

Lake City Reporter

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SUNDAY



1C
Zecher #2 in Re/Max in state

PLUS

Rest in peace, chiefs
Morris Williams
4A

O'Brien blast probe widens



See 2A



SHS grad to save stranger's life

SEE 3A

SCHOOL BOARD

Family political feud now a criminal matter?

Incumbent says uncle stole signs to boost his grandson's chances.

By **CARL MCKINNEY**
cmckinney@lakecityreporter.com

Two cousins are engaged in a political battle for a Columbia County School Board seat, and one of them is accusing her uncle of stealing campaign signs to help her opponent.



COURTESY

Earl Peeler, uncle of District 5 School Board incumbent Stephanie Finnell, is seen removing one of her campaign signs in this surveillance photo. He said the sign was on his property. A sheriff's report said it was on county land.

School Board District 5 candidate Stephanie Finnell wants authorities to file charges against her uncle, Earl Peeler, who is also the grandfather of her opponent, Hunter Peeler, after nine campaign signs went missing near Sisters

Welcome Road over a three-week period in May. Finnell's son set up a game camera in hopes of catching the culprit.

On May 24, he retrieved the device, which snapped a photo of someone holding a sign in one hand and preparing to pull out another.

Finnell knew right away who it was.



Finnell

"I have no doubt whatsoever that the subject in the picture taking the signs is Earl Peeler," she told the Lake City Reporter.

Peeler confirmed it was him in the photo, but said he only moved the signs to the other side of the road onto county property.

The time stamp indicated it was around 2 a.m., but the date was wrong, according to a Columbia County Sheriff's Office report. Peeler, who is known to eat breakfast at Shirley's nearly every

SIGNS continued on 7A

FLED WITH UNDERAGE STUDENT

Soccer coach gets 18 months



FILE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Rian Rodriguez shortly after his arrest near Syracuse, New York in December. **BELOW:** Media outlets flooded Lake City during the search for Caitlyn Frisina. Here, Sheriff Mark Hunter prepares for a press confer-

Must register as a sex offender

Will serve 8 years' probation under terms of plea deal.

By **STEVE WILSON**
swilson@lakecityreporter.com

Minus credit for time served, a former Fort White High School soccer coach will spend just under a year in a state prison, not to mention eight years of probation and lifetime status as a registered sex offender, for crimes committed against a teenage girl late last year.

Rian Rodriguez, 27, had a plea agreement approved by the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida on June 5 on charges of sexual activity with a minor and interfering with custody. The charges stemmed from a November



2017 cross country incident involving Caitlyn Frisina, who was aged 17 and a student at FWHS at the time.

"With cases like this we try to prevent having to have the victim testify in

court," said Assistant State Attorney Chase Larsen. "Everybody was in agreement on the plea deal."

Rodriguez left Florida with Caitlyn and the two traveled to upstate New York, with

Caitlyn apparently taking part under her own free will, as she told investigators she helped plan the trip and did some of the driving. Rodriguez

COACH continued on 8A



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SCSO: Woman left kids, and self, in hot car
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O'Brien blast probe widens

Numerous agencies looking into cause of fatal explosion.

By COREY ARWOOD
carwood@lakecityreporter.com

A fatal compressed gas cylinder explosion on Wednesday in Suwannee County remains under investigation by state and now federal authorities.

James Reynolds, 32, of O'Brien, was killed while moving a welding cylinder containing a mixture of compressed gas at Suwannee Iron Works in O'Brien, his employer. He was relocating the nearly five-foot container filled with nitrogen, butane and propane when at some point the tank erupted, according to Suwannee County Sheriff's Office and Suwannee Fire Rescue reports.

Officials have stated that Reynolds was the shop foreman, indicating he had a certain level of proficiency and familiarity with the task he was performing at the time.

In addition to county authorities, state fire marshals, the U.S. Department of Transportation and Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration are among the state and federal agencies investigating the incident.

Darius Kirkwood, a public affairs specialist with PHMSA's Office of International, Governmental and Public Affairs confirmed their investigators were at the site of the explosion, inside the large steel frame workshop were Reynolds was killed.



COREY ARWOOD/Lake City Reporter

A state trooper enters the site of a deadly explosion in O'Brien on Wednesday.

"PHMSA has also deployed an investigator to the initial shipper of the cylinder in Clearwater, Florida," said Kirkwood by email.

An OSHA spokesperson, Michael D'Aquino, confirmed by email that his agency is involved, but did not issue preliminary reports or findings.

"The intent of the investigation is to identify any safety or health standards that may have been violated in an effort to have any unsafe conditions abated to prevent exposure (sic.) from occurring again," he said.

D'Aquino said federal law requires an OSHA investigation to be completed within six months, though

that didn't mean it would necessarily take that long.

Suwannee County Sheriff Sam St. John said Thursday afternoon that the company had not yet resumed operations, yet was confident the various investigations were reaching a conclusion at the scene and were now going to analyze the results in remote laboratories.

QUICK HITS

Scripture of the Day

"Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?"
— Matthew 16:8 (KJV)

Thought for Today

You can fool too many of the people too much of the time.
— James Thurber, 1894-1961, American author

Winning Lottery Numbers

Play 3: (Friday p.m.) 2-9-9
Play 4: (Friday p.m.) 2-0-8-2
Fantasy 5: (Friday) 12-16-28-29-30

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 Eleanor Ransburg at eransburg@lakecityreporter.com.

Lake City Reporter

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SCSO: Branford woman left kids, self in hot car

Was passed out drunk, say cops.

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

A Branford woman, arrested Wednesday shortly before noon, faces child neglect and driving under the influence charges, after Suwannee County authorities found her passed out behind the wheel at a gas station with her two children locked in the car.

Jessica Raine Argentine, 32, of NE 23rd Terrace, Branford, was booked into the Suwannee County Jail without incident.

According to Suwannee County Sheriff's Office reports, Deputy Sanjay Thakor was dispatched to the S&S convenience store

at the intersection of Bass Road and County Road 129 where he met with Live Oak Police Officer Jordan Watson.

Watson told the Thakor when he arrived he saw Argentine passed out behind the wheel with the children in the back seat.

The children, ages 3 and 5 years old, were screaming in the back seat and both were buckled up in a child seat and unable to move. The vehicle was not running, but its keys were in the ignition and all the windows were closed.

The outside temperature was 78 degrees and humid, the report said.

One of the children who was behind the driver's seat, appeared to have fecal matter on her hands, legs and clothing from her diaper, the report said.

Thakor spoke to Argentine and she reportedly told him she had several beers earlier in the day. Thakor reported see-

ing a bottle of rum that was almost empty behind the vehicle's passenger seat, along with a 12-pack of beer that only had two beers left.

Argentine told Thakor that she had consumed some of the rum, but she didn't give him an amount. Thakor reported Argentine appeared to have urinated on herself.

The deputy said Argentine appeared to be disoriented and she told him she had only been at the store for about 15 minutes, however, the store's clerk said Argentine had been at the store for at least an hour.

Argentine failed to successfully complete field sobriety exercises. Authorities contacted the Department of Children and Family Services who took custody of the children.

Argentine's two breath samples measured .131 and .132.

Girlfriend faces gun-theft charge

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

A South Carolina woman was arrested Thursday and faces burglary charges after she allegedly stole a pistol and jewelry from her boyfriend's mother's home.

Hayley Marie Haire, 23, 3009 Larkspur Road, Florence, S.C., was charged with burglary of an occu-

piated dwelling and theft of a firearm in connection with the case.



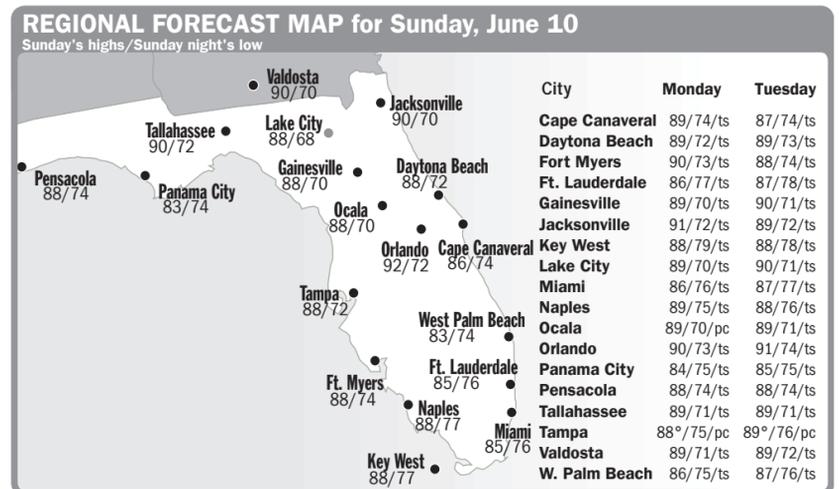
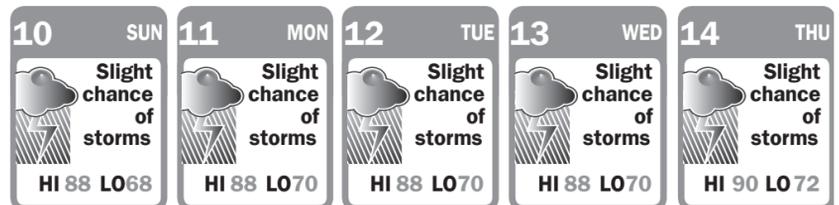
Haire

According to Columbia

County Sheriff's Office reports, on March 25 a woman living at a home on the 200 block of Southwest Lisa Way reported that her Hellcat .380 handgun was missing from her home. The homeowner said she put the gun in a closet the week before and when she returned from Fort

GUN continued on 6A

THE WEATHER



LAKE CITY ALMANAC

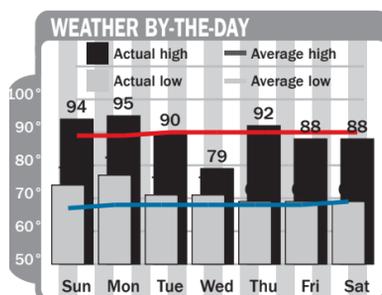
TEMPERATURES	SUN
High Saturday	88
Low Saturday	69
Normal high	90
Normal low	69
Record high	99 in 1907
Record low	60 in 1987
Sunrise today	6:28 a.m.
Sunset today	8:31 p.m.
Sunrise tom.	6:28 a.m.
Sunset tom.	8:32 p.m.
MOON	
Moonrise today	4:07 a.m.
Moonsset today	5:13 p.m.
Moonrise tom.	4:47 a.m.
Moonsset tom.	6:17 p.m.
PRECIPITATION	
Saturday	0.00"
Month total	7.98"
Year total	17.68"
Normal month-to-date	1.71"
Normal year-to-date	17.70"

UV INDEX

9
Very High
15 mins to burn
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WEATHER HISTORY

One of the most famous experiments in history was performed on this date in 1752. Benjamin Franklin lived to tell the results of his electricity experiment in which he flew a kite during a thunderstorm.

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Half-a-million dollar puzzle piece

Suwannee High grad giving kidney to a stranger.

By SAMANTHA GUINN
sguinn@lakecityreporter.com

In a paired-exchange program involving six sets of donors and recipients, 12 lives all over the country will be changed forever.

Nicholas Flores was the final piece to the puzzle because without one another, none of these procedures would work. Flores, 29, was having car troubles in downtown Saint Augustine when he saw a sign that read "Kidney for Alison" with a card number for the Mayo Clinic. It had caught his eye and he strongly felt that he was meant to find this sign to try to help this woman.

To be tested for compatibility, Flores had to have some blood work, done along with a CAT scan, MRI, and take some X-rays. They were a match, for the first two months at least, but Flores was completing the final test when they discovered his kidney would shortly fail after the transplant.

Flores could have walked away at this point, but he was told about an alternative option for donating that would still be on behalf of Alison Eklund. He was introduced to paired-exchange, which is where a candidate who is medically able, cannot donate to their intended candidate because they are a poor match. This program allows two pairs

of donor/recipients to swap kidneys to their eligible match.

"The downfall to paired-donation is that it is not a guarantee, it could take up to a couple weeks or even years to find a match," he said. "It was amazing it happened so quickly."

The Mayo Clinic works with all three of their locations in Minnesota, Arizona and Florida to find a matches for each recipient. Flores and Eklund were are now in a 12-way chain with six other pairs of donor/recipients all over the country. Flores's organs would now go to a girl who had been waiting for four years and was about to enter the final stage of kidney disease before they found the perfect match.

After the kidney is removed from the body it can only survive for 36 hours. This puts a damper on time because each surgery alone takes four hours and they have to ship the kidney to a separate location for transplant. All twelve of these surgeries are scheduled for June 21 and they all must take place within 3-5 days.

"If I donate, Alison still gets a kidney because of paired donating," he said. "I felt an integral part because I was the last piece to sort of make this

thing work."

Flores had really felt that this was his calling and Alison was put in his path for a reason.

Flores joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served for 10 years after graduating from Suwannee High in 2007. He recently started his own handyman's company, which has supported him and his family for over a year now.

The biggest concern Flores had when considering the surgery was how he was going to financially support his four boys and wife while he was recovering. The incisions take about two weeks to heal but in order to internally heal

it would take about a few months where he wouldn't be able to lift more than 10 pounds.

"Working for yourself, if you don't work, you don't get paid," he said. "Regardless, I am still going to do the surgery because I have been given

a privilege and an opportunity."

Flores and his wife started a GoFundMe to help take care of their family while he recovers. There is no medical cost for the donor. The half-a-million dollar removal surgery is an expense the recipient's insurance company takes care of. All other medical costs including checkups up to a year after surgery, except for medication are covered by the recipient as well.

Since taking out a kidney increases one's chances of getting kidney disease, Flores's doctor proposed a question in an evaluation; what is he going to do in 20 years if he gets kidney disease?

"I would hope someone would donate or I'll meet my maker," said Flores. "It's not for everyone to give, it was just placed on my heart to do this. No amount of years of service could or would I ever back down because of a 'what-if.'"

Flores's wife and kids are very supportive in his decision, and his wife is considering donating in the future as well.

12 lives will be changed forever in paired-exchange transplant program



COURTESY

Thanks to a medical paired-exchange program, Allison Eklund (left) and 2007 Suwannee High School graduate Nicholas Flores may well have a bond that will last a very long time.

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OUR OPINION

Check out town halls on sales tax

Starting Tuesday, and for the next few weeks, county officials will be conducting a series of town hall meetings to explain why they'll be asking you to approve a one cent sales tax hike come August.

Everyone thinks it's to build the new jail. That's true and false at the same time. By law, the money can only be spent on road repair and maintenance.

But that means the money now being used for that purpose will be freed up to build the new jail.

So that's where, we suspect, many of the questions will be directed: Why, after only 30 years, do we need a new jail?

The answers may surprise you.

It's definitely worth a listen before voting season.

The meetings, all set for 6 p.m., are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday at Westside Community Center
- June 19 at Winfield Community Center
- July 10 at Richardson Community Center
- July 17 at Mason City Community Center
- July 24 at Columbia County Fairgrounds
- July 31 at Fort White Community Center.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On this date:

In 1692, the first execution resulting from the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts took place as Bridget Bishop was hanged.

In 1892, the Republican national convention in Minneapolis nominated President Benjamin Harrison for re-election and Whitelaw Reid for vice president. (Harrison, however, lost the election to former President Grover Cleveland.)

In 1907, eleven men in five cars set out on a race from "Peking to Paris"; Prince Scipione Borghese of Italy was the first to arrive in the French capital two months later.

In 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron, Ohio, by Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith and William Griffith Wilson.

In 1942, during World War II, German forces massacred 173 male residents of Lidice, Czechoslovakia.

In 1944, German forces massacred 642 residents of the French village of Oradour-sur-Glane.

In 1967, six days of war in the Mideast involving Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq ended as Israel and Syria accepted a United Nations-mediated cease-fire.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee with six others; he was recaptured June 13.

■ Associated Press



Rest in peace, chiefs

Recently I asked column readers to send in photos or information on any of the various plaques in our county.

Sue Tuell, a woman of remarkable community service, was the first to respond and she sent in photos of two plaques memorializing our first two police chiefs who died in the line of duty.

Follows is the information on those two plaques:

In Memory of Hardy A. Revels, Lake City, Florida Chief of police 1920-22

Killed in the line of Duty on November 20, 1922.

Chief Revels was found shot to death

In the 700 block of North Marion Street in an apparent ambush.

In memory of William T. 'Will' Strange, Chief of Police

Lake City, Florida 1890-1892 and 1899-1900

Killed November 27, 1900.

Chief Strange was the first Lake City Police Chief to die in the line of duty. He was shot while attempting to make an arrest on November 27, 1900.

Rest In Peace, Chiefs Revels and Strange. You gave your lives to protect and serve the people of tiny



Morris Williams

Lake City back in the early 1920's. These many years later we are all still beholden to you.

Sue Tuell is Administrative Assistant to present chief, Argatha Gilmore. The plaques were photographed by Officer Michael Lee.

Sincere thanks to you both. We hope you too will email me plaques you have seen, to hmorriswilliams@gmail.com.

ATOMIC POWER HERE, 1956?

In 1956 the City of Lake City explored the idea of operating a city electric utility as opposed to franchising it out to companies like Florida Power and Light Co.

Toward that end the City published a 36-page book to taxpayers seeking their opinions.

A paragraph on page 33 surprisingly mentions atomic power as an option for the distant future.

"We have not give any serious consideration to an atomic powered plant at this time. However there are good reasons to believe that before another 30-years-franchise would expire there would be revolutionary changes in the production of electricity and we do not want to be obligated to a franchise that would prevent our being able to take advantage of new, low cost production of electricity."

And this line of thinking was considered 62 years ago!

By the way, in 1956, the City had 74 employees on the payroll. The Mayor was Murray E. Hagan, Milo Thomas was City Judge, Walter Davis was police chief and the "Ward Commissioners" were D.A. Edenfield, A. C. Parrish, A. M. Swisher, and W.V. Herlong, and the City Slogan was "In the heart of Florida's Tobacco Country."

DEBT OVERDUE

A man was extremely late paying his bills when he received this notice: "Your account has now been on our books over a year. We just wanted you to know that we have now carried you longer than your mother did."

■ Morris Williams is a Lake City historian and longtime retired educator.

Aaron Persky recall won't help much

If Aaron Persky were the only judge affected by Tuesday's vote to boot him from the Santa Clara Superior Court — in response to his too-lenient ruling in the notorious Brock Turner rape case — that wouldn't be a catastrophe. He had a job, he served at the people's pleasure, and the people fired him. He'll find other work.

The problem is not what happened to Persky. The problem is how his recall will affect all the other California trial judges, some 1,500 of them, who now may be more likely to craft their sentencing decisions to take into account the degree to which an angry public wants the defendant punished.

No doubt most judges will claim that public reaction will have no bearing on their decisions, which they will continue to make in good faith without concern for their continued employment. And perhaps they will believe that about themselves, and perhaps some of them will manage to live by that rule.

But certainly the outraged activists who campaigned to recall Persky for giving a six-month sentence to a man who raped an unconscious woman believe that judges will pay heed to their movement

and keep it in mind when handing down sentences. The whole point of the action was to make clear in no uncertain terms that leniency in rape cases will bring serious employment consequences.

That means that the final say over individual cases in California lies not with judges but with the people. That may sound at first blush like a fine idea. After all, voters here can bypass the Legislature and make laws through the initiative process. They can recall their governor or any other elected official without waiting for the next regularly scheduled election, and they can replace him with a movie action hero. Such decisions may be smart or stupid, but either way they are the essence of democracy.

Democracy, though, is not always compatible with justice. Recalling judges in response to unpopular rulings undermines the bedrock principle that justice should not be meted out by mobs, crowds, headline writers, talk radio hosts or even reasonably thoughtful voters. It should be administered by jurists who act in accordance with the law and independent of the public's view of any given case. Legal errors can be overturned on appeal. Misconduct

is punished by the Commission on Judicial Performance.

Persky's ouster is the first successful California judicial recall since 1932. But it is merely the loudest and most recent populist warning shot heard by judges, who can be thrown out by voters in regular elections every six years. That means fundraising and political campaigning already have a solid foothold in trial courts here. Judicial candidates don't run on partisan tickets in California, as they do in some other states. But the judiciary here is politicized nonetheless.

The essential predicament of California judicial elections is that few voters bother because they have such little information about the candidates — yet what they really want to know is precisely the kind of thing they should avoid in their decision-making. For example, are the candidates liberal or conservative? Democrat or Republican? Will they be tough or lenient on rapists? On drunk drivers? On shoplifters?

The interplay between democracy and justice need not be quite so fraught. Many states don't elect judges. Perhaps they are onto something.

■ Los Angeles Times

Lake City Reporter

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Letters to the Editor should be typed or neatly written and double spaced. Letters will be edited for length and libel. Letters must be signed and include the writer's name, address and telephone number for verification. Writers can have two letters per month published. Letters and guest columns are the opinion of the writers and not necessarily that of the Lake City Reporter.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cole owes Price Creek an apology

To the Editor:

The Friday, June 8 edition of the Lake City Reporter's article "Zoning switch fails on 2-2 tie" included a quote from Mr. Richard Cole saying "I think a lot of the people that spoke today were pretty much misinformed and were dealing from an emotional stance and not actual fact." The statement appears to be intended to belittle the involvement of area residents.

Mr. Cole gave no argument

against any particular thing by citizens. If they were factually wrong, he should have spoken up then. He didn't.

My father and a large number of others put a lot of effort into investigating the potential impacts of the zoning change. I personally spoke on the matter, and I know 30 years of utility experience and being a past member of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council gave me a little bit of insight into appropriate locations

for industrial areas. The people of the Price Creek Road neighborhood have every right to be concerned. Mr. Cole was wrong to say what he did since the change he advocates would negatively impact residents.

Mr. Cole owes the people of Price Creek Road an apology. Sell your property as residential and move on please sir.

William M. Nettles Jr.
Winter Haven

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Today

Bingo games

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. For more, call 386-752-7776.

Tuesday

Volunteers needed

Lake City Medical Center Auxiliary needs volunteers who have a heart to serve. The auxiliary need volunteers for all positions. Those interested in participating in the program may pick up an application at the Lake City Medical Center Gift Shop or the H2U office. For more, call 386-719-7713.

Club registration

The Boys' Club of Columbia County is accepting registration for the fall session. All children ages 6-14 are eligible to attend. There are bus pickups from all elementary and middle schools. Fees for the session are \$200. For more, call 386-752-4184 or visit the club on Jones Way in Lake City.

Wednesday

Volunteers needed

Community Hospice

and Palliative Care recently opened a new office at 163 SW Stonegate Terrace, Suite 105, Lake City. We are looking for volunteers to serve in several different capacities including: relief visits for our patient's families, pet therapy, veteran pinning and clerical help. Visit our web site, Volunteer.CommunityHospice.com to learn more about our volunteer on-boarding process and to complete a volunteer application.

'Terrific Twos'

"Terrific Twos," a library program for toddlers, is offered on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at the main branch of the Columbia County Public Library, 308 NW Columbia Ave. in downtown Lake City. For more information about the library's children's programs, call 386-758-2101.

Al-Anon meeting

An Al-Anon group meets at First Christian Church (403 W. Duval St., Lake City) at 6 p.m. on Mondays and 10 a.m. on Wednesdays. Newcomers group meets on Mondays at 5 p.m.

Volunteers needed

The Christian Service Center (421 NW Washington St., Lake City) is in search of volunteers. The center's mission is

to serve those in need in Columbia County through Christian faith and resources. For more, call 386-755-1770.

Duplicate Bridge Club

Lake City Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays at The Country Club at Lake City. All bridge enthusiasts are welcome. For more, call Dottie Rogers at 386-758-8606.

Volunteers needed

The Christian Service Center (421 NW Washington St., Lake City) is in search of volunteers. The center's mission is to serve those in need in Columbia County through Christian faith and resources. For more, call 386-755-1770.

Haven seeks help

Haven is always seeking compassionate volunteers looking to give back and make a positive impact on their communities. There are many ways in which skills and a smile can make a difference by volunteering. Explore all of the possibilities at www.beyourhaven.org or by calling 386-752-9191 to speak with the volunteer coordinator.

Free soil testing

Free soil pH tests are available every Wednesday morning at the Columbia County Extension Office, 971 W. Duval St., Suite 170, in Lake City. Residents may bring a sample to the office during regular business hours. For more, call 752-5384.

'Catholics Come Home'

A "Catholics Come Home" and Adult Catholic Education Inquiry Program will be presented at San Juan Catholic Mission each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7-8:15 p.m.

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

Spring book sale

The Columbia County Public Library West Branch (435 NW Hall of Fame Drive, off U.S. Highway 90 just past Interstate 75) is holding a spring book sale through April 30. Fill a bag with books for \$3. For more information, call 386-758-1321 or email dhorner@columbiacountyfla.com.

Dinner and dancing

Dances are held each Friday night from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Lifestyle Enrichment Center). \$7 admission. Call 386-755-0235 for more.

'Baby & Me'

"Baby & Me," a library program for parents and babies, is held on Fridays at 11 a.m. at the main branch of the Columbia County Public Library, 308 NW Columbia Ave. in downtown Lake City. For more information about the library's children's programs, call 386-758-2101.

Saturday

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.

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- Collage Frames**
- Decorative Lanterns, Birdcages & Terrariums**
- Decorative Memo Boards, Chalkboards & Corkboards** Priced \$24.99 & Up
- Men's Metal, Wood, Resin & Ceramic Decor**
Wall and table
- Knobs, Pulls, Handles, Hooks & Decorative Hardware**
- Glass Decor**
Glass Department, floral glass vases and craft glass containers. Does not include craft stained glass
- Metal Decor**
Metal wall decor, functional & decorative metal accessories (includes metal containers in our Floral & Crafts Departments). Does not include furniture
- Wicker, Decorative Boxes, Trays & Storage**
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FLORAL 50% OFF <small>Categories Listed. Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled "Your Price"</small>	Select Group of FURNITURE NOW MARKED 50% OFF <small>Selection will vary by store</small>	FURNITURE ALWAYS 30% OFF <small>THE MARKED PRICE</small>
Ribbon & Trims by the Roll <small>Ribbon, boro, tulle & deco mesh in our Wedding, Floral and Fabric Departments. Does not include ribbon, trim or tulle sold by the yard</small>	Wedding <small>Items Labeled "Study His & Hers" Includes: busting glasses, 600 balloons, cake toppers and more</small>	ALL YARN 30% OFF <small>Every skein, brand, color and size. Does not include thread and floss</small>
Floral Arrangements <small>Flowering and greenery. Does not include custom designs or potted trees</small>	Garlands, Swags, Wreaths & Teardrops <small>Flowering and greenery</small>	FRAMES 50% OFF <small>Categories Listed</small>
Photo Frames <small>Always 50% off the marked price*</small>	Collage Frames	CRAFTS 30% OFF <small>Categories Listed</small>
Art Prints & Posters <small>Always 50% off the marked price*</small>	Wall Frames <small>Poster, document and portrait frames with glass</small>	Basically Yours™ <small>Aprons, bags and caps</small>
Leather & Leather Kits <small>Priced \$4.99 & Up</small>	T-Shirts <small>Always 30% off the marked price* Youth & adult t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies & toddler t-shirts, creepers and dresses</small>	Chalkboards, Corkboards & Dry-Erase Boards
Clay <small>Molding, oven-bake, air-dry & jewelry clay</small>	DecoArt® & Anita's™ Craft Paint <small>8 oz and 16 oz</small>	Cake Decorating <small>All items labeled Sunny Side Up Bakery! Includes Cake, Cookie and Cupcake Essentials</small>
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JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF <small>Categories Listed</small>	Poetic Spirit™ by Bead Treasures® <small>Permalinks, beads, leather and more</small>	Vintaj® <small>Unique art/craft components made in the USA</small>
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*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. - No coupons or other discounts may be applied to "Your Price" items.

GUN

Continued from 2A

Lauderdale the gun was not there.

She said when she returned home she noticed the chair in the living room had been moved and the back door had been unlocked.

The woman told authorities she believed Haire was behind the burglary because she found her untrustworthy and she had stayed at the house in the past and is familiar with the house.

A deputy was able to get a partial latent fingerprint from the outside backdoor and it was placed into evidence.

A Columbia County Sheriff's Office detective was assigned to the case the next day and the homeowner told him she also found an empty jewelry box in her home and that a necklace and ring were missing.

Early in April another sheriff's office detective was investigating cases where Haire was a suspect, took photos of jewelry that had been pawned. The homeowner later went

to the establishment and identified the items as hers. The homeowner also gave authorities the gun's serial number.

The victim's son provided a statement for authorities two days later about the burglary and other burglaries in Lake City. He described how Haire allegedly got into the home and came out with a bag that had her personal items as well as jewelry and a handgun. Haire allegedly sold the jewelry in a store that buys gold and traded the gun for \$40 worth of marijuana.

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¹www.asha.org, Untreated Hearing Loss in Adults—A Growing National Epidemic, January 2012, Anne L. Oyler, Au.D., CCC-A

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Family political feud now a criminal matter?

SIGNS

Continued from 1A

day at 5 a.m., said he moved the sign on the way to the restaurant that morning.

He said he's moved about four of Finnell's signs total.

Finnell contends the sign was already on county property, but Peeler said it was on his land.

A deputy told Peeler the sign was on a county right-of-way, according to the report.

County ordinance prohibits putting any sort of sign on county property.

"Political or otherwise," said County Attorney Joel Foreman.

Every political candidate is given a packet explaining the rules for campaign signs.

When a sign is posted on county property, the proper procedure is to inform code enforcement, which typically returns them to the candidate, Foreman said.

"As a general rule, you should never touch somebody else's campaign sign," he said.

That the advice only applies to public land, he added.

"A political sign in your front yard? You can do whatever you want with that," he said.

Finnell originally declined to press charges against Peeler, but later changed her mind, according to CCSO reports.

Finnell's son and her campaign manager contacted a deputy the day they discovered the photo.

They wanted to report "multiple sign thefts" from

the area of Sisters Welcome Road and Covey Court, according to the report.

They said the signs were on county-maintained property, the report states.

They showed the deputy

one for his grandson's campaign, and he only pulled out one of Finnell's signs.

Finnell told the deputy Peeler was upset with her for running against his grandson.

es, I made the decision to contact Earl about the investigation."

Peeler arrived at the Sheriff's Office about 20 minutes later, saying he would speak with the dep-

signs placed in front of his property, as long as they were on the county side.

He stands by that.

"I'm not going to bother her," he told the Lake City Reporter. "I'm not going to

the report.

Peeler told the Lake City Reporter that Finnell has allowed the dispute to "get out of hand."

"It makes you mad," he said. "We've helped her each time she's run."

Peeler questioned why Finnell didn't talk to him directly before going to law enforcement.

"This could have been solved with a phone call," he said.

He also said the camera they used to photograph him was placed on his property, which he could pursue trespassing charges for.

But Peeler said he has no interest in adding fuel to the fire.

"I just want to forget it and go on," he said.

Finnell said she didn't want to come forward with the accusation against Peeler.

But she worried about seeming unprincipled if the public found out she had kept quiet.

"I'm setting an example for other people," she said.

Finnell said she's disappointed that she and her uncle are feuding.

"I think it's sad that things are like this," she said.

Peeler said Finnell is free to clear the air at any time.

"All she's got to do is call and I'll sit down and discuss it with her, no problem," he said.

The signs are worth \$7 a piece, but Finnell said something much more valuable was stolen.

"My freedom of speech has been taken," she said.

The case has now been turned over to the Third Circuit State Attorney's office for possible action.



CARL MCKINNEY/Lake City Reporter

Earl Peeler, uncle to District 5 School Board incumbent Stephanie Finnell and grandfather of challenger Hunter Peeler, shows the area where Finnell's campaign sign was placed. He said he removed it because it was on his property.

the photo, identifying the subject as Peeler.

The deputy wrote that there were "several resemblances" between him and the person in the photo.

"The subject was captured with a campaign sign in his hand and looks as if he is about to remove another sign from the ground," the report states.

Peeler told the Lake City Reporter the sign that was already in his hand was

Finnell asked the deputy to hold off on contacting Peeler.

A few hours after the interview, the deputy received a call from the Lake City Reporter, prompting him to tell Peeler about the investigation, according to the report.

"It is unknown at this time who spoke with the media about this investigation but specific details were provided to them," the deputy wrote in the report. "Due to these circumstanc-

uty to "clear his name," according to the report.

Peeler told the deputy he moved the sign about 20 yards to the other side of Covey Court, saying repeatedly he didn't steal or damage Finnell's property.

After the deputy explained that the proper procedure for dealing with signs on a county right-of-way was to inform code enforcement, Peeler said he would not touch any other

touch her signs."

When the deputy asked about another sign that went missing on Sisters Welcome, Peeler said the property owner removed it.

Peeler told the deputy he had put a sign there for his grandson with permission from the landowner, prompting Finnell to put one there as well.

Later, Finnell told the deputy that Peeler lied during the interview, according to

Town hall meetings will discuss need for sales tax hike

Money will go for road repair and free up other funds for a new jail.

By COREY ARWOOD

carwood@lakecityreporter.com

Voters will be asked to approve or reject a county-wide one cent sales tax increase sought by county commissioners to pay for road improvements and to, more indirectly, free up funds for the construction of a new jail, a county official said.

The county manager's office has scheduled six town hall meetings, schedule listed below, for residents across Columbia County to learn more about the referendum.

The proposed one cent sales tax increase can only be used for road maintenance, commissioners have stated. However, if it passes, funds it generates can also free up unrestricted county funds to be used for other projects — in this case for a new county jail.

"Basically what our goal is in these town hall meetings is to educate the people on why we're asking them to pass this one cent sales tax (increase)," said County Manager Ben Scott. "On the Aug. 28 primary election ballot there will be

a question. The answer the public gives to that question will determine how the county pays for road repairs and a new jail."

Commissioners have also stated that in the event the

The meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday at Westside Community Center at 6 p.m.

June 19 at Winfield Community Center at 6 p.m.

July 10 at Richardson Community Center at 6 p.m.

July 17 at Mason City Community Center at 6 p.m.

July 24 at Columbia County Fairgrounds at 6 p.m.

July 31 at Ft. White Community Center at 6 p.m.

proposed sales tax increase does not pass, the next step would be a move towards a property tax increase.

Scott said the content of the meetings would largely be the same.

"The only thing that's going to be different really at each meeting is we're going to delve more into roads in those particular districts," Scott said.

Currently county sales tax rates are set at seven percent, and if passed the surtax would bring that to eight percent, he said.

He said an informative slide show had been prepared for the events. One of those showed sales tax rates of neighboring counties at which Columbia sat among the lower percentile.

The items to be taxed would remain the same, he said.

"It's going to be the same that the current sales tax is," Scott said, and followed by saying that would limit any total tax to \$50. "If it's an exempt product now, such as groceries or pharmaceuticals, they still would be exempt. It is capped at a \$5,000 item."

The increase is projected to generate approximately \$7.7 million dollars for slated road repairs. This in turn would free up other funds for the new jail. There were about \$4 million in unrestricted revenues in the transportation trust fund, he said, and they would utilize \$2.7 million of that to fund jail construction.

"The main objective here is to give the county a dedicated revenue source for repaving roads," he said. "Currently we do not have a dedicated revenue source for repaving roads."

After receiving a commission ordinance to place it

on the ballot, he said it all came down to the referendum vote in August.

However, if it doesn't pass he said they'll have to look into alternate sources for funding like property tax increases.

"(The) thought process is the sales tax is paid by

everyone even people that are just driving through the county. So instead of putting the burden strictly on those who pay property taxes everyone can help contribute to the proposed maintenance of the roads as well as the funding of the jail," Scott said.



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Rodriguez gets 18 months in prison

COACH Continued from 1A

was the FWHS girls soccer coach, and Caitlyn was a team member.

Caitlyn's parents reported her missing to authorities on November 26, and a search which garnered national attention got underway. Rodriguez has family in Canada and authorities immediately considered the possibility that the pair was heading there. Caitlyn's family immediately began contacting Caitlyn's known friends in this area to try and locate her.

On December 1, a New York State Police investigator spotted Rodriguez's car north of Syracuse and initiated a traffic stop. Rodriguez was identified and taken into custody, while Caitlyn was ultimately returned safely to her parents, who traveled to upstate New York to find her.

Both Rodriguez and Caitlyn admitted to taking part in a sexual relationship, and Rodriguez was fired from his coach position.

Investigators believed that Rodriguez chose to bring Caitlyn to upstate New York due to its proximity to Canada, and had in fact secured a job there in that area just prior to his arrest.

Scarlet Frisina, Caitlyn's mother, said her family did not object to the plea bargain deal, although it fell short of their expectations.

"It's not exactly what we wanted," Frisina said. "I think he needed a little more prison time, but it's really not up to us."

Media reports claimed that, in addition to making efforts to obtain false documents for a potential move to Canada, Rodriguez had previously claimed to be a medical student from a wealthy family, with an uncle who owned a plantation in the Dominican Republic.

With 187 days served already, Rodriguez will spend just under one year in a state prison, followed by eight years of court supervised probation, and lifetime status as a sexual offender. He will also be expected to help reimburse the state for expenses incurred during the investigation.

The relationship between Rodriguez and Caitlyn reportedly began in August of last year. Caitlyn's disappearance was reported widely on social media, and she apparently left her home voluntarily through a bedroom window, according to a Columbia County Sheriff's Office spokesperson. But she also reportedly told friends she was afraid of his volatile temper and feared not going.

Although Caitlyn had wiped all the data from her phone prior to leaving with Rodriguez, her father, Ward Frisina, was able to pull the SIM card from her phone, which ultimately enabled him to recover conversations his daughter had had with Rodriguez, documents show.



Ward, Caitlyn and Scarlet Frisina upon being reunited in upstate New York in December.

FILE

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Lake City Reporter

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Sunday, June 10, 2018

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Section B

PREP FOOTBALL

NEXT STOP

CHS QB transfers, set to begin new chapter at Fort White.

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

There's a new quarterback zipping passes at Fort White High School. With a cannon for an arm, pinpoint accuracy and plenty of experience, it's no surprise coaches and players alike are ecstatic to have him in an Indians jersey. His name is Dylan Blair, who recently transferred from Columbia to Fort White as summer conditioning got underway. Blair, a rising senior, enrolled on Monday and was out at practice on Tuesday, already impressing teammates and coaches in just three days on the field.

"It's been nice. They've been treating me good and they're like family," said Blair, who spent the past three seasons at Columbia. After serving as Columbia's JV quarterback as a freshman, he played sparingly as a sophomore in four games before being named the starter ahead of his junior season. Blair started every game except for one in 2017 — missing the Trinity Christian game due to a concussion — but he also split snaps in every game with then sophomore Jordan Smith.

Smith was the man under center for Columbia this spring while Blair played baseball. That was different from a year earlier, when Blair gave up baseball to focus on spring football.

With Smith basically handed the reigns at Columbia in April, Blair decided to look elsewhere this summer. But as for why he officially decided to switch schools, his answer was brief.

"Just family reasons," Blair said. "This is like the closest to me and I figured I'd come here."

Although Brayden Summers started at quarterback for Fort White during the spring, there will be no competition for the position. With Blair in the fold, Summers offered to take a step back and play receiver for the Indians once he saw Blair spin the ball during his first practice.

That took some pressure off of head coach Demetric Jackson, who didn't want to just hand the job over to Blair when he arrived.

"The question was, how was Brayden going to respond?" Jackson said. "The first day

Blair brings flair to FWHS

See **BLAIR**, Page 4B



Quarterback Dylan Blair unloads during practice this week at Fort White. Blair is set to play his senior season with the Indians.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Florida roughs up Auburn 8-2 in super regional opener



COURTESY

Florida infielder Nelson Maldonado scores a run off a base hit by teammate Wil Dalton during the third inning of an NCAA Super Regional against Auburn.

By **MARK LONG**
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Casey Mize's college career may have ended with one of his worst outings.

The overall No. 1 pick in the MLB draft from Auburn allowed six earned runs in a loss to top-seeded Florida in the NCAA baseball tournament Saturday.

Auburn coach Butch Thompson made clear that there's no scenario in which Mize would return to the mound in the best-of-three super regional.

That means the Tigers (42-22) would need to win two straight against the Gators (46-18) to advance to the College World Series for Mize to get another start. Florida hasn't lost consecutive games at home since April 2017.

So if Mize's outing Saturday was his college finale, it was one he would like to forget.

Mize (10-6) allowed seven hits in five innings. He walked a career-high four and plunked a batter.

"With the five freebies, that probably covers about six, seven outings," Thompson said. "I think that was the biggest thing for him."

The hard-throwing right-hander was sharp in his previous start, a 12-1 victory against Army in regional play. But his struggles against Southeastern Conference competition continued against

Florida.

In his last four starts against SEC opponents, Mize has given up 30 hits and 20 earned runs in 23 2/3 innings. He struck out 27 and walked seven, but failed to show the kind of command that prompted Detroit to make him the top pick Monday night.

"I didn't throw a lot of strikes, and a I walked four guys and I hit one," Mize said. "I don't know when the last time was I walked four guys. I don't know. I just couldn't get ahead, couldn't stay in the strike zone. ... I don't know. I was leaving a bunch of stuff up and they were putting some good swings on balls. I just didn't compete well."

The Gators did most of their damage in a four-run third inning. Wil Dalton lined a bases-loaded pitch off the right-field wall, scoring two and tying the game. They added two more and really opened the game up with two more runs with the help of two errors in the fifth.

"No one's perfect," Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "I think sometimes we put too much expectations on these young guys. You've got to keep in mind they're 21 years old still. He's been unbelievable the entire year and really his career. ... I just think we just had some good approaches, and I think it's that simple."

Mize talked earlier this week about

GATORS continued on 6B

PRO TENNIS

4th time's the charm: Halep tops Stephens to win French Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
Associated Press

PARIS — Maybe all of those losses in Grand Slam finals helped Simona Halep actually win one.

She'd gone 0-3 in matches with a major trophy on the line before facing Sloane Stephens for the French Open title Saturday, so there was plenty to remember: what it felt like to give a lead away, to make a key mistake, to walk away with regrets.

"All the experience from those three finals that I lost ... was a positive thing," Halep said, "and gave me a little bit more power to believe."

Halep added Grand Slam trophy No. 1 to her No. 1 ranking, coming back from a set and a break down to beat Stephens 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 and win the championship at Roland Garros in a match made up of long points and key momentum swings.

"That's the most important thing — that I stay there focused," said Halep, the first Romanian to collect a major title since her manager, Virginia Ruzici, at the 1978 French Open. "I believed. And I never gave up."

The 26-year-old Halep was describing this particular match. She could have been speaking about her career.

Halep lost two previous finals at Roland Garros — against Maria Sharapova in 2014, then Jelena Ostapenko in 2017 despite leading by a set and 3-0 in the second. Her third runner-up finish came against Caroline Wozniacki at the Australian Open in January.

"Been kicked in the stomach a couple of times when she's had chances," said Halep's coach, Darren Cahill. "They say the destination is more beautiful



COURTESY

Simona Halep added Grand Slam trophy No. 1 to her No. 1 ranking Saturday at the French Open.

if there's a bit of a bumpy road and you eventually get there. And that's what happened to her today."

On a muggy afternoon, Halep began slowly, unable to solve Stephens, the 10th-seeded American who won her first Grand Slam title at last year's U.S. Open. Both women are adept at defense, figuring out ways — via speed, strength, skill and instinct — to get nearly every ball back over the net. They're also both able to switch to offense in a snap.

Those traits lent themselves to engaging exchanges of 10 strokes, 20 strokes or more, sometimes interrupted by spectators who would gasp or begin to clap, thinking that a point was over when it still was not.

The players were not trading looping shots, mind you, meant merely to keep the ball between the lines. For the most part, they were violent smacks at the ball, delivered with the intention of ending a point. It often seemed effortless for Stephens, who broke for

a 3-1 edge when Halep put a forehand in the net.

When Halep ended a 14-stroke point by pushing a backhand wide, Stephens owned the first set. She wheeled toward her box, which included U.S. national soccer team player Jozy Altidore, and shook a fist. Not much after that, Stephens broke to begin the second set, then held for a 2-0 lead. It appeared she was on her way to improving to 7-0 in tournament finals.

And then, suddenly, everything changed. Stephens started missing. A double-fault here. A forehand into the net there. A backhand wide. Another long. Halep took 15 of 18 points and four games in a row.

Both Halep and Cahill thought Stephens looked a little gassed.

From 4-all in the second, Halep grabbed seven games in a row to take that set and build a 5-0 edge in

HALEP continued on 2B

SCOREBOARD

TV LISTINGS

Today
AUTO RACING
11:30 a.m.
 FS1 — FIA Formula E Championship, Zurich E-Prix, at Zurich
1:30 p.m.
 ABC — Formula One, Canadian Grand Prix, at Montreal
2 p.m.
 FOX — NASCAR, Monster Energy Cup Series, FireKeepers Casino 400, at Brooklyn, Mich.
BEACH VOLLEYBALL
4:30 p.m.
 NBC — AVP Gold Series, New York City Open, finals, at New York
BOXING
8:30 p.m.
 FS1 — Premier Champions, Travis Kauffman vs. Scott Alexander, heavyweights, at Lancaster, Calif.
COLLEGE BASEBALL
Noon
 ESPN — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Florida vs. Auburn, at Gainesville, Fla.
 ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Stetson vs. North Carolina (if necessary), at Chapel Hill, N.C.
3 p.m.
 ESPN — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Arkansas vs. South Carolina, at Fayetteville, Ark.
 ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Texas vs. Tennessee Tech, at Austin, Texas
6 p.m.
 ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Mississippi St. vs. Vanderbilt (if necessary), at Nashville, Tenn.
 ESPN — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Texas Tech vs. Duke, at Lubbock, Texas
9 p.m.
 ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Minnesota vs. Oregon St. (if necessary), at Corvallis, Ore.
 ESPN — NCAA Tournament, Super Regionals, Cal St.-Fullerton vs. Washington (if necessary), at Fullerton, Calif.
CYCLING
2 a.m. (Monday)
 NBCSN — UCI World Tour: Critérium du Dauphiné, Stage 7, from Môtiers to Saint-Gervais Mont Blanc, France (same-day tape)
DIVING
Noon
 NBCSN — FINA World Cup, 10-meter men's finals, at Wuhan, China (same-day tape)
1 p.m.
 NBCSN — FINA World Cup, 3-meter women's synchronized finals, at Wuhan, China (same-day tape)
DRAG RACING
10:30 a.m.
 FS1 — NHRA, Virginia Nationals, qualifying, at North Dinwiddie, Va. (taped)
6 p.m.
 FS1 — NHRA, Virginia Nationals, finals, at North Dinwiddie, Va. (same-day tape)
GOLF
6 a.m.
 GOLF — European PGA Tour, Shot Clock Masters, final round, at Atzenbrugg, Austria
1 p.m.
 FS1 — USGA, Curtis Cup, United States vs. Great Britain and Ireland, singles matches, at Scarsdale, N.Y.
 GOLF — PGA Tour, FedEx St. Jude Classic, final round, at Memphis, Tenn.
3 p.m.
 CBS — PGA Tour, FedEx St. Jude Classic, final round, at Memphis, Tenn.
 GOLF — LPGA Tour, ShopRite LPGA Classic, final round, at Galloway, N.J.
5 p.m.
 GOLF — Web.com Tour, Rust-Oleum

Championship, final round, at Mundelein, Ill.
7 p.m.
 GOLF — Champions Tour, Principal Charity Classic, final round, at Des Moines, Iowa (same-day tape)
MLB BASEBALL
1 p.m.
 MLB — Regional coverage, Chicago White Sox at Boston OR Cleveland at Detroit
4 p.m.
 MLB — Regional coverage, Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs OR L.A. Angels at Minnesota (games joined in progress)
8 p.m.
 ESPN — N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets
TENNIS
9 a.m.
 NBC — French Open, men's finals, at Paris
TRACK & FIELD
10 a.m.
 NBCSN — IAAF Diamond League, at Stockholm
2 p.m.
 NBC — IAAF Diamond League, at Stockholm (same-day tape)

MLB STANDINGS

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	36	26	.581	—
Atlanta	36	27	.571	½
Philadelphia	32	30	.516	4
New York	27	33	.450	8
Miami	23	40	.365	13½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	39	25	.609	—
Chicago	37	24	.607	½
St. Louis	34	27	.557	3½
Pittsburgh	31	33	.484	8
Cincinnati	22	42	.344	17
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	33	29	.532	—
Los Angeles	32	31	.508	1½
Colorado	32	31	.508	1½
San Francisco	32	32	.500	2
San Diego	29	36	.446	5½
American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	41	18	.695	—
Boston	43	21	.672	½
Toronto	29	35	.453	14½
Tampa Bay	28	34	.452	14½
Baltimore	19	44	.302	24
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	33	28	.541	—
Detroit	30	35	.462	5
Minnesota	27	33	.450	5½
Chicago	21	40	.344	12
Kansas City	21	43	.328	13½
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	40	23	.635	—
Houston	40	25	.615	1
Los Angeles	36	28	.563	4½
Oakland	33	31	.516	7½
Texas	27	39	.409	14½

Joe Cole becomes assistant coach of second-tier Tampa Bay
 ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Joe Cole has been appointed assistant coach of the Tampa Bay Rowdies of the United Soccer League while continuing to play for the second-tier club.
 The 36-year-old midfielder joined the team in 2016 after splitting the 2015-16 season between Aston Villa and Coventry City. Cole scored 10 goals in 56 appearances for England from 2001-10 and also has played for West Ham, Chelsea, Liverpool, Lille, West Ham. Tampa Bay announced the appointment Friday.

NBA

Several things to watch as busy offseason ramps up

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The NBA offseason has arrived, which means nothing will happen for the next four months other than a draft, three summer leagues, free agency, the creation of a new schedule, coaching hires, trades, roster reworkings and possibly movement toward letting high school graduates jump directly into the league again.

It all adds up to very little downtime. There is no shortage of questions about what will happen this summer — leading off, of course, with yet another decision to be made by LeBron James about his future and where he'll play next season as he resumes his quest for more championships.

Here are some non-James topics heading into the offseason:
KAWHI LEONARD
 The mystery of the 2017-18 NBA season is the mystery of the offseason as well. Leonard played in only nine games for the Spurs this season while dealing with a leg injury, the specifics of which are a closely guarded secret even by San Antonio's notoriously tight-lipped standards. He could get a supermax deal, he could get traded, he might still be hurt. But the Spurs — and the league — need answers, because he can change a lot of directions in a hurry.

COACHES
 The vacancies in Detroit and Toronto should be filled soon. The Pistons might be best-served to hire Dwane Casey, who led the Raptors to the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference this season. This is a crucial hire for the Raptors, since whoever will be calling the shots next season will have a team that should be good enough to contend for the East title.

THE DRAFT
 Arizona center Deandre Ayton will likely go No. 1 to Phoenix, which makes sense on a lot of levels. The intrigue really starts there. Does Vlade Divac use the No. 2 overall pick and bring Luka Doncic, the young Slovenian who has been talked about as a can't-miss NBA star for some time, to Sacramento? What does Atlanta do at No. 3? Inevitably, someone will move up on draft night and that probably means an established player (or players) will be on the move.

GAMBLING
 The Supreme Court ruling already has bets on games being placed in Delaware, and more states will be following suit soon. Expect the NBA to contin-



COURTESY

NBA superstar LeBron James will decide on his future plans this summer.

ue pushing for 1 percent of the action, which the league says is needed in part to cover what will be its new costs as far as protecting the integrity of the game and the players. It's also unclear if injury reports will have to be more specialized in a betting world. Wouldn't bettors have liked knowing LeBron James had a badly injured — he says broken — hand in Games 2, 3 and 4 of the NBA Finals?

OFFICIATING
 The NBA knows fans, players and coaches aren't thrilled with the level of officiating in the league right now. This will absolutely be a big topic — maybe the primary topic — when the board of governors meet in Las Vegas next month. Also, there will be a challenge-flag-type item tinkered with during summer league games; it won't be a red cloth like in the NFL, but the concept will be the same as the league studies whether something like that should be added.

THE LAKERS
 Magic Johnson and Rob Pelinka should have about \$62 million in cap space to go shopping with when free agency opens July 1 — including for James, meaning the Lakers could get transformed and become a playoff team again in a hurry. Expect them to use the No. 25 pick in the draft on a 3-point shooter, since no team can surround James with enough of those.

CHRIS PAUL AND PAUL GEORGE
 Again, like so many other topics, the futures of Chris Paul and Paul George will probably have some impact on whatever James decides to do this summer — or vice versa. Paul wants a max contract, and if his hamstring didn't pop late in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals he and the Houston Rockets may

very well have been in the NBA Finals. George seemed to be hinting that he could stay in Oklahoma City, but is a Los Angeles native. It seems likely that either, or both, would try to align with James — but how?

THE PELICANS
 Yes, the Pelicans. West semifinalists this season, New Orleans needs to decide what it wants to do with DeMarcus Cousins and Rajon Rondo. The Pelicans have already given coach Alvin Gentry an extension, and keeping either Cousins or Rondo — or both — to play alongside Anthony Davis might make New Orleans a sleeper pick in the West next season. Question is, will Cousins be full-go coming off his Achilles injury.

THE HEAT
 Dwyane Wade has been talking about retirement, and there's been no indication yet if he's anywhere near a decision. Miami is in a tough situation on the cash front — Hassan Whiteside, Tyler Johnson, Goran Dragic and James Johnson will make nearly \$78 million themselves next season — and the Heat wants to find a way to keep Wayne Ellington. What will Wade do? And if he stays, how much can the Heat pay him? Or do they make big trades and add some star power?

THE KNICKS
 Two questions for the Knicks to figure out: Will they allow David Fizdale the time he needs to build the team he wants? And what will they do with Kristaps Porzingis this season? Give Fizdale time, and he'll win in New York. But rushing Porzingis back off ACL surgery could be a most unnecessary risk for a team that isn't going to contend next season anyway.

HALEP

Continued From 1B

third.
 One key: Halep began putting a little more air under the ball, being a little less aggressive, waiting for Stephens to make mistakes. That worked. Stephens ended up with 39 unforced errors, 13 more than Halep. Boisterous fans pushed Halep throughout, chanting "See-moe-nah! See-moe-nah!" When the match ended, Halep dropped her racket at the baseline and covered her face with her hands. Soon enough, she was climbing up into the stands to share a big hug with Cahill.

During the trophy ceremony, Stephens — more experienced in such matters, given her triumph in New York last September — noticed that Halep was casually holding her new silver trophy. Stephens indicated to Halep she should raise it proudly overhead.
 Halep listened. Now she will proudly display that bit of hardware at home.
 She yearned for a Grand Slam title to go with her WTA ranking. Took some missteps along the way, but she has what she wanted.
 "Her journey has been tough. And she had a heart-break here last year and in Australia and all the things that have happened to her," Stephens said. "I mean, it's a great story and just a great moment for her."

SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

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. Send details and/or photos via email to jkroeger@lakecityreporter.com or ejackson@lakecityreporter.com to see you kids in our sports section. For more information, call 754-0421 or 754-0420.

JUMBLE

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

CUTHH

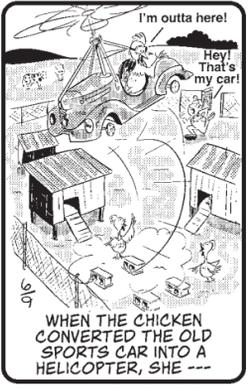
COFER

SASEWE

LEPTLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



WHEN THE CHICKEN CONVERTED THE OLD SPORTS CAR INTO A HELICOPTER, SHE ---

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

“C O U N T E R P A R T”

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RISKY SWOON LUNACY INLAND
 Answer: To enter the cave with the low entrance, they would need all their — DUCKS IN A ROW

ACROSS

- 1 On the — vive
- 4 Promise
- 7 Quick swims
- 11 Buddy
- 12 Space preceder
- 13 Drama prize
- 14 Perched
- 15 Foal's parent
- 16 Enjoy
- 17 Livy's language
- 19 Threat ender
- 20 Mantra chants
- 21 RV refuge
- 22 Major no-no
- 25 Savage
- 28 Golf coup
- 29 Young beef
- 31 Ms. Thurman
- 33 Mont. neighbor
- 34 Kudzu, e.g.
- 36 Ad —
- 37 Little Bighorn loser
- 40 Oven gloves
- 42 The lady
- 43 Dry
- 44 Timely question
- 46 Pastis flavor
- 49 Tiny bottle
- 50 Obscene
- 52 Yes, in Kyoto
- 54 “— never fly”
- 55 Bravos
- 56 Soyuz destination
- 57 Electrical units
- 58 Hero EI — Campeador
- 59 After expenses

DOWN

- 1 Football team mems.
- 2 Mountains or river
- 3 Smidgen
- 4 Coal strata
- 5 Boston Bruin great

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 6 Misfortune
- 7 Buck
- 8 Hieroglyphics bird
- 9 Explorer
- 10 Witness
- 12 Famed sci-fi writer
- 18 Unduly
- 19 Job-ad letters
- 21 Brick oven
- 22 Mai — cocktail
- 23 Down Under rockers
- 24 Admirer
- 25 Just
- 26 Extremist sect
- 27 Throw off heat
- 30 Unceasingly
- 32 Tummy muscles
- 35 Fixes a manuscript
- 38 Pie crusts
- 39 Wallet filler
- 41 Here, to Henri
- 43 Cut timber
- 44 Accompanying
- 45 Nimbus
- 47 Leg part
- 48 Let up
- 49 Robust energy
- 50 — cit. (footnote abbr.)
- 51 Yale grad
- 53 Devotee

OUTDOORS

Some pro tips for catching redfish

By **MONTY STEPHENS**
Special to the Reporter

Redfish or Red Drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) is certainly one of the top targeted fish for inshore fishermen and fisherwomen. There are several organizations hosting tournaments for redfish on a continuing basis, just like BASS does for the largemouth bass. Redfish are found throughout the Gulf of Mexico and extend up the eastern seaboard on the Atlantic. They are considered an excellent eating fish.

When fishing for Redfish, look close to shore in shallow water with oyster bars or rocks. Fishing for Redfish is much like fishing for bass, in that they spook easily and they do take lures readily. A boat with a trolling motor is the preferred setup. If inshore saltwater fishing did not have so many other fish to target (Speckled Trout, Snook, Bluefish, Jack Crevalle, etc.) we would for sure have a category of boats designated as Redfish boats, just like we have bass boats.

Our area of the Gulf is prime Redfish country. So suffice it to say, Redfish are very popular with inshore anglers. To get some tips on how to catch more Redfish, I consulted with Steve Rassel, fishing guide at Sea Hag Marina in Steinhatchee. With over 28 years of experience, Steve could be considered as one of the top guides in the Nature Coast. He typically fishes over 240 days per year. Fishing from his 24 ft. Privateer, center console boat, his clients enjoy a 90 percent success rate in catching a limit of trout or Redfish. Steve lived in Lake City for years when his family moved here in 1977 from Miami. His children Melissa, Steven Jr. and Robert attended and graduated from Columbia High School.

Like all of us inshore anglers, Steve pays great attention to tides. Because he is a guide, his typical departure time from Sea Hag Marina is 7:30 a.m. irrespective of tides. His plan of attack for the day of fishing is completely based on tidal movements. If he has his choice, his favorite tide is an incoming high tide. Steve states Redfish actively feed at that time and because of the higher water, he can get his boat in closer to shore. Conversely, he does not mind a low tide because it often times bunches fish up in the deeper



COURTESY PHOTOS

BELOW: Captain Steve Rassel prepares his boat for a day of fishing. **ABOVE:** Amy Brooks from Gainesville with an "oversize" Redfish caught last week with Captain Steve.

holes and the oyster bars are readily seen. His least favorite tide to fish is low slack tide.

For water depth when fishing for Redfish, Steve generally stays in the 1-3 ft. range. This is a challenge when fishing from a 24 ft. guide boat with four clients. For this reason, he typically will drift the flats in deeper water on tides approaching low for Speckled Trout.

Because of its simplicity, Steve prefers the Cajun Thunder or Equalizer lure setup for his clients. He will tie the bait or lure below the float at a distance of one-half of the water depth. So if the water is two feet deep, he wants the lower to hang down one foot from the float. He uses this same principle in fishing for Speckled Trout. Steve states, the top reason to use a Cajun Thunder, is "there is very few hang up on the bottom." He does like gold spoons and Mirrolures but because the chances of getting snagged increase when using these lures, he seldom uses them on a charter trip.

The bait of choice for Steve is cut up ladyfish, followed by pinfish. He cuts the belly section into strips and attaches this on a 1/4 ounce jig head. Steve states "this works well in the creeks, but not on the flats because the pinfish and smaller fish will voraciously attack it." When fishing on the flats, Steve hooks his clients up with a Gulp lure.

When asked about "where to fish?" Steve replied he has dozens and dozens of favorite "spots." Getting a fishing guide to divulge the location of his best fishing location is like asking a Chef to share his secret recipes. But Steve did share his top producing area is the Big Grassy Island area north to Hagen's Cove. He noted he catches large redfish in this area. Deeper water is close by, so it's a quick and easy run to the flats for trout and Spanish Mackerel.

For more information, visit Steve's web site at: <https://www.lastcass-trass.net/redfish>. If you would like to speak with Steve or book a trip, call (352) 339-5902. Good fishing.



Free Kids' Fishing Clinic in Port Canaveral promises day of environment learning, fun

From staff reports

Teaching children a lifelong hobby, instilling appreciation for our marine environment and providing fun, family outings are the objectives for the Kids' Fishing Clinic in Port Canaveral on June 23.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will offer a free Kids' Fishing Clinic for children between the ages of 5 and 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at Cruise Terminal #1, 9050 Discovery Road.

These free clinics enable young people to learn the basics of conservation stewardship, fishing ethics, angling skills and safety. Kids' Fishing Clinics strive to achieve several goals, but the main objective is to create responsible marine-resource stewards by teaching children about the vulnerability of Florida's marine ecosystems. In addition, organizers hope to teach fundamental saltwater fishing skills and provide participants a positive fishing experience. Fishing equipment and bait are provided for kids to use during the clinic, but organizers encourage children who own fishing tackle to bring it. A limited number of rods and reels will be given away to participants upon completion of the clinic.

If conditions allow, participants will have the

opportunity to practice their new skills and fish from the pier. This event is a photo catch-and-release activity. An adult must accompany all participants.

Individuals or companies interested in helping sponsor this event or volunteering at the clinic, should contact Eric Griggs at 321-986-7596 or FWC's Rebecca Lucas at 813-922-7962.

To find out more about fishing clinics for kids, go to MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater and select "Kids Saltwater Fishing Clinics" option under "Education."



JUMBLE

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

CUOST

LOEHL

TNYERD

RATMUI

Check out the new, free, JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

What do you have there?

It helps me keep track of how many lambs we've sold.

THE ANCIENT DELI USED THE ABACUS AT ITS ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HUTCH FORCE SEESAW PELLET
Answer: When the chicken converted the old sports car into a helicopter, she — FLEW THE "COUPE"

ACROSS

- 1 Triumphed
- 4 Worn-down pencils
- 8 Golfer's peg
- 11 Bone-dry
- 13 General — Bradley
- 14 Samovar
- 15 TV's Jay
- 16 Decides
- 17 Slangy physique
- 18 Untie
- 20 GI's dinner
- 21 Psyche parts
- 22 Young goat
- 24 No-goodnik
- 27 Loud
- 30 Butter substitute
- 31 Songbird
- 32 Electric swimmer
- 34 Type of parrot
- 35 Brake pad
- 36 Riot spray
- 37 Kind of cracker

DOWN

- 1 House part
- 2 Sandwich cookie
- 3 EI — (ocean current)
- 4 Middays
- 5 Strike caller
- 6 Right off the —
- 7 Almost-grads
- 8 Brit's subway
- 9 Winged god
- 10 Terminates
- 12 Square dance call (hyph.)
- 19 Ben & Jerry rival
- 20 Hosp. workers
- 22 Swiss artist
- 23 Oddjob's creator
- 24 — choy
- 25 Shake — —! (Hurry!)
- 26 Treasured
- 27 Gift card word
- 28 Miami cagers
- 29 Ugh!
- 31 Huh?
- 33 Brown of big bands
- 35 Hen or mare
- 36 Senora, in Paris
- 38 Deadly snake
- 39 Game or season opener
- 41 Strangely enough
- 42 Wheels for nanny
- 43 Bruins
- 44 Fox's abode
- 46 — and get it!
- 47 Roman poet
- 48 Court dividers
- 50 Merriment
- 51 Pizarro's quest
- 52 Musical notes

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Q	U	I	V	O	W	D	I	P	S	
B	R	O	A	E	R	O	O	B	I	E
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57				58				59		



FILE PHOTOS

Former Columbia quarterback Dylan Blair spent his first three seasons playing for the Tigers. He will play senior season with the Indians.

BLAIR

Continued From 1B

I didn't want to just say 'okay Dylan come in and play quarterback.' I said, 'Brayden, do you want to get some reps?' He was like, 'Nah coach, this is a good time to let me to try to learn receiver.' After like the third pass Brayden was like, 'shoot he can throw.' Blair's arrival should help make Fort White's offense more diverse. Jackson says Summers can play multiple positions, from running back to wide receiver to tight end. Fort White needs help at wide receiver as it works in a new core that includes Rahman Paul, Kanell

Stewart and Deondre Cray. With Blair being a traditional drop back passer, Jackson still plans to use Summers out of the wildcat and option packages. "Brayden likes quarterback but he realized that Dylan is a pretty darn good quarterback and Brayden saw that and Brayden just wants to be on the field, which actually I think is going to allow us to put the best 11 on the field," Jackson said. "Brayden is one of those guys that's real athletic. Maybe not the best quarterback now that Dylan is here but he's definitely one of the better 11 athletes on offense with the combination of his size, speed, strength and his hand-eye coordination so that gives us the chance to

move him around and play a little wide receiver. "When we go to our spread he can play running back but we've got a little package for him. We don't call him Tebow for nothing. He showed us some things in the spring that he's capable of doing so we're excited." Columbia basically moved on from Blair in the spring as head coach Brian Allen began grooming rising sophomore Ty Wehinger to become Smith's understudy. But the Tigers will surely miss Blair and the depth he provided at the position, considering Allen developed him since he was a freshman. Allen expressed those feelings back in the spring.

"I wish him well with whatever he's doing," Allen said during spring practice. "At the end of the day, he's been a kid who's been apart of this program for three years and has done a lot for (Columbia). He's won some big games for this program. I hate to see a kid go, and we've had situations where this has happened before. But definitely, if he feels (transferring) is best for his future, I respect that and wish him the best." To put it simply for Fort White, one school's loss is another school's gain. Although Jackson only saw Blair compete in 7-on-7 drills this week, he was thoroughly impressed and excited about his team's potential with its new signal caller.

"He can throw the ball. God, man, we're lucky. He can throw it," Jackson said. "Yes, it's 7-on-7 but just some of the things that can do, hats off to Columbia's coaches for teaching him and coaching him up. But hats off for letting him come to Fort White. This kid can throw the ball. A lot of it is God-given talent but you can tell he's been groomed and he can make all the throws. He has a strong arm, he's accurate and he understands what we're trying to do." Blair is the second quarterback to transfer to Fort White in as many years. Hunter Morgan came over from Hamilton County last year and helped lead the Indians to the Class 3A playoffs, where they lost to

Florida State in overtime in the regional semifinals. This story is also similar to former Columbia quarterback Jake Thomas, who transferred to Fort White for his senior season in 2015 before going back to Columbia for baseball in the spring. That's also certainly in the cards for Blair. But for now, Blair has high hopes — and goals — for his senior season in red and black. "I'm trying to hold the reigns for this team now and I want to take them to state," Blair said. "I want to take them where they haven't been yet and where I haven't been yet. I haven't been. I want to go." "I want to win a state ring. That's what I want to do."

NBA

With 2 titles, Finals MVP Kevin Durant gets the last word

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kevin Durant had a simple message for his critics: "Thanks."

Durant's move to the Golden State Warriors, booed by many around the NBA, has unquestionably paid off for both the player and his team. Two years, two NBA championships, two NBA Finals MVPs and almost certainly a new contract in the next few weeks after he and the Warriors decide on the best way to proceed.

He is often a man of few words, but Durant let his thoughts be known Friday night after the Warriors won their second consecutive title by finishing off a sweep of the Cleveland Cavaliers. There was a rare openness to Durant in his postgame remarks as he let his detractors know that whatever they said when he left Oklahoma City for Golden State didn't mean much then and means even less now.

"Former players and players now that got a lot to say about what I did, they know how I play," Durant said, his newest Finals MVP trophy standing just to his left. "They know exactly what I bring. They know. They know. They understand when they get on the court with me or if they check up with me, they know what it is. So I kind of try to just stand on that. But I know what I bring to the game."

Here's what he brings to the Warriors: 26.4 points per game in this regular season, 29 points per game in the playoffs, a 43-point explosion in Game 3 that will go into NBA Finals lore and a triple-double in the series clincher to cap it all off.

But the criticism — which came from both current and former players when he joined the Warriors to form a superteam two summers ago — probably won't stop, either.

Perhaps a coincidence, Durant's former Oklahoma City teammate Russell Westbrook posted a video of himself singing along with an Ice Cube rap on Saturday morning — the message of the track being that someone had lost his or her edge. "I saw it comin'; that's why I went solo," Cube rapped, as Westbrook mouthed the words. (Not long afterward, amid speculation that was directed to Durant, Westbrook added another post that said, "Stop reaching.")

Not everyone has a negative thought on Durant and his choices. Cleveland star LeBron James, who denied Durant a title when Miami beat Oklahoma City in 2012, raves about Durant's game.

"You knew he was built for greatness from the time that he was drafted," James



COURTESY

Kevin Durant earned his second straight Finals MVP on Friday night.

said.

The greatness can't be questioned now. And if Durant going to Golden State hasn't been great for league-wide parity, it has quite obviously been great for the Warriors.

They don't really care about much else. "K.D.'s been amazing these last two years, especially in the finals, and so deserving of back-to-back finals MVPs," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said. "I'm going to be his biggest fan in there with what he's able to do. I think the biggest thing we appreciate in the locker room is, again, what everybody brings to the table and we kind of unlock the greatness out of each other."

When it was all over Friday night, there was both an arrogance and a humility to Durant — both understandable.

The 29-year-old is on top of the basketball world, rich beyond his wildest expectations, with rings for both hands now and a hope that his game is only going to keep getting better.

Even in that moment, though, he remembered his roots.

Seat Pleasant, Maryland, is a little town just outside of Washington. It's mostly black, mostly impoverished. There's a lot of crime. There aren't a lot of roads out of Seat Pleasant, unless you're 6-foot-11 with an endless wingspan and an indefensible jump shot that's as smooth as the golden basketball that sits atop the Larry O'Brien Trophy.

"I just feel indebted to the game," Durant said. "I feel like it saved my life. It changed my life. It took me out of an environment that I didn't think I'd ever be out of, living

in Maryland my whole life. I thought I was going to live in Maryland my whole life. But to travel the world and meet different people, and go to different arenas and different cities and countries around the world, I'm just forever grateful for this opportunity."

That's why he feels vindication, overcoming that.

Disproving doubters, disproving critics, that's just a bonus.

"We all want something that's bigger than ourselves," Durant said of the Warriors. "I think we love to see each other succeed. We love to come together and figure stuff out on the basketball court. ... We finished it off with a championship. We've got a bunch of guys in the locker room that don't care about anything but just being better basketball players every day and winning."



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June 10, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN HALL MEETING

County Commissioner District III Bucky Nash invites all citizens to attend a town hall meeting to discuss the County's road infrastructure. The meeting will be held on June 12, 6pm at the Westside Community Center located at 431 SW Birley Ave., Lake City, FL

430766
May 29, 30, 31, 2018
June 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN HALL MEETING

County Commissioner District I Ron Williams invites all citizens to attend a town hall meeting to discuss the County's road infrastructure. The meeting will be held on June 19, 6pm at the Winfield Community Center located at 1324 NW Winfield St., Lake City, FL 434136

June 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 2018

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QUICK HITS

Justify captures Triple Crown, wins Belmont

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justify led all the way to win the Belmont Stakes by 1¾ lengths and become horse racing's 13th Triple Crown champion and second in four years.

The chestnut colt is the second undefeated colt to sweep the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont, improving to 6-0 in a racing career that began on Feb. 18. Seattle Slew was unbeaten when he won the Triple Crown in 1977.

Sent off as the 4-5 favorite, Justify went to the lead out of the starting gate and led nine rivals around the track's sweeping turns on Saturday. He's the first Triple Crown winner to face that many rivals in the 1½-mile Belmont.

Bob Baffert became the second trainer to win the Triple Crown twice. He did so with American Pharoah in 2015, ending a 37-year drought.

At 52, Mike Smith is the oldest jockey to win the Triple Crown.

Johnny Manziel stars in Tiger-Cats' preseason finale

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Johnny Manziel was 12 of 20 for 88 yards and a touchdown and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats scored 30 straight points to beat the Montreal Alouettes 30-15 on Saturday in the second and final preseason game for both teams.

The 2012 Heisman Trophy winner at Texas A&M, Manziel is making a comeback in the Canadian Football League after being released by the Cleveland Browns in March 2016.

Manziel replaced starter Bryant Moniz with Hamilton down 14-0 four minutes into the second quarter.

Manziel opened with consecutive completions to running back Green for Hamilton's first first down, and capped the drive with a 3-yard scoring pass to Green. Manziel led three drives for field goals in the second

Vettel claims pole with record lap at Canadian Prix

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Sebastian Vettel had a steering problem that washed out much of the first practice session at the Canadian Grand Prix and then brushed the wall later in the day.

When he brought his Ferrari out for qualifying a day later, his problems — and the rest of the field — were behind him.

"Yesterday, I wasn't really in charge. More of a passenger," Vettel said Saturday after earning his 54th career Formula One pole with the fastest lap ever on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. "Today was a lot more natural."

Vettel covered the 2.71-mile (4.36-km) track in 1 minute, 10.764 seconds to deprive Lewis Hamilton of a record seventh pole in Montreal. It's Vettel's fourth pole on the Ile Notre-Dame, but his first since 2013, when he was on his way to a fourth straight world championship for Red Bull.

It's the first pole for Ferrari at the track named for one of its most celebrated drivers since Michael Schumacher in 2001.

"Being on pole here with Ferrari means something extra," Vettel said. "Gilles Villeneuve, the favorite driver of Enzo Ferrari, and I think his charisma, his character that he brought to Formula One, to racing in general, is still alive today."

Valtteri Bottas' Mercedes will also start in the front row, coming in about one-tenth of a second slower than Vettel. After leading all three practice sessions, Max Verstappen will start third in his Red Bull, alongside Hamilton.

Kimi Raikkonen in the other Ferrari and Monaco winner Daniel Ricciardo's Red Bull are in the third row, with Nico Hulkenberg seventh and the best of the rest.

Ferrari is running an engine update in Montreal. Mercedes was expecting to do the same, but it wasn't ready in time.

"The numbers are just in theory, but there would have been gains," Bottas said. "I think it would have been a close fight for the pole with the new engine. But we're going to get it later anyway, so that's all good."

Green's goal gives USMNT surprising 1-1 tie vs. France

Associated Press

Julian Green scored in the 44th minute and a young United States team held on against tremendous pressure to tie World Cup-bound France 1-1 Saturday night at Lyon.

Kylian Mbappe tied the score in the 78th minute for Les Bleus, who had been 3-0 against the U.S. and had outscored the Americans 10-0.

The U.S. started just one player with 10 previous international appearances and all were 25 or younger. At 22 years, 183 days, the lineup's average age was the second-youngest since records began in 1990.

Green scored against Belgium in extra time in the second round of the 2014 World Cup but largely disappeared over the next few years and the 23-year-old midfielder spent last season with second-tier Greuther Fuerth in Germany. Making his first start since October 2016, he got his fourth goal in 10 international appearances.



COURTESY

Auburn pitcher Casey Mize throws against Florida during the first inning of an NCAA Super Regional Saturday.

GATORS

Continued From 1B

looking forward to pitching without draft distractions and felt as if he put all that behind him Saturday.

"Monday was a great day, but Tuesday I woke up with

something else in mind, and that was today and this weekend," he said. "I think I flipped a switch and I put in the work here for this and I just didn't execute. But I think I really was focused on what we're doing today and what we're doing this weekend."

Still, Mize had no idea what went wrong against Florida. The Gators are now one victory away from advancing to Omaha, Nebraska, for the fourth consecutive year.

"If I could put my finger on it, I probably would have figured it out," Mize said.

"But I don't know. I just kept walking guys. I kept getting behind the count, so I don't know. We'll go back and watch some video. I'll try to figure it out, but mid-game there wasn't anything that I noticed or else I would have figured it out and changed it."

COLLEGE BASEBALL

UNC tops Stetson 7-5, earns trip to CWS

By AARON BEARD

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — It wasn't that long ago that North Carolina made it seem almost routine going to the College World Series year after year.

Now, after a few seasons away, the Tar Heels are heading back to Omaha.

UNC jumped on Stetson starter Jack Perkins in a four-run first inning and the Tar Heels hung on to beat the Hatters 7-5 on Saturday, securing their first trip to the College World Series since 2013.

The host Tar Heels (43-18), the No. 6 national seed, went to Omaha six times in eight years under coach Mike Fox. They returned by sweeping the best-of-three NCAA super regional series against the No. 11 national seed.

"They get to experience something that's going to be a lifetime memory for them," UNC coach Mike Fox said. "And our coaching staff, trainers, equipment manager, operations people — they've all been there (to Omaha). But none of these kids have. So they have no idea what they're getting ready to experience."

And everything started Saturday with that fast start, a big first inning with the bats that are humming right now.

Cody Roberts, Brandon Riley and Ashton McGee had RBI doubles in that first inning for a 4-0 lead on a pitcher who hadn't allowed more than two earned runs in a start in two months.

"Our whole game plan really was we knew he was going to throw a lot of off-speed and mix pitches up a lot," Roberts said. "So we just knew we had to try to attack the pitches that were in the zone and lay off the ones that were out."

Perkins (11-3) took the loss, allowing six runs and nine hits in 2 1/3 innings — his shortest outing of the year for the Hatters (48-13).

"We knew they'd sacrifice, squeeze," Stetson coach Steve Trimper said. "We were trying to defend it all and we were putting shifts on. And they did a great job obviously of getting



COURTESY

The Tar Heels are going to the College World Series for the 11th time in program history.

to Perk today early and being aggressive."

THE FINAL SEQUENCE

Stetson got a run across in the bottom of the ninth on Mike Spooner's RBI single, and had runners on first and second with two out. But Brooks Wilson ended with a deep centerfield flyout, sending the Tar Heels running to the mound for a dogpile celebration.

"Unfortunately," Wilson said, "I hit it to the deepest part of the field."

CHASED ACES

North Carolina didn't need much time to get the better of Stetson's 11-game winners in Perkins and Logan Gilbert this weekend.

Gilbert, the No. 14 overall pick in this week's Major League Baseball draft, allowed six hits and four runs in Friday's 7-4 loss before exiting after 5 1/3 innings to match his shortest outing of the season. Perkins, an 11th-round draft pick, managed to get

just seven outs.

A week earlier, Gilbert and Perkins combined to allow two earned runs in 16 innings with 27 strikeouts in a pair of regional wins against Oklahoma State.

NOTEWORTHY

UNC: The Tar Heels are going to the College World Series for the 11th time in program history. Reliever Caden O'Brien (6-0) earned the win. ... Starter Gianluca Dalatri allowed eight hits and three runs in 3 1/3 innings. ... The Tar Heels finished with 14 hits and went 7 for 13 with runners in scoring position Saturday.

Stetson: This was the first time the Hatters had advanced out of regional play. Stetson's 48 wins tied a program single-season record. Stetson went 1 for 11 with runners in scoring position Friday, then 3 for 13 on Saturday. The Hatters had won a program-record 18 straight games before losing twice here.

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Section C

LC real estate agent: Job is 'an absolute passion'

Zecher honored for her hard work at February conference.

BY STEVE WILSON
swilson@lakecityreporter.com

For Missy Zecher, being a real estate agent is "an absolute passion."

"I love what I do," Zecher said, offering high praise to the customers and others with whom she works.

Zecher, 46, is a real estate agent in Lake City and Columbia County with Remax Professionals, Inc. In February, at the national Remax convention in Las Vegas, she was awarded the Number #2 realtor award in the State of Florida, in the area of volume, or the number of houses sold. Her husband, Bryan Zecher, is the owner of Bryan Zecher Construction, a local commercial homebuilder.

Prior to earning her real estate license in 2007, Zecher had worked at her husband's company. That same year, the housing market began to slow down nationwide as part of the Great Recession.

"With the downturn of 2007, building fell off somewhat and I decided to begin my career and to get my license," she said.

With respect to being the number two real estate agent, in a market such as Lake City, Zecher competes with realtors in markets such as Orlando, Naples and others.

"Our price point is \$150-160k, while many of theirs are much higher," she said. "I have to do many more sales to theirs."

Zecher understands that with would-be homebuyers, she is helping them with the purchase of largest asset they may ever have.

"Your job is to help keep them educated and keep them comfortable during the entire process," she said.

Price point refers to the purchasing price for the average Lake City residential homebuyer.



STEVE WILSON/Lake City Reporter

Missy Zecher of Lake City is among the top real estate agents in the State of Florida.

"No matter the price point, we treat everyone the same," Zecher of the approach she takes to her profession.

Zecher was involved with the recent 2018 Parade of Homes, taking place for the first time here in Columbia County in 10 years, which Zecher described as "a wonderful event."

"Builders were well represented and it clearly showed the demand for new construction in this area," she said, adding that now is a good time to put a home on the local real estate market.

Zecher has nothing but high praise for her coworkers.

"I have the 'dream team' - great office support, a broker and new team member that allow us as the Missy Zecher Team to give great service to our buyers and sellers," she said.

'With the downturn of 2007, building fell off somewhat and I decided to begin my career and to get my license.'

— Missy Zecher

A native of Jacksonville Beach, Zecher graduated from the University of Florida in 1994 with a degree in health and human performance. She and her husband have two sons, Christian, 20,

who is a junior at the University of North Florida, and Jacob, 17, a senior at Columbia High School. She and her family enjoy "RV-ing," camping, boating and other outdoor activities in their free time.

Remax broker Gary Thomas has worked with Zecher for the past eight years, and describes her as a "unique person".

Recalling when she first started working for him, he said she asked what she needed to do. He told her to do two things; to work by referral and to list a lot of properties, both of which she has since done "exceptionally well."

"She's an outstanding person - very systemized, but also very warm and driven and devoted to her customers," he said, adding that she is currently ranked number one in volume for the first quarter of 2018. "I'm very proud of her."



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Time to take care of the basics

Dear Dave,

I just graduated from college, and I'll be starting my first real job soon. What can young adults, who are just getting started, do to avoid money problems now and in the future?

Ben

Dear Ben,

Congratulations! I'm glad you realize the importance of being responsible with your money and planning for things down the road.

There are three or four important things a recent college graduate — or anyone, really — can do to make the most of their money and protect themselves financially. The first is to always live on budget. When you write down a budget on paper, and give every dollar a name before the month

begins, it helps you know what your money is doing instead of leaving you in a situation where you're wondering where it went.

Two more important practices are saving money and staying out of debt. Your income is your biggest wealth-building tool. When you're saddled with debt, your money goes to creditors instead of into your pocket. Saving money prepares you for all the things life will throw at you — both good and bad.

One more thing I'd include is investing. I know you're young, but you still need to think about life after retirement. If you start investing just a little bit each month now in good mutual funds, you could easily retire a millionaire.

These are all very simple, basic things, Ben. But they'll

DAVE SAYS



Dave Ramsey
CEO of Ramsey Solutions

make a huge difference in your financial situation now and in the years to come!

—Dave

Dear Dave,

How do you have a wedding without debt?

Brooklyn

Dear Brooklyn,

It's pretty simple. To have a wedding without debt you must be creative and think within your budget. In other words, you pay for a wedding with the money you have.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with a small, inexpensive wedding. Once you realize and understand that fact, and start thinking about things with a budget in mind, you'll realize you can scrimp and save and still have a great small wedding. Lots of people have beautiful ceremonies, and even small receptions, for well under \$1,000.

Sure, you can go into debt by renting the fanciest venue, and buying a \$9,000 wedding dress to wear for just a few hours on one day. Or, you can

realize it's not the place and the clothes that make a wedding special. What about an outdoor wedding at a friend or family member's house? When it comes to a dress you can opt for something simple and inexpensive, or even one that has been worn once, for just a few hundred dollars. If you think that's awful, let me tell you something that's worse — going tens of thousands of dollars into debt for an event that lasts just a few hours!

Most people don't have lavish, expensive weddings, and guess what? Years down the road they're still happily married, very much in love, and they look back on their wedding as the best day of their lives.

—Dave

School officials question new state scholarship program

From The News Service of Florida

More than 7,300 Florida public school students who are subject to bullying or violence are expected to participate in the first year of the new "Hope Scholarship" program, which will provide state funding to send students to private schools.

But that estimate from state analysts may have to be adjusted based on questions raised Wednesday by school officials from around the state in reaction to a proposed rule from the Department of Education aimed at implementing the voucher-like scholarship program, passed by the Legislature earlier this year.

School officials used the public workshop to try to clarify exactly how the scholarship program would work in their districts when it begins in the new academic year.

Bill Emerson, an assistant

superintendent in Santa Rosa County, questioned whether the scholarship would be triggered if an incident of bullying or violence was reported by a student but not verified.

"Because there are many times we get an allegation like this and we find out it's not true. There's nothing to it," Emerson said.

Under the law, once an incident is reported to a school principal, the district must notify the student's parents within 15 days or upon the completion of the investigation, whichever occurs first, about the scholarship opportunity.

When asked whether the new rule could provide a tighter standard, Adam Miller, executive director of the DOE's Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, said the department is strictly guided by the new law.

"We are bound by what is in the statute. We can't through a rule amend the provisions of the law. We can only implement the law as written," Miller said. "So this rule really kind of fills in the blanks for process and procedure and some of the regulations in terms of private school participation."

The law identifies more than a dozen incidents — including bullying, harassment, assault, robbery and intimidation — which would make students eligible for the Hope scholarships.

Emerson said there are "unfortunate" cases at some Santa Rosa schools where students are caught having consensual sex, which qualifies as a "sexual offense," another of the incidents cited in the new scholarship program.

He said those students usually would be disciplined and sent to an "alternative"

school. But he said that could change under the new law.

"The way we read the law, both students would then be offered the Hope scholarship" if they reported the incident, Emerson said.

Other school officials raised the issue of students qualifying for the scholarships if they were involved in "mutual" fighting, a common occurrence at public schools. In 2016-17, schools reported 19,742 fights out of the 45,313 "safety" incidents on their campuses.

But while the workshop questions implied the Hope scholarships potentially could be broadly used, one limitation will be the amount of money available for the program, which is designed on a "first come, first served" basis.

Early last month, analysts from the Legislature, Governor's Office, education

department and the Office of Economic and Demographic Research projected that slightly more than 11 percent of Floridians who buy new or used vehicles each year will volunteer to shift up to \$105 from the sales tax they would normally pay on the transactions to the Hope scholarship program. It will generate about \$41 million each year when fully implemented.

The scholarships, which are based on the statewide per-student funding level, would be worth more than \$7,112 for high school students in 2019-20, \$6,816 for middle school students and \$6,519 for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

In addition to using the state-funded scholarships to attend a private school, the Hope program would also let students attend another public school, providing up to \$750 in transportation costs.

During Wednesday's workshop, Florida School Boards Association lobbyist Ruth Melton asked whether the state or Step Up For Students, the non-profit group that will handle the Hope scholarships, will use a waiting list for students who qualify for program but do not get scholarships because of the lack of funding.

Miller said neither the proposed rule, which will be considered by the state Board of Education next month, nor the law addressed the issue of a waiting list.

Last week, state analysts assessed the impact of the Hope scholarships on the annual enrollment in Florida's public school system.

The May 30 analysis projected an estimated 7,302 Hope scholarship students in 2018-19, adjusted to 6,858 in 2019-20.

Douglas panel meets, looks for ways to bolster school safety

From The News Service of Florida

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission met Thursday as it continued reviewing events surrounding the Feb. 14 mass shooting in Parkland that killed 17 students and faculty members.

The commission, created in March as part of a school safety law (SB 7026) passed in the aftermath of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas massacre, discussed security risk assessments, school discipline programs and new mental-health assistance programs during the meeting at the BB&T Center in Sunrise.

But the meeting began with Andrew Pollock, whose daughter Meadow was killed at the school, announcing his resignation from the commission. Pollack did not attend the meeting but said in a letter he was resigning to help elect candidates to the Broward County School Board to "ensure that our schools are safe."

On May 15, Ryan Petty and Lori Alhadeff, both of whom lost daughters in the shooting, held a joint press conference announcing their candidacies for the county school board.

Pollack also said that he will spend time on an independent investigation that will, "get to the bottom of who was responsible for the atrocities that occurred" and hold legally accountable agencies and individuals responsible for the shooting.

"I'm sad. I mean, Andy was a valuable member of this team. We liked his perspective, and it saddens me that he's not here," said Max Schachter, father of victim Alex Schachter and a commission member. "Hopefully, the governor will pick another very well-qualified candidate that can add experience and value to this commission so we can accomplish a lot of good things."

The law passed after the shooting included a series of steps designed to improve school safety. The commission, which will meet again Friday, discussed some of those issues as it looks for ways to prevent other mass shootings.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, who is chairman of the commission, said the new law requires every school in the state to have an on-site security risk assessment known as the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool by Aug. 1. This assessment involves looking at facility vulnerabil-

ities and site-hardening needs.

Also, the appointment of a school safety officer and school safety specialist in all districts is required by July 1. New mental-health assistance must be implemented for the start of the 2018-2019 academic year.

"The Department of Education must establish an evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance curriculum for students," Gualtieri said. "By the start of the school year, students must disclose prior mental health bills."

By having records of mental-health referrals, school districts can refer students to mental health services. Additionally, each school district is required to have a student crime-watch program. The program allows anonymous reporting to public-safety and school officials.

Gualtieri said he has 800 pages of records on Parkland shooter Nikolas Cruz's mental health.

"I can tell you with absolute, objective certainty that through 2017 to 2018, Henderson Behavioral Health (a mental-health provider) had no contact with (Nikolas) Cruz whatsoever," said Gualtieri. "The last contact was in December 2016, while Cruz was evaluated under the Baker Act in October 2016."

State Vice Chancellor of Public Schools Jacob Oliva presented the board with changes to the Zero Tolerance Policy for Crime and Victimization. Changes include school districts adopting policies that require threat-assessment teams to consult with law enforcement when students exhibit patterns of behavior based on previous acts or severity of acts that would pose a threat to school safety.

Zero-tolerance policies would not be applied to petty acts. Incidents required to be reported to law enforcement are battery, homicide, kidnapping, sexual battery and weapons possession. Incidents that may not involve consultation with law enforcement include bullying, fighting, sexual harassment, harassment and tobacco.

Petty, a commission member and the father of victim Alaina Petty, asked Oliva if it was the Florida Department of Education's role to track compliance with incident reporting or who would be responsible for that.

"Good question," said Oliva. "The department requires districts to submit that data



The News Service of Florida

Max Schachter, father of Parkland Douglas High School shooting victim Alex Schachter, is also a member of the school's Public Safety Commission.

and adhere to timelines because we have to report some of those elements that federally determine those incidents and, I guess, analyzing the data at a local level. We get what the districts send us."

Also during the meeting, Bob Kolasky, deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, explained best practices for schools for active assailant prevention and response. Kolasky said his department is studying

ways to enhance school safety to prevent events similar to the Broward shooting.

"A lot of what we talk about is things that happen when someone with a gun gets there, but train and be ready for someone with a gun to get there," Kolasky said. "School security needs to be designed with a learning environment in mind. Making sure that school is a place where kids learn is important."

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Haven receives awards from FHPCA

From a press release

During the Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association (FHPCA) Forum 2018, which took place May 31 through June 1, Haven was recognized with three Awards of Excellence including the Excellence in Program Innovation Award, the Hospice Story Award and the Excellence in Clinical Practice Award.

Haven won the Excellence in Program Innovation Award, which recognizes services and programs provided by a hospice organization that demonstrate the power of creativity and ingenuity to impact the practice and the community, for its Haven Legacy Project. The services provided by the Haven Legacy Project are impactful tools to help families in their bereavement journey. Those services include hand photography, life reviews which can take the form of video, written narratives based on interviews with patients and their families, drawings or a combination of these elements provided at no cost to family members. The award also recognized Haven Volunteer Joyce Pearson for her integral work with the program.

Haven and volunteer Elizabeth Lowe, PhD were selected for the Hospice Story Award, which is given to the person or organization that best captures his or her most meaningful hospice experience with an original creative work. Elizabeth worked with a young mother who was a hospice patient and struggling to find a way to explain her advanced illness to her 7-year-old son by helping



her to write a story called The Little Dinosaur Goes on an Adventure. The story encouraged the son to accept his new home with the patient's sister. Elizabeth is a university professor specializing in languages, cultures and literatures.

The Excellence in Clinical Practice Award was given to Haven Chaplain Rev. Donna Carlile, M.Div., who has since been promoted to Counseling Services Manager. An advocate for patients and families, a resource to multiple community organizations, and a public speaker and educator regarding dignity in patient-centered care, Donna promotes the advancement of excellence in hospice and palliative care. Donna was recognized for being generous with her personal time and going above and beyond her job respon-

sibilities to provide comfort, care and compassion to patients, families and fellow Haven associates, especially in unique and emotionally-charged situations.

About Haven: Haven is the source for patients, their families and their healthcare providers to find answers to their advanced illness challenges. In addition to providing comfort through the compassionate delivery of hospice services, Haven offers Transitions, Advance Care Planning and Palliative Care Consultations with a patient-centric focus. When health becomes a challenge, we will be your haven. For more information, visit www.beyourhaven.org or call 800-727-1889. Serving advanced illness needs in Florida since 1979 and licensed as a not-for-profit hospice since 1980.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Joyce Pearson, top, at camera, and Rev. Donna Carlile, above, were honored for their work with Haven by the Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association.

Irma assistance line to close June 15

From The News Service of Florida

Floridians needing legal assistance on Hurricane Irma issues have one more week to seek help through a toll-free hotline.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency hotline, which operates through a partnership with The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division and the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, will close June 15, the federal agency announced Friday.

The hotline is available for help with disaster assistance from FEMA and other federal and state agencies; landlord-tenant or foreclosure issues; replacing legal documents lost in the disaster; home repair contracts and contractors; and filing insurance claims.

Since Irma hammered Florida in September, lawyers volunteering their time on the hotline -- 866-550-2929 -- have made 2,011 referrals.

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FDC, Florida Gateway students recognized for academic success

From a press release

The Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) and Florida Gateway College (FGC) proudly recognized 42 inmate-students in the Second Chance Pell Program for academic excellence that led to being named on the President's List or Vice President's List for the 2018 Spring Semester.

Secretary Julie Jones, "We are incredibly proud of this program. The success of these initial students is further testimony that expanding educational opportunities to incarcerated individuals is a worthy investment for their future, and the future of Florida communities where these inmates will eventually be employed and live. I want to congratulate them on their accomplishment and look forward to seeing their continued achievements throughout this college program."

Secretary Julie Jones, William Peace and Warden Godwin were recently invited to attend the Vera Institute of Justice's Conference on expanding access to postsecondary education for people in prison.

FGC in partnership with FDC was selected by the United States Department of Education as one of 67 sites in the nation for the inmate education program which began on January 24, 2017 at Columbia Correctional Institution Annex.

William Peace, Program Liaison, said, "We, at Florida Gateway College, are very proud of the academic performance of the students in the Second Chance Pell Program! Of the students not named on these lists this term, many have GPA's that would have qualified them as well had they been enrolled full time. This is a group of individuals who have worked hard to demonstrate that they are serious about making positive changes in their lives. We salute their diligence and commend them for this remarkable achievement!"

The Second Chance Pell Pilot Program offers Pell Grant eligibility to inmates selected and supervised by FDC who are eligible for upcoming release within the next five years.

Courses leading to the Associate of Arts degree in General Studies or the Associate of Science degree in Environmental Science Technology: Water Resources are offered each semester. The anticipated graduation date for the first cohort is May of 2019.

The Presidents and Vice Presidents list requires students to carry a minimum course loads of 12 semester hours and maintain specific grade point averages (GPA).

The following students were recognized on the President's List for semester GPAs of 4.0: Travis



COURTESY

Florida Gateway College has partnered with the Florida Dept. of Corrections in the Second Chance Pell Program.

Akins, Jeremiah Conner, Justin Donahue, Jared Dougherty, Richard Elliott, Joshua Evans, David Gallagher, Louis Garcia, William Giddens, Derrick Graham, Keith Kent, Michael Krupa, Matthew Luman, Jordan Motley, Christopher Murdy, Michael Opsincs, Walfrido Pina, Kenneth Reynolds, Berry Roberson, Michael Scott, Trevis Sherwood, Neondra Starks, John Wise, Jonathan Woods, and Johnny Yates.

Students recognized on the Vice President's List for semester GPAs of 3.5-3.99 were Andrew Beam, Carlos Bueso, SoDonnie Christopher, Freddie Davis, Anthony Gautieri, Walter Golden, Elvis Hall, Everlett Jones, Chad Knight, Nicolas Kulpa, Arsenio Leal, Justin Midolo, Chad Morris, Patrick Pittman, Shane Roschel, Ronald Shaw, and Joseph Zavaddil.

For further information on the program, please contact William Peace at Florida Gateway College at 386-754-4229 or Kristina Hartman at Florida Department of Corrections at 850-717-3180.



COURTESY

Approximately 4,000 black bears are believed to live in Florida.

State to provide more 'bearwise' money

From The News Service of Florida

Local governments have until Aug. 1 to apply for grants intended to reduce bear-human conflicts.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is making \$500,000 in grants available for communities, with a preference going to those that have enacted "BearWise" ordinances requiring residents and businesses to bear-proof trash containers.

The Legislature designated the money for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The money, in part, is generated through the sale of "Conserve Wildlife" license plates. The commission in 2015 held the state's first bear hunt in more than two decades, with 304 bears killed.

The commission has declined to hold another hunt, with the state providing the grants to try to prevent potentially dangerous encounters between humans and bears. Because of revenue from permits for the bear hunt, the agency in 2016 was able to spread \$825,000 through the BearWise program to 11 counties, three cities and two homeowners' associations.

Last year, the commission had \$515,283 available, which went to seven counties, a parks department, a homeowners' association and a community for surviving spouses of retired military members. The commission said the "BearWise" program has been used to buy more than 10,000 bear-resistant trash cans, 9,700 sets of hardware to secure regular trash cans, and 160 dumpsters modified to keep bears out.

Roughly 4,000 black bears are estimated to live in Florida, from the forests of Southwest Florida through the Panhandle. The numbers had fallen to as low as 300 to 500 in the 1970s when bears were put on the state's list of threatened species. Bears were removed from the list in 2012.

Ask the Fool

Differing Opinions

When I'm reading financial periodicals or Motley Fool articles or am watching CNBC, I often see different opinions on various stocks, with some experts saying buy and others saying sell. What's up with that? — L.S., Victoria, Texas

Anyone evaluating a company can come away with a different opinion about its prospects and likely trajectory. Even the best stock analysts and investors are sometimes wrong.

Note, too, that each can be different in what they're looking for — some want undervalued stocks, while others may be willing to take more chances, hoping for a bigger payoff. It's good to gather different opinions, consider various arguments, do your own research and ultimately make up your own mind.

With mutual funds, are index funds best for beginners (like me)? — D.C., Riverside, California

Low-fee, broad-market index funds, such as those that track the S&P 500, are indeed perfect for most people — beginners or not. An S&P 500 fund will have you instantly invested in 500 of America's biggest companies. (Many of them have sizable overseas operations, too, giving you international diversification.) Broader funds, such as Vanguard's Total Stock Market Index, include smaller and medium-sized companies, too, while "total world" indexes also include foreign companies. Seek index funds with low fees. Many charge less than 0.25 percent annually.

Index funds should have you matching the performance of their underlying indexes. If you want to aim even higher, you might study and carefully choose a few individual companies in which to invest — but doing well at that can take a lot of time, energy and skill. It's hard to beat the ease and results of simple index funds.

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



Fool's School

The Cost of Commissions

You probably pay your brokerage a commission every time you buy or sell stocks, and that fee deserves some consideration.

How much you pay per trade isn't a critical issue if you trade only a few times a year. But if you buy and sell stocks (or other securities) relatively frequently, the commissions can make a difference in your results.

For example, imagine that you invest \$200 in shares of Drive-Thru Dentistry Inc. (ticker: DRILZ), and you pay a \$15 commission. Divide \$15 by \$200 and you'll get 0.075, or 7.5 percent. That means you've invested \$200, but at the same time you forfeited 7.5 percent of that value in commissions. If the shares rose 8 percent in the first year, you'd barely break even, instead of realizing a meaningful gain.

Frequent traders, such as day traders, can be hurt worse. For instance, if they buy and sell \$200 worth of a stock in a day, they'll

pay \$15 to buy and another \$15 to sell. They will need to have gained more than 15 percent just to turn a profit.

So what should you do? Well, it can help to use a brokerage that has low commission costs (perhaps \$5 to \$7 per trade, or less), as many do these days. Also, aim to keep your commission costs at 2 percent or less per trade, if possible. If your brokerage charges \$20, then try to invest at least \$1,000 each time you buy stock. (Multiply the commission by 50 to see what it's 2 percent of.) If your brokerage charges just \$7, your minimum would be \$350. You can always save up money until you have enough.

If it's hard for you to come up with hundreds of dollars for each stock purchase, know that you can also invest small sums regularly through direct investing plans (Drips), which let you buy stock directly through companies, bypassing brokerages altogether. Many major companies offer Drips. If you can type this long address into your browser, you can learn much more about Drips: fool.com/retirement/2018/05/21/your-complete-guide-to-drip-investing.aspx.

My Dumbest Investment

Drained Battery

My dumbest investment? I lost 100 percent of the money I put into a battery company. It made the biggest batteries in the world, mainly for ships. How could I go wrong, right? Well, I didn't look at the company closely or look up any news on it. All I listened to was the advice to invest in it.

It was a Chinese company that cooked its books and had been in trouble with the SEC. Then, when the Chinese stock market crashed, my money went down the drain, permanently. The company no longer exists.

Now I'm more careful, to say the least. I follow Fool stock recommendations, but mainly just to get ideas of companies to investigate. I do a lot of my own reading on the companies to learn what they make, what they contribute to the world, whether people really want or need the products, whether they might survive for the long term, etc. Now I've been making about 50 percent a year.

My investment strategy at the moment is to take chances on stocks that I think will grow briskly, but when I do so, I invest the same amount in stalwart blue chip companies, too, or in a mutual fund with bonds. — L.W., Saratoga Springs, New York

The Fool Responds: You've improved your investing process immensely, though 50 percent returns are not normally sustainable. Balancing your riskier investments with less risky ones is smart.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I came to life as a grocery-trading company in Korea in 1938. After some years, I entered the textile business, and later got involved in other lines of work, such as shipbuilding, heavy industry and, in 1969, electronics. I found success with televisions, video recorders, appliances and semiconductors, among other things. I developed mobile phones in the early 1990s and a smartphone in 1999. Today I'm one of the world's top brands and largest companies, with more than 300,000 employees and No. 1 market share in TVs, smartphones, memory chips, refrigerators, display drivers and more. Who am I? (Answer: Samsung)



Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.



Name That Company

When you think of luxury, you should think of my (long and complicated) name. I'm the result of a 1987 merger, but many of my businesses were launched long ago. One of my wine businesses took shape in 1593, for example. Based in France, I'm a purveyor of wine, champagne, cognac, fashion, leather goods, perfumes, cosmetics, watches, jewelry and more. Brand names under my roof include Chateau d'Yquem, Dom Perignon, Veuve Clicquot, Christian Dior, Fendi, Givenchy, Bulgari, Kenzo, Celine, Hublot, TAG Heuer and Sephora, among many, many others. My market value recently topped \$175 billion. Who am I?

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

Gator sought after report of possible attack in Fla.

From The Associated Press

Authorities worked Friday to capture an alligator in a Florida pond after a witness' report led police to believe the animal may have dragged a woman into the water.

The witness told authorities he saw the woman walking two dogs and then noticed the dogs barking near the water, but he did not see the woman again, said Davie Police Detective Viviana Gallinal.

"He could not find the woman that was walking the dogs, so he called for police assistance and we're still looking for her," Gallinal said. Earlier news media reports indicated the witness reported seeing the gator drag the woman into the water. Police did not immediately clarify the discrepancy.

Trappers have spotted a 12-foot (3.5-meter) alligator in the pond in Silver Lakes Rotary Nature Park, she said.

In a Sun Sentinel report, Davie Police Maj. Dale Engle said no divers could search the water until the alligator was

captured.

Meanwhile, "her dogs won't leave the pond," Engle said. "One of her dogs got bit by the gator."

Jim Borelli, a friend of the woman presumed missing, said she and her husband have walked their dogs in the park previously.

Borelli said the woman's husband, who is out of town, sent him to the park to get more information after being contacted by Davie Police.

"I'm praying that nothing happened to her," Borelli said.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokesman Rob Klepper said the report of the attack was still unconfirmed, but law enforcement officers with the agency were heading to the scene. Gallinal said the wildlife commission would take over the investigation.

The park is near the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, a major Miami-area tourist and entertainment attraction.

Authorities closed the park Friday, but passers-by said they were not surprised to hear about an alligator lurking in the water.

"Any body of water in Florida, you've got to know at some point or another there's an alligator," said Heather Porrata, who lives nearby.

Sharon Estupinan said a park ranger warned her to walk her dogs farther away from the water's edge after she saw a 10-foot (3-meter) gator in the pond three days ago.

"I was afraid," she said. "Every time I walked the dogs during the day, I was like, 'Oh, my God, I've gotta keep away from there. I have to call my dogs,' so they wouldn't get close to the water or any of the trees near there because he could be hiding. Although, he's really big. I don't think he could really hide."

Alligators and humans frequently cross paths in Florida, as people increasingly seek waterfront homes and recreation.

The large reptiles can be found in fresh and brackish bodies of water — including lakes, rivers, canals and golf course ponds — and there is roughly 6.7 million acres of suitable habitat statewide. They are particularly active during their mating season in May and June.

Alligators are opportunistic feeders that will eat what is readily available and easily overpowered. Feeding wild alligators is illegal because they could lose their fear of humans.

Fatal attacks on humans remain rare, however. According to the wildlife commission, the likelihood of a Florida resident being seriously injured during an unprovoked alligator incident in Florida is roughly only one in 3.2 million.

From 1948 to 2017, the commission has documented 401 people bitten by alligators, including 24 fatalities. The most recent death occurred in 2016, when a 2-year-old boy playing near the water's edge at a Walt Disney World resort was killed.

Convey Health Solutions Partners with Molina Healthcare

From The Associated Press

Convey Health Solutions ("Convey") announced today a partnership with Molina Healthcare to provide Over-the-Counter (OTC) benefits to Molina Healthcare's members in qualifying Medicare HMO, HMO D-SNP, and MMP plans. The partnership allows Molina to offer enhanced OTC benefits to Medicare plan beneficiaries including increased dollar value allotted to cover OTC items and additional qualifying items such as sunscreen, electric toothbrushes and diabetic socks.

Convey Health Solutions is the market leading provider of end-to-end OTC benefits administration services. Convey enables health plans serving the Medicare markets to manage all aspects of enrollment, eligibility, and membership functions while maintaining com-

pliance with CMS regulations. In partnership with Molina Healthcare, Convey provides turnkey technology and service solutions that power Molina's OTC benefit program.

"We are proud to be able to help Molina serve its members with enhanced over-the-counter benefits," commented Jonathan Starr, Executive Vice President for Convey Health Solutions. "We are making Molina's OTC benefit offering a positive and successful experience for Molina and its members by incorporating our seamless eligibility integration, complex benefit configurations, and comprehensive compliance monitoring."

"Molina's goal is to provide our members with high quality, accessible and affordable care, and enhancing OTC benefits we offer to our Medicare members helps us achieve that goal," said

Mike Jones, Vice President of Medicare for Molina Healthcare. "Giving members access to a broader range of products will keep them safer, healthier and more independent in their own homes."

Molina Healthcare, Inc., a FORTUNE 500 company, provides managed health care services under the Medicaid and Medicare programs and through the state insurance marketplaces. Through its locally operated health plans, Molina Healthcare served approximately 4.1 million members as of March 31, 2018. For more information about Molina Healthcare, please visit our website at molinahealthcare.com.

Convey Health Solutions is a specialized healthcare technology and services company that is committed to providing clients with healthcare-specific, compliant member support solutions utilizing

technology, engagement, and analytics. The company's administrative solutions for government-sponsored health plans help to optimize member interactions, ensure compliance, and support end-to-end Medicare processes. By combining its best-in-class, built-for-purpose technology platforms with dedicated and flexible business process solutions, Convey Health Solutions creates better business results and better healthcare consumer experiences on behalf of business customers and partners. The Company's clients include some of the nation's leading health insurance plans and pharmacy benefit management firms. Their healthcare-focused teams help several million Americans each year to navigate the complex Medicare Advantage and Part D landscape. To learn more, please visit www.ConveyHealthSolutions.com.

Household goods makers lead stocks as G-7 summit begins

From The Associated Press

U.S. stocks are higher Friday afternoon after small losses the day before. Household goods makers and health care companies are rising, but energy companies are slipping. Investors have treaded cautiously over the last two days ahead of the Group of Seven summit, which started Friday. Leaders from Canada and France say they will confront U.S. President Donald Trump over tariffs he is imposing.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index added 7 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,777 as of 2:45 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 57 points, or 0.2 percent, to 25,298 after a small gain on Thursday. The Nasdaq composite gained 14 points, or 0.2 percent, to 7,649.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks advanced 5 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,673. Smaller and more U.S.-focused stocks like those on the Russell have fared better than the rest of the market in recent months as investors react to concerns about international trade. The Russell is up 9 percent this year and the S&P 500 is up 3.9 percent.

GROUP OF SEVEN: Leaders from the Group of Seven wealthy industrialized nations are meeting in Canada, where Trump's new tariffs on are expected to be a major focus. The White House is expecting a chilly reception from Canada and western European countries. The leaders of France and Canada in particular on Thursday expressed in tough terms their disapproval of the tariffs. Trump is expected to leave the summit before it officially concludes as he heads to Singapore ahead of his meeting with Kim Jong Un of North Korea.

THE QUOTE: Investors don't expect much progress on trade deals at the meeting, according to Scott Wren, senior global equity strategist for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute. But he said the outcome of the contentious trade talks between the U.S., China and others might be different from what Wall Street expects.

"The end result probably is going to be lower tariffs across the board," he said. While new tariffs are likely to be announced in the coming weeks and months, Wren said the negotiations could ultimately result in a lot of older tariffs on U.S. imports and exports being reduced or eliminated.

ROAD TO RECOVERY: Consumer products makers, which have struggled for the last few months, rose for the second

day in a row. Monster Beverage climbed 4.8 percent to \$55.37 after its annual shareholder meeting. Stifel analyst Mark Astrachan said the company's sales growth is solid. He said the company plans to raise its U.S. prices later this year in response to higher aluminum prices following the tariffs.

Elsewhere, Tide maker Procter & Gamble gained 1.6 percent to \$77. Cigarette maker Philip Morris International rose 2.4 percent to \$79.26 after it raised its quarterly dividend, while Reuters said the company plans to start selling its tobacco-heating Iqos device in India, the second-most populous country in the world.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude slid 0.3 percent to \$65.74 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 0.6 percent to \$76.82 per barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline stayed at \$2.12 a gallon. Heating oil shed 0.7 percent to \$2.16 a gallon. Natural gas fell 1.4 percent to \$2.89 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Energy companies followed suit. Halliburton slumped 2.4 percent to \$47.74 and Noble Energy lost 2.6 percent to \$33.93.

THE WEEK AHEAD: Wall Street will be focused on central banks even more than usual next week as the European Central Bank and Federal Reserve both hold major meetings. Investors are nearly certain the Fed will raise interest rates for the second time this year, out of three the Fed says it's planning. If the Fed hints it's considering a fourth increase later in the year, it might jolt the stock market.

"Any more than three hikes this year is a headwind for equities," said Wren.

He added that the ECB will probably start to pare back its economic stimulus moves even though the European economy slowed in the first quarter.

EARNINGS: Online clothing retailer Stitch Fix jumped 20 percent to \$23.60 after it beat Wall Street's expectations in its fiscal third quarter.

FUNTIME: Toy maker Funko continued to rally, climbing 6.1 percent to \$11.99. The stock went public in November at \$12 a share, but fell 50 percent through the end of 2017. It's up 80 percent this year.

BONDS: Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note remained at 2.93 percent.

METALS: Gold was little changed at \$1,302.70 an ounce. Silver declined 0.4 percent to \$16.74 an ounce. Copper rose 0.8 percent to \$3.30 a pound, its highest price this year.

Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain found dead in France at age of 61

From The Associated Press

Anthony Bourdain, the celebrity chef and citizen of the world who inspired millions to share his delight in food and the bonds it created, was found dead in his hotel room Friday in France while working on his CNN series on culinary traditions. He was 61.

CNN confirmed the death, saying that Bourdain was found unresponsive Friday morning by friend and chef Eric Ripert, and the company called the death a suicide.

A prosecutor in eastern France said Bourdain apparently hanged himself in a luxury hotel in the ancient village of Kaysersberg on the Alsatian wine route. French media quoted Colmar prosecutor Christian de Rocquigny du Fayel as saying that "at this stage" nothing suggests that another person was involved. However, investigators were verifying the circumstances of Bourdain's death.

Widely loved and rarely afraid to speak his mind, he mixed a coarseness and whimsical sense of adventurousness, true to the rock 'n' roll music he loved. Bourdain's "Parts Unknown" seemed like an odd choice for CNN when it started in 2013 — part travelogue, part history lesson, part love letter to exotic foods. Each trip was an adventure. There had been nothing quite like it on the staid news network, and it became an immediate hit.

Within hours of his death, "Kitchen Confidential" was in the top 20 on Amazon.com.

"We are constantly asking ourselves, first and foremost, what is the most (messed) up thing we can do next week?" he said in a 2014 interview with the AP.

Bourdain's breakthrough as an author came with the 2000 publication of his "Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly." The book created a sensation by combining frank details of his life and career with behind-the-scenes observations on the culinary industry.

Colleagues, friends and admirers shared their grief Friday. CNN chief executive Jeff Zucker sent a company letter calling Bourdain "an exceptional talent. A storyteller. A gifted writer. A world traveler. An adventurer."

As president, Barack Obama sat down for some bun cha in Hanoi, Vietnam, with Bourdain in an episode of "Parts Unknown" in 2016. On Friday, he shared

a photo of the interaction on Twitter: "Low plastic stool, cheap but delicious noodles, cold Hanoi beer.' This is how I'll remember Tony. He taught us about food — but more importantly, about its ability to bring us together. To make us a little less afraid of the unknown. We'll miss him."

As he left the White House for the G-7 summit in Quebec, President Donald Trump, whom Bourdain had sharply criticized, offered his "heartfelt condolences" to Bourdain's family, which includes his 11-year-old daughter, Ariane. Jamie Oliver wrote on Instagram that Bourdain "really broke the mould ... he leaves chefs and fans around the world with a massive foodie hole that simply can't be replaced."

Others noted Bourdain's strong defense of the #MeToo movement. His girlfriend was actress Asia Argento, who has accused Harvey Weinstein of rape. After Mario Batali was accused of sexual assault, Bourdain published an essay in Medium in which he wrote that "one must pick a side."

"I stand unhesitatingly and unwaveringly with the women," he wrote.

Argento posted this note on Twitter: "Anthony gave all of himself in everything that he did. His brilliant, fearless spirit touched and inspired so many, and his generosity knew no bounds. He was my love, my rock, my protector. I am beyond devastated. My thoughts are with his family. I would ask that you respect their privacy and mine."

Another Weinstein accuser, actress Rose McGowan, tweeted a video of herself, sobbing. "Anthony I am so mad at you," she said. "You were so loved, the world is not better without you. I have a message for those considering suicide as a solution to a temporary problem. Please call a hotline."

Bourdain's death came three days after fashion designer Kate Spade killed herself in her Park Avenue apartment in New York. Spade's husband and business partner said the 55-year-old business mogul had suffered from depression and anxiety for many years.

In a 2008 interview with the AP, Bourdain had said that his daughter's birth had changed his outlook on life. "I feel obliged to at least do the best I can and not do anything really stupidly self-destructive if I can avoid it," he said.

Children lacking health insurance up slightly

Expert: Rise could be 'an early warning sign.'

From The News Service of Florida

While Florida has made strides in reducing the number of uninsured children, a national health-care expert warned Thursday that those gains are likely stalling, and she put part of the blame on increased scrutiny of immigration status.

Joan Alker, executive director of the Washington-based Center for Children and Families, said data released late last month by the National Center on Health Statistics shows that the number of uninsured children in Florida in 2017 rose slightly to 7.6 percent.

Alker said that while the small rise -- from 7.4 percent the previous year -- may be statistically insignificant, it could be "an early warning sign" that Florida's seven-year trend of lowering uninsured rates for children is at risk.

She attributed the increase in part to attrition of what she called "mixed" families, or families where a parent is an immigrant and the child is either a

citizen or legally residing in the state. "Because of all the intimidation that is happening right now with immigrant families, we've heard lots of anecdotal evidence that they are very reluctant now to sign their kids up for coverage," said Alker who has spent years observing Florida's government-subsidized health insurance programs.

She suggested that other factors that could have played a factor in the slight hike include congressional efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and a push to restructure the Medicaid program and reduce funding.

State Agency for Health Care Administration spokeswoman Mallory McManus said she wasn't aware of the new data and said that "ensuring that children have access to health care has always been a priority of our agency."

Combined, the subsidized Children's Health Insurance Program and

Medicaid provide coverage to an estimated 44 percent of the children in the state.

The National Health Interview Survey data is collected through personal household interviews. Alker called the data an "early sign," but said that the release in September of information from what is known as the American Community Survey will provide additional insight about health insurance. The American Community Survey is the largest household survey conducted by the Census Bureau.

While the 2017 percentage increase was small, Alker said it shows that Florida lost ground while states such as Texas and California continued to make progress.

Those states lowered their uninsured rates by 1 percent and 1.4 percent, respectively.

Alker made the remarks during a webinar where she discussed a new report called, "The New Federal

Children's Health Insurance Law and What it Means for Florida's Children."

It is one of a series of reports that Alker has conducted about health insurance for Florida children and was funded by the Florida Blue Foundation, the Health Foundation of South Florida, the Space Coast Health Foundation and the Winter Park Health Foundation, among others, operating under the Florida Philanthropic Network.

The report examines the impact of two recently passed extensions of the Children's Health Insurance Program and what they mean for the state. CHIP funding expired last year, and many states, such as Florida, were forced to operate the program on carry-over funds from previous years.

Congress agreed to extend CHIP funding in January and again in February.

CHIP funds subsidized insurance coverage for more than 345,000 children in Florida.

Under the extensions, Alker said Florida cannot make any future changes to the CHIP program that would make it more cost-restrictive, including increasing co-payments.

Combined, the subsidized Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid provide coverage to an estimated 44 percent of the children in the state.

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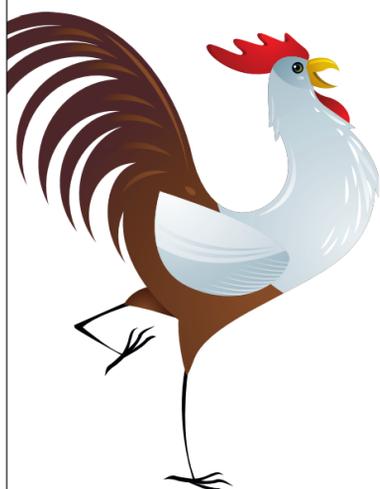
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Friends keep vow to marry at 50, if still single

By Chris Hewitt
Star Tribune

ST. PAUL, Minn. — If Kimberley Dean and Ron Palmer's 37-year romance sounds like a TV show, that's because it was one. "How I Met Your Mother," to be exact, in which two characters agreed to marry if both were single at 40.

Their wedding fulfills a similar pact they made a few years back, according to Kimberley: "Ron was talking about all his benefits through work and not having anyone to give them to. Just jokingly, I said, 'The last one who turns 50, which would be me, if I'm not married and you're not married, we're just going to marry each other.' He said, 'Done!' — never imagining any of this would happen."

Well, it's happening. Kimberley, 51, and Ron, 54, will marry in Como Park's Japanese Garden — not Ron's first choice of location, which he jokes would be the zoo, where Casey, the famed gorilla, could witness.

It could be argued that Casey (who now resides at the Louisville Zoo) would be an appropriate guest because maybe he could address the 400-pound gorilla in the room: Can a marriage that began with a jokey pact work?

"Oh, absolutely," says Kimberley. "I have no second, third or fourth doubts in my head. Now that we're getting so close, details like needing to call the florist lady, I am stressed about those things. But marrying him? I'm not stressed at all. I've been divorced since 1998, so I go in with my eyes completely wide open."

The key element to Kimberley and Ron's relationship is that they've been friends for 37 years. They met at St. Agnes School, where she was an eighth-grader and he was a junior.

"I would watch him come down the stairs when the high school kids were changing classes and we would wave at each other," says Kimberley, who works in the Roseville Community School District's youth enrichment program. "We ended up taking a picture together and, by fall of the following school year, when I was a freshman and he was a senior, we were dating."

Like many a high school romance, this one didn't last.

"I wanted to go sow my oats, so to speak. So we went our separate ways," says Ron, a safety coordinator for Xcel Energy. "By the time I felt like maybe we should give it a try again, she had met somebody else and got married and then I went off and got married."

Three decades of not-quite-right timing ensued.

Ron's marriage only lasted seven years. Kimberley's was longer — and gave her a daughter and maid of honor Kayla and son Konner, who will give her away — but she, too, divorced. A second stab at dating didn't feel right, but they continued to keep in touch.

"I don't think six months ever went by in all this time that we weren't in contact," says Ron. "She helped me a lot. After my marriage and with me having numerous girlfriends over the years, I would always call Kim when I had something to complain about: 'Why do women do this?' She was my go-to person."

"He would still call my mom after all those years, wishing her a happy Mother's



Jeff Wheeler/Minneapolis Star Tribune/TNS

Ron Harper holds the Save the Date announcement for their wedding, which features a photo of he and Kim Dean when they were students at St. Agnes School. inset; Kim Dean and Ron Harper on the second floor of St. Agnes, years later.

Day," says Kimberley. "He would call if he had girl trouble. I would call him to take a dead hamster out of my son's cage because I didn't want to touch it."

According to Kimberley, the "pair of goofballs" had an unbreakable bond, one which is expressed in "their" song, REO Speedwagon's "Keep on Loving You."

"Over the years, I would get a call that said, 'Turn on KS95' and there it would be or I would hear the song come on and text her and, if she didn't answer, I'd leave the radio playing it on her phone," says Ron.

REO could practically have been talking about them in the lyrics to that hair band classic: "When I said that I loved you, I meant that I loved you forever."

"I think we both knew, even in high school, that we were supposed to be together," says Kimberley.

Ron agrees: "I truly did love her back when we were kids. I've always loved her. She's such an awesome friend."

'IT CAN HAPPEN'

Friendship started to look like something else when they went to Roseville's Taste of Rosefest the summer of 2016. Afterward, their conversations became more frequent. Soon, Ron invited Kimberley to his hunting cabin in Finlayson, Minn.

That's where Kimberley popped the question. Well, a question.

"I don't remember exactly what I said but it was along the lines of: 'What do you think if we try this again?' " Kimberley recalls. "There was a lot of hesitation on his part. He told me later he worried that, if a relationship didn't work, we would lose one of the very best friends we ever had."

"That was a big risk," agrees Ron. "But we decided to try."

This time, it took.

Ron iced the deal last New Year's Eve Up North, when he suggested they investigate frozen Gooseberry Falls. Worried about falling or freezing to death in the below-zero temperatures, Kimberley took one look at the ice and headed for the warmth of their car. But, when she turned back, Ron was on one (very frigid) knee, holding a tiny blue Tiffany's box.

Long story short: She said "yes." To the surprise of no one.

"It felt like it was supposed to happen, like it was meant to be," says Kayla Dean. "I would say there's no better match in the world for either of them."

Put Kayla firmly in the knew-it-all-along camp.

"Out of everyone my mom has ever been with — even thinking about my dad, who we don't have a relationship with — I would say Ronnie has filled that father role for Konner and me," says Kayla, who thinks there's a lesson in her mom's romance. "People who are meant to be together will always find each other. It may take 37 years, but it can happen."

THE BENEFIT OF TIME

Ron and Kimberley agree they may have needed all of those years to become a marriage-ready couple.

"When she got married, I thought, 'Ah, she's gone,' but, as a young man in my 20s, I thought women were all over the place and I could get along with any of them. I thought that was the norm," says Ron. "As it turns out, and as I have learned, it is not. I never got along with anyone else as well as I got along with her."

"The only thing that sucks is that we're in our 50s. How much time do we have left?" asks Kimberley, who adds that "we had to go through all those relationships — the good, the bad, the ugly, the com-

plete heartbreak — to get to where we are right now. We've even talked about, if we had gotten married all those years ago when we were younger, would we still be together?"

Maybe not.

Marriage expert William Doherty says statistics on young marriages are not promising.

"Knowing each other better, as they do now, is generally better, but (this situation) is so unusual. They do know more of what they're getting than lots of people who get married do," says Doherty, professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota.

"I'm not predicting bad things but many people who have lived together get married and say that not much is going to change, that it's just a piece of paper. But that's not how it works. When people get married, things really change."

Kimberley and Ron have gotten a taste of that change since he moved into her Como Park home about a month ago. There's been a learning curve — she's maybe a little neater than he is — but both say it's going great.

In fact, living together has helped remind Ron what it was like to fall in love with Kimberley all those years ago.

"When we were kids, we would walk down the Midway at the State Fair and the fireworks would go off," says Ron. "If we were together, we would always stop and watch."

Anyone who has seen an old movie knows what it means when they cut from kisses to fireworks: passion. So it's appropriate that those State Fair fireworks still lit up the sky during the decades when Kimberley or Ron weren't together. And that this summer, 37 years after they met, the two will watch them as husband and wife for the very first time.

An exciting, two-day visit to our nation's capital

Looking for some Washington DC highlights, we paid for a two day hop on hop off bus ticket and headed out. Our first stop was Arlington National Cemetery. On the way, we passed by the National Cathedral, went through Georgetown and down Embassy Row. I was really anxious to see the Changing of the Guard at the tomb of the unknown soldiers.

After having researched this on line a little bit, it was amazing to realize the back ground and training of these soldiers who volunteer for this duty. The ceremony itself was impressive and very emotional. It reminded me of how parts of this country are still rooted deep in respect and tradition. Scared me how the other parts are ruining the country. Anyway, I'm so glad

we saw this. It was remarkable. We also walked by and saw the gravesites for the Kennedy's John, Jackie, Bobby and Edward. I highly recommend the Arlington National Cemetery to anyone who ever visits the area.

After leaving here we accidentally got on the wrong bus, but quickly figured it out. The good part was we got to drive by the Pentagon. They pointed out where the 9/11 attack on the building was and how it affected the operations there. Had we got on the right bus, we'd have missed this part. We were getting hungry and by borrowing a map from another passenger figured out where we needed to get off the bus for our next stop. We were going to find lunch at the National Mall prior to our Hill visit.

TRAVEL TALES



Sandy Kishton

Unfortunately, at the Mall, there is only food court type of options. We ended up at a café inside the American Indian Museum. It was okay, but not what we were looking for. After lunch we walked to Ander Crenshaw's office for our meeting. It was interesting to watch politics at work and to be a part of it.

We were heading to another bus stop and on the way, we stopped on the Capitol steps for a photo op. I commented on the security guards with their guns everywhere. They had the streets in front of the capitol blocked off, so we had to find another bus stop. We learned why shortly after, there appeared to be a Presidential motorcade screaming (literally with lights and sirens) through the streets of DC. We were unsure of who was in the cars, but they were marked with the flags of the United States and what appeared to be Afghanistan. We were guessing this because their President was also in town this week.

So we finally catch another bus and our next stop is the Hard Rock Café for the obligatory t-shirt. I

might mention, on the way, we pass the gate to Chinatown and the Ford Theater. The Ford Theater is where President Lincoln was shot. Apparently one of his aides was quick enough to get him out of the theater and took him to the Peterson house across the street where he died nine hours later. Both of these places were open to tour. However, this street was also a major tourist trap with your t-shirts shops and a visitor center and it was very crowded. At HRC, we bought our shirts and drank a beer. It was interesting that they touted themselves as the "Embassy of Rock and Roll".... Just another embassy.

■ Sandy Kishton is a freelance travel writer who lives in Lake City.

SUNDAY EVENING JUNE 10, 2018. Table with 13 columns (6 PM to 11:30) and 34 rows of programming details including channel, time, and program titles.

WEEKDAY AFTERNOON. Table with 13 columns (12 PM to 5:30) and 34 rows of programming details including channel, time, and program titles.

MONDAY EVENING JUNE 11, 2018. Table with 13 columns (6 PM to 11:30) and 34 rows of programming details including channel, time, and program titles.

DEAR ABBY

Unhappy mom is harassed by her family of pranksters

DEAR ABBY: I tend to react poorly when someone pulls a prank on me. My reaction is usually anger, hurt or embarrassment, and I end up saying or doing things I later regret because emotion took over.



Abigail Van Buren
www.dearabby.com

My husband has always liked playing pranks, and my children have started to follow his lead. The pranks tend to be things like ice down the back of my shirt, bopping the end of a glass or bottle while drinking so it splashes in my face, snapping wet towels, etc. I don't like it, and I never do it to them. If I react, I am made out to be the "bad guy" because I "can't take a joke."

I feel guilty about the latest incident because when my 10-year-old daughter bopped a drink in my face, I slapped her across the face. When I apologized for responding that way, she said, "Dad does it all the time."

I never get an apology from the pranksters. Is this normal? Are there others out there who don't like being the object of pranks? How do I get my family to understand that being subjected to these "jokes" isn't funny to ME? — UNAMUSED IN INDIANA

DEAR UNAMUSED: Jokes at the expense of others can be funny, as long

as EVERYONE AGREES that they're funny. Because you have told your husband you not only don't find his pranks amusing but find them hurtful, I can only conclude that his sense of humor is sadistic. Further, it has set a poor example for the children.

I wonder how your husband would feel if you informed him after a hard day that his accountant had called saying he owes \$25,000 in back taxes. (Ho, ho!) Or if you poured a pitcher of ice water on him at 2 a.m. Would that be equally "funny"? I doubt it. Normally, I wouldn't stoop to that level, but this may be an exception.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing because we are receiving some snide comments because of our daughter's choice of college major. She's majoring in dance. When people with college-age kids or grandkids find out, you can see it in their expression or hear it in their tone of voice. "Oh, really? Ummm, how nice."

Or worse, the condescending, "How SWEET."

Our daughter has always been an honor student. Starting in high school she carried full loads of classes, extracurriculars, held jobs and was active in church. In college she has added dance company and sorority to her resume.

I want these people to realize it takes guts to pursue her dream of becoming a dancer/choreographer and not major in something more conventional. We support her decision, and she already has her associate's degree in a field that will be useful as a backup. Why can't people understand that fine arts majors are brave, bold and passionate about their crafts? — DANCER'S MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR DANCER'S MOM: If you react to the comments in a positive way rather than become defensive, they would give you the opening to smile and tell these "conventional thinkers" how proud you are of your daughter's choice to pursue her dreams, that her courage in pursuing a field as competitive as entertainment is more than "nice" and you admire her for it.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440,

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make personal improvements. Participate in events that will give you insight into things you can do to make your life better. A day trip to visit someone you regard highly or discussing concerns with a trusted friend is favored. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll find it difficult to make up your mind. Emotions will take over, causing uncertainty. Rely on someone you know you can depend on to help you make the best choice. Don't let anger lead you down a slippery slope you'll regret. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take part in an event that will test your strength, intelligence and ability. Learn from experience, and pace yourself to ensure success. How you treat others will determine how well you are received. Trust your instincts. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Aim to please, but don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness. Ask others to pitch in and help so you can achieve twice as much to make a difference. Your organization and preparation will be rewarded. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let the changes

THE LAST WORD
Eugenia Word

others make concern you. Concentrate on what's best for you and what will help the important relationships in your life flourish. A physical challenge should be met with intelligence as well as brawn. Avoid indulgent behavior. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone will outsmart you if you aren't careful. Don't fall for deceptive tactics or someone trying to hide something from you. Ask questions and get facts from reliable sources. Use discipline and integrity to bring about change. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sign up for a course or retreat. Don't let anyone pressure you to make a personal or physical change that you don't want to make. Don't let minor setbacks discourage you. Physical activity will relieve stress and anxiety. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put more time and effort into the way you look, a creative pursuit you want to tackle or a day trip to visit someone special. A change will do you good and help you realize how much you mean to someone you love. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen and assess situations without offering too much information. The less people know about you, the easier it will be for you to get what you want. Someone will offer you false information if you show signs of vulnerability. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Positive change at home will bring you closer to the ones you love. Romance should be a priority, along with activities that will make your surroundings comfortable and convenient. Embrace change and new beginnings. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep an eye on what everyone around you is doing. Back away from unpredictable people or anyone using persuasive tactics to part you from your money or possessions. Choose intelligence when dealing with children or your lover. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A reunion will spark new interest in something you used to do. Someone you have done business with will make a proposal. Don't commit until you've discussed your intentions with someone who will be affected by your decision. ★★★★★

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

June 10: Actress Alexandra Stewart ("Under the Cherry Moon") is 79. Singer Shirley Alston Reeves of The Shirelles is 77. Actor Andrew Stevens is 63. Bassist Kim Deal of The Pixies and The Breeders is 57.

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 SGE GCKZF HIKED SIK LDYDRXDP
UKKP GZP CDPRYGT LDTRDU LRFIH
GUHDL SKLTP SGL RR. — GAPLDJ
IDWNALZ

Previous Solution: "Heard... that enlistments for women in the Marines were open, so decided... to join." — 21-year-old Bea Arthur
TODAY'S CLUE: *1950s*
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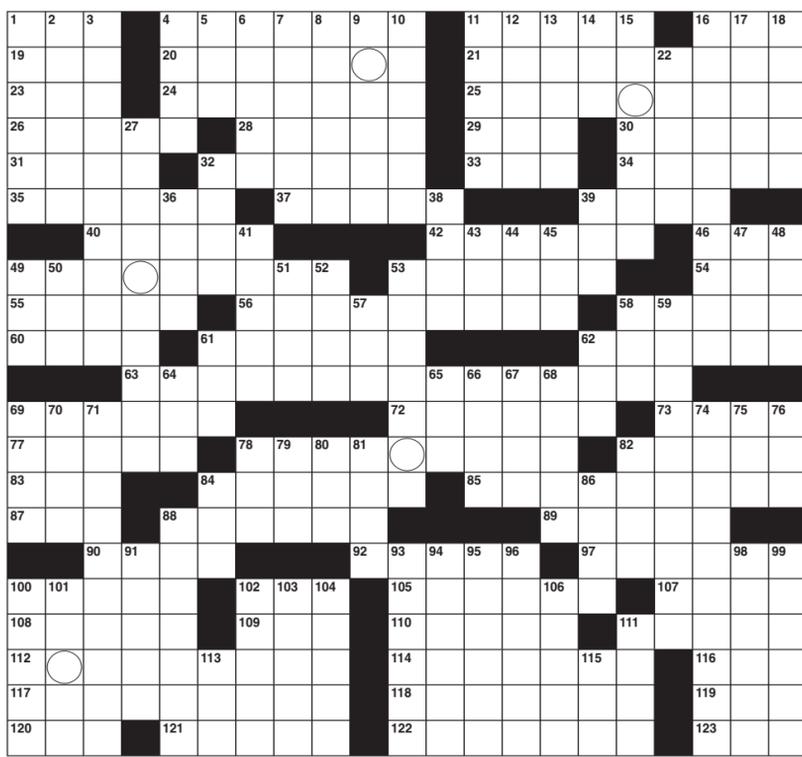
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

No. 0603

PROVING THEM WRONG

BY DAVID J. KAHN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

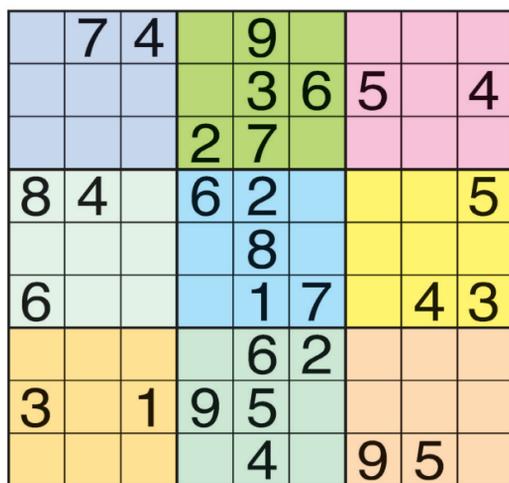
- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| ACROSS | 55 Salary negotiator | 111 Temple of Isis site | 22 "Say cheese!" |
| 1 Overawe | 56 Alternated | 112 Where General Mills is headquartered | 27 County name in 30 states |
| 4 Things falling out of Vogue? | 58 Dress down | 114 Bank trouble? | 32 House speaker after Boehner |
| 11 Words to a Spanish sweetheart | 60 Winner of 11 Grand Slam tennis titles | 116 Dated | 36 Sidesplitter |
| 16 Mover but not a shaker (one hopes) | 61 Common seasoning for Italian sausage | 117 "Be there in a jiffy!" | 38 ___ platter |
| 19 Atlantic 10 Conf. school | 62 Elected | 118 Not be straight | 39 "Runaway" singer Shannon, 1961 |
| 20 Where techno music originated | 63 Sports axiom refuted by this puzzle | 119 Cold War-era inits. | 41 "I'm off" |
| 21 Belly | 69 "The Handmaid's Tale" author | 121 Eppie's adoptive father, in a George Eliot novel | 43 "My dear man" |
| 23 Camel's-hair color | 72 Not with it | 122 Suffragist Elizabeth Cady ___ | 44 Novelist Patchett |
| 24 Surplus | 73 Place in a 1969 western | 123 Not opposin' | 45 Fastball, in baseball slang |
| 25 Where the Sun shines? | 77 Serious devotee | | 47 See 18-Down |
| 26 Doesn't let it go | 78 Papal-conclave members | DOWN | 48 Sharp |
| 28 "Star Wars" name | 82 Ghostly | 1 Is up to the task | 49 Pick up |
| 29 Got into a mess? | 83 He said, "It's not bragging if you can back it up" | 2 Winston Churchill, notably | 50 Back |
| 30 Pie-eyed | 84 Group with five members in this puzzle, with "the" | 3 One concerned with aging? | 51 Unaccompanied |
| 31 Wee bit | 85 Court plea | 4 Wedding pair | 52 Company name ender after "&" |
| 32 Call it a day ... or a career | 87 Sleep stage | 5 State since 1864: Abbr. | 53 First U.S. city to host the Olympics |
| 33 Sunday delivery: Abbr. | 88 Relief | 6 McQueen or King | 57 "Baseball" documentarian Burns |
| 34 Woolly ruminant | 89 Play the part of | 7 Things that corrections correct | 58 Half a step? |
| 35 Very lowbrow | 90 Father of Phobos, the god of fear | 8 Tour hiree | 59 What ballplayers look forward to after playing on the road |
| 37 Fabulous fabulist | 92 Sound of the South | 9 Aggressive types | 61 Sustained |
| 39 Achievement | 97 Liability of note? | 10 Typical intro? | 62 Cartoon collectible |
| 40 Riverboat hazard | 100 Swagger | 11 Heavy winds | 64 Mortar carrier |
| 42 Linguists' interests | 102 ___ Minella (Muppet monkey) | 12 Maternally related | 65 Hampton ___ |
| 46 Boat that landed on 94-Down | 105 City ENE of Cleveland, O. | 13 Colleague of Freud | 66 Words of confidence |
| 49 Final, countrywide competition | 107 Lady's title | 14 Encountered | 67 Court plea, briefly |
| 53 ___ tap | 108 Anticipate | 15 Relatives of bobolinks | 68 Opera set in 1800 Rome |
| 54 Go (for) | 109 Ball bearer | 16 Only African-American to win an Oscar, Tony and Emmy for acting | 69 Not even close? |
| | 110 Fruit-soda brand | 17 Relevant, legally | 70 Floor piece |
| | | 18 With 47-Down, driver's question | 71 German hunting dog |



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 74 1904 Jack London novel | 81 Harriet Beecher Stowe novel subtitled "A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp" | 93 Points (to) | 102 Prop for a lion tamer |
| 75 Your, to Yves | 82 Lining up against | 94 See 46-Across | 103 Insurance giant |
| 76 Caste member | 84 Ways of doing things, for short | 95 Actress Ryder | 104 Some calls on a police hotline |
| 78 State with five teams in the 84-Across: Abbr. | 86 Numerical prefix | 96 Admits | 106 Kind of chips you shouldn't eat |
| 79 Double-platinum album for Steely Dan | 88 Parlor pieces | 98 Charlotte ___ (Caribbean capital) | 108 Kind of chips you shouldn't eat |
| 80 Mythological bird | 91 Bankrupts | 99 Proffer | 111 Before being outed, for short |
| | | 100 Greek island where Pythagoras and Epicurus were born | 113 H.S. study |
| | | 101 Delivery that's usually expected | 115 Native Oklahoman |

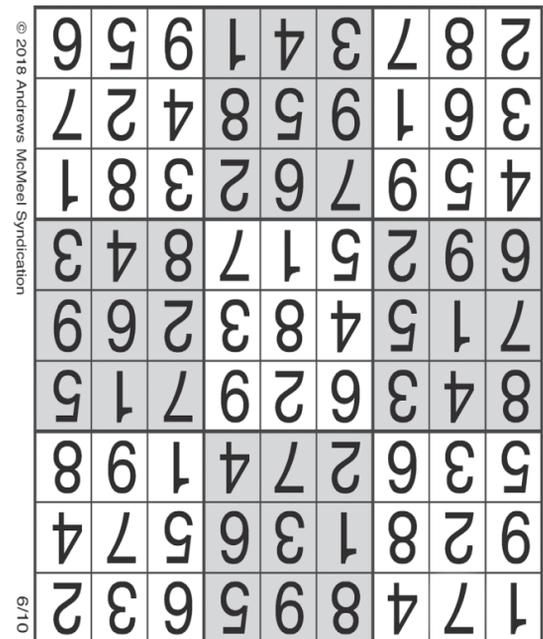
UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Answer to last Sunday's Crossword



NONJOTOS



Patrick Raycraft/Hartford Courant/TNS

Ethan Mott, 8, is given encouragement and well wishes by his principal Lauren Rodriguez as well as students, staff and faculty members during a hearty sendoff at a school assembly for him on Wednesday afternoon, on May 5, 2018. Ethan, a second-grader at Southeast Elementary School in Mansfield Center, has won an invitation to go to the National Invention Convention in Dearborn, Michigan where he'll also accept his third-place national award. **Inset:** Ethan invented the flashing dog bowl which frames his face.

Eight-year-old honored for invention

By Peter Marteka
The Hartford Courant

Good inventors are constantly tinkering with their inventions.

Second-grader Ethan Mott — inventor of the “Flashing Dogbowl” — has been tinkering with his invention ever since he created it. And he may still be tinkering with it as he heads to the National Invention Convention in Dearborn, Mich., hap-

pening through June 2, to accept a national award.

“I was originally going to make it flash, but I decided it was going to be scary for a dog maybe, so I changed it to a straight lightbulb,” Ethan said of one of the many changes he’s made.

Ethan took third place in the kindergarten to second-grade category, and will join other young inventors from across the country at the convention at the Henry Ford Museum.

Ethan, 8, was honored during an assembly at Southeast Elementary School in Mansfield. He talked about his invention and Principal Lauren Rodriguez played his YouTube video showcasing the dog bowl.

Ethan’s invention alerts dog owners when their pet’s water bowl is nearly empty. The 8-year-old said his dog drank out of a clear water bowl and he never knew when it was empty.

The invention is made up of a wooden box that holds a water bowl. When the water is low, a light activates notifying the owner that more water needs to be placed in the bowl.

“It was hard to tell because the bowl was clear and the water was clear,” Ethan said of his own experiences of filling his dog’s water bowl. “So now it’s an easier way to tell because there is a weight sensor and it pushes down so you

know when your dog needs more water because the lightbulb comes on.”

Susan Irvine, the teacher who runs the invention program at Southeast Elementary, said Ethan was never satisfied with his invention. And that’s a good thing.

“I think what made him stand out from others is he went through the whole process,” she said. “He had a great idea. Lots of people have great ideas, but he fol-

lowed through, improved his idea, modified it when he thought through about the flashing might bother the dog. He changed it from cardboard to wood. He spent a lot of time going beyond just the idea and the whole inventing process.”

So after he collects his award this weekend?

“Get this in a store maybe? But I think I have to get a patent first before I ask Petco,” Ethan said.



Griffin named Good Citizen by DAR

Ben Daniel/Jasper Studios

Austin Andrew Griffin of Hamilton High School, Jasper, Florida, was recently presented the prestigious DAR Good Citizen Award by Linda Johns, chapter regent of the Edward Rutledge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR Good Citizen program is a way to recognize high school seniors who exhibit the qualities of good citizenship in their homes, schools, and communities. The student selected as a school’s DAR Good Citizen has demonstrated in an outstanding way the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.

Court ponders Facebook friends

From Florida News Service

In a dispute about whether a Miami-Dade County judge should be disqualified from a case, Florida Supreme Court justices grappled Thursday with a basic, but seemingly complicated, question: Are Facebook friends different from other types of friends?

And more specifically, should a judge step away from a case when a lawyer for one of the parties is her Facebook friend — even though judges and lawyers might be friendly in other settings?

Justice Peggy Quince said the issue focuses on where to “draw the line.”

“When I go out to lunch with someone, isn’t that a public acknowledgment that we have some kind of relationship?” Quince asked attorney Maury Udell, who was arguing that Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge Beatrice Butchko should be disqualified from a case because of a Facebook friendship with a lawyer.

Udell represents the Herssein Law Group, which has been locked in a legal battle with a former client, United States Automobile Association, about attorney fees and alleged fraud and breach of contract. The law firm sought the disqualification of Butchko because she was a Facebook friend with attorney Israel Reyes, who was hired to represent a company official in the case.

Butchko refused to step aside, leading the Herssein Law Group to take the issue to the 3rd District Court of Appeal. After losing at the appeals court, the Herssein Law Group went to the Supreme Court, which agreed to consider the issue.

Udell said he wasn’t arguing “judges can’t be on Facebook.” But he pointed to the need for judges to avoid an appearance of impropriety, which could influence whether people think they are getting fair trials.

“Just don’t be Facebook friends with lawyers who appear in front you,” he

said. “It goes back to the word I came up (with) in the beginning (of Thursday’s arguments) — which is optics. It just doesn’t look right.”

Some justices, however, repeatedly returned to the issue of whether Facebook friendships are different from other types of friendships that judges might have with lawyers. They also raised scenarios about people having numerous Facebook friends, some of whom they might only know casually or not at all.

“It seems to me that the reality of Facebook friendship is that Facebook friends frequently are friends of a friend of a friend of a friend. It’s this network, and it extends out,” said Justice Charles Canady, who noted he is not on Facebook. “And so the idea that somehow participating in that networking arrangement somehow establishes the kind of relationship with anybody who happens to come into it that would result in disqualification just is not consistent with what our case law has said about traditional friendship.”

Udell focused, in part, on opinions by the state Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and the 4th District Court of Appeal that conflicted with the ruling by the 3rd District Court of Appeal in the Butchko case.

But Suzanne Labrit, an attorney for USAA, said the 3rd District Court of Appeal properly ruled that “the fact that a judge is Facebook friends with a lawyer for a witness or a potential party, without more, does not provide a basis for disqualification.”

Labrit also said the Supreme Court must assume that judges will follow judicial-conduct standards and handle cases impartially.

“We can’t have a system that operates based on the suspicions of, sort of, the outliers,” she said.