

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

VOL. 100 | NO. 044 | \$1.00

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1919

An Edition Of The Sun

Brickell Building cleanup starts



COURTESY PHOTO

Work began Tuesday to remove moldy drywall from the city-owned Brickell Building on Main Street.

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — The mold cleanup of the city-owned Brickell Building started Tuesday after the two-story structure incurred significant water intrusion from Hurricane Irma.

The building on Main Street got a new roof soon after the hurricane, but there had been little progress since then to remove the mold.

At Monday's City Council

meeting, City Manager David Flowers said he and a mold specialist/contractor spent two hours in the building last week. The upstairs area is not bad because there is no drywall there. There is some truss damage that can easily be shored up.

The problem is the drywall on the first floor, which contains the mold, he said. The humidity in the building was in the high 70s, which shouldn't be that high in

BRICKELL | 5A

INSIDE TODAY!



Everything you need to know about the Senior Expo & Family Extravaganza happening Saturday, Feb. 16



COURTESY PHOTO

The City of Avon Park distributed recycling carts for its curbside collection program in 2012, but now the carts will be collected soon with recycling being too costly.

AP to collect recycling carts

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — The city will start collecting the recycling bins it purchased in 2012 for \$190,000 after the City Council decided Monday evening that curbside recycling is no longer economically feasible.

The city stopped its curbside recycling collection after Hurricane Irma so city staff could focus on storm debris removal and other storm-related issues. The economics of recycling, with China changing its policies in accepting recyclables, made it a money-losing venture.

At Monday's City Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Jim Barnard said some residents are still using the blue and yellow recycling bins for garbage. So the city has to do something one way or another with the recycling bins.

"I don't think it is cost effective to do recycling now and I don't think it is cost effective to keep those carts," he said. "We either need to get rid of them, store them or charge people who want to use them for garbage."

City Manager David Flowers said if the wheels are taken off the carts they can be stacked high and stored in a building at Pine Acres. If they are not going to be used, the city should get rid

RECYCLE | 7A

Citrus forecast coming back



COURTESY PHOTO/VISITFLORIDA.COM

A peeled and segmented orange, as presented by Florida's tourism promotion department, illustrates what makes Florida oranges a staple of American breakfast and snack foods. With such marketing, the Florida citrus industry has become lucrative and important to the Florida economy and incredibly vulnerable to disease and disaster.

Improvement since Irma, slightly less than two years ago

By **PHIL ATTINGER**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Citrus projections have come back up, somewhat, to the numbers they had two years ago.

"We're relatively pleased with the crop of earlies," Highlands County Citrus Growers Association Executive Director Ray Royce said Friday in anticipation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's February crop prediction that afternoon, which had some good news.

The USDA prediction holds steady from the January prediction at 77 million boxes of oranges — 32 million boxes of non-Valencia and 45 million boxes of Valencia — and 1 million boxes of tangerines and tangelos.

Grapefruit came down to 6 million in February — 5 million red and 1 million white — which is 3 percent less than the 6.2 million prediction in January.

January numbers weren't released that month because of the federal



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Guy Davies, an inspector of the Florida Division of Plant Industry, holds an orange that is showing signs of 'citrus greening' disease. The Asian psyllid carries the bacterium causing the disease.

government shutdown. Harvest for the 2016-17 growing season was 33 million boxes of non-Valencia oranges, 35.85 million of

Valencia, 6.28 million of red grapefruit, 1.48 million of white grapefruit and

CITRUS | 5A

CRA working to make downtown beautiful

By **MELISSA MAIN**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Mounds of dirt dot Circle Park and heavy equipment moves around the Circle and its spokes. What is happening downtown?

The Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is investing in the downtown area to enhance the aesthetic appeal and inviting nature of the downtown district. Once the downtown area looks more appealing, the CRA hopes the area will experience economic growth as people begin walking downtown more and exploring the shops.

On Oct. 16, the Sebring City Council approved the CRA's district beautification project, and the



MELISSA MAIN/STAFF

The demolition work has begun on Circle Park. The area will have new landscaping, mulch and curbing. Brick pavers will be added, and granite slabs will be added to the open spaces on the Veterans Monument.

project officially started Monday.

The project, which comes with a \$300,000

price tag, will focus on the Circle and the spoke streets. Extensive changes will be made to enhance

the appearance of Circle Park, North and South Ridgewood Drive, East and West Center Avenue,

and North and South Commerce Avenue.

The landscaping, mulch and curbing will be updated on Circle Park. The Veterans Monument will be enhanced by adding granite slabs around the structure. The slabs encircling the entire monument will also prevent people from going behind the monument, David Leidel, chair of the CRA, said.

Six downtown parking lots will be re-sealed and re-striped, including the parking lot behind the fire station.

Irrigation will be updated and installed to protect the newly planted landscaping on Circle Park and the surrounding streets. However, the first step is removing the old landscaping.

"We are moving dirt around, digging plants up," Leidel said. "Those guys are working hard. They have a detailed timeline. They will start with the demolition and do as much to the Circle as they can until Race Week, and then they will have a pause. Things will be cleaned up and nice for Race Week, but it won't be finished."

After Race Week, cafe seating will be installed around the Circle and the Circle will be resod, Leidel said. The CRA didn't want to replace the sod before the races due to all of the foot traffic.

"I'm super excited about this," Leidel said. "We have a handful of pretty big things going

CRA | 7A



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Good morning To
Gary Willingham
Thanks for reading!



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Biblical production coming to SFSC

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Power and Light Productions, the producers of several epic biblical plays throughout Florida, have announced the 2019 production title and performance dates for a new play — “Shepherd King: The Story of the Bible.”

Four performances of the new biblical theatrical production will take place April 12-14 at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts.

Power and Light Productions is well known for productions such as “The Story of Jesus,” “The Story of Noah,” “Pictures of Freedom” and “The Story of Moses,” which have each attracted thousands of attendees.

“The Story of Jesus,” which had been presented in Wauchula since 1988, garnered media coverage from the New York Times, LA Times and



COURTESY PHOTO

The biblical play “Shepherd King: The Story of the Bible,” from Power and Light Productions, will have four performances in April in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College.

Washington Post.

Power and Light Executive Producer Mike Graham said, “This is going to be a big production, extensive and elaborate.”

This play has never been done, but it combines elements of Power

and Light’s three big plays along with other elements, he said.

Beautiful sets, elaborate costuming, special effects and professional lighting ensure an unforgettable experience that will be life changing, according to Power and Light Productions. The cast will have more than 100 volunteer actors from central Florida. Running time is approximately three hours including intermission.

The performance schedule of the “Shepherd King: The Story of the Bible,” at SFSC is 7 p.m. Friday, April 12; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 13; and 4 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

Tickets are \$25, \$30 and \$35.

For information on group and single tickets, visit SFSCArts.org.

For information about Power & Light Productions, visit powerandlightproductions.com.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

It’s a shout out for Memorial Elementary School third-grader Kamalachi Portee, who was declared cancer free by doctors.

Memorial Elementary celebrates student declared cancer free

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — It was a special day for Memorial Elementary School third-grader Kamalachi Portee as the students and staff filled the hallways to give him a shout out and clap out for being cancer free.

In December 2015 Kamalachi had been diagnosed with cancer and had been receiving chemotherapy treatments with his last treatment on Feb. 5.

Memorial Elementary Principal Courtney Floyd said Kamalachi is completely cancer free, but will have monthly checkups.

Before his medical victory walk through the hallways prior to dismissal, Kamalachi and



MARC VALERO/STAFF

Memorial Elementary students prepare to congratulate their schoolmate Kamalachi Portee.

his fellow third-graders enjoyed cupcakes in the cafeteria.

Many students held the signs they created such as second-grader Kevin Lowe whose sign stated, “congratulations Friend.”

Three students held a large sign that stated, “Congratulations Kamalachi, we are proud of you.”

There were many

cheers and clapping hands as Kool and the Gang’s “Celebrate” played on the intercom system followed by Pharrell’s “Happy.”

Kamalachi held about 15 balloons as he made the rounds at his school.

He received a trophy, depicting a boxing glove, that read “Cancer Champion Kamalachi Portee.”

CORRECTION

Last week’s Soup up the Arts will benefit three families as explained in a news report Tuesday. The Taylor family will receive funds to help cover medial expenses for their son who suffers from Neurofibromatosis Type 1, a disease that randomly causes tumors to grow. Diagnosed when he was 8, the high school junior has had over a dozen surgeries in the past seven years and is currently hoping to go through a second trial medication. An incorrect medical condition was reported in Tuesday’s report.

The Highlands News-Sun regrets the error and appreciates the opportunity to set the record straight.

5 THINGS That Will Make You SMARTER

Mountains make the world more beautiful and interesting. They’re fun to hike and they offer a haven for many animals and birds. During war, people have often fled to the mountains for safety and refuge.

Mountains form over millions of years in several different ways.

Some mountains form when volcanoes erupt over and over again. The lava builds up to make a mountain, similar to those in Hawaii.

Some mountains happen when two plates of the earth’s crust slam up against each other, causing the land to buckle and rise.

Most mountain ranges are millions of years old.

The Himalayan mountain range began forming about 55 million years ago. It has 30 of the world’s tallest mountains, including Mount Everest, which soars 29,035 feet in the air.

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Out-of-state fugitive captured

By MELISSA MAIN
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — An out-of-state fugitive charged with sexual conduct with a minor was arrested on Thursday.

Joseph Greer, 28, with felony warrants from South Carolina, was arrested by deputies from the Highlands County Sheriff's Office. Greer had a warrant for criminal sexual conduct with a minor; the subject did willfully and lewdly



GREER

commit or attempt to commit a lewd or lascivious act upon a child under 16 years of age. A law enforcement officer with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Fugitive Unit contacted deputies from the HCSO and informed them that Greer was in Highlands

County. The Special Operations Division conducted surveillance at a hotel in Sebring in an attempt to locate Greer, the arrest report stated. Deputies discovered Greer exiting a company vehicle and placed him under arrest, authorities say. His identification was confirmed based on his driver's license. Greer is in the Highlands County Jail where he will await extradition.

Verbal altercation leads to felony charge

By KIM LEATHERMAN
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Boysie Demeters Jones, 37, of Sebring, also known as "Backwoods," is facing a third degree felony domestic battery charge after being arrested by Sebring police officers the morning on Feb. 7. Because of the domestic nature of the crime, the victim's name will not be released.

Officers responded to a Ridgewood Drive address



JONES

after they received a call for a domestic violence complaint. According to the arrest report, when officers arrived, the victim said Jones choked her the day before. She told officers the altercation started an argument outside of the residence. After hurling accusations to the victim, she said he punched her on the back of her head. The victim reported to officers that she was momentarily dizzy from the blow. The two kept verbally fighting for about two more minutes before

Jones allegedly wrapped both of his hands around the victim's neck and lifted her off the ground by her neck. The victim said she had trouble breathing and was "gasping for air." She thought she may have been dangling in that position for about 15 seconds. The officer noted marks on the victim's neck that corresponded with the statement she told. The arresting officer met up with Jones the following day. The report states he was advised of his Miranda rights. After an initial statement that was redacted from the report, he told the officer he did not want to talk to him without a lawyer.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Special to Highlands News-Sun

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Feb. 1:

Rafael Luis Davila, 22, Avon Park, charged with probation violation.
Darrisa Shambria Gibson, 26, Avon Park, on charges of drug possession, marijuana distribution, drug equipment possession and marijuana possession.

Donald Gene Gray, 26, Lakeland, on two charges of drug possession and two charges of drug equipment possession.

Harrison Alexandr Howes, 18, Lake Placid, on charges of unlawful use of a blue spot, criminal action under color of law and falsely impersonating an officer.

Bradley Wayne Jones, 33, Sebring, on charges of operating a motorcycle without a license, failure to register motor vehicle, driving while license suspended, possession of a weapon by convicted felon and two charges of resisting an officer.

Cleavon Omar Mouzon, 42, Sebring, on three charges of failure to appear.

Keosta Reid, 26, Avon Park, on charges of scheme to defraud, offense against computer users, destroying evidence, drug possession, drug equipment possession, possession of

another person's ID, possession of stolen property, unlawful possession of four or more false ID and three charges of larceny.

Benjamin Alan Shoemaker, 21, Sebring, on charges of probation violation, drug equipment possession, marijuana possession, barbiturate distribution and three charges of drug possession.

Jamal Rashard Ward, 28, Sebring, charged with probation violation.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Feb. 2:

Henry Daniel McLendon, 53, Sebring, on charges of cocaine possession and drug equipment possession.

Jim Howard Pottorf, 63, Sebring, on out-of-county warrant.

The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Feb. 3:

Zontravia Nakota Brown, 23, Avon Park, charged with aggravated battery.

Jared Joseph Delsignore, 31, Sebring, on charges of obstructing justice, kidnap-false imprisonment, trespassing, probation violation and two charges of battery.

Antonio Garcia Garcia, 39, Lake Placid, on four charges of conservation of animals.

Lindsey Lavonne

Glenn, 58, Avon Park, charged with larceny. Jasmine Alliyah Guillaume, 22, Avon Park, charged with probation violation. Giovanni Hernandez, 22, Labelle, on charges of conservation of animals and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The following people were arrested on felony charges and booked into the Highlands County jail on Feb. 4:

Jose Alvarez, 71, Arcadia, charged with attending animal fight or bait. Emilio Stephen Cardenas, 23, Lake Placid, on charges of drug possession, smuggling contraband and drug equipment possession.

Leslie Nicole Conant, 41, Immokalee, on a charge of burglary and two charges of larceny. Zachery Mathew Garcia, 25, Sebring, on charges of burglary, criminal mischief, grand theft auto and dealing in stolen property.

Jonathan Chase Lyle, 35, Lake Placid, on charges of drug equipment possession and drug possession.

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OBITUARIES

Elsie R. Ferguson



Elsie R. Ferguson, 87, passed away Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019 in Oak Hill, Florida. She was born Jan. 3, 1932 in Richmond, Virginia to the late Thomas W. and Florence J. (Franklin) Rainey. Elsie moved to the area in 1998 from Miami, Florida and was an active member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lake Placid. She was a former member of the board and active member of Countrywalk Homeowners Association. She was an avid sport fisherman, winning many billfish tournaments.

Elsie is survived by her daughter, Lora Lee Cook (Gary) of Oak Hill, Florida; sister, Evelyn Rainey Holmes of Virginia; brother, Robert Wilson Rainey of Virginia; grandchildren, Heather R. Barrett, Bobby J. Craton Jr., Ashleigh Bowman, Crystal Ferguson, Shannon Ferguson, Brandon Ferguson, JR Ferguson, and 19 great-grandchildren. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Albert Ferguson, and son, John A. Ferguson Jr.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church of Lake Placid at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 25 Lakeview St., Lake Placid, FL 33852.

Arrangements entrusted to Stephenson-Nelson

Funeral Home, 4001 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870. Online condolences may be left at stephensonnelsonfh.com.

Anna R. Vilkaitis

Anna R. Vilkaitis, born May 11, 1932, to Joseph and Mary Vilkaitis in Avon Park, Florida, passed away on Feb. 11, 2019 at age 86.

Anna was predeceased by her parents; her sisters, Mary, Agnes and Helen; and brothers, John and Paul. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

She was named valedictorian of her Avon Park High School graduating class and then received her baccalaureate degree in microbiology from the University of Florida. She enjoyed a long career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture specializing in food quality and safety. Anna enjoyed duplicate and contract bridge, traveling to Europe, Asia, Africa and throughout the United States, and her beloved Florida Gators.

She served as president of the Agnes Scott Foundation for a number of years. The Vilkaitis family was among the original founders of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Avon Park.

A funeral service will be held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Avon Park at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

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

CITRUS

FROM PAGE 1A

1.62 million of tangerines and tangelos.

After Hurricane Irma hit that following September, the 2017-18 harvest dropped to 18.95 million boxes of non-Valencia oranges, 26 million boxes of Valencia, 3.18 million of red grapefruit, 700,000 of white grapefruit and 750,000 of tangerines and tangelo — the smallest harvest on record since immediately after World War II.

Royce expected the USDA to bump up the numbers a little bit this year, but the numbers were good, "for the greening era," he said.

"It's not as good as before greening," Royce said.

The disease has decimated the industry in the last 20 years, but it's not the first time the crop saw problems.

Citrus cultivation had been in Florida 400 years, thanks to Spanish explorers, but took off after the Civil War. By 1917, oranges were the state's most valuable food crop, followed by field corn and grapefruit, according to CitrusIndustry.net.

Recognizing a need for scientific methods to help the crop, Florida legislators authorized creation of an off-campus University of Florida research facility, dubbed the Citrus Experiment Station

(CES). CitrusIndustry.net reports growers had raised money for it by summer 1919 and UF secured an 84-acre tract just north of Lake Alfred, with 14.5 acres of established groves.

It took a little more than 50 years after that — the 1971-72 growing season — for Florida's citrus production to top 200 million boxes for the first time, states CitrusIndustry.net. However, the industry was contending then with diseases and freezes, as much as now.

Grapefruit had also barely survived Hurricane Donna in 1960, and a Mediterranean fruit fly outbreak hit all citrus in 1962.

Freezes hit in the late

1970s and several times in the 1980s, but it was the return of citrus canker — it had first hit from 1912 to 1933 — and the introduction in the early 2000s of citrus greening that has plagued the industry most recently.

Two years ago, National Public Radio reported researchers in Lake Alfred — now a 600-acre campus — believed they had made headway against greening by developing tougher varieties of citrus.

The USDA will make crop estimate reports again on the following dates:

- March 8, 2019
- April 9, 2019
- May 10, 2019
- June 11, 2019
- July 11, 2019

BRICKELL

FROM PAGE 1A

January. The higher the humidity, the faster the mold grows.

The specialist recommended immediate removal of the drywall and the ventilation of the building.

There is an agreement for five or six inmates from Avon Park Correctional Institution to do the work. They will be checked by a doctor before and after the work. They will be using respirators and special suits. Four floor fans have been purchased to circulate the air.

A 20-yard dumpster is sitting there and the

crew will start swinging hammers and taking drywall out.

Hopefully the work will be done in a couple of weeks. Flowers hopes to be able to report there is no contamination.

Deputy Mayor Jim Barnard asked about the work that needed to be done upstairs.

Flowers said it is basic carpentry work that will be figured out after the mold is removed from the building.

"My primary concern is to get the safety aspect of it done first and then the air quality issues," he said. "Once that is done then we can start looking at the repair work that needs to be done."



COURTESY PHOTO

Fans are being used to circulate the air during the removal of moldy drywall in the Brickell Building.

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VIEWPOINTS

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

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SUN

OUR VIEW

Foster parents deserve special recognition

Imagine a child's fear after being taken away from parents or whatever family setting the child is accustomed to. Several factors could contribute, including neglect, parents being arrested, an unexpected death of a parent or a custodial adult or the sudden inability to care for the child(ren) for whatever reason.

In the area serviced by Heartland for Children, there are approximately 987 children in out-of-home care. Nearly 400 of these children are placed in either a foster or group home. Of the 126 children in group care, 71 percent of these are teens. Those are the figures quoted on Heartland for Children's website.

These children all deserve a chance to live in a traditional family setting and live as normal of a childhood as they possibly can. They should be able to attend school activities, play sports, make plans to attend college or find a career of their choice. These children need a chance to learn how to succeed and not be part of "the system."

Foster parents unlock a world of possibilities for these children. In essence, foster parents open their home and allow the children to go to school and live as close a normal life as possible. This in turn helps the children heal and recover from the trauma of being ripped from the only home life they knew.

Foster parents are the ones who voluntarily take on the role of providing support, safety and love to children who come from these unstable, unloving and often abusive homes. In some cases, they also serve as a role model for biological parents who want to work toward a reunion with their children.

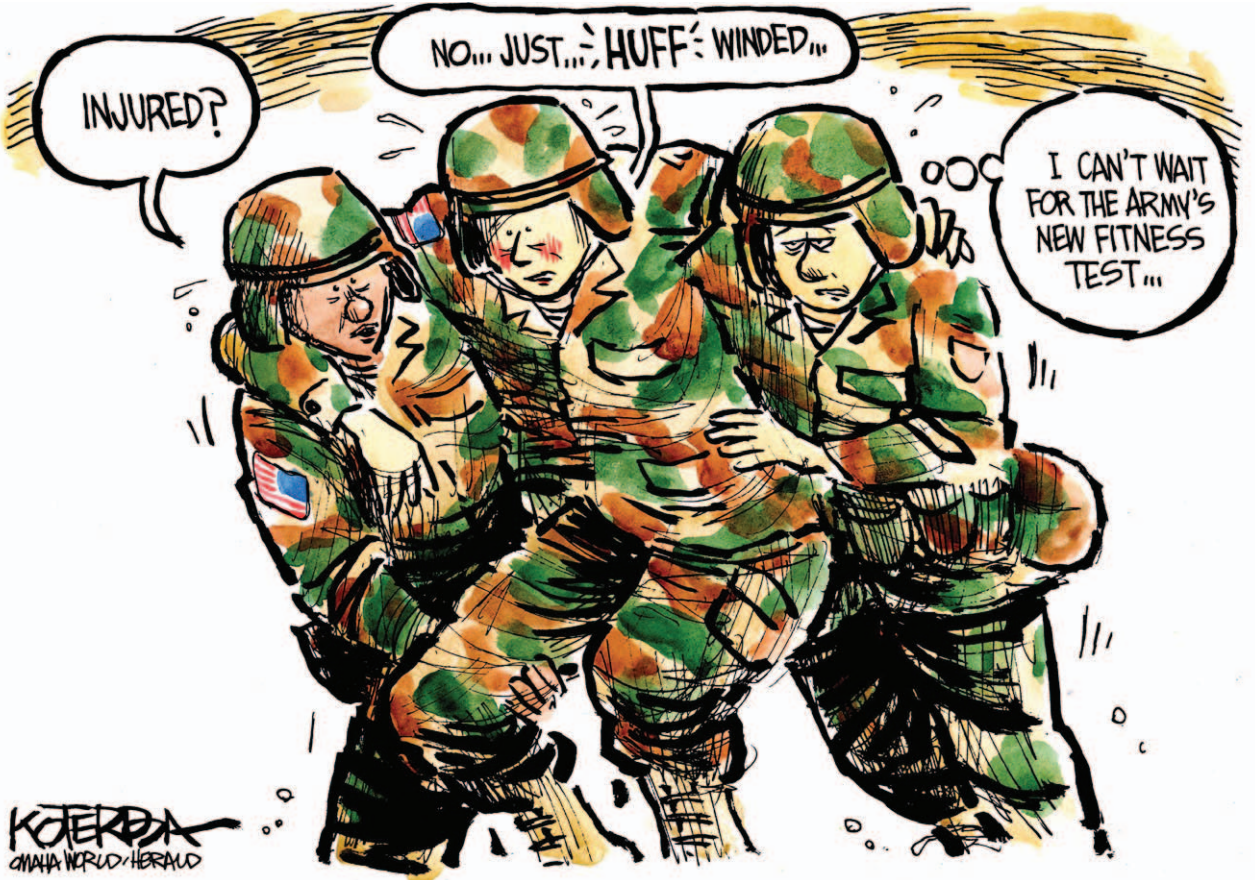
Governor Ron DeSantis has proclaimed the second week of February as Florida Foster Family Appreciation Week, to be observed Feb. 11-15.

Florida's First Lady, Casey DeSantis, wholeheartedly supports the observation. She said, "Our state is blessed for the contribution of foster parents and the families they create. Whether a foster family is together for a short period of time or longer, the impact of the relationship is forever. As a mother, I am truly grateful for those who create a loving and nurturing environment for children and encourage all Floridians to find a way to help build and rebuild families in their own communities."

In Florida there are approximately 5,378 foster families currently licensed through the state to care for the more than 7,200 children. This proclamation is a tribute to those families. Please, during this week, set aside some time to recognize their protection of and the hope offered to the state's most vulnerable children.

Setting aside one week to give special recognition to foster parenting is the least that can be done to say thank you for stepping up for our children.

For details on qualifications and training to become a foster parent, contact Heartland for Children at 863-519-8900 or submit an email to <https://heartlandforchildren.org/>



Questions nobody wants to hear on Valentine's Day



TYRADES

Danny Tyree

Valentine's Day is a time for exchanging sweet nothings and terms of endearment. It is an occasion for sharing candlelit meals and opening romantic gifts. It is an opportunity for igniting new sparks or basking in the warmth of comfortable, memory-filled long-term relationships.

But certain phrases can be a real "buzz kill" — putting you in an awkward position, creeping you out or making you want to look around for the nearest exit.

My wife and I could very well spend Valentine's Day evening watching recorded episodes of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

That long-running CW improv show often has hilarious sketches in which the performers must brainstorm things like "Things You Wouldn't Want To Hear In (Insert Situation)."

With that in mind, I've assigned my researchers to pull together an assortment of the questions most likely to

color of your steak was the same captivating color as your own eyes?"

"When the TV announcer said my ex-beau won the lottery, they didn't happen to flash a telephone number on the screen, did they?"

"Don't you agree that a marriage certificate is just a piece of paper ... like jury duty summonses, restraining orders, eviction notices ...?"

"I'm sorry — did you say, 'have children' or 'halve children,' not that there's anything wrong with that?"

"Don't you think the Whitman's Sampler lid would be even more useful if it supplied information on which chocolates I've already licked?"

"Uh, would it spoil your mood if I told you that when Cupid started firing his arrows, I exercised my 'stand your ground' rights?"

"When you were little, did you have fanciful daydreams about being royalty, or did you have more realistic ambitions like, I don't know, getting sucked into the Witness

Protection Program by falling for some poor schmuck you met on a blind date?"

"Isn't it amazing how the Conversation Hearts candy seems to be speaking directly to me? You don't have duct tape and a sledge hammer in your car trunk, do you?"

"Oh, you mean I was supposed to 'swipe left' if I thought someone was a gross loser?"

"Don't you think 'love at first sight' is overblown, unless you go straight to the telephoto lens, I mean ..."

"Did you notice that this wine goes down all metal-y and diamond-y?"

Of course, some jarring questions come as part of a "two-for-one" offer. For instance, "Now the medication the veterinarian prescribed for the dog's mange was the little blue pill, wasn't it?", followed by "Hey, who broke the table leg???"

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

YOUR VIEW

Washington swamp continues

Those of you that watched the State of the Union last week saw a vintage Trump with his generalities hoping for applause and praise, which he apparently lives on. You also saw a visual sarcastic Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi showing her obvious disdain for the president. You also saw the apparent disgust and lack of respect by the white-clad new left wing Congresswomen of the Democratic party who refused to stand or acknowledge anything that Trump had to say.

Who among us knew that the president needs written permission from the House Speaker to enter the chamber, a requirement Pelosi stuck in the president's face. She was telling him who really runs the country in

so many words.

It has been traditional for all members to rise when the president enters the chamber as a matter of respect for the position. You don't have to like the man or his policies, but you show the country and the world that you respect the office of the president.

The ultimate insult shown Trump was the now famous "clap back" by Pelosi. The Democrats lost an election and have still not accepted it. In short, the Washington swamp continues.

Hal Graves
Sebring

Officers do well in service

I think that the residents of Highlands County should be thankful for our sheriff's department. These brave men and women put their life on the line every

day.

Sheriff Paul Blackman shows outstanding leadership as did Susan Benton. At times I have needed the services of HCSO. Every time their response has been swift. The officers showed respect and understanding, and resolved the issue.

Having lived in Miami, I can tell you there is no finer department than HCSO. Thank you to the officers who protect us.

Cliff McDonald
Lake Placid

Sympathy extended from Canada

Dear friends and residents of Sebring, I am so saddened to hear of the recent shooting at SunTrust. As a winter resident of Sebring for the past nine years — although we couldn't go this year for health reasons — I want to express my deepest

sympathy and kindest thoughts for all of you so tragically affected by this terrible incident.

I lived just a short distance away and regularly visited The Studio of Health & Beauty located next door to SunTrust. I can only imagine how this shooting has affected so many of my friends and neighbors as well as all the residents of Sebring.

Although I am far away in Ontario, Canada, please know that I am thinking about each and every one of you in Sebring and sending you a big Canadian hug. Take care of yourselves and care of each other as together you work through this tragedy and the emotions that will surely follow.

A snowbird friend who loves Sebring,
Eileen M. Kearns
Ontario, Canada

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.



MELISSA MAIN/STAFF

The first phase of the downtown beautification project has begun. The work began on Circle Park and will move out towards the spoke streets.

CRA
FROM PAGE 1A

on in the CRA district. When we go through and pressure walk sidewalks and trim trees, it will give our downtown a whole new look.

"It will inject light into downtown area and spur on the growth we are planning to see," he said.

"Polston Engineering is the contractor, and they have sub-contracted Edgewood Landscaping to do the demo work and landscaping," Leidel said. Other subcontractors and city employees will also be involved in the project.

"This is a very large-scale project that is cleaning up years of neglect," Leidel said. The \$300,000 budgeted for the project includes ongoing maintenance in the first year once the project is complete, he said.

"It has been over 10 years since we have seen our downtown cleaned up on a scale like this," Leidel said. "When the Great Recession hit, that led city leaders to tighten the belt and businesses struggled.

"We also saw a decline in property values, which led to a lower tax base making routine maintenance an expense that



MELISSA MAIN/STAFF

The landscaping will be updated in the bumpouts around the downtown area.

could be postponed," he said. "Had the city or CRA spent \$30k every year over the past 10 years, this project would not have cost as much.

"The CRA has taken on beautification projects in the past, but ongoing maintenance has not been budgeted for, which is what will make this project different," Leidel said.

"There are also some big changes coming that are part of our master plan," he said. "West Center Avenue will see a dramatic change. There will be wider sidewalks, the oak trees will be replaced with palm trees, and there are several utility updates that will be done as well.

"This will open up

West Center, creating an inviting connection between the Circle and the waterfront park," he said. "That is all be included in the cost of the overall beautification project."

Although the scope of the project is huge, it is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. Leidel believes that this timeline is possible, because contractors have a very detailed plan for completing the work. "As long as we don't run into excessive rain delays, or something else outside the control of the contractor, we will see a downtown like we haven't seen in a few years," Leidel said. "It is very exciting to see the activity, and I can't wait to see the results."

RECYCLE
FROM PAGE 1A

of them. They could be recycled.

Barnard suggested checking with the company the city bought them from to see if another city could use them.

The city started its curbside collection recycling program in 2012 with a five-year contract with Republic Services. When the contract expired in 2017, Republic increased its proposed cost significantly to continue the once-a-week recycling collection, which prompted the city to explore other options, including having city workers collect the recyclables.

The city was picking up recyclables every week and transporting the loads to a Lakeland

recycling facility until suspending the recycling program in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Councilman Stanley Spurlock made a motion to collect the recycling carts, which was seconded by Barnard. Council voted unanimously, 4-0, to collect the bins.

Councilwoman Brenda Gray was absent from the meeting.

Flowers said the city will advertise that it will be picking up the carts within a certain time period, probably sometime in March, but noted it won't be done in a couple of days.

FEBRUARY WEEKEND SPECIAL \$26.98 plus tax Valid on Saturday or Sunday only 18 holes with cart Expires 2/28/19	 For Tee Times Call (863) 453-5210 47 W. Lake Damon Dr. Avon Park, FL 33825 www.rgreens.com
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Callaway Demo Day February 12th 10am to 2pm	 Get PGA Golf Lessons by Jason Beatty. Group Leaders call to reserve your group's play before space fills up.

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Newsday Crossword

LETTER OPENERS by Mark McClain Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Committee adjective</p> <p>6 Major airports</p> <p>10 Buddhism school</p> <p>13 Faithful</p> <p>14 Disney deer</p> <p>15 Notable period</p> <p>16 Take-charge woman</p> <p>18 Drink sample</p> <p>19 Musses, as hair</p> <p>20 Assigns stars to</p> <p>22 Barnyard cackler</p> <p>23 Airplane aisle roller</p> <p>25 Closed securely</p> <p>29 Software trial run</p> <p>33 Historic immigration island</p> <p>34 City near Tahoe</p> <p>35 Dog Chow alternative</p> <p>36 Faucet flaw</p> <p>37 Avis competitor</p> <p>38 Eagle or oriole</p> <p>39 Concerning</p> <p>40 Goofs up</p> <p>41 Needing deciphering</p> <p>42 Type of atomic radiation</p> <p>44 Check recipients</p> <p>45 Actor Alda</p> <p>46 Small amount</p> <p>47 Ivan of tennis</p> <p>50 Reached a high point, as the tide</p> <p>54 Anger</p> <p>55 Brain activity during deep sleep</p> <p>59 Typical first-grader age</p>	<p>60 Not connected</p> <p>61 Chose, with "for"</p> <p>62 Do something</p> <p>63 Sort of sailboat</p> <p>64 Garden pests</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 __ carte menu</p> <p>2 Blockhead</p> <p>3 Syringe, for short</p> <p>4 Honolulu's locale</p> <p>5 Conflicts (with)</p> <p>6 Sandwich meats</p> <p>7 Actress Thurman</p> <p>8 Oil production meas.</p> <p>9 __ Club (environmental group)</p> <p>10 Gusto</p> <p>11 Pennsylvania port</p> <p>12 Siestas</p> <p>14 "I've __ thinking . . ."</p> <p>17 Hastened away</p> <p>21 Encouragement to a little lad</p> <p>23 Word on a nickel</p> <p>24 Full range</p> <p>25 Bud who was baseball commissioner</p> <p>26 Justice Kagan</p> <p>27 Morning waker-upper</p> <p>28 Frantically</p> <p>29 Morsel in some cereals</p> <p>30 Skip over vocally</p> <p>31 Shopping splurge</p> <p>32 Lincoln in-laws</p> <p>34 Aired again</p> <p>37 Zeus's spouse</p> <p>41 Where Persians are admired</p> <p>43 While the sun is out</p> <p>44 Fishing spot</p> <p>46 Terrible tyke</p> <p>47 Bart's older sister</p> <p>48 Guitarist Clapton</p> <p>49 Adjacent (to)</p> <p>50 PC corner key</p> <p>51 Casting agent's category</p> <p>52 Ending for kitchen</p> <p>53 Batted, but didn't field</p> <p>56 Air quality org.</p> <p>57 Statute</p> <p>58 EKG evaluators</p>
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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/13/19

Answer to previous puzzle

INFO	PLOP	SCROD
DELI	RAVE	AROSE
ORAL	OVER	FABLE
LOGCABIN	METEOR	
ORES	PALE	
GABLE	HARRY	USS
OBLONG	SOB	ANTI
THERAILS	SPLITTER	
BOSS	BEE	ENTIRE
YRS	PINTO	LIENS
SALT	POET	
STROLL	KENTUCKY	
PAINT	ANNE	DONE
ALTAR	SEEN	EVEN
SCARY	HERD	SEWS

2/13/19

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Lamb bearers</p> <p>5 Common Vegas hotel room amenities</p> <p>10 Tea holders</p> <p>14 Herod sent them to Bethlehem</p> <p>15 Full of energy</p> <p>16 __ Day: Bayer vitamin brand</p> <p>17 Faction</p> <p>18 Cook's reply to 37-Across?</p> <p>20 Nightmarish street of film</p> <p>21 Gimlet garnish</p> <p>22 Dr. Reid in "Criminal Minds," familiarly</p> <p>23 Librarian's reply to 37-Across?</p> <p>26 Double Stuf treats</p> <p>27 "That's __ to me"</p> <p>28 "__ and the Real Girl": 2007 film</p> <p>30 Operatic solos</p> <p>32 Spook</p> <p>34 Animal house</p> <p>37 Insomniac's lament</p> <p>40 Canadian singer DeMarco</p> <p>41 Of help</p> <p>42 Slugger Barry</p> <p>43 Big fusses</p> <p>44 Remnant</p> <p>45 Buffalo NHL player</p> <p>48 Trainer's reply to 37-Across?</p> <p>53 Photographer Alda married to Alan</p> <p>55 Prefix with pit or pool</p> <p>56 Classic auto</p> <p>57 Auditor's reply to 37-Across?</p> <p>59 Flamboyant Dame</p> <p>60 Word spoken con affetto</p> <p>61 Arroz con __: chicken dish</p> <p>62 Horseback rider's control</p> <p>63 Globes</p> <p>64 Cake raiser</p> <p>65 Wilson of Heart et al.</p>	<p>61 Arson evidence, perhaps</p> <p>2 Pixar film robot who falls in love with 8-Down</p> <p>3 Vanity case?</p> <p>4 [Not my bad]</p> <p>5 Misters, in old India</p> <p>6 Texas tourist spot</p> <p>7 The cops</p> <p>8 Robot who falls in love with 2-Down</p> <p>9 Old salts' haunts</p> <p>10 Complexion aids</p> <p>11 Ridiculous</p> <p>12 Wafer maker</p> <p>13 Sushi bar brews</p> <p>19 Some exercise tops</p> <p>21 Torts enrollee</p> <p>24 Actor James or singer Jimmy</p> <p>25 1971 Sutherland title role</p> <p>29 Chilean year</p> <p>30 Intent or intend</p> <p>31 Nipper's label</p> <p>32 Bank job</p> <p>33 NHL's Thrashers</p> <p>34 Meditation setting with rocks and gravel</p>
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By Blake Stonecker 2/13/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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35 Exhaustive ref. entry	47 Book jacket
36 Black __	49 Swift Northeast train
38 Sporty '60s Pontiac	50 Ship stabilizers
39 MGM mogul Marcus	51 Red Square honoree
43 Stadiums	52 34-Down teaching aids
44 Totalitarian leader	54 Athlete's award
45 Vanzetti's partner	58 Row maker
46 Like Times Square on New Year's Eve	59 Pitcher's stat

Oaks at Avon
A NOT FOR PROFIT FACILITY

Community HEALTH FAIR

Thursday Feb. 14th, 2019
9am - 11am

Happy Valentine's Day!

Community Health Fair

- Blood pressure check
- Vendor booths
- One blood bus will be here

Donate blood for a FREE Movie Ticket, Door Prizes & more

Contact Amanda Macias: 863-453-5200, bdd@oaksatavon.com

1010 US 27 North, Avon Park, FL 33825
Phone: 863-453-5200 • Fax: 863-453-5308

Gala celebrates givers

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Because of generous donors, the AdventHealth Foundation this year could give \$1 million back to its facilities in Sebring, Lake Placid and Wauchula.

Giving kept going Saturday night at the annual Foundation Gala as donors and members of the Foundation bid on silent auction items, competed in an auction for a new motorcycle, had dinner and took in a performance of Season 10 American Idol winner and country music star Scotty McCreery.

Saturday marked the 24th annual Foundation Gala, but the first since Florida Hospital Heartland changed its name, along with all other Adventist Health System centers, to AdventHealth.

"There's lots of new beginnings," said Foundation Director Christine Johnson. "We're trying to get from good to great, setting new service standards."

With those new service standards come the expectations patients can now have as they travel Florida or outside Florida to any AdventHealth locations, Johnson said.

There are 48 total AdventHealth facilities, 28 of which are in Florida, she said.

New service standards, Johnson said, boil down to four tenets:

Keep me safe. Whether checking in or leaving, do everything possible to make sure that I am safe from harm, even when not at the hospital.

Make it easy. Medical treatment and a hospital stay can be overwhelming. Do everything possible to make it understandable and calming for me while there.

Own it. If you made a mistake or said something wrong or out of turn, admit it.

Love me. AdventHealth staff wear buttons that state, "I care for you like (this person)," to let people know they are cared for the same as some person, animal or other entity that

means the world to that person.

Such standards serve not only to improve hospital care, Johnson said, they are great relationship builders.

AdventHealth Sebring CEO Randy Surber said at the dinner that he hoped to see everyone at the 5K/10K run the following morning, but after a few laughs, he said he deeply appreciated all coming out to support the hospital.

He said it's one of the top 34 hospitals in the nation, and claimed it had the only "A" rating from Leapfrog Group in a 50-mile radius.

It has the second largest cardiac program in the hospital group, after AdventHealth Orlando, with 13 cardiologists.

He also said the hospital has just signed its first certified breast surgeon, has expanded its catheterization lab with 24 more beds and is working to expand the emergency department and the physician's lounge.

The hospital hopes to add 300 more births this year for up to 1,000 infants born at the hospital in 2019, Surber said.

He added that AdventHealth Wauchula, also rated "A," is the "top rural hospital in Florida," Surber said. Its chief administrator is former state senator Denise Grimsley, who was at the Gala.

Someone not at the Gala was Patricia M. Davis, a 48-year volunteer with the hospital who recently died at age 95. Both the Sebring and Wauchula gift shops, where she worked for so many years, have been named in her honor, Surber said.



PHIL ATTINGER/STAFF

AdventHealth Sebring CEO Randy Surber speaks of the accomplishments of the hospital in the past year, and the goals for the coming year, during the 24th annual Foundation Gala.



PHIL ATTINGER/STAFF

The 24th annual AdventHealth Sebring Foundation Gala brings a big crowd to enjoy an evening of dining and entertainment, and some light competition bidding on silent auction items.



ROMONA WASHINGTON/STAFF

All of the seats in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts were filled Saturday night to hear recording artist Scotty McCreery perform. The concert was part of the AdventHealth Foundation Gala.

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County spending more on EMS, for now

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — For the first quarter of the 2018-19 fiscal year, Highlands County government has spent 31 percent of its annual budget.

Normally that should be 25 percent, with only a fourth of the year gone. County Administrator Randy Vosburg has told county commissioners that's because of some payroll issues.

One reason, Vosburg said, is that the new fiscal year had more pay periods in the first quarter than the previous year — five, versus four.

Another, is that Highlands County Emergency Medical

Services spent 32 percent of its budget already as of Jan. 1, 2019, opposed to 25 percent at that same time last year, according to the Interim Financial Report by Sally Hood, accounting director for the Highlands County Clerk of the Courts.

Vosburg said EMS has a lot of vacancies. Highlands County Fire Rescue has transferred many paramedics and emergency medical technicians from EMS to fill new dual-trained paid positions in fire services.

That's resulted in a lot of overtime pay to the existing EMS crews.

Commissioner Don Elwell asked if Vosburg expects to address the overtime soon, and

Vosburg said he expects to see some relief with new hires in March.

Revenue, as it turns out, has matched the budget spending. Of the current \$68.6 million budget, the county has taken in \$33.3 million, Hood said, or 49 percent.

Last year, as of Jan. 1, the county had taken in 53 percent of its annual revenue, but that was \$32.8 million of a \$61.9 million budget.

Also last year, the county had spent 50 percent of its budget by Jan. 1, but that was thanks to clean-up efforts after Hurricane Irma.

Special revenue fund incomes are the same as last year — 11 percent — while spending has

come down this year from 25 percent to 20 percent.

Long-term debt has come down from \$23.2 million to \$20.3 million.

The Reserve for Contingency in the General Fund, which was \$1.07 million at this time last year, has come up to \$1.18 million, which is also an increase from the 2018-19 original reserve of \$1.13 million, when it was approved in September.

Revenue from solid waste is down about 2 percent, from 57 percent to 55 percent, but the projected revenue is currently \$100,000 higher than it was for last year at this time.

With solid waste

expenses holding steadily from last year at \$10 million, this first quarter has seen expenses drop by 1 percent from 21 percent to 20 percent.

No revenue has come in yet from the energy recovery fund at the landfill. So far this year, the county has spent 8 percent of that \$5 million budget, versus 2 percent last year.

Commissioner Greg Harris asked about the landfill closure rate going up. Vosburg said when the county has to close a cell, staff will have to open a new cell, with all the costs those incur, in addition to the cost of closing a cell.

Vosburg said the county will need to update its liability insurance this

year, which will likely make surpluses dwindle.

On capital projects, the county has spent \$110,000 this year, versus slightly more than \$2 million at this time last year.

There were no revenues, but then no expenditures from impact fees, which have been under a moratorium for years.

The employee benefit fund currently has a balance of \$921,093 for health expenses, \$318,700 for dental expenses and \$49,797 for wellness costs — a total of \$1.29 million.



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11:00am - 11:40am	Steve Reinshuttle of America's Best Hearing
11:50am - 12:35pm	Highlands Little Theatre - Mad Hatters
12:45pm - 1:30pm	Tiffany Werhner MS LMHC, PH of Safety Harbor Behavioral Health & Counseling Center
1:45pm - 2:15pm	Lampe & Kiefer Hearing Aid Center, Inc
2:30pm - 3:10pm	Tim Serdynski Acoustic Singer/Songwriter
3:20pm - 4:00pm	Heartland Dog Club
4:15pm - 5:00pm	Erica White Singer



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SPORTS

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Wednesday, February 13, 2019

SECTION A

Blue Streaks sweep Red Devils

Sebring, boys, girls tennis teams win season openers

By RUTH ANNE LAWSON
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING – Tennis season is off to a great start for the Sebring Blue Streaks. The boys and girls teams blanked the Kathleen Red Devils in their season opener on Monday. The Blue Streaks won the boys match by a score of 7-0 and the girls match 7-0.

In the girls No. 1 singles match, Sebring's Mara Pepper eased past Kathleen's Gabriella Shinglen by scores of 6-0, 6-0, at No. 2 singles, Blue Streak Kiersten DeJesus

defeated Autumn Richards 6-0, 6-0 and in matches 3 thru 5 Katherine Pham, Kosha Upadhyaya and Stephanie Beiner all won by default for Sebring.

At No. 1 doubles, Sebring's Ryleah Myhre and Emily Joseph beat Shingle and Richards 6-0, 6-0, while Pepper and DeJesus won No. 2 doubles by default.

"We have a young team with only one senior," said veteran Sebring girls tennis coach Janie Hollinger. "We have several players that will find themselves in the top five for the first time and

they are very excited for the season."

Sebring swept the boys competition as Dhruv Manik outlasted Kathleen's Rick Suarez-Whitt at No. 1 singles, 3-6, 6-1, 10-4. Blue Streak Pranav Ananthan defeated Isaiah Glenn 6-0, 6-4 at No. 2 singles, Gavin Szoka won No. 3 singles over Cobi Turner, 6-0, 6-0, Rohin Patel eased past Red Devil Alex Gage at No. 4 singles, 6-1, 6-0, and Trace Lackey won No. 5 singles over James Chamberland by scores of 6-0, 6-0.

In No. 1 doubles, Manik and Ananthan dominated

Kathleen's Glenn and Turner, 6-0, 6-0, and Lackey and Szoka crushed Gage and Chamberland at No. 2 doubles, 6-1, 6-0.

"The boys team started the season with a convincing win over district opponent Kathleen," said Coach Ryan Myhre. "Sebring confirmed its solid level of play from last year and determination to be a dominant force in the district as well as in the state. It was a windy night for our first match, but our guys have been practicing how to play

TENNIS | 11A



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Sebring's Trace Lackey won his No. 5 singles match to help the Blue Streaks beat Kathleen in Monday's season-opening tennis match.

Good fishing returns Friday

The Freshwater Fishing Forecast for the second half of the second week of February gives anglers the first quarter moon phase and a twenty degree cold front entering the state today. All fishing factors considered, anglers will need to 'go deep' in order to find fish today.

Fish fed heavily yesterday in a pre-front feeding frenzy which occurred during the morning hours prior to rain-fall. So today with the cold air bearing down, the warmer water will be at the eight to twelve foot depths until the cold surface water descends over the next twelve hours.

Fish will be suspended in a state of digestion today. However the sharp increase in barometric pressure today will eventually cause fish to move up by Thursday midday and perhaps some fish will feed as temperatures quickly rebound with a southeast wind prevailing.

By Friday the spring-like weather pattern will return, producing ideal water temperatures, wind speeds and a sun-to-cloud ratio which will cause fish to adjust daily at greater than average rates. The more fish 'adjust' the more they need to feed.

Best Fishing Days: Friday through next Wednesday the super full moon phase will cause fish to feed during the night. The extended weather forecast predicts a bright full moon. Therefore daytime fishing will be tough as fish primarily feed in the light of a very bright full moon.

However Friday and Saturday daytime anglers should do fairly well even though the majority of fish will be starting to take their dinner bell cue from the exceptionally bright super full moon. "A weak new moon is still better than a super full moon with no cloud cover, for daytime anglers".

Major Fishing Periods: Today the moon is underfoot at 6:54 a.m. and the sunrise at 7:04 a.m. and will create a feed intensity rating of 4-5 from 6-8 a.m. Daily this period moves later by 45 minutes. Fish will also be feeding during the sunset by the same 4-5 rating. The sunset occurs at 6:15 p.m. and the moon will be overhead at 7:20 p.m. creating feeding activity from 5:30-8 p.m. Daily this period moves later by an hour.

Minor Fishing Period: Today the moon-rise occurs at 12:28 p.m. and solar noon at 12:39 p.m. to create a feed intensity rating of 3-4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Daily this period moves later by 45 minutes.

Prime Monthly Periods: February 16-21 super full moon, March 3-7 new moon, and 18-23 full moon, April 2-8 new moon, and 16-21 full moon.

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FISHING | 11A



HIGHLANDS BASS ANGLER
Dave Douglass

Great wrestling at Spiegel Invite

Spiegel Invitational attracts top grapplers

By RUTH ANNE LAWSON
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING – The annual Spiegel Invitational drew a huge crowd on Saturday. The Sebring Blue Streaks hosted 24 wrestling teams in the day-long competition.

The Blue Streaks had four wrestlers place in the top six of their weight divisions. The Lake Placid Green Dragons had one wrestler finish in the top six. Avon Park did not compete in the event.

"The tournament was great," said Sebring Wrestling Coach Joshua Miller. "We did not have any major complications or issues. It was a successful day for Sebring wrestling. It's always a great fundraiser for us so we want to thank everyone that helped us out. When Osceola gets third place and they are ranked at the top of the state in Class 3A you know it's a tough tournament."

Sebring's Efrain Acosta placed second in the 152-pound weight class. Acosta lost by an 8-4 decision in the championship round to Ft Pierce Central's Zaine Parlor.

Sebring's Will Siver placed third in the 160 weight class by beating Jensen Beach's Hayden Zehe by a score of 2-1.

Blue Streak Andru Boyd claimed sixth at 145 pounds. Boyd lost by decision in the fifth-place match to Sebastian River's Jack Dinberg by 6-1.

"Our guys wrestled fairly good," said Miller. "There was definitely some hometown jitters. I know in other sports they consider home matches to be an advantage



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Lake Placid's Hunter Lane Costello, top, tries to fight his way out of a hold during the Spiegel Invitational on Saturday at Sebring High School.

but in wrestling it's a lot of the guys first time having friends or family coming to watch, they tend to get a little bit more nervous. The guys worked their tails off helping setup, breakdown and run the tournament. Having all of that on their mind definitely distracts them from performing at their best. Even though they had all that they still did pretty well. Efrain Acosta had a tough close match and I am more than proud of his efforts and how far he came. Will Sivers wrestled tough and had a really good finals match. He worked really hard and maintained solid positioning. We have been working really hard with Will on that. He is a very talented wrestler and tends to get into trouble by forcing things he doesn't need to. He really took the time and made it an educational bout. He forced the guy into making mistakes instead of making the mistakes himself. Andru Boyd pulled out some good victories on

some good wrestlers."

Lake Placid's Hunter Lane Costello was fourth at 145 pounds. Costello lost by decision in the third-place match to Darian Diaz of Somerset by a score of 12-7.

"This was a chance for us to get out there and wrestle some more experienced wrestlers," said Lake Placid Coach Steve Plummer. "We are a young team so it was a great learning experience. Hunter Lane Costello did very well. Carlos Padilla made it to the quarterfinals and placed

WRESTLE | 11A



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Sebring's Efrain Acosta won his match against McKeel Academy's Wayne Cambell in the 152-pound weight class in Saturday's Spiegel Invitational.

STARS athletes compete in Leisure Games

Reflections hosts fun day for athletes

Special to Highlands News-Sun

AVON PARK — Reflections on Silver Lake Mobile Home Community in Avon Park hosted the 15th annual Special STARS Leisure Games on Feb. 4 in memory of a former athlete who passed away.

This year's competition was named the Tamara Anna Memorial Leisure Games in memory of Special STARS athlete Tamara Anna who passed away last year. Anna, who lived in Lake Placid, was a former shuffleboard



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Special STARS Bocce players Elizabeth Jordan, Heather Nichols, Sharon Carpenter and Alex Lopez went to a tiebreaker in their doubles match. Carpenter and Nichols took the win at the Special STARS Leisure Games.

player and loved various other sports in the program. All athletes received trophies in her memory and medals in their competition.

There were approximately 50 athletes with disabilities competing in horseshoes, bocce and shuffleboard. Residents at Reflections volunteered at the games.

Dee's Place provided dinner for the athletes and prizes were handed out after the award ceremony.

Bocce had a heated

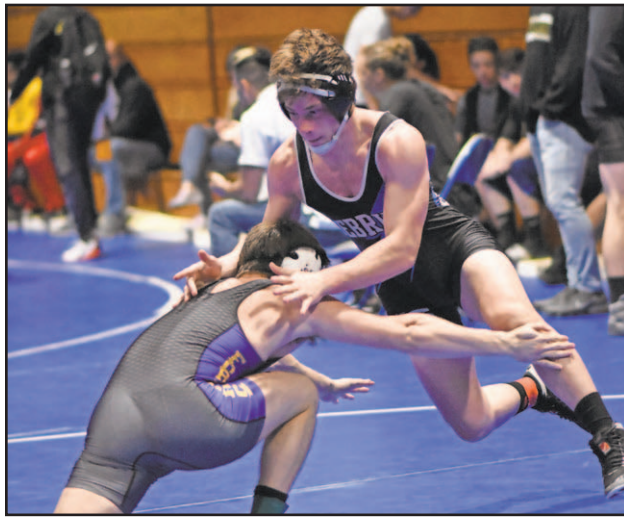
STARS | 11A

WRESTLE

FROM PAGE 10A

seventh. We got to wrestle guys from 1A to 3A schools. They came from all over and it was very cool to see that. This was a great warmup for districts. This was the kind of competition we will see at districts. This gave the guys a taste of what they will see at districts and even at regionals.”

The Sebring Blue Streaks and Lake Placid Green Dragons are gearing up for their district tournaments. Sebring's Class 2A district meet is Saturday Feb. 23rd at Venice High School.



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Sebring's Will Sivers, right, tries to fight off Ft Pierce Central's Jared Fleitas during the Spiegel Invitational on Saturday.

Lake Placid's Class 1A district meet will be

Saturday Feb. 23rd in Lakeland.

STARS

FROM PAGE 10A

competition against two doubles team as they had to play a tie breaker at the end. Sharon Carpenter and Heather Nichols pulled it out at the end winning first over Elizabeth Jordon and Alex Lopez. Other singles players winning awards in bocce were Eva Monk, first; Bobby Paradise, second; and Herb Adkins and Norman Delpiano tied for third.

Robert Collier took first place in his horseshoe division defeating Billy Owens who got second. John Smith won first

against Sarah Moore in their division.

In shuffleboard, Patty Toepper was the leading shooter with a score of 86. She took first place in her division. Other first place winners were Bobby Brewington, Barbara Kircher, Timmy Cypress, Jackie Musser, Larry Rivers, Leslie Hollandy, John Smith, Paul Hurtubise, Lee Hughes and Charlie Hodgkinson.

Second place winners in shuffleboard were

Hormel Biggs, Rene Herrera, Bryan Bishop, Fred Moore, Kenny Roberts, Dequawn Johnson, Becky Anders and Bill Wheeler.

Third place finishers in shuffleboard were Tim Dowdy, Annie Horn, Jim Kentfield, Carl Smith, Helena Spies, Raymond Jackson, Ilana Levy and Frances Goff. Fourth place winners were Maria Rivera, Dama Massey and Tim Johnson.

TENNIS

FROM PAGE 10A

in the wind and came out ready to face both the elements and a good team from Kathleen.”

The depth of the Sebring Blue Streak's team was evident in its dominance at the remaining singles slots and only losing one game in both doubles matches.

“It was a good way to start the season,” said Myhre. “We are looking forward to getting better and competing at the highest level each time we step on the court as a team.”

The Sebring boys and girls will compete in the Valentine Tournament at the Country Club of Sebring on Saturday.



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Sebring's Emily Joseph hits a forehand during Monday's match against Kathleen. The Blue Streaks blanked the Red Devils 7-0.

FISHING

FROM PAGE 10A

Istokpoga.info News: The lake level is at 39.32 feet above sea level, which is below

the current high-level of 39.50”. The minimum low-level currently is 38.50’.

S68 Spillway Status: (Tuesday 4 a.m.) Four gates are open 0.50 feet and flowing 750 cubic

feet per second to meet agricultural water permit agreements and to stay on the seasonal water management schedule.

Dave Douglass is a bass fishing guide and teacher on

twenty-five lakes, from the towns Kissimmee to Clewiston. Visit HighlandsBassAngler.com for complete details. Phone: 863-381-8474. Email: DavidPDouglass@hotmail.com

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BREAKING NEWS!

major changes on Earth. We will visit several places of interest and will make possible collaborative efforts to improve the world.

Among other things we also discuss new messages on global security. We will time this meeting to be productive and to inspire others.

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Did we learn anything over the weekend?

GODSPEAK: Hendrick Motorsports is coming out of the corner punching with a Daytona 500 pole and Clash victory on opening day.

KEN'S CALL: We learned that Jimmie Johnson was really, really hungry for a return to Victory Lane. And we learned that it might be physically impossible to race at Daytona without eventually wrecking.

William Byron's chances of winning the 500 from the pole?

GODSPEAK: Winning the Daytona 500 pole means his team worked hard all winter. The race is more driver. He will finish top-20 Sunday.

KEN'S CALL: If he wins, it won't be because he's on the pole, it'll be because he's in great equipment with a great crew chief. I'd put him about 10th in my list of favorites.

FEUD OF THE WEEK

PAUL MENARD VS. JIMMIE JOHNSON:

Menard led 51 laps in the Advance Auto Parts Clash, but was spun around by Johnson, who made a dramatic pass for the win.

GODWIN KELLY'S TAKE: It wasn't a points race, but it made an impression on Menard. "I got turned to the inside and hooked to the right, and all hell broke loose," he said.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR DAYTONA 500

WINNER:

Chase Elliott

REST OF TOP 5:

Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, Jimmie Johnson, Brad Keselowski

FIRST ONE OUT:

Ty Dillon

DARK HORSE:

Aric Almirola

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF:

There are at least two

"Big Ones" to close out the restrictor-plate era at Daytona.

MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

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DAYTONA

THREE THINGS TO WATCH

1. Forget everything

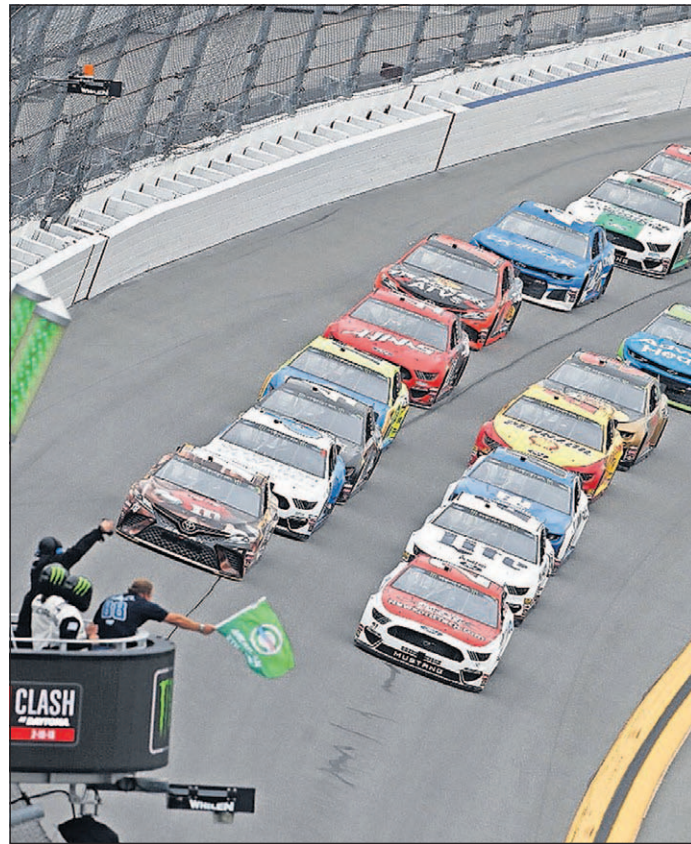
Hendrick Motorsports swept through the first weekend of competition, winning the Daytona 500 pole (William Byron) and Advance Auto Parts Clash (Jimmie Johnson). Now, do a hard reset, because race teams will play catch-up by the time the green flag falls on the 500. The Ford teams, sporting their new Mustangs, are already talking about working together in the big race. Kyle Busch has a sneaky-strong Toyota for the show.

2. Intramural games

If you were not paying close attention in the first weekend of racing, Jimmie Johnson and his longtime crew chief Chad Knaus went separate ways after the 2018 season. Both work for car owner Rick Hendrick, but with different teams. Knaus came out of the chute by winning the pole with Byron. Johnson evened the score on the Hendrick scoreboard by nabbing the Clash victory after putting a strong move on Paul Menard. Will their new partnerships continue to produce?

3. Busy week

Daytona International



Most tracks host one weekend of racing and then the NASCAR circus moves to another track the following week. Not at Daytona. The Speedweeks program spans two weekends of stock-car racing. [NEWS-JOURNAL/NIGEL COOK]

Speedway caught its breath and closed down Monday and Tuesday after four days of activity. Now comes the Speedweeks blitz with practice, qualifying and racing for the NASCAR Cup, Xfinity and Truck Series. Next on the list

is the Gander RV Duel At Daytona — the 150-mile qualifying races that decide the Daytona 500 lineup.

— Godwin Kelly, godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

SPEEDWEEKS

THREE THINGS WE LEARNED

1. Hendrick power

Rick Hendrick's race teams flexed their muscles in the first weekend of racing at Daytona International Speedway. His cars swept the top four positions in qualifying, led by William Byron, who nabbed the Daytona 500 pole. Jimmie Johnson captured the Clash later in the day.

2. Mustang debut

The Ford Mustang made its debut. It replaces the Fusion model in Cup Series racing this season. Joey Logano posted the fastest speed for Ford in qualifying. He was clocked at 192.382 mph, good for fifth overall. Logano and teammate Ryan Blaney were third and fourth in the Clash.

3. Petty's back

Thad Moffitt doesn't carry the Petty name, but he is a grandson to Richard Petty, "King of stock-car racing." The 18-year-old driver made



Car owner Rick Hendrick and driver Jimmie Johnson celebrate in Daytona Victory Lane after winning the Clash at Daytona International Speedway. [NEWS-JOURNAL/DAVID TUCKER]

his Daytona debut in the ARCA 200. He qualified second but was crashed out and finished 27th.

— Godwin Kelly, godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

One final 'Big One' at Daytona?

Final? Probably not. Yes, this will be the end of restrictor-plate racing at Daytona (and Talladega), as NASCAR turns to "tapered spacers" to hamstring horsepower at all ovals a mile or longer. The spacers will tighten the competition and bring a bit of pack-racin' to the masses, but going forward at the two fastest speedways, the "Big One" will likely live on. The "Really, Really Big One," however, might become more rare.

What happens to the plates?

I'd suggest Christmas tree ornaments. Maybe wind chimes. Somewhere in a warehouse, NASCAR is bound to be storing a ton of old plates with varying sizes of holes — the airflow was manipulated many times since 1988. If not destined for the souvenir market, I go back to an original suggestion: Melt all of them together and have an artist sculpt them into the image of a tow truck.

— Ken Willis, ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

WHAT'S ON TAP

CUP SERIES: Gander RV Duel At Daytona

SITE: Daytona International Speedway (2.5-mile tri-oval)

SCHEDULE: Thursday, races (Fox Sports 1, coverage begins at 5:30 p.m., racing at 7 p.m.)

CUP SERIES: Daytona 500

SITE: Daytona International Speedway

SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.). Saturday, practice (Fox Sports 1, noon). Sunday, race (coverage begins at 1 p.m., racing at 2:30 p.m.)

XFINITY: NASCAR Racing Experience 300

SITE: Daytona International Speedway

SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (noon and 2 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 9:30 a.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 2:30 p.m.)

GANDER OUTDOORS TRUCKS: NextEra Energy 250

SITE: Daytona International Speedway

TV SCHEDULE: Thursday, practice (Fox Sports 2, 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.). Friday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 4:30 p.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 7:30 p.m.)

2019 CUP SERIES SCHEDULE AND WINNERS

Feb. 10: Clash at Daytona (Jimmie Johnson)

Feb. 14: 150-mile qualifying races for Daytona 500

Feb. 17: Daytona 500

Feb. 24: Folds of Honor 500 at Atlanta

March 3: Pennzoil 400 at Las Vegas

March 10: TicketGuardian 500 at Phoenix

March 17: Auto Club 400 at Fontana

March 24: STP 500 at Martinsville

March 31: O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 at Texas

April 7: Food City 500 at Bristol

April 13: Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond

April 28: Geico 500 at Talladega

May 5: Dover 400

May 11: Kansas 400

May 18: All-Star Race at Charlotte

May 26: Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte

June 2: Pocono 400

June 9: FireKeepers Casino 400 at Michigan

June 23: Toyota/Save Mart 350 at

Sonoma

June 30: Overton's 400 at Chicagoland

July 6: Coke Zero 400 at Daytona

July 13: Quaker State 400 at Kentucky

July 21: Foxwoods 301 at New Hampshire

July 28: Gander Outdoors 400 at Pocono

Aug. 4: Go Bowling at Watkins Glen

Aug. 11: Consumers Energy 400 at Michigan

Aug. 17: Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race at Bristol

Sept. 1: Southern 500 at Darlington

Sept. 8: Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis

Sept. 15: South Point 400 at Las Vegas

Sept. 21: Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond

Sept. 29: Bank of America 500k at Charlotte

Oct. 6: Delaware 400 at Dover

Oct. 13: 1000Bulbs.com 500 Talladega

Oct. 20: Hollywood Casino 400 at Kansas

Oct. 27: First Data 500 at Martinsville

Nov. 3: AAA Texas 500

Nov. 10: Can-Am 500k at Phoenix

Nov. 17: Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead-Miami



KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS

JOEY LOGANO Never any changes here after plate races 1	KYLE BUSCH Have you seen the curls on Instagram? 2	CHASE ELLIOTT Could use some NAPA Know-How on Sunday 3	KEVIN HARVICK Avoid "Big One" and he's a factor, always 4	MARTIN TRUOX JR. Last chance to win first plate-race 5	JIMMIE JOHNSON Displayed his hunger to end skid 6	ERIK JONES Will finish third in the 500 7	BRAD KESELOWSKI Great plate racer when avoiding trouble 8	KURT BUSCH Could drive Daytona in his sleep 9	ARIC ALMIROLA Both career wins came with a plate 10
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AROUND TOWN

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

SECTION B



KEVIN MAIN/CORRESPONDENT

Park Services Specialist Carla Sherwin, left, and speaker Cynthia Barnett.

Barnett speaks on 'water ethic'

By KEVIN MAIN
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING — Highlands Hammock State Park hosted the second seminar in their Florida Humanities Council series on Tuesday evening. The recreation hall was packed with guests eager to hear what Cynthia Barnett had to say in her talk entitled 'Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida and America.'

Barnett, born in LaBelle, is an environmental journalist dedicated to the protection of natural resources in her home state. Barnett teaches environmental journalism and nature

and adventure writing at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications in Gainesville.

Florida is a state that seems to have an abundance of water. Indeed, we often seem to have too much, or at least too much all at once. But in fact, the youngest generation of Floridians are now growing up in a state where water resources are limited. They won't be able to take water for granted like their parents and grandparents. The use of water will become a choice between one use and another.

And maybe that's the way it should have always

been. Instead of assuming our water quality would always be great and that our water quantity would always be unlimited we should have considered it for what it is: a limited natural resource. But it's not too late, as Barnett says, "we just need to develop a water ethic." A water ethic is simply a mindset that says I will make a conscious decision to use water wisely. Maybe this means landscaping with native plants so there is no need to water your yard. Maybe this means using less chemicals that could degrade water quality. There are so many things that we can do, which

is the focus of Barnett's book "Blue Revolution."

"The 1970s absolutely must be the years when America pays its debt to the past by reclaiming the purity of its air, its waters, and our living environment. It is literally now or never," said Richard Nixon, as he signed into law the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA was formed in 1970 after decades of abuse of our natural resources and environments.

It was a tough pill to swallow for the many industries that were the source of pollution and neglect. But tough

WATER | 2B

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

HAI to meet

SEBRING — The Heartland American-Israeli Initiative (HAI) will meet at 11:45 a.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Chicane's Restaurant, 3101 Golfview Drive. Order your own lunch off the menu. The guest speaker will be Einav Solomon, speaking of his time in the Israeli army.

Pulled pork dinner

AVON PARK — The Auxiliary of VFW Post 9853 will serve a Pulled Pork Dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, at the Post, 75 N. Olivia Drive in Avon Park. Dinner is \$8 and includes pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. Available until sold out and carry outs are available. The public is welcome. There is a smoke-free dining room. For information, call 863-452-9853.

Leadership Blue Gala

SEBRING — The Highlands County Democratic Party will host their annual Leadership Blue Gala fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Sebring Elks Lodge, 2618 Kenilworth Blvd. There will be a cash bar and a buffet. Guest speaker will Terrie Rizzo, chairman of the Florida State Democratic Party. Tickets are \$50 donation at Democratic Headquarters, 4216 Sebring Parkway, next to Ruby Tuesdays. For information, call 863-385-8601.

Valentine's dance

SEBRING — Sebring Village will host a Valentine's Dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 4343 Schumacher Road. Cost is \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members. Music by Dan Patrick. Bring your own snacks for your table. For tickets or information, call Glenda Gray at 863-471-0760 or Walt D'Alessandris at 863-273-0875.

Social Club breakfast

SEBRING — Sebring Mobile Estates will host the next Social Club Breakfast from 7-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, 4108 Kenilworth Blvd. in Sebring. \$5 per person. Menu includes sausage patties, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes, home fries and beverage. Part of the proceeds go to feed the hungry and the Humane Society.

Fourth annual charity tea and auction

LAKE PLACID — The GFWC Lake Placid Junior Woman's Club will have their Fourth Annual Charity Tea Party and Purse Auction at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 10 N. Main Ave. in Lake Placid. New and gently used purses will be auctioned off. There will be door prizes and an opportunity table. Tickets are a \$20 donation with proceeds going to help local charities. For information, call Paula at 863-835-2419.

Elvis Wade 12th Annual Show

SEBRING — Elvis Wade is back for his 12th Annual Elvis Wade Show from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, at Sun N. Lake Estates, 3500 Edgewater in Sebring. There will be dancing, door prizes and more. Bring your own non-alcoholic drinks and snacks. Advanced ticket sales are \$15 per person. For information, call 863-382-8296.

Sons of the American Revolution Highlands Chapter

SEBRING — The Sons of the American Revolution, which meets the third Saturday of each month, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Saturday,

BRIEFS | 11B



Work of Kelly Berning



COURTESY PHOTOS

Work by Trent Berning

Daytona State College faculty featured at MOFAC

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College (SFSC) Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) features the artwork of four Daytona State College faculty on exhibit in the lower lobby of the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts on the SFSC Highlands Campus in Avon Park from Wednesday, Feb. 13 – Thursday, March 28. Patrons of the museum may meet the artists during the exhibition's opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. in MOFAC. The artists are Trent Berning, Kelly

Berning, Stacey Reynolds, and Viktoriya McGrath.

Trent Berning is the assistant chair of the Studio Art Department and associate professor of ceramics at Daytona State College. According to Berning, formal inspiration for his work "is found in juxtapositions that create a heightened visual experience. Some of these elements are ancient perfume bottles with highly ornamented tops that explode from the vessels, which conveys growth, transformation, and reflections of internal strengths. Others compare gritty tactile experience of relics and raw earth to the tension of voids between

objects that intrinsically take on humanoid characteristics."

Kelly Berning is an adjunct instructor of design and sculpture. Berning's work is based on her experiences as a woman and a mother. "The ceramic figures function as a catalyst for living vicariously through a child's innocent eyes," she said. "They are directly influenced by a child's world and the constant worry a mother feels trying to keep her child safe in our perilous society. Because there has been so much sadness in the world lately, I was compelled to create sculptures that offer comfort, peace, and freedom. In short, this body of

work is about love."

Reynolds is an assistant professor of painting and drawing. Reynolds considers herself a cathartic painter. "I exhibit work that seeks to evoke emotions, questions background, and expresses the journey of one's self," she said. "Largely inspired by abstract expressionism, naïve mark making, intuitive gestures, and driven by symbolism, the works are abstract at first glance to the viewer, but have some sense of childhood imagery disguised among the colorful layers."

McGrath is an assistant professor in the Studio

MOFAC | 2B

Florida Orchestra returns to SFSC



COURTESY PHOTO/

The Florida Orchestra.

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS SUN

The Florida Orchestra returns to the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College (SFSC) in Avon Park for a romantic trip through the stars for Valentine's Day. Music Director Michael Francis conducts Holst's iconic "The Planets" along with two dreamy pieces by Debussy, "Clair de Lune (Moonlight)" and "Nocturnes" on Thursday,

Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. The concert also features the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. The performance is sponsored by Dr. Andrew and Beth Kulick and Carol Emery, professor emerita at SFSC.

Maestro Francis and General Manager Edward Parsons will give a pre-concert talk that delves into the stories behind the music at 6 p.m. in the adjacent SFSC Museum of

SFSC | 2B

'I Have a Dream' essay winners

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

SEBRING — The Rev. Laura M. White Tutoring Program of Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. church, located at 870 N. MLK Jr. Blvd. in Sebring, where Rev. Dr. D.A. Bonney is the pastor, held an "I Have a Dream" essay contest. The winners of the essay were third-grade student, Luz Echavvaria and fifth-grade student, Nicolas Caruso.

Luz wrote in her essay the following statement, "I plan to put all my effort into my degree and go to college. I can listen in school, listen to the teacher and my work will not be inexplicable and learning will never be obsolete."

Nicolas wrote in his essay, "My dream is making it to the NBA-I realized that football was more physically complicated, and the plays were inexplicable for me. I became very optimistic about my future playing basketball and that is my dream."

The winners were presented with a first place medallion and \$25. The Rev. Laura M. White Women of Purpose Tutoring Program meets



COURTESY PHOTO

Winners of the "I Have a Dream" essay contest at the Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. church were third grader Luz Echavvaria and fifth grader Nicolas Caruso, pictured here alongside Pastor Dr. D.A. Bonney.

every Wednesday from 3:30-5 p.m. for ages preschool through

high school. Dinner is served immediately after tutoring.

New members



COURTESY PHOTO

David Flowers, incoming president for Avon Park Breakfast Rotary, inducts new members Gary and Patti Wedge. The Avon Park Breakfast Rotary Club meets at 7 a.m. every Friday at 50 N. Verona Ave. Please feel free to visit.

SFSC

FROM PAGE 1B

Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC). It is included free with each concert ticket.

This is the orchestra's third year in a row performing at the Wildstein Center as part of The Florida Orchestra Beyond the Bay. The program's mission is to reach areas of the state that do not have regular access to a symphony orchestra.

Based in Tampa Bay, The Florida Orchestra is the premier and largest orchestra in Florida and is recognized as one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in the nation. Now in its 51st season, it performs more than 130 concerts a year with a series of classical, popular and light symphonic morning concerts along with community concerts in

parks, schools, hospitals, and museums.

"Taking your sweetheart to a symphonic concert is a perfect, romantic date," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC. "Holst's 'The Planets' is a well-loved orchestral piece that, together with Debussy classics, promises to be an especially amorous evening."

Tickets start at \$24 and groups of 12 or more save 50 percent on admission, plus one free ticket for the group organizer. Tickets are available online at sfscARTS.org, by phone at 863-784-7178 or in person at the SFSC Box Office located at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park on the Highlands Campus of SFSC.

About South Florida State College Performing Arts

SFSC presents more than 35 nationally and

internationally touring artists at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts and the 250-seat SFSC University Center located on the Highlands Campus at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park. SFSC offers a Matinee Series for adults at leisure, Young People's Theater Series for school performances, a Jazz Series, a Trending Now Series of contemporary, family shows, and the popular Artist Series. Group rates and subscriptions are available online and at the box office. Upcoming performances include: Chita Rivera and Robert Klein - Feb. 20; "Mr. Las Vegas," Wayne Newton - Feb. 28; "The Voice" Sandi Patty - March 23; University of Florida Concert Choir - March 26; jazz vocalist Nicole Henry - March 28; and The Price is Right Live - March 30.



KEVIN MAIN/CORRESPONDENT

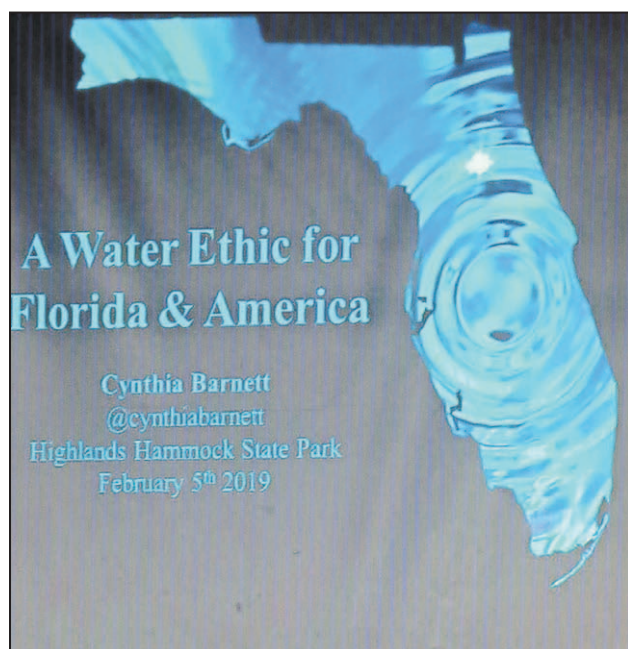
The sun sets over one of Sebring's most important water resources, Lake Jackson.

WATER

FROM PAGE 1B

new laws made a difference. Rivers such as the Cuyahoga, in Ohio, which had been so badly polluted that it caught fire in 1969, were restored to much better (if not pristine) condition. Florida waters such as Pensacola Bay and Tampa Bay, home to massive fish kills in the 1960's, eventually cleared up. It didn't happen overnight: it took the dedicated efforts of many people over many years.

Fifty years after the establishment of the EPA we are once again at a turning point. The population of Florida has skyrocketed from less than 3 million people in 1950 to over 20 million today. Of course, our water resources have not experienced the same growth. The Floridian Aquifer, one of the largest in the world, is feeling



KEVIN MAIN/CORRESPONDENT

The seminar 'A Water Ethic for Florida and America' was presented to guests at Highlands Hammock State Park.

the pressure, and the depletion can be seen in springs that have dried up in parts of the state and in the salt water intrusion into some of the water supplies of some of the coastal cities.

"It doesn't matter if

you are a Democrat or Republican," said Barnett. "Resource protection must be the concern of all of us. We must choose to protect the limited resource that is water. It's time to develop a water ethic."

MOFAC

FROM PAGE 1B

Art Department. The primary subject for her art is daily life. According to McGrath, "My work serves as a metaphor of my journey that speaks from worldly influences and resources. Memory and personal experiences converge and inspire my artistic choices of materials, content, and processes. It encompasses love, humanity, passion, death, loss, grief, birth, growth, joy, and all of the struggles of existence. My work is an illustrated parallel path running alongside the trials and emotions of my daily life journey."

MOFAC is located in the Wildstein Center at SFSC, 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park. The museum is open to the public on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m., or by appointment for group tours. Patrons of the Wildstein Center may visit the museum one hour prior to matinee and evening performances. For more information about MOFAC and its programs or to request a museum tour, contact Megan Stepe, curator, by phone at 863-784-7240, email at stepem@southflorida.edu or visit mofac.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Armored II by Stacey Reynolds



COURTESY PHOTO

Doughnut by Viktoryia McGrath

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Local libraries have free resources for children

Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee county libraries have extensive collections of books for children of all ages. In the children's areas of any Heartland Library Cooperative branch, you will find picture books in the 'Easy' collection, chapter books in the 'Fiction' collection, and books containing facts in the 'Nonfiction' collection. Our librarians develop all collections with their patrons in mind. They order the most recent, most popular and most awarded books to process and circulate but, some classics available to check-out as well.

Each library offers a selection of children's magazines that can be read in



LIBRARY LINES
Krystyl Farmer

the library or checked out and taken home to read. Some titles include Boys' Life, Family Fun, National Geographic Kids, and Highlights for Children, but there are many, many more! These magazines have content for kids and kids only! Appropriate advertisements, educational articles, and fun quizzes make up the bulk of some of the "fun" ones, but the educational titles have facts and resources to

inspire children's reality as well as their imagination.

Another "hidden gem" is the audiobook collection. Audiobooks are books that are read to you from a CD, some audiobooks in the children's collection include the print book but some are only the disc(s). I have noticed that some patrons think audiobooks sound like your old english teacher droning on about "The Epic of Gilgamesh" and depending on the reader, it just might sound like that but, some of them have sound effects and music that makes them a pleasure to listen to. They are definitely worth a try on a long road trip or even to break up the monotony of contemporary radio. Another aspect of the



children's area that is greatly appreciated by staff and patrons alike is the unique decor and furniture that appeals to kids of all ages. Each library has its own special way of creating an inviting space for children-bright colors, appropriate furniture, fun paintings, and/or activities for them to do while visiting. Some

Heartland libraries provide coloring pages and crayons or markers, puzzles, board games, and activity centers.

No matter what age your child is- they will have a great time using the AWE computers with you. These computers are pre-programmed with educational games, ebooks, and encyclopedias that, when used by parent and child together, can be a fun and fulfilling learning experience. ABCmouse.com is available for free via access on the public computers at any of the Heartland libraries. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents co-view content with children ages 2-5. All of the Heartland



Library Cooperative branches offer enriching and exciting resources for children of all ages. Stop by your local branch to discover what we have in store for you and your child. If you are unable to visit, download a few ebooks or e-audiobooks from our website: www.myhlc.org. <http://pediatrics.aapublications.org/content/138/5/e20162591>

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MISCELLANEOUS
5230

Rivera, Klein performing at SFSC

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

The incomparable Broadway legend and two-time Tony Award winner, Chita Rivera, will recreate signature moments from her illustrious career including numbers from "West Side Story," "Sweet Charity," "Chicago," "Kiss of the Spider Woman," "Bye, Bye, Birdie," "The Rink," and "The Visit" at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at South Florida State College (SFSC) in Avon Park on Wednesday, Feb. 20 for one performance at 7 p.m. Robert Klein, who has had an acclaimed 40-year career in comedy, on Broadway, on television, and in film will open the show. The performance is sponsored by Dr. Dini Rada at Heartland Pathology Associates and Dr. Catherine Cornelius, past president of SFSC.

Born on Jan. 23, 1933 in Washington, D.C., Chita Rivera went on to train at the School of American Ballet before becoming one of Broadway's most beloved stars. She garnered major attention for the role of Anita, which she created, in "West Side Story" and earned her first Tony nomination for her role as Rose in 1960s "Bye Bye Birdie." She starred in "Sweet Charity," "Chicago," "Zenda," "Flower Drum Song," "Zorba," "Anything Goes," "Nine the Musical," and more.

"Chita has more Tony Award nominations than any other stage performer," said Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC. "I saw her perform in 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' and it was breathtaking. Our audience will witness a Broadway legend at this performance."

Rivera received her first Tony Award in 1984 for



LAURA MARIE DUNCAN PHOTO/

Chita Rivera and Robert Klein will be at South Florida State College on Feb. 20.

her performance in the musical "The Rink" which co-starred Liza Minnelli. In 1986, while she was co-starring in "Jerry's Girls," she was injured in a car accident and required 16 pins in her leg. In her 60s, she was awarded her second Tony Award for her starring role in "Kiss of the Spider Woman."

Rivera, who was the first Latina to be a Kennedy Center Honoree, is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. It is awarded to people who have made a significant contribution in "world peace, cultural, or other public endeavors." Together with Andrew Lloyd Webber, she was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2018 Tony Awards.

Currently, Rivera is touring in London where she is performing prior to her show in Avon Park. "She will then take her performance to Feinstein's in San Francisco and New York," added Garren. "This is definitely a show not to be missed!"

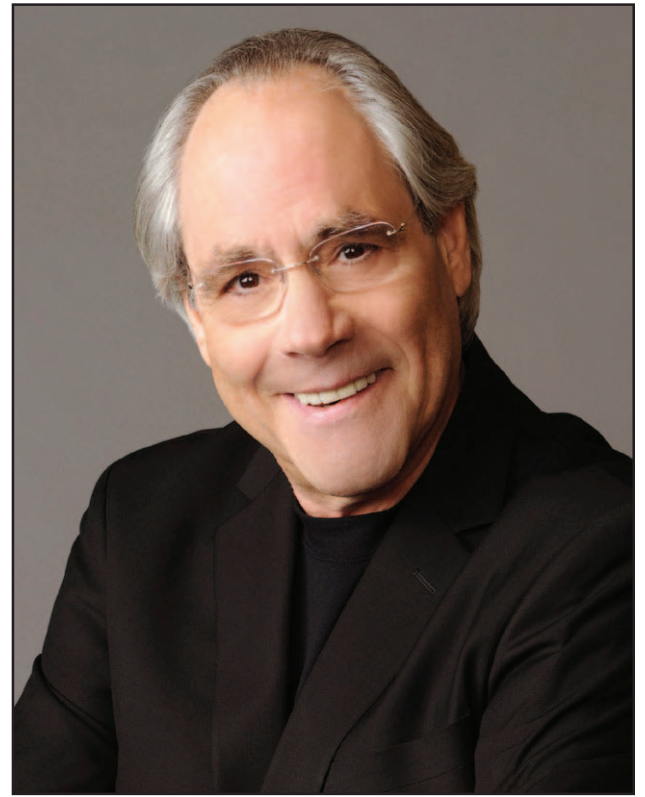
Robert Klein was a member of the famed Second City comedy troupe in Chicago. Influenced by the comedy of Jonathan Winters and Lenny Bruce, Klein

deconstructs life's absurdities in his funny observational stand-up comedy. He was nominated twice for Grammy Awards in "Best Comedy Album of the Year" for his albums "Child of the Fifties" and "Mind over Matter."

In 1975, Klein was the first comedian to appear in a live concert on Home Box Office (HBO). He has gone on to do nine one-man shows for HBO and received his first Emmy nomination for Outstanding Music and Lyrics in 2001 for "Robert Klein: Child in His 50s."

On Broadway, Klein, who was nominated for a Tony Award for his performance in "They're Playing Our Song," also appeared in "The Apple Tree," "The Sisters Rosensweig," "Robert Klein on Broadway," and "An Evening with Robert Klein" which included his signature song and dance routine, "I Can't Stop My Leg."

From 1986 to 1988, he had his own late night talk show, Robert Klein Time, on the USA Network. He has more than 100



COURTESY PHOTO/

Comedian Robert Klein, along with Chita Rivera, will perform at SFSC on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

late night appearances on Saturday Night Live, The Tonight Show, David Letterman and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.

"Our audience has been asking for more comedy," added Garren, "and they're getting comedy royalty. Klein has influenced Seinfeld, Jon Stewart and Billy Crystal."

Tickets begin at \$45 and are available online at sfscARTS.org, by phone at 863-784-7178 and in person at the SFSC Box Office located at 600 West College Drive on the Highlands Campus of South Florida State College.

About South Florida State College Performing Arts

SFSC presents more than 35 nationally and internationally touring

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It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

Guthrie's present 'Everything Everly'

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
SUN EVENTS WRITER

Growing up in the Midwest with roots in Kentucky, Jock and Jeb Guthrie share a lot of history with the Everly Brothers — not to mention their perfect singing harmonies.

With startling authenticity, the Guthrie Brothers engage their audiences with lots of humor and history through every show, recreating the hits with perfect pitch such as “Wake Up Little Susie”, “Bird Dog”, “When Will I Be Loved”, “All I have to do is Dream”, “Let it Be Me” and “Bye Bye Love.”

On Thursday, Feb. 21, the Guthrie Brothers will present “Everything Everly: An Everly Brothers Experience” at The Genesis Center in Lake Placid.

“It’s really a labor of love with these (kind of) artists because we connect so strongly with them,” Jeb Guthrie said. “It’s not just that we can play it but the songs mean something to us as well. The more we play them, the more we discover the different aspects of the music. Instead of it getting boring, it just gets deeper.”

Jeb and Jock started playing together around 8th grade, according to Jeb. The duo grew up in Green Bay, WI. At the start of their musical prowess, Jock played guitar and Jeb manned the drums.

“We had a garage band thing going on,” Jeb said. “It became evident shortly after we started to play together that the harmony-based music was really a strong thing for us.”



After a run of bands with names like Woeful Existence, Antique Shoppe, Community, Steak Nite and “the almost famous” On The Edge, the two brothers realized they weren’t always playing to their strongest suit.

“We realized that (although) we had a good run with a couple of rock bands and it was a lot of fun, it sort of made us more faceless. So, we went back and played more as an acoustic duo. It was easier and we kind of read each other’s minds when we played.”

Fast forward to now, the Guthries have been performing as “Everything Everly” for around 11 years, coupled with their Simon & Garfunkel tribute presentation “Scarborough Fair.” The overwhelming audience reaction to their performances continue to confirm their feelings.

“What we have found is that there are not a lot of people that do these kind of artists,” Jeb said. “It’s a very popular thing now to have a tribute band. That particular audience tends to skew from the Baby Boomer generation and up. When you come to Florida, that’s pretty much the demographic.”

Audiences of their shows are not limited to just those

demographics, however, according to Jeb.

“When we play a show, there are a couple of generations there,” Jeb said. “Sometimes, where the older folks bring their children and grandchildren which is very interesting. There is a larger pool to pull from.”

Jock and Jeb always enjoy interacting with their audience, keeping it light-hearted as they rock through the Everly Brothers hits of the 1950s and ‘60s.

“There is a lot of back and forth and cracking jokes and kind of (even) embarrassing audience members into singing along with us,” Jeb said. “(But) it ends up being a really good vibe. It’s not just like we play the songs at them, it’s more like ‘let’s have a little get together’ there.”

The Guthrie Brothers will present “Everything Everly: An Everly Brothers Experience” on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at The Genesis Center.

Tickets range from \$20 (general admission), or \$25 to \$35, plus tax and fees. For tickets or more information, call 863-494-9362, visit www.sunevents.com or buy in person at the venue Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 1B

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Jimmy Travis live

SEBRING — Sebring Village welcomes singer, songwriter, musician and comedian Jimmy Travis at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18, 4343 Schumacher Road. Cost is \$10 per person. For tickets or information, call Glenda Gray at 863-471-0760 or Walt D’Alessandris at 863-273-0875.

Essential oils class

SEBRING — Free to the public Essential Oils Class will take place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Sebring Public Library and Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Lake Placid Memorial Library at 11 a.m. For information or to register, call or text 863-243-4011.

LaGrange, Indiana reunion

SARASOTA — Residents of LaGrange County, Indiana will have their Florida reunion at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Der Dutchman Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista Street in Sarasota.

Iowa reunion

SEBRING — There will be an Iowa Reunion

on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Homer’s Restaurant, 1000 Sebring Square. Registration is at 11 a.m. with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and Fellowship starts at 1:30 p.m. Purchase required for buffet lunch. For information, call Joan at 563-581-8848.

Annual Indiana Day

SEBRING — The Annual Indiana Carroll County Day will take place at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Homer’s Restaurant, 1000 Sebring Square. Current and former residents are invited to attend. For information, call 863-382-1770.

Virginia Days 2019

SEBRING — The 2019 Virginia Days will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Homer’s Restaurant, 1000 Sebring Square. For information, call 540-975-1980.

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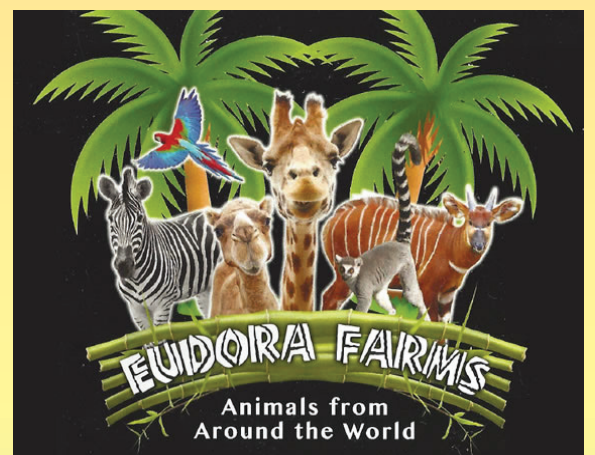
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Miss Highlands County Pageant



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See Page 2

Mexican drug lord 'El Chapo' convicted of drug trafficking

His murderous Sinaloa drug cartel made billions in profits by smuggling tons of cocaine, heroin, meth and marijuana into the U.S.

By TOM HAYS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was convicted Tuesday of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation after a three-month trial packed with Hollywood-style tales of grisly killings, political payoffs, cocaine hidden in jalapeno cans, jewel-encrusted guns and a naked escape with his mistress through a tunnel.

Guzman listened to a drumbeat of guilty verdicts on drug and conspiracy charges that could put the 61-year-old escape artist behind bars for decades in

a maximum-security U.S. prison selected to thwart another one of the breakouts that made him a folk hero in his native country.

A jury whose members' identities were kept secret as a security measure reached a verdict after deliberating six days in the expansive case. They sorted through what authorities called an "avalanche" of evidence gathered since the late 1980s that Guzman and his murderous Sinaloa drug cartel made billions in profits by smuggling tons of cocaine, heroin, meth and marijuana into the U.S.

As the judge read the verdict, Guzman stared at the jury, and his wife watched the

scene, both with resignation in their faces. When the jurors were discharged and Guzman stood to leave the courtroom, the couple traded thumbs-ups.

U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan lauded the jury's meticulous attention to detail and the "remarkable" approach it took toward deliberations. Cogan said it made him "very proud to be an American."

Evidence showed drugs poured into the U.S. through secret tunnels or hidden in tanker trucks, concealed in the undercarriage of passenger cars and packed in rail cars passing through legitimate points of entry

— suggesting that a border wall wouldn't be much of a worry.

The prosecution's case against Guzman, a roughly 5½-foot figure whose nickname translates to "Shorty," included the testimony of several turncoats and other witnesses. Among them were Guzman's former Sinaloa lieutenants, a computer encryption expert and a Colombian cocaine supplier who underwent extreme plastic surgery to disguise his appearance.

One Sinaloa insider described Mexican workers getting contact highs while



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Jan. 19, 2017 photo, authorities escort Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, in New York.

EL CHAPO | 8

Trump not 'thrilled' with border deal but leaning toward it

Deal would provide \$1.4 billion for border barriers

By JILL COLVIN, ANDREW TAYLOR, ALAN FRAM and JONATHAN LEMIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Under mounting pressure from his own party, President Donald Trump appeared to be grudgingly leaning toward accepting an agreement Tuesday that would head off a threatened second government shutdown but provide just a fraction of the money he's been demanding for his Mexican border wall.

Trump said he would need more time to study the plan, but he also declared he was not expecting another shutdown this weekend when funding for parts of the government would run out. He strongly signaled he planned to scrounge up additional dollars for the wall by raiding other federal coffers to deliver on the signature promise of his presidential campaign.

"I can't say I'm happy. I can't say I'm thrilled," Trump said of the proposed deal. "But the wall is getting built, regardless. It doesn't matter because we're doing other things beyond what we're talking about here."

Accepting the deal, worked out by congressional negotiators from both parties, would be a disappointment for a president who has repeatedly insisted he needs \$5.7 billion for a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, saying the project is paramount for national security. Trump turned down a similar deal in



AP PHOTO

President Donald Trump charged ahead with his pledge to build a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, making the case for it in El Paso, Texas on Monday night.

December, forcing the 35-day partial shutdown that left hundreds of thousands of federal workers without paychecks and Republicans reeling. There is little appetite in Washington for a repeat.

Lawmakers tentatively agreed Monday night to a deal that would provide nearly \$1.4 billion for border barriers and keep the government funded for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

The agreement would allow 55 miles of new fencing — constructed using existing designs such as metal slats — but far less than the 215 miles the White House demanded in December. The fencing would be built in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

Full details were not expected to be released until Wednesday as lawmakers worked to translate their verbal agreement into legislation. But Republican leaders urged Trump to sign on.

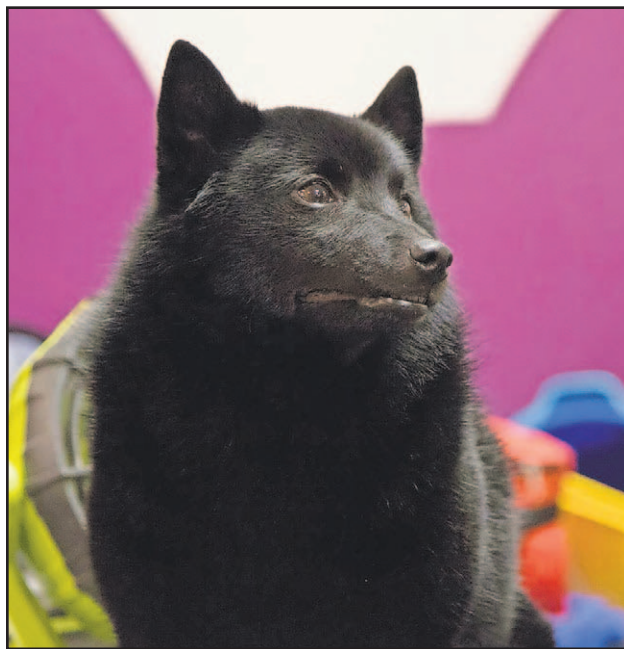
DRAMA AT THE DOG SHOW



An Old English sheepdog name Bugaboo's Let It Go Blu Mtn gets her fur brushed during the Best of Breed event at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show.



Bean, a Sussex spaniel, competes with the sporting group at the 143rd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show Tuesday. Bean won the sporting group.



AP PHOTOS

Colton the Schipperke sits backstage at Madison Square Garden during the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019. A day after winning the nonsporting group and a place in the final ring of seven, Colton was ruled ineligible for best in show.



A toy poodle is groomed ahead of the Best of Breed event.



A Lagotto Romagnolo competes with the sporting group.



An English setter is prepared to compete at the 143rd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, Tuesday in New York.

Schipperke ruled out for top prize at Westminster Kennel Club

By BEN WALKER
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK — Dog drama at Westminster: The schipperke got skipped.

A day after earning a coveted spot in the final ring of seven at the Westminster Kennel Club, Colton the schipperke was ruled ineligible for best in show Tuesday night.

There was a conflict of interest

— top judge Peter Green's longtime partner has co-owned dogs with one of Colton's co-owners, including 2013 Westminster champion Banana Joe the affenpinscher.

Spirited and compact, Colton was going to be allowed to walk on to the green carpet at Madison Square Garden when the finalists are announced. Judge Peter Green was then to excuse Colton from the ring, leaving only six contenders for the

big prize.

"This doesn't negate all he's done here," handler Christa Cook said as she brushed Colton's colt backstage at the Garden. "It's been a great experience, his accomplishment is in the book forever."

Never before at Westminster had a schipperke taken the highly competitive nonsporting group,

DRAMA | 8



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Key election officials have no previous experience

Florida's new secretary of state and two key election supervisors have never run an election

By CAT GLORIA

FRESH TAKE FLORIDA, A NEWS SERVICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida's new secretary of state and two key election supervisors in some of the state's most-populous counties have never run an election.

The officials have taken over central roles for future elections, with no previous experience besides voting themselves. They include recently appointed Secretary of State Laurel Lee, Broward County Supervisor of Elections Peter Antonacci and Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Wendy Link.

Broward and Palm Beach are the second- and third-largest counties in Florida by the

number of registered voters, with a total of more than 2.1 million voters — and far more registered Democrats than Republicans.

Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Lee, 44, when former Secretary of State Michael Ertel resigned after a photo surfaced of him wearing blackface.

Ertel had more than a decade's experience as the election supervisor in Seminole County before his appointment, but Lee is hardly the first secretary of state selected with no election experience. Four-in-10 secretaries of state over the past decade were also new to the position.

Lee is married to longtime Florida Republican Sen. Tom Lee, a former Senate president. She graduated from the University of Florida Law School then

served as a circuit court judge. As secretary of state she earns about \$18,000 less per year than when she was a judge.

She will be responsible for guiding the division of elections during an election, or in case of a recount ensuring that each county follows the law.

"I have previously approached elections as a candidate and a voter, and the experiences have left me incredibly appreciative of the dedication and hard work of Florida's elections officials and their staff," Lee said in a statement.

Florida's 2018 midterm recounts left Broward and Palm Beach supervisors of elections under fire. Former Gov. Rick Scott sued both Brenda Snipes and Susan Bucher, accusing

them of incompetence. Scott also suspected fraud on Snipes' part. Escalating tensions, both counties missed the deadline to submit machine recount results for three statewide races.

Scott brought in his former general counsel, Antonacci, to replace Snipes near the end of his term as governor. In January, DeSantis removed Bucher, replacing her with Republican lawyer Wendy Link.

Scott has appointed Antonacci to several positions since they met in 2011, including as director of the South Florida Water Management District and most recently to Enterprise Florida, an economic development organization.

"My job is to be enthusiastic and ensure they have the tools

and resources needed to be successful," Antonacci said in a statement.

He attributed Broward's mishaps to "deficient management" that led to a staff shortage, lack of training and budgeting errors. He will serve until 2020, finishing Snipes' term.

Link, who declined to discuss her appointment, previously led her law firm focused on real estate and corporate law. Like Lee, she's served on boards for organizations like United Way and the Economic Council of Palm Beach County.

The president of the Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections, Paul Lux, said the supervisors of elections are enrolled in election training classes. Each will have a mentor to help.

Police search for tiny monkey stolen from Palm Beach Zoo

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Police in Florida need help finding a little monkey that was stolen from the Palm Beach Zoo.

Zoo spokeswoman Naki Carter announced Tuesday that 12-year-old Kali, a rare Goeldi's monkey, was taken from her enclosure on Monday. A zookeeper discovered the monkey missing during early morning rounds, and then saw that the mesh had been cut open.

Police are seeking help identifying a person seen in surveillance video walking along the zoo's perimeter early Monday.

Goeldi's monkeys, also known as callimicos, are naturally from the Amazon. Zoo president Margo McKnight said they are "increasingly sought after for the illegal pet trade."

Officials say Kali has a microchip, weighs around 1 pound (0.45 kilogram) and requires a specialized diet as well as anti-inflammatory medicine.



AP PHOTO

A 12-year-old Goeldi's monkey, that was stolen Monday from the zoo. Zoo president Margo McKnight said Goeldi's monkeys are "increasingly sought after for the illegal pet trade."

Florida legislator accuses fellow lawmaker of bullying

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A South Florida lawmaker has accused a fellow Democratic legislator of bullying her at a meeting of party leaders, but the other lawmaker says the exchange was being mischaracterized.

Florida Rep. Anika Omphroy on Monday wrote a letter to the Florida House speaker saying that Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith lashed out at her with "verbal assaults" at the meeting of Democratic leaders at an Orlando hotel last weekend.

"Representative Guillermo Smith's behavior was a show of dominance over me as a woman," Omphroy wrote in the letter to Jose Oliva, the Republican House speaker, who referred the matter for an investigation. "No woman should suffer mental anguish or emotional distress from anyone, regardless of the abuser's political affiliation, race or sexuality."

Smith, who is gay, tweeted that the details in Omphroy's letter are false. The central Florida lawmaker said they had a

tense conversation, but he is stunned and confused by her letter.

"I walked away from the exchange, which happened in a public space in front of multiple elected officials with a completely different understanding, which is why I was stunned and confused by her letter," said Smith, who added he has reached out to Omphroy and the speaker in an effort to start a dialogue. "I respect her + care about how we talk about these important issues together as colleagues."

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

DNA leads to man's arrest in California in 1998 Florida rape

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Authorities say DNA linked to a Florida rape more than 20 years ago has led to a man being arrested and extradited from San Francisco.

The Palm Beach Post cites a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report as saying Lenny Ray Friou has been arrested in the 1998 rape of an 18-year-old woman in West Palm Beach. He was jailed without bail in the county Wednesday on a charge

of sexual assault with a weapon or force.

The sheriff's office started a project in 2015 to review a backlog of 1,500 rape evidence kits.

The now-39-year-old victim told the sheriff's office last year that she wanted to pursue the case. It was re-opened in March, and DNA connected Friou to the assault.

Florida updates sea turtle nesting totals

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Wildlife officials say sea turtles consistently nested on Florida

beaches in 2018, despite lingering algae blooms that killed marine life and tropical storms that washed out habitat.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute posted the statewide nesting totals on Tuesday.

More than 91,400 loggerhead nests were found, about 5,000 fewer than in the previous year. Researchers say it's unclear why those turtles' nesting totals can wildly fluctuate year to year.

Green sea turtle nests spike every other year. Roughly 4,500 nests reported in 2018 followed 53,000 nests reported in 2017.

Florida is the only continental U.S. state where leatherbacks regularly nest. This year's total of 949 is up from 663 nests in 2017.

Kemp's ridley and hawksbill turtles nest in smaller numbers in Florida.

University of Florida gets 800 boxes of Bill Nelson's papers

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A collection of papers and other historical material spanning the 46-year career of former U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson has been sent to the University of Florida's

George A. Smathers Libraries.

The university announced Tuesday that the collection includes 800 boxes of papers and more than six terabytes of electronic records.

Nelson, a Democrat, lost his re-election bid to former Florida Gov. Rick Scott in November after serving three terms in Washington.

The documents cover Nelson's youth, early political career and his training and flight aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 1986. It also includes the flight suit he wore and a Florida Gators bumper sticker he took to space.

North Korea hasn't slowed its nuclear program

US commander: 'Little to no verifiable change has occurred in North Korea's military capabilities'

By DEB RIECHMANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A top U.S. commander said Tuesday that he has not seen any effort by North Korea to curtail its nuclear weapons program since President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un met for nuclear talks last year.

Army Gen. Robert Abrams testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee ahead of Trump's second meeting with Kim later this month in Hanoi, Vietnam. The U.S. hopes North Korea will give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for an end to punishing international sanctions.

Abrams called the second meeting a "positive sign of continued dialogue," but added, "We have not observed activity that's consistent with a full-court press on denuclearization."

He said there has been a reduction in tensions along the Korean Demilitarized

Zone — the buffer zone between North and South Korea — and cited he North's decision to stop missile tests and other provocative actions, but said, "Little to no verifiable change has occurred in North Korea's military capabilities."

Abrams noted it has been some 440 days since North Korea conducted a missile test or a nuclear weapons explosion. But he said North Korea's existing capabilities, along with its continued development of advanced conventional systems, remain unchecked.

"The only observable change has been a reduction in the attention and bellicosity the regime layers onto its military activities. Since the end of 2017, Pyongyang has reduced its hostile rhetoric and halted media coverage of Kim Jong Un's attending capstone events such as large-scale, live-fire training or special operations raids on mock-up alliance targets," Abrams said.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Newborn baby pulled from storm drain in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Rescue workers in South Africa pulled a newborn baby from a storm drain in a four-hour operation that ended with whoops and cheers from onlookers.

Rescue Care Paramedics, one of the groups that helped to extricate the infant girl in Durban, says it is unclear why the baby was "dumped" and that police are investigating.

The group says emergency responders went to the scene on Monday after residents heard a baby crying from deep inside the concrete storm drain. It says the area was dug up and a chisel and hammer were used to break into the drain.

Video shows a rescuer lifting the baby to a colleague standing above a pit as people celebrate the successful rescue. South African media say the infant is being treated in a hospital.

Frankfurt airport working on flying taxis

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The operator of Frankfurt's international airport says it is developing a concept for electric air taxi services.

Fraport AG is working with Volocopter GmbH, which makes two-seat, multi-rotor electric aircraft that can fly with a pilot or autonomously.

Actually operating such taxis to bring people to and from the airport will have to wait until the legal framework for autonomous flying is established and



AP PHOTO

Doctor Timothy Hardcastle treats a baby in hospital after she was rescued from a storm water pipe in Durban, South Africa, Monday. The newborn, believed to be between one and three days old, was rescued after a three-hour rescue mission.

such aircraft can be certified for passenger use.

Volocopter says its aircraft, based on drone technology and flight tested in Dubai, are quiet, safe and local emissions-free. The idea ultimately would be to operate pilotless when the legal framework is in place.

Spanish islands adopt ambitious law to fight climate change

MADRID (AP) — Spain's Balearic Islands have approved a local law that by 2050 aims to ban the use of fossil fuels and adopt renewable energy for all of the region's power needs, in what authorities claim is a pioneering step in Europe.

The Climate Change and Energy

Transition Law passed Tuesday on the islands also bans new diesel vehicles on the roads from 2025 and new gas vehicles from 2035.

The law is facing a legal challenge at the European Commission from Spanish vehicle manufacturers.

The regional government says the islands are especially vulnerable to global warming, with lower rainfall and more frequent weather extremes that will threaten public health, the water supply and tourism, among other sectors.

The popular islands in the Mediterranean, off eastern Spain, include Ibiza and Mallorca.

Portuguese Catholic church finds few sexual abuse cases

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The Catholic Church's news service in Portugal reports that a senior official says church authorities have investigated only about a dozen allegations of sexual abuse involving Portuguese priests since 2001.

Agencia Ecclesia says Father Manuel Barbosa, spokesman for the Portuguese bishops' conference, told reporters Tuesday that more than half of those cases were dropped because church investigators decided there was not enough evidence to pursue them.

Speaking at a news conference at the Fatima shrine in central Portugal, he says it is usually up to families to report any allegations to the police.

Agencia Ecclesia did not quote Barbosa as giving any specific numbers of sex abuse cases, or saying if any priests were prosecuted or punished.

Senate backs major public lands, conservation bill

Adds a million acres of new wilderness, expands several national parks, creates 4 new national monuments

By **MATTHEW DALY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday approved a major public lands bill that revives a popular conservation program, adds 1.3 million acres of new wilderness, expands several national parks and creates four new national monuments.

The measure, the largest public lands bill considered by Congress in a decade, combines more than 100 separate bills that designate more than 350 miles of river as wild and scenic, create 2,600 miles of new federal trails and add nearly 700,000 acres of new recreation and conservation areas.

The bill also withdraws 370,000 acres in Montana and Washington state from mineral development.

The Senate approved the bill, 92-8, sending it to the House.

Lawmakers from both parties said the bill's most important provision was to permanently reauthorize the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the country. The program expired last fall after Congress could not agree on language to extend it.

The hodgepodge bill offered something for nearly everyone, with projects stretching across the country.

Even so, the bill was derailed last year after Republican Sen. Mike Lee objected, saying he wanted to exempt his home state of Utah from a law that allows the president to designate federal lands as a national monument protected from development.

Lee's objection during a heated Senate debate in December forced lawmakers to start over in the new Congress, culminating in Tuesday's Senate vote.

Sen. Cory Gardner, a Colorado Republican who clashed with Lee on the Senate floor, said the vote caps four years of work to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and protect public lands.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said the bill enhances use of public lands and water, while promoting conservation and sporting activities such as hunting and fishing.

The bill includes provisions sponsored by more than half of the senators, Murkowski said, applauding a "very, very collaborative" process.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., called the Land and Water Conservation Fund one of the most popular and effective programs Congress has ever created.

The program uses

federal royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling to fund conservation and public recreation projects around the country. The fund is authorized to collect \$900 million a year but generally receives less than half that amount from Congress.

The bill creates three new national monuments to be administered by the National Park Service and a fourth monument overseen by the Forest Service. The three park service monuments are the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument in Mississippi and the Mill Springs and Camp Nelson national monuments in Kentucky.

The Evers site was the

home of the slain civil rights leader, while Mill Springs commemorates a Civil War battlefield. Camp Nelson was used as Union Army hospital and recruiting center during the Civil War. President Donald Trump proclaimed Camp Nelson a national monument last year, but the bill gives it permanent, congressionally approved protection.

The bill also designates the former Saint Francis Dam site in California as a national memorial and monument. The dam outside Los Angeles collapsed in 1928, killing 431 people in one of the largest tragedies in California history.

Court ruling doesn't stop untraceable election spending

Report: Outside groups spent millions on ads in closing months of 2018 election; only 8 percent could be traced to donors

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 100 outside groups spent over \$50 million on "independent expenditure" ads during the closing months of last year's midterm election season. But only about 8 percent of them revealed information about the donors behind the ads, according to a new report.

Ever since the Supreme Court's landmark 2010 Citizens United decision paved the way for more money in politics, spending by outside groups like super political action committees and nonprofit "social welfare"

organizations has skyrocketed. They can spend vast sums as long as they do not coordinate with the candidates they back. Frequently, though, that money cannot be traced. And it's often donated by wealthy individuals who may have a vested interest in who gets elected.

The report released this week by the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center offers just the latest discouraging news for campaign finance activists, many of whom hailed a federal court ruling last year in Washington, D.C., as a game changer that would force so-called dark money groups to reveal more information

about their donors.

The August decision in the case of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington v. the Federal Election Commission appeared to crack down on the lack of disclosure. District Court Judge Beryl A. Howell ruled that donors who give for political purposes and independent expenditure campaigns should be disclosed.

But the task of clarifying how to apply the decision fell to the FEC, which issued vague guidance that has allowed outside groups to skirt disclosure, said Brendan Fischer, an attorney for the CLC, which advocates

for greater transparency in election spending.

"The FEC's inaction and dysfunction has signaled to many 'dark money' groups that secret spending can continue unabated," Fischer said.

A spokesman for the FEC declined to comment.

About 24 groups reported some contributors but often omitted key details when submitting their reports to the FEC, the CLC found. About three dozen groups that collectively spent \$14.3 million on independent expenditures did not explain why they did not report their contributors. Others were vague.

Majority Forward, a nonprofit group with ties to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., disclosed none of its donors after spending \$19.2 million on independent expenditures during the election season's closing stretch, the report states.

Instead, Majority Forward indicated in a January FEC filing that it didn't have to because its donations fell outside the reporting requirements. That's because the money was not given for specific "political purposes" or earmarked for ads, group president J.B. Poersch stated in the filing.

The group advocated for Democratic candidates throughout the election.

The conservative Heritage Action for America organization similarly argued it didn't have anything to disclose.

That's despite officials from Heritage Action publicly stating that they asked donors for money for 12 races in which they ran ads, according to the report. The group said in a recent FEC filing that the \$1.6 million in independent expenditure ads it ran supporting Republicans during the final three months of 2018 came from existing funds — not donors.

National debt hits new milestone, topping \$22 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The national debt has passed a new milestone, topping \$22 trillion for the first time.

The Treasury Department's daily statement showed Tuesday that total outstanding public debt stands at \$22.01 trillion. It stood at \$19.95 trillion when President Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20, 2017.

The debt figure has been accelerating since the passage of Trump's \$1.5 trillion

tax cut in December 2017 and action by Congress last year to increase spending on domestic and military programs.

The national debt is the total of the annual budget deficits. The Congressional Budget Office projects that this year's deficit will be \$897 billion — a 15.1 percent increase over last year's imbalance of \$779 billion. In the coming years, the CBO forecasts that the deficit will keep rising, top \$1 trillion

annually beginning in 2022 and never drop below \$1 trillion through 2029. Much of the increase will come from mounting costs to fund Social Security and Medicare as the vast generation of baby boomers continue to retire.

The Trump administration contends that its tax cuts will eventually pay for themselves by generating faster economic growth. That projection is disputed by many economists.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

2 malnourished children found in dog cage

DECATUR, Texas (AP) — Deputies on Tuesday discovered two malnourished children crammed into a locked dog cage and two more smeared with feces and urine in a barn in North Texas, in what a sheriff described as the worst case of child abuse he has ever seen.

The barn was "crudely fashioned" into living quarters, Wise County Sheriff Lane Akin said, adding that all the children were hungry and thirsty around 7:20 a.m. when deputies responding to a domestic disturbance found them on the property near Rhome,

about 20 miles north of Fort Worth.

"There was plenty of food inside the barn, but the refrigerator and the cabinets had been locked so the kids could not get in to get food," Akin said. There were three boys, ages 5, 3 and 1, and a 4-year-old girl, he said.

The oldest two were locked in the cage that was just 3-by-3 feet, and the other two were filthy and only partially clothed, Akin said.

Andrew Joseph Fabila and Paige Isabow Harkings, both 24, were each charged with four counts of criminal child endangerment, Wise County jail records showed. Harkings also was charged with aggravated assault.

Pot smokers find caged tiger in abandoned house

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police say some people who went into an abandoned home to smoke marijuana found a caged tiger.

They called the city on Monday and the major offender animal cruelty unit and animal shelter volunteers arrived on the scene. Authorities nicknamed the tiger "Tyson" after the movie "The Hangover."

Officials tell KHOU-TV the tiger was well fed, but the cage was secured by a nylon strap and screwdriver. Officials say it could easily open and the tiger could have gone on a "rampage."

NASA about to pull plug on Mars rover, silent for 8 months

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA is trying one last time to contact its record-setting Mars rover Opportunity, before calling it quits.

The rover has been silent for eight months, victim of one of the most intense dust storms in decades. Thick dust darkened the sky last summer and, for months, blocked sunlight from the spacecraft's solar panels.

NASA said Tuesday it will issue a final series of recovery commands, on top of more than 1,000 already sent. If there's no response by Wednesday — which NASA suspects will be the case — Opportunity will be declared dead, 15 years after arriving at the red planet.

Team members are already looking back at Opportunity's achievements, including confirmation water once flowed on Mars. Opportunity was,



AP PHOTO

This illustration made available by NASA shows the rover Opportunity on the surface of Mars.

by far, the longest-lasting lander on Mars. Besides endurance, the six-wheeled rover set a roaming record of 28 miles.

Its identical twin, Spirit, was pronounced dead in 2011, a year after it got stuck in sand and communication ceased.

Both outlived and outperformed expectations,

on opposite sides of Mars. The golf cart-size rovers were designed to operate as geologists for just three months, after bouncing onto our planetary neighbor inside cushioning air bags in January 2004. They rocketed from Cape Canaveral a month apart in 2003.

Trump nominee's family company fined for sexual harassment

Nominee to head the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to pay \$290,000

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — AccuWeather, whose former CEO is President Donald Trump's nominee to oversee the government weather forecasting and ocean science agency, agreed to pay \$290,000 after female employees complained of sexual harassment.

The family-run weather company's conciliation agreement was published in June after an investigation by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and first reported Monday by The Centre Daily Times.

Barry Myers, who stepped down as CEO of AccuWeather in January, was nominated to head the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration in October 2017. His nomination was resubmitted last month.

The federal oversight agency found AccuWeather, based in State College, Pennsylvania, discriminated against female employees by subjecting them to sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. It also found that AccuWeather didn't exercise reasonable care to prevent harassment. The agreement did not give details.

AccuWeather denies the allegations but said it will make a number of changes as part of the agreement, including training managers on how to prevent and

identify harassment. No one is mentioned by name in the agreement.

A message seeking comment about the settlement was sent to the White House. Representatives for NOAA and the Department of Commerce, which oversees the science agency, declined to comment and referred requests to the White House. A representative from AccuWeather declined to comment on Myers' behalf since he has left the company and divested himself.

AccuWeather will pay dozens of women who worked for the company between Jan. 1, 2014, and Dec. 21, 2017, as part of a settlement.

STOCKS LISTING CHANGE - REQUESTS WELCOME! Mutual funds listings will run on Saturdays.

The Sun Newspaper is tweaking the way stocks are listed in the daily paper. We will continue to run a wide range of stocks, but we're trying to eliminate stocks

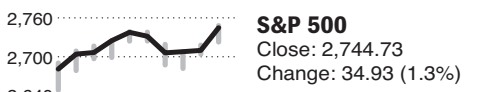
our readers don't want. If you do not see your stock in the paper, please let us know and we will put it in the listings. Email the name of the company and the symbol to nlane@sun-herald.com, or call 941-206-1138. You can leave the stock name and symbol on voice mail. If you reach voice mail, please leave your contact information so your call can be returned.

Market indicators table including DOW (25,425.76 +372.65), NASDAQ (7,414.62 +106.71), S&P 500 (2,744.73 +34.93), 10-YR T-NOTE (2.68% +0.02), 30-YR T-BOND (3.02% +0.02), CRUDE OIL (\$53.10 +.69), GOLD (\$1,309.20 +2.20), EURO (\$1.1331 +0.0055).

Money&Markets

Combined Stocks From the New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq.

Table with columns P/E Name, Last, Chg, and a list of stock tickers and their prices.



Stocks Recap

Table with columns NYSE, NASD, DOW, DOW Trans, DOW Util, NYSE Comp, NASDAQ, S&P 500, S&P 500, Russell 2000, Toronto TSX.

Table with columns HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns S-T-U and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns V-W-X-Y-Z and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns D-E-F and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns G-H-I and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns J-K-L and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns P-Q-R and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns M-N-O and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns P-Q-R and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns S-T-U and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns V-W-X-Y-Z and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns A-B-C and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns D-E-F and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns G-H-I and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns J-K-L and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns M-N-O and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns P-Q-R and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns S-T-U and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns V-W-X-Y-Z and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns A-B-C and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns D-E-F and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns G-H-I and a list of stock tickers.

Table with columns J-K-L and a list of stock tickers.

Chaotic heartbeat is treated with rhythm or rate control

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 72-year-old man. I thought I was in excellent health until I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation in a routine physical exam with an EKG about six months ago. I was and continue to be asymptomatic.

I am 6 feet, 1 inch tall and weigh 173 pounds. I do weight training and stretches at the gym two or three times each week and get cardio exercise by bicycling distances of 20-60 miles another one or two times each week. I am active and busy in other ways, though retired. I have never been a smoker and do not drink. I make an effort to eat healthy foods. Unlike most atrial fibrillation patients, my blood pressure and heart rate are very good. My resting heart rate is always around 50. Typical blood pressures are around 106/70. In a stress test at the time I was diagnosed it was 20 minutes until my heart rate reached 127.

My family physician prescribed 120 mg of diltiazem. I take aspirin



Dr. Roach

325 mg but no other medications. I do take vitamins daily. The diltiazem was later reduced to 30 mg by a cardiologist. In both cases it produced unwelcome side effects (lethargy, disrupted sleep, strange dreams, dizziness).

The cardiologist took me off all medications (except aspirin) and said to limit my physical activity some and commented, "You are healthy." He did ask that I return in six months.

In a later routine physical, my family physician again picked up

Afib, and said, "I wish you were on some kind of medication for this." Although I feel good and seem to have no other health issues, I am concerned, as I understand that asymptomatic patients are still at risk. I would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. — D.B.

ANSWER: Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heart condition where the normal rhythm is replaced by a chaotic and unpredictable heartbeat.

Atrial fibrillation is treated with either "rhythm control" or "rate control," in addition to reducing risk of stroke, which is elevated in all people with Afib. Rhythm control uses electricity or medications to try to return the heart to normal rhythm (called "sinus rhythm"). In rate control, the person is allowed to stay in Afib, but medications are given to keep the heart rate from going too fast, if necessary. It doesn't seem to be necessary in you. It sounds like the cardiologist reached the conclusion that the

side effects from diltiazem were not worth a bit of protection from a fast heart rate, and from what you have told me, that makes sense to me.

Protection from stroke is still important to consider. A cardiologist will look at an individual's risk for stroke (one tool for doing so is the CHADS-VASc score). While most people will need to be on a powerful medicine like warfarin or apixaban (Eliquis), some people are at low-enough risk that aspirin alone is sufficient.

Too many people have had strokes due to inadequate treatment. It's important to make sure everyone with Afib is on appropriate medication for them, and it sounds like aspirin alone is appropriate for you.

New wearable devices have the ability to detect atrial fibrillation. These may cause false alarms, but if you have a device that says you should get checked out, you should.

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

- 1 jacket front features (6)
- 2 North or South Asian country (5)
- 3 Allstate's online subsidiary (8)
- 4 given the go-ahead (8)
- 5 "unhinged" mollusk (8)
- 6 assumed to be factual (9)
- 7 thick-skinned beast, briefly (5)

SOLUTIONS

UN	NCE	KOR	LAP	ES
ELS	NL	TED	GR	IV
URA	AL	IT	EA	UND
VE	INO	OUB	RH	EE

Tuesday's Answers: 1. SEATS 2. ELEVATOR 3. PIROUQUETTES 4. FLICKA 5. ARROWHEAD 6. CINDERS 7. HONEYMOON 2/13

May-December romance trips on topic of children

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 67-year-old single white man. My girlfriend is 21 and African-American. We have been together a year and a half and are deeply in love.

When we are out together, people often stare at us. I tell her everyone is looking at her because she is so beautiful, but that's probably not totally true.

We want to be together, but I'm reluctant. The love feels good and true, but the rest is scary. We would like to have children, but she wonders if there is any risk in having a child with me. Do you have any advice?

— Uncertain In Ohio
DEAR UNCERTAIN: Because you are concerned about how things will play out if the two of you decide to start a family, it would be wise to get genetic counseling because of your age. While 67 isn't over the hill, the decision to embark on starting a family at that age may depend upon your overall health and the life expectancy in your family.

DEAR ABBY: Our friend recently got engaged to someone who is, well, terrible!

He's a lot older than she is, emotionally manipulative and abusive. Long story short, she was looking for love, and he appeared.

We have spoken with several mutual friends. We all have the same concerns but are afraid to approach her about them. He has damaged her professional and personal relationships and clipped her wings.

She has lost herself in this relationship, and we don't know what to say to her, if we should say anything at all. Help! — Nervous In The Northwest

DEAR NERVOUS: Rather than remain silent, you and the others should point out the impact her fiancé has had on her professional relationships. If he is as you describe, she may eventually learn for herself why his previous fiancée didn't marry him. And when that happens, she may need all the support you all can give her.

DEAR ABBY: Our friend recently got engaged to someone who is, well, terrible!

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We have spoken with several mutual friends. We all have the same concerns but are afraid to approach her about them. He has damaged her professional and personal relationships and clipped her wings.



Dear Abby

He's a lot older than she is, emotionally manipulative and abusive. Long story short, she was looking for love, and he appeared.

We have spoken with several mutual friends. We all have the same concerns but are afraid to approach her about them. He has damaged her professional and personal relationships and clipped her wings.

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DEAR ABBY: Our friend recently got engaged to someone who is, well, terrible!

He's a lot older than she is, emotionally manipulative and abusive. Long story short, she was looking for love, and he appeared.

JUMBLE

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

CIFNH
PEYMT
LWWIOL
EPCORP

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Print your answer here: "○○○○○○" ○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: SWAMP YOUNG INDUCT CAMERA
Answer: The new human-powered Greek ship would be able to stay at sea for — DAYS IN A ROW

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

Challenger

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

					2-13
		3			14
	4				30
			5		24
2					15
					21
					10
					25
					19
					16

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					20
1	9	1	6	17	
1	8	6	1	16	
8	7	1	2	18	
1	9	9	6	25	
11	33	17	16	16	

Yesterday's Challenger Answers

MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



"A selfie with Marm turns out to be just another picture of Marmaduke."

Cryptoquip

2-13

Z QFBWZTLAM BUL E VLVVLQ
HZAA EAHFUW LKLQM UZTJAL
LKL TZTJ EW UBVLQWZHL
ZW'U HM NEZAM JQZTN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD A FAST-FOOD HAMBURGER SMASHED AGAINST THE FRONT OF A CAR BE? A WINDSHIELD WHOPPER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals R

WORD SLEUTH • MISS —

SEBYVSPMJHEBYVT
QOLIGPADBYWTRPB
MSKIIFDCBYWUSUQ
OMKGGKIUFIDBZDXN
DWGOUSSMYRQWONO
AYLWOJAAHTEFFUM
IFCODRCNIITMAYE
SWVRPTBNSGSIAQL
YTILAINEGNOCKPN
LKEDIDRRHFENCBZ
YTILANOSREPYWVU

Tuesday's unlisted clue: HORNET

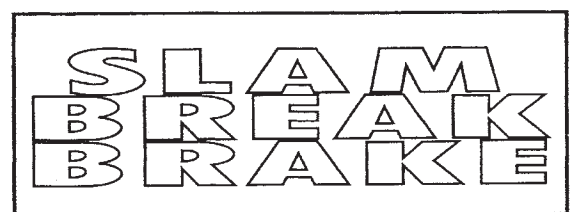
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: MUPPET CHARACTER

America	Daisy	Manners	Saigon
Brooks	Darcy	Marple	USA
Budweiser	Kitty	Muffet	World
Congeniality	Lemon	Personality	

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WHATZIT?

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



SOLUTION: Slam on the brakes

KEN KEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

1-		1-	
2÷	1	3-	6+
	24x		
3			

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CHALLENGING

4	3÷	3÷	10x
144x	5		20x
	3÷	5-	
2-		2	10+
5x	2-	12x	1-
	2	11+	

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RULES

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2-	1	3	2÷	2÷
7+	3	4	1	2
	4	2	3	1
2	3			
2	1	4	3	

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Think of your offender as much younger than they are, infantile perhaps, because in some ways we are all immature, and indeed it is immaturity that has caused the rift. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The good opinion of others can be a seduction. The trick is to accept people's interest in you as a compliment, and yet not let their attention or opinion of you change how you think of yourself. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Trees give us oxygen and animals give us the spiritual equivalent. Your admiration of an animal will buoy your spirit. Taking the time to learn more about this animal's nature will lift you even more. **CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Honesty can be hurtful, crass and ugly. Honesty can also be beautiful, and that sort either takes more consideration and compassion to craft, or it takes purity and innocence such as that which comes from a child. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Negative experiences of the past have blocked the flow of love in your life in some way, causing injury. Maybe you've developed

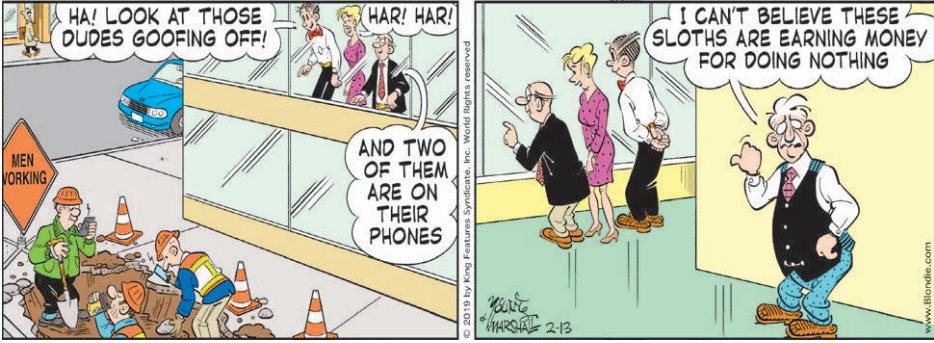
a behavior that hides the injury, but not from yourself. It's time to give this wound a look. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As reasonable as you may be about most things in your life, matters of the heart are impervious to reason. Your heart won't be swayed by even the most logical argument. It wants what it wants. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Thoughts, like cats, are a hard thing to discipline, but they can be led. With cats, it's opening up a can of food. With thoughts, it's providing yourself with lots of better, more attractive things to think about. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Noticing what people like, producing what they'll need — these are the skills that solidify relationships of all kinds. But it's only sustainable if you also figure out what's in it for you and get compensated. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe you're afraid to expect better of people, but do it anyway. They may not meet your expectations, but they'll rise a little higher than they would have. Plus, it encourages you to be better, too, and this you can deliver on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes you act. Also, you've been known to plan and then act. Then there's when you dream, and then plan, and then act. That third way produces the most interesting results. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You hate to admit when you're bored, but maybe it's time to recognize that a certain situation has lost all superficial appeal to you and must be enlivened in some way. Add something. Go deeper. Or just get out. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). It would seem that wanting what you have shouldn't be so difficult. After all, you acquired it at some point and wanted it very much back then. Find a way to reconnect with that feeling through memory. **TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 13). You know what it's like to feel stuck and that's why you appreciate the effortless movement that sweeps you into the first five weeks of this new personal era. Decisions and actions feel effortless as you're reaping the benefits of a flow of benevolent karma. You'll link to an entirely new circle of friends in the summer. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 48, 3, 10 and 22.

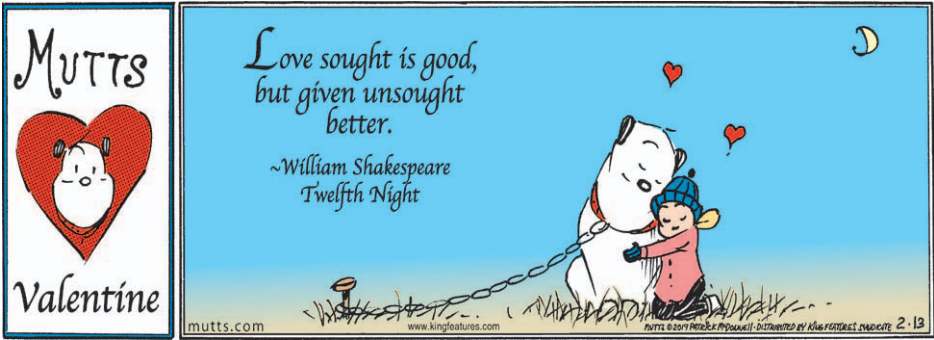
BORN LOSER By Art and Chip Sansom



BLONDIE By Dean Young and John Marshall



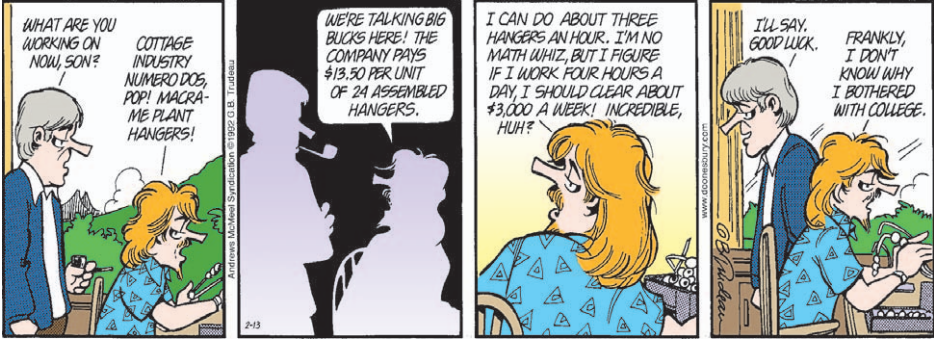
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



DOONSBURY By Garry Trudeau



TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Malt-shop freebie
- 6 Pierre's head
- 10 Growing abundantly
- 14 Hot pepper
- 15 French waters
- 16 Aware of
- 17 Takes a snooze
- 18 Ocean flier
- 19 Norse deity
- 20 Dog days in
- 21 Weather data
- 24 Goes here and there
- 26 Inferior
- 27 URL suffix
- 28 Pipe material
- 30 Danke, in Dijon
- 33 Orchidlike flower
- 34 Pay phone feature
- 38 Had roast beef
- 39 Chalets, often (hyph.)
- 42 Poetic adverb
- 43 Stroll
- 45 Charged particles
- 46 Inched along
- 48 Large antelope
- 50 "Annabel Lee" poet
- 51 Puts on the agenda

DOWN

- 1 Hardware item
- 2 Sweater letter
- 3 Above the horizon
- 4 Hgt.
- 5 Flowering vine
- 6 Is rife with
- 7 Marshal Wyatt —
- 8 Adjust a guitar
- 9 Use a treadmill
- 10 Plunderers
- 11 Excessive
- 12 Moves a little
- 13 Bee product
- 22 Physics unit
- 23 Caught ya!
- 25 Sawbones
- 28 Trademark
- 29 Backboard attachments

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



- 2-13-19 © 2019 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS
- 30 Gullet
- 31 Greek letter
- 32 Family mem.
- 33 Spinach is rich in it
- 35 Strong alkali
- 36 "Alley —!"
- 37 Cable network
- 40 Total flops
- 41 Search for (2 wds.)
- 44 Soup cookers
- 47 Vicksburg fighter
- 49 Flower garland
- 50 Prospect for gold
- 51 Trunk contents
- 52 Less strict
- 53 Stadium
- 54 Military posts
- 55 Bodies of water
- 56 Turn inside out
- 57 Feel instinctively
- 59 Run in neutral
- 60 Housefly or ant
- 65 Sly — fox

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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EXPERT REASONING

Both vulnerable, West deals

Hand distribution for Goren Bridge: NORTH (A 10 9 2, A 10 6 4 3, Q J 6, ♣ 5), WEST (♠ 7, ♠ 8 7 2, ♦ K 5, ♣ A K Q 10 8 7 6), EAST (♠ 6 5 4 3, ♠ 5, ♦ 10 9 8 4 3 2, ♣ J 4), SOUTH (♠ K Q J 8, ♥ K Q J 9, ♦ A 7, ♣ 9 3 2).

The bidding: WEST 1♣, 3♣, Pass; NORTH Dbl, 3♥, 5♥; EAST Pass, Pass, Pass; SOUTH 2♣, 4NT, 6♠. All pass.

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

Today's deal is a good example of expert reasoning at the table. South reasoned that his partner almost certainly had a five-card heart suit for his three-heart bid. He could have just doubled again with extra values and no five-card suit. Also, South reasoned, if his partner had started with three spades and five hearts,

he would have just overcalled at his first turn rather than make a takeout double. Therefore, North also had a four-card spade suit. The double promised at least three-card support for all unbid suits, so that meant that North had three diamonds and a singleton club, or possibly four diamonds and no clubs.

Putting all this together, South realized the slam would play much better in the four-four spade fit rather than the five-four heart fit, so he bid the slam in spades, introducing the suit for the first time at the six level. That was a good decision, as South was able to ruff two clubs in the dummy and discard his losing diamond on dummy's fifth heart. A six-heart contract would have had no chance with the king of diamonds offside.

Oddly, six spades can be defeated if West stumbles on the very unlikely lead of a heart. South will have to concede a club early to prepare for his club ruffs, and West can win the club and give his partner a heart ruff. South might never have recovered.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

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

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in. Rating: GOLD. Solution to 2/12/19.

Rating: GOLD

Solution to 2/12/19

Completed Sudoku solution grid showing numbers 1-9 in each row, column, and 3x3 block.

WORDY GURDY

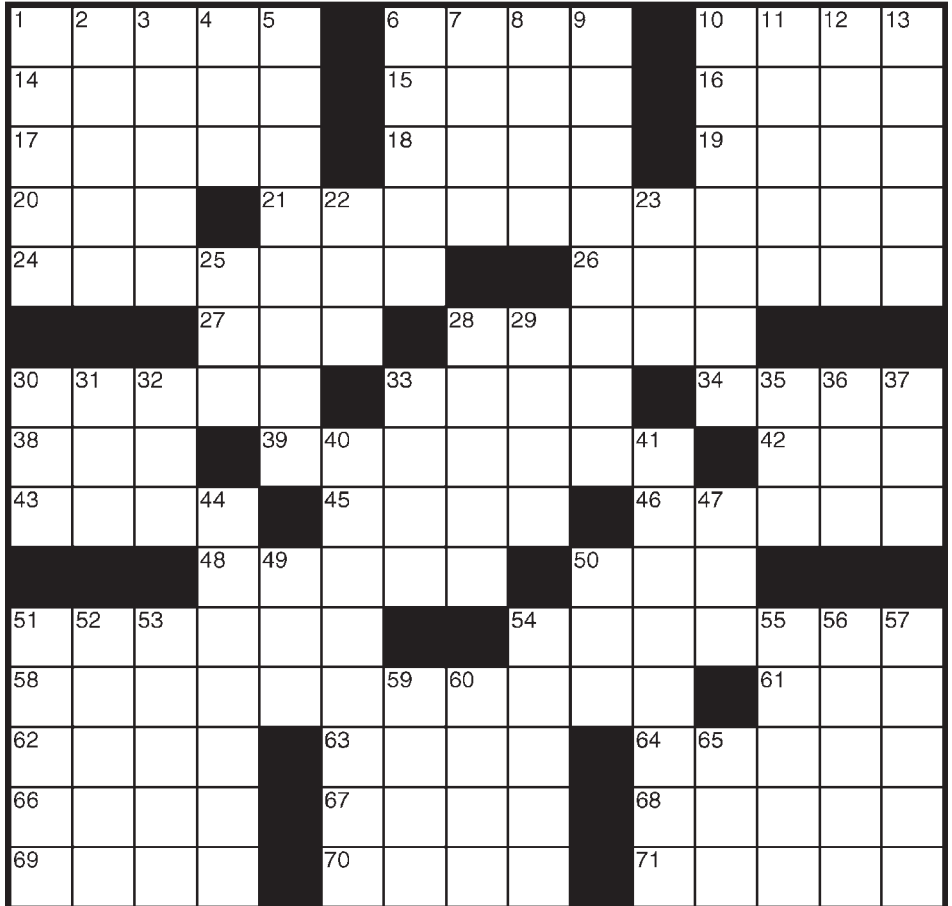
BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

- 1. Playfully enjoyable sweetie (1)
- 2. Highway off-way postal sticker (1)
- 3. Medicine measure shipment of 144 (1)
- 4. Gymnast's "balance" bar fantasy (1)
- 5. Keebler sprites' bookcase parts (1)
- 6. Loathing the task of shaving cheese (2)
- 7. Dadgum rascal's articles of clothing (2)

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

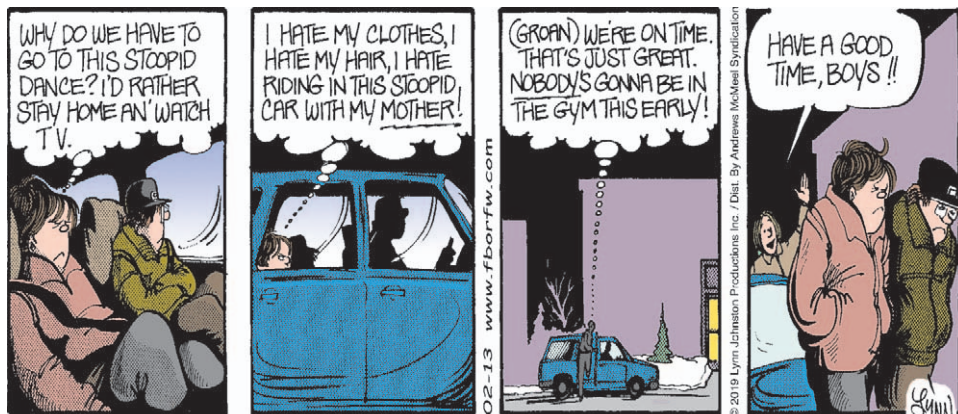
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ANSWERS: 1. FUN HON 2. RAMP STAMP 3. DOSE GROSS 4. BEAM DREAM 5. ELVES SHELVES 6. HATING GRATING 7. VARMINTS GARMENTS

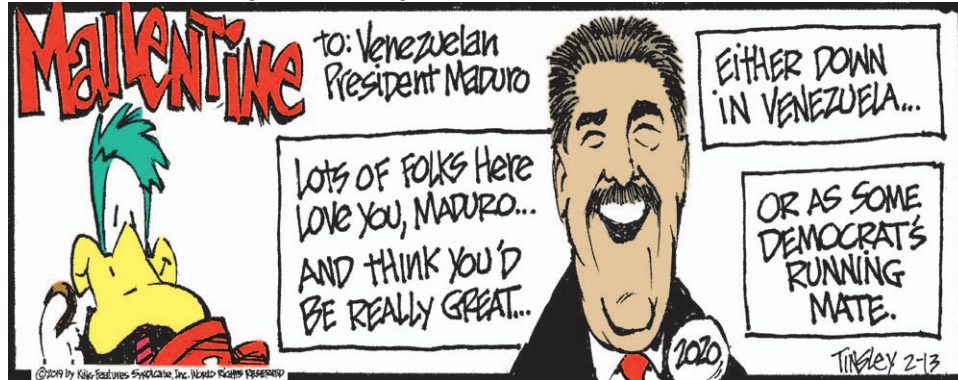


Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

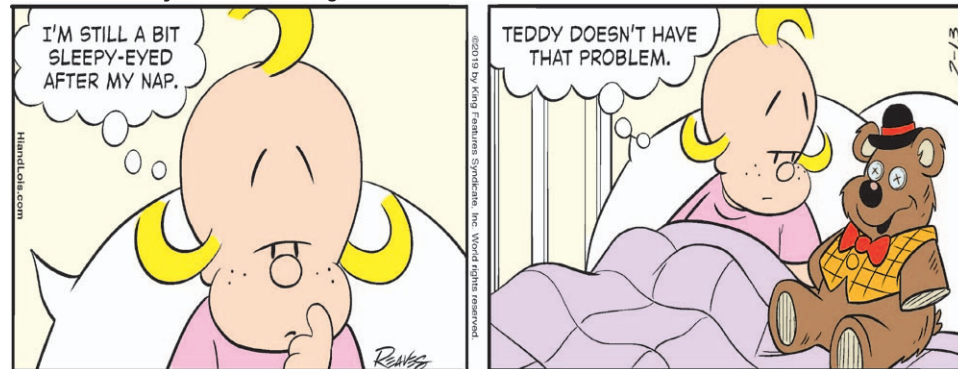
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



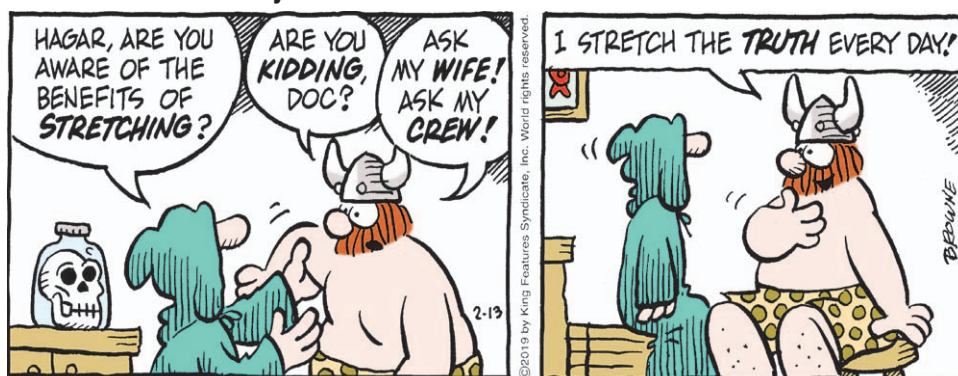
HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



BETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



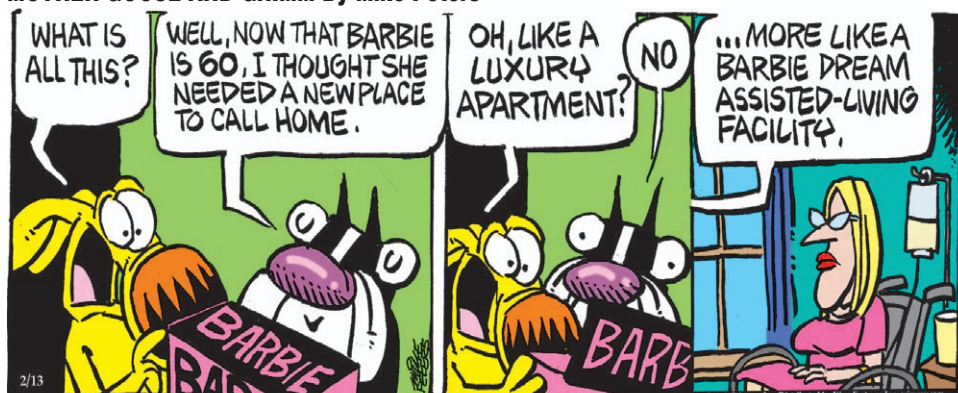
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



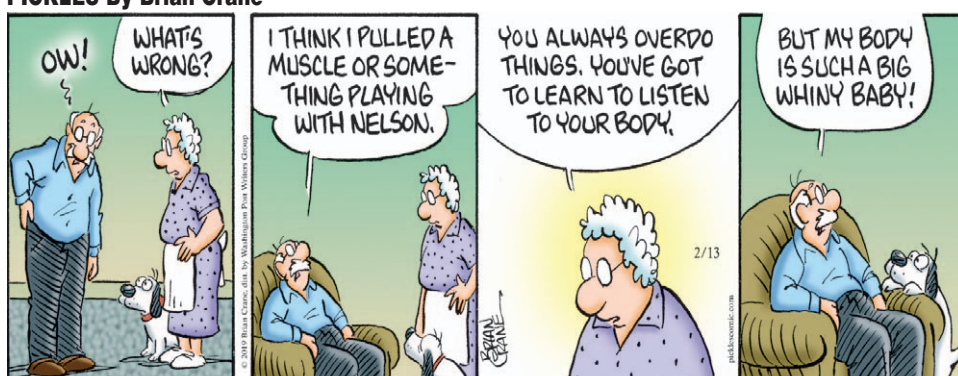
THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



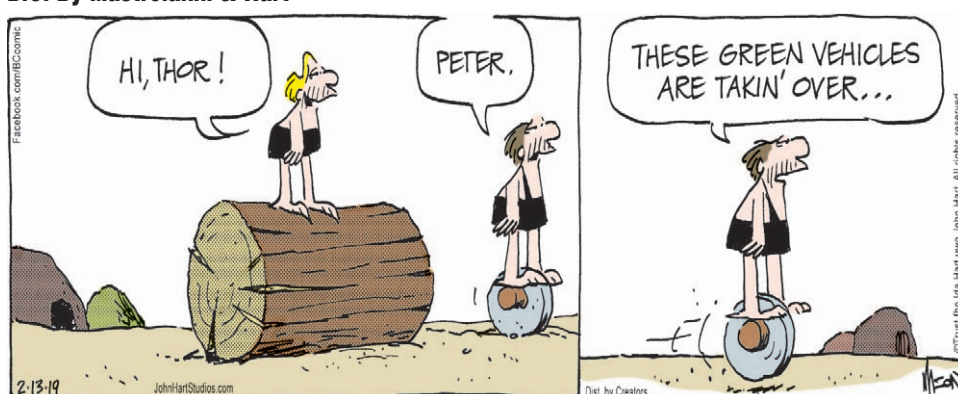
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



PICKLES By Brian Crane



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



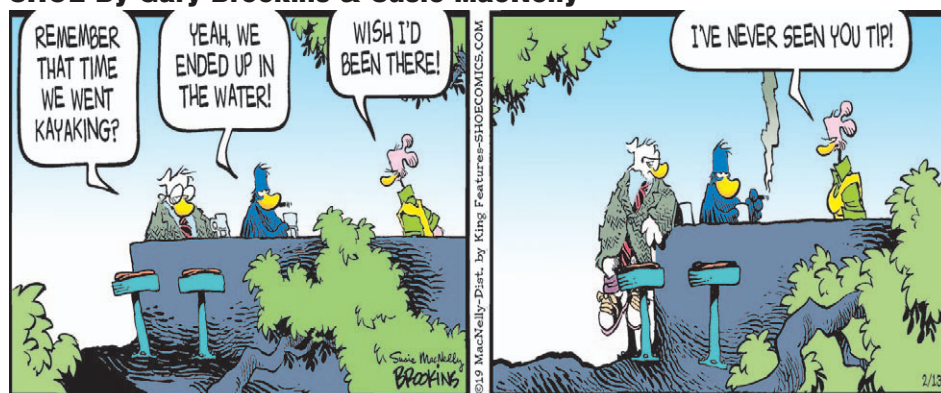
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



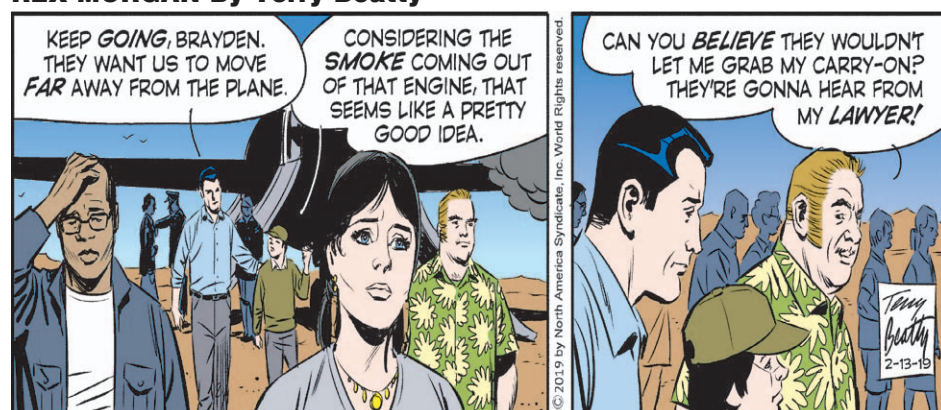
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



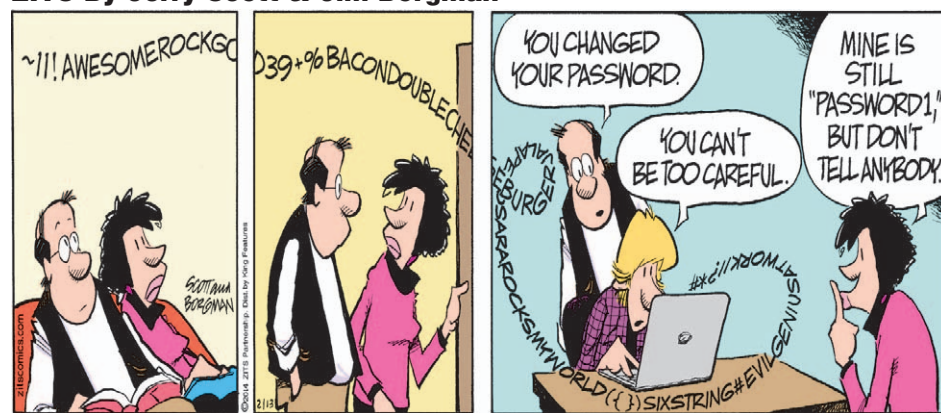
SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



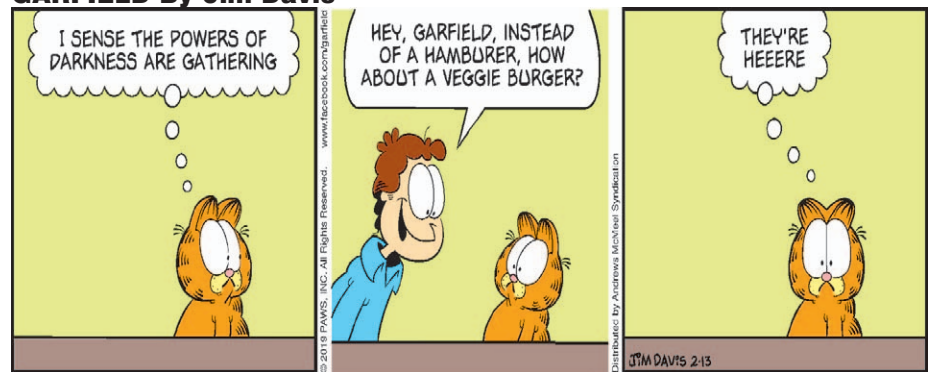
REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



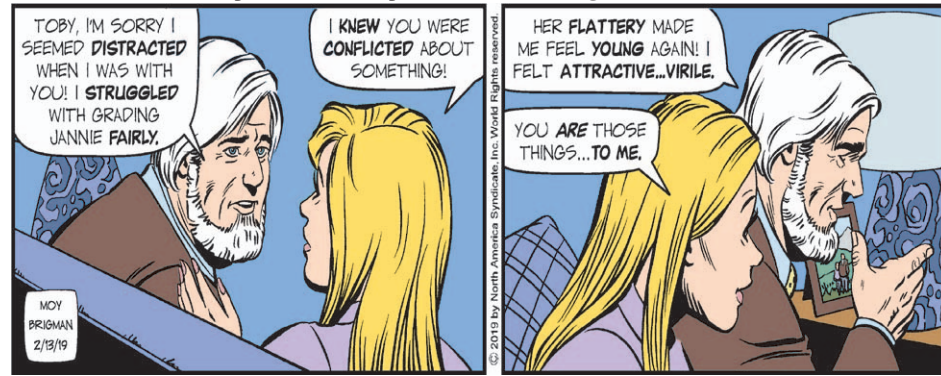
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



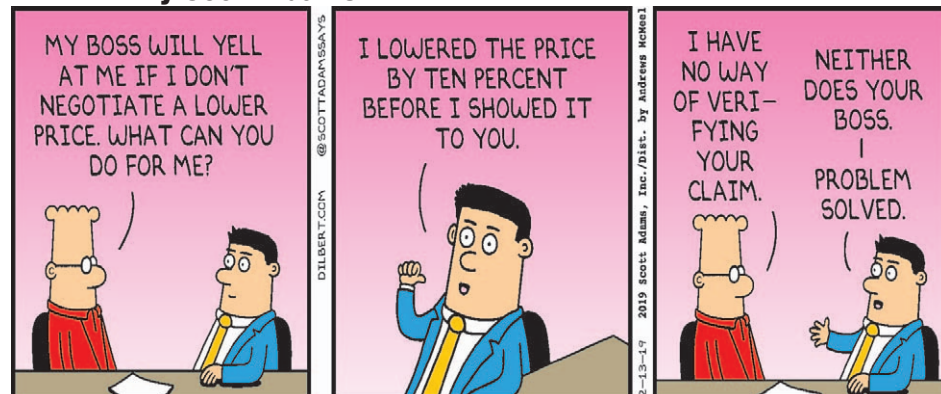
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



DILBERT By Scott Adams



DRAMA
FROM PAGE 1

which includes poodles and bichon frises. "A schipperke may never, never win this group again," Cook said. "And we did it."

A Sussex spaniel named Bean won the sporting group at Westminster for the second year in a row. Cheers filled Madison Square Garden as the short-legged, long-eared dog lumbered around the ring. Chants of "Bean! Bean! Bean!" followed his win.

As if Bean hadn't charmed the crowd enough, he sat up on his hind legs as handler Per Rismyhr gave an in-ring interview — and said it would be Bean's last show.

At 7 1/2, Bean is the grandson of the oldest Best in Show winner in Westminster history: Stump, the winner in 2009.

In an unexpected turn, a clumber spaniel and Welsh springer spaniel were both ruled ineligible shortly before judging started. That's because the judge was a breeder of both dogs.

40 countries agree cars must have automatic braking

US and China do not agreed to require vehicles to be equipped with systems starting next year

By JAMEY KEATEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA — Forty countries led by Japan and the European Union — but not the U.S. or China — have agreed to require new cars and light commercial vehicles to be equipped with automated braking systems starting as soon as next year, a U.N. agency said Tuesday.

The regulation will require all vehicles sold to come equipped with the technology by which sensors monitor how close a pedestrian or object might be. The system can trigger the brakes automatically if a collision is deemed imminent and if the driver doesn't appear set to respond in time.

The measure will

apply to vehicles at "low speeds": 60 kilometers per hour (42 mph) or less, and only affects new cars sold in the markets of signatory countries — so vehicle owners won't be required to retrofit their cars and trucks already on the roads today.

The United States, China and India are members of the U.N. forum that adopted the new regulations. However, they did not take part in the negotiations because they want to ensure that their national regulations keep precedence over U.N. rules when it comes to the auto industry.

In 2016, 20 automakers reached an agreement with the U.S. government to put automatic emergency braking

on all new vehicles by September of 2022, but compliance is voluntary. In the most recent report on the safety technology from 2017, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said that four of the 20 automakers — Tesla, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota and Volvo — had made automatic braking standard on more than half their models.

Data from the insurance industry's Highway Loss Data Institute show that 28 percent of 2019 U.S. models have standard automatic emergency braking. Another 36 percent have it as an option.

Jason Levine, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, said lack of U.S. participation in the U.N. group

is embarrassing for a country that once led in auto safety.

"It is yet another indication of the auto industry in the United States and the Trump administration's complete lack of leadership when it comes to the safety of everyone on the road," Levine said Tuesday.

The requirement will start taking effect next year first in Japan, where 4 million cars and light commercial vehicles were sold in 2018, said Jean Rodriguez, the spokesman for the agency, called United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, or UNECE. The European Union, and some of its closest neighbors, is expected to follow suit in 2022.

ALMANAC

Today is **Wednesday, Feb. 13**, the 44th day of 2019. There are 321 days left in the year.

Today in history

On **Feb. 13, 1861**, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.

On this date

In **1633**, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around.

In **1935**, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh.

In **1943**, during World War II, the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was officially established.

In **1945**, during World War II, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. The Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

Today's birthdays

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (ret.) is 96. Actress Kim Novak is 86. Actor George Segal is 85. Actor Bo Svenson is 78. Actress Carol Lynley is 77. Singer-musician Peter Dinklage is 77. Singer Stockard Channing is 75. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 75. Singer Peter Gabriel is 69.

Bible verse

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." — **Hebrews 12:15.**

We must fight negative thought patterns and postures or else they will neutralize our lives, leaving us ineffective and miserable. Cheer up, God loves you and has plans for you beyond your greatest dreams.

EL CHAPO
FROM PAGE 1

packing cocaine into thousands of jalapeno cans — shipments that totaled 25 to 30 tons of cocaine worth \$500 million each year. Another testified how Guzman sometimes acted as his own sicario, or hitman, punishing a Sinaloa who dared to work for another cartel by kidnapping him, beating and shooting him and having his men bury the victim while he was still alive, gasping for air.

The defense case

lasted just half an hour. Guzman's lawyers did not deny his crimes as much as argue he was a fall guy for government witnesses who were more evil than he was.

In closing arguments, defense attorney Jeffrey Lichtman urged the jury not to believe government witnesses who "lie, steal, cheat, deal drugs and kill people."

U.S. Attorney Richard Donoghue called the conviction "a victory for the American people who suffered so much" while the defendant poured poison over the borders.

'El Chapo' likely headed to escape-proof Supermax prison in Colorado

NEW YORK (AP) — He's not bustin' outta this one. When convicted cocaine kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is sentenced June 25 for a litany of crimes that will likely keep him behind bars for the rest of his life, chances are good his new address will be a notorious Supermax prison in Colorado that boasts a 100 percent no-escape record.

The former head of Mexico's vicious Sinaloa cartel helped forge his legend with a pair of daring, straight-out-of-Hollywood prison breaks. In 2001, he hid in a laundry cart pushed along by a corrupt guard; 14 years later Guzman rode to freedom on a motorcycle through a 1 1/2-mile tunnel built under the shower of his cell.

But things will be different if, as expected, he's shipped off to the Administrative Maximum Facility, or ADX, in Florence, Colo., a Supermax facility affectionately known as the Alcatraz of the Rockies. Built in 1994 and located 90

miles south of Denver, it houses 400 of the nation's highly violent and high-profile inmates, including a who's who of terrorists, traitors, traffickers and gangland toughs.

"This is a prison like no other," said Martin Horn, former commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction and a professor at City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

"It's built on the side of a mountain, very difficult to escape from and very tightly run, with prisoners' movements constantly being monitored (by video cameras). They're frequently searched, and when they are moved they're cuffed and shackled, which all contributes to the high levels of security."

"Prisoners are for the most part kept apart so that they're not able to collude and there's no breach of security," said Horn. "The likelihood of escape is very, very low. But you can never say never."

Find A SWEET Ride with One of These Deals!

CARFAX VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS



<p>2008 GMC SIERRA</p>  <p>SLE, 4 DOOR EXTRA CAB, 5.3 LITER V-8, ONE OWNER</p> <p>\$15,818</p>	<p>2016 JEEP WRANGLER</p>  <p>SPORT S MODEL, V-6, 6 SPEED, 56,000 MILES, LIKE NEW</p> <p>\$20,818</p>	<p>2012 ACURA TL</p>  <p>ONE OWNER, TECH PACKAGE, NAVIGATION, SUNROOF</p> <p>\$13,918</p>	<p>2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER</p>  <p>XLE MODEL, LEATHER, ONE OWNER, NAVIGATION, PEARL</p> <p>42,800 MILES</p>
<p>2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA</p>  <p>ONE OWNER, FACTORY WARRANTY, SE MODEL, NICE</p> <p>\$11,887</p>	<p>2014 KIA SPORTAGE</p>  <p>ONE OWNER, LX MODEL, 43,200 MILES, QUALITY, SAFETY</p> <p>\$14,818</p>	<p>2016 TOYOTA COROLLA</p>  <p>S PLUS PACKAGE, ONE OWNER, 15,300 MILES, LOADED</p> <p>\$15,818</p>	<p>2015 TOYOTA COROLLA</p>  <p>LE MODEL, 47,300 MILES, AUTOMATIC, RELIABILITY PLUS</p> <p>\$12,818</p>
<p>2013 GMC SIERRA</p>  <p>4 DOOR CREW CAB, LEATHER, TWO OWNER, FLAWLESS</p> <p>CREW CAB</p> <p>\$12,887</p>	<p>2013 CHEVROLET EQUINOX</p>  <p>LT MODEL, LOCAL TRADE, LOW MILES, NEW TIRES, NICE</p> <p>\$12,887</p>	<p>2012 BUICK ENCLAVE</p>  <p>LEATHER MODEL, LOCAL TRADE, QUAD SEATS, LUXURY</p> <p>\$14,587</p>	<p>2013 FORD TAURUS</p>  <p>LOCAL TRADE, LEATHER, NEW TIRES, SMOOTH RIDE</p> <p>\$11,887</p>

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Opening day deadline for Mets' Degrom
See page 4

■ **NBA: Investigation**

NBA clears Lakers and Magic Johnson after investigation

BY TANIA GANGULI
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — After a brief investigation, the NBA has determined there was no improper communication between the Lakers and 76ers guard Ben Simmons, and that Magic Johnson's comments before Sunday's game between the two teams did not constitute tampering.

"The Philadelphia 76ers initiated the contact with the Los Angeles Lakers by requesting a meeting between Johnson and Simmons," the league's news release said Tuesday. "Both organizations ultimately concluded that such a meeting did not make sense at this time but in that context, Johnson's response to a media inquiry regarding Simmons does not run afoul of league rules."

The NBA's statement matches one the Lakers released on Monday afternoon, which said the 76ers had asked for the meeting in an email sent in November, and then Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka called 76ers general manager Elton Brand. The Lakers' statement said Pelinka told Brand he would need written permission from the 76ers in order for that meeting to proceed.

A person familiar with the meeting told The Times that Pelinka let Brand know he wasn't comfortable with the request, and that Brand declined to provide written permission.

The source also said the communication originally came from Allen Lumpkin, the 76ers director of basketball administration. Lumpkin's duties include player development.

Before Sunday's game, Johnson, the Lakers president of basketball operations, was asked if he enjoys watching Simmons play.

"Oh for sure, for sure," Johnson said. "He reached out to me, not to me directly, to the Lakers, to find out if we could get together this summer. I said, 'Hey, you'd have to clear it with the league. Everybody. The Sixers sign off. We sign off. The league signs off that nothing (inappropriate) is going on."

"He wants to know how to play the position as a big guard, da, da, da, da, da, da," Johnson said. "It's fine. I will do that. But if everybody doesn't sign off, then we can't get together."

Brand later was asked about the subject during a radio show. He said then that Pelinka called him requesting permission and he said no. The league's decision to investigate the communications came later that afternoon.

■ **MLB: Tampa Bay Rays**

Former Astros pitcher Charlie Morton happy to be with Rays

Veteran says being able to stay in his Bradenton home eases transition to new team

By MARC TOPKIN
TAMPA BAY TIMES

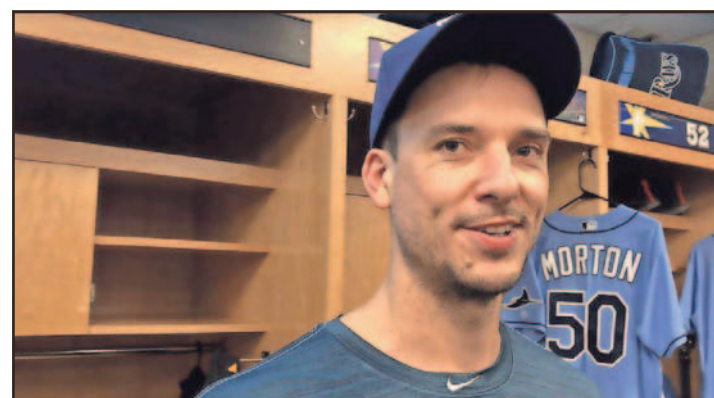
PORT CHARLOTTE — The Rays were quite pleased this off-season to be able to sign Charlie Morton, landing the veteran starter on a two-year, \$30 million deal that yields the highest annual salary in franchise history.

And Morton showed up in Port Charlotte on Tuesday happy to be with them.

"This is nice," Morton said. Signing with the Rays came with an added convenience

for Morton, as can stay year-round in his Bradenton home and make the daily drive to Port Charlotte and St. Petersburg, which eases the transition to a new team after spending the last two seasons with the Astros, where he was popular for what he did on the mound and in the clubhouse.

"Being at home definitely makes it easier because I know I'm going to see my family at home," he said. "That's I guess, calming, comforting. So that makes it



TAMPA BAY TIMES PHOTO

Charlie Morton likes what he's seen and heard so far in Rays camp.

easier."

Tuesday was for getting familiar with his new environs.

"This is where you have to be cognizant of who you're talking to, trying to

remember names, and leave a decent first impression," Morton said.

Also, "Just trying to get a feel for the facility. And get going tomorrow."

■ **BOYS BASKETBALL: Area Prep**

Battle tested, Mustangs reach district finals

Late run sparks a comeback win For Community Christian

By JACOB HOAG
SPORTS WRITER

A booming sound of players pounding on lockers mixed with roaring cheers emanated from the locker room as the Community Christian boys basketball team celebrated its first trip to the district championship game.

For the third time this season, the Mustangs fought their way back against Bradenton Christian (11-13), this time edging the Panthers 57-48. That sets up a battle on the road at top-seeded St. Stephens with a chance at a championship.

"I'm just proud of our kids hanging in there, maintaining their focus and finishing the job," Community Christian coach Kurt Taylor said. "Our defensive intensity and pressure turned up a little bit. We got them to play a little faster and take some bad shots and turn the ball over a little bit. We were down 13 in the fourth quarter at their place and beat them, we were down 14 at our place and beat them. We were down eight



SUN PHOTO BY CHRIS BLAKE

Community Christian's Brandon Hill (1) drives to the basket during Tuesday night's semifinal district playoff basketball game against Bradenton Christian High School at Port Charlotte High School. Hill led the Mustangs with 23 points as Community Christian beat the Panthers 57-48 and advance to the District Final on Friday night.

here and beat them. And beating them is hard."

The Mustangs (14-14) struggled to find scoring lanes offensively for most of the first three quarters, but found creases in the final quarter. With 4:30 left in the game, down five, Community Christian got the run they

needed.

Junior Rodney Anicet hit a driving layup followed by a corner 3-pointer to tie the game at 41. Senior Sam Battle followed that up with a layup and sophomore Brandon Hill hit a floater.

Before long the Mustangs held a 52-41 lead after a 14-0

run.

"We were feeling excited," Battle said. "Coach drew up a play, we executed and we knocked it down. Coach said before the game that the better team will be the one

BATTLE | 3

■ **MLB: Tampa Bay Rays**

Rays eager to build off 2018

Young core proved it could compete, now they must fight complacency

By JACOB HOAG
SPORTS WRITER

In four of the past five seasons, the Tampa Bay Rays' 90-win mark last year would've put them in the Major League Baseball postseason. But with the Boston Red Sox winning 108, the New York Yankees winning 100 and the Oakland Athletics earning 97, the Rays were out of contention.

Though Tampa missed out on the postseason despite being one of the hottest teams in baseball down the stretch, there is a great sense of optimism surround Charlotte

Sports Park as the team gets ready to open spring training today.

"(Our greatest strength is) probably our versatility on the pitching side and on the position players side," Cash said. "We've got a lot of guys who can play different roles for our club and hit in different points of the lineup. We showed last year that we have a pretty special pitching staff that can pitch at different parts of the ball game, and we're gonna utilize that again."

Cash, along with General Manager Erik Neander and Senior VP of Baseball Operations

Chaim Bloom, took to the outfield deck of Charlotte Sports Park for the introductory press conference before pitchers and catchers reported today.

The biggest question they had to answer was, 'How can they top last season?'

In what should've been a rebuilding year, Tampa finished with its best record since 2013 and became the first club to use 23 rookies and finish at least 18 games over .500.

"When you have a young club that just won 90 games, it's easy to have a lot of optimism



SUN PHOTO BY JACOB HOAG

Rays manager Kevin Cash, right, sits on the deck of Charlotte Sports Park with General Manager Erik Neander, middle, and Senior VP of Baseball Operations Chaim Bloom for the introductory press conference prior to pitchers and catchers reporting today.

about what's ahead, but it's also hard to win 90 games," Neander said. "A lot of things went our way last year that helped

us get there. I think this group will stay humble and be motivated to come out to prove that last year, and certainly

the last few months of the season, weren't a fluke."

RAYS | 6

■ **NASCAR: Gambling**

Place your bets: NASCAR pushes its chips on gambling

NASCAR has put a ban in place on drivers gambling on races, not that it was really a problem

By **DAN GELSTON**
AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Brendan Gaughan is the son of a casino magnate and has long grasped the allure of throwing down a few bucks to wager on a sporting event.

Heck, Gaughan once bet on himself in Las Vegas to win the 2004 Daytona 500. Gaughan got a stern talking to from NASCAR back in the day when gambling was perhaps the most taboo topic in sports. March Madness brackets, Super Bowl prop bets, they all go hand-in-hand with the biggest games as much as the highlights, but wagers on the upstart underdog or 5-1 favorite were saved for Vegas, office pools and the neighborhood bookie operating illegally.

But societal attitudes — and more to the point, laws — toward betting have evolved, leading even sports leagues to loosen their stances as a new world of potential partnerships and revenue streams has opened.

Count NASCAR as the latest sport racing toward the gambling industry.

“The more people betting and playing fantasy games on your sport, the more people watch,” Gaughan said during Daytona 500 qualifying. “NASCAR has always known that. They still

know that.”

Gaughan is happy to give NASCAR fans and the betting public the latest inside scoop on the sport. He co-hosts both the “Fantasy Racing Preview with Pete Pistone” on SiriusXM and “Gone Racin” on VSIN, a national sports gambling news network.

“When it comes to fantasy sports and betting on NASCAR races, there’s nothing wrong with it,” Gaughan said.

NASCAR is on board — and on the betting boards of sportsbooks from Nevada and beyond — with legalized betting in 2019.

“I wanted to go all in on gambling last year,” NASCAR executive Steve O’Donnell said.

But NASCAR took a step back and scanned the gambling landscape before implementing gambling guidelines in the rulebook for this season. Among the new restrictions: drivers and team members are banned from betting on races or disclosing confidential information. They are allowed to participate in fantasy sports relating to the three national touring series, Cup, Xfinity and Truck, but may not accept prizes with a value of more than \$250 in any games. The bans are in line with other major sports.

NASCAR partnered with Sportradar Integrity Services to develop a

comprehensive gambling policy intended to protect the sport from cheating scandals.

“We have so many people that are linked to the cars. I think the integrity is a big piece to it,” O’Donnell said.

But fans? Get ready for action.

Nevada’s effective monopoly on sports betting ended last spring, when the Supreme Court ruled the ban should be lifted. Casinos in seven other states — Rhode Island, Delaware, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New Mexico — now accept wagers on sports. The list is expected to grow by next year with numerous states considering bills.

Dover International Speedway, because of its alliance with Dover Downs Hotel & Casino on the same property, pounced and opened an on-site kiosk for its fall race and became the only track that allowed sports gambling on its property. The white tent was nearly as popular a stop as a selfie in front of the Monster Mile and the track will bring it back for the May race.

“I would consider it a success from the standpoint of the fan interaction, the fan education,” said John Hensley, general manager and senior director of horse racing and sports betting at Dover

Downs. “We never went into it looking at it as a revenue generator. We always looked at it as just an additional amenity for that motorsports fan. Just based on the experience and word of mouth from the fall race, I would anticipate a greater flow of traffic for the spring, for sure.”

Football, basketball and baseball historically generate the bulk of sports betting and NASCAR has yet to spark interest among the masses.

Vernon Kirk, director of the Delaware lottery, said full-scale sports betting started in Delaware on June 5, 2018, and less than one-tenth of 1 percent has been wagered on auto racing (\$129,250 out of \$134,707,750).

And there’s already a hitch that could slow bets: NASCAR this season has decided for the first time to strip drivers of victories if their cars are deemed illegal. There will be a roughly 90-minute inspection after the race and the winner will not be deemed official until the process is completed. Will fans really want to linger around the pay window another couple of hours just to cash in a ticket?

“The state’s risk manager will delay any payout until NASCAR releases the official order of finish,” Kirk said. “Our casinos will receive an email reminding them of NASCAR’s new



Brendan Gaughan walks down pit road during qualifying for the Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, in Daytona Beach, Fla. Brendan Gaughan is the son of a casino magnate and has long grasped the allure of throwing down a few bucks — or so much more — to wager on a sporting event.

procedures the week of Daytona.”

The betting lines supplied by William Hill are set: Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch are 5-1 favorites to win the 2019 Cup series championship. 2018 champ Joey Logano checks in at 7-1. For Sunday’s Daytona 500, Harvick has 15-2 odds, Logano is at 8-1 and Brad Keselowski is also at 8-1 to win “The Great American Race.”

Fantasy NASCAR is already popular with both Fanduel and DraftKings offering bettors the chance to create lineups each week. With only one elite series race each weekend, NASCAR has less volume than some of the stick and ball sports.

“Most people will say

that the online experience is really where the volume is going to be,” Hensley said.

There are more gambling tie-ins for the sport on the horizon: Speedway Motorsports Inc. and EquiLottery Games announced plans for Car Clash, a three-number lottery draw game based on race results. NASCAR also will allow race teams to have sports gambling sponsors at all races.

Anyone in NASCAR caught breaking the gambling rules faces the possibility of suspension, indefinite suspension or termination.

“The rules are in place,” Hensley said, “but you can’t legislate human behavior.”

■ **GOLF: Commentary**

Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson still going strong

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES — The 144-man field at Riviera has 88 players who have combined to win 496 times on the PGA Tour.

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson account for 25 percent of those victories.

No one should be surprised.

While too one-sided to be a rivalry, they have been a powerful one-two punch in golf. The same day Woods won his third straight U.S. Amateur right before he turned pro, Mickelson won the World Series of Golf at Firestone. Woods picked up his 80th career victory at the Tour Championship to end last season. Mickelson won his 44th at Pebble Beach on Monday.

If anything raises eyebrows, it’s that Mickelson believes their trophy collection will keep growing.

“I just believe that,

even today, if I play my best, if Tiger plays his best, it’s good enough to win on any week,” Mickelson said. “And the challenge is there are so many great young players, and so many great players in the game today, that it takes our best to win. I just think that both myself and Tiger are going to have a really, really good year this year.”

Nothing changes the outlook like winning, and Mickelson made it look easy on the weekend at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

He recovered from consecutive bogeys along the ocean, when the wind and rain were at their worst, by playing the final 26 holes without a bogey. Mickelson made an 8-foot par putt on the 17th hole Saturday. Otherwise, his longest putt for par during that stretch was 4 feet.

But it’s harder than it looks.

Mickelson turns 49 this

summer, and one of the most underrated qualities has been his health. He revealed in the summer of 2010 that he was dealing with psoriatic arthritis. Otherwise, his injuries have been either minor (left wrist from Oakmont’s rough in 2007) or temporary (broken leg from skiing in 1994).

“The challenge is getting myself to play my best,” Mickelson said.

Woods is 43 with eight surgeries behind him — four on his left knee, four on his lower back.

His comeback last year is why expectations are so high now. Woods played well in Florida last year, took a dip in the late spring and then kept getting better until winning the Tour Championship the way he won so many other tournaments. He built a lead over 54 holes and played the kind of golf that was tough to beat.

He was at his best that week, and he had to be.

With the meat of the

season about to begin, the question is how often they can be at their best against deeper and younger competition.

He seems to be doing just fine. Mickelson was poised to win the Desert Classic until he lost on a birdie at the last hole to Adam Long, who was No. 417 in the world ranking. He overcame a three-shot deficit against Paul Casey by closing with a 65 at Pebble Beach. In between was a missed cut at the Phoenix Open, where he changed driver in search of a few extra yards. Mickelson is always chasing distance.

His optimism comes from picking up 6 mph of swing speed for his driver, which he says rarely happens to anybody, let alone someone in his late 40s.

There was no secret involved.

“It’s not really a secret.

It was nine months of hard work,” Mickelson said. “And then overnight I was swinging 6 mph

fast. It was biometric swing studies, taking weaknesses and making them strengths. It was time in the gym. It was a whole workout process. It’s been a lot of work, but days like this make it worthwhile.”

Mickelson last year won the Mexico Championship for his first victory in more than four years, the longest drought of his career. Even when he wasn’t winning, he was a runner-up at majors three straight years.

Woods went five years without winning, but that was different. During a four-year stretch when he had four back surgeries, he played only 19 times on the PGA Tour and registered only one top-10 finish. To have won last year, to have risen to just outside the top 10 in the world, is cause for optimism.

But it’s not easy.

“I’ve worked to give my body the best chance to do my job, but there are

days when I just don’t practice and I don’t train. Those are days I’ve just got to rest,” Woods said at Torrey Pines. “That’s probably been one of the lessons I’ve learned through all of this, is there are days I just have to shut it down.”

The Genesis Open is their first time competing against each other since the Tour Championship, notwithstanding the overhyped made-for-TV match they played with \$9 million going to the winner (Mickelson). They are in elite territory financially, too. With his victory, Mickelson joined Woods as the only players to surpass \$90 million in career earnings on the PGA Tour.

Mickelson says his goal of 50 victories might be tougher to achieve than he realized. What about \$100 million?

“I just need one more match with Tiger and I should get there,” he said.

His game is sharp is ever. So is the needle.

■ **MLB: New York Mets**

Jacob deGrom, Mets set Opening Day deadline for long-term contract

By **TIM HEALEY**
Newsday

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Jacob deGrom wants long-term security, and he wants it soon.

The Mets ace and reigning NL Cy Young Award winner informed the team within the past week that he has decided on Opening Day as a deadline to complete a contract extension, sources confirmed Tuesday. General manager Brodie Van Wagenen, formerly deGrom’s agent, called it “a mutual understanding.”

If there is no deal by then — March 28 — the club would have to wait till the offseason, at which point deGrom will be just one year from free agency, to try again.

Van Wagenen said talks with deGrom’s CAA agents, led by Jeff Berry, are ongoing.

“It was organic. It was a conversation,” Van Wagenen said of the deadline’s origin. “From an agent’s perspective, I would agree as well that you want to have the dialogue be timely. There’s no reason to have it carry in (to the season) and have it be a cloud that hangs over the regular season.”

“It’s for everyone’s best interest, so the focus once the season starts is on the performance of the team. I think everybody feels like we’ve got a chance to play meaningful games right out of the gate, and we don’t want anything to stand in the way.”

“Jacob, as I’ve said many times before, we

care about him. He knows we care about him. We know how important he is to the organization. It will be my job to make sure there is no strained relationship no matter what takes place.”

Further, the Mets said months ago an offer would be coming, a source said. COO Jeff Wilpon met with deGrom’s camp at the winter meetings two months ago.

DeGrom did not participate in the Mets’ informal workout Tuesday but has been present at their First Data Field facility in recent days. He is scheduled to speak to reporters Thursday after the team’s first official workout for pitchers and catchers.

“Jacob showed up to camp the same Jacob deGrom he’s always

been: smile on his face, loose, happy, throwing bullpens that are dazzling everybody,” Van Wagenen said Monday on WFAN.

“We love him. He knows it. And he’s going to get all the attention he deserves — not just from fans, the public, the media, but he’s going to get the attention he deserves inside these walls.”

Van Wagenen said he is participating directly in contract extension talks with deGrom.

That was not true during arbitration settlement negotiations — he recused himself due to the unusual dynamic of him switching sides from agent to team executive — when deGrom ended up with a \$17-million deal for 2019. That \$9.6-million

raise from his 2018 salary is the largest ever for an arbitration-eligible player, an acknowledgement of deGrom’s historic season that the Mets hope will generate some goodwill and momentum when it comes to a longer deal.

“For a decision that is going to impact our short- and long-term future as much as Jacob will, I’ll be involved in that process,” Van Wagenen said.

This saga began last July, when Van Wagenen — speaking as deGrom’s agent — said the Mets should sign him to a long-term deal or trade him. About three months later, the Mets hired him as GM.

DeGrom, a two-time All-Star and the 2014 NL Rookie of the Year, is scheduled to hit free

agency at age 32 after the 2020 season. Last season was his best yet, when he had a 1.70 ERA (best in the majors), 0.91 WHIP and a career-high 217 innings in a career-high 32 starts.

Van Wagenen has been consistent in saying the Mets want to keep him around, but so far it’s mostly just talk.

“Jacob knows what we need from him in 2019, he knows what our desire is long-term and whether or not we can make that become a reality, time will tell,” Van Wagenen said on WFAN. “But Jacob knows how I feel about him. He knows what this organization thinks of him. And he’s got to be a big part of our success going forward, not just in ‘19.”

■ **NFL: Pittsburgh Steelers**

Antonio Brown asks Steelers for trade

Brown wants out of Pittsburgh, posts a farewell message to city and Steelers fans

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP SPORTS WRITER

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers still haven't decided whether there's a path for wayward wide receiver Antonio Brown to return in 2019.

Not that it matters to Brown. He's already made up his mind.

A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press the perennial Pro Bowler has formally asked the Steelers for a trade, the latest move in a game of brinkmanship by the 30-year-old designed to force Pittsburgh to move him by the start of training camp this summer.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters.

Brown appeared to make his decision official in a social media post released on Instagram on Tuesday. The video includes highlights from Brown's career with the Steelers while lyrics from "Do What I Want" by rapper Lil Uzi Vert plays in the background.

"SteelerNation thank you for nine big years!!!" Brown wrote. "Time to move on and move forward."

The post came shortly after Brown was found guilty in absence on a charge of reckless driving in a suburban Pittsburgh court on Tuesday

morning. Brown was charged in November for driving his black sports car over 100 mph in a 45 mph zone. He paid a \$426.77 fine. Brown did not attend Tuesday's hearing.

Brown still has three years remaining on the \$72 million contract he signed in the spring of 2017, and remains one of the most dynamic performers in the league. He is the only player in NFL history with six consecutive 100-catch seasons and he hauled in 104 receptions for 1,297 yards and a franchise-record 15 touchdowns in 2018.

Still, Brown's behavior became increasingly erratic last fall. The nadir came before Pittsburgh's game against Cincinnati in Week 17. The team sent him home with an apparent leg injury on the Friday before the game and he failed to provide coach Mike Tomlin with an update until Sunday morning, when his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, let Tomlin know that Brown was available to play.

Tomlin opted to make Brown inactive and Brown did not show up to clean out his locker or conduct an exit interview with the coaching staff. He pulled out of the Pro Bowl with an injury and team president Art Rooney II indicated the team had been unable to make contact with Brown in the weeks after Pittsburgh finished 9-6-1 and failed to reach the



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) pulls in a pass reception in front of New Orleans Saints cornerback Marshon Lattimore, foreground right, and strong safety Kurt Coleman in the second half of an NFL football game, in New Orleans.

playoffs.

Rooney, however, stressed last month he did not plan to "disparage" Brown and did not close the door on Brown's possible return. That still might be the case, whether Brown wants to come back or not.

There is no major rush with another month before the new league year begins, though Pittsburgh could work out the parameters of a deal by March 13. Brown's contract counts \$21.12 million in 2019, a number that inches north to \$23.62 if Brown receives a \$2.5 million

roster bonus he's scheduled to receive on March 17.

The number seems daunting, but for once the Steelers are not right up against the salary cap thanks in large part to running back Le'Veon Bell's decision to sit out 2018 rather than sign his one-year franchise tender. The \$14.4 million Bell forfeited will roll over into 2019, giving Pittsburgh some flexibility to absorb a loss if Brown plays elsewhere.

Cutting Brown is almost certainly off the table, but what Brown could command on the trade market is

uncertain. Pittsburgh received a third-round pick from Oakland last season for Martavis Bryant, who carried the weight of unmet expectations and a record that included multiple violations of the NFL's substance abuse policy.

Brown doesn't have that kind of baggage, though his behavior in recent months could give potential suitors pause. The list of his transgressions in recent months includes a pending civil lawsuit in Florida claiming he hurled objects from the 14th floor of an apartment building that

landed near a toddler; threatening an ESPN reporter through social media; and his 100 mph sprint through the northern Pittsburgh suburbs on Nov. 8.

Several of Brown's teammates, including second-year wide receiver Juju Smith-Schuster, talked openly at the Pro Bowl about Brown remaining with the team that took a flyer on him in the sixth-round of the 2010 draft and helped him evolve into one of the best receivers of his generation. Brown apparently wants no part of a reconciliation.

■ **MLB: Miami Marlins**

Marlins to sign reliever Sergio Romo to one-year deal

By **WELLS DUSENBURY**
SUN SENTINEL

One day before pitchers and catchers report to Jupiter, Fla., the Miami Marlins are adding a veteran arm to the bullpen.

Miami has agreed to a one-year contract with reliever Sergio Romo, according to multiple reports. The deal

— pending a physical — will pay the right-hander \$2.5 million plus incentives, according to MLB.com.

An 11-year veteran, Romo has spent the past two seasons with the Tampa Bay Rays. Last year, he made 73 appearances, posting a 4.14 ERA in 67¹/₃ innings. Romo, 35, was 25 for 33 in save

opportunities. The Rays also used him five times as an opener.

Romo spent the first nine years of his career with San Francisco, winning three World Series titles (2010, 2012, 2014). As the closer in 2012, Romo was 3 for 3 in save opportunities during the World Series, pitching three perfect innings. During his

Giants career, Romo recorded a 2.58 ERA with 84 saves and 498 strikeouts to 89 walks.

The right-hander's numbers have increased the past two seasons, posting ERAs of 3.56 and 4.14 with the Los Angeles Dodgers and Rays, respectively.

Romo relies on four pitches — primarily his slider, which he threw

58 percent of the time in 2018. The reliever also utilizes a sinker (15.5 percent), four-seamer (14.5 percent) and change-up (12 percent).

Romo's addition gives the Marlins a much-needed veteran in the bullpen. While Drew Steckenrider, Adam Conley and Tayron Guerrero are likely locks

to make the Opening Day roster, Miami has plenty of competition for the other spots.

Returners Jarlin Garcia, Elieser Hernandez, Tyler Kinley and Merandy Gonzalez, along with newcomers Riley Ferrell, Julian Fernandez, Nick Anderson and Austin Brice will battle for the remaining openings.

■ **MLB: Miami Marlins**

AP source: Marlins adding Jorge Posada to front office

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP SPORTS WRITER

MIAMI — Jorge Posada and Derek Jeter are teammates again.

Posada will be joining the Miami Marlins' front office as a special adviser to Jeter, said to a person with knowledge of the negotiations. The person spoke Tuesday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Posada's hiring has not been publicly announced.

Jeter is entering his second season as the Marlins' CEO.

Like Jeter, Posada spent his entire playing

career with the Yankees. Posada has also primarily been a South Florida resident since retiring after the 2011 season.

Posada batted .273 with 275 home runs and 1,065 RBIs in parts of 17 seasons with the Yankees. He also was the batter when the Marlins recorded their final out to beat the Yankees in the 2003 World Series, hitting a soft grounder toward first base and being tagged out by pitcher Josh Beckett to end the game and give then-Florida its second world championship. The Marlins have not

played a postseason game since.

Jeter inherited a team that had a former Yankees star in Don Mattingly as its manager, and has since added plenty of other people with Yankees ties — including vice president of player development Gary Denbo, director of player personnel Dan Greenlee, director of amateur scouting DJ Svihlik and now, Posada.

Miami has its first official spring training workout for pitchers and catchers on Wednesday in Jupiter, Florida.



AP PHOTO

Retired New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, second from left, preparing to share hands with retired Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, far right, with another retired Yankee pitcher, Andy Pettitte, between them during an on-field, pregame ceremony retiring Jeter's number 2 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

RAYS FROM PAGE 1

Through trades that included prominent players such as pitcher Chris Archer and first baseman Jake Bauers, they have continued to build their young core.

In return, they got promising youth in outfielder Austin Meadows,

pitcher Tyler Glasnow and the versatile Yandy Diaz, who Cash said will get plenty of looks at first base, along with others.

They also continued to build in free agency, signing two all-stars in RHP Charlie Morton and outfielder Avisail Garcia. Typically not big spenders in free agency, after Morton signed a two-year, \$30 million

deal in January, it looks like there's a major push by the Rays to contend sooner rather than later.

"Our whole goal here is to get to the point where we have a core of players that could compete in this division and compete for the postseason," Bloom said. "You look at what happened on the field last year and what began to take shape as

the year went on, and we certainly feel there's something that's building here.

"We're at the point where we want to be competing for the post-season, so anything we do is with that in mind."

Winning 90 games might not be enough to reach the postseason in 2019, and Cash knows that. So anything they

can do in the spring to help gain a slight edge, they intend to explore.

"You can't deny that as an organization, we're in a division that two teams win 208 games," Cash said. "And you can only think that Baltimore and Toronto are only gonna get better. The expectations, we'll control them from the inside, but for being around these

young guys that didn't have a ton of experience, they carried themselves really well in some pretty high-pressure environments.

"I expect them to learn from that, continue to grow and put it to good use."

Email Jacob Hoag at jacob.hoag@yoursun.com and follow him on Twitter @ByJacobHoag.

■ MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Roundup

Tip-in at buzzer lifts No. 19 LSU past No. 5 Kentucky

Kavell Bigby-Williams connected on a tip-in at the buzzer

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kavell Bigby-Williams's tip-in at the buzzer lifted No. 19 LSU to a 73-71 win over fifth-ranked Kentucky on Tuesday night.

With the game tied after Keldon Johnson made two free throws with 6 seconds left, Skylar Mays drove the length of the court. His shot missed but Bigby-Williams got the offensive rebound and scored to give the Tigers their first win over the Wildcats since 2009. It was just the sixth time ever that LSU (20-4, 10-1 Southeastern Conference) has beaten Kentucky (20-4, 10-2).

Tremont Waters, who finished with 15 points to lead the Tigers, hit two free throws with 20 seconds left to give LSU a two-point lead before Johnson's free throws tied it.

Naz Reid and Emmitt Williams scored 12 each and Mays had 11 for the Tigers.

PJ Washington scored 20 points to lead the Wildcats, who had an 10-game winning streak snapped.

No. 24 Maryland 70, No. 12 Purdue 56

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Jalen Smith scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half, and No. 24 Maryland used a strong defensive performance to beat 12th-ranked Purdue 70-56 Tuesday night, ending the Boilermakers' eight-game winning streak.

Down by eight at half-time, the Terrapins (19-6, 10-4 Big Ten) took the lead for the first time with 10 minutes left before pulling away. The comeback was fueled by Smith, Eric Alaya and fellow freshman Aaron Wiggins.

Maryland outscored Purdue 40-18 in the second half, limiting the Boilermakers to 1-for-16 shooting from beyond the arc.

Ayala scored 15, Anthony Cowan Jr. added 12 and Fernando Bruno had 12 points and 12 rebounds, his seventh straight double-double and 16th of the season. Wiggins scored 11 on 4-of-6 shooting.

Carsen Edwards scored 24 for Purdue (17-7, 10-3), but was limited to seven points after halftime on 2-for-13 shooting. The Boilermakers went 6 for 36 from the floor in the second half.

Purdue had won five straight over Maryland, including a 62-60 decision on Dec. 5.

Maryland made its first three shots of the second half and held the Boilermakers to 1-for-11 shooting during a 10-2 run that tied it at 40.

Edwards responded with a layup and 7-foot-3 Matt Haarms added three free throws for a 45-42 lead, and Edwards buried a 3-pointer for a six-point cushion.

Successive 3s by Ayala again knotted the score, and Maryland took its first lead when Smith slammed home an alley-oop pass from Cowan.

It was 50-all before Wiggins drilled a 3 to put the Terrapins ahead for good.

Edwards scored 17 points, and the Boilermakers committed only two turnovers in taking a 38-30 halftime lead.

Maryland missed its first seven field-goal tries, five by Smith, to fall into a quick hole. Purdue led 26-17 before Fernando took his first shot, an alley-oop dunk off a pass from Darryl Morsell.

After the Terrapins cut an 11-point deficit to 33-30, Edwards made two foul shots and Ryan Cline nailed a buzzer-beating shot from well beyond the arc.

No. 11 Michigan State 67, No. 20 Wisconsin 59

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Cassius Winston scored 23 points to help No. 11 Michigan State beat 20th-ranked Wisconsin 67-59 on Tuesday night.

In doing so, the Michigan State (20-5, 11-3 Big Ten) star outdueled Wisconsin's Ethan Happ, who scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

At times, the game seemed like a contest between the two heavyweights as Winston seemed to answer every Happ hook shot with a floater or 3-pointer.

But Wisconsin (17-7, 9-4) staggered at home, going more than five minutes without a point as the Spartans put the game away.

The game was still in doubt with 32 seconds to go before Kenny Goins hit a 3-pointer to give the Spartans a 62-56 lead. Wisconsin was then forced to foul, and Brad Davison finally broke the Badgers' scoreless streak making a 3-pointer with 10 seconds left.

Goins and Nick Ward each added 12 points for the Spartans, while Wisconsin's Nate Reuvers was the only other player in double figures for scoring at 11.

As dominant as Happ was at times, he also accounted for six of the Badgers' 10 turnovers. He also missed all six free throw attempts he took, including two with the Badgers down 59-56 and 1:28 left.

Still, his 20 points put him at 2,000 for his career as he became the fourth player in the Big Ten to ever hit that mark and grab 1,000 rebounds. Happ, who now has 1,138 rebounds for his career, is also the first conference player to accomplish that in more than 35 years.



AP PHOTOS

Purdue players and coaches watch the final moments of the team's NCAA college basketball game against Maryland, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in College Park, Md. Maryland won 70-56.

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — CJ Massinburg scored 21 points, Dontay Caruthers added 15 and No. 25 Buffalo turned up its defensive intensity in the second half and held on to beat Akron 76-70 on Tuesday night, dropping the Zips to 0-31 against ranked teams.

No. 25 Buffalo 76, Akron 70

The Bulls (21-3, 9-2 Mid-American Conference) were held to one of the lowest point totals this season, but the defending conference champions were able to do enough against the Zips (14-10, 6-5), ranked 13th nationally in scoring defense.

Caruthers came off the bench and gave the Bulls some solid minutes at both ends, drawing a charging foul during a key second-half stretch for Buffalo, which forced two 30-second clock violations after halftime.

Loren Cristian Jackson scored 20 and Tyler Cheese 16 for the Zips, who kept

fighting and closed within 73-70 on Daniel Utomi's 3-pointer with 16.3 seconds left.

Akron fouled Massinburg on the inbounds pass and the senior guard made the first free throw but missed the second. However, Caruthers alertly grabbed the offensive rebound and dropped a layup for the final bucket.

Buffalo was just the fifth ranked opponent to visit Akron's James A. Rhodes Arena and the first since No. 20 Nevada in 2006-07. Although they've had several close calls, the Zips have never beaten a Top 25 team.

The well-balanced Bulls, whose three losses have all come on the road, came in as one of the country's top scoring teams, averaging 85 points per game. But the Bulls had to work for every basket and didn't open a double-digit lead until the second half when



Maryland forward Bruno Fernando (23) gestures in front of Purdue center Matt Haarms during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in College Park, Md. Fernando contributed 12 points to Maryland's 70-56 win.

Jordan's corner 3-pointer gave the Western New Yorkers a 47-36 lead.

Jackson kept the Zips within range with a pair of 3-pointers and a long shot by Ivey pull Akron within 62-58.

But Massinburg made two free throws after a ticky-tack foul was called on Akron and the senior guard drove for layup to give Buffalo a 66-58 lead with 2:43 left.

Massinburg, who didn't score in the first half of Buffalo's win over Central Michigan on Saturday, was scoreless for the first 14:34 before making a layup and 3-pointer to help the Bulls take a 30-28 lead at halftime.

It matched a season-low in the opening 20 minutes for Buffalo, which couldn't get anything in transition against the Zips, who fell to 11-2 at home.



Purdue guard Carsen Edwards, left, reacts in front of teammate Ryan Cline in the final moments of the team's NCAA college basketball game against Maryland, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in College Park, Md. Maryland won 70-56.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

Ohio Wesleyan University vs. University of Scranton, South County Recreation Park, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13 Marietta College vs. Kean University, North County Recreation Park, 10:30 a.m.

Seton Hall vs. Kansas, North County Recreation Park, 10 a.m.

Central Connecticut State vs. Saint Joseph's University, South County Recreation Park, 12 p.m.

Swarthmore College vs. LaRoche University, North County Recreation Park, 2 p.m.

University of Scranton vs. Eastern Connecticut State University, North County Recreation Park, 3 p.m.

LaRoche University vs. Ohio Wesleyan University, North County Recreation Park, 5 p.m.

Thursday, March 14 Swarthmore College vs. Arcadia University, North County Recreation Park, 10 a.m.

LaRoche University vs. Bridgewater State University, North County Recreation Park, 11 a.m.

Ohio Wesleyan University vs. Swarthmore College, North County Recreation Park, 1:30 p.m.

SUNY Canton vs. North Central College, North County Recreation Park, 2:30 p.m.

University of Scranton (JV) vs. North Central College (JV), North County Recreation Park, 6 p.m.

SUNY Canton (JV) vs. Susquehanna University (JV), North County Recreation Park, 6 p.m.

Friday, March 15 Saint Joseph's University vs. Seton Hall, North County Recreation Park, 10 a.m.

Babson College vs. Ohio Wesleyan University,

North County Recreation Park, 11 a.m.

University of Scranton vs. Susquehanna University, South County Recreation Park, 1 p.m.

Harvard vs. Seton Hall, North County Recreation Park, 1:30 p.m.

Bridgewater State University vs. SUNY Canton, North County Recreation Park, 2 p.m.

University of Scranton vs. Susquehanna University, South County Recreation Park, 4 p.m.

SUNY Canton vs. Bridgewater State University, North County Recreation Park, 5 p.m.

North Central College vs. Vassar College, North County Recreation Park, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 16 Swarthmore College vs. SUNY Canton, North County Recreation Park, 9 a.m.

Seton Hall vs. Harvard, North County Recreation Park, 10 a.m.

College vs. Ohio Wesleyan University, Charlotte High School, 11 a.m.

University of Scranton vs. Susquehanna University, South County Recreation Park, 11:30 a.m.

Vassar College vs. Babson College, North County Recreation Park, 12 p.m.

Harvard vs. Saint Joseph's University, North County Recreation Park, 1:30 p.m.

Eastern Connecticut State University vs. Babson College, North County Recreation Park, 3:30 p.m.

Eastern Connecticut State University vs. North Central College, North County Recreation Park, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 17 Saint Joseph's University vs. Harvard, North County Recreation Park, 10 a.m.

Vassar College vs. Mount Saint Mary College, North County Recreation

Park, 11 a.m. College of Wooster vs. Eastern Connecticut State University, South County Recreation Park, 1 p.m.

Babson College vs. North Central College, North County Recreation Park, 2 p.m.

Mount Saint Mary College vs. Denison University, North County Recreation Park, 2:30 p.m.

Denison University (JV) vs. North Central College (JV), North County Recreation Park, 6 p.m.

Monday, March 18 Vassar College vs. Denison University, North County Recreation Park, 12 p.m.

Mount Saint Mary College vs. SUNY Cobleskill, North County Recreation Park, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19 SUNY Cobleskill vs. College of Wooster, North County Recreation Park, 11 a.m.

North Central College vs. Denison University,

North County Recreation Park, 12 p.m.

SUNY Cobleskill vs. Mount Saint Mary College, North County Recreation Park, 2 p.m.

North Central College (JV) vs. Denison University (JV), North County Recreation Park, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20 College of Wooster vs. North Central College, North County Recreation Park, 10 a.m.

College of Wooster (JV) vs. North Central College (JV), North County Recreation Park, 12 p.m.

Rutgers vs. Harvard, North County Recreation Park, 2 p.m.

Thursday, March 21 Denison University vs. SUNY Cobleskill, North County Recreation Park, 12 p.m.

Friday, March 22 SUNY Cobleskill vs. Denison University, North County Recreation Park, 11 a.m.



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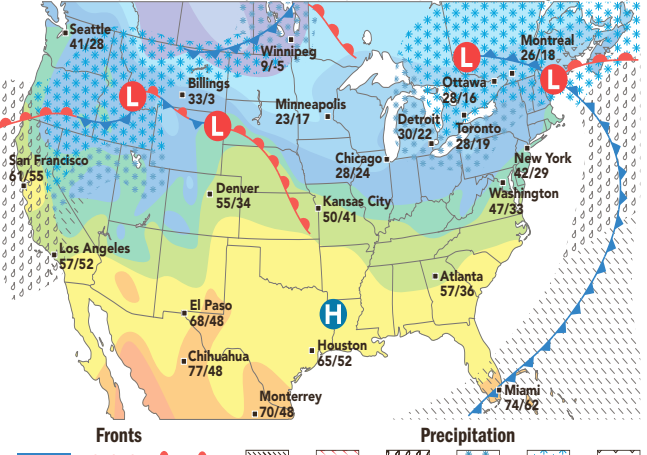
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TODAY / TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Clear and cooler					
HIGH 66° 75% chance of rain	78° / 57° 0% chance of rain	79° / 64° 10% chance of rain	80° / 64° 45% chance of rain	83° / 66° 15% chance of rain	85° / 65° 30% chance of rain

THE NATION Publication date: 02/13/19

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are high for the day.



U.S. Extremes (For the 48 contiguous states yesterday)
High 88° at Immokalee, FL
Low -28° at Havre, MT

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Albuquerque	56 37 pc 59 43 c	Jackson, MS	63 42 s 69 56 c		
Anchorage	21 2 pc 13 0 s	Kansas City	50 41 pc 48 12 c		
Atlanta	57 36 s 64 50 pc	Knoxville	50 32 s 61 50 pc		
Baltimore	44 26 pc 52 41 pc	Las Vegas	58 48 sh 60 46 sh		
Billings	33 3 pc 20 9 pc	Los Angeles	57 52 r 62 48 r		
Birmingham	58 38 s 64 56 pc	Louisville	44 37 s 57 43 pc		
Boise	42 35 sn 46 32 sn	Memphis	58 44 s 62 50 c		
Boston	47 30 sh 43 36 pc	Milwaukee	30 23 pc 40 16 sn		
Buffalo	28 22 sn 40 36 c	Minneapolis	23 17 pc 24 -3 sn		
Burlington, VT	31 20 sn 30 26 pc	Montgomery	62 36 s 68 54 pc		
Charleston, WV	42 30 s 59 46 pc	Nashville	53 39 s 61 50 c		
Charlotte	59 31 s 64 46 pc	New Orleans	63 48 s 71 61 c		
Chicago	28 24 pc 42 16 c	New York City	42 29 pc 46 39 pc		
Cincinnati	39 32 pc 51 38 c	Norfolk, VA	56 35 s 61 47 pc		
Cleveland	31 28 sf 48 40 c	Oklahoma City	62 44 pc 66 33 pc		
Columbia, SC	62 31 s 67 46 pc	Omaha	39 27 pc 28 3 c		
Columbus, OH	33 28 pc 49 40 c	Philadelphia	41 28 pc 48 39 pc		
Concord, NH	38 22 sn 38 23 pc	Phoenix	71 54 c 61 55 r		
Dallas	64 49 s 74 49 pc	Pittsburgh	30 26 sf 47 41 c		
Denver	55 34 pc 52 28 pc	Portland, ME	34 24 sn 38 27 pc		
Des Moines	31 28 pc 32 2 c	Portland, OR	44 33 c 41 36 r		
Detroit	30 22 sf 44 29 c	Providence	45 27 sh 44 34 pc		
Duluth	25 15 c 23 0 sn	Raleigh	56 31 s 63 48 pc		
Fairbanks	11 -13 sf 0 -19 s	Salt Lake City	43 39 sn 48 37 sh		
Fargo	14 2 pc 6 -13 pc	St. Louis	48 40 s 57 23 c		
Hartford	37 26 pc 43 32 pc	San Antonio	65 48 pc 71 53 pc		
Helena	30 7 sn 24 16 c	San Diego	63 57 r 65 57 r		
Honolulu	75 62 sh 75 64 sh	San Francisco	61 55 r 57 47 r		
Houston	65 52 pc 73 59 c	Seattle	41 28 pc 39 34 r		
Indianapolis	35 29 pc 48 31 c	Washington, DC	47 33 pc 55 48 pc		

SUN AND MOON

Day	Rise	Set
Today	7:07 a.m.	6:19 p.m.
Thursday	7:06 a.m.	6:20 p.m.

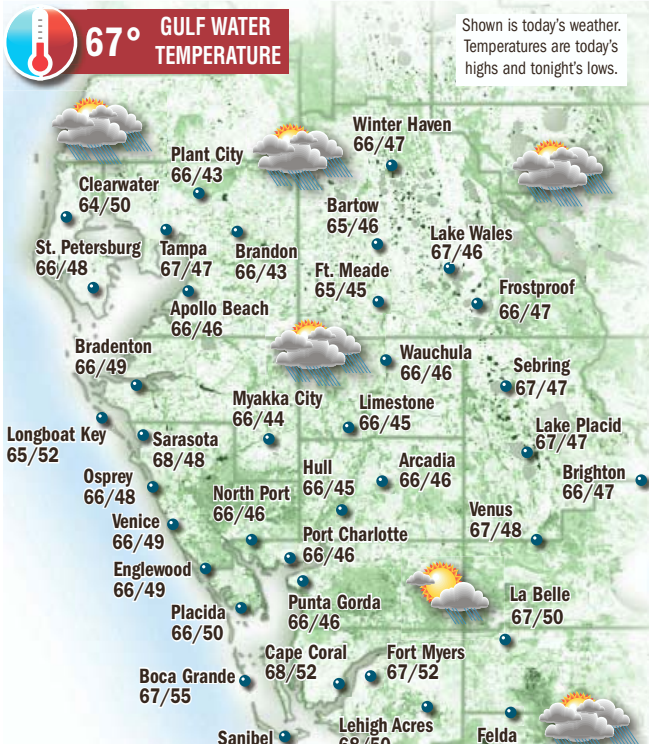
Day	Rise	Set
Today	12:33 p.m.	1:16 a.m.
Thursday	1:21 p.m.	2:16 a.m.

FULL LAST NEW FIRST

Feb 19 Feb 26 Mar 6 Mar 14

SOLUNAR TABLE

Day	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Today	12:11p	5:58a	---	6:24p
Thu.	12:34a	6:48a	1:02p	7:16p
Fri.	1:26a	7:40a	1:55p	8:10p



FLORIDA CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
Apalachicola	63 45 s 64 53 pc	
Bradenton	66 49 r 76 60 pc	
Clearwater	64 50 r 72 61 pc	
Coral Springs	73 63 sh 77 64 pc	
Daytona Beach	60 49 r 72 55 pc	
Fort Lauderdale	74 64 sh 78 66 pc	
Fort Myers	67 52 sh 79 59 pc	
Gainesville	66 40 s 76 52 pc	
Jacksonville	64 37 s 71 49 pc	
Key Largo	75 66 sh 76 70 sh	
Key West	76 66 sh 77 71 pc	
Lakeland	65 44 r 76 56 pc	
Melbourne	65 51 sh 74 57 pc	
Miami	74 62 sh 78 66 pc	
Naples	68 54 sh 79 61 pc	
Ocala	64 38 r 74 50 pc	
Okeechobee	67 47 sh 76 57 pc	
Orlando	63 46 r 76 55 pc	
Panama City	64 44 s 67 57 pc	
Pensacola	63 46 s 68 60 pc	
Pompano Beach	73 64 sh 78 66 pc	
St. Augustine	60 45 r 68 53 pc	
St. Petersburg	66 48 r 75 58 pc	
Sarasota	68 48 r 76 58 pc	
Tallahassee	64 35 s 68 46 pc	
Tampa	67 47 r 75 58 pc	
Vero Beach	66 55 sh 76 56 pc	
West Palm Beach	71 63 sh 78 65 pc	

TIDES

Location	High	Low	High	Low
Punta Gorda	10:53a	4:05a	8:35p	2:05p
Today	9:38p	5:25a	---	---
Englewood	9:30a	2:21a	7:12p	12:21p
Today	12:03p	3:41a	8:15p	1:05p
Boca Grande	5:48p	1:29a	---	---
Today	7:10p	2:39a	---	---
El Jobean	11:25a	4:34a	9:07p	2:34p
Today	10:10p	5:54a	---	---
Venice	7:45a	1:00a	5:27p	11:00a
Today	6:30p	2:20a	---	---

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PORT CHARLOTTE

Venice through 2 p.m. Tuesday

Temperatures
High/Low 84°/68°
Normal High/Low 77°/54°
Record High 88° (2018)
Record Low 35° (1974)

Precipitation (in inches)
24 hours through 2 p.m. Tue. Trace
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.95"
Year to date 3.77"
Normal year to date 2.75"
Record 1.35" (1993)

VENICE

Venice through 2 p.m. Tuesday

Temperatures
High/Low 81°/70°
Normal High/Low 73°/54°
Record High 87° (2001)
Record Low 36° (1973)

Precipitation (in inches)
24 hours through 2 p.m. Tue. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.87"
Year to date 2.40"
Normal year to date 3.31"
Record 1.35" (2014)

MONTHLY RAINFALL

Month	2019	2018	Avg.	Record/Year
Jan.	3.77	1.98	1.80	9.93/2016
Feb.	Trace	0.66	2.43	11.05/1983
Mar.	0.53	3.28	9.26	1970
Apr.	1.15	2.03	5.80	1994
May	15.98	2.50	15.98	2018
Jun.	6.23	8.92	23.99	1974
Jul.	9.80	8.22	14.22	1995
Aug.	12.37	8.01	15.60	1995
Sep.	7.58	6.84	14.03	1979
Oct.	2.60	2.93	10.88	1995
Nov.	1.91	1.91	5.53	2002
Dec.	2.47	1.78	6.83	2002
Year	3.77	63.26	50.65	(since 1931)

Totals are from a 24-hour period ending at 5 p.m.

SEBRING

Sebring through 2 p.m. Tuesday

Temperatures
High/Low 86°/67°

Precipitation (in inches)
24 hours through 2 p.m. Tue. 0.00"

AIRPORT

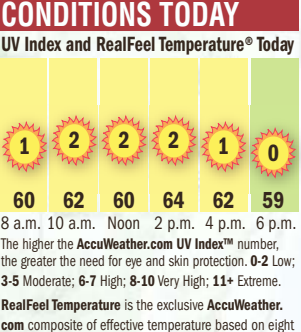
	Hi/Lo	Outlook	Delays
Ft. Myers	67/52	showers	morning
Punta Gorda	66/46	showers	morning
Sarasota	68/48	rain	morning

CONDITIONS TODAY

UV Index and RealFeel Temperature® Today

1	2	2	2	1	0
60	62	60	64	62	59

8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.



AIR QUALITY INDEX

Air Quality Index readings as of Tuesday

0-50	Good;	51-100	Moderate;	101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups;	151-200	Unhealthy;	201-300	Very Unhealthy;	301-500	Hazardous
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Main pollutant: Particulates
Source: scg.gov.net

■ TENNIS

No. 1 Osaka splits with coach 2 weeks after 2nd major title

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP TENNIS WRITER

Naomi Osaka surprisingly split from coach Sascha Bajin, a little more than two weeks after she won the Australian Open for a second consecutive Grand Slam title and moved to No. 1 in the WTA rankings.

"Hey everyone, I will no longer be working together with Sascha," Osaka posted on Twitter on Monday. "I thank him for his work and wish him all the best in the future."

Osaka's agent confirmed to The Associated Press that Osaka would no longer be working with Bajin, the 2018 WTA Coach of the Year, but said there would be no further comment.

Less than a half-hour after Osaka's tweet, Bajin responded to her on Twitter. He thanked her and wrote: "I wish you nothing but the best as well. What a ride that was. Thank you for letting me be part of this."

Osaka hired Bajin before the 2018 season.

He previously worked with Serena Williams, Victoria Azarenka and Caroline Wozniacki.

Osaka withdrew from this week's Qatar Open, citing a back injury.

The 21-year-old beat Petra Kvitová in three sets in the Australian Open final on Jan. 26.

That added to her championship at the U.S. Open last September, when she defeated Serena Williams in straight sets.

Those back-to-back victories made Osaka the first woman to win two

major championships in a row since Williams picked up four straight in 2014-15.

Osaka became the youngest woman to make her debut at No. 1 since Wozniacki at 20 in 2010 and the first tennis player from Asia to reach the top of the women's or men's rankings.

She was born in Japan — her mother is Japanese, her father is Haitian — and moved to the United States when she was 3. She has dual citizenship and now is based in Florida.



AP PHOTO
Naomi Osaka of Japan talking to her coach Sascha Bajin, left, during her semifinal match against Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia.

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