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'Rumors' abound in High Springs
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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018 | YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1874 | \$1.00

Lake City Reporter

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Blast kills 1 in O'Brien



Reynolds

Morning explosion at iron works claims the life of a Suwannee man **2A**

SEX CRIMES ALLEGED

Sting nets LO man

Cops: Suspect went to St. Johns County to meet young girl.

By **TONY BRITT**
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

A Live Oak man was arrested Wednesday in St. Johns County after allegedly traveling there to have sex with a minor.

Duggan Curtis Lavon Duggan, 59, of 132nd Street was charged with use of a computer to solicit, seduce or lure a child for sex, traveling to meet a minor for sex and unlawful use of a two-way communication device. Suwannee County Sheriff's Office investigators also found

Serious injuries in crash

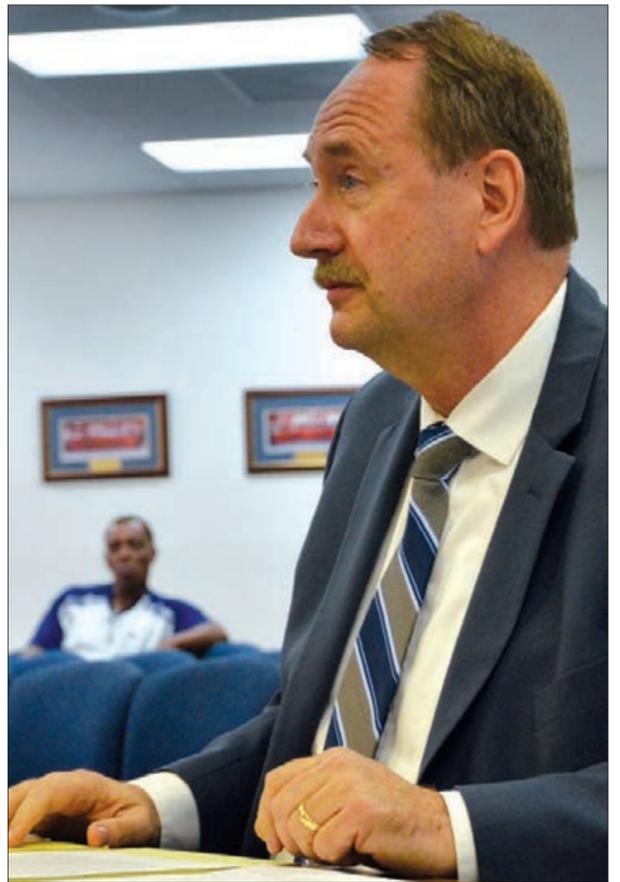
From staff reports

A Fort White man sustained serious injuries in an early morning accident in Fort White on Wednesday.

Edwin Alexander, 23, was traveling north on SW Spirit Avenue in a 1997 Honda four door when it moved into the southbound lane and struck the left front side of a 2014 Mitsubishi four-door driven by Stacy Murphy, 28, of

CRASH continued on 2A

2 left standing at City Hall



Photos by **CARL MCKINNEY**/Lake City Reporter
City manager candidates Judd, left, and Helfenberger field questions Wednesday. **BELOW:** Council members Hill, left, and Ward listen.

But only for a short time longer

New Lake City manager will be selected June 19.

By **CARL MCKINNEY**
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Two finalists are left standing for Lake City's top appointed position after five rounds of interviews Wednesday.

Still in the running for the city manager job are Joseph Helfenberger, former city manager for St. Cloud, and Danielle Judd, city manager for Green Cove Springs, who tied for the top spot over three other can-



didates. The final decision will follow the next round of interviews on June 19, with a meet-and-greet event from 5 to 6 p.m. the day before.

For about an hour at a time,

council members asked each candidate questions about topics such as their experience managing airports, their management style, what they perceive as Lake City's strengths and weaknesses and how they

would deliver information to the council.

Helfenberger said he views the job as similar to that of a coach.

"I'm a team player," he said. He said he has experience through jobs at multiple municipalities with a wide variety of government functions, from running an airport to handling a sewer expansion and negotiating labor contracts.

Helfenberger said his job would be made easier by the fact that Lake City is already experiencing economic

CITY continued on 2A

Trump signs bill to expand private care at VA



Trump

Dunn praises legislation as 'big step in improving care.'

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed a bill into law Wednesday that will give vet-

erans more freedom to see doctors outside the troubled Veterans Affairs system, a major shift aimed at reducing wait times and improving care by steering more patients to the private sector.

At a Rose Garden event at the White House, Trump praised the

legislation as fulfilling his pledge to fix the Department of Veterans Affairs by bringing accountability and providing private care to veterans whenever they feel unhappy with government-run health care.



Dunn

VA continued on 2A



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Father/daughter dance
Belmont hosts, 6A.

Blast kills 1 in O'Brien

Explosion 'shook the whole house,' says nearby resident.

By **COREY ARWOOD**
carwood@lakecityreporter.com

A Suwannee County man was killed in a welding tank explosion on Wednesday at an O'Brien iron works shop.

Andrew James Reynolds, 32, of O'Brien, the shop foreman at Suwannee Iron Works, off County Road 49, died from the blast early Wednesday morning. The blast is thought to have occurred while he was moving a gas cylinder from a truck bed to a storage rack, Suwannee County sheriff and fire officials said.

County fire officials said state fire marshals are investigating the explosion.

"Whether it's a defect or whether it was dropped, those are uncertain at this time," said Suwannee Fire Rescue Public Safety Director James Sommers on Wednesday afternoon, adding that SFR stations 3

and 43 responded to calls of an explosion with multiple injuries at Suwannee Iron Works and Fence Inc. at 7:20 a.m. Once inside the building where the explosion occurred, Sommers said firefighters found the

and propane.

"He was unloading a cylinder out of a vehicle and putting it back on a storage rack," Sommers said.

Suwannee County Sheriff Sam St. John called it a freak accident.



COREY ARWOOD/Lake City Reporter

Florida Highway Patrol troopers enter the premises of Suwannee Iron Works and Fence in O'Brien Wednesday, where an explosion killed a worker.

only injury had turned into a fatality.

Sommers said the shop foreman had "dramatic injuries unsustainable to life," and the explosion was caused by a high pressure welding cylinder containing nitrogen, butane

"The back of the truck got some damage," he said. "Actually, the tailgate was blown back inside the back of the truck."

Larry Wickline, a resident of a home adjacent to the property, said he heard the blast around 7:15 a.m.

"It shook the whole house," Wickline said.

Sommers said after firefighters arrived their immediate concern became the safety of the environment in the wake of the explosion, and that air monitors had to be installed in the large metal frame workshop.

"The area was hazardous at the time of arrival due to the gas in the air," Sommers said.

The container that erupted was about four and a half feet tall and 10 inches in diameter, and he said there were about 50 more in the area of the blast with similar gases.

"It could've been a lot worse," Sommers said.

St. John said Reynolds had two children, ages 11 and 13.

Sommers said along with State Fire Marshal investigators, Florida Department of Transportation and likely the Occupational Safety and Health Administration would join the investigation. FDOT is responsible for the cylinder, regarding both matters of its transportation and storage, he said.

QUICK HITS

Scripture of the Day

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."
— Psalm 28:7 (KJV)

Thought for Today

I live and love in God's peculiar light.
— Michelangelo, 1475-1564, Italian artist

Winning Lottery Numbers

Pick 3: (Tuesday p.m.) 1-4-8
Pick 4: (Tuesday p.m.) 6-3-1-8
Fantasy 5: (Tuesday) 19-21-22-28-35

See an error?

The Lake City Reporter corrects errors of fact in news items. If you have a concern, question, or suggestion, please call the editor. Corrections and clarifications will run in this space. Thanks for reading.

Submissions

The Lake City Reporter accepts photographs and caption information to run at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to see your organization in the newspaper, send the picture and information to Associate Editor Steve Wilson at swilson@lakecityreporter.com.

Lake City Reporter

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CITY

Continued From 1A

growth.

"You're not starting out with nothing," he told the council.

When asked how she would approach evaluating city departments and programs, Judd said she's careful and deliberate.

"I don't make wholesale changes," she said. "I come into a community and I listen.

"I don't do what they call a 'knee-jerk reaction,'" she added.

After being asked about the challenges Lake City is facing, as well as its opportunities, Judd shared her thoughts on the community.

Lake City has a strategically important location near two interstates, and the airport has the potential to attract further growth, she said. On top of that, the

downtown area is a "gem," she added.

"That should make you really poised for moving forward on some economic development," she said.

But the community also has a high poverty rate, she said, suggesting she could work with the school board to help develop or improve vocational programs. And the city will also need to look at the rates it's charging for services to ensure they are viable for the long-term, comparing running local government to a business.

"You're just the CEO of a different type of corporation," she said.

Among the candidates who didn't make the final cut was David Kraus, who works for the county in multiple capacities such as safety director and grant writer. "This is the job I moved to Lake City for," Kraus told the council.

Also in the running was

Glenn Irby, city administrator for Apopka and a former police officer.

"I found police work too political, so I went to the other side," he jokingly told the council.

The final contender was Vince Akhimie, who offers contractual management services and has served as Avon Park's public works director.

"When I read your job description, I felt this was exactly what I was looking for," Akhimie told the council.

On the final scoresheet — and a lower score is better — Helfenberger and Judd both received 12 points from the council.

Kraus received 14, Irby netted 15 and Akhimie got a 22.

Mayor Stephen Witt's top choice was Judd, followed by Kraus, then Helfenberger, Irby and Akhimie.

Councilman George

Ward's top pick was Helfenberger, followed by Irby, then Judd, Akhimie and Kraus.

Councilwoman Melinda Moses favored Irby, then Helfenberger at second place, followed by Judd, Kraus and Akhimie.

Councilman Jake Hill gave Kraus the top spot, followed by Judd, Akhimie, Irby and finally Helfenberger.

Councilman Eugene Jefferson ranked Helfenberger in first place, Kraus in second, Judd in third, Irby in fourth and Akhimie last.

STING

Continued From 1A

more than 50 marijuana plants and 17 pounds of packaged marijuana at his residence.

The arrest was part of the four-day "Operation

Rip Current," in which the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office arrested eight men, one of whom is homeless. Duggans is being held at the St. Johns County jail on \$100,000 bond and he will be transferred to Suwannee County upon satisfying the charges in St. Johns County.

The operation involved investigators posing as children online in an attempt to deter child predators from approaching actual children, who in turn were reportedly contacted by numerous subjects and were exposed to graphic and disturbing subject matter.

VA

Continued From 1A

"All during the campaign I'd go out and say, 'Why can't they just go see a doctor instead of standing in line for weeks and weeks and weeks?' Now they can go see a doctor," he said.

U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn, who represents southern Columbia County in Congress, applauded the bill.

"Today with President Trump, we took a big step in improving care and choice for our veterans," Dunn said. "The VA MISSION Act gives certainty to our veterans, increasing benefits to our

nation's heroes and expanding options to seek care outside of the VA. Our veterans fought for our freedoms, they shouldn't have to fight the system to receive the care they need and deserve. I thank President Trump and House VA Committee Chairman Phil Roe for their dedication to our veterans. I will continue to fight to improve care and fix the VA through my work on the committee."

The VA MISSION Act includes language from two of Dunn's VA bills. The VICTOR Act helps veterans seek life-saving transplant care closer to their home, and the Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention

Act, helps VA providers safely prescribe controlled substances by allowing the VA to access prescribing data through a nationwide sharing network of prescription drug monitoring systems.

The sweeping \$51 billion plan signed today, which would also expand a VA caregivers program to cover families of veterans of all eras, cleared the Senate on a 92-5 vote last month. The House approved it on a 347-70 vote.

The legislation will give veterans access to private care when they have endured lengthy wait times or the treatment was not what they had expected.

CRASH

Continued From 1A

Lake City. The Honda then rotated and came to rest in the northbound lane, while the Mitsubishi traveled backwards from the impact and came to final

rest partially off the west side of the roadway, facing south east, according to a Florida Highway Patrol press release.

Both drivers were treated on the scene by Century EMS. Alexander was flown to Shands/University of Florida Hospital in

Gainesville, while Murphy was taken to Lake City Medical Center for minor injuries, the release stated.

Both were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident, and alcohol is not believed to be a factor, according to the release.

THE WEATHER

7 THU Chance of storms HI 88 LO 67	08 FRI Chance of storms HI 90 LO 67	09 SAT Slight chance of storms HI 88 LO 68	10 SUN Slight chance of storms HI 88 LO 70	11 MON Slight chance of storms HI 88 LO 70
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REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Thursday, June 7

Thursday's highs/Thursday night's low

City	Friday	Saturday
Cape Canaveral	88/73/ts	88/72/ts
Daytona Beach	90/72/ts	88/72/ts
Fort Myers	88/73/ts	89/73/ts
Ft. Lauderdale	88/77/ts	85/76/ts
Gainesville	91/69/ts	88/69/ts
Jacksonville	90/70/ts	90/71/ts
Key West	88/78/ts	89/78/ts
Lake City	91/69/ts	88/69/ts
Miami	89/77/ts	86/76/ts
Naples	90/74/ts	88/74/ts
Ocala	91/69/ts	88/70/ts
Orlando	92/74/ts	91/72/ts
Panama City	85/73/ts	84/73/ts
Pensacola	91/74/ts	89/73/ts
Tallahassee	90/68/ts	88/68/ts
Tampa	88°/74/ts	89°/74/ts
Valdosta	89/70/ts	89/70/ts
W. Palm Beach	89/75/ts	86/74/ts

LAKE CITY ALMANAC	UV INDEX	FYI
TEMPERATURES High Wednesday 78 Low Wednesday 72 Normal high 90 Normal low 68 Record high 100 in 1927 Record low 58 in 1958 PRECIPITATION Wednesday 0.41" Month total 3.46" Year total 13.16" Normal month-to-date 1.10" Normal year-to-date 17.09"	8 Very High 20 mins to burn Today's ultra-violet radiation risk for the area on a scale from 0 to 10+.	An exclusive service brought to our readers by The Weather Channel.
SUN Sunrise today 6:29 a.m. Sunset today 8:30 p.m. Sunrise tom. 6:28 a.m. Sunset tom. 8:31 p.m. MOON Moonrise today 2:21 a.m. Moonset today 2:16 p.m. Moonrise tom. 2:55 a.m. Moonset tom. 3:13 p.m.		Forecasts, data and graphics ©IBM Corporation 1994, 2018

WEATHER BY-THE-DAY	WEATHER HISTORY	SPONSORED BY
	The forecast for Barrow, Alaska on this date in 1998, was sunny and warm. Being on the Arctic Ocean, Barrow receives sunshine throughout most of the day and night during late spring and early summer. With a land breeze causing the temperature to soar to 51 degrees, the forecast proved true.	



COURTESY

'Rumors' abound at High Springs Playhouse

From staff reports

The High Springs Playhouse is happy to announce Neil Simon's "Rumors," running weekends through June 24—Fridays and Saturdays at 8

p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.

Doors open ½ hour before show time. HS Playhouse is located two blocks south of the Great Outdoors Restaurant on Highway 27 in High Springs.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.highspringsplayhouse.com (\$1 service charge) or at the door: \$15 for adults; \$10 for students or Seniors on Sundays (55+). Psst! The lowdown

on "Rumors": At a large tastefully appointed townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York City has just shot himself.

Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a

severe attack of Comedy. Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room and his wife is nowhere in sight.

His lawyer, Ken and wife Chris, must get "the

story" straight before the other guests arrive.

As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

SOSMP set to rock tonight

From a press release

Lots of great country music coming up this weekend with Mainstream Band Friday night and an EP party with Kellen Vincent and his band and Tori Jackson Saturday night at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak, Fla.

Mainstream Band of Fitzgerald, Georgia will take the stage Friday, in the Music Hall. Mainstream Band has not only opened for national acts, but has headlined festivals such as The Ashburn/Turner County Fire Ant Festival and The Georgia Peanut Festival in Sylvester, Ga. This band plays Southern rock, rock n' roll, classic rock, 50s - 90s and today's music with electrifying solos and dynamic duos. They play everything from The Eagles, Bon Jovi, Elvis, Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean to Blake Shelton and everything in between. Mainstream strives to be the best band in the Southeastern US so get those dancing shoes ready and come enjoy!

Kellen Vincent Band of Lake City will be in the house Saturday, June 9! Kellen, who recently released his first EP, will have as his guest North Florida/Nashville recording artist Tori Jackson. Tori just released her first EP! No telling who all will be here that night so get ready for some excitement, dancing, a good time at one of the best music venues in the world! Both Kellen and Tori have performed many times on the SOSMP Music Hall Stage. This event is held as an exposition for original music of both artists. EPs will be available for sale. You may also get your EP autographed! Kellen's exciting band played the Suwannee River Jam this year after winning their way thru the auditions. Led by Kellen, the soulful group is rocking the rafters at every gig! Come on out and experience this awesome EP party with Kellen and his band and



COURTESY PHOTOS

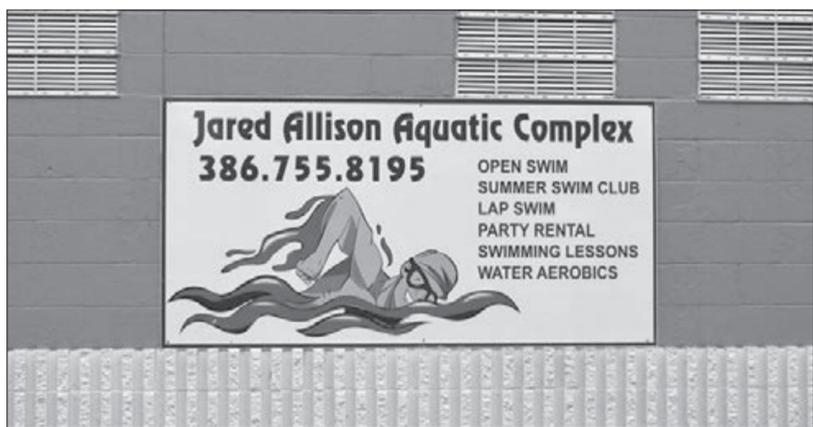
Mainstream, Kellen Vincent and Tori Jackson are set lined up for the Spirit of the Suwannee this weekend.

Tori Jackson. Who knows who else might show up!

Doors to the Music Hall open Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., music begins at 8 p.m. The SOS Café and Restaurant will have available at regular prices delicious food. Friday night house special is always prime rib. Saturday specials vary and are announced on the menu board at the door. Free admission to the Music Hall.

If you would like to rent one of our beautiful cabins, a spot to park your RV/camper or primitive camp for this weekend, one of our many other exciting events such as the Garth Brooks Tribute Show June 23 or if you just need additional info, please call the SOSMP at 386-364-1683, email spir-it@musicliveshere.com or go to www.musicliveshere.com. The SOSMP is located 4.5 miles south of Interstate 75 and 4.5 miles north of Interstate 10 at

the beautiful Suwannee River off US 129 at 3076 95th Drive in Live Oak, Fla. Stop in and say hello!



Aquatic summer now shaping up

From staff reports

The Jared Allison Aquatic Complex is closing out the month of May. Despite the weather we had a great turn out from the District elementary schools.

The complex has completed the training of our new staff and a special thanks to Melinda Moses, Anne Robinson, and Mr. Hosford for their support in the recruitment and recommendations for the new staff. With the replacement of a large portion of our staff Mr. Hosford and Ms. Robinson were helpful in letting me access some of the underclassmen to help with the pool supervision while the elementary schools were in atten-

dance.

The upcoming months of June and July are going to be very busy at the pool.

The schedule for the months of June and July include American Red Cross swimming lesson June 11 through July 20. Times and registration dates are posted on the school board web site under The Jared Allison Aquatic Complex.

Lap swimming is available on M-W-F from 6 -7:30 a.m. and from 12-1 p.m. on Friday.

Water aerobics will be held M-F from 12 - 1 p.m. and from 5-6 p.m. M-F. Pool

will be open to the general public M-F 1-5 p.m.. Monthly membership holders will have access to the pool until 7 p.m. M-F. Saturday hours are 1-7 p.m. Sunday hours are 1-5 p.m. (If there are no rentals scheduled on Sunday)

We still have several open dates for pool rental, but they available on a first come first serve basis. All current school board employees (only) with ID are admitted free of charge (excluding water aerobics).

For further information please contact the Jared Allison Aquatic complex at (386)-319-7226.

Every sport. Every play. Every day. Lake City Reporter

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OUR OPINION

Two left standing at City Hall

And soon, one. In just 12 days, the Lake City Council will interview the two finalists for city manager one last time, then make their pick. Based on our brief exposure to them Wednesday at City Hall, both finalists appear ready, willing and able to lead. We will all learn a little more about them on Monday, June 18, during an afternoon meet and greet with both candidates.

It's an exciting time here, as the economy continues to rebound and Lake City looks to make the most of it.

A strong leader can help make that happen — someone tough enough to do what's needed, but willing to compromise when necessary, especially when working alongside the county on matters of the economy and long-term growth.

There's a delicate balance to be struck here — one that's been lost for a long, long time.

Everyone on both sides needs to work together to reclaim it.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On this date:

In 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of color," was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1917, the Lions Clubs service organization was founded in Chicago. Actor-singer Dean Martin was born Dino Paul Crocetti in Steubenville, Ohio.

In 1929, the sovereign state of Vatican City came into existence as copies of the Lateran Treaty were exchanged in Rome.

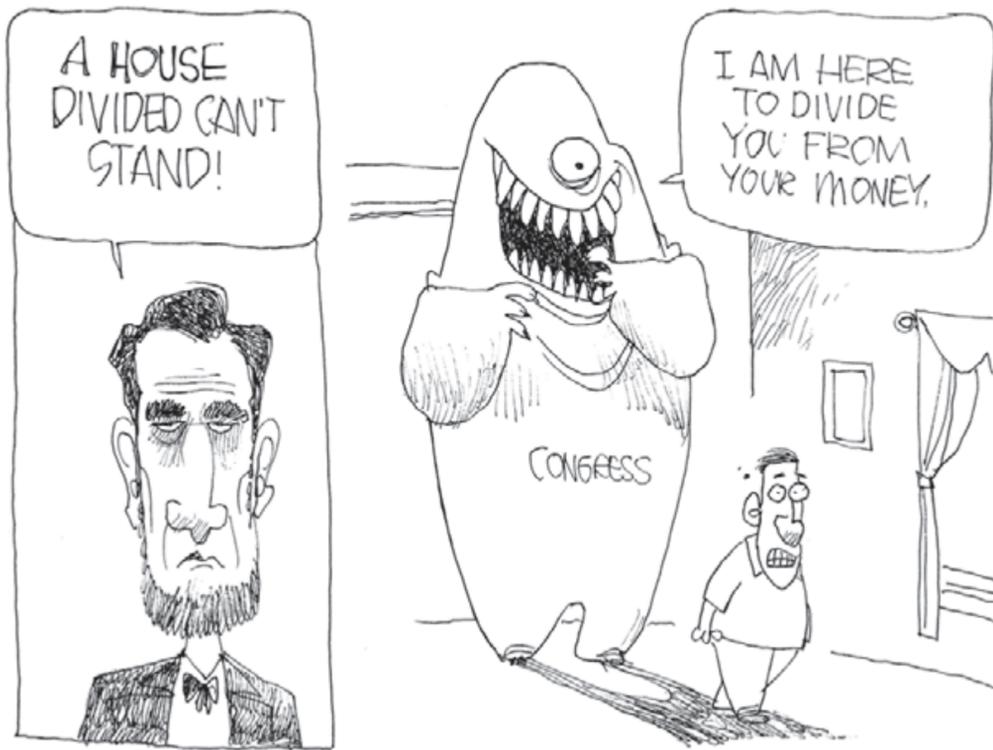
In 1937, actress Jean Harlow died in Los Angeles at age 26.

In 1942, the Battle of Midway ended in a decisive victory for American naval forces over Imperial Japan, marking a turning point in the Pacific War.

In 1967, author-critic Dorothy Parker, famed for her caustic wit, died in New York at age 73.

In 1977, Britons thronged London to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who was marking the 25th year of her reign.

■ Associated Press



Lessons from a D-Day hero

Why in the world would Ralph Frang make me think of Colin Kaepernick? I mean, look, Frang is 93 years old, Kaepernick just 30. Frang, who sits in a wheelchair, is a World War II veteran who became a carpenter. Kaepernick is a muscular former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers who earned \$20 million a year. Frang risked his life for his country. Kaepernick exhibits disrespect.

So there, in the last two sentences, we see the reason Kaepernick came to mind as my church paid tribute to Frang this past Sunday.

There we were heading toward the June 6 anniversary of D-Day and Frang had just recently received France's highest award, the Legion of Honor, from President Emmanuel Macron. In an accompanying letter, Macron said thank you for helping to save France from the Nazis.

Frang was just 17 when he decided he had to "go out and beat those sons of guns," as he himself has put it. He had to fib about his age, but was soon enough an Army paratrooper flying toward Normandy as part of the allied invasion of Europe.

He was getting ready to jump from the plane when, wham, something hit it and he fell out, opening his parachute just in time to avoid fatal consequences. He was alone but clicked his cricket, a device used to locate fellow soldiers. He was soon part of a group that fought the fight on D-Day and then throughout Europe. While many of his comrades were killed, he was only wounded and got the Purple Heart along with other medals before he came home and ended



Jay Ambrose
SpeaktoJay@aol.com

up in Golden, Colo.

At the church ceremony, we had Eagle Scouts march forward with flags as we all stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance, and, at the end, Frang said this should not be about him but about those who lost their lives.

Kaepernick does not like to stand. His thing is disrespectful kneeling, at least when the national anthem is being played at football games. Most of us do stand when we hear the music. We do it as a way of saying we love our country, that we embrace our other precious ideals and appreciate a history exceptionally pointed in right directions despite egregious faults we have persistently conquered.

Kaepernick's object is to protest black oppression, which he sees as interwoven in all we are. And some defend what he started, namely the kneeling of so many other players. He brought attention to police abuse of power, it has been said, but that theme was already getting plenty of attention. In fact, he alienated many, a likely factor in the NFL recently saying players shall not kneel on

the field again and President Donald Trump playing to the crowd.

Martin Luther King Jr., maybe the most successful protester of the 20th century, praised America, saying it should do more to live up to what it stands for. Meanwhile, as a show of disrespect, consider Republican Rep. Joe Wilson who shouted, "You lie!" when President Barack Obama was giving a speech to a joint session of Congress. Did that serve Wilson's policy ends?

Much of the left does not applaud America, summing us up by what's gone wrong with little mention of what's gone right. Racism is definitely part of what has gone terribly wrong and there have been police killings of blacks that are absolutely horrid, but so are some shootings of whites. It has been shown by the scholar Heather Mac Donald that police have saved thousands of black lives by their work. Studies say they are not racially biased in their shootings.

One defender of Kaepernick has said kneeling is actually a meek, prayerful thing to do. But not in all instances, for heaven's sake, and Kaepernick has received awards from a branch of the ACLU (for courage), from Amnesty International (for conscience) and from GQ magazine (for citizenship).

I believe the Legion of Honor matters far more.

■ Jay Ambrose, formerly Washington director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard newspapers and the editor of dailies in El Paso, Texas and Denver, is a columnist living in Colorado.

Lake City Reporter

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BY MAIL: Letters, P.O. Box 1709, Lake City, FL 32056; or drop off at 180 E. Duval St. downtown.

BY FAX: (386) 752-9400.

BY EMAIL: rbridges@lakecityreporter.com

Is Florida ready for the midterms?

The Russians are ready for the midterm elections. Are we?

The August primaries loom, with the general election in November soon after. But the state is getting a late start in protecting its voting system from tampering. Though county elections supervisors across the state have been persistent in their pleas for state help, too many state leaders, from lawmakers to the secretary of state, either dragged their feet in, or rejected outright, taking steps to assure Floridians that they can vote with confidence and that the integrity of the election process is paramount.

To his credit, Gov. Rick Scott has stepped up, demanding that the state request the \$19.2 million in federal funds available to harden the state's voting system. Congress included \$380 million in its 2018 budget bill for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to distribute to the states. President Trump signed the budget bill in March.

Scott rightly overruled Secretary of State Ken Detzner and his oblivious announcement last month that Florida would not seek those much-needed funds.

It was a stupendous lack of accountability to Florida's voters, and Detzner quickly got on message after the governor pushed back. Last week, Detzner's department formally requested the \$19.2 million in grant funds.

It's not as if the balloting system has not been a target. In the run-up to the 2016 presidential election, Russian hackers attempted to break into voting systems in at least five Florida counties. None, apparently, were in South Florida.

Rightly alarmed by these thwarted attempts, the governor asked the Legislature this year to fund five cybersecurity experts in his

Elections supervisors have a long wish list that the federal funds can, and should, fulfill. Items include toughening systems against hacking, improving technological security and educating voters.

"Securing Florida's Future" budget. The request was rejected.

Elections supervisors have a long wish list that the federal funds can, and should, fulfill. Items include toughening systems against hacking, improving technological security and educating voters.

It's imperative that state officials give the counties every assist necessary. Ensuring cybersecurity is within their control. Unfortunately, not every attempt to undermine our elections can be handled with technological proficiency.

In a report by Tim Johnson of the McClatchy/D.C. bureau, a

California-based cybersecurity firm has identified a new Russian influence operation. It looks just like the one that the FBI said tried to hijack the 2016 presidential election.

"USA Really is a Russian-operated website that carries content designed to foment racial division, harden feelings over immigration, gun control and police brutality, and undermine social cohesion," according to the cybersecurity firm FireEye.

It will be harder to counter the manipulative, false and inflammatory stories created to sow discord among us. The fact-based media have a huge job to do in building trust among its consumers and calling lies exactly that.

It's a chilling reminder that the enemies of democracy are bent on undermining what should be free and fair elections. It's disappointing, too, when those efforts come from within. Scott himself has never decried legislative efforts to suppress the vote and continues a costly fight to deny ex-felons the right to cast ballots. University students are suing his administration over a ban on using buildings on college campuses as early voting sites.

The governor is no enemy of democracy. He should bring these misguided policies into alignment with his enlightened support for cybersecurity.

■ Miami Herald

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ To submit your calendar item, stop by the Reporter office or email Steve Wilson at swilson@lakecityreporter.com

Thursday

GeriActors

Residents are invited to join the Reader's Theater Group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Lifestyle Enrichment Center, 628 SE Allison Court.

Bingo at American Legion

Bingo games are offered every Sunday, Monday and Thursday at 6:45 p.m. at the American Legion Post 57, 2602 SW Main Blvd. in Lake City. There are three \$250 jackpots each night. Quarter games are played at 3 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays. Refreshments are available at reasonable prices. For more information, call 752-7776.

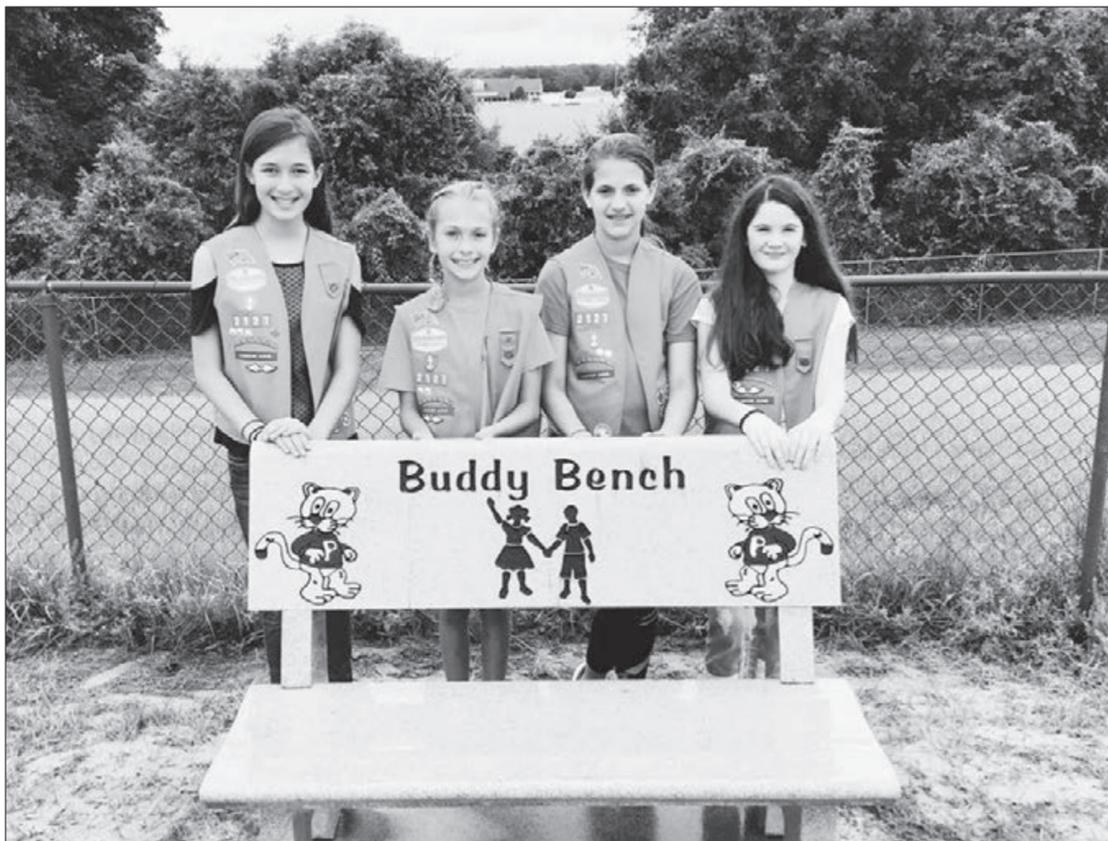
'Preschool Storytime'

"Preschool Storytime," a library program for families with preschoolers, is held on Thursdays at 11 a.m. at the main branch of the Columbia County Public Library, at 308 NW Columbia Ave. in downtown Lake City. For more information about the library's children's programs, call 386-758-2101.

Friday

Art reception

The Gateway Art Gallery invites the community to a Wine and Cheese Reception for the Featured Artist Carlene Heckmann, Friday June 8 from 6:30 pm until 8 pm at the Gallery



COURTESY

Scouts help with 'Buddy Bench'

Members of Girl Scout Troup 2127 donated a lasting gift to Pinemount Elementary on Wednesday, May 30. As part of a project centered around community involvement, fifth graders, Natalie Button, Haidyn Markham, Emma Ross, and fourth grader, Abbi Ulloa, designed a Buddy Bench for the playground at their school. The idea behind adding the bench to the playground is to help eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. The girls hope the Buddy Bench continues to promote inclusion and kindness for current and future Pinemount Panthers. Charles Custom Memorials also helped with the Buddy Bench.

Carlene is a multi-media artist her work include drawing, painting, jewelry making, sculpture and photography to mention a few of her talents.

Plan to come to the free reception and bring a friend

and share fellowship, food and drinks. and meet this very talented artist. The Gallery is located at 168 N. Marion Ave. in downtown Lake City. Call the Gallery for additional information at 752- 5229.

Spaghetti Dinner

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will host a Spaghetti Dinner on this Friday June 8th from 3:30-6:30 pm. Dine in or take out \$7 donation. Our Redeemer is located at

5056 SW SR 47, Lake City, one mile south of I-75

Saturday 'Senior' prom

Everyone is invited to the 2018 Adult Senior Prom, "Under the Sea", on

June 9, 2018, Time 6 pm-10 pm. Music - Backtrack Band, Food - Dinner served from 6 until 7, after 7, snacks and soda only. Cost of the event \$15.00.

Attire: Church to formal. For more, call (386) 755-0235 ask for Deanna Law.

Farmers market

The Lake DeSoto Farmers Market is open every Saturday in the parking lot at Marion Avenue and Duval Street, across from the Courthouse Annex. Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more, call 386-719-5766 or visit market.lcfla.com.

Potluck dinner

A potluck dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. occurs each Saturday at either Lake Butler Elementary School or Lake Butler Social Club. Dress code is casual dressy and special occasion. Admission is \$10 for club members or \$12 for guests. For more, call 813-679-5390.

Sunday

Bingo games

Bingo every Sunday, Monday and Thursday at 6:45 p.m. at the American Legion Post 57, 2602 SW Main Blvd. For more, call 386-752-7776. Three \$250 jackpots each night. Quarter games are played at 3 p.m. For more information, call 386-752-7776.

OBITUARIES

Keith Maurice Harris

Keith Maurice Harris, age 56, resident of Lake City, FL passed away peacefully at his residence June 1, 2018 terminating a brief illness.

He was the son of Mrs. Oleatha "Ollie" Harris and the late Mr. Joe Harris.

Confessing Christ at an early age, he was a former member of Union AME Church. He was a graduate of the class of 1979 of Columbia High School and was a Honorable Discharge Veteran of the United States Army.

Keith leaves to cherish his memories; sons, Navaris Jimmy Smith and Keith Maurice "KJ" Harris, Jr.; Mother Mrs. Oleatha "Ollie" Harris; siblings, Angee Ford (Gerald), Vickie Harris, Erma Joyce Morris (Johnny), Don Harris, Kendrick Harris (Vonda), Carroll Harris (Shirley) and Eric Harris (Voncile). Six aunts; Floria Garbutt, Katie Carter, Evelyn Grooms (Ross), Joyce Williams (Irvin), Margaret Carter and Mary Ruth Carter. Two great aunts; Mary Fleming and Mary Etta Hicks. Special friends, Hennis Genus and Rickie Mayo. A host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and sorrowing friends.

Funeral services for Keith Maurice Harris will be 11 a.m. Saturday, June 9, 2018 at Union A M E Church Rev. Ronald G. Williams, Pastor and Rev. Al Nelson, Eulogy. Interment will follow in the Springville Cemetery. Family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, June 8, 2018 at

Cooper Funeral Home Chapel.

Arrangements entrusted to: **COOPER FUNERAL HOME**, 251 NE Washington Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. Willis O. Cooper, L.F.D.

Albert James Shaw

Albert James Shaw, 79, was born January 20, 1939, in Madison, Florida to the late Sylvester and Janie Shaw. He was the seventh of ten children. He passed away Thursday, May 31, 2018, at the VA Medical Center Hospice Unit, Lake City, FL.

Albert was educated in the Columbia County School System, graduating from Richardson High School in the class of 1956. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army after two years of service. He then furthered his education at the Art Institute of Washington D.C. Culinary Arts. From 1964 - 1993, he was employed with several facilities in Washington, D.C., New York and Massachusetts

in the Culinary field. In 1994, Albert returned to Lake City and obtained employment with the VA Medical Center Food Service Department, retiring in 2004.

He was a faithful member of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, serving in the choir, and the giving of other services. Reading the Bible, listening to gospel music, spending time with family and preparing delicious meals were among some of his favorite pastimes. Several siblings and other family members precede him in death.

Left to cherish memories: sisters, Inez Johnson, Helen Days (Percy), Jeanette Freeney (Rubin), and Betty Shaw; uncle, Walter Jones; hosts of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral services for Albert James Shaw will be 11 a.m. Saturday, June 9, 2018, at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 550 NE Martin Luther King St., Lake City, FL., Rev. Alvin J. Baker, Pastor.

The family will receive friends from 6 - 8 p.m. Friday, June 8, 2018, at New Bethel MB Church.

Arrangements entrusted to **COMBS FUNERAL HOME**, 292 NE Washington St., Lake City, FL, (386) 752-4366, Mar

Combs Turner, L.F.D. The Caring Professionals"

Bobby Lee Strawder

Mr. Bobby Lee Strawder, 73, of Lake City, was born at home on September 11, 1944 in Hahira, Ga. a town north of Valdosta, Georgia on the family farm of Charlie Shepherd and Cora

(Bradford) Strawder. He died at his home on June 4, 2018. He worked at the Aro Corporation for eleven years and PCS for thirty-four years. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a 32nd degree mason. He also was a trustee at the Oak Grove Baptist Church for many years. He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings; Mack Strawder, Mark Strawder, Mildred Smith, Loran Strawder and June Strawder.

He is survived by his wife of twenty years; Sherrill; and his sons; John and Randy; step-children; Melodie (Tony) McGuire of Sioux City, Iowa, Sherie (Rick) Johnson of Ft. Lewis, Washington and Kyle (Erin) Schwaderer of Spartanburg, North Carolina; grandchildren; John, Casey and Jacob Strawder; Kristen Richey

Scott, Alexis and Dexter Johnson, Mason Dixon Schwaderer, Jefferson Davis Schwaderer and Dietsle Hudson Schwaderer. Great-granddaughters; Opal Adah Scott and Rayna Camari Page; along with several nieces and nephews also survive.

Memorial services with Masonic Rites will be conducted on Friday, June 8, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Gateway-Forest Lawn

Funeral Home, with Pastor Beaver Twist officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations please be considered to the Haven-Suwannee Valley Hospice Care Center. Arrangements are under the direction and care of **GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME**, 3596 S. US HWY 441, Lake City, FL, 32025. Please leave words of comfort for the family at www.gatewayforestlawn.com.



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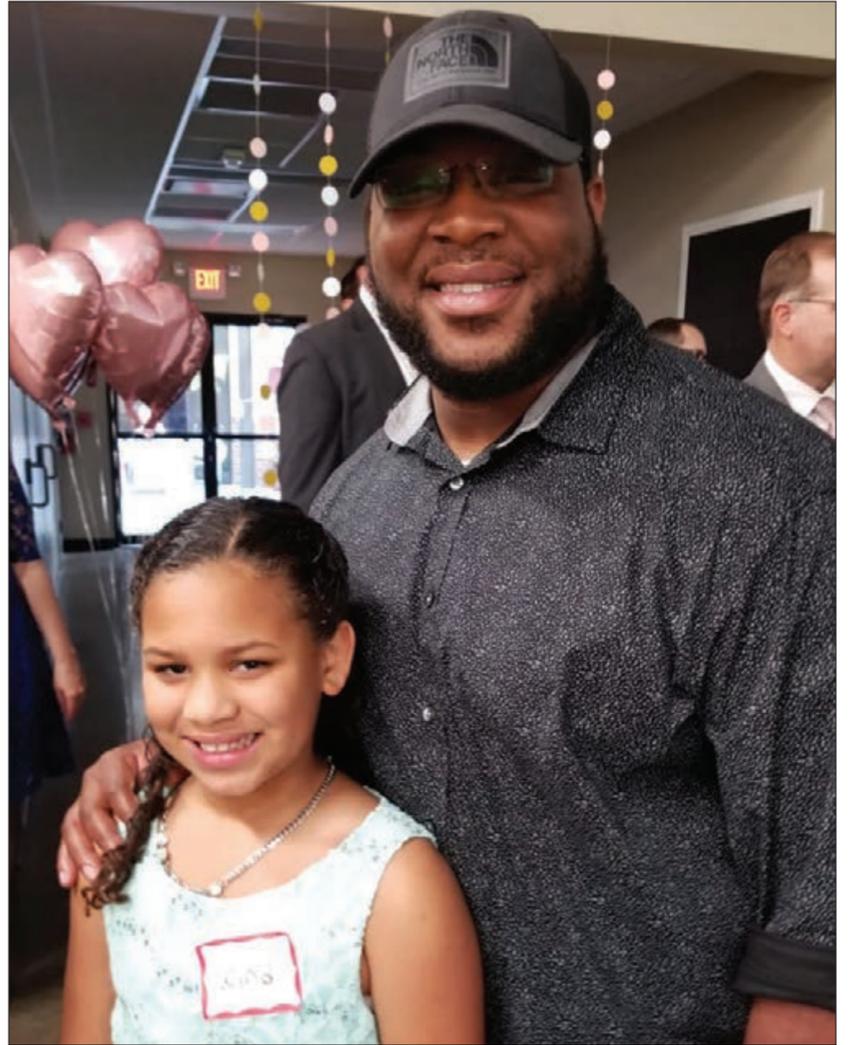
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COURTESY PHOTOS

Belmont Academy hosts Father/Daughter Dance

The Belmont Academy PTO recently hosted a beautiful father/daughter dance complete with games, food and dancing as a fundraiser for the school in April. Belmont girls in grades pre-k through seven and their father figures were invited to attend. Top photo: Belmont girls sing along to the song playing, enjoying the dance. From above, counterclockwise; Sam Jackson, a Belmont parent, dances with his daughter, Everleigh Jackson, a VPK student at Belmont; Chris Lowery, a Belmont parent, smiles with his daughters, Maggie Lowery, 7th grade, and Lily Lowery, 4th grade; Shayla Mays (from left), a Belmont third-grader, poses for a picture with her father, Chauncey Mays.

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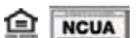
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If your local sports team has photos of a recent tournament or event or you have photos of a recent hunting or fishing trip, please let us know.

COLLEGE BASEBALL



COURTESY OF UF ATHLETICS

Florida catcher Jonah Girand watches after connecting on a two-run home run in the fourth inning against FAU on Monday in the Gainesville Regional.

Girand takes winding path to Florida's starting lineup

One year away from baseball didn't stop the Gators catcher.

By **MARK LONG**
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Jonah Girand's path to the NCAA baseball tournament had more movement than a

knuckle ball.

The 23-year-old Florida catcher started at nearby Santa Fe College, left after one season, returned home and took a job in retail. He was away from baseball for a year before ending up at another junior college near Orlando.

He started playing again, got his associates

degree and reached out to Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan last spring.

His timing was impeccable. The Gators were losing starting catcher Mike Rivera and backup Mark Kolozsvary, and in need of some depth.

"I just thought he maybe could be a good bullpen catcher," O'Sullivan recalled.

Girand turned out to be a lot more. The junior stepped in for injured captain JJ Schwarz (hand) last week, homered three times in four games and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Gainesville Regional. He also caught two first-

GIRAND continued on 2B

PREP FOOTBALL

CLICKING AND QUALIFYING



BRENT KUYKENDALL/Lake City Reporter

Columbia receiver Marquez Bell catches a touchdown against Buchholz during pool play of the FHS7v7A regional qualifier.

Offense and defense lift Columbia to another regional qualifier title.

By **ERIC JACKSON**
 ejackson@lakecityreporter.com

Not even the rain could slow the Tigers down Wednesday. Columbia outdueled the competition during the FHS7v7A & BattleLines NW Florida Regional Qualifier.

The Tigers went undefeated (7-0) on the day, including a 27-24 win over Buchholz in the championship round. Columbia was challenged by Vanguard in pool play, edging the Knights by one point (29-28). The Tigers continued to roll knocking off Lafayette, The Villages and Newberry to claim the trophy for a second straight year.

Columbia's offense seemed unstoppable at times while the defense shined against lesser opponents. Still a couple months away from the season opener, but the host team walked away victorious Wednesday, showing oodles of potential throughout.

Here's four takeaways from Columbia's dominant 7v7 outing.

YOUNG TY: All the glory goes to the starter (Jordan Smith), and rightfully so. But his understudy, Ty Wehinger, has made noticeable strides since January. The backup signal-caller shook off a couple mistakes and drove the offense downfield on a few different occasions. He even threw a 40-yard touchdown to seal the team's fourth win of the day. The rising sophomore could see playing time sooner than later with incumbent Dylan Blair no longer with the team. "He's zipping it now," Columbia head coach Brian Allen said. "And I can only imagine how the kid's confidence is continuing to build and build. When you get in a situation where you don't have two

TIGERS continued on 6B

CHS continued on 6B

Tigers go undefeated in qualifier to move onto FHS7v7A championship tournament.

By **JORDAN KROEGER**
 jkroeger@lakecityreporter.com

Whenever Columbia quarterback Jordan Smith put the ball in the air Wednesday afternoon, it seemed right on the money.

From deep bombs to quick outs, Smith connected with his

receivers all afternoon during the FHS7v7A regional qualifier. His best highlights arguably came on the biggest stage as well, throwing four touchdowns in the championship game to help Columbia edge Buchholz 27-24 on its home field.

The Tigers, who went 7-0

on the afternoon, are one of four teams that move on to the championship tournament on June 26. Before defeating the Bobcats for the trophy, the Tigers defeated Newberry 22-6 in the quarterfinals and Lafayette 14-6 in the semifinals.

Columbia also defeated

Buchholz and Lafayette in pool play along with The Villages and Vanguard, which determined seeding for the elimination round.

"We've been talking about it all week that we can't lose at

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Walton agrees to 10-year extension

UF coach has guided the Gators to nine WCWS appearances.

Associated Press



Walton

head coach, including three at Wichita State. He has the highest winning percentage (.799) among active Division I softball coaches.

Florida went 1-2 at the world series last week, beating Georgia 11-3 in five innings. Walton was ejected in the seventh inning of the 6-5 loss to UCLA for arguing with the umpire about the strike zone. He wasn't suspended for the next game, a 1-0 loss to Oklahoma that eliminated

the Gators.

Walton has guided Florida to four straight SEC regular-season titles. Florida won national championships in 2014 and 2015. UCLA, Arizona and Florida are the only schools to win consecutive titles in the sport.

Athletic director Scott Stricklin says "anytime you have someone who does a phenomenal job, you want them to know they are valued and appreciated, and that the commitment is going to be there for a long time."

In March 2017, Walton apologized for a shoving match with Auburn shortstop Haley Fagan during postgame handshakes.

NBA FINALS

Durant scores 43, Warriors take 3-0 lead over Cavaliers

Golden State grabs win despite Curry shooting 3-of-16 with 11 points.

By **TOM WITHERS**
 Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kevin Durant scored 43 points, draining a long 3-pointer for emphasis in the final minute, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-102 in Game 3 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday night to move within a victory of a sweep and their third title in four years.

Durant stood motionless after dropping his 33-footer, which gave the Warriors a 106-100 lead and effectively ended the fourth straight finals matchup between the rivals.

Golden State will have four chances to wrap up its championship starting with Game 4 on Friday night.

LeBron James scored 33 points and Kevin Love 20 for the Cavs, who have fallen into a hole in which no team has ever emerged. In NBA playoff history, teams down 3-0 are 0-131.

The Warriors won despite a 3-of-16 shooting performance from Stephen Curry.

SCOREBOARD

TV LISTINGS

Today	
COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD	
7 p.m.	
ESPN2 — NCAA Division I, Men's and Women's Outdoor Championships, at Eugene, Ore.	
CYCLING	
2 a.m. (Friday)	
NBCSN — UCI World Tour: Critérium du Dauphiné, Stage 4, from Chazey-Sur-Ain to Lans-en-Vercors, France	
DIVING	
4 p.m.	
NBCSN — FINA World Cup, 10-meter women's synchronized finals, at Wuhan, China (same-day tape)	
GOLF	
9 a.m.	
GOLF — European PGA Tour, Shot Clock Masters, first round, at Atzenbrugg, Austria (same-day tape)	
1 p.m.	
GOLF — Web.com Tour, Rust-Oleum Championship, first round, at Mundelein, Ill.	
4 p.m.	
GOLF — PGA Tour, FedEx St. Jude Classic, first round, at Memphis, Tenn.	
4:30 a.m. (Friday)	
GOLF — European PGA Tour, Shot Clock Masters, second round, at Atzenbrugg, Austria	
MLB BASEBALL	
12:30 p.m.	
MLB — Regional coverage, L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh OR Colorado at Cincinnati	
7 p.m.	
ESPN — Detroit at Boston	
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS	
9 p.m.	
NBCSN — Professional Fighters League, at New York	
NHL HOCKEY	
8 p.m.	
NBC — NHL Stanley Cup Final, Game 5, Washington at Vegas	

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	43	19	.694
New York	40	18	.690
Tampa Bay	28	32	.467
Toronto	26	35	.426
Baltimore	19	41	.317
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Cleveland	32	28	.533
Detroit	29	34	.460
Minnesota	26	31	.456
Kansas City	21	40	.344
Chicago	19	39	.328
West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	38	23	.623
Houston	38	25	.603
Los Angeles	34	28	.548
Oakland	31	31	.500
Texas	27	37	.422
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
	W	L	Pct
Washington	35	25	.583
Atlanta	36	26	.581
Philadelphia	32	27	.542
New York	27	32	.458
Miami	21	39	.350
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Milwaukee	37	25	.597
Chicago	34	24	.586
St. Louis	32	26	.552
Pittsburgh	31	30	.508
Cincinnati	21	41	.339
West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Arizona	32	29	.525
Colorado	32	29	.525
San Francisco	31	31	.500
Los Angeles	30	31	.492
San Diego	29	35	.453

Wednesday's Games

Washington 11, Tampa Bay 2	
Baltimore 1, N.Y. Mets 0	
Cleveland 3, Milwaukee 1	
San Diego 3, Atlanta 1	
San Francisco 5, Arizona 4, 10 innings	
Pittsburgh 11, L.A. Dodgers 9	
N.Y. Yankees 3, Toronto 0, 13 innings	
Boston 7, Detroit 1	
Colorado 6, Cincinnati 3	
Texas 8, Oakland 2	
Chicago Cubs 7, Philadelphia 5	
Houston 7, Seattle 5	
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.	
Miami at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.	
Kansas City at L.A. Angels, 10:07 p.m.	
Today's Games	
Colorado at Cincinnati, 12:35 p.m.	
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, 1:10 p.m.	
Miami at St. Louis, 1:15 p.m.	
Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.	
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.	
Detroit at Boston, 7:10 p.m.	
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.	
Houston at Texas, 8:05 p.m.	
Kansas City at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.	

Rendon has 4 hits as Nationals rout Rays

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anthony Rendon had four hits and drove in three runs, Tanner Roark hit a two-run single and the Nationals routed the Tampa Bay Rays 11-2 for a two-game sweep.

After scoring 16 runs in Roark's previous seven starts, the Nationals took a 5-0 lead in the first off Jonny Venters (1-1), who made his first big league start after 244 relief appearances.

Roark (3-6), coming off a loss in relief on Sunday in Atlanta, allowed two runs and six hits in six innings.

Michael A. Taylor had three hits and three RBIs. Trea Turner and Juan Soto had two hits each for Washington, which has won 11 of its last 15 games.

Rendon also scored three times.

C.J. Cron hit his 13th homer and Brad Miller had three hits for the Rays, who have lost six straight and have scored six runs in their last four.

Venters started as the Rays used their unconventional strategy of opening with a reliever for the eighth time in 17 games. He lasted only six batters.

NBA FINALS

Warriors 3, Cavaliers 0
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Game 1: Golden State 124, Cleveland 114, OT

Game 2: Golden State 122, Cleveland 103

Game 3: Golden State 110, Cleveland 102

Game 4: Friday, June 8
Golden State at Cleveland, 9 p.m.

x-Game 5: Monday, June 11
Cleveland at Golden State, 9 p.m.

x-Game 6: Thursday, June 14
Golden State at Cleveland, 9 p.m.

x-Game 7: Sunday, June 17
Cleveland at Golden State, 8 p.m.

STANLEY CUP

Washington 3, Vegas 1
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Game 1: Vegas 6, Washington 4

Game 2: Washington 3, Vegas 2

Game 3: Washington 3, Vegas 1

Game 4: Washington 6, Vegas 2

Game 5: Thursday, June 7
Washington at Vegas, 8 p.m.

x-Game 6: Sunday, June 10
Vegas at Washington, 8 p.m.

x-Game 7: Wednesday, June 13
Washington at Vegas, 8 p.m.

NFL

BALTIMORE RAVENS — The Baltimore Ravens have been fined by the NFL and forced to forfeit two days of practice this week for pass coverage contact during earlier Offseason Team Activity sessions.

MLB DRAFT

Bryne and Horvath selected on day three

From staff reports

GAINESVILLE — University of Florida junior right-hander Michael Bryne and senior outfielder Nick Horvath were selected on the final day of the 2018 MLB Draft.

Bryne was chosen by the Cincinnati Reds in the 14th round (409 overall).

The two-time finalist for the NCBWA Stopper of the Year award, has earned 15 saves in 2018 with an ERA of 1.79 this season. He has appeared in 31 games for the Gators, striking out 50 batters while walking just four all season. In 50 innings pitched in 2018 he has only allowed 10 earned runs.

In his career at Florida, Bryne has appeared in 82 games and with 34 saves, which ranks first on the all-time career list at Florida. He has posted a career ERA of 1.96 with six wins. Bryne has struck out 158 batters and only walked 22 in his three years in Gainesville.

Horvath became the seventh Gator player to be selected when the Baltimore Orioles drafted him in the 25th round (745 overall).

The two-way player has made 149 appearances in the field and 45 on the mound in his Florida career. The left-hander holds a 3.72 ERA over four seasons with a 5-1 record in 46.0 innings pitched.

The finalist for the Senior Class Award is having a career year at the

dish with a .275 batting average with six home runs and 32 RBIs. With a career-high 54 games played this season, he has also seen a career bests in runs (43), hits (55) and doubles (13).

The duo joined teammates Jonathan India (5th overall), Brady Singer (18th overall), Jackson Kowar (33rd overall), JJ Schwarz (233rd round) and Deacon Liput (314th overall) as the seven Gators drafted.

Two more Seminoles drafted

On Wednesday, senior first baseman Rhett Aplin was also taken by the Royals (28th Round). Redshirt junior pitcher Cobi Johnson went in the 30th Round to the Toronto Blue Jays. Johnson, the son of Blue Jays bullpen coach Dane Johnson, is the first Seminole drafted by Toronto since Luke Tucker in 2006.

Sands was previously drafted out of high school in the 22nd Round by the Astros. Karp (34th, Cubs) and Holton (35th, Marlins) were taken after their sophomore seasons in 2017 but elected to return to Florida State for another year. Johnson was a 35th Round pick of the Padres out of J.W. Mitchell High in 2014 and a 29th Round choice of the Angels in 2017.

Cal Raleigh (90th), Cole Sands (154th), Andrew Karp (191st), Jackson Lueck (242nd) and Tyler Holton (279th) were also taken on the first two days of the draft.

GIRAND

Continued From 1B

round draft picks, right-handers Brady Singer and Jackson Kowar.

“It’s been crazy, having been out a year to playing in the regionals with the Florida Gators,” Girand said. “It has been an amazing opportunity.”

It’s not over, either.

Girand likely will be behind the plate again this weekend when overall No. 1 seed and defending national champion Florida (45-18) hosts Auburn (42-21) in one of eight best-of-three super regionals. The winner advances to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

For Girand, getting to Omaha would be another trip on his unpredictable journey.

“It’s amazing these stories that happen,” O’Sullivan said. “You sit up here and he’s Regional MVP and he wasn’t recruit-

ed by anybody.”

Girand began his college career at Santa Fe in 2015. After failing to hit his weight in 19 games, the 6-foot-2, 200-pounder returned home to the Orlando area and got a job. It didn’t take long for him to realize he would rather deal with curveballs than customers.

He revved up his workouts, put out some feelers and traded in his name tag for a jersey number. He landed at Seminole State College in nearby Sanford.

“It sits in the back of your mind as to whether or not you’re going to get back to it,” Girand said.

Playing big-time college baseball was still Girand’s goal, even after hitting .256 in 39 games with the Raiders in 2017.

So he contacted O’Sullivan, who had seen Girand play in high school and in summer leagues. Girand figured it was a long shot, but O’Sullivan needed help.

“It’s kind of a weird story,” O’Sullivan said. “I

remember him being a big, strong kid.”

Girand flashed potential during fall practice, but was buried on the depth chart behind Schwarz and highly touted freshmen Cal Greenfield and Brady Smith. It stayed that way through much of the season, with Schwarz starting eight, Greenfield started eight, and Smith five.

Girand spent his time in the bullpen.

He got his chance after Schwarz took a ball off his right hand in the final regular-season series at Mississippi State last month. Schwarz broke a bone in his hand and would miss several weeks, at the very least.

In the Southeastern Conference Tournament, O’Sullivan made a gut decision to start Girand over Greenfield and Smith. Girand doubled in his first at-bat as a starter.

“It just looked right,” O’Sullivan said. “It’s hard for freshmen to play this time of year. There’s just

a lot that goes into it. You just make a decision. You have a hunch, and (Jonah) makes you look good. I don’t know any other way to explain it.”

Girand made O’Sullivan look great in the regional.

Girand homered in each of Florida’s first two games, the second one a solo shot that turned out to be the winning run against Jacksonville. He was at his best with the team’s season on the line.

Trailing 2-1 against Florida Atlantic in a win-or-go-home finale, Girand delivered a towering, two-run shot to left that put the Gators ahead for good.

“It’s awesome. Jonah has worked so hard this whole season, even in the fall,” teammate and SEC player of the year Jonathan India said. “I think he was our best hitter in the fall. He works at it, works at his craft and now it’s paying off for him. Now he has his chance to play and he’s showing why he should play. I’m happy for him.”

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Gators learn SEC opponent breakdown

From staff reports

The Southeastern Conference announced 2018-19 men’s basketball opponent breakdowns on Wednesday. In addition to the Gators’ three permanent home-and-home opponents – Kentucky, Georgia and Vanderbilt – they will also see Tennessee and LSU twice next season.

The Gators host four teams in their only meeting this season: Ole Miss, Missouri, South Carolina and Texas A&M.

UF travels to visit the remaining four SEC opponents: Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn and Mississippi State.

This will be UF’s first home-and-home vs. Tennessee since 2014, when the Gators swept the Vols and beat them a third time in the SEC Tournament. UF and LSU last had a home-and-home in 2016, the Gators’ first season under Mike White, with the home team taking both games.

The full SEC schedule will be released later this summer.

The Gator also non-conference home games against Butler and Michigan State this season.

THURSDAY EVENING													JUNE 7, 2018	
Comcast	Dish	DirecTV	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
3-ABC	3	-	-	TV20 News	ABC World News	Ent. Tonight	Inside Edition (N)	Celebrity Family Feud		The \$100,000 Pyramid	To Tell the Truth		News at 11	Jimmy Kimmel Live
4-IND	4	4	4	News4JAX	News4JAX	Ent. Tonight	Inside Edition (N)	Last Man Standing	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The 10 O’Clock News (N)		News4JAX	(:35) DailyMailTV
5-PBS	5	-	-	DW News	Nightly Business	PBS NewsHour (N)		70s Soul Superstars (My Music)	Motown, R&B, soul and disco artists.			3 Steps to Incredible Health!	With Joel Fuhrman, M.D.	
7-CBS	7	47	47	Action News Jax	CBS Evening News	Judge Judy	Family Feud	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	(:01) Mom	Life in Pieces	S.W.A.T. "Pilot"	Action News	Late Show-Colbert
9-CW	9	17	17	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Mom	The Goldbears	Supernatural "Patience"		Black Lightning	Dateline "Vengeance"		Impractical Jokers	The Game Show
10-FOX	10	30	30	Action News	Action News	TMZ (N)	Access (N)	The Four: Battle for Stardom	"Week One" Contestants vie for the prize.		Action News	Action News	Action News	(:35) Page Six TV
12-NBC	12	12	12	News	NBC Nightly News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	k 2018 Stanley Cup Final	Washington Capitals at Vegas Golden Knights. (N)				News	Tonight Show
WGN-A	16	239	307	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops Traffic stop.	100 Code	Conley narrows his search.
TVLAND	17	106	304	(5:48) M*A*S*H	(:24) M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	(:36) M*A*S*H	(:12) Everybody Loves Raymond		Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Mom	Mom	Mom
OWN	18	189	279	20/20 on OWN "Kelley Cannon"		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN "Parents' Torment"		20/20 on OWN "A mother ends up dead."	20/20 on ID		20/20 on OWN "Parents' Torment"	
A&E	19	118	265	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol
HALL	20	185	312	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Golden Girls
CNN	22	136	248	(5:00) ** "Now You See Me 2"	(2016) Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo.			*** "Straight Outta Compton" (2015)	O'Shea Jackson Jr. N.W.A revolutionizes music and pop culture in 1988.				*** "Straight Outta Compton" (2015)	
FX	24	200	202	The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	
TNT	25	138	245	NCIS: New Orleans "Second Line"		NCIS: New Orleans	(DVS)	*** "American Gangster" (2007)	Denzel Washington. A chauffeur becomes Harlem's most-powerful crime boss.				Claws	Desna is entangled in a scheme.
NIK	26	170	299	The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Movie		Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends	Friends
PARMT	28	168	241	Mom	Mom	Friends	*** "Pitch Perfect" (2012)	Anna Kendrick. College students enter an a cappella competition.		American Woman	Younger "LizaToo"	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle
MY-TV	29	32	-	Mama's Family	The Jeffersons	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Seinfeld	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett
DISN	31	172	290	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Andi Mack	Raven's Home	Stuck/Middle	DuckTales	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Andi Mack
LIFE	32	108	252	"Give Me My Baby" (2016, Suspense)	Kelly Sullivan, Sofia Milos.			"Sleepwalking in Suburbia" (2017, Suspense)	Lucie Guest, Emilie Ullerup.		(:03) "Cradle Swapping" (2017, Drama)	Amanda Clayton, Brandon Barash.		
USA	33	105	242	NCIS "Dead Man Talking"		NCIS "Missing" (DVS)		NCIS Captain's family is kidnapped.		NCIS "Vanished" (DVS)		NCIS Ducky is kidnapped.	(:02) NCIS "Witness" (DVS)	
BET	34	124	329	(4:30) *** "Baby Boy" (2001, Drama)	Tyrese Gibson.	(:35) *** "Rush Hour" (1998)	Jackie Chan. Mismatched police partners seek a kidnapped girl.			** "The Wood" (1999, Drama)	Omar Epps, Taye Diggs, Richard T. Jones.		SportsCenter (N) (Live)	
ESPN	35	140	206	SportsCenter (N) (Live)		a MLB Baseball	Detroit Tigers at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston. (N)						SportsCenter (N) (Live)	
ESPN2	36	144	209	Around the Horn	Interruption	College Track and Field	NCAA Men's and Women's Outdoor Championships. From Eugene, Ore. (N)					d WNBA Basketball	Seattle Storm at Los Angeles Sparks. (N)	
SUNSP	37	-	-	Florida Insider	Rays Pregame	a MLB Baseball	Seattle Mariners at Tampa Bay Rays. From Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla. (N)					Rays Postgame	Inside the Rays	Florida Insider Fishing Report
DISCV	38	182	278	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	"Ashes to Ashes"
TBS	39	139	247	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)
HLN	40	202	304	Crime & Justice	Crime & Justice	Crime & Justice	Crime & Justice	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files
FNC	41	205	360	Special Report With Bret Baier (N)										

DILBERT



BABY BLUES



BLONDIE



BETLE BAILEY



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



SNUFFY SMITH



ZITS



GARFIELD



B.C.



FRANK & ERNEST



FOR BETTER OR WORSE



DEAR ABBY

Fake flower prompts emotional reaction from offended widow



Abigail Van Buren
www.dearabby.com

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law died a month ago and was cremated by the local affiliate of a prominent funeral home. To make it easier for my sister, I accompanied her to the mortuary to pick up her husband's remains. I walked in alone, and as I returned to the car with his urn, a young funeral home employee in a black suit and scuffed shoes followed me. Through the window of the car, he presented my sister an artificial red rose and said, "We're sorry for your loss."

My sister and I were appalled by the insincerity of this gesture, and I called and told the funeral home director that the sentiments were as phony as the rose. He said, "I thought it was a great idea," and couldn't understand our reaction. Were we wrong? -- **RESENTING PHONY SENTIMENTS**

DEAR RESENTING: Yes,

you were. When people are grieving, emotions are sometimes raw, so I'm not going to scold you. However, your response to the young man was ungracious. All that needed to be said was, "No, thank you."

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law keeps buying us decorator items that don't have a place in our home. While I appreciate the effort and the thought, I have no more closet space in which to store them. I was taught to accept gifts and express gratitude, even if you don't like them. My mother-in-law is coming to visit in a few weeks,

and my husband insists we should display the items she's purchased for us. This would entail putting holes in my walls, as she tends to get us items that need to be hung. I don't think we should have to go through this charade just to appease her. It will only encourage her to buy us more things. What should I do? -- **NO MORE CLOSET GIFTS DEAR N.M.C.G.:** It won't destroy your home to display one (or two) of the items your MIL has given you while she's visiting. But while she's there, make sure she opens the closet where you have stored all the other items she has sent "because she's such a generous doll you can't possibly use them all." When she leaves, sell the gifts or donate them, then pray she takes the hint.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

HOROSCOPES | THE LAST WORD BY EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be secretive about any personal changes you want to make. The less people know about what you are doing, the easier it will be to complete your mission without someone meddling in your affairs. Choose intelligence over sentiment. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The changes you make should be thought out before you begin. A mistake can end up costing you your position or your assets. Weigh the pros and cons before you leverage what you've worked so hard to obtain. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't fold under pressure. Someone will try to persuade you to take on the impossible. Share your concerns and offer advice, but don't sign up for something you can't manage. Choose to go it alone and do things your way. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An unusual partnership or connection you have with someone will develop into something you didn't expect. Don't be afraid to see where it leads. What you discover will help you bring about positive change, which will do you good. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make changes for the right reason. Doing something out of spite or to hide something you probably shouldn't be doing from someone who cares about you will lead to regret. Think twice before you make an untimely choice. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stick to what you know, and do what you can to maintain balance and to forge ahead with integrity. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you or to take credit for your hard work. Someone will disappoint you. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get out and explore new possibilities. Avoid what's going on at home or work that could label you or lump you in with people who do not share your beliefs or standards. Use intelligence and leave your options open. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be creative, but don't go overboard. Know your limitations and refuse to let anyone put pressure on you to take part in something risky. Focus on good health and looking your very best.

Choose love and romance over disruption.

★★★★★ **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Live and learn. Don't let someone who has let you down in the past do so again. Question anything that sounds dubious or that might jeopardize your relationship with someone who matters to you. Protect a personal relationship and your integrity. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may need a change, but before you get started, it's best to have a budget in place. It's OK to think big, but don't let ego or someone else talk you into taking on something you cannot handle. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Time is precious and must be designated wisely. Don't disappoint someone you love because something that sounds like more fun comes along. Live up to your promises and make family and domestic situations priorities to avoid discord. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions will be difficult to control. Avoid getting into a discussion with someone who is never going to agree with you. Do your own thing and pay close attention to where you put your possessions or how you handle your assets. ★★

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

June 7: Singer Tom Jones is 77. Actor Ronald Pickup ("The Crown") is 77. Actor Ken Osmond (Eddie Haskell on "Leave It To Beaver") is 74. Talk-show host Jenny Jones is 71. Actor Liam Neeson is 65. Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg is 64. Actor William Forsythe is 62. Record producer L.A. Reid is 61. Singer-guitarist Gordon Gano of Violent Femmes is 54. Rapper Ecstasy of Whodini is 53. Drummer Eric Kretz of Stone Temple Pilots is 51. Guitarist Dave Navarro is 50. Actress Helen Baxendale (Emily on "Friends") is 47. TV personality Bear Grylls ("Man Vs. Wild") is 43. Guitarist-keyboardist Eric Johnson of The Shins is 41. Comedian Bill Hader ("The Mindy Project," "Saturday Night Live") is 39.

CIPHER

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" R V T N 17 T K I S W Y T P X O . . . S D D U D K Y
G D D U T S X Y T K I S W Y O N T R I , ' X Y G H R K ,
O D J ' P Y D J P L J O . ' " — Z T S S G Y D C S W Y
Z J G L Y A D X Z T S T K S X Y G Z P D D U N

Previous Solution: "The free men of the world are marching together to victory." — General Dwight D. Eisenhower, D-Day, June 6, 1944

TODAY'S CLUE: $f = \frac{1}{c} \text{ equals } c$

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CLASSIC PEANUTS



805-HOMES FOR SALE

Daniel Crapps Agency 397-3002 MLS99858 \$189,500 3/2.5 brick w/formal LR, fam rm, fenced back yard on 6.9ac west of Lake City on SR-247

Daniel Crapps Agency 397-3002 MLS99893 \$777,500 gorgeous setting for this 2518 sqft home w/73 ac plus 1800sf guest qtrs, 45ac lake & more!

Coldwell Banker-Bishop Elaine Tolar 365-1548 MLS99913 Country home on 3.5 ac, fam rm w/FP, XLg utility/storage rm, newer A/C \$99,900

Country Rivers Realty, LLC 497-3305 MLS99962 \$110,000 Currently used as residence w/office & workshop detached from home, Ft White

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the fair housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin; or any intention to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under the age of 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll free telephone number to the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

810-LAND & LOTS FOR SALE

1/2 to 5 acre lots; owner financing. some with w/s/pp Deas Bullard/BKL Properties 386-752-4339 www.landnfl.com

4.5 acres on Lake Jeffrey Rd, gorgeous oaks, great area, site built homes only. Owner Financing! NO DOWN! \$49,900. \$513/mo 352-215-1018. www.LandOwnerFinancing.com

Country Rivers Realty, LLC 497-3305 MLS100434 \$64,900 10 ac ready for your dream home, already has well, septic & power, cleared homesite.

Country Rivers Realty, LLC 497-3305 MLS100590 \$29,900 2.3 ac w/well, septic & power. mature hardwoods already thinned & ready for a home

Country Rivers Realty, LLC 497-3305 MLS100669 \$30,000 Camping lot on Sante Fe, walking dist to public boat ramp, Fort White.

Hallmark Real Estate Vic Lantroop 623-6401 MLS99861 2.5 ac deep in Cannon Creek Airpark, corner lot & dead end street. \$44,500

Rockford Realty Group, Debi Bennefield 288-1208/Scott Stewart 867-3498 MLS99218 \$83,900 7.5ac lot in Rose Creek Plantation.

Hallmark Real Estate Lacie Lantroop 697-1681 MLS99513 \$29,500 parcel at end of cul-de-sac minutes from town, beautiful lake at entrance.

Daniel Crapps Agency 397-3002 MLS99767 24.8 ac w/paved rd frontage just east of Ft White HS. Owner financing avail. \$198,400

Daniel Crapps Agency 397-3002 MLS99868 \$55,110 Wooded corner lot 10 square ac, offers easy access to Lake City, Ft White & Gainesville

830-COMMERCIAL FOR SALE

6500sf warehouse, 1000sf AC office/retail, 2 lg roll-up doors, 20608 CR 49, O'Brien 352-215-1018 Owner financing \$159,900 \$5k down \$1360/mo www.Landownerfinancing.com

Remax, Missy Zecher 623-0237 MLS100629 \$399,000 Great location, convenient to Hwy 90, I75 & I10. 5000ft warehouse, office space w/reception

Daniel Crapps Agency 397-3002 MLS98342 \$1,100,000 21+ac tract west of Lake City on US90, 4027sf bldg & 6461sf bldg

Hallmark Real Estate Paula Lawrence 623-1973 MLS99619 well-known establishment in Suwannee Co w/full liquor license. Call for r details

1005-MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE WITH LAND

2BR/1.5BA 24'x54' DWMH on 2ac, well, 2 septic, wash shed \$62,200 386-623-4346

Jackie Taylor & Associates Realty Jackie Taylor 397-3479 MLS97359 \$139,900 4/2 on fenced 4.78ac, wkshp w/roll-up doors, fenced & cross fenced.

United Country, Dicks Realty 752-8585 MLS100394 \$99,000 4/2 DWMH on 5ac in White Springs within walking dist of Stephen Foster State Park.

Remax, Pam Beauchamp 303-2505 MLS100442 \$94,900 4/2 DWMH w/covered front porch & back decks, 45x19 garage, stocked pond w/boat ramp.

United Country, Dicks Realty 752-8585 MLS100668 73.52 ac of raw land in Lake City, planted pines & oaks.

Hallmark Real Estate Anita Tonetti 697-3780 MLS91217 Mobile Home Park w/5 units on 2.5ac 3/2 DWE to live in while collecting rental income.

FGC FISHING CAMP

COURTESY PHOTOS

Reel em' in

Florida Gateway College started its youth fishing camp this week.

PRO FOOTBALL**2 Eagles planned White House visit; decisions individual**

By **ROB MAADDI**

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Eagles players and officials made individual decisions to not go to the White House for a scheduled celebration of their Super Bowl title, leaving two players actually planning to make the trip to Washington before the visit was canceled by President Donald Trump, according to players and a person familiar with the arrangements.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday because of the sensitivity of the issues.

All-Pro center Jason Kelce said players filled out forms anonymously indicating whether they wanted to go to the White House, not make the trip or go to Washington and do something else.

"It's a little bit disappointing as a country right now that we're so divided, I think that's the bigger disappointment," said Kelce, who became a folk hero in Philadelphia for an impassioned, profane rally speech he gave after a day of antics during the city's Super Bowl parade.

The players did not urge a collective decision on what to do as a team, giving each player his own option of whether to take the trip.

Defensive end Chris Long, who skipped the trip last year when he was with the New England Patriots and again decided early to not attend, said he hopes athletes on championship teams in all sports won't have to make the decision when Trump's term is up for re-election in 2020.

"The players didn't create this division (in the country)," Long said. "I'm extremely proud to be part of this team."

Safety Malcolm Jenkins, an outspoken leader for social reforms, held up handwritten signs on issues important to him and other players instead of verbally answering questions.

"You aren't listening," one sign said. Another said that former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick gave \$1 million to charity. Kaepernick began the wave of kneeling protests in the NFL as a way to protest racism and police brutality, and is working through a grievance

case against the league after he was not signed by any team following his run with San Francisco.

Another sign by Jenkins read: "More than 60 percent of people in prison are people of color."

Coach Doug Pederson said before practice that he was looking forward to going to the White House to be recognized as Super Bowl champions but he wouldn't further discuss details of the trip's breakdown. He declined to provide information on how things escalated to the White House accusing players of abandoning their fans by deciding to not attend.

"What you've seen and what you've heard is enough. I'm not discussing it," Pederson said. "The team is great. We're united. Our goal is 2018. It's over. It's behind us. We're moving on."

Trump rescinded his invitation late Monday and instead turned the ceremony for the Eagles on Tuesday into his own brief "Celebration of America" after it became clear most players weren't going to show up. Trump tied the dispute to his criticism of players who have knelt during the national anthem, even though no Eagles players knelt for the song during the 2017 season.

Tight end Zach Ertz wore a Team USA soccer jersey while answering questions and said he's "proud to be an American."

"Everyone in this locker room understands that everyone's heart is in the right place," Ertz said. "We weren't going to let someone try and formulate an agenda. What's unique about this locker room is that everyone's treated with respect, people truly care about one another, people respect other people's opinions. We're united."

Long took a shot at NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for staying silent on the matter.

"If he doesn't want to stand up for his players, that's not my business," Long said. "I know my teammates are great men. There's men of faith in this locker room. There's men who serve their communities. There's men who have a lot who give back to people with a lot less."

FRENCH OPEN**Muguruza, Halep set up French Open semis; Nadal in limbo**

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

Associated Press

PARIS — Garbine Muguruza's big strokes overwhelmed Maria Sharapova right from the start. Their French Open quarterfinal Wednesday was no contest at all, a 6-2, 6-1 one-way journey.

Simona Halep went from out-of-sorts to on-target against Angelique Kerber, scrambling to every ball and staying the course to erase an early deficit. Halep pointed her right index finger at her temple when she eventually completed a 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-2 comeback to reach the semifinals, too.

"I never gave up. So I think that's why I won today," Halep said. "My head won it."

When the top-seeded Halep and No. 3 Muguruza meet Thursday, their contrasting styles will match up with plenty at stake. The winner earns a berth in the final at Roland Garros — plus the No. 1 ranking that currently belongs to Halep.

"I have just to stay strong, to try to make her uncomfortable on court," Halep said, "and to try to play my game."

The women got their matches done before rain arrived at Roland Garros, leaving the men's quarterfinals suspended in progress. That might very well have been a relief to 10-time champion Rafael Nadal, who was not at his best Wednesday and dropped a French Open set for the first time since 2015.

Nadal lost the opener 6-4 against 11th-seeded Diego Schwartzman but began to play better after a rain delay of just under an hour. Nadal was serving for the second set at 5-3, 30-15, when another shower came and action was halted for the day.

In the other men's quarterfinal, No. 3 Marin Cilic and No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro were at 5-all in a first-set tiebreaker when the matchup of past U.S. Open champions was stopped.

In addition to Halep vs. Muguruza, the other women's semifinal is the first at the French Open featuring two Americans in 16 years: No. 10 Sloane Stephens against No. 13 Madison Keys in a rematch of last year's U.S. Open final. Stephens won that one, as well as the only other match the longtime friends, Fed Cup and Olympic teammates have played against each other.

Muguruza had lost all three previous times she faced Sharapova, whose five Grand Slam titles include two at Roland Garros.

But they hadn't played since 2014, back before Muguruza was

as confident and successful as she is these days.

Muguruza has not dropped a set in this year's tournament and dominated Sharapova with booming groundstrokes and superb returning that earned six breaks.

"When you're facing somebody that also has an aggressive style of game," Muguruza said about facing Sharapova, "I think it's about who takes the command, who takes the first opportunity."

Sharapova certainly didn't do that. She double-faulted three times in the opening game, part of her 27 unforced errors.

It took her 29 minutes just to gain a game, and by then she already trailed 4-0.

"She did a lot of things better than I did," Sharapova said.

Sharapova didn't play a point in the fourth round, because Serena Williams pulled out of their much-anticipated showdown with an injured chest muscle. Muguruza essentially got that round off, too: Her opponent, Lesia Tsurenko, quit with an injury after only two games.

"Kind of a weird day," Muguruza said.

Muguruza leads Halep 3-1 head-to-head, but this is their first Grand Slam matchup.

Here's another key category in which Muguruza has the upper hand: 2-0 in major championships. Muguruza won the French Open in 2016, then Wimbledon last year.

Halep, meanwhile, has participated in a trio of major finals, losing each. That includes the French Open in 2014 and 2017, and the Australian Open in January.

She has acknowledged having trouble handling her nerves, which is part of why she was so proud about the way she overcame Kerber, a two-time major champion and former No. 1.

Like Sharapova, Halep trailed 4-0 at the outset. Like Sharapova, Halep was erratic early, making 30 unforced errors in the first set.

But Halep figured things out. She started going for less, adding a little more lift to her shots and letting Kerber make the mistakes. Over the last two sets, Halep made 16 unforced errors, half as many as Kerber, who was treated for a blister on her left foot early in the third.

"No expectations, no pressure," Halep said as she looked ahead to the semifinals, perhaps trying to persuade herself as much as anyone. "I just want to play as I did today, and as I did every day. If I do that, I will be OK after the match, no matter the result."

TIGERS

Continued From 1B

home so we just wanted to keep home field advantage and win," Columbia receiver T.J. Jones said.

Jones was one of three receivers to catch a touchdown in the championship game. Smith hooked up with the rising senior on the opening drive, and then following an interception by Derek Johnson, connected with Marquez Bell on a deep ball for another touchdown.

Smith hit Bell for another touchdown after Columbia's defense forced a three-and-out before Jaden 'Butter' Williams made the highlight of the day. The rising sophomore laid out for a diving catch in the end zone that put the Tigers up 27-16 and the game out of reach with under two minutes to go.

"It's scary to see where these kids are going to go and it's scary that I've got a sophomore who hasn't even been to school one day yet as a junior in Marquez where the ceiling is unbelievably high," Columbia head coach Brian Allen said. "Lanadrick Bradley has had an amazing January to where we are now and so has Butter, who's a freshman out there that hasn't had one day as a sophomore. And then our veterans, T.J. and Bobby



JORDAN KROEGER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia players pose with the FHS7V7A trophy after winning the regional qualifier on Wednesday.

(Fulton), they're doing some awesome things...I think we've got six or seven that can flat out play and I've got a kid back there that's the general that I'm highly impressed with right now."

There was a lot of praise to go around on Wednesday and Smith pointed to better communication with his receivers as the reason for everyone's success. The rising junior is heading into

his first year as the full-time starter after splitting reps as a sophomore with Dylan Blair, who has since left the program.

Smith says the timing with his receivers is leaps and bounds better than a year ago. Combine that with his and the receivers' ability to read defenses faster and it's no surprise Columbia's offense clicking months before the regular season

begins.

"Me and them see eye to eye," Smith said of his receivers. "We're finally starting to click now to where they know me and I know them like the back of our hands so we just go out here and do what we have to do."

"They make it real easy," Smith said. "They're so athletic to where they make plays that I don't have to

make with my feet. I can just sit in the pocket and throw it to them."

Timing is everything in Allen's run-pass option offense and Smith knew he had to get better in the offseason. Between working with his receivers and Allen in the offseason, Smith has improved his accuracy and become more confident before Columbia has even started

summer workouts, which begin next week.

Plenty of people have taken notice too, especially his receivers.

"He's matured a whole lot this year and he's looking like a whole different, complete player now," Jones said. "Last year his timing wasn't there because we were used to playing with Davin (Schuck) and Dylan so when he came in from the middle school we had to get the timing right. He got the jitters out of himself and now I feel like he's ready."

Allen does too. He's helped Smith improve his footwork and mechanics since coming out of the eighth grade at LCMS and he's felt from the start he had a special player under center.

It's not an easy offense to understand, with plenty of college elements implemented by Allen over the years. But what Allen saw on Wednesday was a unit that appeared very cohesive ahead of summer workouts, which begin next week.

"It looked very good out here today. At times it was flawless and at times we could've had a quicker release, but when you look at us not having even entered week one of the summer it's close right now to being very good," Allen said.

"This group is as far as advanced right now as any one that I've had since being here."

CHS

Continued From 1B

(starters) like we had a year ago, you got to get the next one reps...Ty has been that kid. Like I've said before, he's extremely smart, he's a AP (student). He can sit back and everything that I'm telling Jordan, he's gotten his rep (too). So when he comes in, he'll be ready to go."

SAFETY ON: After a steep learning curve last season, replacing starters at every position, the Tigers' secondary could be one of the team's strongest units in 2018. Columbia safety Brandon Scott, a rising senior, could be in for a breakout season after an impressive junior campaign as a first-year starter. Scott is joined in the backfield by free safety Ahmad Williams, who transferred back to Columbia after playing last season at Winter Park near Orlando. Williams provides the Tigers with another smart, energetic leader on defense. "Ever since middle school we've been planning this, win a state championship, and we have the group to do it," he said. Williams has made his presence felt in his senior year return. "He made a bunch of plays (Wednesday), also Brandon Scott," Allen said. "Those two kids have come (around)...These kids have range that's just different. Both have had tremendous offseasons and continue to get better and better."

MORE THAN TWO: Sought-after wide receivers T.J. Jones and Marquez Bell have over 40 college offers combined. And it's hard to imagine opposing teams not keying in on those talents when the season begins, meaning more opportunity for the rest of the corps. It was evident again Wednesday that the supporting wideouts are ready for the challenge. Bobby Fulton and Lanadrick Bradley have had strong spring seasons, along with Jaden 'Butter' Williams, who caught a highlight-reel diving touchdown in the championship round. Those three will depend on more than ever this season, especially if Jones and Bell are contained. "Lanadrick has had an amazing January to where we are now, and so has Butter," Allen said. "That's a freshman out there who hasn't had one day as a sophomore who's doing it... I think we have five or six that can flat out go."

NEW MUSCLE: Columbia has been fortunate to bring in some talented transfers in recent years – and this season looks to be no different. Le'vontae Camiel returns to Columbia after spending the first two years of his career at Gadsden County and Jefferson County. Camiel, who comes from a lineage of Columbia greats, is still getting acclimated but it's clear that he'll be a major player on the defense this fall. A defensive end who also can play in coverage, watch out for Camiel in 2018 as he brings reinforcement to that already stout defensive front. Columbia used him as a linebacker during 7v7 action however he's slated to replace S.L. McCall at defensive end. "If you haven't seen his highlights, type in Le'vontae Camiel on Hudl, google that and you will see how versatile he is," the eighth-year coach said. "He can play kick returner, receiver... he's a freakish athlete."



Photos by BRENT KUYKENDALL/Lake City Reporter

Columbia safety Ahmad Williams breaks up a pass against The Villages in pool play of the FHS7V7A regional qualifier.



LEFT: Columbia quarterback Jordan Smith throws a pass during Wednesday's regional qualifier. **RIGHT:** Columbia receiver T.J. Jones catches a touchdown during the regional qualifier.