3, GIANTS 2

ST. LOUIS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Carpenter 3b-1b	5	0	0	0	1	256	
Crick 1	3	0	0	1	1	248	
Martinez 1b	4	0	1	0	1	291	
Gyorko 3b	0	0	0	0	0	257	
Ozuna lf	4	1	1	0	0	275	
DeJong ss	4	1	1	0	1	261	
Fowler rf	3	0	1	0	0	168	
Wong 2b	4	1	2	0	1	209	
Pena c	3	0	1	1	0	211	
Martinez p	3	0	1	1	0	241	
Hicks p	0	0	0	0	0	000	
c-Munoz ph	0	0	0	1	0	278	
Norris p	0	0	0	0	0	000	
TOTALS	33	3	7	3	7		

Runners left in scoring position—Colorado 3 (Blackmon, Arenado 2) Seattle 3 (Healy 2, Freitas). RISP—Colorado 4 for 9 Seattle 1 for 6. Runners moved up—Healy. GIDP—Cruz, Span. DP—Colorado 2 (Valaitka, LeMahieu, Desmond). **COLORADO IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Freeland, W, 2-0 1 0 0 0 2 15 3.04 Ottavino, H, 17 2 2 0 0 3 30 1.79 Davis 1 0 0 0 0 0 14 4.04 **SEATTLE IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Paxton, L, 8-3 7 7 4 4 1 9 98 3.49 Bradford 1 0 0 0 0 1 11 2.65 Nicasio 1 3 1 1 0 1 18 6.09 T—2:53. A—36,104 (47,943).

BRAVES 5, BREWERS 1

ATLANTA	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Inciarte cf	5	0	0	0	1	248	
Albies 2b	5	2	2	0	0	282	
Freeman 1b	4	2	3	1	1	310	
Markakis rf	3	1	1	2	0	324	
Camargo 3b	4	0	1	2	0	256	
Culberson lf	3	0	0	1	2	265	
Flowers c	3	0	0	1	1	228	
Swanson ss	3	0	0	1	1	246	
Sanchez p	3	0	0	0	3	000	
Winkler p	0	0	0	0	0	000	
b-Flaherty ph	1	0	1	1	0	252	
Vizzaino p	0	0	0	0	0	000	
Minter p	0	0	0	0	0	000	
TOTALS	34	5	8	5	6	9	

Runners left in scoring position—Atlanta 5 (Inciarte 2, Flowers, Swanson 2) Milwaukee 3 (Yelich, Perez, Braun). RISP—Atlanta 3 for 11 Milwaukee 1 for 5. Runners moved up—Yelich. GIDP—Markakis. DP—Milwaukee 1 (Lopez, Saladino, Aguilar). **ATLANTA IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Sanchez, W, 4-26.22 1 1 1 8 82 2.72 Winkler, H, 16 1 0 0 0 0 2 3.00 Vizzaino 1 1 0 0 0 0 22 1.71 Minter 1 1 0 0 0 0 3 24 2.68 **MILWAUKEE IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Wilkerson, L, 0-15 4 2 2 3 5 91 7.88 Williams 1 0 0 0 0 2 15 2.76 Zagurski 1 3 3 3 0 2 2863.00 Lopez 2 1 0 0 3 0 39 3.14 Zagurski pitched to 3 batters in the 8th. Inherited runners scored—Winkler 1-0, Lopez 1-1. HBP—Sanchez (Aguilar). WP—Vizzaino.

PHILLIES 3, PIRATES 2

PHILADELPHIA	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Valentin 2b	4	0	0	0	0	200	
Hoskins lf	4	0	1	0	1	255	
Herrera c	4	0	2	0	0	280	
C.Santana 1b	3	1	0	1	1	222	
Williams rf	3	1	1	1	0	239	
c-Alther ph-rf	1	0	1	0	0	177	
Chiriquy ss	4	1	1	1	0	235	
Alfaro c	4	0	1	0	3	245	
Franco 3b	3	0	2	0	1	268	
Arrieta p	2	0	0	0	1	179	
b-Hernandez ph	1	0	0	0	0	267	
Dominguez p	0	0	0	0	0	000	
dk-Knapp ph	1	0	0	0	1	230	
Aran p	0	0	0	0	0	000	
TOTALS	34	3	9	3	2	8	

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Philadelphia	49	37	.570	—	—	8-2	W-6	30-16	19-21
Atlanta	50	38	.568	—	—	5-5	W-1	23-17	27-21
Washington	45	43	.511	5	5	4-6	W-3	22-23	23-20
New York	35	50	.412	13½	13½	4-6	L-1	15-27	20-23
Miami	36	55	.396	15½	15½	4-6	L-3	19-26	17-29

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Milwaukee	53	36	.596	—	—	7-3	L-1	29-18	24-18
Chicago	50	36	.581	1½	—	4-2	W-1	27-15	23-21
St. Louis	46	42	.523	6½	4	8-6	W-1	23-22	23-20
Pittsburgh	40	48	.455	12½	10	3-7	L-5	21-23	19-25
Cincinnati	39	50	.438	14	11½	6-4	L-1	21-26	18-24

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Arizona	49	40	.551	—	—	4-6	W-1	25-22	24-18
Los Angeles	47	40	.540	1	2½	5-5	L-1	26-23	21-17
Colorado	46	43	.517	3	4½	8-2	W-5	18-22	28-21
San Francisco	46	45	.505	4	5	4-6	L-1	27-16	19-29
San Diego	38	52	.422	11½	13	3-7	L-1	19-25	19-27

Runners left in scoring position—Philadelphia 3 (Herrera, Knapp 2) Pittsburgh 2 (Bell, Freese). RISP—Philadelphia 1 for 5, Pittsburgh 1 for 6. GIDP—Valentin. DP—Pittsburgh 1 (Harrison, Mercer, Bell). **PHILADELPHIA IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Arrieta, W, 6-6 7 6 2 2 1 8 101 3.47 Dominguez, H, 10:11 0 0 0 2 19 1.82 Arano, S, 2-2 1 1 0 0 0 2 15 2.25 **PITTSBURGH IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Tallon, L, 5-7 6.2 5 3 3 0 6 77 4.05 E.Santana .1 1 0 0 0 0 13 5.58 Crick 1 2 0 0 0 0 21 2.25 Vazquez 1 1 0 0 2 2 25 3.47 Inherited runners scored—E.Santana 1-1. WP—Arrieta. Umpires—Home, Larry Vanover First, Mike Estabrook Second, Chad Fairchild Third, Alfonso Marquez. T—2:48. A—28,150 (38,362).

Runners left in scoring position—Colorado 3 (Blackmon, Arenado 2) Seattle 3 (Healy 2, Freitas). RISP—Colorado 4 for 9 Seattle 1 for 6. Runners moved up—Healy. GIDP—Cruz, Span. DP—Colorado 2 (Valaitka, LeMahieu, Desmond). **COLORADO IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Freeland, W, 2-0 1 0 0 0 2 15 3.04 Ottavino, H, 17 2 2 0 0 3 30 1.79 Davis 1 0 0 0 0 0 14 4.04 **SEATTLE IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA** Paxton, L, 8-3 7 7 4 4 1 9 98 3.49 Bradford 1 0 0 0 0 1 11 2.65 Nicasio 1 3 1 1 0 1 18 6.09 T—2:53. A—36,104 (47,943).

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SCOREBOARD

ODDS

PREGAME.COM LINE
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Today National League			
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Chicago	-150	Cincinnati	+140
at Washington	-173	Miami	+161
at Pittsburgh	Off	Philadelphia	Off
at Milwaukee	-127	Atlanta	+117
at San Francisco	-140	St. Louis	+130
at Arizona	-185	San Diego	+170

American League

at Houston	-315	Chicago	+285
at Cleveland	Off	Oakland	Off
at Detroit	-113	Texas	+103
at Minnesota	-168	Baltimore	+158
Boston	-235	at Kansas City	+215

Interleague

Tampa Bay	-134	at N.Y. Mets	+124
at Seattle	-132	Colorado	+122
L.A. Dodgers	-127	at L.A. Angels	+117

Updated Odds Available at Pregame.com

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended Cincinnati 1B Montreal Marshall (Dayton-MWL) and Minnesota 3B Sean Miller (Chattanooga-SL) 50 games for their violations of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

American League
DETROIT TIGERS — Signed LHP Kacey Murphy and RHP Chris Farish to minor league contracts.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Sent OF Nicky Delmonico to Birmingham (SL) for a rehab assignment.

DETROIT TIGERS — Signed LHP Kacey Murphy and RHP Chris Farish to minor league contracts.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Optioned OF Jake Marisnick to Fresno (PCL). Selected the contract of RHP Kyle Tucker from Fresno.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Optioned RHP Trevor Oaks to Omaha (PCL). Activated LHP Enny Romero.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Sent RHP Nick Tropeano to Inland Empire (Cal) for a rehab assignment.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Signed OF Erick Rivera to a minor league contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Designated RHP David Hale for assignment. Recalled OF Clint Frazier from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Placed OF Matt Joyce on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Thursday. Recalled OF Nick Martini from Nashville (PCL). Sent RHP Daniel Mengden to Nashville (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Optioned RHP Nick Rumbelow to Tacoma (PCL). Recalled OF John Andreoli from Tacoma. Signed C Cal Raleigh to a minor league contract.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Designated OF Jeremy Hazelbaker for assignment. Selected the contract of LHP Adam Kolarek from Durham (IL). Signed LHP Shane McClellan to a minor league contract. Sent RHP Jake Faria to Charlotte (FSL) for a rehab assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Optioned LHP Thomas Pannone to Buffalo (IL). Assigned RHP Preston Guilmet outright to Buffalo (IL).

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Designated RHP Fernando Salas for assignment. Optioned RHP Silvino Bracho to Reno (PCL). Reinstated RHP Randall Delgado from the 60-day DL. Reinstated C Alex Avila from the 10-day DL.

CHICAGO CUBS — Assigned C Chris Gimenez outright to Iowa (PCL). Signed OF Edmond Americana, LHP Josh Sawyer, 2B Andy Weber and RHPs Niels Stone and Jake Reindl to minor league contracts.

CINCINNATI REDS — Selected the contract of 2B Dilson Herrera from Louisville (IL). Sent RHP Rookie Davis to the AZL Reds for a rehab assignment.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Placed LHP Mike Dunn on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Wednesday. Placed C Tom Murphy on paternity leave. Recalled INF/OF Jordan Patterson and LHP Jerry Vasto from Albuquerque (PCL). Sent RHP Bryson Shaw to Albuquerque for a rehab assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Signed LHP Ben Holmes to a minor league contract. Activated RHP Dylan Floro. Placed RHP Kenta Maeda on the paternity list.

MIAMI MARLINS — Optioned LHP Dillon Peters to New Orleans (PCL). Reinstated OF Garrett Cooper from the 60-day DL.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Optioned INF Nate Orf to Colorado Springs (PCL). Recalled RHP Jorge Lopez from Colorado Springs.

NEW YORK METS — Placed LHP Jerry Blevins on the bereavement list. Recalled RHP Paul Sewald from Las Vegas (PCL).

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Optioned RHP Jake Thompson to Lehigh Valley (IL). Reinstated RHP Edubray Ramos from the 10-day DL.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Optioned RHP Dovydas Neverauskas and LHP Josh Smoker to Indianapolis (IL). Signed SS Zack Kone and RHP Deivy Mendez to minor league contracts. Reinstated RHP Michael Felix from the 10-day DL. Selected the contract of RHP Alex McRae from Indianapolis.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Sent RHP Luke Gregerson to Springfield (TL) and LHP Tyler Lyons to Memphis (PCL) for rehab assignments.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Optioned RHP Robert Stock to El Paso (PCL). Placed LHP Jose Castillo on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Friday. Recalled RHP Kazuhisa Makita from El Paso. Reinstated RHP Kirby Yates from paternity leave and RHP Phil Hughes from the 10-day DL.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Placed 2B Joe Panik on the 10-day DL. Optioned RHP Chris Stratton to Sacramento (PCL). Reinstated RHP Jeff Samardzija from the 10-day DL. Selected the contract of SS Chase d'Arnaud from Sacramento. Transferred RHP Hunter Strickland to the 60-day DL.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Sent RHP Koda Glover to the GCL Nationals and C Matt Wieters to Harrisburg (EL) for rehab assignments.

American Association
CHICAGO DOGS — Released RHP Brandon White. Signed OF Kenny Wilson.

KANSAS CITY T-BONES — Sold the contract of LHP Carlos Diaz to the Cincinnati Reds.

SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS — Released RHP Geoff Broussard. Signed RHP Will Lamarche. SIOUX FALLS CANARIES — Signed RHP John Straka.

WICHITA WINGNUTS — Released RHP Mark Haynes.

Can-Am League
QUEBEC CAPITALS — Signed INF Gerald Bautista and RHP Phillippe Saad.

Frontier League
FLORENCE FREEDOM — Released UT Jeremy Scott.

NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Signed RHP Thomas Nicoll.

RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed RHP David Flattery.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
DETROIT PISTONS — Named Gregg Polinsky director of player personnel. Signed G Bruce Brown Jr. Waived G Dwight Buycks.

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Signed F Keita Bates-Diop.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed RW Filip Zadina to a three-year contract.

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Promoted Tim Burke to assistant general manager.

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Signed D Colin Miller to a four-year contract.

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlanta United FC 12 4 4 40 42 23

New York Red Bulls 10 4 2 32 34 26

New York City FC 9 4 4 31 34 14

Columbus 8 5 6 30 24 19

New England 7 4 6 27 20 25

Montreal 8 11 0 24 24 32

Chicago 6 7 5 23 27 31

Philadelphia 6 9 3 21 21 27

Orlando City 6 10 1 19 24 37

Toronto FC 4 10 3 15 27 34

D.C. United 2 7 5 11 23 29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
FC Dallas	10	2	5	35	28	19
Sporting Kansas City	9	4	5	32	33	22
Los Angeles FC	9	4	3	31	37	27
Real Salt Lake	8	2	6	26	25	34
Portland	7	3	5	26	24	21
Vancouver	6	7	5	23	26	35
Houston	6	6	4	22	33	26
Los Angeles Galaxy	6	7	4	22	27	28
Minnesota United	6	10	1	19	23	33
Seattle	4	9	3	15	22	22
Colorado	4	11	3	15	22	32
San Jose	2	9	6	12	28	35

3 points for victory, 1 point for tie

July 3
Los Angeles FC 2, Houston 2, tie

July 4
Minnesota United 4, Toronto FC 3

FC Dallas 3, Atlanta United FC 2

Seattle 2, Colorado 1

Real Salt Lake 4, Sporting Kansas City 2

D.C. United 2, Los Angeles Galaxy 2, tie

Saturday's Games
Atlanta United FC 2, Philadelphia 0

Montreal 2, Colorado 1

Seattle 0, New England 0, tie

Orlando City at Los Angeles FC, late

Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City, late

Minnesota United at Houston, late

FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake, late

Chicago at Vancouver, late

Columbus at Los Angeles Galaxy, late

San Jose at Portland, late

Today's Game
New York Red Bulls at New York City FC, 7 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Montreal at New York City FC, 7 p.m.

Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 14
Columbus at New York City FC, 7 p.m.

Sporting Kansas City at New York Red Bulls, 7 p.m.

Los Angeles Galaxy at New England, 7:30 p.m.

San Jose at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago at FC Dallas, 8 p.m.

Real Salt Lake at Minnesota United, 8 p.m.

Toronto FC at Orlando City, 8 p.m.

Vancouver at D.C. United, 8 p.m.

Houston at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Sunday, July 15
Seattle at Atlanta United FC, 2 p.m.

Portland at Los Angeles FC, 6 p.m.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE
All times Eastern

	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
North Carolina	12	1	3	39	35	14
Chicago	6	4	7	25	25	22
Seattle	6	3	5	23	15	12
Portland	6	5	5	23	24	20
Orlando	6	5	4	22	21	20
Utah	5	4	6	21	13	15
Houston	4	5	5	17	16	21
Washington	2	9	4	10	10	20
Sky Blue FC	0	11	3	3	11	26

3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.

July 4
North Carolina 4, Chicago 1

Friday's Game
Portland 4, Utah 0

Saturday's Games
Chicago 3, Sky Blue FC 1

Washington at Orlando, late

Houston at Seattle, late

Wednesday's Games
Washington at North Carolina, 7 p.m.

Orlando at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

Utah at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

FIFA WORLD CUP

All times Eastern

SECOND ROUND (ROUND OF 16)
June 30

At Kazan, Russia
France 4, Argentina 3

At Sochi, Russia
Uruguay 2, Portugal 1

July 1
At Moscow
Russia 1, Spain 1 (Russia wins 4-3 on penalty kicks)

At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia
Croatia 1, Denmark 1 (Croatia wins 3-2 on penalty kicks)

July 2
At Samara, Russia
Brazil 2, Mexico 0

At Rostov-on-Don, Russia
Belgium 3, Japan 2

July 3
At St. Petersburg, Russia
Sweden 1, Switzerland 0

At Moscow
England 1, Colombia 1 (England wins 4-3 on penalty kicks)

QUARTERFINALS
Friday
At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia
France 2, Uruguay 0

At Kazan, Russia
Belgium 2, Brazil 1

Saturday
At Samara, Russia
England 2, Sweden 0

At Sochi, Russia
Croatia 2, Russia 2 (Croatia wins 4-3 on penalty kicks)

SEMIFINALS
Tuesday
At St. Petersburg, Russia
France vs. Belgium, 2 p.m.

Wednesday
At Moscow
Croatia vs. England, 2 p.m.

THIRD PLACE
Saturday, July 14
At St. Petersburg, Russia
Semifinals losers, 10 a.m.

WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday, July 15
At Moscow
Semifinals winners, 11 a.m.

TENNIS

ATP WORLD TOUR/WTA TOUR WIMBLEDON
Saturday's results from Wimbledon, at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, London (seedings in parentheses):

Men's Singles

Third Round

Karen Khachanov, Russia, def. Frances Tiafoe, United States, 4-6, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2, 6-1.

Novak Djokovic (12), Serbia, def. Kyle Edmund (21), Britain, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Ernesto Gulbis, Latvia, def. Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, 7-6 (2), 4-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-0.

Juan Martin del Potro (5), Argentina, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Gilles Simon, France, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia, 7-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Fabio Fognini (19), Italy, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Rafael Nadal (2), Spain, def. Alex de Minaur, Australia, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Milos Raonic (13), Canada, def. Dennis Novak, Austria, 7-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Kei Nishikori (24), Japan, def. Nick Kyrgios, Australia (15), 6-1, 7-6(3), 6-4.

Women's Singles

Third Round

Su-Wei Hsieh, Taiwan, def. Simona Halep (1), Romania, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, def. Elise Mertens (15), Belgium, 6-2, 6-2.

Jelena Ostapenko (12), Latvia, def. Vitalia Diatchenko, Russia, 6-0, 6-4.

Aleksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Daria Gavrilova (26), Australia, 6-3, 6-1.

Alison Van Uytvanck, Belgium, def. Anett Kontaveit (28), Estonia, 6-2, 6-3.

Daria Kasatkina (14), Russia, def. Ashleigh Barty (17), Australia, 7-5, 6-3.

Angelique Kerber (11), Germany, def. Naomi Osaka (18), Japan, 6-2, 6-4.

Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, def. Carla Suarez-Navarro (27), Spain, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

Men's Doubles

Second Round

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina and Joao Sousa, Portugal, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina and Miguel Angel Reyes-Veloso, Mexico, 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Michael Venus, New Zealand and Raven Klaassen (13), South Africa, def. Nick Pietrangeli, Chile and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez, El Salvador, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Bruno Soares, Brazil and Jamie Murray (5), Britain, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia and Taylor Fritz, United States, 7-5, 6-3, 6-1.

Philipp Petzschner, Germany and Tim Puetz, Germany, def. Nicolas Mahut, France and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (4), France, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany and Ben McLachlan (14), Japan, def. Vishnu Vardhan, India and N. Sriram Balaji, India, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (3), 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Maximo Gonzalez, Argentina and Nicolas Jarry, Chile, def. Liam Broady, Britain and Scott Clayton, Britain, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 1-2, ret.

Artem Sitak, New Zealand and Divij Sharan, India, def. Julio Peralta, Chile and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-7 (5), 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Women's Doubles

Second Round

Kristina Mladenovic, France and Timea Babos (1), Hungary, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia and Nadiaa Kichenok, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2.

Johanna Larsson, Sweden and Kiki Bertens (9), Netherlands, def. Arina Rodionova, Australia and Maryna Zanevska, Belgium, 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Barbora Krejickova, Czech Republic and Katerina Siniakova (3), Czech Republic, def. Arantxa Parra Santonja, Spain and Lara Arruabarrena-Vecino, Spain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic and Nicole Melichar (12), United States, def. Georgina Garcia Perez, Spain and Fanny Stollár, Hungary, 6-2, 6-4.

Mihaela Buzarnescu, Romania and Irina Begu (15), Romania, def. Ana Bogdan, Romania and Kaitlyn Christian, United States, 6-2, 6-2.

Andreja Klepac, Slovenia and Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (4), Spain, def. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia and Petra Martic, Croatia, 6-3, 7-5.

Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States and Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, def. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia and Andrea Petkovic, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic and Andrea Sestini Hlavackova (2), Czech Republic, def. Kati Dunne, Britain and Harriet Dart, Britain, 6-2, 6-4.

CYCLING: TOUR DE FRANCE

Froome flies off the road into a ditch in opening Tour stage

By **ANDREW DAMPF**
Associated Press

FONTENAY-LE-COMTE, France — Down in a ditch, Chris Froome had to hoist himself and his bike back up to the road.

It was a startling scene when the Team Sky rider tumbled into a grassy field in the opening stage of the Tour de France on Saturday, immediately putting his pursuit of a record-tying fifth title in peril.

Froome, though, is getting used to these sort of mishaps and challenges — whether that means recovering from crashes or clearing his name of doping.

“I saw a lot of crashes out there today. It’s just one of those things. We always knew the first few days were going to be tricky and going to be sketchy. It’s part of the game unfortunately,” said Froome, who went down with about 5 kilometers to go as the sprinters’ teams jockeyed for position.

With grass stains on his right shoulder and blood trickling down his

right arm from a gash on his elbow, Froome got back up and crossed 51 seconds behind Fernando Gaviria, the Colombian who claimed the race’s first yellow jersey with a commanding sprint victory.

“I’m just grateful I’m not injured in any way and there’s a lot of road to cover before Paris obviously,” Froome said.

When fans at the finish were informed of Froome’s crash, many cheered. Froome, who was cleared of doping in an asthma drug case on Monday, was also jeered at Thursday’s team presentations.

Froome was fortunate he didn’t do more damage by avoiding a post near where he fell while riding at more than 50 kph.

The Kenyan-born British rider also crashed on the opening day of the Giro d’Italia in May, while warming up for the Stage 1 time trial. But Froome eventually climbed back up the standings to win the Giro — his third straight Grand Tour title.

BASKETBALL

For summer vet Goodwin, NBA hope springs eternal

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Archie Goodwin is about to set a record. It won’t be cause for celebration.

Goodwin is a veteran of 165 NBA games, has scored 20 points on 10 different occasions, had a monthlong stretch with Phoenix two years ago where he started and averaged 16 points per game while playing against a slew of All-Stars in that span.

He thinks he’s proven.

The rest of the league doesn’t see it the same way. So he’s back in the NBA Summer League — where, after scoring six points for Portland on Saturday in the Trail Blazers’ 93-78 win over the Utah Jazz, he moved within 13 points of matching Coby Karl’s all-time record for the Las Vegas event. Karl scored 337 points, Goodwin is up to 324, according to data compiled by RealGM.

“It comes with the job,” Goodwin said. “My world is just different. I’m just trying to stay positive and continue to fight, looking for a chance to show how I can

help a team.” Saturday was Day 2 of the Summer League in Las Vegas, with another 10 games on the schedule. More 10-game slates await on Sunday and Monday, and the tournament runs through July 17.

SATURDAY’S SUMMARIES: TRAIL BLAZERS 93, JAZZ 78

Wade Baldwin IV scored 20 points for Portland (1-0), which got 16 points from Gary Trent Jr. and 13 rebounds from Caleb Swanigan. Grayson Allen, Georges Niang and Tony Bradley all scored 16 for Utah (0-1). Allen struggled again from the field just as he did in two summer games at Salt Lake City earlier in the week, shooting 6 for 17, but added six rebounds and five assists.

PACERS 86, SPURS 76

TJ Leaf scored 17 for Indiana, which took control by outscoring San Antonio 22-8 in the third quarter. CJ Wilcox added 13 for the Pacers (1-1). Derrick White scored 19 for the Spurs (0-1), who got 15 points from Lonnie Walker IV.

WORLD CUP: ENGLAND 2, SWEDEN 0

England reaches semifinals

By **Kevin Baxter**
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Jordan Pickford hadn’t been born the last time England reached the semifinals of a World Cup. Neither had Dele Alli, Harry Kane or Harry Maguire.

So in their minds they were making history, not repeating it Saturday, when they carried England to a 2-0 win over Sweden and into the final four of a World Cup for the first time since 1990.

“We have always said we would take one game at a time and we can go on and create our own history,” said Pickford, who made three saves to post his first shutout of the tournament.

A first-half header from

Maguire and another in the second half from Alli provided the offense and then afterward Kane, the team’s captain, provided the perspective.

“We are enjoying it,” he said. “We’ve got to keep doing what we are doing and make the country proud.”

They’ve already done that, accomplishing more in five games than the country’s “Golden Generation” of Ashley Cole and David Beckham did in the 2002 and 2006 World Cups. Those teams got to the quarterfinals in both tournaments but went no further, going out on penalty kicks the second time, one of six times England has been eliminated in a shootout from a major competition.

This team has already

conquered that obstacle, winning its round of 16 game on PKs. After following that with a relatively easy win over Sweden in steamy Samara, the team is beginning to see itself as one of destiny. As a result, its celebrations Saturday were muted since there remains much work to be done.

“We looked composed. We looked like we controlled the game,” Kane said.

Maguire opened the scoring in the 30th minute, heading in a corner kick from Ashley Young. It was Maguire’s first international goal and England’s seventh score of the World Cup on a set piece.

It turned out to be a game-changer.

“Up until that corner, I felt that we had everything under control,” Sweden coach Janne Andersson said. “I felt that we had the match in our hands.”

After that, it was all England.

Alli doubled the lead 14 minutes into the second half, nodding in a far-post cross from midfielder Jesse Lingard. The goal made Alli, 22, the second-youngest scorer for England at a World Cup behind Michael Owen, who was 18 when he scored in the 1998 tournament.

It then fell to Pickford to hold the lead, and he proved up to the challenge, making two stout saves in the final half-hour, the first against Viktor Claesson and the second on Marcus Berg.

WORLD CUP

Slab Head, Rocky and 37 headline unlikely World Cup final 4

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW — English fish and chips against Croatia’s famous fish risotto. France’s vin et fromage versus Belgian beer and waffles.

Players nicknamed Slab Head, Rocky and 37.

Welcome to the final four of a new-look World Cup, perhaps the most improbable of soccer’s 21 championships.

Host Russia left in tears Saturday night, jilted like a suitor at the end of a Pushkin poem when it tied Croatia late in extra time only to lose the last quarterfinal on penalty kicks.

Germany’s Teutonic efficiency departed earlier, along with Brazil’s yellow-shirted samba style and Spain’s tiki-taka pass-a-thon.

Lionel Messi’s Argentina and Cristiano Ronaldo’s Portugal couldn’t get past the round of 16. Italy’s Azzurri didn’t even earn an invite.

“Whoever was the favorites to win, the big teams, are home,” Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said through a translator. “Those who are hard-working, who are compact, who are united and who are well-organized, they are here in Russia, and this is the character of the four teams remaining in the tournament.”

Celebrer la nouvelle.

First up Les Bleus vs. De Rode Duivels on Tuesday night in St. Petersburg, a matchup of Western European neighbors.

Then The Three Lions vs. Vatreni the following night in Moscow.

Is football coming



AP PHOTO

England’s Harry Maguire celebrates the victory of his team over Sweden during the quarterfinal match between Sweden and England at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Samara Arena, in Samara, Russia.

home or is the title going somewhere new?

“We’re in a World Cup semifinal. Whether we’re in the top four in the world is something we would still have to prove,” England manager Gareth Southgate said. “It will be a sign to all clubs that, whether it’s in England or abroad, that English players can play, that we’ve got players with super technique.”

By the long-maligned FIFA rankings, these matchups are unlikely. Belgium is ranked third in the world, France seventh, England 12th and Croatia 20th.

Since winning its only title at Wembley in 1966, England had reached the semifinals just once, losing to West Germany on penalty kicks at Italia 1990. France lost semifinals in 1958 and 1982, won its only World Cup at home in 1998, then lost the 2006 final — sacre bleu! — to Italy in the infamous Zinedine

Zidane head-butt game.

Croatia fell to France in the 1998 semifinals in its first appearance as an independent nation after the disintegration of Yugoslavia. It is known mostly for its red-and-white checkerboard jersey — its alternate nickname is Kockasti — The Checkered Ones. Midfielder Ivan Perisic took the nickname to an extreme — at least in taste — when he showed up for a round-of-16 match against Portugal at the 2016 European Championship in a haircut that matched the shirt.

England’s team includes a colorful nickname. Jamie Vardy dubbed national team and Leicester teammate Harry Maguire Slab Head during training camp and punked him during an interview. Vardy joined reporters and asked the final question. “It’s Jamie Vardy from the Vardy Express. How big is the diameter of your

head?”

When Maguire scored the go-ahead goal in Saturday’s 2-0 win over Sweden, his shout of joy was so intense it looked like a shriek of pain.

Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku earned the Rocky nickname at Manchester United, where teammates compared his work ethic to that of Sylvester Stallone’s Rocky Balboa.

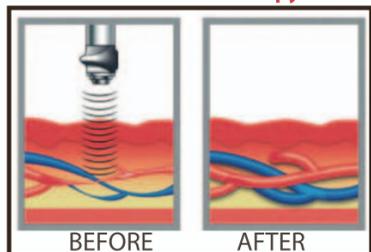
Kylian Mbappe, the 19-year-old French forward sensation, was nicknamed 37 by teammates after they said he reached 37 kph (23 mph) during a sprint against Portugal — FIFA clocked it at a slightly more leisurely 32.4 kph (20.1 mph). No matter which team wins, the final four is a triumph of the Big Five — Europe’s top professional leagues. Eighty-one of 92 players on semifinal rosters are with clubs in England (40), Spain (12), France (12), Germany (nine) and Italy (eight).

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BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Bluster aside, US and China vulnerable to pain from tariffs

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and Chinese governments have been flashing a lot of bravado just before firing the first shots in a conflict that risks erupting into a mutually damaging trade war. Yet among the people and business in both countries that are suddenly under threat from higher costs, closed-off markets and deep uncertainties, there is far less confidence.

US-China tariffs: What's behind them, who stands to be hurt?

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has boldly declared that trade wars are easy to win. He's about to find out. Barring a last-minute breakthrough, the Trump administration on Friday will start imposing tariffs on \$34 billion in goods imported from China, and China will promptly strike back with tariffs on an equal amount of U.S. goods. And just like that, a high-risk trade war between the world's two biggest economies will begin — one that could quickly escalate.

TSA-Approved ways to shorten the airport screening line

Enrolling in TSA Precheck or Global Entry gives you access to special airport security screening lanes, which are usually shorter and faster. And if you have the right credit card, the application fee might already be covered.

China's bravado belies worries over trade clashes with US

BEIJING — China says it's girded for a trade war with the U.S. and can give as good as it gets but beyond the realm of official commentary the reality is less upbeat. Sagging share prices are just one symptom of the concerns some Chinese are expressing over trade friction with the U.S. a day before Washington is due to impose higher tariffs on billions of dollars of exports from China.

— *The Associated Press*

ON THE MONEY

After years of deals, small-used car prices are on the rise

By TOM KRISHER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — For the past five years, few people wanted a lowly used small car such as the Chevrolet Cruze or Ford Focus.

Compact and subcompact cars sat on dealer lots for weeks as the SUV craze in the U.S. accelerated.

Early this year, dealers and industry analysts started to see a change, with sales and prices for used compact and subcompact cars increasing after taking a fall every year since 2013. That's in



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Tuesday, June 26, 2018, photograph, a used 2017 Hyundai Accent hatchback sits in a row of other used, late-model sedans at a dealership in Centennial, Colo.

part because of rising gas prices, stagnant middle class wages and deals that are still too good to pass up. Until recently, lower

demand had depressed car prices, but especially for smaller ones, which bottomed out in 2017 as the cost of their closest competitor for basic transportation — small SUVs — was rising. By early this year, analysts and dealers say the spread between small SUVs and cars was so large that the cars became more attractive. Also, rising gasoline prices sent buyers on a tight budget from SUVs and other segments to the lower-cost small cars.

At Paddock Chevrolet in Kenmore, New York, near Buffalo, the

dealership was paying \$10,200 to \$10,500 for 3-year-old Cruzes at the beginning of the year. Now it's paying \$11,500, said owner Duane Paddock. "We did find it surprising," he said. "Normally prices continued to come down. It's definitely been harder to find the lower-value vehicles."

In the first quarter of 2013, the average three-year-old compact car sold for \$14,328, according to the Edmunds.com auto pricing site. By the same period in

CARS | 3

SMALL TALK

Need a loan? Advice? Many business owners give staffers help

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWYORK — Want a loan? Advice? When an employee needs help, many small business owners are comfortable mixing the personal with the professional and willingly provide some support.

J. Colin Petersen has assisted staffers in a variety of ways: extra cash, lawyer recommendations, loaning a personal car, taking employees to doctor appointments and replacing a stolen smartphone. And, "just listening to the anxieties of any of my team members that need a sympathetic ear or advice about how to handle a problem."

Petersen, president of information technology company J - I.T. Outsource, believes that if he helps his 12 full-time employees when they're wrestling with a problem, their performance — and in turn, his Fresno, California-based company — will benefit.

Many small business owners take an interest in their employees because they want a friendly or even family-feeling atmosphere, unlike the ambience of a big corporation. They also want staffers to feel appreciated as people, not just as workers, and know that employees who are treated well are less likely to leave. But employment law attorneys and human resources consultants advise owners to strike a balance — there can be unintended consequences when a boss is too friendly or too generous.

Nicole and Dennis Drake are mindful that the employees of



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Friday, June 29, 2018, photo Nicole Drake, co-owner of Tropical Smoothie Cafe franchises in Gainesville and Ashburn, Va. with her husband Dennis Drake, talks with employee Matthew Dumm, left, in the Ashburn, Va., store.

their two Tropical Smoothie Cafe franchises are high school and college students who can use a little guidance about work and life. The couple asks staffers at the stores in Gainesville and Ashburn, Virginia, about school, what subjects they're taking, how they're doing. Nicole Drake, who describes herself as a math nerd, offers help with homework and makes sure that working at the stores doesn't interfere with school assignments.

"This job is not your last stop, so there's no way your grades should suffer," she tells her young staffers. And when they're ready to move on, she lends a hand with resumes. The Drakes

also have helped with extracurricular activities, including fundraising in memory of a young woman who killed herself who had been a friend of one employee.

"When you've got a team, you want to do what's right," Nicole Drake says.

Owners need to be sure that their compassion, especially if it comes in the form of loans, gifts or other benefits, is available to all staffers. Showing favoritism can make an owner liable if an employee who felt discriminated against sues the company.

Employers should also have objective criteria they follow when they're offering help, says

Nannina Angioni, an employment law attorney with Kaedian LLP in Los Angeles. For example, if they're willing to lend money for medical bills, they can't decide to offer it for one kind of illness but not another.

Angioni also recommends against handing out personal advice — someone who didn't have the boss's ear could later retaliate.

"You can comfort someone, but don't get into details," Angioni says.

Owners need to create a balance, says Jay Starkman, CEO of human resources provider

TALK | 3

8 ways to save money on a tight budget

By NANCY MANN JACKSON
BANKRATE.COM

Saving money on a tight budget is not only possible, it's also imperative.

One unexpected expense can have a huge impact when money is tight. Finding a way to start saving money so that unexpected expenses aren't so devastating may not be easy.

But shifting your thought patterns can yield long-term results. Being a "saver" as opposed to a "spender" may not be natural to most people, but it can be developed through practice.

Here are eight ways to save money when money

is tight:

Make it automatic: You can't spend what you don't see. Bankrate chief financial analyst Greg McBride recommends that people get started by automatically setting money aside each payday.

"Set up a direct deposit from your paycheck into a dedicated savings account and build your budget based on what's left," McBride said. "If you're not current saving 10 percent of your income, that's the bogey to aim for when you're setting up that direct deposit."

Many employers can split your paycheck deposit into a checking account and a savings



COURTESY PHOTO

Saving money on a tight budget is not only possible, it's also imperative.

account. Or if you're self-employed, schedule automatic transfers from your main checking account to your purpose-based savings accounts on a recurring basis.

Create a budget: Setting a budget is the best way to become a disciplined saver. To get started, review your bank statements, pay

MONEY | 3

Construction continues



BILL ROGERS/CORRESPONDENT

Construction continues on the building in front of Lowe's in Sebring that will have three stores. They are scheduled to open in the fall of this year. The sign in the photo said that Kay Jewelers and a store One will be occupying space. Kay Jewelers has a store in Lakeshore Mall. The mall is not commenting on the status of the store there. A spokesman for Kay wrote in an email that it is unable to comment "on any existing lease agreement."

How much house you can afford depends on where you live

By **HOLDEN LEWIS**
NERDWALLET

Your ability to own a home is affected by where you live. Even people with modest incomes can afford homes in Decatur, Illinois, the metropolitan area with the nation's most affordable houses. At the other end of the affordability spectrum is the San Jose, California, metro area, where high incomes are outmatched by stratospheric home prices.

A home is most affordable when it doesn't cost much more than a year's pay. Decatur is an affordable market because the median house costs about one and a half times the median annual income. ("Median" is the midpoint, where half of the values or incomes are lower and half higher.) In comparison, there's San Jose, where a typical household earns a six-figure income but a median single-family house costs about 12 times what a typical household earns.

Every quarter, NerdWallet calculates home affordability for 172 metropolitan areas by comparing the median annual household income and the monthly principal-and-interest payment for a median-priced single-family home. After accounting for a 20 percent down payment, the house payments were calculated at an interest rate of

4.45 percent, the average rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage in the first quarter; payments don't include insurance, property taxes or homeowner association dues.

The comparisons revealed the five most- and least-affordable markets for buying a home in January through March, or the first quarter of 2018. The rankings were compiled using data from the National Association of Realtors, the Census Bureau and NerdWallet surveys.

Most-affordable metro areas

1. DECATUR, ILLINOIS

Median home price: \$73,000

Median household income: \$46,198

Principal and interest payment: \$294 (equals 7.6 percent of median monthly income)

In March, single-family homes for sale in Decatur had been on the market for a median of 119.5 days, according to Realtor.com. The national median for all home sales was 63 days.

2. CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND-WEST VIRGINIA

Median home price: \$86,200

Median household income: \$45,808

Principal and interest payment: \$347 (9.1 percent of monthly income)

Listed homes in Cumberland had been on the market a median



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Tuesday, March 6, 2018, photo homes stack up in a neighborhood in San Jose, Calif. NerdWallet calculated affordability for 172 metropolitan areas by comparing the median annual household income and the monthly principal-and-interest payment for a median-priced single-family home and found that the least affordable homes are in the San Jose.

of 136.75 days in March.

3. ELMIRA, NEW YORK

Median home price: \$100,800

Median household income: \$51,269

Principal and interest payment: \$406 (9.5 percent of monthly income)

Homes in Elmira had been on the market for a median of 97.5 days in March, just over a month longer than the national median.

4. BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Median home price: \$103,000

Median household income: \$51,360

Principal and interest payment: \$415 (9.7 percent of monthly income)

Homes for sale in Binghamton had been listed a median of 108.5 days in March.

5. PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Median home price: \$114,800

Median household income: \$57,090

Principal and interest payment: \$463 (9.7 percent of monthly income)

Peoria was the quickest-selling market among the five most-affordable, with homes listed a median of 77.25 days in March.

Least-affordable metro areas

1. SAN JOSE-SUNNYVALE-SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

Median home price: \$1.37 million

Median household income: \$110,040

Principal and interest payment: \$5,533 (60.3 percent of median monthly income)

Buyers have to act fast in the San Jose area, the center of Silicon Valley: For-sale homes spent a median 17 days on the market in March, according to Realtor.com.

2. HONOLULU, HAWAII

Median home price: \$775,500

Median household income: \$80,513

Principal and interest payment: \$3,125 (46.6 percent of monthly income)

Honolulu, a popular market for international buyers, had a median days-on-market of 52 days in March, according to Realtor.com.

3. SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND-HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA

Median home price: \$917,000

Median household income: \$96,677

Principal and interest payment: \$3,695 (45.9 percent of monthly income)

Just to the north of Silicon Valley, homes here sell almost as fast. In the San Francisco, Oakland and Hayward area, homes spent a median of just 22 days on the market in March,

according to Realtor.com.

4. SAN DIEGO-CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

Median home price: \$610,000

Median household income: \$70,824

Principal and interest payment: \$2,458 (41.6 percent of monthly income)

California has four of the five least-affordable metro areas. San Diego homes were listed a median 32.5 days in March, according to Realtor.com.

5. LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Median home price: \$545,500

Median household income: \$65,950

Principal and interest payment: \$2,198 (40 percent of monthly income)

Homes for sale in the Los Angeles area had been on the market a median of 33.5 days in March, according to Realtor.com.

Data sources: National Association of Realtors' median metro home prices for the first quarter of 2018

The Census Bureau's median household income from the 2016 American Community Survey 1-year series (the latest available data)

NerdWallet's daily mortgage rate survey
Realtor.com's market trends data from March

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(From left to right: Stephen Piccione, M.D., Cheri McCue, M.D., Sunaina Khurana, M.D., Christina Hill, ARNP)

CARS

FROM PAGE 1

2017, the sales price had fallen almost 10 percent to \$12,958. But in the first quarter of this year it rose to \$13,464. (Edmunds regularly provides content, including automotive tips and reviews, for distribution by The Associated Press.)

Black Book, a car pricing and automotive analytics company, reports that sales of used compact and subcompact cars each are up 5 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier.

"Compact cars have been beaten down in value," said Anil Goyal, executive vice president of Black Book. "They're very attractive for a value buyer."

Five years ago, the cars were about 50 percent of U.S. new-car sales. But trucks and SUVs have since risen to 67 percent.

Ivan Drury, senior analyst at Edmunds, believes gas prices are a big part of the equation. By the end of March, the national average price per gallon of regular rose to \$2.61, 33 cents higher than the same time last year. It continued to jump during the second half, with prices now hovering around \$2.85, 58 cents more than a year ago, according to AAA. Last week the OPEC cartel countries agreed to pump more crude, a move that should contain recent price increases.

Used-car buyers typically are more sensitive to prices, especially if gasoline is taking a bigger bite out of their budgets, and that's fueling increased demand for smaller cars, Drury said.

The average wholesale value (what dealers pay at used-vehicle auctions) of a 3-year-old compact car is about \$9,800, according to Goyal. But the average compact crossover SUV is \$13,250. "There's a substantial difference here," he said.

So far, there hasn't been a similar shift in sales of new small cars or new or used midsize cars as the truck and SUV boom continues, Drury said. He doesn't see the new-vehicle market changing even with gas hitting \$3 per gallon in much of the nation. But used midsize cars could see increased prices and demand when second-quarter data comes out, he said.

Glenn Mears, owner of five dealerships around Canton, Ohio, including Honda, Nissan, Ford and Fiat Chrysler, says they're having trouble finding compact used cars, but not midsize ones. "You can find (midsize Honda) Accords all day long," he said. "You can't find (compact) Civics right now."

Drury sees gradual increases in small-used-car prices continuing, but nothing dramatic unless gasoline hits \$4 per gallon. He bases his prediction on consumer behavior during previous gas price spikes.

Stagnant wages also may be a factor. Hourly pay is growing more slowly than it has in the past when the unemployment rate was this low, around 4 percent. But now, rising inflation has eroded some of the benefit. In May, average hourly wages rose 2.7 percent from a year earlier, but inflation increased by slightly more at 2.8 percent.

"All of those combined together might tell a fair amount of the story," said Mears.



MONEY

FROM PAGE 1

stubs and other financial documents to get an idea of where your money is coming from and going.

One budgeting option is to calculate your fixed expenses, and then look at your other needs, like food, gas, clothing and entertainment. Determine a number for weekly expenses and challenge yourself to stay within that amount.

Set a specific amount, such as \$100 a week, and take that out of the bank in cash at the beginning of the week. Use that money for the week and try not to allow yourself to dip into other funds. Then, try to go down to \$90 or \$80 per week to see what you really need.

Once you've grown accustomed to living on your budget, you'll free more money for saving toward various goals.

Pay yourself first: If your strategy is to wait until everything else is paid and save whatever is left over, reconsider your process.

Consider putting most of your paycheck into your savings account and making a recurring weekly transfer to cover necessary expenses.

Then decide whether any excess money should remain in the account to cover any upcoming expenses or be dedicated as extra savings.

Save with purpose: It may be difficult to put money back simply for general savings, so it's important to have a clear reason for your savings.

The purpose may be to have an emergency fund, a vacation fund or something else, but knowing the reason you're saving will make it easier to avoid spending the money on something else.

"The most important thing is to get in the habit of saving," McBride said. "Successful saving is all about the habit. Once you establish the habit then it becomes a lot easier to parse out money for different objectives."

Shop smarter: Stop buying things without shopping around for the best price. Make a commitment to comparison-shop for essentials and look for coupons and sales online or in your local newspaper. Then, buy the items with the best value.

Don't stop there. Take the difference of the amount you paid and the amount you would normally spend on the item and put that money into

a savings account. Even if it's just a few dollars per shopping trip, those small sums will add up.

Keep the change: It seems old-fashioned, but take the loose change out of your pocket, your purse or your car tray, and save it in a jar. Look for ways to add more money to your jar. For example, every time you withdraw cash from the ATM, put 10 percent of what you withdraw into your cookie jar savings.

Every month or quarter count the money you've accumulated in your jar and add it to your savings account.

Re-evaluate using credit cards: Buying what you cannot afford on credit is a surefire way to accumulate debt and incur interest charges. Financial advisers recommend taking scissors to plastic if you're prone to misusing credit.

Rather than using a credit card to pay living expenses that are beyond your income, focus on getting rid of credit card debt and switch to paying in cash or using a debit card. If your extra cash each month is spent on making credit card payments, you'll never be able to save and get closer to your financial goals.

But credit cards aren't

TALK

FROM PAGE 1

Engage PEO, based in Hollywood, Florida.

"While you want to be approachable, you want to create a collegial atmosphere," Starkman says. He suggests that if employees come into the owner's office and start to unburden themselves, the boss can listen, but set a time limit. And if staffers seem to need advice or support, connect them with an employee assistance program for free counseling.

But always act humanely: "You don't want your place of employment to become this sterile, nobody-can-talk-to-each-other, horrible place to be," Starkman says.

The staffers at Samantha Martin's public relations firm tend to be young people newly arrived in New York who find they have big bills to pay and don't have family nearby. So she's loaned employees money to get an apartment or pay for dental work, and given others advice about personal problems. She can't afford big corporate benefits, but these are things she can do.

"As a boutique firm,

we become family," says Martin, CEO of Media Maison with 14 staffers. "It has made a huge difference — my employees are loyal, they trust me, they treat my business like it's theirs."

At the same time, Martin sets boundaries: "I'm not their best friend and I'm not trying to be."

The owners and managers at cSubs in Montvale, New Jersey, know they must tread carefully. So they've found ways that feel appropriate to assist staffers at the company that creates software to help organizations manage publication subscriptions.

Five years ago, when a staffer's daughter needed a special brace for a spinal condition, co-workers collected \$800 of their own volition. Human Resources Director Leianne Eskinazi asked cSub's owners if they wanted to help too, and they matched that amount.

"You want to do the right thing and always help your people, but there are limits to what an employer can do," Eskinazi says.

When disaster strikes, many small business owners try to help staffers whose homes are damaged or who suffer

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Millennial buyers face a tough housing market

By **TIM HENDERSON**
STATELINE.ORG

Yvonne Jimenez Smith and her husband, Brandon Smith, spoke in whispers recently as they visited a white stucco house they planned to buy on a leafy street in San Jose, Calif.

After six months of aggressive hunting, they were on their way to a small suburban home of their own after spending most of their 20s in noisy city centers.

"It was so quiet, it just seemed weird to speak out loud," Jimenez Smith said. "We lived over a freeway entrance in San Francisco. It was always loud and we were always surrounded by people. It's a big change."

Like the couple from San Francisco, who are 28 and 30, other millennials are starting to follow in the footsteps of earlier generations and buy suburban houses after fueling a boom in city apartments. The share of 25- to 35-year-olds who own homes, which had been falling since 2005 as renting grew in popularity, rose slightly in 2017, according to a Stateline analysis of census microdata from IPUMS-Current Population Survey.

Last year 32.3 percent of young people were homeowners, a slight increase from 2016 when it was 32.2 percent.

That's still well below the 45 percent in 2005 and the peak of 55 percent in 1980.

Millennials are hitting

the market at a difficult time, though, with rising prices and few houses to buy as the housing industry has shifted to building more downtown rentals. Some people seeking to buy houses have been discouraged and have postponed the step, just as many have had to put off moving out of parents' houses, forming couples and having children as they tried to build careers delayed by the recession.

Between 2011 and 2017, home prices grew 48 percent while income for all age groups rose only 15 percent, according to National Association of Realtors statistics.

"It just feels irresponsible right now," said Jayme Fraser, a 28-year-old freelance journalist who considered buying a house in Missoula, Montana, three years ago but found prices too high. She and her husband, who is in graduate school, are now looking for a more rural home in Montana they can afford to buy while paying off student debt.

Student debt is a big obstacle to buying a home for many millennials, said Jessica Lautz, director of demographics at the National Association of Realtors. The median student debt for millennials is \$41,000, and they typically put off buying their first home for seven years after they wanted to buy, Lautz said.

Young people with college debt typically

spend close to half of their income on loan payments, according to a 2017 study in The Journal of Consumer Affairs. This makes it almost impossible to qualify for a home mortgage with a small down payment.

"Contrary to popular opinion, millennials are not buying avocado toast instead of saving for a down payment. They're paying their student debt," Lautz said. "Somebody with \$41,000 in student debt is going to be buying something far away with a long commute, or in a bad school district, or something too small. They're not going to be able to stay there for long."

Thirty-two is the median age for first-time homebuyers, according to a survey by the Realtors Association. That means many first-time buyers are squarely in the millennial generation, the oldest of whom reached their mid-30s in 2017.

The apparent increase in ownership in 2017, the first since 2005, was so tiny that it's hard to say if the trend toward less buying and more renting is really over, said Chris Porter, chief demographer for California-based John Burns Real Estate Consulting.

Ownership is still "considerably lower than 10 years ago," Porter said. "We may need another year or two of data to understand whether this is truly a reversal."

Some young people who could buy houses

are still on the sidelines, like Connor Coyle and his fiancée, Amy Branchini, both in their late 20s. Coyle, who works in wealth management, moved a few years ago from Manhattan to suburban Westchester County, N.Y., where he rents an apartment.

"Both of us were at the point where we wanted to get out of the city and live a more relaxed lifestyle," Coyle said. The couple is ready to stop renting and own a house, but they just haven't seen a house they love in their \$500,000 price range.

"If we end up renting for another three years, that's OK," Coyle said. "What you're getting for your money right now, to my mind, is subpar. Maybe in a few more years we can get something in the \$600,000 to \$700,000 range, and it will make more sense — we won't have to put in \$100,000 in renovations."

In some expensive states such as Hawaii, California and New York, and the District of Columbia, fewer than 1 in 5 millennials is a homeowner, according to the Stateline analysis. But in Iowa, the Dakotas and Minnesota, it's close to half.

Today's first-time buyers are increasingly living in ad hoc situations while they save, Lautz said, citing a survey from the Realtors Association. Twenty-one percent lived with parents, relatives or friends before buying in 2017, up from 12 percent in 1993.

Stateline's analysis showed that the share of 25- to 35-year-olds in ad hoc situations, neither renting nor owning, has grown steadily from 21.2 percent in 2012 to 24.2 percent in 2017. Most in those situations are living with parents or other relatives.

A shortage of housing for sale is also driving prices up in some booming areas such as the San Francisco metropolitan area, where Jimenez Smith and her husband work and live. The area has added 189,000 jobs in the past three years but only 14,000 housing units, the largest discrepancy in the nation, said Lawrence Yun, economist for the National Association of Realtors.

Other areas facing similar crunches are Boston; Washington; Orlando, Fla.; Phoenix and Chicago, he said.

Even so, 25- to 34-year-olds are likely to insist they want to own a home in the future, according to the Realtors survey.

The San Francisco couple felt the pressure to buy because their rent was rising and they were afraid that the price of a house would soon outstrip their income, even though they already could afford a \$4,000 monthly mortgage and had saved about \$150,000 for a down payment. Smith is a video graphics programmer for Apple, and Jimenez Smith is a policy aide for the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

But in six months of shopping, they lost bidding wars again and again. Once they bid \$350,000 for an empty lot with the facade and rubble of a burned-down home, figuring they could build a new home there for another \$250,000. But someone else offered \$480,000 for the same lot and is now trying to sell it for even more.

The couple feels lucky to have bought a modest two-bedroom house with 1,000 square feet of living space from a seller who turned out to be an acquaintance and helped them by accepting an offer matching the highest bid, not exceeding it.

"We were going through disclosures and praying it would appraise right," Jimenez Smith said. "Fortunately, it did appraise right at \$795,000."

There were other scares. The couple had been counting on a new transit stop in the neighborhood that would have allowed Smith to commute to San Francisco, a doable but grinding hour and 40 minutes each way. The new stop was delayed, but Smith got his new job at Apple, about a half-hour away in Cupertino.

"Sometimes we worry that this is the top, that prices will go down, but our bigger worry was what if it goes up?" Jimenez Smith said. "If it went up to \$900,000, we'd never be able to buy a house."

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this June 30, 2018, file photo construction workers set bundles of tile on the roof of an under-construction house in the master-planned community of Summerlin in Las Vegas.

US construction spending rose 0.4 percent in May

By **MATT OTT**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Spending on U.S. construction projects edged up 0.4 percent in May, while April's figure was revised down significantly — signs that new building is still uneven despite a growing economy.

The uptick in May brought total construction spending to a seasonally adjusted all-time high of \$1.31 trillion, 4.5 percent higher than a year ago, the Commerce Departments said Monday. April's figure was revised down to 0.9 percent from what was originally reported as 1.8 percent gain, which would have been the largest increase in 24 years. That came on

the heels of 0.9 percent drop in March, the first monthly drop since July of 2017.

Total private construction rose 0.3 percent, with residential projects up 0.8 percent in May. New single-family home construction rose 0.6 percent and the volatile apartment building sector jumped 1.6 percent. Private, non-residential building fell 0.3 percent.

Economists are forecasting that construction spending will contribute to overall growth this year even though interest rates are rising. A lack of inventory has stymied homebuyers and pushed home prices higher as demand for existing and new homes has surged.

Last month the Commerce Department reported that housing

starts rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.35 million, the strongest pace since July 2007, thanks to a surge of building in the Midwest.

Even as government budgets have tightened, construction of public projects in May rose 0.7 percent to \$304.1 billion, the highest since October 2010. That gain was fueled by a 0.6 percent rise in state and local construction, which accounts for more than 90 percent of total government activity. State and local government construction spending was \$282.1 billion, the most since September of 2009.

Spending on the power grid increased nearly 11 percent on a monthly basis, and is up more than 25 percent over a year ago.

US service companies expanded at strong pace in June

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. service firms expanded at a surprisingly strong pace in June as companies saw gains in business activity and new orders.

The Institute for Supply Management said Thursday that its services index rose to 59.1 last month, compared to 58.6 in May. Any reading above 50 signals growth.

The services sector, where most Americans are employed, has now expanded for 101 consecutive months, or more than eight years.

The June gain was stronger than expected. Many economists believed that the index reading might slip slightly.

The solid gain in the services sector followed an unexpectedly strong reading for the ISM's manufacturing index, which came in at 60.2 for June.

Analysts said the two strong readings for the ISM indexes support their belief that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, would rebound strongly in the April-June quarter from a weak first quarter, when GDP grew at a lackluster annual rate of 2 percent.

"All indications are pointing to strong growth in the second quarter," said Anthony Nieves, the chair of the ISM services panel. "As long as the economy does not overheat this should be sustainable."

Michael Pearce, senior

U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said that while there were anecdotal reports from business contacts that rising trade tensions stemming from the Trump administration's get-tough policies were having an impact, higher tariffs had yet to show up in the overall numbers. He said the strong ISM readings were pointing to GDP growth above 5 percent in the second quarter.

The ISM services report showed that 17 non-manufacturing industries reported growth in June including mining, construction, wholesale and retail trade and educational services. The only industry reporting a decrease in June was the category that covers agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.



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Lake Placid	Avon Park
Golden Corral 322 U.S. 27 South August 1, 2018 10 a.m.	Hotel Jacaranda 19 East Main Street August 14, 2018 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
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HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF INTERNET AUCTION
START DATE: Friday June 29, 2018 at 9:00 A.M.
END DATE: Monday July 9, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. through 10:00 P.M.
LOCATION/WEBSITE: GOVDEALS.COM
 Pursuant to Florida Statutes and Board adopted policies, the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners (HCBC), Highlands County, Sebring, Florida, has declared various items as surplus property and have therefore authorized an Internet Auction to be conducted for the purpose of disposing of all said property.
 A list of specific surplus items may be obtained from the following location and/or by requesting a list by fax (863)402-6735 or email to pevans@hcbcc.org or jsoto@hcbcc.org
 1) HC Road & Bridge Department Warehouse; 4320 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875-5803.
 Contacts: Pam Evans at (863)402-6527 or Jose Soto at (863)402-6511. Additional information can be obtained Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. about the County's Internet Auction process by contacting Highlands County BC's Road & Bridge Warehouse at the following numbers. (863)402-6527 or (863)402-6511. Items may be inspected by appointment only.
 Note: All property will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis.
 The HCBC reserves the right to add or delete items from GovDeals' Website at anytime during the Internet bidding dates above.
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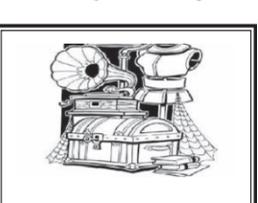
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How should businesses respond to bad reviews?

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A bad review can seriously hinder a small business' reputation, but dealing with negative social media and online posts is now essential.

The popular online review site Yelp.com recently won a case in California where an aggrieved law firm tried to force it to remove negative posts. Such an action would run afoul of freedom of speech, according to internet companies, but business owners say it could leave the door open to spreading falsehoods without consequences.

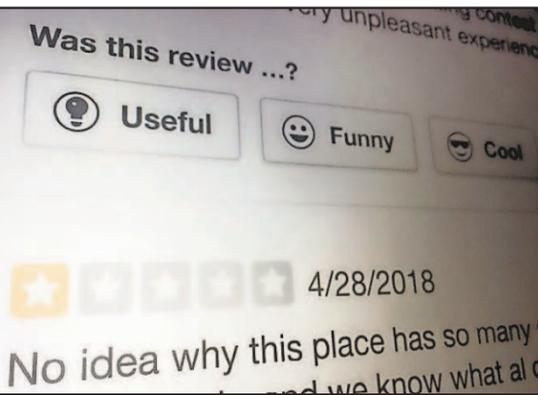
There are several measures a business can take to respond to negative reviews to mitigate any potential damage.

"This is something you simply can't ignore," said Columbia Business School professor Jeremy Kagan. "The best defense is a good offense."

Here are some key points for business owners:

Ask Happy Customers To Post Reviews Of Their Experience

It's important to be proactive and have staff ask customers to post their experience. The offensive part of this



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo shows an online review of a restaurant on a screen Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Portland Ore. A bad review can seriously hinder a small business' reputation, but dealing with negative social media and online posts is now essential.

strategy involves having a base of good reviews from happy customers. It's even more important because people who are upset are usually more motivated, Kagan said.

That can leave a skewed picture of a business. A solid base of good reviews will help give a potential customer a broader view.

Respond immediately and politely

People want to know that the owner is professional and cares about fixing legitimate problems. Simple things, like saying "I'm very sorry you didn't enjoy" the meal or product can go a long way with potential new customers checking out your reviews.

"You will often find that you're playing to the

audience, which is sort of neutral," Kagan said.

Provide a factual rebuttal

While owners should acknowledge a person's feelings, there are some issues where a factual rebuttal is necessary.

For a restaurant, this could include providing a link to a health department grade or report if somebody falsely accuses the restaurant of being unclean. For some companies, it could mean posting a statement on steps being taken to improve a product or service.

"You're not necessarily going to fix an upset person," Kagan said. "What you can do is limit the impact."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Thursday, June 21, 2018 photo, job applicants talk with representatives from Custom Services at a job fair hosted by Job News South Florida, in Sunrise, Fla.

Survey: US employers added 177,000 jobs in June

By **JOSH BOAK**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — American businesses added 177,000 workers in June, a sign of health and resilience for the U.S. labor market and economy, according to a private survey.

Payroll processor ADP said Thursday that hiring was led by employers with more than 50 workers, accounting for 84 percent of the job growth. The education and health sector led the gains by adding 46,000 workers. Leisure and hospitality added 33,000 jobs, as did professional and business services.

The job growth of the past several years reflects

an economic expansion that is now entering its tenth year. But the hiring gains are now creating a challenge for employers to find capable workers, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, which helps put together the report.

"Business' number one problem is finding qualified workers," Zandi said. "At the current pace of job growth, if sustained, this problem is set to get much worse."

Employers could address this shortage by raising wages, but significant pay growth has yet to take hold. Average hourly wages have been flat for the past year after adjusting for inflation, according to the Labor

Department.

The ADP figures come one day before the government releases its monthly employment report. Economists have forecast that Friday's official report will show solid job growth of 195,000. The unemployment rate is expected to hold at 3.8 percent.

ADP compiles hiring data from millions of companies that are clients of its payroll services. Its figures frequently diverge from the government's report. Last month, the government said private employers added 218,000 jobs, which was higher than ADP's revised figure of 189,000.

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Trust the machines? Funds run by artificial intelligence

By **ALEX VEIGA**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A computer can trounce a human chess master and solve complex mathematical calculations in seconds. Can it do a better job investing your money than a flesh-and-blood portfolio manager?

Investors willing to test that question can do so with a couple of exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, that leave the investment decisions to a computer's so-called artificial intelligence, or AI.

ETF Managers Group and Ocean Capital Advisors launched an AI-powered fund last month

dubbed the Rogers AI Global Macro ETF (BIKR) that invests primarily in single-country ETFs. The fund's AI sifts through millions of data points from countries around the globe and uses what it learns to determine how best to allocate the fund's holdings. (Humans carry out the trades, however.)

Does this approach work? Another AI fund launched last November by ETF Managers Group and Equibot shows some promise.

The fund, which is called the AI Powered Equity ETF (AEIQ), invests in a variety of U.S.-based companies

and seeks to beat the returns of the S&P 500. So far, it's getting it done. The ETF is up 8.1 percent this year, while the S&P 500 has gained about 1.5 percent.

Still, a track record of less than a year on a single fund isn't nearly enough to gauge the merits of the AI approach. Also, like any fund, one should weigh potential gains against the fund's fees.

At 75 basis points, AEIQ's expense ratio is on the higher end of ETF fees, even if the AI is doing all the thinking. By comparison, Schwab's US Broad Market ETF, which also invests in a broad swath

of U.S. stocks, has an expense ratio of 3 basis points.

Sam Masucci, founder and CEO of ETF Managers Group, recently talked about his firm's investment funds and why an AI fund manager might prove to be better at generating investment returns than the human variety. Answers have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: How is AI different or better than the computer algorithms used for high-speed trading or robo-advisers that can rebalance an investor's retirement portfolio?

A: It's different. If you think about algorithmic trading or robo-advisers these are tools that are used by human portfolio managers to make decisions on what to invest in. Artificial intelligence is very, very different. While there are humans that obviously are continuing to feed data into it, it's the computer, the AI environment, that is distilling that information and making the ultimate portfolio selection.

In the case of AI, the portfolio manager is not looking at a trade signal and making a decision. The AI model is prescribing the action that needs

to be taken, whether it's a purchase or a sell.

Q: Is AI better at picking stocks and curating funds than more conventional approaches?

A: We will find out. Theoretically, it should be better, because it has the ability to crunch a much larger universe of daily information and risk-weigh and apply it to a portfolio much faster and efficiently than humans can. In addition, the computer learns from its past actions and the result of those actions and gets smarter over time.

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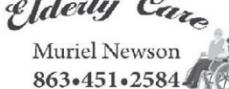
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WELL, HOW ABOUT SAYING, "THROW IT BY 'IM, PITCHER," OR HOW ABOUT, "HE CAN'T HIT WHAT HE CAN'T SEE!"

ANOTHER GOOD ONE IS, "SHOW 'IM THE HIGH, HARD ONE!"

COULD YOU WRITE SOME OF THOSE DOWN? I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REMEMBER THEM OTHERWISE

THANK YOU... THIS WILL BE A BIG HELP..

"OKAY, PITCHER, THROW IT PAST HIM! HE CAN'T HIT WHAT HE CAN'T SEE!"

"PITCH HARD CHARLIE BROWN!"

"STAY WITH 'IM, KID! YOU CAN DO IT, CHARLIE BROWN! BE GOOD BOY! GOOD SHOT! SHOW 'IM THE HIGH, HARD ONE.."

☹ SIGH ☹

THE LOCKHORNS
BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



"I'M SURE YOU'RE PUTTING ON WEIGHT IN CERTAIN PLACES... BARS, MOST LIKELY."

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GO FOR IT!

I PUT IN OUR ORDER.

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LET'S TELL MOM.

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WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE MOVIE?

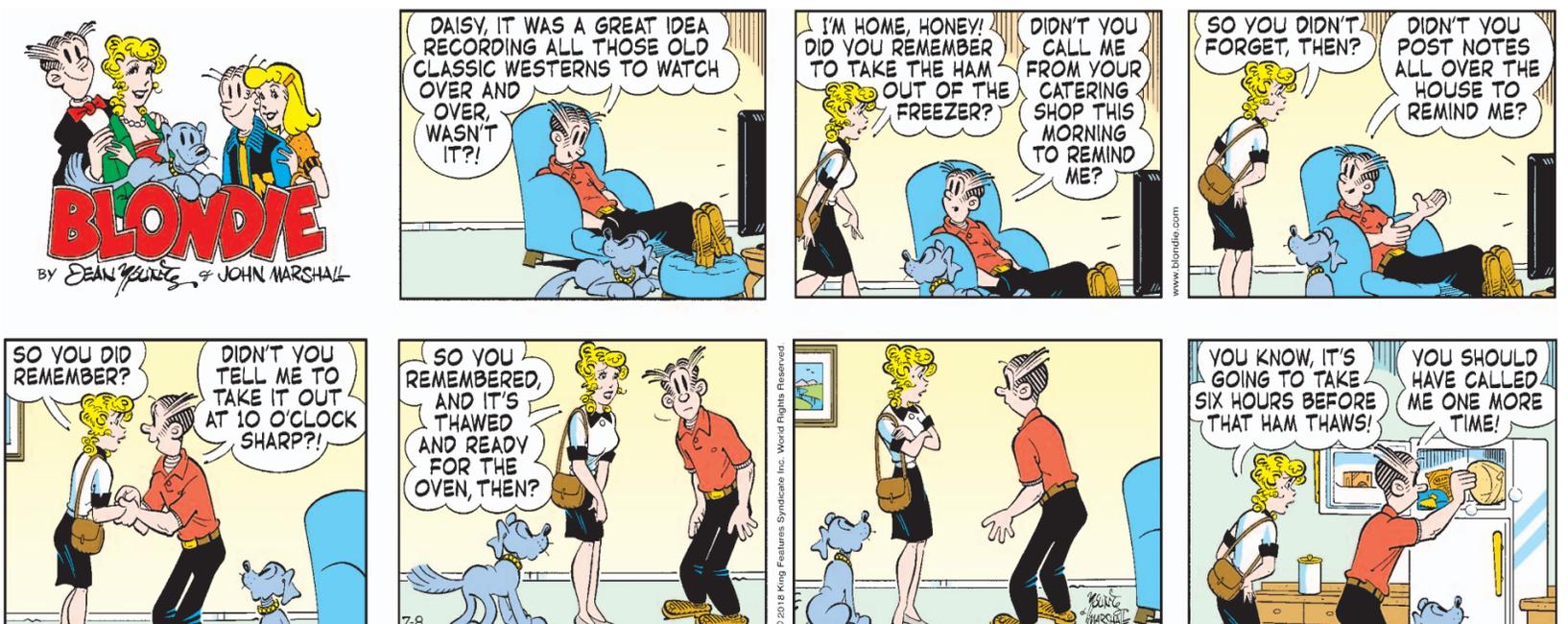
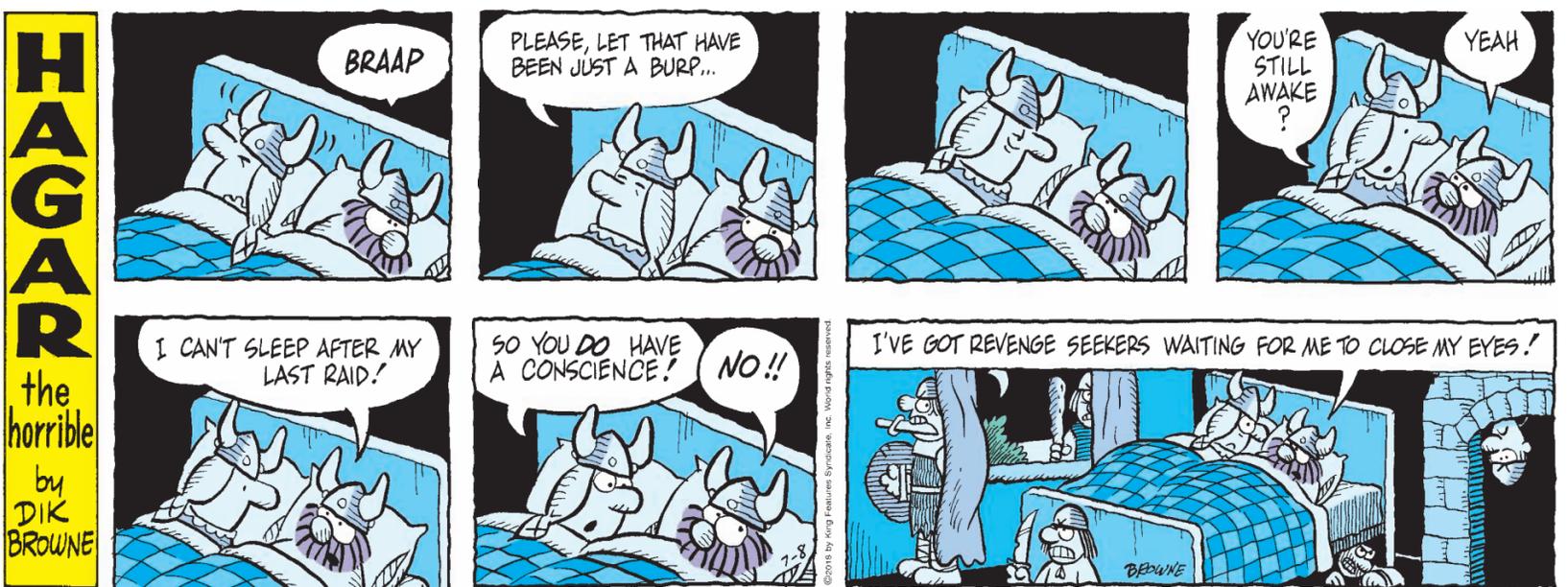
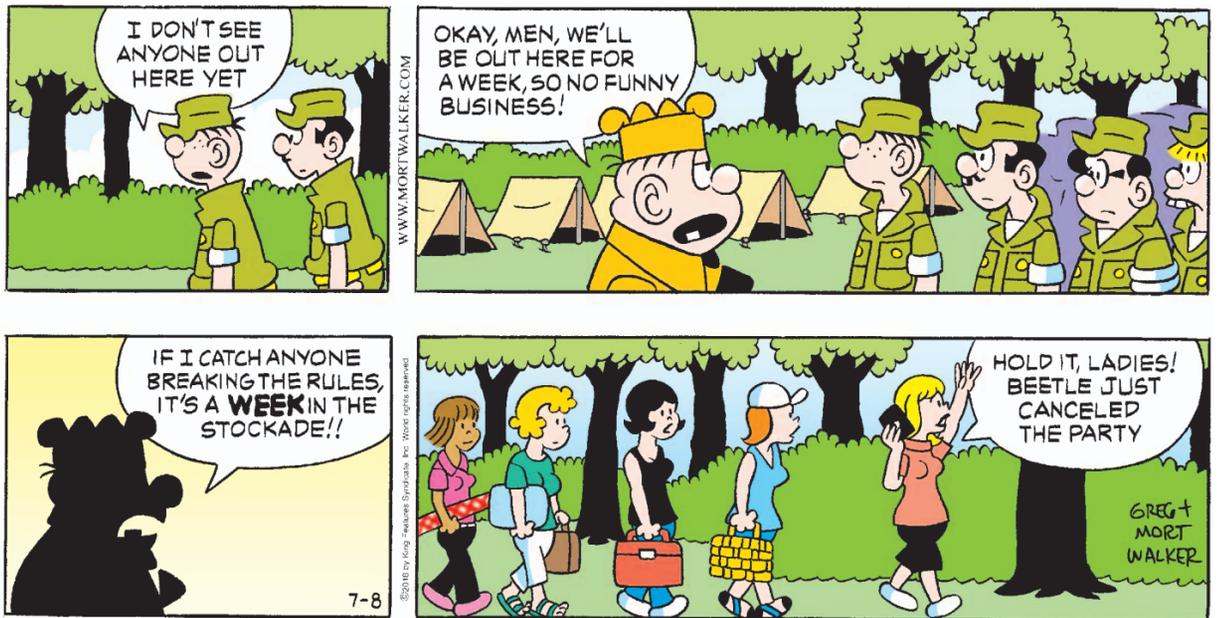
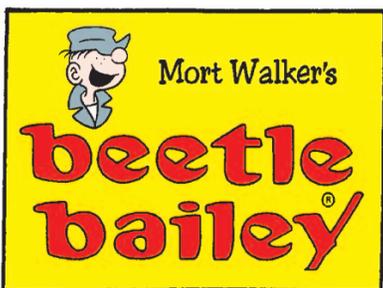
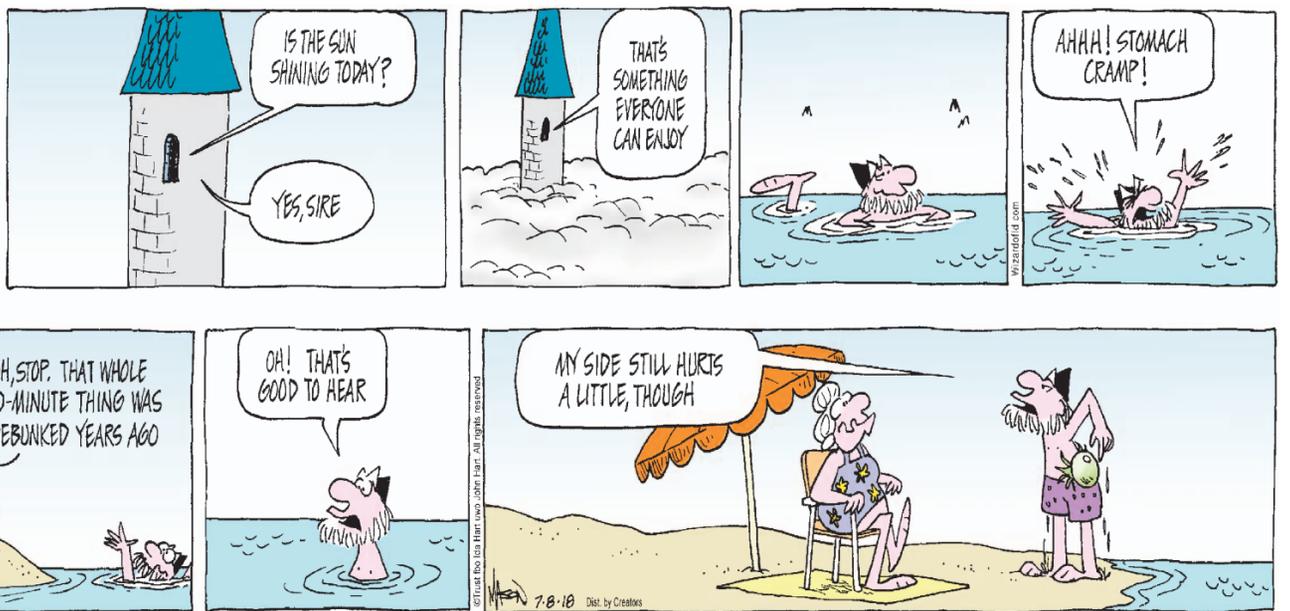
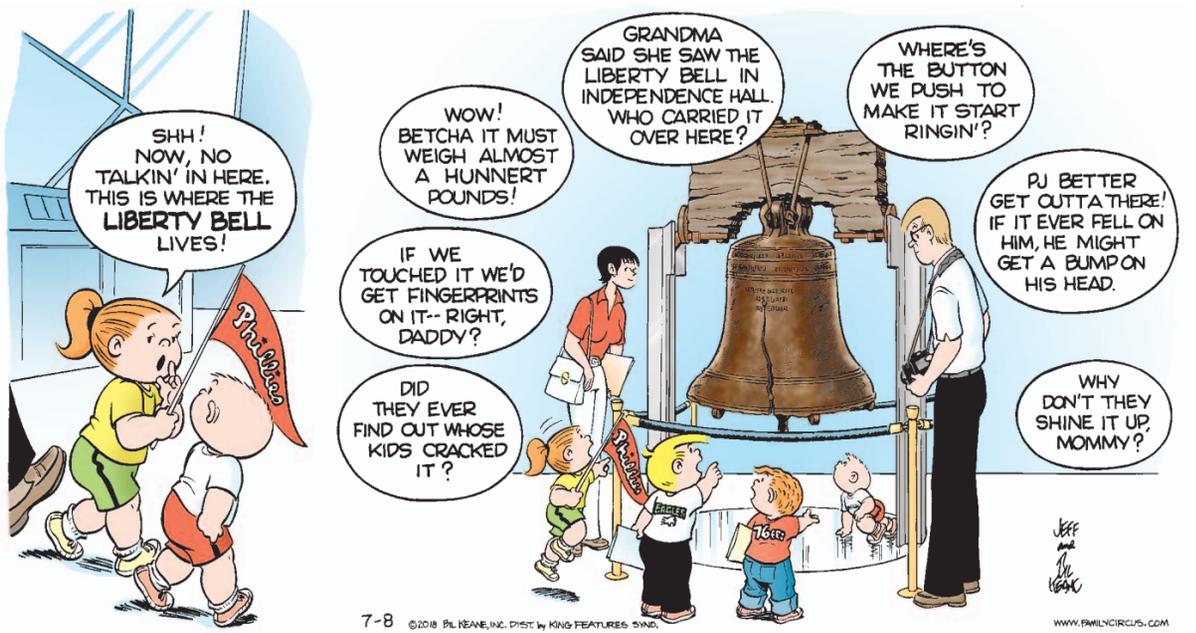
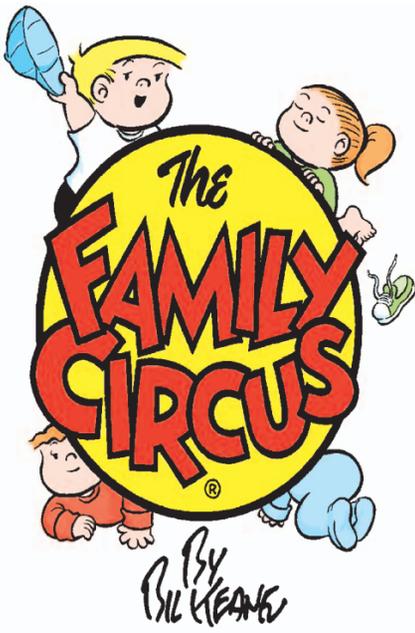
I KINDA LIKED IT!

AFTER SEEING "RED SPARROW" IN THE MOVIE THEATER... I CAN'T BELIEVE JENNIFER LAWRENCE'S CHARACTER TRUSTED THE GUY WITH HER HEART... AND HER LIFE...

EVEN THOUGH HE COULD DESTROY HER!

LOVE'S RISKS ARE WORTH IT, THOUGH... AREN'T THEY?

I HOPE SO...





FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By GYNN JOHNSTON

AND THAT ENDS TONIGHT'S NEWS BROADCAST...

CLICK

AND IT'S FILBUTT ON THE 20-YARD LINE MAKING A GREAT SAVE AS BOGDANOVITSH MOVES INTO THE... CLICK

I LOVE YOU, JAMES, I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU, AND I ALWAYS WILL LOVE YOU... JAMES...

HERE ON THE GALAPAGOS, THE YELLOW-LEGGED WARBING-CLAMBUCKER MAKES ITS NEST... CLICK!

BLAM! KABLAM! COVER ME, SAM, I'M GOING IN THERE!

AN' IT'S COUNTRY CASS AN' THE CORNTONES WITH EV'RYBODY'S FAVORIT - "LOOKIN' THROUGH THE KNOTHOLE IN THE PICKET FENCE OF LIFE!"

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SURRENDER, PUNY EARTHLING! YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR OUR SUPERIOR-

WHO SCHEDULES YOUR INVASIONS?

OH, SHUT UP

Prince Valiant

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

KRIOS, HIS SONS AND SOLDIERS HAVE COME TO KYTHRA UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS. ON THE ISLE'S ABANDONED FAR SIDE, HE LIGHTS AND WAVES A TORCH...

...WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY SEEN BY AN OARED CRAFT LURKING IN A SHELTERED COVE ALONG THE ROCKY COAST ACROSS FROM KYTHRA.

THE OARMEN QUIETLY PULL TOWARD KRIOS' SIGNAL LIGHT. MEANWHILE, UNSEEN BY EITHER OF THE COMPLICIT PARTIES, ANOTHER VESSEL, BLACK FROM STEM TO STERN, ALSO GLIDES TOWARD KYTHRA.

THEN A MAN WITH THE BEARING OF ONE OF GREAT PRESTIGE AND PRIVILEGE DISEMBARKS. "I AM GENERAL VITALIUS, LORD KRIOS, AND I BRING GREETINGS FROM THE EMPEROR JUSTINIAN!"

NEXT: The transaction

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS BY BOB WEBER JR.

A burglar stole old family photos from Sir Hound's wall safe and is asking for a huge ransom. While talking with the thief on the phone, Slylock Fox overheard the following bits of conversation in the background: "The dude's cowboy hat blocked my view." ... "The book was better." ... "The candy was a rip-off." Where does Slylock suspect the thief is calling from?

Solution -- Slylock suspects the thief is calling from a movie theater lobby as the audience is filling out.

Follow Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids on Instagram @slylockfoxcomic BOB WEBER JR and SR 7-8

Spot six differences between these panels.

www.facebook.com/SlylockFox

HOW TO DRAW a pig

YOUR DRAWING

My Grandma by terrific artist, Kody, age 12

Submit your drawing to www.kidcartoonists.com

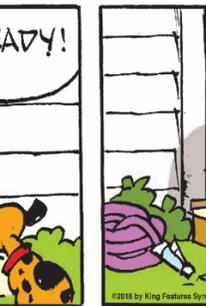
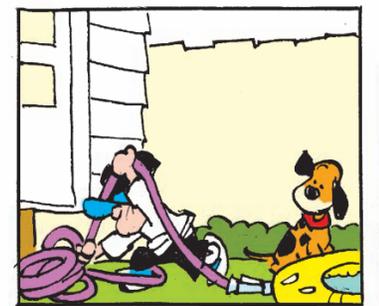
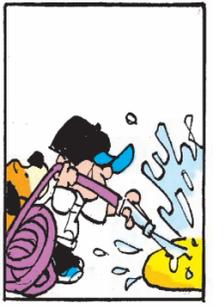
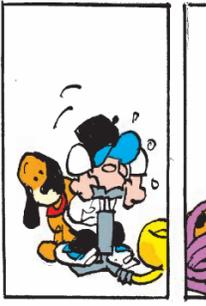
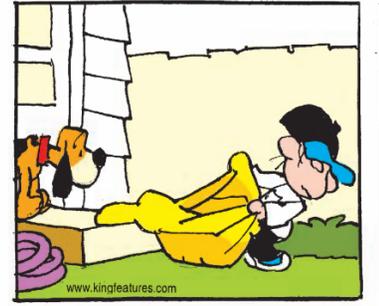
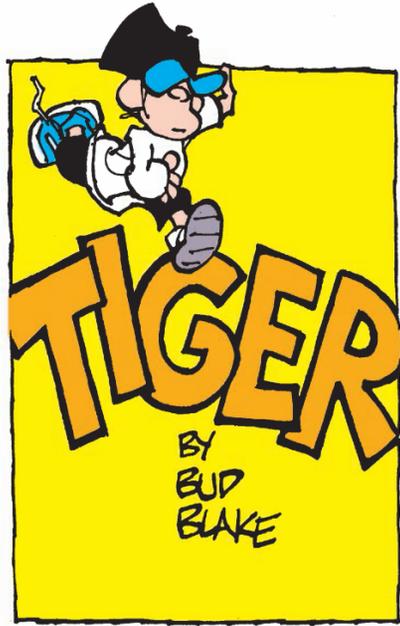
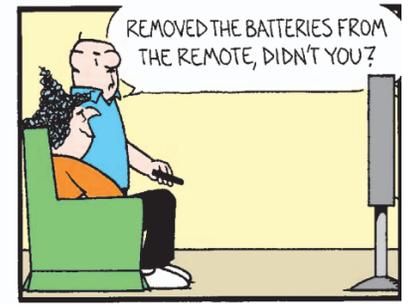
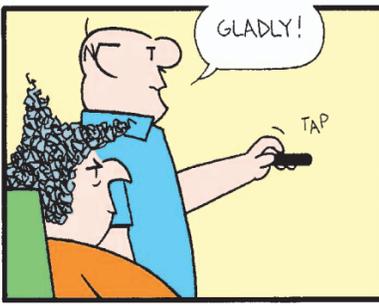
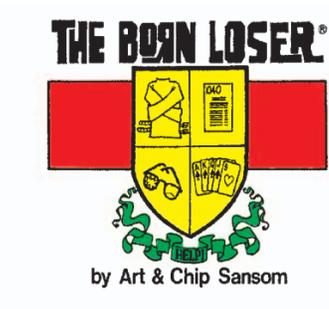
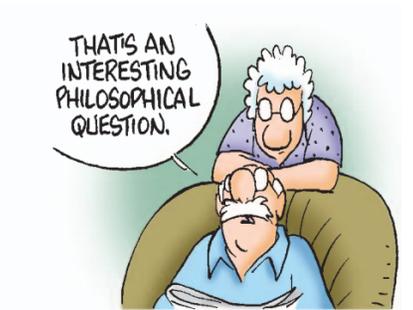
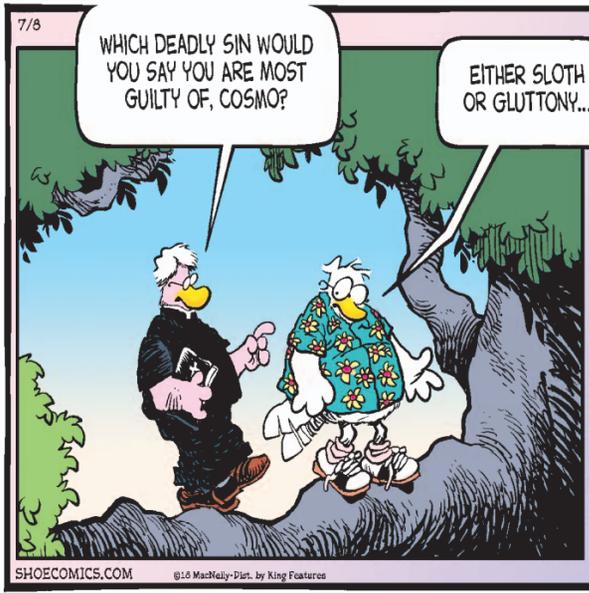
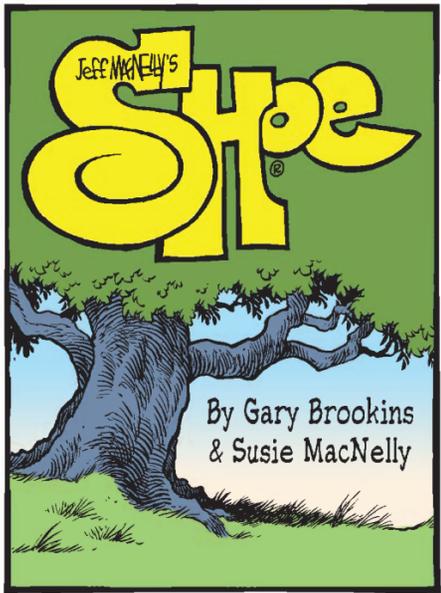
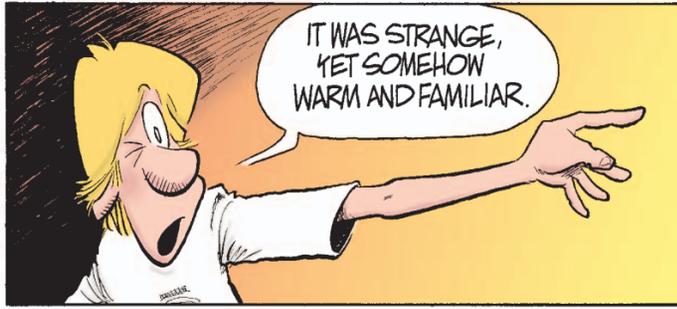
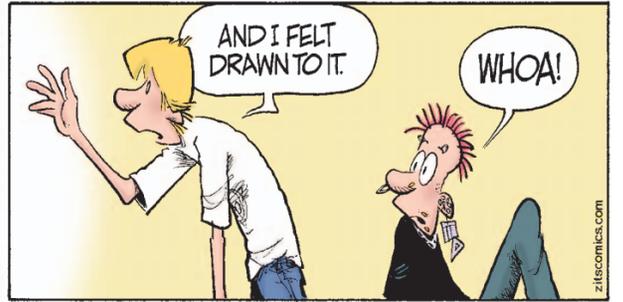
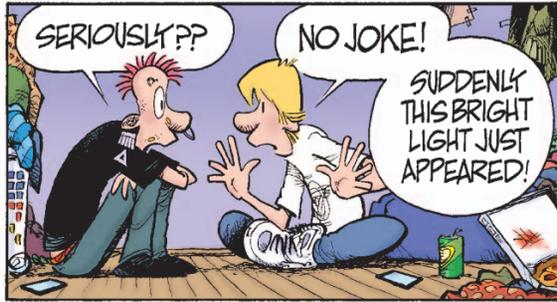
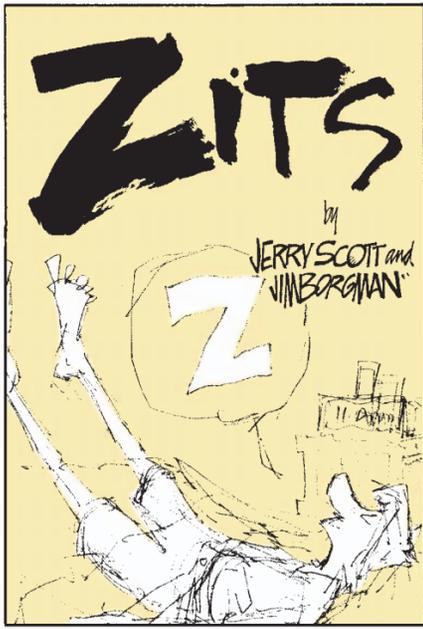
Some turtles can breathe through their ...

- eyes
- shell
- feet
- butt

Answer -- Window, ball, hat, pants, bird and fin.

Answer -- (d) Oxygen is absorbed by body tissue in this area.

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





BABY BLUES

Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

WHOOOT-TSSH!

WHOOOT-TSSH!

DO US ALL A FAVOR AND PUT SOME PANTS ON.

THAT'S NOT EVEN A WHIP! IT'S A JUMP ROPE WITH ONE HANDLE!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

WHEN DOES IT GET EASIER TO IMPRESS THE WOMEN AROUND HERE?

I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

BARNEY GOOGLER and **SNUFFMOUTH** BY JOHN ROSE

DOC SEEMS A MITE DISTRACTED LATELY, DON'T'CHA THINK, NUSS?

HUH? I'M SORRY, DID'JA SAY SUMPIN', LO?

UH-OH!! MUST BE CATCHIN'!!

98.6... SECH A RANDOM NUMBER!!

WHY TH' POINT 6?!

AN' WHY 98?!

WHY NOT 99?!

WHY WUZN'T IT JEST ROUNDED UP TO A HUNNERT?!

A-HEM!!

OH!! RIGHT!!

SORRY!!

YEAH-- YOU'RE FINE!!

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART

INVENT ANYTHING NEW LATELY, THOR?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK..

CHECK IT OUT! I CALL IT A BIRD FEEDER.

IT LOOKS LIKE ITS WORKING.

CHOMP

SNAP

CHOMP

CHOMP

MIGHT BE AHEAD OF ITS TIME.

SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

MAYBE THIS WILL STRIKE A CHORD WITH YOU!

MOM, I KNOW DAD AND I HAVE DONE A LOT OF THINGS TOGETHER, LIKE SOFTBALL, WATCHING KAIJU MOVIES AND CREATING A VIDEO GAME ONLINE ONLY TO HIGHLIGHT A GENERATIONAL GAP BY TRYING TO COMBINE "GOD OF WAR" AND "MARBLE MADNESS"...

BUT I AM SO HAPPY TO BE SHARING THIS COMIC CON WITH YOU.

I LOVE DOING THINGS WITH YOU, SWEETIE...

AND I KNOW A LOT OF THIS IS ABOUT SOME OLD CARTOON SERIES I SAW AS A KID, BUT...

BUT BEING ABLE TO SHARE A PART OF ME WITH SOMEONE WHO IS CLOSEST TO ME, IT'S... WELL, IT'S JUST THE GREATEST CONNECTION ANYONE CAN EVER HOPE TO HAVE.

SO WHEN YOU FINALLY MEET THE VOICE OF "STARLEE AND THE MOONBEAMS," ARE YOU GOING TO LET OUT AN EXCITED YELP OR SCREAM SO LOUD THEY HAVE TO REDIRECT AIR TRAFFIC BECAUSE THEY THINK IT'S A SONIC BOOM?

YOU MAY NEED TO NUDGE ME IF I FREEZE UP. BUT CATCH ME IF MY KNEES LOCK UP AND I START FALLING FACE-FORWARD IN SHOCK.

CRANKSHAFT

BY BATIUK & DAVIS

DO YOU STILL PLAY THE TRUMPET, RALPH?

I'M AFRAID I'M A LITTLE OUT OF PRACTICE.

LYRICS I WRITE OF YOU...

TOO BAD... IT WOULD'VE BEEN FUN TO HEAR YOU PLAY.

SCHEME JUST FOR THE SIGHT OF YOU...

WELL, GOTTA GO... SEE YOU NEXT TIME, RALPH.

SEE YOU, SANDY.

AND NIGHT OF YOU...

AND WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO?



THE PHANTOM

BY LEE FALK



IN HIS OWN LITTLE WORLD...



WHAT'S THAT... NOISE?



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EEEEEEKKKK!!!

!!!
WHAT'S ALL THE SCREECHING ABOUT!?

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 7-8-18



HEY!!!

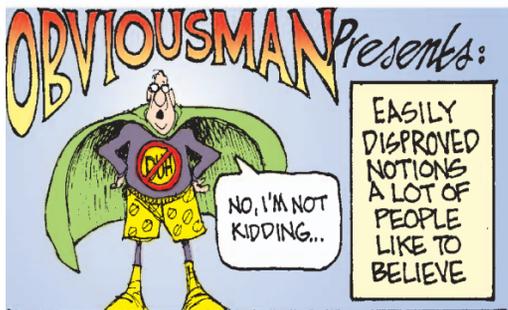


...YOU GO WHEN I SAY YOU GO!!

www.thephantomcomics.com

NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



OBVIOUSMAN Presents:

EASILY DISPROVED NOTIONS A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE TO BELIEVE

NO, I'M NOT KIDDING...

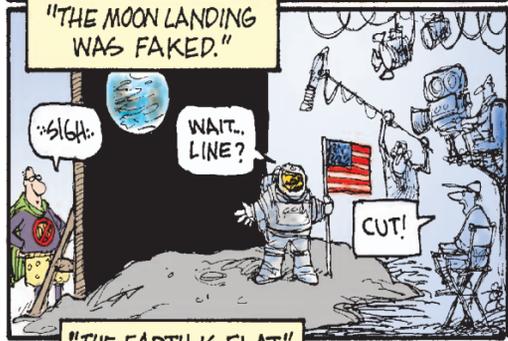


"THE EARTH IS ONLY 5,000 YEARS OLD AND HUMANS LIVED WITH DINOSAURS."

I MEAN... REALLY?

I KNOW, RIGHT?

DOINK DOINK



"THE MOON LANDING WAS FAKED."

WAIT... LINE?

CUT!



"THE EARTH IS FLAT."

SERIOUSLY?



"NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW."

AT LEAST IT'S THEORETICALLY PLAUSIBLE...

PARDON ME...

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DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



I WISH I COULD GO SWIMMING TODAY.



ACTUALLY, YOU CAN!



REALLY?!!



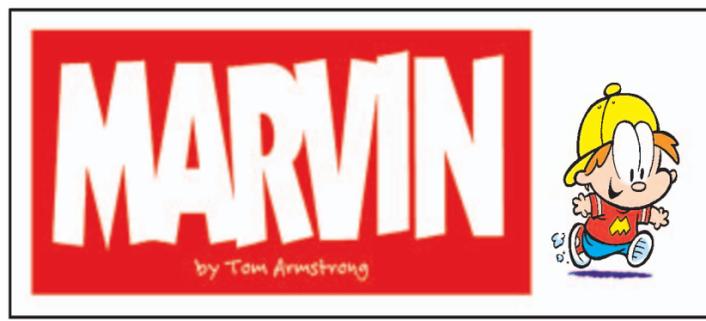
YES!



ME AND MY...



...BIG MOUTH.



HERE COME SOME HUMANS. I HOPE THEY FEED US SOMETHING BETTER THAN OLD, STALE BREAD!

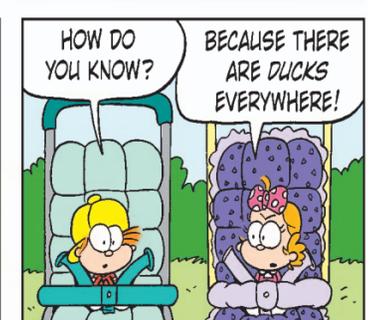


YOU COULDN'T PAY ME TO SWIM IN THAT LAKE!



WHY NOT?

IT'S FULL OF DUCK POO!



HOW DO YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE THERE ARE DUCKS EVERYWHERE!



AND YOU KNOW THEY DON'T HOLD IT WHEN THEY'RE IN THE WATER



NOBODY DOES



REMIND ME NEVER TO GET IN YOUR WADING POOL WITH YOU AGAIN!

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