



Ave returns to PC class

Veteran driver Tony Ave is looking forward to competing in the IMSA Prototype Challenge class in 2018.

LOCAL SPORTS, Page A7

Fire assessment method on agenda

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Highlands County commissioners have a resolution in front of them this morning to establish a method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for fire protection.

Commissioners also have a resolution to consider in support of solar power cooperatives, in so much as the county will provide free meeting space for proponents to hold information sessions on the matter for the general public. Today's meeting of the Highlands County Board of County Commission will take place at 9 a.m. at 600 S. Commerce Ave. in Sebring.

The fire assessment resolution, as written, points out that it seems the best method of collecting the assessments — which will not be based on property values — is to use the same financial mechanisms also used to collect property value-based taxes. The difference is that the fire assessments, based on square footage and zoning categories, will be earmarked specifically for fire equipment, apparatus,

facilities and personnel. It's the next step in the creation of a municipal services benefit unit (MSBU). The next steps will include:

- Sending the resolution, if adopted, to the Florida Department of Revenue, the Highlands County Property Appraiser and the Highlands County Tax Collector.

- Setting a public hearing in January 2018 to adopt a fire protection assessment ordinance.

- Setting a public hearing in April 2018 to adopt an initial assessment resolution that will describe the fire protection services, facilities and program, with totals for fire protection cost, fire assessment apportionment and estimated assessment rates — with maximum rates.

- Developing an initial assessment roll, prepared by County Administrator Randy Vosburg.

- Setting a public hearing in June 2018 to adopt a final assessment resolution and final assessment roll, which would be sent to the Tax Collector for collection in November.

FIRE | 6

2 AP Council members to seek re-election

By MARC VALERO
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Two City Council members said Monday they would like to serve another term while a third Council member, whose term also ends next year, says it is too early to think about it.

Deputy Mayor Brenda Gray said, "I think I am going to run again; yes, I will."

"I love the City of Avon Park; I want to see it prosper and go forward and I want to be a part of that."

She is seeking her sixth term on the Council. The terms are three years.

Council member Dora Smith, who is in her first term, said she will seek re-election.

Smith stressed that she is not a politician, but has been trying to help the city and its residents.



GRAY

have been a lot of positive things for Avon Park."

While she is not a good "public speaker," she is a good listener and has other good abilities, Smith said. She will likely not participate in any debates.

"I want to be judged on what I do when people are not looking," she said. "I am thinking I will not accept any campaign donations; I don't want to owe anybody anything."

Council member Terry Heston said the election is a "long way away."

"I haven't even

COUNCIL | 6

Agri Leader

Marvin Kahn going into Citrus Hall of Fame

By PHIL ATTINGER
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — To go along with an iconic status in Highlands County, Marvin Kahn of Kahn Citrus Management will have that same status, officially, in Florida.

One might argue Marvin Kahn has had that status statewide for a long time. He owns several hundred acres of groves and his company, originally under the name Kahn Grove Service Co., provides grove development, caretaking and marketing expertise to new and experienced grove owners along with managing thousands of acres of citrus.

The announcement that the Citrus Hall of Fame would include Kahn among the 2018 inductees came Dec. 8 during an event at the Peter Powell Roberts Museum in Avon Park. He will share the induction honor with Gene Albrigo,

research scientist at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Citrus Research and Education Center at Lake Alfred.

The induction luncheon will be 11:30 a.m. March 9, 2018, at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Tickets are available at the Florida Citrus Mutual at 863-682-1111 or at the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame website at FloridaCitrusHallofFame.com.

Kahn's father, Mike, was a Jewish immigrant from Lithuania who heard about the opportunity to own land in the Heartland and run his own grove. He got into the business in 1930 at age 32 with a 20-acre grove. He would later add more groves and after his death at age 52, his wife, Sadie — Marvin's mother — would take over. Eventually all the groves were divided among their children. Marvin



COURTESY PHOTO/FLOIDA CITRUS HALL OF FAME

Jim Ellis, a member of the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, on left, shakes hands with Marvin Kahn of Sebring, one of the next inductees. Kahn's induction ceremony lunch is slated for March 9 at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

Kahn would be the only family member left in the business. He started his business with 400 acres and grew it up to 5,500 acres at its peak.

"I've got sand in my shoes," Marvin Kahn once told a reporter for Highlands Today. "My

first memories were in a home with orange groves all around me, on all sides of me. I've got that kind of memory and love for the business."

Marvin Kahn was a founding member and first president of the Highlands County Citrus Growers Association, which helped protect industry interests during early development of the state's comprehensive plan. He served on the Florida Citrus Commission for eight years and worked on the Long-Range Planning Committee many years after that.

Over five decades, he has served in several leadership roles to help protect growers' property rights, and as an early practitioner of water management, promptly invested in overhead sprinklers for his groves. As part of a work group for the Southwest Florida Water Management District, he helped develop the state's first water use caution area. He also was a

KAHN | 6



Marvin Kahn, on left, speaks with friends at an event Dec. 8 at the Peter Powell Roberts Museum in Avon Park. Kahn is set to be one of two citrus leaders to be inducted this coming March into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame.

Lake Placid Elks hold children's party

By MEGAN SMITH
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid Elks Lodge No. 2661 put on a special Christmas party for children on Sunday, Dec. 17. The Lake Placid Elks has been putting on the Children's Christmas Party for years; back in the 1980s, the men used to hand out hamburger coupons to the children in attendance.

This year's party was put together by the Lady President Susan McGuinnis, along with Evelyn Cresse and Marge Holbrook. The trio received a lot of help from a dedicated team of volunteers.

McGuinnis was a Sunday school teacher for many years and enjoys working with children. Volunteers from Toby the Clown Foundation dressed up as Santa's elves to help out and entertain the kids.

The party started out with crafts, balloon art and face painting. Elf Rosebud called the children to gather around and play a few rounds of "Duck, Duck, Goose"



MEGAN SMITH/CORRESPONDENT

Mia Sophia Guzinski posing with the clowns from Toby the Clown Foundation.

and "Doggie, Doggie, Where's Your Bone?" The clowns performed some skits that had everyone in the room laughing out loud and also led

the children in pretending to help paint Santa's workshop.

The children sang traditional

ELKS | 6



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Viewpoints A4-5
Weather News Wire

Good Morning To
Daniel Paige
Thanks for reading!



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**will be in concert at the
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as only Eirinn can perform them!!**

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All proceeds benefit the Champion for Children Foundation

The Champion for Children Foundation has been providing abuse and neglect prevention services, as well as early intervention programs to Highlands County children and families since 1994.



Purchase at Circle Theatre Box Office - Wednesday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

202 Circle Park Dr, Sebring, FL 33870 • (863) 382-1029

OR ONLINE AT:

For the December 22nd show go to:

www.tickets.sunevents.com/e/christmas-abu-122217

For the December 23rd show go to:

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All donations to the Champion for Children Foundation are tax deductible.



VIEWPOINTS

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

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OUR VIEW

Harassment policy update is appropriate

The week that Time magazine named “The Silence Breakers” the person of the year, and after months of revelations in the media of sexual harassment and abuse in high levels of U.S. government and industry, Gov. Rick Scott issued new sexual harassment policies for state employees.

About time, said some Democrats. Timely and appropriate, we believe. Resignations from Congress and ousters of high-profile executives have heightened recognition of pernicious, predatory workplace behavior and sparked a national (perhaps worldwide) re-examination of workplace policies. Scott’s executive order requires that all new state agency employees go through sexual harassment training within a month of their hiring date. Supervisors also will receive “additional training” — yet specified.

The order sets up a smart process for reporting alleged violations. State agencies will designate specific employees who will receive all complaints. Sexual harassment complaints will be subject to “prompt review” — also yet undefined. Key to the process is that complaints will not be handled by direct supervisors, but a disinterested person out of the supervisory loop.

Making his announcement, Scott made a broad renunciation, “We cannot tolerate sexual harassment at all in Florida.”

A laudable goal, no doubt. Scott steered clear of potential overreach, leaving the order to cover the 110,000 state agency employees under Scott’s direct authority, including the prison system, health department and Department of Children and Families. It does not apply to legislative or court employees.

The statement also came less than two weeks after a Scott appointee to the state Public Service Commission — former state Rep. Ritch Workman of Melbourne — resigned after accusations by state Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto of Fort Myers that Workman had harassed her. Benacquisto, the Republican chairwoman of the Senate Rules Committee, said Workman made “vulgar and inappropriate comments and gestures” during a public charity event last year, according to Politico Florida.

After his executive order statement last week, Scott refused to comment on Workman’s situation, other than saying he “did the right thing for his family.”

Nevertheless, the resignation, and the governor’s executive order, should help reinforce the need for workplace rules that protect individuals from harassment or oppressive work environments. State government should set the standard.

As the Tampa Bay Times noted, a six-page memo was distributed by the Department of State to all state employees. In it, sexual harassment was defined as: “unwelcome requests or demands for sexual favors or unwelcome sexual advances; non-consensual touching of another person’s body, including kissing, rubbing, pinching, patting, hugging, groping or intentionally brushing against the person’s body; repeated requests for dates or invitations to social events (and) using sexually degrading or insulting words or innuendos to describe an individual.”

That’s a good definition to work by — for state workers and all others.

— Sun Newspapers

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. We will not accept any Letters to the Editor that mention a business in a negative tone, as they have no means to defend themselves. Please keep Letters to the Editor to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as for grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name – not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. In the case of letters that are emailed, the same rules apply.

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

The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse, and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. The newspaper takes no responsibility for the content of these letters.

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

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Most likely scenario: Only Trump survives Trump

The past two months of electoral losses for the Trump GOP feel very familiar.

Newly-elected President Barack Obama’s party lost off-year gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey, and suffered a stunning upset in a Senate race it had no business losing in Massachusetts. Donald Trump’s party lost off-year gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey, and suffered a stunning upset in a Senate race it had no business losing in Alabama.

We don’t know if Trump will experience a midterm shellacking on par with Obama’s in 2010, or, getting more speculative, go on to win re-election anyway. But every indication is that Obama and Trump are similar in that their modes of operating work much better for them than their parties.

Both pioneered a different way of doing presidential politics, and built a new coalition for victory. But no one could replicate Obama’s model, and so far, no one has shown any signs of successfully adapting to, let alone copying, Trump’s.

Other Democrats didn’t have Obama’s personal magnetism, or ability to present garden-variety liberal positions as a middle way born of excruciating



COLUMNIST

Rich Lowry

thoughtfulness. They weren’t bonded to the base and capable of turning it out in record numbers. They weren’t running elections nationwide where the so-called coalition of the ascendant could truly make its electoral presence felt.

As a result, the only Democrat left standing after the Obama years was Obama himself. Trump could be creating a similar dynamic.

His behavior is designed to make the other side fear and hate him as much as possible. The president finds this entertaining, and it has the added advantage of convincing his voters that, whatever his other flaws, Trump has “the right enemies.”

The problem is that all the people stirred up into a lather of anti-Trump

loathing might want to do something with all their pent-up energy — like vote. With Trump nowhere near a ballot for the next three years, the only alternative is to take it out on the nearest person with an “R” next to his name.

Ed Gillespie ran away from Trump and lost in Virginia. Roy Moore ran toward Trump (with a lot of excess baggage) and lost in Alabama. One was a wonky establishment Republican careful to sand away any hard edges in his political persona; the other was an obstreperous and ignorant insurgent Republican who prided himself on his outrageousness. It didn’t matter.

They both were defeated the same way, holding their own Republican voters but getting overwhelmed by a tide of millennials, suburbanites and minorities motivated by their abiding animus toward Trump.

The backlash that conventional wisdom thought Trump would create among these voters in 2016, to his own detriment, is coming about in 2017, to the detriment of his fellow Republicans. They can’t rely on the circumstances or the personal qualities that helped Trump get over the top last year.

They don’t have the luxury

of losing the popular vote and still winning elections. They don’t have the advantage of running against a historically bad candidate in Hillary Clinton. They don’t have Trump’s star power, brazen self-confidence, knack for diminishing opponents, innate sense for culture war politics, and dominance of and understanding of the media.

This gets to the idiocy of Steve Bannon’s project to try to run Trump-like insurgents everywhere. Bannon is trying to recapture the magic of 2016 without the one indispensable ingredient — Trump himself.

Trump, too, labors under an unrealistic view of the meaning of 2016. Just because he won the presidency when he had an approval rating in the 30s, it doesn’t mean it’s a good idea to stay in the 30s. In the Alabama exit polls, Trump’s approval rating was 48 percent; if it had been 51 percent, it might have been enough for Moore to win.

With the right opponent and the right conditions in 2020, Trump may be able to win re-election — after his party gets decimated underneath him. We’ve seen this movie before.

Rich Lowry can be reached via email: comments.lowry@nationalreview.com.

Kudos to our saviors in Alabama

I agree with Roy Moore. There really is a God.

But I’m talking about a sane compassionate God - not the bigoted, homophobic, hate-filled God that Moore sought to impose on Alabama and this benighted nation. I’m talking about a God whose spirit burned bright in the hundreds of thousands of citizens who pulled us back from the amoral abyss Tuesday night. I’m talking about the people who saved us from the most repugnant manifestations of Trumpism.

Trump and Moore made quite a team: a lying serial sexual harasser and a mall-trawling serial teen harasser. Moore functioned as Trump’s mini-me, attacking female accusers and spewing the usual tinpot tripe about “fake news.” And Trump assumed he had political muscle in a state that he won last year by 28 points. Instead, the two credibly accused perves - along with Trump’s dirtbag doppelganger, Steve Bannon — suffered an ignominious defeat.

Did Trump have muscle in Alabama? Nope. According to the exit polls, 51 percent of voters said his repeated endorsements of Moore wasn’t a factor, and among those 56 percent voted for his opponent, Doug Jones. That was the ballgame right there.

By the way, Trump won 62 percent of the presidential vote in 2016, but his Alabama approval rating has dropped to 48 percent. Even in Alabama, he’s bleeding badly. Combine



COLUMNIST

Dick Polman

that with everything else we know - his national approval rating in the latest Pew poll is 32 percent; his party lost the gubernatorial races last month in Virginia and New Jersey; his party trails by roughly 10 points in the generic midterm election balloting - and it’s possible that Alabama is his dead canary in the coal mine.

So much for the losers (including Alabama’s white evangelicals, who betrayed their morals by giving Moore 81 percent of their votes). Let’s put our hands together for the winners: African-Americans. By turning out in numbers that far exceeded expectations (29 percent of last night’s electorate, with 96 percent of their votes going to Jones), they pulled Alabama into the 21st century.

Apparently it didn’t sit well with these black citizens that Moore was openly pining for the good old days of slavery and musing that America would be better off without the constitutional amendment that guarantees equal protection of the

law. Nor did it probably sit well that Trump came to Alabama and denounced kneeling black athletes as SOBs.

Women. There’s no way of knowing whether they were turned off by Moore’s cruising of teens, or his stated belief that America would be better off without the constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote, or his belief that Muslims shouldn’t serve in government, or his belief that America is evil because it allows gay marriage, or his alliance with a “president” who’s accused of harassment by at least 16 women. Whatever the mix, the numbers tell the tale: They favored Jones over Moore by a whopping 16 points, 57 to 41.

Moore’s female accusers. By a 20-point margin, women voters said the allegations about Moore were true. Indeed, among mothers with children under 18, Jones won by 34 points, 66 to 32.

Richard Shelby. Last weekend, Alabama’s senior Republican senator put country above party, urging his constituents to write in a “distinguished” Republican. He thus defied Trump, Bannon, the Republican National Committee (which sent Moore \$150,000), and his own state GOP. Though Shelby’s influence is hard to measure, he deserves some of the credit for arresting our race to the bottom. Which brings us to...

Senate Republicans. They’re winners too, inadvertently so. A Moore

victory would’ve made their lives hell. A Moore defeat frees them from conducting an ethics investigation and contemplating expulsion. A Moore defeat spares them from having to answer press questions every time Moore opened his yap. They get enough grief as it is from Trump’s moronic tweets.

On the other hand, Jones’ ascent to the Senate narrows the Republican majority to 51-49, which means the GOP has even less margin for error as it labors to deliver legislative wins for Trump in 2018. The party still seems determined to enact a tax “reform” bill that screws the working- and middle-class voters, a bill most Americans strongly oppose, and Jones won’t be sworn in until after it’s passed. But there’s hope for 2018 that at least a few Republican senators will read the Alabama tea leaves and act in the national interest.

As conservative columnist Jennifer Rubin says, “If pure, undistilled Trumpism is a dud in a deep-red state, perhaps Republicans will conclude it is a failed political philosophy for the country at large.”

If so, then there truly is a God.

Dick Polman is the national political columnist at NewsWorks/WHYY in *Philadelphia* and a *Writer in Residence* at the University of Pennsylvania. Email him at dickpolman7@gmail.com. Columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily that of the Highlands News-Sun.

Jones' Bama victory will be hard to duplicate

Turnout would be the key to which of the wildly conflicting polls would best presage the result of Alabama's special Senate election, wrote Republican consultant Patrick Ruffini earlier this week.

That proved correct. Statewide, turnout was down 37 percent from November 2016. It was down less, 31 percent, in the five metropolitan counties around Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery and Mobile, with their black communities and most of the state's highly educated whites.

Turnout was down by even less, 28 percent, in the 10 rural counties where the majority of voters are black. But it plunged 42 percent in the remaining 52 small counties. As the returns came in, you could see Republican Roy Moore reaching his target percentages — but not the raw votes he needed. Donald Trump carried those counties by 568,000 votes. Moore did so by only 149,000.

So Democrat Doug Jones, with big majorities in the metropolitan (61 percent) and black-majority (76 percent) counties, beat Moore by a 50-48 percent margin in a state that has voted 60 to 62 percent Republican in the past four presidential elections.

Moore was a problematic candidate from the outset. He was twice ousted as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court for disobeying federal court orders, in violation of the supremacy clause in Article 6 of the Constitution. He also argued that Muslims cannot take the oath of office, in violation of Article 6's ban on religious tests for office. In 2012, he was elected chief justice with 52 percent of the vote, far behind Mitt Romney's 61 percent.

Moore might still have won but for The Washington Post's scrupulously vetted Nov. 9 story reporting that in his 30s, he dated teenage girls and sexually molested a 14-year-old. Moore's denials were ham-handed and unpersuasive.

The majority of Alabama voters are evangelical Christians. Many white evangelicals were clearly sickened by the charges and stayed home, voted for Jones or, like the state's senior senator, Richard Shelby, wrote in someone else. Black evangelicals streamed into the polls in large numbers.

Liberal commentators like to chide white evangelicals by noting that many heavily white evangelical areas have



COLUMNIST

Michael Barone

high rates of divorce and unmarried births. The same could be said of black evangelicals. Nonetheless, many such voters lament breaches of traditional morality and seek candidates who uphold their higher, though often violated, standards.

There are multiple losers from the Alabama result. One is Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota, who promised to resign in "coming weeks" while denying misconduct far short of that alleged against Moore. Minnesota's governor has announced his replacement, and Franken will surely be gone soon.

Gone also are Democrats' hopes of capitalizing on what would have been an inevitable Senate Ethics Committee investigation of Moore and a probable vote to expel him from the Senate. Mainstream media, which carefully avoided coverage of the bribery trial of Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, would have joined gleefully in portraying Moore as the face of the Republican Party.

Republicans are losers, as well. Their Senate majority is reduced to only 51-49, so Majority Leader Mitch McConnell can afford to lose only one colleague on partisan roll calls. Democrats' chances of winning a Senate majority next year increase, though perhaps not to the 50-50 level

some claim. They need wins in marginal Nevada and Arizona, and their chances of saving their 10 incumbents in states carried by Trump — five by wide margins — look better.

But the biggest loser is surely Breitbart News leader and former Trump aide Steve Bannon. He has been operating under the delusion that as a private citizen, he can spark a national rebellion aimed at somehow removing McConnell as majority leader. Now it's clear that the only possible replacement is Democrat Chuck Schumer.

Bannon campaigned actively for Moore, who would probably have won the nomination even without his help, while Trump endorsed appointed incumbent Luther Strange. Given Jones' small margin, it's obvious that Strange or Rep. Mo Brooks, who finished third in the primary, would have won Tuesday.

Jones deserves credit for a flawless campaign, but his example of taking ultraliberal positions on abortion and immigration may lead Democrats to nominate similar candidates in races against less problematic Republicans. And would Jones have beaten Moore if the Senate had been 50-50 and his win would have led to Democratic control?

Jones' victory depended on multiple Republican mistakes, enumerated in an amusing tweetstorm by The New York Times' Alexander Burns, much as a lock picker depends on getting every tumbler to fall into place. The result is consequential but won't be easy to replicate.

Michael Barone is a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and longtime co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.

Newsday Crossword

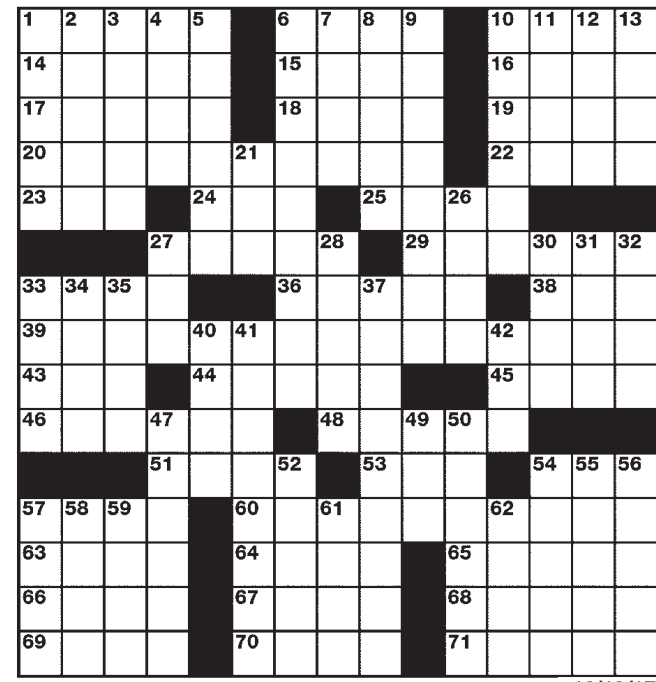
TIMELY CHEER by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Boxing venue
- 6 Quite pleased
- 10 Baby's bed
- 14 Of the moon
- 15 Shoestring
- 16 Make over
- 17 Early afternoon hr.
- 18 Author unknown: Abbr.
- 19 "Once ___ a time . . ."
- 20 People with deeds to dwellings
- 22 Castaway's home
- 23 ___ day now (pretty soon)
- 24 Camcorder button
- 25 Current events
- 27 Computer storage measures
- 29 Spanish party
- 33 Pottery material
- 36 Actor Matt
- 38 Heavy weight
- 39 Group that runs an inn
- 43 Solid ___ rock
- 44 Short golf strokes
- 45 Is indebted to
- 46 Puts a new price on
- 48 "All kidding . . ."
- 49 Flying mammals
- 53 Before, in poetry
- 54 Resort with hot springs
- 57 Walks away
- 60 Magician's word
- 63 Anger

DOWN

- 1 Honolulu greeting
- 2 Talk too much
- 3 Foe
- 4 Back of the neck
- 5 National Guard outpost
- 6 Examined quickly
- 7 Narrow street
- 8 Squirrel snack
- 9 Major visibility problem for drivers
- 10 Ocean liner vacation
- 11 Salespeople, for short
- 12 Revered star
- 13 Dog biscuit shape, often
- 21 Moist
- 26 Champagne or Chablis
- 27 Parting word
- 28 Speaker of the cheer in question
- 30 Soup's thicker relative
- 31 Voicemail sound
- 32 Bugs in colonies
- 33 Burn a bit
- 34 Come in second
- 35 Rat-___ (knocking sound)
- 37 Some rubdown experts
- 40 Women's links org.
- 41 Requires
- 42 "Miney" follower
- 47 Not in class
- 49 Taxing org.
- 50 Oust from power
- 52 Sun-powered
- 54 Bloodhound's trail
- 55 Handbag
- 56 Autumn flower
- 57 Hold firmly
- 58 Rowboat propellers
- 59 Swelled heads
- 61 Hernando's home
- 62 Baking appliance



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Look for a third crossword in *The News Wire* section.

Answer to previous puzzle



12/19/17

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

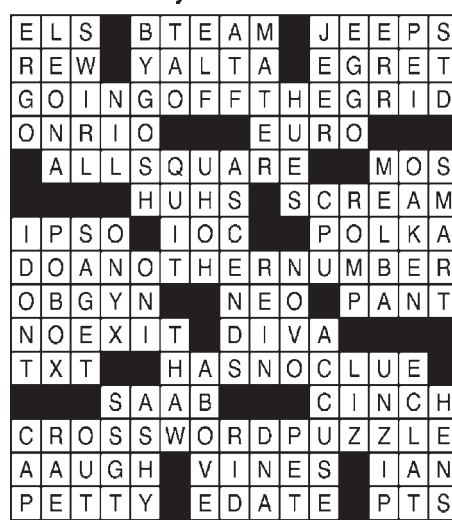
- 1 Fire remnants
- 6 "___", all ye faithful
- 11 Dazzle
- 14 Companion of reduce and recycle
- 15 Log dwelling
- 16 Composer Florem
- 17 Music medium that succeeded the cassette tape
- 19 Martini liquor
- 20 Confer knighthood on
- 21 Camping gear retailer
- 22 Verdi creation
- 24 Music legend known as the First Lady of Song
- 29 Yale grads
- 30 State strongly
- 31 Gelatin dish
- 33 Lucy's old sitcom partner
- 35 42-Across doubled
- 38 Equipment for rock bands
- 42 35-Across halved
- 43 Grandson of Adam
- 44 Formally gives up
- 45 Test for an aspiring atty.
- 47 Anti-fur-farming org.
- 48 Lennon-McCartney collection whose publishing rights were once owned by Michael Jackson
- 54 South Beach city
- 55 ___ Baba
- 56 Michelle of the LPGA
- 57 Bath's land: Abbr.
- 58 When strung together, musical sequence represented by the initials of 17-, 24-, 38- and 48-Across
- 63 Birthday count
- 64 Gold purity unit
- 65 Lives like a nomad
- 66 Partner of neither
- 67 Searches for
- 68 Stockholm native

DOWN

- 1 Paris' ___ Triomphe
- 2 South Korean capital
- 3 Comeuppance that's "eaten"
- 4 Seer's claim
- 5 Watery expanse
- 6 Group of eight
- 7 Spanish port city
- 8 ___-Wan Kenobi
- 9 Play with spell
- 10 "Flux more music!"
- 11 Heavenly being
- 12 Really out there
- 13 Flamboyant Dame
- 18 NFL sportscaster Collinsworth
- 23 Golf course standard
- 25 Came down to earth
- 26 Pay stub acronym
- 27 Surprised sounds
- 28 Rotten to the core
- 31 Before now
- 32 Daylight provider
- 33 "Divine Comedy" poet
- 34 Revealing rock genre

By Grant Boroughs 12/19/17

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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Expires 12/31/17

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Expires 12/31/17

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ADVAIR DISKUS.....250/50MCG.....90DOSES\$145.36

ABILIFY.....30MG G..... 100 TABS.....\$165.32

SPIRIVA.....18MCG.....90 X CAP\$156.23

SYMBICORT TURBUHALER....160/4.5MCG B.... 360 DOSE\$167.45

ELIQUIS.....2.5/5 MG..... 180 TABS.....\$259.00

SOVALDI400 MG B.....84 TABS.....\$998.00

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VIAGRA GENERIC \$12900 100mg 40 tabs

CIALIS BRAND \$1900 20mg 20 tabs a pill 24/36

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OBITUARIES

Nancy B. Stephens

Nancy Beth Stevenson Stephens, a lifelong resident, passed away Dec. 16, 2017 in Sebring. She was born to Lois Mason and Daniel Roberson Stevenson on Feb. 1, 1924



in Sebring, Florida. She is predeceased by her husband of 67 years, M.E. "Eddie" Stephens III; daughter, Susan Stephens Bayless; and sisters, Lilly Bess Stevenson, Shirley Hines, and Lois Stevenson McKay Bryant of Jackson, Mississippi.

Nancy graduated from Sebring High School in 1942. She and Eddie were married on June 1, 1944 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, shortly before he was deployed to Europe on the Queen Elizabeth II during World War II.

Nancy lived a long wonderful life. She took great pride in working alongside her husband in their family citrus business. She was an incredibly supportive and loving wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Nancy enjoyed golf, entertaining, reading, traveling with family and was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church in Sebring. She was involved with the early years of the Sebring races and organized the Annual Stephens Memorial Golf Tournament held at Harder Hall for 11 years. Eddie and Nancy enjoyed spending summers at their home in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. More than anything, Nancy loved being with her family, enjoying meals prepared with love, and watching magnificent sunsets from their patio on Lake Jackson.

Nancy is survived by her brother, James Stevenson (Judy) of Clearwater; daughter, Beth Infantino (Tom) of Winter Park; son, Steve Stephens (Mollie) of Sebring; seven grandchildren, Chris Dinklage, Win Stephens (Rebekah), Brian Dinklage (Marie), David Stephens (Heidi), Katie O'Neal Jackson (Steven), John Hill O'Neal, Jr. (Caroline), and Stephen Infantino (Andrea); and 14 great-grandchildren, Merrill, Jacob, Riley, Andrew, Oren, Evan, Nolen, Taylor, Sloane, Margaret Nell, Lyda, Davison, Julia and Dylan. Nancy is also survived by a large extended family of nieces and nephews, their children and grandchildren.

Nancy's last years were made pleasant and comfortable by her devoted caregivers, Shirley Massaline and Una Morris, as well as the staff at the Palms of Sebring.

A funeral service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Sebring, 319 Poinsettia Ave., at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017 with the Rev. Darrell Peer officiating. The interment will take place immediately following the service at Pinecrest Cemetery in Sebring, Florida. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be to a favorite charity.

Arrangements are under the direction of Dowden Funeral Home, 2605 Bayview St., Sebring, FL 33870; 863-385-1546.

Words of Comfort

If we are loved and remembered, then we live on forever in the hearts of those who love us.

-Ted Menten



COURTESY PHOTO/MARVIN KAHN

From left, Mike Kahn with his son, Marvin, are seen here in this undated photo. Mike Kahn's interest in the citrus business began as a result of early morning breakfasts with businessman Henry Crutchfield, one of the area's leading grove owners. In 1930, Mike Kahn purchased a 20-acre grove, the first of many.

KAHN

FROM PAGE 1

founding member of the Highlands County 4-H Club Foundation and established the Florida Cracker Trail Association and Florida Cracker Trail Ride to recreate part of the state's cattle industry history.

Albrigo retired in

2010. However, his research has focused on the interaction of citrus trees and fruit with pests, diseases and environmental stresses has helped protect the fruit from canker and helped growers understand the symptom development of greening. His research on citrus flowering has resulted in "Flower Bud Induction Advisory"

reports and the development of increase flower induction through nutritional sprays. His graduate students are in influential positions in the Florida industry and throughout the world. Among his more than 130 published works is the book "Citrus," co-written with Fred S. Davies, which covers all aspects of citrus production.

ELKS

FROM PAGE 1

Christmas carols with the elves and volunteers. All of the children cheered with delight when Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus made their grand entrance and sat down in the rocking chairs near the fireplace.

One by one, Santa Claus called out the names of each child, gave them a wrapped present and took a picture with them. After meeting with Santa, all of the children went to their tables to open their presents and feast on hot dogs.

Helene Guzinski, one of the parents present, said she had just moved to the area and found out about the Children's Christmas Party when her neighbor told her about it. She and



MEGAN SMITH/CORRESPONDENT

Alistair Smith opening his present from Santa.

her daughter enjoyed themselves thoroughly and said they would definitely come again next year.

"Events like this are great for the kids in the community," Guzinski said. "There should be more things like this."

All of the children left the party with a special gift, a full belly and a big smile.



Santa posing with Reese and Paula Smith.

FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

This past November, the county commission created the MSBU out of unincorporated Highlands County and Lake Placid town limits. It would assess residents, landowners and businesses to help pay for uniform fire services. Commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of it; Commissioner Ron Handley was absent.

Another resolution on the agenda has, in contrast, no specific financial implications to the county, other than the cost of providing free meeting space. In contrast to the unanimous support the fire assessment has received from the board, solar power cooperatives have had mixed responses. On Dec. 5, they told Audrey Ascitutto of Highlands County Solar Outreach they wanted to study a proposed resolution she had for them to review and have county staff come back with one at a later date.

As stated by Ascitutto on Dec. 5, Florida boasts a 110 percent growth rate in residential solar permits, one of the highest in the nation, and homeowners in Highlands County have a growing interest to reduce their energy bills,

generate pollution-free renewable energy, and to be resilient to storms and hurricanes.

It states that both in Florida and other parts of the country, neighborhood solar purchasing co-ops have been created in partnership with several counties and city governments as voluntary groups buying solar panels or other solar infrastructure in bulk for their members as a way to make solar power more affordable. They are also meant to provide technical expertise to the property owners.

The resolution states that Solar United Neighbors of Florida is in the process of setting up several solar purchasing co-ops in Highlands County. Some of the organization's solar purchasing co-ops around the country include moderate income neighborhoods.

By signing the resolution, the county commission would direct county staff to provide venues and other in-kind support for informational meetings on solar purchasing co-ops. Also, the resolution states the board encourages Solar United Neighbors of Florida to work with each county office on hosting information sessions in each commission district.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

thought about it," he said.

In 2015, there was no City Council election because there were three seats that were expiring and three candidates. Gray and Heston sought to retain their seats and Smith filled the seat vacated by Garrett Anderson, who did not run for re-election to the Council.

Anderson was elected mayor in 2016.

City Clerk Bonnie Barwick noted that due



SMITH HESTON

to a charter change the Council members are sworn in the first meeting after the election has been verified.

She said those seeking to prefile can do so after the first of the year.

If needed, the City Council election would be held Nov. 6, 2018.

Anderson's and Jim Barnard's terms expire in November 2019.

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LOCAL SPORTS

Butler thrilled with Classic berth Trip to big tournament is a dream come true for angler

By **MIKE SUCHAN**
BASSMASTER

Ryan Butler discovered there is crying in bass fishing.

Butler was overcome with emotion several times on his two-hour ride home from the Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship Classic Fish-Off, where he won the final berth to the

2018 GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by DICK'S Sporting Goods.

Contacted Monday, he chuckled a couple times when asked if it's sunk in yet.

"Brother, I am on cloud nine," he said. "I came back to work today; it's been one person after another congratulating me. Every 20 minutes yesterday, I'd ask my wife, 'Can you believe I'm

fishing the Classic?'"

Yep, the 36 year old is the pride of Blue Eye, Missouri, a village of about 100 just south of Table Rock Lake. Well, more like the hero of the entire region and all his Joe Bass series brethren, who've been slamming his phone with congrats and "Go get 'ems." He got visual evidence right down his road in the sign at JJ Junction Market,

where on tournament mornings he gets gas and coffee.

"A lot of the fellow competitors in Joe Bass I typically see once a month are reaching out to me," he said, "pulling for me and offering words of encouragement. 'You got this.' 'You're just as good as they are.' 'Just do what Ryan knows how to do and you'll be fine.' The support has been



RONNIE MOORE/B.A.S.S. PHOTO

Ryan Butler is thrilled with a catch.

unbelievable." Butler hands credit back to just about everyone in the fishing crazy

region, starting with his father and grandfather.

THRILLED | 8

Ave ready to race



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

Paul Fix drives the No. 44 Ave-Riley AR2 LMP3 at Sebring International Raceway.

Veteran driver only US manufacturer of car

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Veteran sports car racer Tony Ave is looking forward to 2018 and his return to the IMSA Prototype Challenge Presented by Mazda Series. As a manufacturer in the series, Ave has a unique perspective on the series and his team's results with the debut of the Ave-Riley AR-2 chassis in 2017.

There are six IMSA-authorized LMP3 constructors in the world — the majority of which are in Europe — but the Ave-Riley chassis is the only American-built car, and the Ave-Riley AR-2 that Ave is driving is the first one to ever be built.

The car was designed by sports car legend Bill Riley, and is being manufactured under the leadership of Ave, who used to be a Riley

Technologies test driver.

Ave says the top attributes the car has, includes the car being more forgiving and therefore easier to drive. It also doesn't hurt that everything is made right here in United States.

"Nothing is shipped from overseas — we do everything in North Carolina," he said. "Also, having the technical support from the Rileys is a big deal to us, too." In 2018, the No. 44 entry will be fielded by a combination of series newcomer Josh Hurley and veteran Gary Gibson sharing the car to maximize performance and results in the newly formatted series.

"Last season, I think the biggest thing for us was that we didn't necessarily have a budget as much as we wanted — we did the best we could with what

we had," Ave said. "But I drove the last race of the season this year and it ran very well. We weren't quite fast enough to win, but we were in it. Since then, we have run the car twice and I think we are right there."

Ave certainly approves of Prototype Challenge's new format with the series shifting from its longtime sprint race format of two 45-minute races per event weekend to a single one-hour, 45-minute endurance race.

"The feedback we've gotten so far with the Ave car and the competitors' cars is that the AR-2 car tends to be easier to drive and easier on the tires," Ave said. "I love the new format where we can have a longer run and mix it up between a few drivers. This plays in our favor."

"I like sprint racing but

guys enjoy splitting the car and that can make it a little more interesting too," Ave said. "If people want to move up to WeatherTech [SportsCar Championship], they need experience doing pit stops and driver changes, so this new format just really makes sense."

Ave attributes his sports car success both in the Trans Am world and now IMSA to his team's exceptional customer service, which he notes as a significant value to potential buyers and an extra edge at the track.

"For us, customer service is an automatic," he said. "Before we did this within IMSA, we did Trans Am cars. And over the last 10 years, we've sold almost 30 cars. A big part of our business

AVE | 8

LOCAL SPORTS BRIEFS

Lake Placid Senior Softball practice

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

For further league information, please visit lpsoftball.com.

After School Tennis Program

The After School Tennis Program at the Thakkar Tennis Center at the Country Club of Sebring will resume on Jan. 8 and run through Feb. 2. The classes are for tennis players aged 4 to 18 and are taught by USPTA Certified Tennis Professional Horace Watkis, formerly part of Chicago's famous Mid-Town Tennis Club Pro Staff and Head Pro at Frenchman's Cover in Port Antonio, Jamaica.

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

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

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

Highlands Hammock Half Marathon and 5K

The Friends of Highlands Hammock State Park will present the 10th Annual

Highlands Hammock Half Marathon & 5K at the park on Saturday, Jan. 13 with a 7:30 a.m. start for both distances. The Central Florida Striders running club under the direction of Chet Brojek will manage race timing and scoring. All proceeds from the event will benefit park projects.

Entry fee for the 5K is \$20 and Half Marathon fee is \$40 thru January 6, 2018. Late fees are \$25 for the 5K and \$50 for the Half Marathon thru race day registration. Participants will get a custom designed sport tech tee, awards in both races, food, fun and a great chance to test their skills in the new year.

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

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

Sebring senior softball sign-ups

Sign-ups for the 2018 Highlands County senior softball season are now taking place. Those born in 1949 or earlier can play in the Softball 70s league and can call John Kloett at 863-414-2926 for more information. Those 55 and older can call Gary Kindle at 863-835-2405 for information on the Senior 55s league. The league begins the second week of January.

LPAA shooting for Phase One Group seeking to raise funds for new sport facility

By **TOM MEISENHEIMER**
CORRESPONDENT

When a person or group has a passion for a worthwhile cause, nothing can stop them. Such is the case of the Lake Placid Athletic Association, which has a 50-year history of supporting the local sports of basketball, baseball, football,

volleyball, swimming, cheerleading, wrestling, soccer, cross country, weight lifting, track, tennis, golf, flag football and softball.

Association secretary Laura Teal agrees. Her passionate goal, with the help of the community, is to raise \$400,000 to build a sport facility to help young people develop as strong athletes and

become the leaders of tomorrow.

"The county owns an existing building near the high school. They have given it to us, but we are responsible to complete the interior," she said. "We have \$30,000 set aside and need \$60,000 to begin Phase One of placing interior block walls."

Ten years ago the

school board, because of budget restraints, elected not to provide money for high school and middle school equipment or uniforms. It also became the responsibility of the coaches and players to seek donations to provide transportation to and from their games.

"Our upcoming

LPAA | 8



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

The future home of the Lake Placid Youth Athletic Complex. The LPAA is raising money to begin Phase One to begin the interior work which will eventually include lockers, showers and a state of the art weight room. The building will be available for various inside sports tournaments.

LCAA

FROM PAGE 7

annual dinner-dance set for Jan. 20 will raise about \$4,000,” said Teal. “All told we will raise between \$10,000 and \$15,000 this year to support the high school and middle school teams with equipment and uniforms. But, the Association’s major goal to complete the multi use sports facility will take sponsorship from the community.”

The Lake Placid High School weight room for example is extremely small. The new facility will offer a state of the art weight and workout area. Lockers will be built and there will be an area for the players to review weekly films in preparation for the next weeks’ games. There will be room to hold various team tournaments.

“We have sent a letter to over 30 businesses asking for support,” said Teal. “A significant donor can be offered naming rights. We have needs for what are called ‘in-kind’ gifts. Business can support us with materials like masonry, concrete block, drywall, light

and plumbing fixtures, cabinetry and other materials at reduced pricing.”

Steve Griffin owner of Griffin Trees, Inc. offered his thoughts for support.

“There are 30 games played on the Lake Placid football field every year,” he said. “That includes the high school, middle school and youth teams. We raise money by selling advertising signage. A simple sign offers tremendous advertising for a company. Unlike a highway billboard that you see in passing, these signs have a captive audience for the entire length of a game. Being a sponsor is a real cost-effective value for a business. That is one small way a business can offer support for our kids’ development and our major project.”

A sponsor supporting the Lake Placid Athletic Association is not simply a donor, but a partner in their work on behalf of young athletes. Their gifts give them access to an audience, a venue to display their services as well as generating goodwill, creating influence and driving sales, not to mention a tax benefit.



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

The future home of the Lake Placid Youth Athletic Complex. The county owns the building, but the Lake Placid Athletic Association is responsible to develop the interior

With the stock market surging daily a sponsorship gift to the LPAA makes a lot of sense too, especially for those needing a tax break in 2017. A check made out to LPAA can be sent to P. O. Box 1936, Lake Placid, Florida, 33862.

The Association is eager to begin Phase One and they can when they meet their first goal of \$60,000. Area individuals can help meet that goal with an end of the

year gift, small or large. Simply call Laura Teal at 863-465-7702 at her work place or her cell at 863-441-0729 for more details about this major project and how you can get involved.

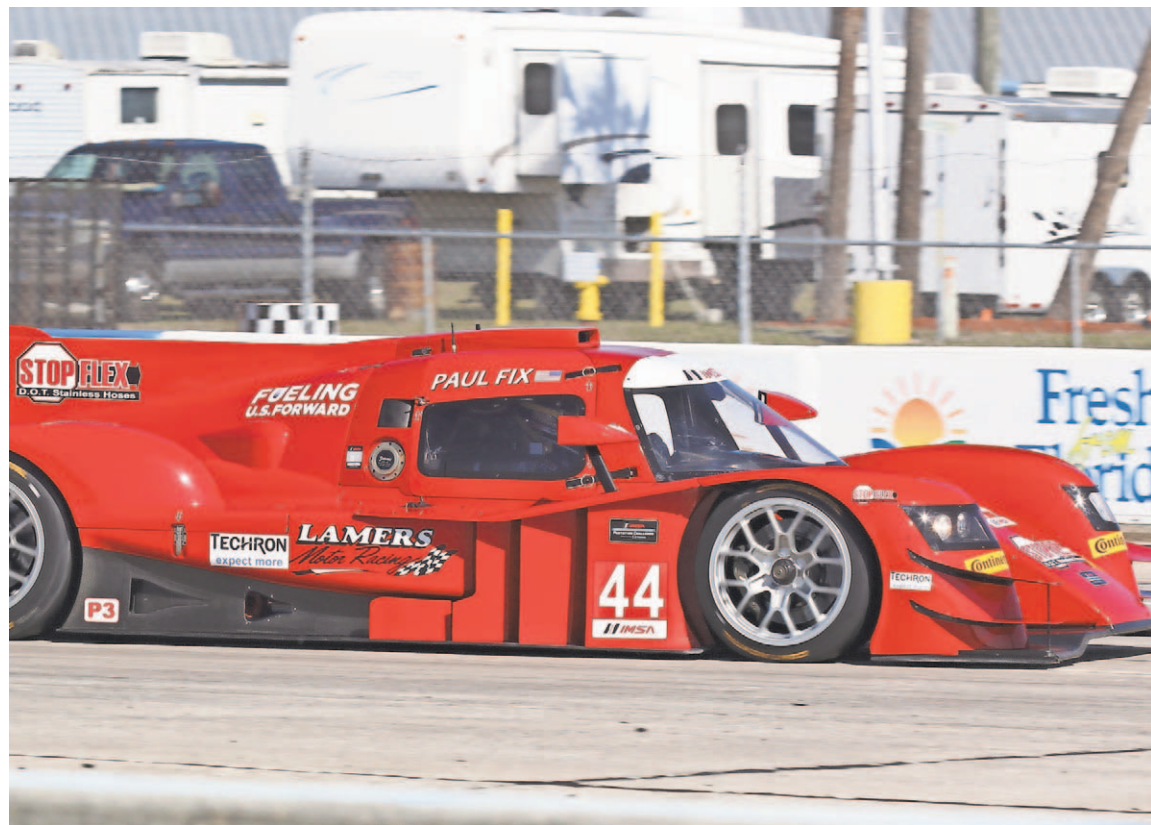
You can also reserve tickets for their third annual Benchwarmers Ball which will be held Jan. 20 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Elks Lodge in Lake Placid. Tickets are \$50 and include a prime rib or

stuffed chicken dinner and dancing to the Shannon Reed Band. Dance only from 9 p.m. to midnight for a gift of \$10. Table sponsorships which include eight tickets are \$500. Raffle items are much appreciated.

The Association is offering youth teams an incentive to help sell tickets. Teams selling 10 tickets receive \$100. The team selling the most tickets receives \$500;

second highest, \$250. If a team decorates a table to showcase their sport they will win \$50. Each team will also receive \$50 for getting a raffle or auction item donated for the evening festivities.

Folks are always generous at the end of the year. The Lake Placid Athletic Association would appreciate your generosity for their support of our future leaders.



ALLEN MOODY/STAFF

The No. 44 Ave-Riley AR2 of Paul Fix races around Sebring International Raceway.

THRILLED

FROM PAGE 7

He includes those who’ve helped lead him down his path to realizing the dream of fishing a Classic. He said he’s in good company with last year’s Team qualifier, Scott Clift, who hails just a couple hours north of him.

“Blue eye is made up of good people, genuine people,” Butler said. “There’s hunting, fishing, the outdoors is a big part of these peoples’ lives. It’s a big accomplishment for me and my family, but I want to share this with everybody. Everybody who’s ever shared the boat with me along the way. Everybody has contributed to me getting here. It’s a team deal. It’s not all about Ryan. It’s about my family and friends and the community.

“No better place to live than Blue Eye. I grew up on the shores of Table Rock Lake and my dad and grandpa got me out early. There’s a lot of bass boats running around Blue Eye. These tough anglers have all pushed me to get where I am today, so I’m thankful for that.”

The March 12-15 Classic on Lake Hartwell out of Greenville, S.C., is still three months away, but ever the strategizing angler, Butler is already developing a plan of

attack. After clinching his berth on chilly Lake Norfolk Saturday afternoon, he didn’t take much time to celebrate or rest.

“It went from praying that I got in – I just kept telling myself, if I can just get in, going to the Classic is going to be sweet whether you catch fish or not,” he said. “Now that I got in, and now 24 hours later, I started thinking – I just can’t go out there and zero. I got to make a showing. I got the Ozark region to represent, buddies pulling for me.”

“You start to switch gears. I wanted to sleep in and get some rest Sunday. At 6 a.m. I was down in the basement watching reruns of the 2015 Classic, trying to soak it in, figure out what the lake looks like.”

Butler has tons more homework to put in, especially since the farthest east he’s ever fished is Kentucky Lake. When he gets to South Carolina for the first official practice days, he knows he’s going to have to catch lightning in a bottle to even stand a chance.

The odds of him winning, or even making the cut, would undoubtedly create a decent payout. He’s already beat long odds, being the one from 11,000 registered Bassmaster Team Championship anglers who competed in 55 team trails across the country.

“When I go out there with a limited practice in March, it’s going to take a little bit of luck. Everyone at this level has the skill,” he said. “Unfortunately for me, I don’t have the knowledge of the lake. I’ll have to stumble onto something.”

“It’s going to be here before I know it. It’s three months away. I want to prepare for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I want to represent my community.”

Regionally, Butler has done rather well in events in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. He said he’s hit tournaments hard since he was around 20, but his full-time job with the local electric company has made it hard to get away a lot of times.

“There’s not another guy out there who’s more passionate about the sport than me,” he said. “I’ve got a day job and family and they come first, and fishing comes second.”

Bringing family to South Carolina is a concern for Butler, who wants to limit distractions. He suggested to his wife that the family find a house to rent for Classic week while he gets a room off by himself so he can better concentrate on the task at hand. He sure will cherish going across the weigh-in stage in front of his 6-year-old son, Luke, his newest fishing buddy.

A chip off the old block, Luke begged to throw a



RONNIE MOORE/B.A.S.S.

Ryan Butler celebrates his Team Championship victory with son, Luke.

baitcaster, and Ryan told him if he got consistent hitting a 5-gallon bucket that he’d rig him up some to fish.

“That little fellow worked his tail off every day after school to get where he could do it,” Butler said. “From daylight to dark, that kid never stopped. People bragged on him, saying he’s got a gift. I couldn’t be more proud of him. He thinks I’m it, and I think he’s it.”

That’s just what family life is like in Blue Eye. It’s the story, the lifestyle, the dream that right up the road Johnny Morris promotes from his Bass Pro Shops empire. It’s something that elicits tears from tough men, men who weather 10-degree mornings and worse to pursue those green fish.

AVE

FROM PAGE 7

is supporting customers at the racetrack — that’s how we get all that business. We have all the in-house carbon fiber stuff and we are very capable of supporting things past what most people think. The biggest thing I would say to new competitors is to talk to some of our other customers and ask them how great our service is. We take very good care of everyone.

“I think what we need to do now is to build on what we did at Road Atlanta in October and get some more podium results — that will speak for itself.”

About IMSA

The International Motor Sports Association, LLC (IMSA) was originally founded in 1969 and owns a long and rich history in sports car racing. Today, IMSA is the sanctioning

body of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, the premier sports car racing series in North America. IMSA also sanctions the Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge and the Prototype Challenge presented by Mazda, as well as four single-make series: Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge USA by Yokohama; Ultra 94 Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Canada by Yokohama; Ferrari Challenge North America; and Lamborghini Super Trofeo North America. IMSA — a company within the NASCAR family — is the exclusive strategic partner in North America with the Automobile Club de l’Ouest (ACO) which operates the 24 Hours of Le Mans as a part of the FIA World Endurance Championship. The partnership enables selected IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship competitors to earn automatic entries into the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans.

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Let's play



NEIL SIMPSON/COURTESY PHOTO

Tracy Vernest has worked as a registered nurse and an oncology nurse for nearly 40 years. Now she likes to work the pickleball court.

By NEIL SIMPSON
SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Today's woman is many things — a career person, homeowner, partner, parent, caregiver to an elderly relative and, with any luck, someone who takes time for herself.

Many of the participants in the annual Heartland Games For Active Adults have made time for themselves by taking up a hobby, a sport or another activity that provides them with mental and physical challenges to keep them young.

Much has been written in the Highlands News-Sun about the 70-, 80- and 90-year-olds who keep going strong and compete year after year in the Heartland Games. Today's article focuses on the younger women who find time to participate.

Kelly Cramer, a 51-year-old accomplished golfer who played in the Heartland Games for the first time this year, will be back again in 2018 and might also try bowling and track and field.

Cramer retired as a captain from the Michigan Department of Corrections and is supplementing

her pension traveling the country setting up Petco, Whole Food, Aldi's and Ross stores while finding time to play some of the better golf courses along the way.

A sports junkie in high school, Cramer competed in basketball, volleyball, track and softball and used her talents to pay for college as a softball player. Once working in Corrections, on the second shift, she had time to take up golf to fill her morning hours. When not on the road for work, Cramer plays at Placid Lakes and helps out in the

ATHLETES | 8

Four free-range holiday decorations

Today we're not talking about food. Don't worry — as we approach the holidays, there's going to be plenty of food talk. But, there's more to the holidays than food ... like the decorations! And I don't know about you, but factory-made plastic doesn't really say Christmas to me.

Now, we all have our favorite holiday ornaments and trinkets that we take out every year, but it's also nice to get outside and forage for beautiful (free) stuff to decorate with. This is a great thing to do with kids, by the way. Much nicer to take them outside to scavenge for decorations than to haul them through crazy lines at those big-box stores for more stuff that's going to eventually end up in a landfill.

If you haven't foraged for holiday decorations before, you're going to love this. No matter where you live, I'm sure you'll be able to find some great free stuff right outside your front door



DINNER DIVA

Leanne Ely

(or at least not too far away).

The following are some decorative items you may have right outside your home that won't cost you a penny:

- Pine cones. Pine cones look perfectly festive without any adornment at all, though some enjoy dipping them in glitter or spraying them with fake snow. Tie them from the Christmas tree or use as a centerpiece. Use your imagination.

- Fresh tree boughs. Take some branches from the cedar, pine,

LEANNE | 8

SAG Awards will feature only women presenters at 2018 ceremony

By NICOLE BITETTE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

In a year where women have fought to have their voices heard, the Screen Actors Guild announced that in January the annual award ceremony will feature only female presenters for the first time in history, Entertainment Weekly announced.

Executive producer of the SAG Awards Kathy Connell said the idea was to "salute our women" in a year where they have "very, very brave."

"We thought it was an opportunity to salute our women because it's not just about one issue," she said, referencing how so

many women — famous and not — came forward with their stories of sexual harassment and assault.

"Our women are very famous and yet they face the issues that women across this country do, which is they don't have equality in income. They don't have creative equality. And they have the same kind of safety issues that other women have been facing. We just thought we wanted to acknowledge as many wonderful women on our stage this year as we could, while we're celebrating the best

SAG | 8

The full spa experience

By DOROTHY L. HARRIS
CORRESPONDENT

SEBRING — Stepping into the Spa at Hammock Falls you are immediately greeted with the soothing stimuli of hushed voices, subdued lighting and comforting aromas hinting at the relaxation within.

This was the atmosphere owner, Thor Knutson, dreamed of providing to his clientele and what spurred him to create his own day spa a decade ago.

"Everything ties back to the clients' experience," he explained, gesturing to the elegant, thoughtful touches designed to provide a pleasant sensory experience.

Knutson had the building constructed specifically with spa treatments in mind. From the dual massage rooms complete with hydraulic, fully-adjustable and heated tables suitable for any size frame to the wet room with overhead plumbing fixtures and floor drains to enable a fully immersive body wrap experience, Knutson has thought of everything.

That includes lockers, cloth robes, cozy slippers and a complimentary beverage. Offering a choice of red or white wines, teas, soft drinks

or Fiji water, Knutson and his staff of five massage therapists are totally focused on providing a respite from the hectic moments of life.

Sebring resident, retired RN Darla Halterman, had just emerged from her most recent massage treatment.

"We had just moved and I was so sore, but now I'm all relaxed." A regular client for over a year, she was first introduced via a gift certificate from her son and now recommends The Spa at Hammock Falls to all her friends.

"This is something to do for you. We do so much for others," she added. "We need to care for ourselves too."

Tony Halterman was doing just that. A CNA for Florida Hospital, he finds his once-a-month massage eases the mental and physical wear and tear on his body.

"This is my stress reliever," he said.

Clients can choose from a variety of pampering manicures, pedicures and CND Shellac nails, facials, microdermabrasion, peels, lash tinting, waxing — for both men and women — and delightful body treatments.

Two facialists work from the spa's dedicated facial



DOROTHY L. HARRIS/ CORRESPONDENT

Darla Halterman of Sebring books her next massage with Dyanira Hendrickson, one of the massage therapists at the Spa at Hammock Falls.

room, another forethought of Knutson who now admits he's outgrown his carefully designed space.

"I always wanted to work at a great spa," he said, sharing some of his prior locations, including the Chateau Elan years before. "I decided I'd need to build it and after I got connected with this great

location, everything fell into place. For 10 years I've been living the dream."

Knutson soon, however, will find his vision expanding as he breaks ground on his new hair salons.

"The Salons at Hammock Falls will be a new building next to our current location and provide five stylists with

private 12-by-12 salon rooms."

Knutson is contemplating moving nails into the new building too, allowing for an additional dedicated facial room. "We've been very successful and I believe our emphasis on quality is why. We're not the biggest, but we

SPA | 8

Ladies, learn to catch freshwater fish

‘Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing’ University is Feb. 10

Special to the Highlands News-Sun

The popular “Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing!” University announces a freshwater fishing seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 at Bass Pro Shops, in Fort Myers.

Hosted by the nonprofit Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing Foundation, the educational event offers classroom instruction, conservation, hands-on fishing activities, networking, a fishing experience from land and gifts. The featured speaker is Capt. Mark King, an IGFA Certified Captain from Okeechobee.

Perfect for women, men and teens who want to learn local freshwater fishing, the program offers rod and reel basics, lure usage, casting techniques, fish retrieval, fish release, strategy and conservation, followed by hands-on fishing skill practice for releasing, dehooking/conservation, knot tying, lure usage, spin casting, fish fighting techniques and more. After lunch will be an all-release fishing experience from shore and networking. Fish species are bass and local freshwater favorites.

Equipment and lunch is provided. Attendance is limited to 25 people.

Bass Pro Shops is located at Gulf Coast Town Center, 10040 Gulf Center Drive in Fort Myers.

Featured on national network television and more, the series is supported by major partners including Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation, Mercury, Ranger Boats, Magic Tilt trailers, Penn, Humminbird, Minn Kota and Fish Florida.

Annual sponsors are ACR Electronics, Freedom Boat

Club, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, Treasure Cay Beach, Marina & Golf Resort, Sunrise Resort & Marina, AFTCO/Guy Harvey, Future Angler Foundation, Seaguar and Power-Pole.

Registration includes instruction, use of equipment, hands-on training, fishing from land, networking, gifts worth \$30, Bass Pro Shops discount and door prizes. No equipment or experience is necessary. Participants must register in advance. Online registration and information is on www.ladiesletsgofishing.com.

2018 LLGF events also include:

- March 23-25 — Gulf Coast/ Fort Myers saltwater weekend seminar
- April 27-29 — South Florida saltwater weekend seminar
- May 12 — Juno Beach Surf Fishing Seminar
- June 22-23 — Keys Fishing Adventure Learning on the Water
- Oct. 19-21 — Keys saltwater weekend seminar



COURTESY PHOTO

Betty Bauman with a bass she caught during one of the Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing events.



COURTESY PHOTO

The nonprofit Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing Foundation announces the Gulf Coast Freshwater Fishing University on Feb. 10 at Bass Pro Shops in Fort Myers.

Getting started with running? 3 female marathoners share their tips

By UZE KAUFMAN
GREATEST.COM

For the most part, women are already empowered. We don’t need to be told what we can or can’t do — we know that. What we need is to be celebrated for all the bold AF, creative AF, or boss AF sh*t we do. And that’s the No. 2 reason we love Adidas Running’s new campaign, Fearless AF.

The No. 1 reason we love it? Because it brought together some truly badass female runners for the New York City Marathon. Karlie Kloss (a first-time marathoner this year) joined up with

the legendary Kathrine Switzer (the first registered woman to run the Boston Marathon) and other incredible athletes such as Jessie Zapó and Robin Arzon. We tapped them for their best running tips. Here’s what they said:

1. FIND A BUDDY

Kathrine Switzer, who ran her first marathon back in 1967 and has run 38 since, said, “Have a buddy — and a buddy who will never keep you waiting.” Switzer also doesn’t think you need tons of fancy gear. “I wouldn’t overthink it in terms of getting shoes

and equipment and watches,” she said. “Just get your buddy and decide to put one foot in front of the other.”

2. MAKE IT FUN

Jessie Zapó, the Run Coach for Adidas Runners NYC, also stressed the importance of having a friend to run with. But make sure it’s someone you actually like hanging out with — all distances feel long when you’re running with someone who never stops talking. “Running is a fun activity when you do it with friends,” Zapó said. “So finding the fun in it is something that

can motivate you to keep doing it.”

3. THINK MINUTES, NOT MILES

Robin Arzon, an ultramarathoner (that’s any race longer than 26.2 miles) and VP of fitness programming at Peloton Cycle, said the mileage doesn’t matter, at least not at first. “Go out in minutes, not miles, to start,” Arzon said. “You could even take a 10-minute walk with your dog and then incrementally increase from there.” Basically, don’t worry about the distance until you’re training for a race. Just get moving.

Sandra Bullock says women of ‘Ocean’s 8’ ‘will fight right back’ against sexists

By ARIEL SCOTTI
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Don’t even try to come for Sandra Bullock and the women of “Ocean’s 8.”

The all-female spin-off of the popular “Ocean’s” trilogy saw heavy backlash from people who doubted the film’s ability to live up to its predecessors when it was first announced, and the naysayers were noticed by Bullock.

“We got some but boy, I mean, I’ll tell you, we’ve got some feisty women that will fight right back,” Bullock told Entertainment Weekly when asked if she heard any of the negative comments.

“It’s like, let’s just take a breath and let’s just see if we come up with something fun. There should be a moratorium. There should be a rule, you’re not allowed to say anything nasty until after it comes out. Obviously that’s never going to happen.”

Bullock cited the treatment by the internet

of the all-female cast of the 2016 reboot of “Ghostbusters” as an example of the attacks actresses sometimes face. “They did put them through hell,” she said.

“Ocean’s 8” stars Bullock as Debbie Ocean, sister of Danny (George Clooney in “Ocean’s 11,” 12 and 13), who, like her

brother, recruits a team of highly specialized thieves to pull off a major heist — this time at the Met Gala. Bullock costars in the film with an entourage of other powerhouse stars like Sarah Paulson, Rihanna, Mindy Kaling, Anne Hathaway and Cate Blanchett.

The Oscar winner

teased that if the film is successful and well received, an “Ocean’s” trilogy of her own may be in the future.

“Let’s see if we can take the original and then make our own version, sort of pay homage to the ‘Ocean’ series,” she said.

“If something strikes a chord, an ‘Ocean’s 9’ would be ideal.” “Ocean’s 8” premieres in theaters on June 8.

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Test Kitchen recipe: Lettuce wraps are a low-carb option

By Susan Selasky
DETROIT FREE PRESS

It seems every so often the low-carb craze reinvents itself.

My friend Debbie has been following a Ketogenic (keto) diet which drastically limits daily intakes of carbohydrates - especially the simple ones like those found in baked goods, pop and sweet snacks.

She's been very successful with a focus of eliminating sugar, eating the right fats (good fats like olives and nuts), but not overindulging in them and being mindful of when she's full.

Seeing her success, I decided I would at least begin to pay attention to carb-overload and foods with lots of refined sugars and empty calories. Good-bye bread and pizza.

Although I am an expert label reader, paying attention to reading every single label was daunting. So I decided to come up with my own recipes with ingredients I typically have on hand.

Today's recipe is a riff of sorts on a noodle bowl and lettuce wrap. The peanut sauce component stems from a recipe that I've used for a long time. It used a good amount of sugar, which I just eliminated completely and didn't miss it all.

Based on a loose calculation from the labels of the products I used, I figured the entire recipe has just under 50 grams of carbohydrates. I was impressed with the low amount. And the recipe

is so versatile and the leftovers last a few days.

The one product that works with these is the little gem lettuces. These are small, like only 2-3 inches in length and sold in a package containing six. They look like they came from the very inner portion of romaine lettuce. Because of their shape, you can use them like little cups. They are the perfect size if you want to serve this recipe as an appetizer.

For a larger, say lunch or dinner, portion, use mini romaine. These are a bit bigger than the little gem, but not as big as regular romaine. You will find them sold in packages of 3 in the produce section.

For this recipe, I used boneless, skinless chicken thighs that I ground myself in a food processor. Make sure the thighs are well-chilled before processing, which will prevent the chicken from becoming mushy. You can also use already ground chicken or turkey.

Asian ingredients are something I typically always have on hand, especially Sambal Oelek or ground chili paste. I use the one by Huy Fong foods with the green cap. You can also use one called ground chili garlic paste, with the addition of garlic. If you're unfamiliar with hoisin sauce, it's often referred to as a Chinese barbecue sauce.

When making the peanut sauce, be sure to adjust it to your own taste. It should have a peanut taste that's not overpowering and hinted

with the chili paste. You can also adjust the texture, I like it so it drips off a spoon and you can drizzle it over the wraps.

Finally, you can garnish to your hearts content with these. I like thinly sliced green onions and chopped cilantro. But you can also use very thin slivers of bell pepper or shredded carrot.

CHICKEN LETTUCE WRAPS WITH PEANUT SAUCE

Makes: 6 / Prep time: 20 minutes / Total time: 40 minutes

- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 large cloves garlic, peeled, minced
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups sliced shiitake mushrooms
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 1/2 pounds ground chicken thighs or ground turkey
- 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons reduced-sodium tamari or soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons Sambal Oelek (ground chili paste)

PEANUT SAUCE

- 2 tablespoons smooth peanut butter
- 1 1/2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- 1 1/2 tablespoons Sambal Oelek (ground chili paste)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons reduced-sodium tamari or soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar

2 tablespoons hot water

FOR SERVING

- 1 package little gem lettuce
 - Sliced green onion
 - Chopped cilantro
- In a large skillet, heat the oil. Add the garlic and sauté about 30 seconds or until fragrant. Add the onions and cook until just translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the mushroom slices and sauté until they are tender, another

3-5 minutes. Add the red pepper flakes and ground chicken. Cook, stirring and breaking up into pieces, until it's just cooked through. Stir in the hoisin sauce, rice wine vinegar, tamari and Sambal Oelek. Cook until the chicken is coated with the sauce and the mixture is hot.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl whisk together all the sauce ingredients. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed. If it's too thick add a

little more water or soy sauce to reach desired consistency.

Separate the lettuce into leaves. Add a heaping tablespoon of the chicken mixture to the lettuce cup, top with a drizzling of peanut sauce and sprinkle with green onions and cilantro.

From and tested by Susan Selasky for the Free Press Test Kitchen at Great Lakes Culinary Center in Southfield, Mich.

Aperitivo: Pre-dinner drink trend gains popularity

By CORIN HIRSCH
NEWSDAY

Not many people would do a double-take when invited to happy hour. The custom of getting tipsy on discounted drinks, often while nibbling fried food, is solidly American - and dates back to Prohibition.

Swap the term "happy hour" with aperitivo, however, and you might elicit a blank stare.

Yet aperitivo, happy hour's spiritual ancestor, is creeping back into vogue. The custom can be traced back to Italy in the late 18th century, when a Turin distiller named Antonio Benedetto Carpano steeped herbs in wine to create vermouth. In doing so, he jump-started a ritual of sipping bittersweet drinks (as well as eating snacks) before dinner that still persists across Italy.

So notes Kay Plunkett-Hogge in the book "Aperitivo: Drinks and Snacks for the Dolce Vita" (Mitchell Beazley, 2017), one of the excellent food and drink books published this year, which cinches together notes on vermouth, Campari and

bittersweet cocktail with recipes for pre-dinner nibbles such as Calabrian deviled eggs with 'nduja sausage and pancetta.

The book is part of an aperitivo zeitgeist. The pre-dinner custom (as well as its French counterpart, apéro) has been trending on social media, and light, fizzy aperitivo cocktails are multiplying across drinks menus - even if the concept founders slightly in the United States, where we tend to eat dinner pretty early, and soon after we get home.

Grabbing an hour to chill with a glass of sparkling wine or aperitif before dinner may seem indulgent, but gets the digestive juices flowing and is a ritual that deserves to persist past the holidays. Just keep it light - such as this twist on a Negroni that subs sparkling wine for gin called Negroni Sbagliato (listed in Plunkett-Hogge's book, and in various drinks books).

Combine 2 ounces each of Campari and red vermouth over ice in a rocks glass, and top with prosecco. Garnish with an orange slice or twist. Makes 1 drink.

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American Contract Bridge Club of Sebring: Duplicate bridge games are played at noon, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 347 N. Fernleaf Ave., Sebring. If you are not signed up to play, arrive before 11:45 a.m. If you need a partner, call 385-4956. For information, call 385-8118.

The Orchid Society of Highlands County: Meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday at the Jack R. Stroup Civic Center, 355 W. Center Ave., Sebring. Guests are always welcome and you don't have to be knowledgeable of orchids to attend. Call President Glenn Shellhammer at 863-471-6171.

Sebring Recreation Club: The club is located at 333 Pomegranate Ave. Call 385-2966.

Placid Lakes Party Bridge Club: Meets from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays at Placid Lakes Town Hall, 2010 Placid Lakes Blvd. Call 465-4888.

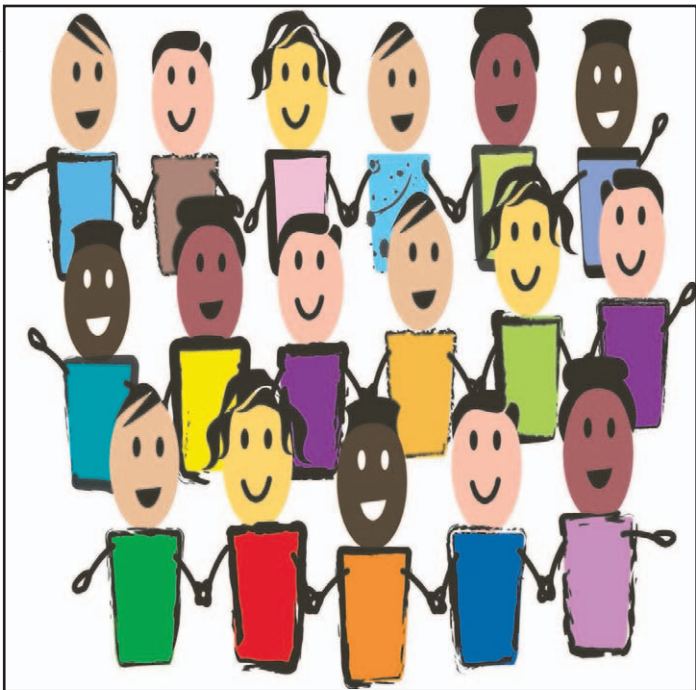
Highlands Art League: All kinds of art classes. Located at 1989 Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Call 385-5312.

Sebring Hills Association Hobby Club: Meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. weekly, year-round. Call 314-8905.

Sebring Doll Club: Meets at 10:30 a.m. the first Wednesday at Temple Israel Synagogue. Call Karen Goodwin at 655-1335 for details.

Sebring Hills Euchre Club: Meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday year-round. Call 382-0450 or 314-8905 for details.

MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers: Meets from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. every



second and fourth Thursday of the month.

There are activities, food, child care and more. Join other moms for a two-hour break at Grace Bible Church, 4541 Thunderbird Road. Visit www.mops.org or call the church at 382-1085.

Highlands County Genealogical Society: Meets at 2:30 p.m. the first Thursday each month in the Conference Room at the Sebring Chamber of Commerce, 227 U.S. 27 N. The public is invited. Single membership is \$12 per year and family membership is \$15 per year, payable and due in January. The society's library is now combined with the UDC Genealogy Room at the Lake Placid Public Library and is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday each week and the second Saturday each month, or by special appointment to do your research. For more information, call Mary at 863-452-5939 or Jeanette at 863-385-5857.

Placid Lakes Duplicate Bridge Club: Meets from 6 to 9 p.m. every other Thursday at Placid Lakes Town Hall, 2010 Placid Lakes Blvd. Call 465-2726 for schedule.

Placid Lakes Social Circle: Meets the second Thursday of the month (except holidays) at Placid Lakes Town Hall, 2010 Placid Lakes Blvd. Meeting is from 4-5 p.m., followed by food and games. For information, call 863-699-6331.

2017 Breakthrough: Bianca Lawson of 'Queen Sugar'

By NICOLE EVATT ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Now more than ever, "Queen Sugar" actress Bianca Lawson is thankful to work on a nurturing, female-led set helmed by Ava DuVernay and Oprah Winfrey.

"It's a gift because now you're hearing about all the stories," said Lawson, referencing the barrage of sexual harassment allegations rocking the entertainment industry. "It's like, wow, it's this prevalent? It makes you even more grateful to be on a set where you feel so safe, so taken care of."

Lawson has had a steady stream of television roles in shows like "The Vampire Diaries," "Teen Wolf" and "Pretty Little Liars," but said her most recent work on the OWN family drama has felt like a breakthrough

moment in her career.

"People are seeing me in a new light, in a different way," she said during a recent interview.

Before tackling the role of Darla, a recovering drug addict, Lawson did her research. The actress watched documentaries, poured through moving audio from Narcotics Anonymous meetings, visited chat boards and talked to people in her life that have been affected by addiction.

"My whole life I've been waiting to play a part like this, quite honestly. ... To work with these directors and to work with Ava, I could cry talking about her," said Lawson, tearing up. "This material and this environment, it's really like a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

It may seem like Lawson was destined for stardom. Her parents, Denise Gordy and

Richard Lawson, are actors and her stepmother is Tina Knowles, making Beyoncé and Solange Knowles her step-sisters. But the 38-year-old said her parents initially resisted her Hollywood dreams.

"They were just like, you know, be a kid, go to school," she recalled. "But I begged them. I wore them down!"

Lawson is overwhelmed by fan reactions and how Darla is resonating with audiences. Her work also moved Winfrey, a "Queen Sugar" executive producer, who pulled Lawson aside after her first day on set.

"She took my hand and she was like 'amazing work.' Can you imagine? ... She was like, 'I can tell you love Darla. I can tell because I can tell in your work,'" Lawson beamed. "End scene! What else do you need in life?"

US Sen. Elizabeth Warren gets 2nd turn as comic book hero

BOSTON (AP) — All comic book heroes need a sequel — even U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The Massachusetts Democrat was the focus last year of a 22-page comic titled "Female Force: Elizabeth Warren," which told the story of Warren's rise from Oklahoma schoolgirl to U.S. senator and champion of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

Now publisher TidalWave Comics is bringing out a sequel, "Female Force: Elizabeth Warren #2," chronicling

the early days of Warren's 2012 U.S. Senate campaign and her rise to power.

Instead of Batman battling the Joker, readers can follow along as Warren battles Congress to ease the burden of crushing student loan debt.

Past subjects of the "Female Force" series include Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, Condoleezza Rice, Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres (dih-JEN'-ur-us) and Nancy Pelosi (puh-LOH'-see).

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ATHLETES

FROM PAGE 1

pro shop. Cramer recently won gold at the Florida Senior Games and also took the longest drive competition with a 205 yard tee shot. She says the ladies she played with were awesome and encourages other women in their fifties to take a day off work, if necessary, to get out, meet new people and test their athletic prowess. The Heartland Games golf tournament will be held Saturday, Feb. 3 at Spring Lake's Panther Creek Course.

Raised in the United Kingdom, Karen Carlson, 55, has a vast background in sports having played soccer, volleyball, tennis, squash, pickleball and netball, a game similar to basketball. Netball originated in England in the 1890s and is played predominantly by females.

Carlson now plays pickleball, water volleyball, pool and darts as well as various card games.

Maintaining a full-time job limits Carlson's play time but she can be seen on the pickleball courts early in the morning most week-ends or in the pool on Sunday afternoons. She hasn't competed in the Heartland Games but has been encouraged by her friends to take part, not only for the competition, but also for the social aspect.

A full-time Floridian for just three years since retiring as an elementary gym teacher, Alisa Blackburn, 61, is able to immerse herself in sporting activities when she isn't driving the refreshment cart on the Sun 'n Lake golf courses.

Blackburn was a gymnast, volleyball player and a track competitor. She now plays pickleball and water volleyball and enjoys scuba diving and a variety of card games.

She played pickleball in the 2017 Heartland Games and other local tournaments and is looking forward to competing in the 2018 Riverbend and Tanglewood tournaments as well as playing in the Heartland Games again. She encourages other women to join her at the Heartland Games where they can challenge themselves, have some fun and meet other players. The Heartland Games pickleball tournament will be held at Tanglewood on Feb. 10 and 11.

Running her own carry-out pizza place in Syracuse, Indiana keeps Cindy Harper, 63, busy from May to October then she returns to Sebring where she has wintered the past five years. As a child, she loved to water ski and did a lot of skiing until her 40s.

At the age of 26, Harper took up tennis and this year she partnered with Jane Hollinger to take silver in the 60-64 Heartland



NEIL SIMPSON/COURTESY PHOTO

Luanne Kerr, 64, is determined but has lots of fun on the pickleball courts.

Games doubles tennis competition. Although they qualified to move on to the state senior games, they chose not to, but will be back in 2018 with the hopes of moving on to the Florida Senior Games and from there to the 2019 National Senior Games in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Now in her 32nd year with The School Board of Highlands County, Hollinger, 64, is the guidance clerk at Sebring High School. A full-time resident of Sebring since 1973, she fell in love with tennis in 1985 and is now starting her 20th year coaching the Sebring High School girls' tennis team. Hollinger likes activities on the water including boating, snorkeling, scuba diving and ocean fishing. She plans to compete in ladies' doubles tennis in the 2018 Heartland Games where she expect to meet new people who share her love of tennis.

A registered nurse for 38 years, the last 18 as an oncology nurse in the local cancer center near her home in Port Perry, Ontario, Tracy Vernest, 64, is now an avid pickleballer. Working full time and raising a family left her little time for sports. She took up curling, a Canadian favorite played on ice with heavy stones, in her late forties and, once retired, took up pickleball.

Wintering at Tanglewood, Vernest also golfs, rides her bike, line dances and plays shuffleboard. She competed in the 2017 Heartland Games pickleball tournament as it was being held in her "own backyard." The Games offered Vernest the chance to compete against teams one doesn't ordinarily meet and she encourages others to register to participate in the Heartland Games For Active Adults.

Piven, Jeffrey Tambor and countless others. But it wasn't only famous faces who spoke out against the unfair treatment of women — thousands of women shared their stories with the #MeToo hashtag on social media.

Time Magazine named its "Person of the Year" as the whole "MeToo" movement — or the silence breakers — and Merriam Webster's dictionary named "feminism" as its word of the year.

Connell said the idea came from a conversation with her daughter after attending

Another 64-year-old Canadian snowbird is Luanne Kerr. She stayed home to raise her four girls and never participated in any organized sports, except for the occasional game of golf. Her daughters were, however, entered into all sports; softball, soccer, swimming, figure skating, rugby, volleyball, basketball, hockey and ringette, a game much like hockey played mainly by females using a straight stick and a ring, rather than a puck. With the girls' hectic schedules, Kerr was kept busy driving, watching and helping out wherever she could.

Now that she's retired and enjoying the Florida lifestyle, Kerr manages to stay busy with pickleball, golf, jazzercise, line dancing, bike riding, euchre, hand and foot, and bingo. Kerr is effervescent and can be heard laughing joyously while playing pickleball. She joined euchre and pickleball in the 2017 Games and will do so again in 2018.

She sees the Games as a fun experience where you can enjoy some friendly competition while seeing how others are enjoying their retirement years. Kerr recommends that anyone 50 and older should get out and take advantage of the opportunities the Heartland Games provide. Kerr will be playing Euchre at Tanglewood on Thursday, Feb. 8.

The Heartland Games will be held in Sebring, Avon Park and Wauchula in February. They are open to men and women 50 and older.

A complete list of events and a downloadable registration form can be found at the South Florida State College website www.southflorida.edu/heartlandgames.

the Women's March in January.

Men will still appear on stage as they introduce the clips for nominees in the film ensemble category and, of course, there are still male nominees.

The 54th Annual SAG Awards will take place on Sunday, Jan. 21, with Kristen Bell as the first-ever host.

"Three Billboards," "Lady Bird," "Big Little Lies" and "Stranger Things" were among the leaders of this year's nominees, which were announced on Wednesday.

SPA

FROM PAGE 1

consistently provide what many relate to as an out of this area experience."

While the spa feels very uptown, Knutson is a hometown boy. "I've lived here since I was a kid, with a few years away for college."

You might be surprised he studied Forestry and briefly worked in the field. "I love the outdoors, but the work just wasn't for me."

Knutson later sold real estate with his mother, taking sabbaticals in between to hike the Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails. It was after one of these soul searching journeys that he returned home and opened his spa.

Recently he spent a few weeks hiking Norway and Iceland — ask him about the polar bears — so he understands the massage needs of outdoor enthusiasts, hikers and cyclists quite well. Next on Knutson's list are the expansion of his business and his future goal of hiking the Continental Divide Trail.

If you're seeking a fabulous Christmas idea, don't hike all over town. Simply stop in for a gift certificate for a delightful spa package, a hot stone or decadent couples'

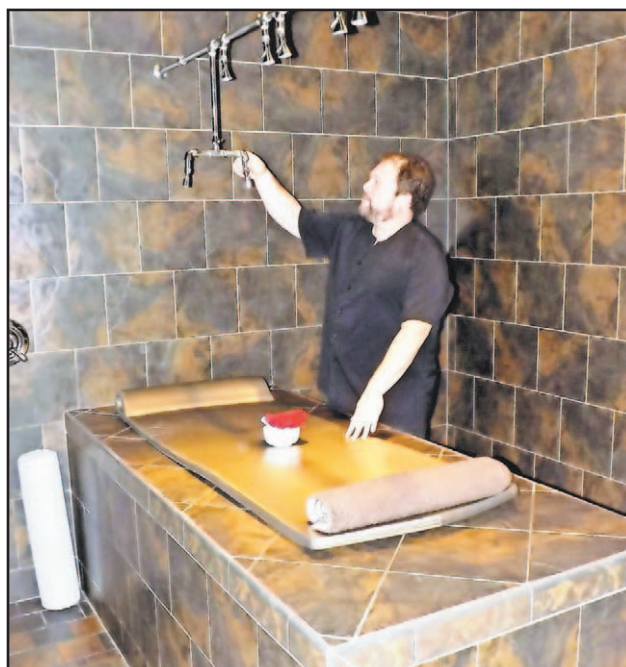
massage complete with wine, fruit, cheese and crackers. If there's an expectant mother on your gift list, the

knowledgeable staff offers a special massage complete with prenatal cushioning for added comfort.



DOROTHY L. HARRIS/ CORRESPONDENT

Tony Halterman, a CNA at Florida Hospital, finds a monthly massage at the Spa at Hammock Falls keeps his mind and body limber and ready for work



DOROTHY L. HARRIS/ CORRESPONDENT

Owner, Thor Knutson, explains the wet room used for body treatments such as hot stone massage, sea salt glows or detoxifying wraps

LEANNE

FROM PAGE 1

or fir trees growing in your yard. This is the time to bring them inside so they're fresh for Christmas. You can use these for garlands, wreaths, swags ... whatever you like! Pound the cut ends with a hammer — they'll absorb more water this way. Then, soak them overnight in the tub to allow them to become as hydrated as possible.

- Twigs. Twigs and boughs look beautiful with cut flowers, so look around for a perfect collection of twigs and slender branches. Again, you can keep them au naturel or dip them in glitter.
- Bark and moss. Birch

bark is gorgeous, and I'm sure you'll find a use for it. If you can find some moss, bring it in and use it to top the soil in your potted plants. This will make them look all dressed up for the holidays.

Look around and see if there are some dried flowers in the yard. If you dried your hydrangeas this fall, now would be the time to take them out and put them on display.

Maybe you're lucky enough to have a holly bush in the garden! Or some bayberry bushes — those will smell wonderful in the house. Search for items that look and smell beautiful and haul them inside.

(Caution: Do be careful with bringing berries inside if you have pets — some varieties of berries (including holly) are

poisonous to dogs and cats.)

Dust off your large garden urns and start putting some arrangements together. If you have no urns, buckets wrapped in brown paper and tied with twine will do just fine.

Safety tip: No candles in the twigs and bark, okay? If you want to add lights to your fresh greens, use LED — they're not as hot as the older style lights.

Happy Holidays.

For more great tips (and free recipes) visit www.savingdinner.com Leanne Ely is a NYT best-selling author and the creator of SavingDinner.com, the original menu planning website, bringing families back to the dinner table for over 15 years.

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SAG

FROM PAGE 1

performances by women and men of the year," Connell continued.

This year saw women in Hollywood help take down sexual harassment by first reporting the decades-long inappropriate behavior by Harvey Weinstein and a slew of other men quickly followed, including James Toback, Kevin Spacey, Russell Simmons, Matt Lauer, Ron Jeremy, Mario Batali, Jeremy



Irma insurance claims near 866,000

Estimated insured losses from Hurricane Irma have topped \$6.55 billion, with the number of claims approaching 866,000. *See page 2*



Train derailment



AP PHOTOS

Amtrak train hurtles off overpass; at least 6 killed

By **RACHEL LA CORTE and GILLIAN FLACCUS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUPONT, Wash. — An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle at an estimated 80 mph Monday and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing at least six people, authorities said.

Seventy-seven passengers and seven crew members were aboard when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. At least 50 people were hospitalized,

more than a dozen with critical or serious injuries, authorities said.

An official briefed on the investigation told The Associated Press that preliminary signs indicate that Train 501 may have struck something before going off the track about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Seattle. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Office said several vehicles on Interstate 5 were struck by falling train cars and multiple

Cars from an Amtrak train lay spilled onto Interstate 5 below alongside smashed vehicles as some train cars remain on the tracks above Monday, Dec. 18, in DuPont, Washington.



This aerial image from video provided by KOMO-TV, shows the site of an Amtrak train that derailed south of Seattle on Monday. Authorities reported "injuries and casualties." The train derailed about 40 miles south of Seattle before 8 a.m., spilling at least one train car on to busy Interstate 5.

TRAIN | 4

Commuters help people out of derailed train, comfort victims

By **RACHEL LA CORTE and SALLY HO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUPONT, Wash. (AP) — Daniel Konzelman was one of thousands of commuters barreling along a highway outside Seattle on Monday morning when the emergency response training he learned as an Eagle Scout kicked in.

He and a friend pulled over after an Amtrak passenger train hurtled off an overpass and crashed into vehicles on Interstate 5 below, killing at least six people and injuring dozens of others, officials said. They rushed to help, running along the tracks and over the bridge to get to the scene.

Some train cars had their roofs ripped off or were turned upside down. Others were turned sideways on the bridge. Konzelman, 24, and his friend clambered into train cars to look for victims.

"I just wanted to help people because I would want people to help me," he said.

The scene was grisly, with some people pinned under the train and others who appeared to be dead. If people could move and seemed stable, Konzelman said he helped them climb out of the train. If they looked seriously hurt, he tried to offer comfort by talking to them to calm them down.

They stayed to help for nearly two hours.

"I wasn't scared. I knew what to expect. ... I prepared for the worst and hoped for the best. I saw a little bit of both," Konzelman said.

Dr. Nathan Selden, a neurosurgeon at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon, was driving to Seattle with his son and stopped to help. He went to a medical triage tent to help tend to victims.

The most severely wounded had already been taken to hospitals by the time he arrived, Selden said. The victims he assessed had injuries such as sprains, open wounds, skull and pelvis fractures.

He called it a miracle that an infant from the train appeared completely unharmed.

While the doctor worked, others — including Selden's son, a college freshman

COMFORT | 4

Airlines inch back to normalcy after airport blackout

By **DON SCHANCHE JR. and TOM KRISHER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — The nation's air-travel system struggled to get back on schedule and re-book stranded passengers Monday after a fire and blackout at the world's busiest airport forced the cancellation of over 1,500 flights days before

the start of the Christmas rush.

Travelers sat on the floor, slumped in chairs or stood in long lines at ticket counters a day after the underground blaze knocked out electricity and crippled Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport for about 11 hours.

A spokesman for Delta, by far the biggest airline at the airport, said most of its

delayed passengers were booked on other flights scheduled to leave Monday. Spokesman Michael Thomas said the airline should be "largely if not completely" back to normal by Tuesday, well before the huge travel weekend ahead of Christmas Day.

But no matter how fast Delta and other airlines move,

it will take a few days to get the hundreds of thousands of grounded passengers to their final destinations, said Robert Mann, president of an airline consulting firm in Port Washington, New York. In rare cases, some passengers won't arrive until Thursday, he said.

"There are just so few seats available during a peak holiday week, that's just going to take

a lot of flights with four or five seats apiece," Mann said.

Southwest, the airport's second-largest airline, said it was back on a normal schedule, but a spokesman could not say how long it would take to clear the backlog of stranded travelers.

American Airlines, which is

BLACKOUT | 4

Goodbye 2017, and take your unicorns with you

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — You know all those things you wish would disappear but won't? Us, too.

Highlights of the things we're over in 2017:

Unicorn Everything

Please, rainbowy unicorns, stop throwing up and pooping all over everything. Also, you can keep your horns, tears and "snot" to yourselves.

The whole unicorn thing built in 2016 with special pink-adorned toast and other disturbingly pastel-colored foodstuff. The beauty industry piled on with hair dyes, nail polish, lipsticks, makeup brushes and all things glittery, holographic and sparkly that looked so darn "magical" on Instagram.

Those products included glittery "Unicorn Snot" for the face, body and lips. The makers say on their website they came up with the idea as a joke, but they perfected and

persisted — and that's when the magic happened.

Starbucks was distinctly NOT kidding with its Unicorn Frappuccino back in April. It "magically" started as a purple drink with swirls of blue and a first taste that is sweet and fruity, according to the company. One quick stir changed it to pink, tangy and tart. Vanilla whipped cream was involved, topped with a sprinkle of pink and blue powders. The words SWEET and SOUR don't cover it — SWEET and SOUR next level get closer.

Katy Perry and Kylie Jenner went unicorn with cotton candy hair, along with others, but we need a truce now, dear unicorns.

That is unless you're devotees, our little one-horned friends, of the equally magical venture capitalist Aileen Lee, who coined the term "unicorn startup" for that statistically rare startup company valued at more than \$1 billion.

Cold Shoulder Attire

Brrrrr, and really?

Who decided these tops and dresses were "seductive" and when? They've been building since at least 2013 and are all over runways and stores as an option to, what, cleavage?

OK, that's a lot of questions. We have cold-shoulder sweaters, button-down blouses, wispy little dresses, maxis to the floor and even bomber jackets and hoodies. What sense does that make, people?

Feedback from detractors — who don't include Donna Karan and "The Real Housewives of Orange County" — have this to say: "They look lame," "They are so unattractive" and, a personal favorite, "If I'm spending money on a sweater, the shoulders should come with it."

A kissing, go-away cousin would be the bell and ruffled sleeve from below the elbow to the wrist, because who really needs to wear that. That's not another question because those people are unicorns.



AP PHOTO

In this April 20 file photo, a Starbucks Unicorn Frappuccino is displayed in Philadelphia. It "magically" started as a purple drink with swirls of blue and a first taste that is sweet and fruity, according to the company.

Millennials. Just Millennials

We get that assigning common traits to an entire generation involves a dose of trickery. But we also get that Millennials are a bubble.

Now get over it. Message for some: Go get your own jobs. Pay for your own apartments.

Look up from your phones occasionally. You gotta earn some stuff, like respect and raises.

Further, and this one isn't your fault, Millennial Pink needs to go. Why it was assigned to you has to do with a

GOODBYE | 4

STATE

Irma insurance claims near 866,000 as pace slows

By JIM TURNER THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — Estimated insured losses from Hurricane Irma have topped \$6.55 billion, with the number of claims approaching 866,000, according to information released Monday by the state Office of Insurance Regulation.

spokeswoman for the Insurance Information Institute, said Irma could have been "much worse" for homeowners and the industry. "The insurance companies have been well-capitalized," McChristian said. "They have been waiting for this. There may be some claims that will continue to be filed, but insurance companies know that this is what happens when you are dealing with Florida's hurricane risk."



A mobile home community is flooded in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in Everglades City, Florida, Monday, Sept. 11.

Citizens President and CEO Barry Gilway also said Wednesday that he expected the storm to increase Citizens' policy count from "about 442,000 policies back up to 500,000" in the next year. In the overall industry, Miami-Dade County has the largest number of Irma-related claims,

with 114,078 as of Friday, according to the Office of Insurance Regulation numbers. Other counties with large numbers of claims included Broward, 71,970; Orange, 68,306; Lee, 65,311; Collier, 63,644; and Polk, 50,180. Irma made landfall Sept. 10 in Monroe and Collier counties, causing widespread destruction

and at least 84 deaths in Florida. The insurance industry has closed 48 percent of Irma claims with some payment. Another 31 percent were closed without any payments. In most cases where money did not change hands, the damages failed to meet policyholders' deductibles, McChristian said. To reduce risk in Florida, the House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness has received a number of potential housing changes — as part of the more than 140 recommendations — for lawmakers to consider during the 2018 legislative session, which begins in January. Among the proposals, Rep. Holly Raschein, R-Key Largo, suggested the state identify areas where rebuilding after disasters might be

high-risk and to consider options for not rebuilding, including the possible purchase of the properties. The land, she suggested, would be used to create additional open space and natural buffers. Meanwhile, Sen. Annette Taddeo, D-Miami, and House Minority Leader Janet Cruz, D-Tampa, introduced a proposal (SB 1282 and HB 1011) last week that would require insurance companies to disclose to homeowners when coverage lacks flood insurance. "I've met many constituents who had no idea that their hurricane coverage did not include protections when their homes flooded," Taddeo said in a prepared statement. "This is especially problematic in South Florida as we face sea level rise and stronger storm surges from climate change."

HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Trial delayed till June for Florida airport shooting suspect

MIAMI (AP) — Trial has been delayed until June for an Alaska man accused of killing five people and wounding six in a Florida airport shooting rampage. A Miami federal judge Monday pushed back the trial date to June 11 for 27-year-old Esteban Santiago of Anchorage, Alaska. The trial was set for Jan. 22, but prosecutors say the Justice Department needs more time to decide whether to seek the death penalty. Santiago pleaded not guilty to a 22-count

indictment in the Jan. 6 shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. He has been taking anti-psychotic drugs for schizophrenia, but his lawyers say he is mentally competent. After the shooting, the FBI says Santiago told agents he acted under government mind control, then claimed inspiration by Islamic State extremists. No terrorism links have been found.

Florida grand jury investigates FSU frat pledge's death

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — A grand jury is meeting to

consider filing charges in the death of a Florida State University fraternity pledge. The Leon County grand jury on Monday interviewed Florida State administrators and those who were at a party with Andrew Coffey, who died after attending an off-campus party. Coffey was a junior and a pledge at Pi Kappa Phi. He died Nov. 4 after he was found unresponsive after a party. Florida State quickly responded by indefinitely suspending its fraternities and sororities. More than 50 fraternity members testified before the grand jury during the afternoon. University

President John Thrasher and Vice President of Student Affairs Amy Hecht testified in the morning. Tallahassee police say indications showed alcohol was involved in Coffey's death. The state Medical Examiner hasn't released its report.

Prosecutors oppose ex-congresswoman's fraud sentence appeal

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — Federal prosecutors are opposing ex-U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown's request to remain free on bond while she appeals her fraud sentence, according to a motion filed Sunday.

Acting U.S. Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow filed the motion in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville. Brown, 71, was sentenced to five years in prison and three years' probation for fraud and lying on her tax returns and congressional financial disclosure forms about a purported charity for poor students she used as a personal slush fund. The once-powerful Democrat was ordered to surrender in January. Brown's attorney is arguing that she has a legitimate issue to appeal - the judge's dismissal of a single juror during the trial. U.S. District Court Monterey

Timothy Corrigan excused a juror after deliberations began. The move came after the juror had confirmed to the court that he announced to his fellow jurors on the first day of deliberations that the "Holy Spirit" had told him Brown was not guilty of all charges. Prosecutors say the juror was dismissed for failing to follow the court's instructions, and that the incident does not present a "substantial question of law or fact" as required for an appeal. "In the absence of such a question, Corrine Brown should be imprisoned during the pendency of her appeal," prosecutors wrote.

A large weather forecast section from AccuWeather.com. It includes a 7-day forecast (Today/Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday), Florida city forecasts, a national weather map, and various weather-related tools like the UV Index, Pollen Index, Air Quality Index, and Solunar Table. It also lists U.S. and World City extremes and provides monthly rainfall data for various Florida locations.

WORLD

New leader of South Africa's ANC party has daunting task

By KRISTA MAHR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Cyril Ramaphosa, elected leader of South Africa's ruling African National Congress in a tight race on Monday, now faces the daunting task of uniting a starkly divided party and reviving the tarnished reputation of Nelson Mandela's liberation movement.

The 65-year-old Ramaphosa, the country's current deputy president, beat former African Union commission chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma by a margin of less than 200 votes. As the head of the ANC, Ramaphosa will be the party's candidate for president in 2019 elections, which he is widely expected to win.

Ramaphosa has had an extraordinary career both inside and outside of South Africa's political arena. He has moved from being a prominent anti-apartheid activist and

one of the chief negotiators who helped bring an end to white minority rule to becoming one of the wealthiest businessmen in South Africa.

In the run-up to this contest, he styled himself as a reformer who will steer South Africa away from the corruption scandals that have hurt the economy and spooked investors.

"Clearly, Ramaphosa has been the darling of the business community," said Daniel Silke, an independent political analyst. As the party's new leader, he said, Ramaphosa will be seen as attempting to "revive prudent policy-making in South Africa" and "stabilize the creaky ship of the South African economy."

That is no small task. South Africa's economy dipped into recession this year, rebounding to 2.5 percent growth in the second quarter. Unemployment is rampant, hovering close to 30

percent, and the country is rated one of the most unequal societies in the world, where the top 10 percent of earners received 66 percent of the national income, according to the 2018 World Inequality Report.

Ramaphosa also inherits a party that has been riven by corruption scandals during President Jacob Zuma's tenure, cutting into the organization's clout among South African voters and creating stark rifts within Mandela's liberation movement.

The ANC, which marked its 105th anniversary this year, fought to end apartheid and has dominated the political landscape since then. But it has been paralyzed by internal fighting and is losing support among voters who are frustrated that it has failed to deliver on the promise of a post-apartheid government. In recent local government elections,



AP PHOTO

The newly elected African National Congress (ANC) President, Cyril Ramaphosa, takes a selfie after it was announced that he had won the vote at the ANC's elective conference in Johannesburg on Monday.

the ANC lost control of Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city, and Pretoria, the capital.

Given the narrow margin of his win, Ramaphosa will have to work hard to unite his supporters and the

backers of Dlamini-Zuma, who is the ex-wife of outgoing ANC leader Zuma, if the party is to rally and regain ground in the upcoming national elections in 2019.

Though Zuma's term as ANC leader is now over,

his term as South Africa's head of state ends with the 2019 vote. It is not clear if Ramaphosa, as the ANC's new leader, will call on Zuma to resign as the country's president sooner, which the party has the authority to do.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

FEMA defends Puerto Rico hurricane response amid criticism

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency is rejecting a report by Refugees International criticizing local and federal hurricane response in Puerto Rico.

Spokesman Daniel Llargues said Monday

that FEMA has approved more than \$1 billion in federal assistance and has distributed more than 120,000 tarps to people whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Maria. He said the agency also installed 920 generators, deployed 4,700 medical personnel and distributed more than 56 million liters of water and 49 million meals in the agency's largest commodity mission.

The Category 4 storm

hit the island nearly three months ago, causing up to an estimated \$95 billion in damage.

Death toll rises to 6 in French train-bus crash

PARIS (AP) — French authorities say the death toll from an accident between a train and a school bus last week has increased following the death of a sixth person.

The local prefecture

in the Pyrenees-Orientales region didn't specify whether the latest victim was a student on the school bus. The five others were children, ages 11 to 13.

The bus was carrying 23 students when the regional train and the bus collided. Several were critically injured.

The bus driver, a 46-year-old woman, was also injured in the accident at a crossing near the Spanish

border.

Investigators were still working to determine the cause of the crash.

Polish state TV: search underway for missing fighter jet

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Polish state television is reporting that authorities are searching for a missing Polish fighter jet that has disappeared in the central part of the

country.

TVP INFO says that the Russian-made MiG-29 fighter plane disappeared from the radar on Monday, adding that 10 teams of firefighters are searching for the Air Force jet near the town of Minsk Mazowiecki, which hosts an air base.

The Polish Air Force uses mostly NATO hardware and U.S. F-16s but still operates some Russian equipment, including the MiG-29.

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STOCKS LISTING CHANGE - REQUESTS WELCOME!

The Sun Newspaper is tweaking the way stocks are listed in the daily paper. We will continue to run a wide range of stocks, but we're trying to eliminate stocks our readers don't want. If you do not see your stock in the paper, please let us know

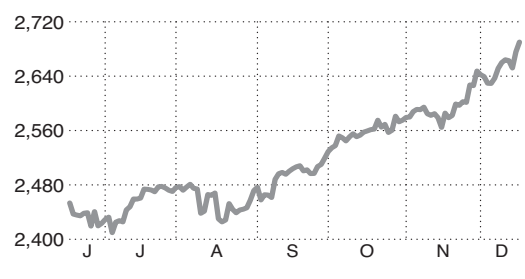
and we will put it in the listings. Email the name of the company and the symbol to nlane@sun-herald.com, or call 941-206-1138. You can leave the stock name and symbol on voice mail. When requesting a stock, please include where you live so we can run the listing in the appropriate edition. If you reach voice mail, please leave your contact information so your call can be returned.

Market summary table with columns: DOW (24,792.20 +140.46), NASDAQ (6,994.76 +58.18), S&P 500 (2,690.16 +14.35), 10-YR T-NOTE (2.39% +0.04), 30-YR T-BOND (2.74% +0.05), CRUDE OIL (\$57.16 -14), GOLD (\$1,262.20 +7.90), EURO (\$1.1784 +0.027)

Money&Markets

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

Table of stock listings with columns: Div, Name, Last, Chg. Includes entries like AES Corp, AFLAC, AGNC Inv, etc.



Stocks Recap table with columns: NYSE, NASD, Vol. (in mil.), Pvs. Volume, etc.

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG., %CHG., WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stock symbols and their performance.

Table with columns: J-K-L, listing stock symbols and their values.

Table with columns: M-N-O, listing stock symbols and their values.

Table with columns: P-Q-R, listing stock symbols and their values.

Table with columns: S-T-U, listing stock symbols and their values.

Table with columns: V-W-X-Y-Z, listing stock symbols and their values.

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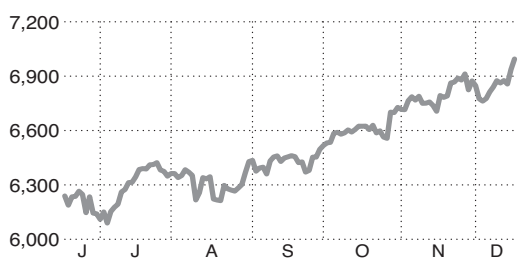
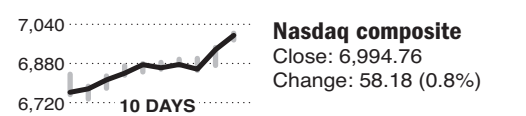


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Table with columns: US OilF, USSteel, UtTech, etc. Listing various stock symbols and their values.

Table with columns: V-W-X-Y-Z, listing stock symbols and their values.

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Table with columns: V-W-X-Y-Z, listing stock symbols and their values.

Interestrates logo and text: The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 2.39 percent Monday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

TREASURIES table with columns: YEST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO. Lists 3-month T-bill, 6-month T-bill, etc.

BONDS table with columns: YEST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO. Lists Barclays Glob Agg Bld, Barclays US Aggregate, etc.

Foreign Exchange section with text: The dollar declined Monday versus the yen, euro and British pound. The U.S. currency also lost ground to the Swiss franc, Canadian dollar and Mexican peso.

MAJORS table with columns: USD per British Pound, Canadian Dollar, etc.

EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST table with columns: Israeli Shekel, Norwegian Krone, etc.

ASIA/PACIFIC table with columns: Australian Dollar, Chinese Yuan, etc.

Commodities section with text: Energy futures finished mixed Monday. U.S. crude oil fell, while wholesale gasoline, heating oil and natural gas rose. Among metals, gold, silver and copper notched gains.



FUELS table with columns: Crude Oil (bbl), Ethanol (gal), Heating Oil (gal), etc.

METALS table with columns: Gold (oz), Silver (oz), Platinum (oz), etc.

AGRICULTURE table with columns: Cattle (lb), Coffee (lb), Corn (bu), etc.

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Tuesday Television

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

Main television schedule table with columns for channel, time slot, and program details. Includes sections for PRIME TIME, BROADCAST, CABLE, and PREMIUM.

Today's Sports

- 6:30 p.m. FS1 College Basketball Marshall at Xavier. (L)
7 p.m. ESPN College Football 2017 Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl Akron Zips vs Florida Atlantic Owls from FAU Stadium in Boca Raton, Fla. (L)
ESPN2 College Basketball South Carolina Gamecocks at Clemson Tigers from Littlejohn Coliseum. (L)
FSSUN College Basketball Northwestern State Demons at Oklahoma Sooners from Lloyd Noble Center. (L)
8 p.m. USA WWE SmackDown from Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (L)
8:30 p.m. FS1 College Basketball Morehead State Eagles at Butler Bulldogs. (L)
9 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets at Georgia Bulldogs from Stegeman Coliseum. (L)
FSN NHL Hockey Florida Panthers at Arizona Coyotes. (L)
10 p.m. FSSUN NHL Hockey Tampa Bay Lightning at Vegas Golden Knights. (L)

Today's Talk Shows

- 7:00 a.m. ABC Good Morning America "Good Mythical Morning" hosts Rhett and Link; chef Alex Guarnaschelli. (N)
7:00 a.m. NBC Today "Rossen Reports"; "Hassle-Free Holiday Today." (N)
8:00 a.m. IND The Steve Wilkos Show Woman says her ex beat her after she told him she was carrying his child.
9:00 a.m. CBS LIVE with Kelly and Ryan Scott Wolf; Seth MacFarlane; Eden Grinshpan; JoJo Siwa. (N)
9:00 a.m. NBC Megyn Kelly TODAY "Joy-Ful Holiday Food"; "She's Got Faith" series; "Megyn's Month of Merry." (N)
10:00 a.m. CW Rachael Ray Curtis Stone prepares stuffed peppers and winter sangria; Noah Galvin's pasta. (N)
10:00 a.m. FOX Maury A woman learns if her boyfriend is a cheater; a fiancé is accused of cheating. (N)
10:00 a.m. NBC Today with Kathie Lee & Hoda "Pitch Perfect 3" star Anna Kendrick; "Today Food" with Kevin Des Chenes. (N)
11:00 a.m. ABC The View Actor Ed Helms from "Father Figures."
11:00 a.m. MYN The Doctors A mom seeks the doctors' help with saving her heroin-addicted daughter.

- 2:00 p.m. CBS The Talk Annie Lennox performs.
2:00 p.m. CW The Robert Irvine Show A guest uncovers her attraction for her girlfriend's friend.
3:00 p.m. CW The Wendy Williams Show "Hot Topics"; Chris Witherspoon; Leah Cohen prepares Southeast Asian cuisine.
3:00 p.m. NBC The Dr. Oz Show Dr. Oz confronts companies who used his name to sell fake beauty products. (N)
5:00 p.m. CW Dr. Phil A couple says 19-year-old son quit college subsequent to smoking cannabis. (N)
5:00 p.m. MYN Maury A woman learns if her boyfriend is a cheater; a fiancé is accused of cheating. (N)
11:00 p.m. TBS Conan Actor Keegan-Michael Key.
11:35 p.m. ABC Jimmy Kimmel Live "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" cast and crew visits the show.
11:35 p.m. NBC The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Actress Rebel Wilson; actor Paul Reiser; musical guest Gwen Stefani performs. (N)

Convenient - Complete - Satellite ONLINE TV Listings www.sun-herald.com/tv

When is active surveillance of a tumor appropriate?

DEAR DR. ROACH:

In a recent column, you addressed breast cancer in an older woman. She expressed concern about overtreatment of small tumors and if just keeping an eye on the tumor (active surveillance) might be a way to go.

Do you think active surveillance might be an option at any age in a woman's life, rather than chemo and radiation for some tumors? Is that form of treatment appropriate, and could it be a better option for a better quality of life for the patient? — G.C.

ANSWER: "Active surveillance" refers to not treating a lower-risk condition initially, but actively monitoring it to look for signs that it might be changing to a condition with greater risk. This is a preferred means for many men with very-low-risk or low-risk prostate cancer. A recent trial has been started and is recruiting women with DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ) to see whether active surveillance might be reasonable for this condition as well. I think this is an important study, with the potential to affect many women who otherwise are recommended for lumpectomy, sometimes with radiation. Many women, in fact, opt for a total mastectomy for this condition, and if we can identify women who might not need such invasive procedures, that would be a major benefit.

However, for a woman with invasive intraductal breast cancer (which is a much more aggressive tumor than DCIS, usually), I can't recommend active surveillance. Older women with this diagnosis, or those with one of many other medical conditions, still can receive medication, like an anti-estrogen, which has far fewer side effects than surgery or traditional chemotherapy. Women who would not consider treatment of an invasive breast cancer should reconsider getting a mammogram in the first place.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been taking hormone treatments for 10 years. I'm 60 years old. I have concerns about long-term usage.

I tried getting off them slowly. The results are always the same: I end up with 10 to 15 hot flashes a day. I can't sleep, because I get five to six at night. I end up going back on my Divigel and progesterone. My doctor says to stay on



Dr. Roach

them if it makes my life easier, rather than being miserable. Do you have any thoughts on how I can eventually get off them without going through the hot flashes again? — Anon.

ANSWER: Put simply, you have three options: go off the hormone (Divigel is an absorbable gel form of estradiol, the bioidentical human estrogen) and likely be miserable; continue the treatment and have a risk of side effects; or try a different treatment.

I don't recommend being miserable. The other options are both better, in my opinion.

Continuing estrogen treatment has risks. Combined treatment with estrogen and progesterone increases risk of blood clotting, coronary artery disease and breast cancer. It decreases the risk of bone fracture and of colon and lung cancers. The risk of coronary disease probably is lower for women who began treatment right at menopause (which it sounds like might be the case with you). The overall risk of mortality due to combined treatment is roughly 8 women per thousand in five years' time. That degree of risk is worth it for some women.

Other options to reduce hot flashes without the risk of hormone treatment include medications like venlafaxine or citalopram. A new treatment, called a neurokinin 3 receptor antagonist, shows promise for the future.

It doesn't sound like you have tried alternatives to hormones: I'd recommend speaking to your doctor about them before deciding whether to accept the long-term risk of continued hormones.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu or request an order form of available health newsletters at 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803. Health newsletters may be ordered from www.rbmamall.com.

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

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

4		2		8	9		1	
		9				4		5
				1	4	8		
	5		7				6	
		3				1		
	6				3		5	
		8	9	6				
5		4				7		
	9		4	7		5		2

Rating: SILVER

Solution to 12/18/17

3	7	6	8	9	1	4	5	2
9	5	2	3	7	4	8	6	1
8	1	4	5	6	2	7	9	3
6	4	9	2	8	7	1	3	5
2	3	7	9	1	5	6	4	8
5	8	1	6	4	3	9	2	7
1	6	5	7	3	9	2	8	4
4	9	3	1	2	8	5	7	6
7	2	8	4	5	6	3	1	9

12/19/17

www.whatzit.com December 19, 2017

WHATZIT?

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

HEAD SHOULDERS
ARMS BODY LEGS
ANKLES FEET TOES

SOLUTION:

Head and shoulders above the rest

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Chemist workplace cement chunk (1)
2. Rudely sarcastic wedding woman (1)
3. Badly flowing text to be edited (2)
4. Mt. Olympus ruler's fruit drinks (2)
5. Thoroughly soak a "monkey" tool (1)
6. Rubbernecker's ambling-aid frames (2)
7. Party supporters' skilled craftspeople (3)

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

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12-19-17

ANSWERS
1. LAB SLAB 2. SNIDE BRIDE 3. CHOPPY COPY 4. ZEUSS JUICES
5. DRENCH WRENCH 6. GAWKERS WALKERS 7. PARTISANS ARTISANS

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Garage squirter
- 7 Grey Cup sports org.
- 10 Playing marbles
- 14 Insulation meas. (hyph.)
- 15 Stein filler
- 16 — Khan
- 17 Explorer Hernando —
- 18 Shad eggs
- 19 So-so grades
- 20 Mischief
- 23 Reindeer herders
- 26 Beatty or Forem
- 27 Tiber locale
- 28 Actor — Montand
- 29 Contract must
- 30 Noncom
- 31 Boor
- 32 "— Sera, Sera"
- 33 Nile reed
- 37 Narrow inlet
- 38 Website
- 39 "Blame It on —"
- 40 Cable network
- 41 Listening (2 wds.)
- 43 Connections
- 44 Charged particles
- 45 Fleur-de—
- 46 Get a load of
- 47 Hitch in plans
- 48 Luster

- 51 Gore and Capone
- 52 Red roots
- 53 What pals do (2 wds.)
- 56 Volkswagen kin
- 57 Wander about
- 58 Connoisseurs
- 62 Soot repository
- 63 Improvise
- 64 Wild feline
- 65 Recipe amts.
- 66 Helmsman's dir.
- 67 Zendo or stupa

DOWN

- 1 California fort
- 2 — got an ideal
- 3 Scale notes
- 4 Walks noisily
- 5 Rest stop sight
- 6 Motel sign
- 7 Sway from side to side
- 8 Rock's Pink —
- 9 Wine sediments
- 10 Not outright
- 11 Booster rocket
- 12 Walk a bike
- 13 Full of back talk
- 21 Pays homage
- 22 They swim with crocs
- 23 Stretch fabric
- 24 Do the trick
- 25 Foot lever
- 29 Happy rumbles
- 30 "The — Mutiny"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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

12-19-17 © 2017 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

- 32 Picturesque
- 33 Druid or shaman
- 34 Dry white wine
- 35 Kapitan's command (hyph.)
- 36 Grammy winners
- 42 Poems of lament
- 46 Vehicle on runners
- 47 Waiter
- 48 Feather part
- 49 Drives semi
- 50 Result in (2 wds.)
- 51 From the top
- 52 Sandy expanse
- 54 Horrible boss
- 55 RN employers
- 59 Pharmacist — Lilly
- 60 Persona — grata
- 61 Sault — Marie

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13		
14							15				16					
17							18				19					
					20		21				22					
23	24	25					26				27					
28						29				30						
31						32				33			34	35	36	
37										39			40			
41										43				44		
										46			47			
48	49	50														
53							54				55					
56														59	60	61
62										63			64			
65																

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

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's all temporary — the mood, the circumstance, the things you want out of this... and yet, it matters. You'll feel as though you're defining yourself with the action you take.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be looking for ways to do more and need less and you'll find them. There's magic in this pursuit. It will also be quite addicting, especially in the case of doing things for others.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've often had the impression that the game is rigged. Today that suspicion comes sneaking around again, although

this time it seems to be rigged in your favor... so is that going to be a problem?
CANCER (June 22-July 22). Whether it's emotional or actual baggage, you'll be less effective trying to dead lift it on your own. You can handle much more weight with a little strategy. Can it be leveraged? Can it be rolled?
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). An ordeal can be an adventure and an adventure can be an ordeal, and today they'll be one and the same, depending on how you look at this. It's easier to approach it brightly when there's someone to impress.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Trial and error is the only way to learn this complex thing you've taken on.

Sure, the theoretical knowledge will help, but it can only take you so far. You'll advance through your mistakes. Mastery will be eventual and inevitable.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're great at slipping into the mindset that will serve the moment best. This is a talent in and of itself — a sign of emotional genius really — and you'll be able to trade on it for some nice dividends today.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not important that they know everything you mean. In fact, it's better that they don't. As people fill in the blanks with their own story, they connect with you.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What stands alone? Nothing and no one. Life here is about

groups. Organisms, tribes, cultures... from bacteria to trees to animals and people, it's all working together. As much as you'd like that not to be true today, it still is.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's not one bad thing on your to-do list today. You could potentially take pleasure in every single activity. The thing is, there are so many of them, and most of them rather pressing. You can do this!
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your day-to-day is slowly morphing into a different pattern. Your style is changing, too. But your values will stay the same. Like a developing child, you will fulfill the potential of what you always were.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Kindness and self-respect are at the center of your decision to step up and own your actions when they're great and when they're not. We're all just learning and in need of both encouragement and correction.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 19). In the next 10 weeks, luck, attitude and ability intersect in the perfect convergence to bring you money. Your excitement over an idea will be the defining factor — your idea of another person, or of the future, or of humanity in general. What/whom you take care of will reward you enormously in the spring. Aquarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 5, 22, 28 and 31.

BIBLE

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us." — Ephesians 2:14

There will be no peace in the hearts of nations or men while walls of indifference remain standing. May the walls fall and peace like a mighty river rush in to fill the vacuum that God intended for victorious living.



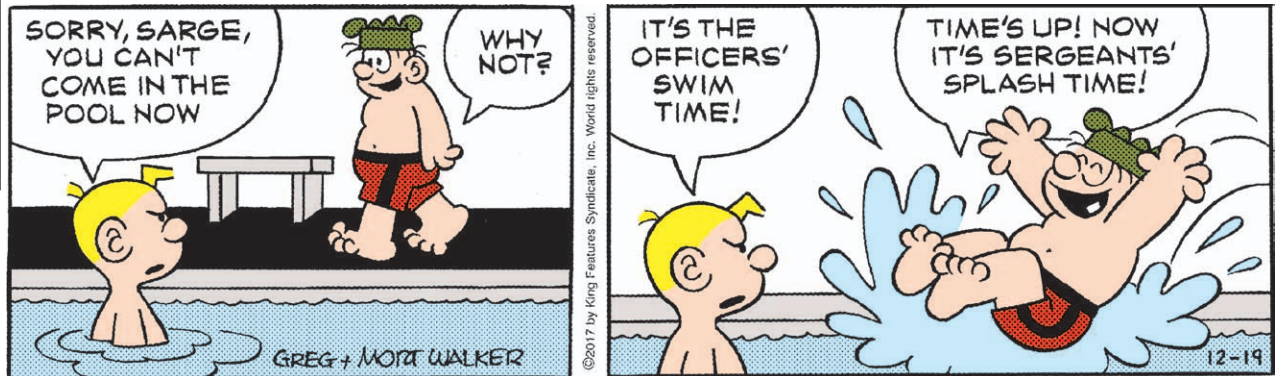
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



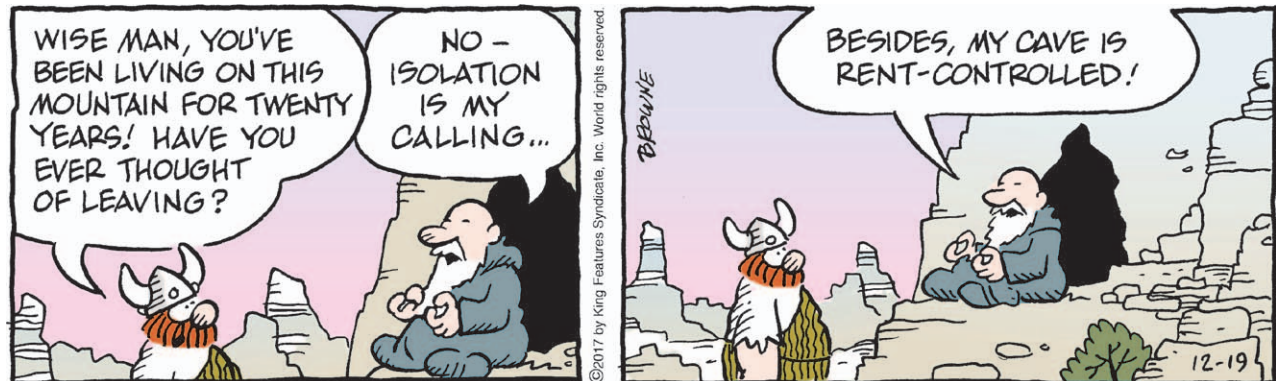
HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



BEEBLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



PICKLES By Brian Crane



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



Challenger

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

					12-19
				5	21
					23
		2			22
					14
		2			33
				7	
					29
					12
					30
					21
					29

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There may be more than one solution.

Today's Challenge Time: 1 Minutes, 8 Seconds

Your Working Time: Minutes, Seconds

Yesterday's Challenger Answers:

3	1	3	1	5
3	1	2	1	7
2	1	1	2	6
1	2	1	1	5
9	5	7	5	6

MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



Cryptoquip

12-19

SGYOB YDO RBRFDWSL DSM
 GRLRFDOM DRF FTQQOFFGTZ
 MROY NG FEOBSZ WNLYDF,
 YDO QOZY GOZY FEOZYO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RUBBER SEALING RINGS WHICH JOIN JUNCTIONS IN THINGS LIKE WASHERS AND DRYERS: LAUNDRY GASKETS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

WORD SLEUTH "THE SOUND OF MUSIC"

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

Monday's unlisted clue: STONES

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
 Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: PLAYED BY JULIE ANDREWS

Austria	Friedrich	Kurt	Max
Baroness	Georg	Liesl	Musical
Brigitta	Gretl	Louisa	Rolf
Franz	Herr Zeller	Marta	

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Karaoke fans have more love for singing than talent

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Karen," loves to sing karaoke along with many others, most of whom who are vocally challenged. Listening to some of them can be grueling when we go out. Karen knows many of these "performers," and when they finish, she goes and tells them what a great job they've done. When I asked her why she gives the false compliments, she said, "I don't want to hurt their feelings."



Dear Abby

this behavior?

My husband says it's good for our little one to learn how to deal with mean behavior, since it will make him "tough." However, I don't feel it's our child's job to learn to be tough at such a young age. — DAY CARE ACCEPTING MOMMY

DEAR DAY CARE MOMMY: Perhaps your son should see this cousin only when they will be closely supervised. Your child may learn to "toughen up" later, but at the age of 2 or 3, it's a bit premature. The child who may be in for trouble is his cousin, because learning concepts like sharing and empathy enable children to successfully socialize with others throughout their lives.

DEAR ABBY: I know for a fact that gifts I have given to family members are often immediately given away. Should I confront them about this? I'd like to suggest that instead of giving the gift away they please return it to me. Of course, I know I could just quit giving them gifts. But I'd like for them to know the reason, instead of appearing to be stingy. Anxious for your opinion. — ANXIOUS IN FORT WORTH

DEAR ANXIOUS: This is a delicate situation, but it can be handled if you're careful not to cause embarrassment when you tell your relatives you know what they've been doing with your gifts. Perhaps, rather than say you will just quit giving them gifts, you should offer to give them gift cards for a store they like. That way they can have something they will enjoy.

Well, the same goes for Karen. The other singers compliment her to the point that she now believes she has a competition-worthy voice. In reality, while her voice isn't terrible, it's nowhere near what she thinks it is.

My wife is the love of my life and the nicest person I've ever known. I'm concerned for the future if someone should ever be honest with her about this because, so far, no one has been. Should I tell her the truth to save her from potential public embarrassment, or should I keep my mouth shut? — COVERING MY EARS

DEAR COVERING: Unless your wife decides to audition for "American Idol," the chances of her being booted off stage are slim. You don't have to sing her praises, but I see nothing positive to be gained by diminishing her pleasure in performing. The word from here is: Keep your lips zipped.

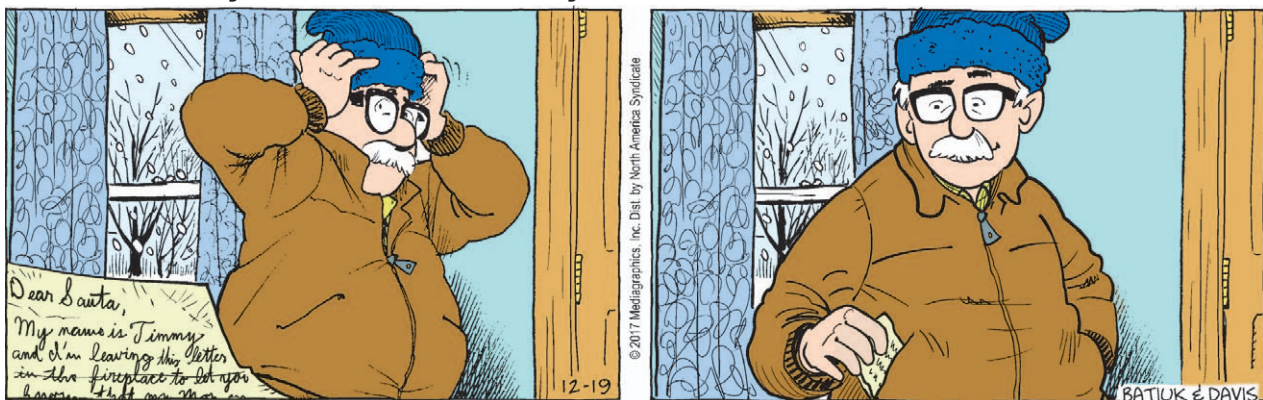
DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful, kind sister-in-law I'll call "Margaret." Our sons were born in the same year. She has chosen to keep her son home, while I am sending mine to day care. Both boys are toddlers now. The problem is, my son is socialized, while hers is not.

Margaret's son is mean and unwilling to share or play with my child. He lacks empathy and seeks only adult attention. Because of his lack of socialization and outright unsafe behavior, I don't want my son around him. Am I wrong for not wanting him to be exposed to

PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



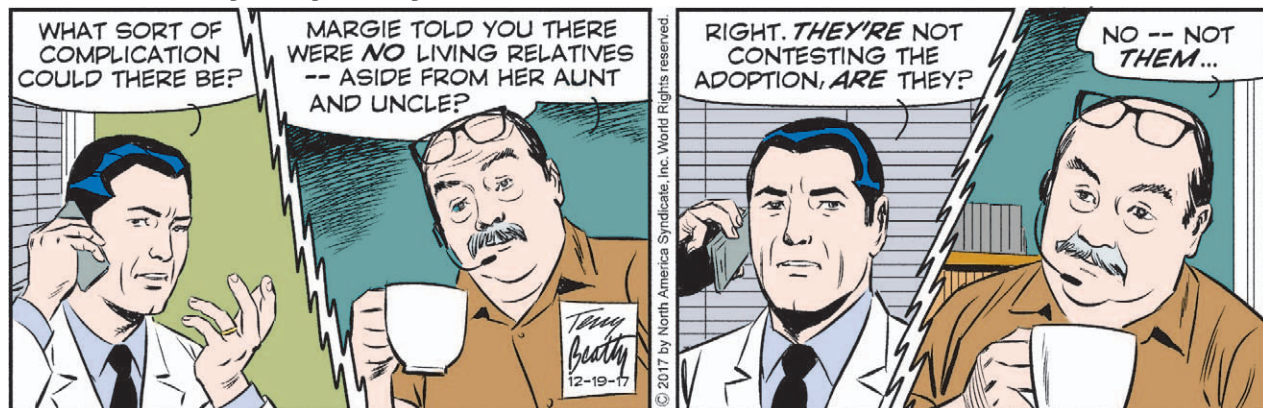
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



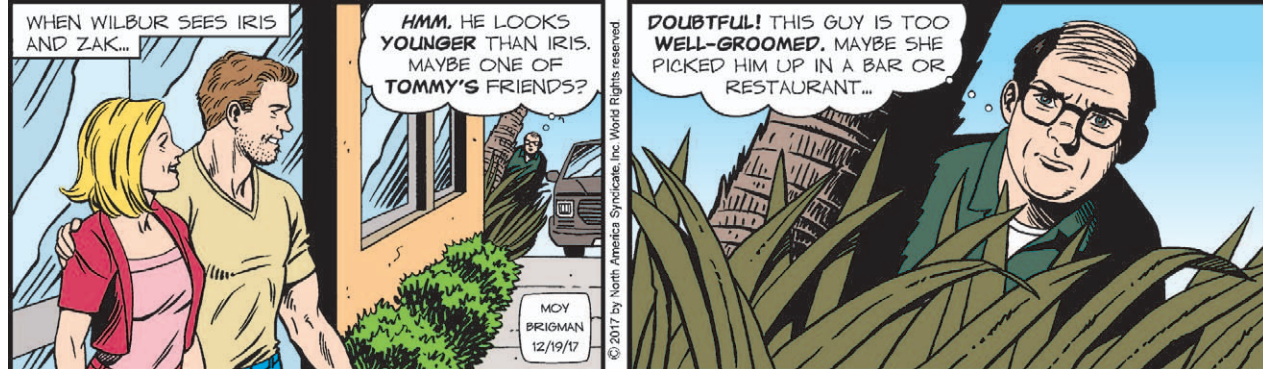
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



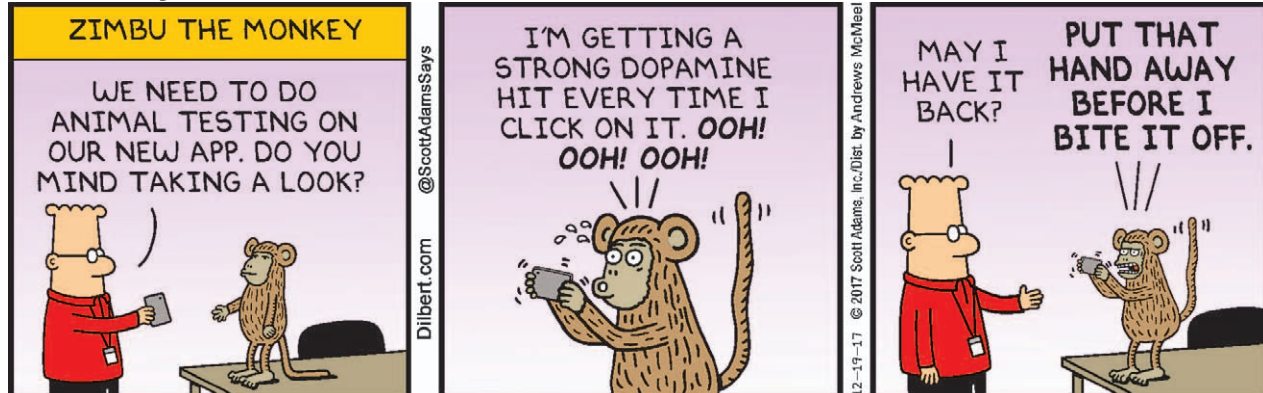
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



DILBERT By Scott Adams



Decorating safely

Dear Readers: Here are some christmas decorating safety hints, courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org):

- Look for decorations that are flame-resistant. This is important.
- Worn cords and loose bulbs are fire hazards.
- Never use indoor lights outdoors, or vice versa.
- Mount lights with clips. Nails can damage the cord.
- Real candles are dangerous. Look for beautiful flameless choices.

The NFPA reminds us to turn off all decorations and stringed lights at the end of the evening. Don't go to bed with them on. — Heloise



Hints from Heloise

closed almost all the way across, insert a straw into bag, suck the air out and close the bag the rest of the way. This will keep the apples fresh, cold and crisp a bit longer. — Janet Z., Devine, Texas

Poinsettia pointers

Dear Heloise: Recently, I forgot to water my poinsettia plant for about a week! I then poured a cup of water through the soil several times. When the water didn't run through anymore, about half an hour later, the plant started to perk up! — Alice E., Mount Gilead, Ohio

Alice, these are hardy plants that can last well into the new year. The University of Illinois Extension has some hints for caring for poinsettia plants:

The plants need indirect sunlight for around six hours per day. Drafty spots in your home are bad for the plants. Houseplant fertilizer, applied once every 30 days, will extend the life of the plant. When it's in bloom? Don't fertilize. Hugs! — Heloise

Avoiding gift gaffes

Dear Heloise: I have some hints to share: I save shipping and durable grocery-item boxes for use as gift boxes. The boxes stores provide aren't very strong.

I put a lovely Christmas card in each of our neighbors' mailboxes on Christmas Eve, along with some baked goodies. On greeting cards that have the price on the back, I put a cute sticker over it. — Ellen F., Manassas, Va.

Apple slices

Dear Heloise: For an on-the-go snack, I place apple slices in a zippered sandwich bag, zip it

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

DISAPPEARING LOSER

North-South vulnerable, West deals

NORTH			
♠ A 2			
♥ Q 5 2			
♦ K Q 5 4			
♣ A K J 2			
WEST		EAST	
♠ J		♠ K Q 9 8	
♥ K J 10 9 8 4		♥ 7 6 3	
♦ A J 10 7		♦ 9 8 6	
♣ Q 4		♣ 10 8 7	
SOUTH			
♠ 10 7 6 5 4 3			
♥ A			
♦ 3 2			
♣ 9 6 5 3			

The bidding:
 WEST 1♥ North 2♠ East 2♥ South 2♠
 Pass Db1 Db1 Pass 4♠
 Pass Pass Db1 All pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

Perhaps South should have passed it out at four hearts doubled. Looking at the ace of the enemy trump suit, South was sure that four hearts would be defeated, but he hoped his exciting distribution would give him a good chance to take 10 tricks in a spade contract. He was right, as a normal 3-2 split in spades would give him a reasonable chance. The given 4-1 split made it look like there would be four losers — three spades and a

diamond. Sometimes, good play can make a loser disappear.
 South won the opening heart lead in hand force, and led a low diamond. West ducked his ace and dummy's king won the trick. Declarer cashed the ace of spades and led another spade to East's queen, and East shifted to a club. South won the club in dummy, ruffed a heart, and led his remaining diamond. West rose with his ace and led another club. South won in dummy, cashed the queen of diamonds discarding a club, and ruffed dummy's last heart. This was the position:

NORTH			
♠ Void			
♥ Void			
♦ 5			
♣ J 2			
WEST		EAST	
♠ Void		♠ K 9	
♥ K 10		♥ Void	
♦ J		♦ Void	
♣ Void		♣ 10	
SOUTH			
♠ 10 3			
♥ Void			
♦ Void			
♣ 9			

South led a club to dummy's jack and led the diamond from dummy. He scored his 10 of spades "en passant" for his tenth trick. Well played!

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| CLUES | SOLUTIONS |
| 1 free-for-all (6) | _____ |
| 2 save for a rainy day (7) | _____ |
| 3 "waterproof," say (9) | _____ |
| 4 adorn (11) | _____ |
| 5 pruned (6) | _____ |
| 6 spendthrift (7) | _____ |
| 7 participation (11) | _____ |

WAS	AND	FR	LE	AS
HUSB	PP	INS	CES	LO
OLUB	TREL	SO	AC	LVE
INVO	MENT	ED	RIZE	AC

Monday's Answers: 1. FILTHY 2. WOODEN 3. CHAIR 4. SQUAD 5. WARHORSE 6. VAULT 7. SLIPPERY 12/19

JUMBLE

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

SOLSF

SRUCO

TONDRE

LIFUNX

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Dolly, I don't think you're supposed to hit it out of a backyard.

I've got this, Matt.

THE GOLFER'S TEE SHOT ENDED UP IN A YARD AS A RESULT OF IT BEING HIT

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

BORN LOSER By Art and Chip Sansom

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

SO, YOUR WIFE BELIEVES YOU SHOULD BE PAID MORE FOR THE JOB YOU DO?

WELL, GOOD FOR HER! I WON'T DISAGREE...

EVERYTHING GOING GREAT?

MAGICAL!! I HIRED TWO NEW ACE ELF DRIVERS FROM UBER

DO YOU HAVE A LOT OF ELF TURNOVER?

ARE YOU KIDDING?! MY ELVES GET UNLIMITED TREATS AND NAPS!!

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TALK TO MY BOSS FOR ME?

HEY, I'M SANTA CLAUS. I NOT A MIRACLE WORKER!!

IN THE SHPIRIT OF GIVING, I HAVE SHOME OF EARL'S KIBBLE FOR YOU.

WHY DIDN'T YOU USE YOUR OWN KIBBLE?

I DIDN'T WANT EARL TO FEEL LEFT OUT.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALBUM APPLY SHABBY UNPAID Answer: The future eye doctors were — PUPILS

BLONDIE By Dean Young and John Marshall

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

3+	12X	3	3-
		2÷	
12X	1		1-
	3+		

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CHALLENGING

5-	15X	12X	3+	4
			3÷	8+
2÷	13+		8+	4
	1			7+
30X		2-	5-	
1-	2		3÷	

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RULES

1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

3+	2	1	4	3
36X	3	4	1	2
1	1	3	2	4
2-	4	2	3	1

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

DARRYL, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS?

ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU AND THE KIDS TO BE HAPPY AND HEALTHY.

YOU ARE SO SWEET!

OR A BELT SANDER. I CAN'T DECIDE.

SORRY, DUKE, BUT MR. T, THIS APPOINTMENT TO PANAMA CITY IS THE NEXT HAVANA, THE NEXT SAIGON! IT'S WIDE OPEN, AND AS PROCONSUL, I'LL BE MAKING THE DECISIONS ON DEVELOPMENT—HOUSING, HOTELS, CASINOS, THE WORKS!

DON'T BE A STRANGER.

AYE, AYE, SIR!

DOONSBURY By Garry Trudeau

A WASHING MACHINE? ...IN THE BARN?

THAT'S NO WASHIN' MACHINE SON! THAT'S YER WONDERFUL, HOME-BUILT, PERSONALLY DESIGNED MILK-MIXIN' CONTRAPTION!!

HERE, TAKE THESE PAILS AN' HANG 'EM ON THOSE STALLS OVER THERE.

BY THE WAY... YER NOT WEARIN' ANYTHING GOOD, ARE YOU?

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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston

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NATION

GOP senators: Sen. Corker did not add provision to tax bill

By MATTHEW DALY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Republicans rallied to GOP Sen. Bob Corker's defense Monday, rejecting a report that the Tennessee lawmaker stealthily tucked a provision into the massive tax package to benefit himself financially and then reversed course to back the bill.

Democrats were unrelenting as they howled about the "Corker kickback" and argued the tax benefit for real estate developers boosts the wealthy — President Donald Trump, his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Corker among them — at the expense of average Americans.

In a letter on Monday, the GOP chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said that he — not Corker — was the author of the provision and that it was hardly a brand-new creation dropped into the final version of the bill. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, outlined the legislative path for the provision, starting with its unveiling Nov. 2 by his House counterpart, Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas. Calling himself

"disgusted," Hatch said it was "categorically false" that the provision was "airdropped" into the bill and Corker was responsible.

"It takes a great deal of imagination — and likely no small amount of partisanship — to argue that a provision that has been public for over a month," debated on the House floor and included in a House-passed bill "is somehow a covert and last-minute addition to the conference report," Hatch said.

Corker said in a statement late Sunday that "he is not a member of the tax-writing committee and had no involvement in crafting the legislation." Corker said he requested no specific tax provisions throughout the monthlong debate and had no knowledge of the real estate provision in question. He pressed Hatch for details on the process, prompting the chairman's letter hours later.

Corker's office declined further comment on Monday.

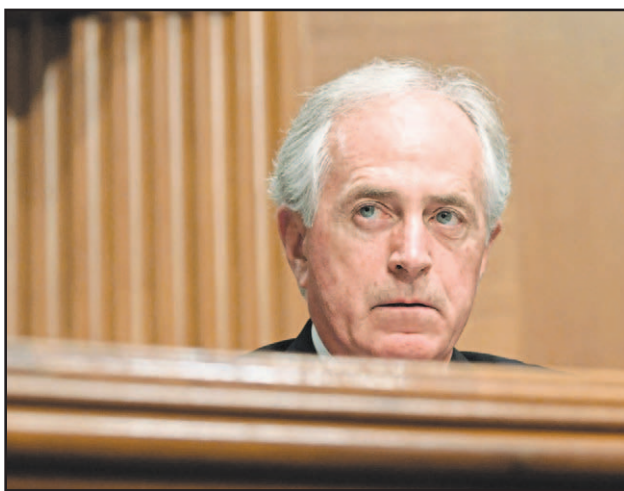
A story in the International Business Times, an online publication, said Corker "suddenly switched his vote to yes" after GOP leaders added

the provision, which could boost Corker's real estate income. The story was co-written by David Sirota, a former Democratic political strategist who has worked for former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat, and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

House and Senate negotiators finalized the tax bill last week and included a version of the provision to benefit the real estate industry in the form of pass-through companies, which are businesses in which the profits double as the owners' personal income.

These types of companies can reduce their taxable income by 20 percent, but the Senate bill had only permitted them to do so if they paid wages to workers. The final bill enables the deduction for owners of certain kinds of property as well, a tax break that would presumably help Trump, Kushner and other officials and policymakers with real estate holdings.

Brady said the claim that Corker had anything to do with the provision was "baloney." He and other House negotiators fought for the provision, Brady told reporters, adding that the measure



AP PHOTO

In this Dec. 5 file photo, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., listens during a meeting of the Senate Banking Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

will encourage real estate owners and other businesses that have few employees but "may be making major investments."

Corker owns real estate and development companies. His estimated net worth was more than \$69 million in 2015, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, which analyzes campaign and financial data. Corker's most recent financial disclosure form listed a building in Chattanooga, Tennessee, worth \$5 million to \$25 million.

He opposed the original Senate bill, complaining it would add to the

nation's debt and "deepen the debt burden on future generations."

But Corker said Friday that while the final version of the bill negotiated by House and Senate Republicans "is far from perfect," it represents "a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make U.S. businesses domestically more productive and internationally more competitive."

Corker's announcement made Senate passage of the GOP tax package more likely. GOP leaders are trying to muscle the bill through Congress this week, handing Trump his first major legislative victory by Christmas.

Twitter suspends white nationalists as it enforces new rules

By ALEXANDRA OLSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Twitter suspended the accounts of well-known white nationalists Monday, moving swiftly to enforce its new rules aimed at reducing what it deems abusive content.

The account of far-right group Britain First, a small group that regularly posts inflammatory videos purporting to show Muslims engaged in acts of violence, was among the first to go dark. The individual accounts of two of its leaders, Jayda Fransen and Paul Golding, were also suspended.

President Donald Trump caused a stir last month when he retweeted a post by Fransen, drawing criticism from British Prime Minister Theresa May. Fransen and Golding were arrested in Belfast last week for allegedly stirring up hatred.

Twitter said it would not comment on individual

accounts. The company has emphasized that it takes into account many factors before making any enforcement decision, including context of the post, cultural and political considerations and the severity of the violation.

Twitter's actions drew praise from civil rights groups.

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League Civil, commended Twitter "for taking these significant steps to tackle hate on their platform." The group Muslim Advocates, which had publicly called for the removal of Britain First's account, applauded Twitter for "updating its policies and taking steps today to remove violent and hateful accounts from its platform."

The guidelines, announced a month ago and put into force this week, address hateful images or symbols, including those attached to user profiles.

Monitors at the San

Francisco company will weigh hateful imagery in the same way they do graphic violence and adult content.

If a user wants to post symbols or images that might be considered hateful, the post must be marked "sensitive media." Other users would then see a warning that would allow them to decide whether to view the post.

Twitter is also prohibiting users from abusing or threatening others through their profiles or usernames. The company also now bans accounts affiliated with "organizations that use or promote violence against civilians to further their causes."

The account for Jared Taylor, who heads the New Century Foundation, was among those suspended, along with his organization's flagship online publication, American Renaissance.

Taylor said he immediately appealed the suspension but swiftly received a

reply from Twitter informing him that his account would not be restored, which he interpreted to mean he had been permanently banned.

He said Twitter determined his account was "affiliated with a violent extremist group," an allegation he denied. "Of all the preposterous things they could have said about me or American Renaissance, I can't think of anything more preposterous," Taylor said.

New Century Foundation has been recognized as charity by the IRS, a decision that has drawn criticism from civil rights advocates. Taylor has said his group raises money for the benefit of the "white race."

Brad Griffin, who blogs under the name Hunter Wallace on the website Occidental Dissent, said in blog post that he was also suspended, along with Michael Hill, president of the League of the

South, the Traditionalist Workers Party and others. American Renaissance and Occidental Dissent both referred readers to an online chat site frequented by white nationalists.

The white nationalist Richard Spencer, whose account was not suspended, tweeted that he had lost more than a hundred followers in the past 24 hours and noted that he didn't "see any systematic method to the #TwitterPurge."

There appeared to be some inconsistencies. Twitter allowed David Duke to keep the message "It's Ok To Be White" as his header, even though the same phrase was hidden by the "sensitive material" warning on his pinned tweet.

While the new guidelines are now in play, the social media company continues to work out internal monitoring tools and it is revamping its appeals process for banned or suspended accounts.

Sarah Palin's son Track accused of assaulting his father

By RACHEL D'ORO
and BECKY BOHRER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASILLA, Alaska — Sarah Palin's oldest son, Track, has been arraigned on charges that he assaulted his father at the family's home in Alaska.

Police were called to the home Saturday night, after Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee, told police her son was "freaking out" and on some type of medication, according to an affidavit by Wasilla Police Officer Adam LaPointe.

The affidavit states that Todd Palin was bleeding from cuts on his head. He told police the dispute began when Track Palin, 28, called to retrieve his truck.

Todd Palin said he told Track Palin not to come but that his son said he would come anyway to beat him up. Todd Palin told police he got his pistol "to protect his family,"

Track Palin told police he broke a window, disarmed his father and put him on the ground.

LaPointe wrote that Todd Palin and Sarah Palin had left the home when police arrived and that Sarah Palin was visibly upset.

Track Palin yelled at officers, calling them peasants, and "moved around in a strange manner" before being arrested without incident, the affidavit states.

Track Palin told police he "consumed a few beers earlier," the affidavit states.

Track Palin was arraigned Sunday on domestic violence-related charges of burglary and assault. Court records did not immediately list an attorney for him. He is scheduled for a preliminary hearing next week.

This is the second time in two years that Track Palin has been arrested in a domestic violence case. In 2016, Palin was

suspected of punching his girlfriend, who then became concerned that he was going to shoot himself with a rifle, court documents said.

He faced several charges but pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm while intoxicated and the other charges were dismissed.

His then-girlfriend later filed for custody of their child, and in January she requested a protective order against Track Palin.

Attorney John Tiemessen, who said he represents Sarah Palin, acknowledged the arrest Sunday.

"Given the nature of actions addressed last night by law enforcement and the charges involved, the Palins are unable to comment further," Tiemessen said. "They ask that the family's privacy is respected during this challenging situation just as others dealing with a struggling family member would also request."

Track Palin served in



AP PHOTO

In this Sept. 3, 2008 file photo, Track Palin, son of Republican vice presidential candidate Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is seen during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. Police arrested the oldest son of Sarah Palin on charges related to domestic violence for the second time in as many years.

Iraq for a year in 2008. Sarah Palin indicated when her son was first accused of domestic

violence in 2016 that post-traumatic stress disorder might have been a factor.

ALMANAC

Today is **Tuesday, Dec. 19**, the 353rd day of 2017. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today in history

On **Dec. 19, 1777**, during the American Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

On this date

In **1813**, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812.

In **1843**, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

In **1932**, the British Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia.

In **1946**, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In **1957**, Meredith Willson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway.

In **1974**, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on.

In **1986**, the Soviet Union announced it had freed dissident Andrei Sakharov from internal exile, and pardoned his wife, Yelena Bonner. Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

In **1997**, James Cameron's epic film "Titanic" opened in U.S. theaters.

In **1998**, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

Today's birthdays

Actress **Cicely Tyson** is 93. Former game show contestant **Herb Stempel** is 91. Actress **Elaine Joyce** is 74. Actor **Tim Reid** is 73. Paleontologist **Richard E. Leakey** is 73. Musician **John McEuen** is 72. Singer **Janie Fricke** is 70. Jazz musician **Lenny White** is 68. Actor **Mike Lookinland** is 57. Actress **Jennifer Beals** is 54. Actor **Scott Cohen** is 53. Actor **Robert MacNaughton** is 51. Magician **Cris Angel** is 50. Rock musician **Klaus Eichstadt** (Ugly Kid Joe) is 50. Actor **Ken Marino** is 49. Actor **Elvis Nolasco** is 49. Rock musician **Kevin Shepard** is 49. Actor **Derek Webster** is 49. Actress **Kristy Swanson** is 48. Model **Tyson Beckford** is 47. Actress **Amy Locane** is 46. Pro Football Hall of Famer **Warren Sapp** is 45. Actress **Rosa Blasi** is 45. Actress **Alyssa Milano** is 45. Actress **Tara Summers** is 38. Actor **Jake Gyllenhaal** is 37. Actress **Marla Sokoloff** is 37. Rapper **Lady Sovereign** is 32. Journalist **Ronan Farrow** is 30.

ODD NEWS

Mississippi boy dials 911 to say Grinch stealing Christmas

BYRAM, Miss. (AP) — A 5-year-old Mississippi boy called 911 to report that the Grinch was trying to steal Christmas.

The Clarion Ledger reports that it happened Saturday in the Jackson suburb of Byram. An officer went to TyLon Pittman's home to assure him that the green creature wouldn't take anyone's gifts.

TyLon had been watching videos online when he became alarmed about the Grinch. He told his mom, Teresa Pittman, that he dialed 911, but she says she didn't quite believe him until an officer knocked on the door.

The officer, Lauren Develle, says she grew up loving the character created by children's author Dr. Seuss.

TyLon says has a plan in case the Grinch does appear: he says he will wrestle him and hold him until the police show up.



REALMUTO REQUESTS TRADE

J.T. Realmuto wants to join the Miami Marlins' exodus. The catcher requested a trade in the wake of the team's payroll purge, a person familiar with the situation said Monday. **Page 4**

NFL: Bucs

Bucs pick up club option on Licht

General manager's future still unclear

By **RICK STROUD**
Tampa Bay Times

Bucs general manager Jason Licht did not receive a contract extension after the team went 9-7 last season. Instead, the Glazer family which owns the Bucs decided to pick up a one-year club option on Licht's contract

for 2018. That happened sometime this past off-season.

But while head coach Dirk Koetter and his staff are definitely in jeopardy of losing their jobs after a 4-9 record this season, Licht's future with the Bucs isn't as clear.

A lot would depend on whether the Glazers turn to Licht to help them hire another head coach after he led the search that resulted in Koetter

replacing Lovie Smith. If the Glazers hire a high-profile head coach and that person likes the job Licht has done or has a previous working relationship with him, there's a good chance Licht and the front office would remain in place.

Licht certainly helped his chances of survival with a very solid draft class in 2017. He was fortunate to have Alabama tight end O.J. Howard fall to the

Bucs in the first round.

But then he made solid picks with safety Justin Evans, receiver Chris Godwin and linebacker Kendall Beckwith. All four have played key roles and been very productive as rookies and their future is bright.

The Bucs also were able to sign receiver DeSean Jackson to a three-year, \$33.5-million contract.

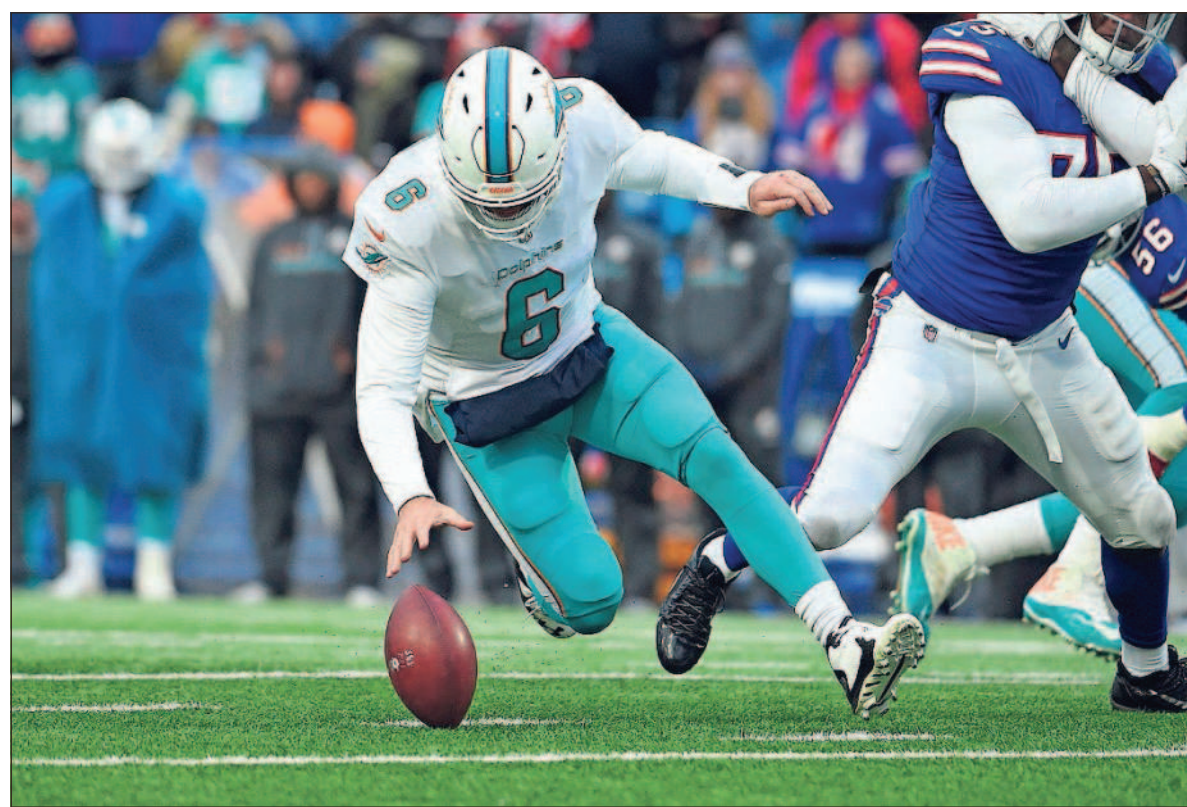


WILL VRAGOVIC | TIMES

SEE BUCS, 3 Buccaneers General Manager Jason Licht is signed through 2018.

NFL: Dolphins

SLIPPING AWAY



AP PHOTO

Miami Dolphins quarterback Jay Cutler (6) recovers a fumble during the second half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills Sunday in Orchard Park, N.Y. The Bills won 24-16.

A .500 record is the best Dolphins can do

By **STEVEN WINE**
Associated Press

DAVIE — A winning season is out of reach for the Miami Dolphins, which means the playoffs probably are, too.

The Dolphins (6-8) will finish at .500 or worse for the eighth time in nine years and will likely spend January on the couch, even if they sweep their final two games at Kansas City and at home against Buffalo.

Despite the faintest of prospects, coach Adam Gase anticipates incentive won't be a problem for his players the rest of the way.

"I would hope they would be very motivated," Gase said. "They are playing for their jobs."

Gase said the games to come will be part of evaluations this offseason, which is where the Dolphins are rapidly headed. They're two games out in the AFC wild-card race and have a 3 percent chance to reach the playoffs, according to fivethirtyeight.com.

A 24-16 loss Sunday at Buffalo all but finished off the Dolphins.

"We knew everything that was at stake, and we didn't make it happen," receiver Jarvis Landry said.

The Dolphins' also-ran status is no surprise, because they've showed only flashes of looking like a playoff team.

After ending a postseason drought a year ago, Miami has been outscored by 90 points in 2017 and ranks 28th in offense, 17th in defense, 30th in turnover differential and 31st in penalties.

Inconsistency has been the Dolphins' hallmark. They beat last season's Super Bowl teams, New England and Atlanta, and have lost to three teams with losing records — the Buccaneers, Jets and Raiders.

SEE DOLPHINS, 3

NFL: Jaguars

Series of successful moves sends Jaguars back to the playoffs

By **MARK LONG**
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — As the home crowd reveled in the wave and a "play-offs" chant, Telvin Smith huddled with his fellow Jacksonville Jaguars linebackers on the sideline and soaked it all in.

That was the extent of his celebration.

The Jaguars (10-4) ended a decade-long playoff drought with a 45-7 thrashing of AFC South rival Houston on Sunday. Smith and his teammates refused to get caught up in the party. At least for now.

After all, the Jaguars see themselves as legitimate Super Bowl contenders. It's a significant about-face for a franchise that lost 102 of its previous 144 games heading into this season.

"We understand what we did, but there's no reason to go crazy," Smith said. "We still have a lot in front us. It's

great that we made the playoffs. I'm telling you, we're excited; it was our goal this week. At the same time, that don't mean nothing until we get there."

Having finished with double-digit losses each of the last six seasons, the Jags — who play San Francisco this week — now have double-digit wins for the first time since 2007. Reaching this point might seem like an overnight feat, but it really started years ago.

And everyone in the locker room insists they saw it coming.

Turnaround? More like "Told you so!"

"It was turning. The tide was turning," defensive end Calais Campbell said. "They were trending in the right direction, and I wanted to be a part of it, so I tried to throw my hat in the pile and am trying to do my part."

SEE JAGUARS, 3



AP PHOTO

Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Keelan Cole, right, celebrates a 73-yard pass play to set up a touchdown against the Houston Texans with teammate wide receiver Dede Westbrook (12) during the second half Sunday in Jacksonville.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: AP Coach of the Year

Frost wins AP coach of year honors after leading UCF to perfect season

By **ILIANA LIMON ROMERO**
Orlando Sentinel (TNS)

Scott Frost won Associated Press Coach of the Year honors after leading UCF to a perfect season, including a conference title and a bid to the Peach Bowl.

It was Frost's third national coach of the year honor, with the coach previously earning the Home Depot Coach of the Year and Football Writers Association of America Eddie Robinson Coach of

the Year honors. He also was named the American Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

Frost resigned and accepted the Nebraska head coaching job hours after leading UCF to an AAC title, but he returned to help prepare the No. 12 Knights to face No. 7 Auburn in the Peach Bowl.

"I was very fortunate to work with a special group at UCF for the last two years," Frost said.



AP FILE PHOTO

UCF head coach Scott Frost works the sidelines in the first half of an NCAA college football game against Cincinnati, in Cincinnati.

SEE FROST, 4

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: AP Poll

Villanova still No. 1, Arizona State up to No. 3 in AP poll

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona State was picked to finish sixth in the Pac-12. Now the Sun Devils are one of the biggest surprises in college basketball, inching toward the program's first No. 1 ranking.

Arizona State moved up two spots to No. 3 in the AP Top 25 released on Monday, leapfrogging preseason No. 1

Duke after Wichita State dropped out of the top 10.

Villanova was No. 1 for the second straight week, receiving 45 of 65 first-place votes from a media panel. Michigan State stayed at No. 2 and received 15 first-place votes, with Arizona State getting the final five first-place votes to match its highest ranking as a program.

SEE POLL, 2

Florida Lottery

www.flalottery.com

PICK 2

Dec. 18N.....1-3
 Dec. 18D.....1-1
 Dec. 17N.....6-2
 Dec. 17D.....6-5
 Dec. 16N.....3-3
 Dec. 16D.....1-7
 D-Day, N-Night

PICK 3

Dec. 18N.....5-3-6
 Dec. 18D.....8-6-1
 Dec. 17N.....1-7-3
 Dec. 17D.....2-0-6
 Dec. 16N.....0-5-1
 Dec. 16D.....4-0-7
 D-Day, N-Night

PICK 4

Dec. 18N.....0-0-7-4
 Dec. 18D.....8-8-5-0
 Dec. 17N.....6-3-1-0
 Dec. 17D.....6-5-2-7
 Dec. 16N.....9-7-5-4
 Dec. 16D.....3-6-5-0
 D-Day, N-Night

PICK 5

Dec. 18N.....2-1-6-7-7
 Dec. 18D.....8-9-4-3-6
 Dec. 17N.....4-0-6-4-7
 Dec. 17D.....5-0-5-9-1
 Dec. 16N.....9-7-8-8-8
 Dec. 16D.....6-6-1-2-6
 D-Day, N-Night

FANTASY 5

Dec. 18.....2-8-9-12-27
 Dec. 17.....5-9-14-17-19
 Dec. 16.....1-11-16-21-32

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 18
 2..5-digit winners \$92,691.08
 349....4-digit winners..\$85.50
 10,481..3-digit winners.\$7.50

CASH FOR LIFE

Dec. 18.....8-9-12-21-45
 Cash Ball1
 Dec. 14.....7-24-32-44-52
 Cash Ball3

SPORTS ON TV**COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

6:30 p.m.
 FS1 — Marshall at Xavier
 7 p.m.
 BTN — The Citadel at Ohio St.
 ESPN2 — South Carolina at Clemson
 ESPNU — Dartmouth at Notre Dame
 FSN — Northwestern St. at Oklahoma
 SEC — Texas A&M-CC at Mississippi
 8:30 p.m.
 FS1 — Morehead St. at Butler
 9 p.m.
 BTN — S. Utah at Iowa
 ESPN2 — Georgia Tech at Georgia

POLL

From Page 1

No. 5 North Carolina, Miami, Kentucky, Texas A&M, Xavier and West Virginia rounded out the top 10.

Arizona State had been No. 5, right behind Duke, but moved past the Blue Devils after rallying from a shaky start to handily beat Vanderbilt on Sunday. The Sun Devils are 10-0 and one of the most exciting teams to watch in college basketball, led by four freewheeling guards who have helped turn ASU into "Guard U."

Arizona State rallied from a 13-0 hole to beat Vanderbilt 76-64 on Sunday, following a program-defining win at Kansas last week.

The Sun Devils received first-place votes for the first time in last week's poll and have matched their highest ranking, also accomplished in 1981 and 1963.

"They play with a lot of intensity and you have to match that intensity the whole game," Vanderbilt coach Bryce Drew said after Sunday's game.

Villanova cruises

Moving into the top spot in the AP Top 25 could cause some teams to feel pressure. Not at Villanova.

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 18
 0.....5-of-5 CB..... \$1,000/Day
 0.....5-of-5..... \$1,000/Week
 4.....4-of-5 CB.....\$2,500
 16....4-of-5.....\$500

LUCKY MONEY

Dec. 159-24-43-47
 Lucky Ball.....13
 Dec. 125-7-11-20
 Lucky Ball.....11

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 15
 0.....4-of-4 LB\$1,000,000
 3.....4-of-4.....\$1,835
 33....3-of-4 LB\$365.00
 530....3-of-4.....\$67.00

LOTTO

Dec. 166-12-32-38-40-45
 Dec. 131-7-13-16-23-28
 Dec. 96-11-19-20-34-36

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 16
 0.6-digit winners \$6.5 million
 21..5-digit winners.\$4,667.50
 1,054..4-digit winners.\$75.00

POWERBALL

Dec. 169-35-37-50-63
 Powerball.....11
 Dec. 132-24-28-51-58
 Powerball.....7

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 16
 0....5 of 5 + PB...\$229 Million
 0....5 of 5\$1 million
 0....4 of 5 + PB\$50,000
 41....4 of 5\$100
 ESTIMATED JACKPOT
 \$250 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Dec. 154-12-36-44-57
 Mega Ball19
 Dec. 128-23-24-25-27
 Mega Ball9

PAYOFF FOR Dec. 15
 0...5 of 5 + MB...\$191 million
 0...5 of 5\$1,000,000.00
 0....4 of 5 + MB\$10,000.00
 11....4 of 5\$500.00
 ESTIMATED JACKPOT
 \$223 million

ESPN — Stephen F. Austin at Missouri
 FSN — Tulsa at Oklahoma St.
 SEC — Mercer vs. Alabama, at Huntsville, Ala.
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
 7 p.m.
 ESPN — Boca Raton Bowl, Akron vs. FAU, at Boca Raton, Fla.
NBA BASKETBALL
 8 p.m.
 NBA — Cleveland at Milwaukee
NHL HOCKEY
 7:30 p.m.
 NBCSN — Boston at Buffalo
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 7 p.m.
 CBSSN — Oklahoma vs. UConn, at Uncasville, Conn.

The Wildcats (11-0) won a national championship in 2016 and have reached No. 1 each of the past three seasons. They handled their first game as No. 1 this season with ease, blowing past Temple 87-67 behind another huge game by Jalen Brunson.

Villanova's junior guard scored a career-high 31 points on 11-of-16 shooting, made 6 of 10 from the 3-point arc, had six rebounds and five assists in 38 turnover-free minutes.

"He's just terrific, plays with a great pace, so smart, great toughness," Owls coach Fran Dunphy said. "His efficiency is ridiculous."

Shockers fall, sooners rise

Wichita State had been on a good run since losing by one to Notre Dame in the championship game of the Maui Invitational, winning four straight games to reach No. 3 in the AP Top 25.

The Shockers (8-2) dropped eight spots to No. 11 in this week's poll after running into Oklahoma and phenomenal freshman Trae Young.

Young, who leads the nation in scoring and is third in assists, had 29 points and 10 assists in Oklahoma's 91-83 victory. The Sooners (8-1) moved into the poll this week at No. 17.

NBA ROUNDUP

Prince, Schroder lead Hawks to 110-104 victory over Heat

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tau-rean Prince scored 24 points, Dennis Schroder added 23 and the NBA-worst Atlanta Hawks beat the injury-riddled Miami Heat 110-104 on Monday night.

The Heat, down to just nine healthy players, were without leading scorer Goran Dragic, forward James Johnson and key reserve Justise Winslow. Miami center Hassan Whiteside missed his 10th straight game with a bruised left knee and 15th overall.

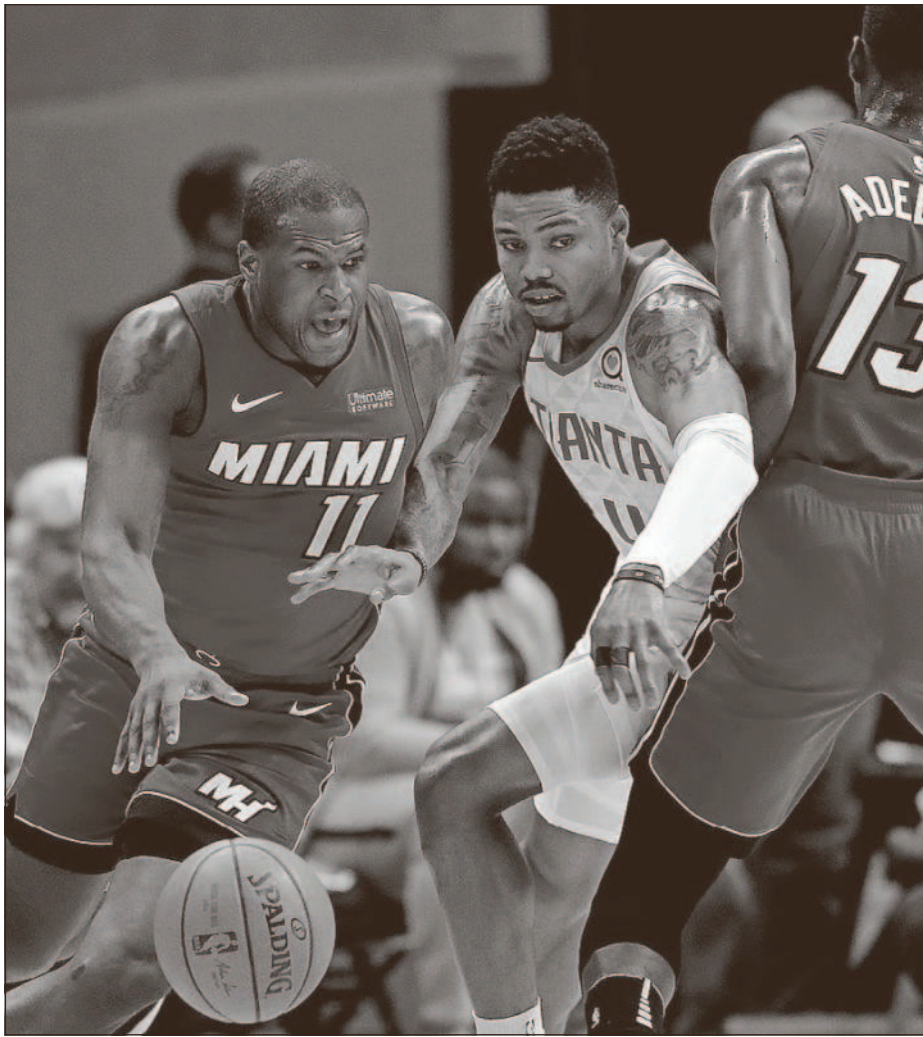
Miami had won four of five and was trying to move two games over .500 for the first time this season. Josh Richardson scored 26 points and Dion Waiters finished with 23.

Kent Bazemore finished with 16 points and five steals for the Hawks, who snapped a four-game skid to improve to 7-23.

Miami erased a nine-point deficit midway through the first quarter to take a 40-31 lead early in the third on consecutive baskets by Richardson, but Atlanta used a strong third quarter to go up 90-76 early in the fourth on DeAndre' Bembry's corner 3-pointer.

Kaminsky ties season high with 24, Hornets top Knicks

Frank Kaminsky scored 15 of his season high-tying 24 points in the first half to give the Charlotte Hornets a jolt off the bench in a 109-91 victory over the New



AP PHOTO

Miami Heat's Dion Waiters, left, dribbles around a pick set by teammate Bam Adebayo, right, for Atlanta Hawks' Kent Bazemore, center, in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday in Atlanta.

York Knicks on Monday night.

Kaminsky didn't miss a shot until the fourth quarter, finishing 10 of 13 overall and 4 of 6 on 3-pointers to provide a boost for a Hornets bench that has struggled so much lately that interim head coach Stephen Silas has shortened the playing rotation.

But Monday's win was so comfortable Silas was able to use all 12 of his players in a game in which Charlotte (11-19) led by as much as 27 points.

The Hornets snapped a three-game skid and ended the Knicks' four-game winning streak.

CELTICS 112, PACERS 111:

Terry Rozier's steal and dunk with 1.5 seconds left capped a frantic comeback in the final half-minute that gave the Boston Celtics a victory over the Indiana Pacers. Kyrie Irving scored 30 points for Boston, which trailed 107-102 after Victor Oladipo's basket with 31 seconds

remaining. But Irving made a pair of 3-pointers, and following an inbound pass with nine seconds left, Boston was attempting to trap Indiana's Bojan Bogdanovic along the sideline. Bogdanovic threw a high pass intended for Oladipo near midcourt but Rozier intercepted it and had an open court to his slam. Al Horford had 14 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Celtics. Jayson Tatum added 16 points and Marcus Smart had 15.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Bridges has 33, No. 2 Michigan State swats away Houston Baptist

Associated Press

Miles Bridges leaped for a lob and dunked over a 6-foot-10 center, made four 3-pointers and sprinted around screens to set up some shots in between.

He's back. Bridges matched his career high with 33 points, leading No. 2 Michigan State in a 107-62 win over Houston Baptist on Monday night.

"You can see his athleticism is finally back," Spartans coach Tom Izzo said. "Offensively, Miles was as good as he's been since he's been here."

The sophomore sprained his left ankle in the third game of the season, keeping him out of one game and slowing him in some additional games.

Bridges has looked like a preseason

little things to get himself looks."

NO. 14 KANSAS 109, OMAHA 64:

Svi Mykhailiuk hit six 3-pointers and scored 26 points, Devonte Graham added 17 and No. 14 Kansas rolled to a victory over Omaha. Lagerald Vick added 15 points and Malik Newman had 14 for the Jayhawks (9-2), who enjoyed a breather after a tough string of games. They beat Syracuse, lost back-to-back to Washington and Arizona State, and needed a clutch 3-pointer from Mykhailiuk to beat Nebraska over the weekend. Mykhailiuk kept knocking down shots against the Mavericks (3-11), too. He was 6 of 7 from beyond the arc and 10 for 13 from the field, adding four rebounds and four assists for good measure. Daniel Norl had 13 points and Zach Jackson had 10 to lead Omaha,

which went 9 for 28 from beyond the arc, shot 33 percent from the field and was outrebounded 49-26 by the Jayhawks.

NO. 24 FLORIDA STATE 69, CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 58:

Phil Cofer scored 19 points, and No. 24 Florida State bounced back from its first loss of the season with a win over Charleston Southern. Terance Mann added 17 points for the Seminoles (10-1), who lost to Oklahoma State on Saturday and struggled during the first half against the Buccaneers, trailing by as many as four (18-14) with 8:21 remaining. Charleston Southern trailed 28-26 at halftime. It got within one (30-29) on a 3-pointer by Christian Keeling before the Seminoles went on a 21-4 run to put it away. Florida State made 11 of 12 from the field during the run and got six points each from Cofer and Mann.

NHL ROUNDUP

Quick, Kings end Flyers' 6-game win streak

Associated Press

Adrian Kempe jumped out of the penalty box and scored a big goal in the third period, Jonathan Quick made 36 saves and the Los Angeles Kings ended the Philadelphia Flyers' six-game winning streak with a 4-1 victory Monday night.

Alec Martinez, Trevor Lewis and Tyler Toffoli

also scored for the Kings, who avoided a winless four-game trip and prevented the Flyers from matching an NHL record.

Jakub Voracek scored a power-play goal and Brian Elliott stopped 21 shots for the Flyers, who were trying to become the first team since the 1966-67 Toronto Maple Leafs to immediately follow a 10-game

winless streak with seven straight victories.

DEVILS 5, DUCKS 3:

Stefan Noesen scored on a rebound with 4:07 to play and added an empty net goal as New Jersey rallied from a two-goal deficit to defeat Anaheim Ducks in the first game between the teams since the late November trade that sent defenseman Sami Vatanen to the Devils for the

popular Adam Henrique. Myles Wood had two goals, Jesper Bratt also scored and Brian Boyle added three assists as the Devils won their second straight game to start a six-game homestand. Cory Schneider had 21 saves and was helped by a goal-post on a shot by Rickard Rakell during a power play before Noesen, a former Duck, scored the go-ahead goal.

NFL: Panthers

Panthers sale sparks political, business buzz

By **STEVE REED**
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The stunning news of the rare opportunity to purchase an NFL team has quickly garnered the attention of sports figures, business investors and politicians alike.

Amid reports of sexual and racial remarks made by Carolina Panthers owner and founder Jerry Richardson in the workplace, he has unexpectedly announced that he is selling the NFL franchise after this season ends.

It was a bombshell that rocked the Carolinas, and generated shockwaves inside and out of the organization. The team Monday promoted Tina Becker as COO and gave her full control of the day-to-day operations.

Becker said in a release that “these have been some of the most difficult

days of my 19 years with the Panthers.” She added that her immediate focus will be on corporate side of the organization, “while addressing the real concerns that have been raised in recent days.”

Richardson, meanwhile, stepped away from daily responsibilities to focus on the sale of the team — which will come with a multi-billion dollar price tag.

That’s what is known, but Richardson’s decision to walk away after nearly 25 years as owner has left more questions than answers about the franchise’s future — most notably, who will buy it and will they keep the team in Charlotte.

Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles said she is committed to working to keep the team in Charlotte.

“The City of Charlotte values its long-running relationship with the

Panthers after more than 22 seasons of NFL football,” Lyles said in a statement to The Associated Press. “The Panthers are part of Charlotte’s fabric. We’ve celebrated victories and anguished over defeats. We understand transitions are inevitable, and we look forward to working with current and future ownership.”

The Panthers are tethered to Charlotte through the 2018 season because of an agreement on an \$87.5 stadium renovation between the city and the team in 2013. That renovation is nearly complete.

But a buyer could potentially purchase the team and move it in 2019.

Former North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, who was mayor of Charlotte when the Panthers settled into their new stadium, has seen both sides. He also was the mayor when the Hornets left town.

He said another question might be about Bank of America stadium.

“Will (the new owners) ask for government subsidy to continue to improve the stadium, or, in fact, even build a new stadium, like what’s happened in Atlanta and Dallas?” McCrory said. “That would be a tall order.”

He said it will be a business decision — and the highest bidder will get the team, to possibly do with it as they chose.

“Unless the NFL steps in and says, ‘No, you need to have a local ownership group,’” he said, “which I’d encourage them to do.”

Panthers coach Ron Rivera was “a little taken aback” when Richardson informed him Sunday night of his decision to sell the team. But he too believes the Panthers should remain in Charlotte.

“This organization has been a source of pride and goodwill and I would like to it continue,” Rivera said Monday. “This is a great community with a very supportive fan base that has been out there for us. They have been here for me and this football team and I hope that somehow it is able to stay here.”

The chance to purchase an NFL team has potential suitors coming out of the woodwork.

Rapper and actor Diddy indicated his interest in purchasing the Panthers on Twitter moments after Richardson’s announcement.

Two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry, a Charlotte native, chimed in with “I want in!”

NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick has also expressed interest.

Other businessmen with Charlotte connections could show interest as well.

Speedway Motorsports chairman Bruton Smith and his son, CEO Marcus Smith, have previously expressed interest in purchasing the Panthers should the opportunity arise.

And the Panthers are loaded with minority owners including real estate magnate “Smoky” Bissell, Family Dollar founder Leon Levine and members of the Belk family. Developer Johnny Harris, who was instrumental in luring the Wells Fargo Championship — and later the PGA Championship — to Charlotte, could also decide to increase his ownership stake in the team.

Let’s not forget Michael Jordan. The six-time NBA champion owns the Hornets. However, Jordan’s interest level is unknown and his representative Estee Portnoy said she had no comment on the Panthers sale.

JAGUARS

From Page 1

It’s impossible to identify a sole reason for Jacksonville’s improbable rise.

Offense. Defense. Special teams. Coaching. Tom Coughlin. Any of those could be justified.

More precise is the Jaguars nailed nearly every major move they made over the last two years, a series of successful decisions that overhauled the roster, changed the culture and established the foundation for what has happened on the field. The results have been evident all season: Jacksonville has nine wins by 10 or more points and six by at least 20.

Here’s a look at the pivotal choices that fueled the franchise’s face-lift from also-ran to division leader.

- **Defensive tackle Marcel Dareus:** The Jaguars traded for the 340-pound run-stopper in late October, and the defense has steadily improved since. Jacksonville ranked 31st against the run when Dareus joined the team and now ranks 20th.

- **Place-kicker Josh Lambo:** The team cut Jason Myers in October after six games that included three misses beyond 50 yards. Lambo replaced him and turned in the best season by a kicker in franchise history, making 17 of 18 field goals (94.4 percent) and 19 of 20 extra points.

- **Quarterback Blake Bortles:** Not only did the Jaguars stick with Bortles in March, they picked up the fifth-year option in his rookie contract that could

pay him \$19 million in 2018. The decision looked questionable decision then but now looks genius. Bortles has 19 touchdown passes, two rushing scores, eight interceptions and two fumbles. He also has been sacked a career-low 21 times.

- **Draft, 2017:** Jacksonville added bruising running back Leonard Fournette and massive left tackle Cam Robinson with their top two picks. Both have flourished as rookie starters and helped establish the offense’s smash-mouth approach. Throw in receiver Dede Westbrook in the fourth round, and it’s one of the more notable drafts in team history.

- **Free agency, 2017:** There’s little doubt Jacksonville’s free-agent class was the best in the league this year and tops in franchise history. The Jags signed Campbell (4 years, \$60 million), cornerback A.J. Bouye (5 years, \$67.5 million) and safety Barry Church (4 years, \$26 million) — three standout defenders who fit perfectly in the scheme. Campbell has a team-record and AFC-leading 14 ½ sacks. Bouye has six interceptions and hasn’t allowed a touchdown pass all season. And Church has become the secondary’s leader.

“Not only did we get big-time free agents, but we got great character people,” Bouye said. “It shows in the locker room and on the field. We see everything is coming together, and we haven’t even reached our peak yet.”

- **Staff changes:** Owner Shad Khan fired coach

Gus Bradley a year ago and kept general manager Dave Caldwell. Khan then hired Coughlin to oversee football decisions and ended up sticking with interim coach Doug Marrone and both coordinators. The selections seemed suspect at the time given the team’s record, but players welcomed the continuity. That proved helpful when Coughlin and Marrone instituted a grueling offseason program that included more padded practice in training camp than most guys had experienced. Those workouts reinforced a physical style of play.

- **Draft, 2016:** Jacksonville landed three touted pieces of its touted defense in the draft. Caldwell chose cornerback Jalen Ramsey, linebacker Myles Jack and defensive end Yannick Ngakoue with his first three picks. Ramsey has emerged as one of the best cornerbacks in the NFL. Jack has flourished at middle linebacker. And Ngakoue’s 11 sacks would get more attention if not overshadowed by Campbell.

- **Free agency, 2016:** Defensive tackle Malik Jackson got the richest contract in team history, a six-year, \$85.5 million deal that included \$31.5 million guaranteed. Safety Tashaun Gipson (5 years, \$36 million) and running back Chris Ivory (5 years, \$32 million) also were part of that class. Jackson has eight sacks — second-most among interior linemen — while Gipson has four picks and Ivory has teamed with Fournette to give Jacksonville a 1-2 punch.

Ownership lobbied hard for Licht to draft Aguayo, but only the GM will be held accountable.

Aguayo made 71 percent of his field goal attempts as a rookie. It didn’t help that his replacement, veteran Nick Folk, also went south and likely cost the Bucs a win over the Patriots by missing all three field goal attempts.

Where Licht may be held responsible is for some of the Bucs’ failures on defense. Tampa Bay is last in the NFL in sacks with 18. In four drafts, he took only two defensive linemen — Noah Spence, a second-round selection in 2016; and defensive tackle Stevie Tu’ikolovatu, a sixth-rounder who is on injured reserve this year.

Spence played most of his rookie season

with a torn labrum and still produced 5.5 sacks. But he lasted only three games this year before the shoulder required surgery and he was placed on injured reserve.

The cornerback position also is thin, with Vernon Hargreaves, a first-round pick in 2016, being demoted to nickel corner and producing only one INT in two seasons.

The point is that there is plenty of good — and some bad — in Licht’s four seasons as the Bucs’ GM, which has included no playoff appearances.

Most believe the 4-9 record is well below the talent level on this football team. That’s coaching, but everyone will be held accountable. Contractually, at least Licht already is signed for 2018.

DOLPHINS

From Page 1

No player has been more up-and-down than quarterback Jay Cutler, who threw three touchdown passes last week to help upset the Patriots, and then had three interceptions and four fumbles at Buffalo. “Not one of the best days he has had,” Gase said.

Cutler came out of retirement when Miami lost Ryan Tannehill to a season-ending knee injury, and now is likely heading into the final

two games of his career.

Cutler is tied for second in the NFL with 14 interceptions, and ranks 32nd in yards per attempt. He has been sidelined twice this season because of injuries and acknowledged the mixed bag of a season.

“Anybody that loses games gets frustrated,” he said. “I think it’s hard not to say. But I love playing with these guys. We have a great coaching staff. We have a lot of talent there and it makes it fun to go to work.”

And Cutler predicted

the Dolphins will give a good effort in the final two games, even if they’re primarily spoilers against two teams in the AFC playoff scramble.

“It’s a great locker room,” he said. “I don’t think we’re going to have any issues with guys shutting down.”

Playing out the string in late December is an all-too-familiar task for the franchise, which has been maddeningly consistent when it comes to year-to-year results. Miami’s win totals since 2009: seven, seven, six, seven, eight, eight, six, 10 and now six.

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MLB: Angels



AP FILE PHOTO

Detroit Tigers' Ian Kinsler hits a three-run double against the Pittsburgh Pirates in the eighth inning of an interleague baseball game in Detroit.

New 2B Ian Kinsler: Angels' aggressive moves are motivation

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ian Kinsler thinks something special is happening with the Los Angeles Angels, and he was determined to be a part of it.

The four-time All-Star second baseman joined the Angels last week from the Detroit Tigers, waiving his limited no-trade clause to make the deal happen.

Along with Justin Upton, Zack Cozart and Shohei Ohtani, Kinsler is part of a remarkable influx of talent over the past five months for the Angels, who have bolstered their lineup around Mike Trout and Albert Pujols.

Kinsler knew the Tigers were rebuilding after a 98-loss season during which they sent Upton to the Angels in another trade. Kinsler could have stuck it out in Detroit while contemplating his future, but he didn't want to wait.

"The place that was most fitting for me was Los Angeles," Kinsler said Monday. "Playing with the Angels, playing with a club that's been so close for the last three years and making moves this winter, trying to push to the next level, that's something that a player like myself is excited about. That's something that motivates a player like me."

Upton re-signed with Los Angeles shortly after the regular season ended, and he sold Kinsler on making the same move when the Angels' need for a second baseman aligned with the 35-year-old Kinsler's desire to play for a probable winner.

"Justin has loved his time there so far, and I put a lot of trust in his opinion," Kinsler said. "Just talking with him about the organization, they do things right. They play the game the right way ... and then obviously the signing of Ohtani just bumped it up even more."

Indeed, the arrival of the two-way Japanese star sparked this month's wide buzz around the Angels, who are coming off back-to-back losing seasons and haven't won a playoff game since 2009.

After the Angels finished last in the AL with a .397 slugging percentage last season,

general manager Billy Eppler knew his club must improve its offense to contend with Texas, Seattle and the World Series champion Houston Astros in the AL West — and owner Arte Moreno remained committed to the high payroll necessary to do it.

Kinsler spoke eagerly of the chance to play alongside Trout in a lineup that has addressed the three positions at which it struggled mightily last season. With Upton in left field, Kinsler at second and Cozart at third, the Angels have former All-Stars and above-average defensive players filling each of last season's biggest holes.

Kinsler was outstanding at the plate while winning a Gold Glove in 2016, and he is eager to team with Gold Glove-winning shortstop Andreton Simmons in what could be an impressive double-play combo.

Kinsler also believes his offensive numbers are about to bounce back after a dip in 2017 to a .412 slugging percentage and a .725 OPS, the lowest marks of his career. He is a career .273 hitter with 1,826 hits, including 234 homers.

"Last year was tough for everyone in Detroit," Kinsler said. "When you get on a club where there's excitement and you have a bunch of really good baseball players — besides the numbers, just guys that know baseball — it just ups your intensity level. It ups your focus, and I look forward to performing the same way I have my whole career, minus last year."

Kinsler, an Arizona native, also is excited about moving back to the AL West, where he spent his first eight big-league seasons with the Rangers. Kinsler left the Rangers on fairly acrimonious terms, infamously saying that he hoped "they go 0-162," Kinsler is focused on the future with the Angels.

"Those feelings have gone," Kinsler said. "Time heals. I was young. I was emotional. I think I've learned from that. I obviously didn't like the way that I left, and I'm sure a lot of Rangers fans and players didn't like the way I left, but that's gone."

MLB: Marlins

AP source: Marlins catcher JT Realmuto requests trade

By STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

MIAMI — J.T. Realmuto wants to join the Miami Marlins' exodus.

The catcher requested a trade in the wake of the team's payroll purge, a person familiar with the situation said Monday. The person confirmed Realmuto's request to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because discussions with the Marlins were private.

The person said Realmuto's agent told the Marlins trading the three-year veteran would make sense for the rebuilding team because of his high market value.

The Marlins responded that they'll be the judge of that.

"We used the last couple of weeks continuing to lay the foundation for building a first-class, winning organization," president of baseball operations Michael Hill said in a statement released after Realmuto's request became public. "Should we feel like we need to make a trade involving any of our under-contract, controllable players, we will be the ones who initiate that conversation and always do what's best for the organization."

Miami dealt major



AP FILE PHOTO

Miami Marlins' J.T. Realmuto dives into home plate with a two-run inside the park home run against the Philadelphia Phillies during the sixth inning of a baseball game, in Philadelphia, Pa.

league home run champion Giancarlo Stanton, All-Star left fielder Marcell Ozuna and major league stolen base champ Dee Gordon this month. The franchise is reducing payroll and rebooting under a new ownership group that includes Derek Jeter.

Jeter will discuss the franchise's direction Tuesday at a town hall meeting with season-ticket holders.

Realmuto hit .278 with 17 homers this year and is regarded as one of the best young catchers in the majors. He's eligible

for arbitration for the first time after making \$562,500 this year, but won't be eligible for free agency until after the 2020 season, which makes the Marlins reluctant to part with him.

Realmuto could bring a windfall in prospects, and the Marlins are anxious to build up a farm system that has been ranked among the worst in the majors.

At last week's winter meetings, manager Don Mattingly spoke of Realmuto as a player to rebuild around.

"I love J.T.," Mattingly

said. "It's probably not fair, but I laid a little bit of a Yadier Molina tag on him. When you're facing the Cardinals and Yadier Molina is behind the plate, you're not happy about it. We feel J.T. can be that guy. He's not there yet, but we think this guy will step up leadership-wise and be a guy you can win a championship with."

While Realmuto may stay in Miami, more cost-cutting trades are expected this offseason, with center fielder Christian Yelich among the candidates to be dealt.

AUTO RACING: NASCAR



Danica Patrick, right, talks with Ricky Stenhouse Jr. before qualifying for a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Charlotte, N.C. Danica Patrick and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. have ended their nearly five-year relationship. A spokeswoman for Patrick confirmed to The Associated Press on Monday that the race car drivers "are no longer in a relationship."

AP FILE PHOTO

Patrick, Stenhouse Jr. put brakes on 5-year relationship

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Danica Patrick and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. have split as a couple after nearly five years.

A spokeswoman for Patrick confirmed to The Associated Press on Monday that the drivers are "no longer in a relationship."

Patrick didn't attend the season-ending awards ceremony last month

in Las Vegas with Stenhouse, who was honored for making NASCAR's playoffs in 2017. That led to speculation about the most high-profile couple in motorsports.

Patrick and Stenhouse announced they were dating in early 2013. She confirmed that by telling the AP: "I have a boyfriend, his name is Richard."

It was an unconventional pairing. They

raced against each other weekly, and over the course of their relationship they clashed competitively, leading to post-race disagreements.

Patrick is 35 and had been previously married before she began dating Stenhouse. He recently turned 30.

She has made no secret of a desire to marry again, and revealed in a recent documentary directed by Hannah Storm she has

frozen eggs in case she decides to have children one day.

Patrick is retiring as a full-time driver and hopes to end her career next year by racing in the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500. It's an outgoing celebration she has dubbed the "Danica Double."

Her 90-day fitness plan book "Pretty Intense" will be released next week.

FROST

From Page 1

"I've told them a number of times that what they accomplished this season was nothing short of impossible. Any honor or award I receive based on what we accomplished as a team is a credit to those student-athletes. I'm very proud to have been a part of this magical season."

Frost received 21 first-place votes on the AP Coach of the Year ballot and 100 points from 57 top 25 poll voters who submitted ballots. Kirby Smart of Georgia finished second with seven first-place votes and 55 points. Clemson's Dabo Swinney finished third with seven votes and 38 points.

Oklahoma's Lincoln Riley (four, 36) was fourth and Miami's Mark Richt (five, 28) was fifth. UAB's

Bill Clark (six), Wisconsin's Paul Chryst (three), Iowa State's Matt Campbell (two), Fresno State's Jeff Tedford (one) and Auburn's Gus Malzahn (one) also received first-place votes.

Frost was hired by UCF in December 2015 and took over a program that went 0-12, with coach George O'Leary abruptly retiring midseason.

The Knights went 6-7 in 2016 under Frost's

direction. He followed it up by helping post a 12-0 record despite playing a schedule significantly altered by a hurricane. The Knights' historic season as the nation's only undefeated Football Bowl Subdivision team and own the No. 1 scoring offense.

Frost took his entire UCF staff with him to Nebraska, but the group has returned to help the Knights prepare to face the Tigers Jan. 1.

SPORTS TICKER

IN BRIEF

NEW YORK

Dodgers cut tax payroll next year to \$181 million

The Los Angeles Dodgers brought their projected 2018 payroll under the \$197 million luxury tax threshold with the weekend trade that sent first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, oft-injured starting pitchers Scott Kazmir and Brandon McCarthy and infielder Charlie Culberson to the Atlanta Braves for outfielder Matt Kemp.

Los Angeles will send Atlanta \$4.5 million by May 1 as part of the trade announced Saturday, cutting its 2018 payroll for tax purposes by \$25 million to about \$181 million while increasing its 2019 payroll by \$20 million.

The Dodgers rid themselves of three guaranteed salaries from next year's tax payroll that totaled \$49,554,483: Gonzalez at \$22 million, Kazmir at \$15,554,483 and McCarthy at \$12 million.

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

IOC gives life ban to Russian lawmaker

The IOC says it has banned Russian lawmaker Alexei Voevoda from the Olympics for life for taking part in the 2014 Sochi Olympic doping program.

Voevoda was brakeman for Alexander Zubkov who drove Russia to victory in the two-man and four-man bobsled events.

Those titles were stripped last month when an IOC disciplinary commission disqualified Zubkov. He has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The judging panel later said urine samples from eight Russian bobsledders at Sochi had abnormally high salt levels and there were scratched glass bottles that were tampered with.

FOOTBALL

Former Payton Man of Year Davis suspended 2 games

The NFL has suspended Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis for two games following his helmet-to-helmet hit on Green Bay Packers wide receiver Davante Adams.

The decision was announced Monday.

Adams left Sunday's game in the third quarter with a concussion after being blindsided by Davis following a Carolina interception. Davis was penalized 15 yards, but not ejected.

Davis, the 2015 NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year, was visibly upset on the sideline after the play.

—Associated Press



Pittsburgh Steelers tight end Jesse James (81) has a knee down before crossing the goal line with a pass from quarterback Ben Roethlisberger on Sunday during the second half against the New England Patriots in Pittsburgh.

AP PHOTOS

When a catch isn't a catch

How the NFL's murky reception rules hurt the Pittsburgh Steelers

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

A run is a run, a basket is a basket and a goal is a goal.

In the NFL, a catch isn't necessarily a catch, and a touchdown isn't always a touchdown.

A runner can inch the nose of the football over the goal line and even if it's subsequently batted away, it's a touchdown.

Cue the celebration. A receiver can cross the goal line, get up and spike the ball. But if the football shifted just a hair as he hits the ground, it's just as if the pass went right through his hands.

In-com-plete! So, that apparent Jesse James TD grab that capped a two-play, 79-yard drive in 24 seconds to upend the Patriots and put the Steelers on the inside track to home-field advantage through the AFC playoffs?

Right, just a mirage. "People are saying a runner breaking the plane causes the ball to become dead ... which is true," tweeted Mike Pereria, a former head of NFL officials. "BUT the receiver does not become a runner until he completes the process of the catch. TOTALLY DIFFERENT."

Whether or not it passes the eye test, James didn't pass the NFL's "bright line," as fellow



New England Patriots strong safety Duron Harmon, center, celebrates his interception in the end zone of a pass from Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger on Sunday during the second half in Pittsburgh. The Patriots won 27-24.

former NFL head official Dean Blandino pointed out.

"If you are going to the ground to make the catch, you have to hold onto the ball when you land," Blandino tweeted. "He isn't a runner until he completes the catch, so goal line is not a factor. It's an incomplete pass."

James' touchdown was overturned and the Patriots didn't fall for Ben Roethlisberger's fake spike two plays later, intercepting his pass into the end zone to seal their 27-24 win. That secured New England's ninth consecutive division title and put the Patriots (11-3) back in the driver's seat for the all-important top seed in the AFC playoffs.

The Oakland Raiders saw their post-season party invite all but rescinded with a 20-17 loss to the Dallas Cowboys, who kept their playoff hopes alive by the slimmest of margins.

Dak Prescott converted a fourth-down sneak by the width of an index card to set up Dan Bailey's go-ahead field goal. Then Derek Carr fumbled the ball inches from the goal line with 31 seconds left when he reached for the pylon and lost his grip on both the football and the Raiders' season.

Other notable calls in Week 15 included the Vikings bringing in Teddy Bridgewater for his first action in nearly 16 months; and the Packers putting Aaron Rodgers back under center for the first time in two months.

The Panthers spoiled Rodgers' return from a broken collarbone with a 31-24 win over the Packers thanks to two TD grabs by Damiere Byrd, the first of which was initially ruled an incompleteness. Officials overturned the call by ruling that Byrd's buttocks had landed inbounds.

Rodgers threw three interceptions. "It's not the fairy tale that we were hoping," Rodgers said. "As I lay in that surgery bed eight weeks ago, obviously I saw it going a little differently. But we've had a great run around here, and as long as I'm around here I'm confident that we'll be in the mix every single year."

Just like Tom Brady is in New England.

The weekend's marquee matchup was Patriots-Steelers, and it didn't disappoint, even though Steelers star Antonio Brown hobbled off the field early on with a torn calf.

It appeared the Steelers were going to beat the Patriots for the first time since 2011 when James caught Roethlisberger's catch and stretched his 6-foot-7 frame across the goal line. But the score was overturned.

"As he hit the ground, the ball began to roll and rotate, and the ball hit the ground," referee Tony Corrente said afterward. "That's the end of it at that point."

The end for Pittsburgh came moments later. Rather than spiking to stop the clock and set up a chip-shot field goal for Chris Boswell to send the game into overtime, Roethlisberger nodded to wide receiver Eli Rogers. At the snap Rogers ran a short crossing route a couple of yards deep in the end zone. Roethlisberger's pass caromed off Eric Rowe and into the hands of safety Duron Harmon.

"Maybe they wanted a field goal," Roethlisberger said. "Maybe they wanted to tie it. Maybe that's on me. Maybe I should have just clocked it, whatever it is. We're not going to look back and second-guess anything or anybody."

That wasn't the case in Oakland, where an odd fourth-down measurement with help of an

index card helped Dallas keep its playoff chances going just as Zeke Elliott returns from his six-game suspension.

"We made it by the thickness of the card," said Cowboys coach Jason Garrett, who decided to go on fourth-and-1 from his 39 with about five minutes left in a tie game.

Prescott ran into a pile that took officials time to untangle.

Referee Gene Steratore then called for the chains to come out, but even that wasn't clear. He then tried to slide what appeared to be a folded index card between the tip of the ball and the end of the chain. When the card didn't slide through, Steratore signaled a first down for Dallas (8-6). He said he had decided it was a first down before the odd measurement.

"The final decision was made visually. The card was used nothing more than a reaffirmation of what was visually done," he told a pool reporter. "My decision was visually done based on the look from the pole."

That explanation didn't satisfy Raiders coach Jack Del Rio.

"I had a different viewpoint," Del Rio said. "I saw air."

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes entries like DelFrisco, DelTaco, DelTaco Wt, etc.

- E -

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes entries like eBay, eBay56, eDAP, etc.

- F -

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes entries like F5 Networks, FAT Br n, FC Global, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes entries like FifthT pf, FITJob, FinToll n, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes entries like Fintl, FintlEng, FintlEngn, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes entries like Gentherm, Genetec, Genetec hs, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes entries like Genetec, Genetec hs, Genetec s, etc.

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, YTD Last, %Chg. Includes tickers like iPass, IQUS, IRSA Prop, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, YTD Last, %Chg. Includes tickers like KVHInd, KaiserAlu, Kala Ph n, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, YTD Last, %Chg. Includes tickers like MathtInt, MaxIntng, MaxwellIT, etc.

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Nasdaq

Table of Nasdaq stock market data including columns for Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, and various financial metrics for numerous companies.

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Nasdaq

Table of Nasdaq stock market data including columns for Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg, and YTD. Includes sub-sections for -T- and -U-.

Table of Nasdaq stock market data including columns for Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg, and YTD. Includes sub-sections for -W- and -V-.

Money Markets

Table of Money Markets data including columns for Fund, Assets, Mat, Avg, Comp, Yield, and YTD. Includes sub-sections for Money Funds and various fund categories.

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Money Markets

Table with columns: Fund, Assets, Avg Mat, Avg Comp, Yld, and multiple columns for various market segments including US Treas Tr, Fed Funds, and International bonds.

Toronto stocks

Table with columns: Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, and multiple columns for various Toronto stock tickers and their performance.

Treasury bonds

Table with columns: Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, and multiple columns for various Treasury bond maturities and yields.

FOOTNOTE: Rate-The annual interest rate the Treasury bond provides to investors. Date-The month and year the bond will expire. Bid-The price investors will pay for the bond. Ask-The price at which investors will sell. A bond price is expressed as a percentage of its original purchase cost of \$1,000. The whole numbers and the decimals which represent 32nds of a point must be converted to dollars and cents; for example, 103.18 equals \$1,035.63. Chg-The change between the preceding day's final bid price and the final bid price from the day before. Yld-The annual percentage return to the investor, based on the bond's current price, if the bond is held until it matures. K-Taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens. n-Treasury note. p-Treasury note; taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens.

Mutual Funds

Section titled 'How to Read the Mutual Fund Tables' containing a table of fund names, NAV, and returns, followed by detailed instructions on interpreting fund data and a list of fund objectives.

Continued on next page

Top 20 Mutual Funds

By Year-to-Date Percent Return

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by year-to-date percent return.

By Total Net Assets

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Total Assets, Percent Return/Rank, YTD, 5-Yr, Pct Load. Lists top 20 mutual funds by total net assets.

By 4-Week Percent Return

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, 4-Wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by 4-week percent return.

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Main table of mutual funds with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Contains multiple columns of fund data.

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Mutual Funds

Table listing various mutual funds with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtrn/Rtk, and corresponding data for each fund.

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Mutual Funds

Table with multiple columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

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Mutual Funds

Table with 20 columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. The table lists various mutual funds across multiple columns, including categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

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Mutual Funds

Table with 15 columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk. Contains various mutual fund entries such as StksPLUSIUSDHC, SAMgmtStrGrA, InvLPBalStrS, and others.

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Table with 25 columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Rows include funds like TEBdR, The Investment House, Third Avenue, Thompson, Thornburg, VanEck, Vanguard, Vericimetry, Victory, Westco, and Wilshire.