

Cleveland Daily Banner

Bradley unemployment again dips to 4.9

By RICK NORTON
Associate Editor

Like a New Year's Eve fireworks show, Bradley County's unemployment rate in December closed out the year with a bang by once again dipping below 5 percent.

For the fourth time in 2015, the local jobless figure dropped below the promising barrier by landing at 4.9. The November rate was 5 percent.

Larry Green, labor market analyst for

the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, credited the temporary services industry that saw "... a good, solid increase."

But the temp services weren't alone. Also making year-ending gains were retail trade and manufacturing, the first of which Green linked to seasonal demand. The same potentially could hold true for manufacturing as some companies face increased product demand for the holiday season.

"Bradley County's unemployment rate

did come down a little bit in December," Green told the Cleveland Daily Banner late Thursday. "Locally, there was a very small increase in retail trade ... that [new hiring] had pretty much been taken care of in November with the Christmas season, but there was some in December."

Although retail trade, manufacturing and temp services worked together to lower the local jobless mark, some of the favorable impact was offset by an accompanying drop in hiring in con-

struction employment, but Green said it was not a significant reduction. Traditionally, the construction industry slows down in the colder and wetter months of winter, and then begins to regain its momentum by March and April.

"The only other [industry] that went down a little was leisure and hospitality, and again that's seasonal, and it didn't go down very much," Green noted.

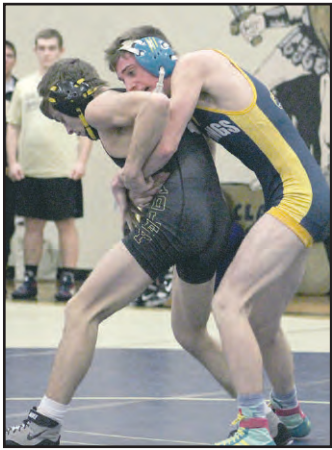
Leisure and hospitality is a state code for tourism, an employment industry

that includes not just recreation but also hotels, motels, restaurants and even rental car companies. Polk County normally feels the pinch of slowdowns in tourism among its commercial rafting outfitters, while Bradley County's impact is felt most in hotels, motels and restaurants.

Bradley County's 4.9 rate once again led the Southeast Tennessee region, and outdistanced the larger Chattanooga

See **UNEMPLOYMENT**, Page 8

Inside Today



Bears back on top in region wrestling

The Bradley Central Bears cruised to a victory over Walker Valley in the semifinals of the Region 4 duals wrestling tournament, taking the first-place trophy when Soddy-Daisy conceded the championship match. The Lee Flames split on the basketball court with the University of West Florida. The Lady Flames softball team will open the 2016 season Saturday. See Sports, Pages 11-13.

Resolving debt not an easy task

As Congress continues to work at emerging from the growing federal deficit, increasing pressure is being placed on Republican candidates who are campaigning for a solvent America, but who may not realize the difficulties in reaching their objective. See the Associated Press news analysis on Page 14 of today's edition.

Forecast



Today looks to be mostly sunny, with a high near 47 degrees. Tonight's forecast calls for clear skies, with a low around 31. Saturday should be sunny, with a high near 61. Saturday night should be mostly clear, with a low around 43. Sunday should be mostly sunny but somewhat breezy, with a high near 62 and winds gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Around Town

Arlene Brooks chatting with friends ... Karen Cooper describing some "on-the-fence" excitement during vacation ... Connie Torbett preparing to see some California fashions ... Jerry Shannon describing another "39th milestone" ... Bobbie Jackson sporting some snazzy rain boots.



Sousa song, performance celebrate big anniversary: It's No. 110

Craigsmiles Opera House played host

By ALLEN MINCEY
Banner Staff Writer

You may not know that Cleveland has its own song — "The Diplomat" — or that it was composed by march king John Philip Sousa.

What is even lesser known is that the song was played for the first time 110 years ago when Sousa performed it at Craigsmiles Hall.

On Jan. 30, 1906, Sousa played the local hall on Ocoee Street and debuted the song. The city of Cleveland website (www.clevelandtn.gov) confirms that "The Diplomat" is the city song. There are several versions of the song available on YouTube.

Then known as the Craigsmiles Opera House, the facility was built in 1877 and dedicated the year after. It housed many events, but the crowning achievement was hosting Sousa and his band.

Sousa is well-known for his marches such as "The Stars and Stripes Forever," "Semper Fidelis," and "The Washington Post." Many will know "The Washington Post" march from the Dan Fogelberg song "Leader of the Band," but may not know that it is a Sousa composition.

He traveled with his band throughout the late 1800s and into the 1900s, making a stop in Cleveland 110 years

See **SOUSA**, Page 9



SATURDAY MARKS the 110th anniversary of John Philip Sousa's visit to Cleveland and his presentation at Craigsmiles Opera House (now known as Craigsmiles Hall or the Craigsmiles Building). The building has been renovated over the years from its early years (bottom photo) to its present day look (top photo), but the exterior renovation helped the building keep its historic feel and look. Lee University presented a plaque commemorating Sousa's visit. The plaque can be found in the entrance area of the North Ocoee Street building.



StopIt: New city program targets hazing and bullying

By LARRY C. BOWERS
Banner Staff Writer

The Cleveland Board of Education and the school system's administration are taking steps to enable students to more easily report incidents of bullying, hazing and other offenses.

The school board, at Thursday's meeting at the central office, approved a \$3,600 expense for the school system to enroll for

See **PROGRAM**, Page 8



MEMBERS OF THE E.L. ROSS Elementary Student Leadership Team attended Thursday's Cleveland Board of Education meeting to express their appreciation to board members for their service. Board members, seated from left, include Chair Dawn Robinson, Dr. Murl Dirksen and Peggy Pesterfield. The students were accompanied by their teacher-sponsors, and Principal Lisa Earby.

Waterville students aid veterans home

By JOYANNA LOVE
Banner Senior Staff Writer

Waterville Community Elementary School students collected \$400 worth of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to donate to the Southeast Tennessee Veterans Home Council.

Council Co-Chair Cid Heidel and Veterans Service Officer Joe Davis accepted the donation Thursday.

Students collected change

"I wanted to be a part because it reminded me of all the good veterans that have fought for our country, like my uncle."
— Cason Stewart

and brought it into school. The class that collected the most

See **WATERVILLE**, Page 8



WATERVILLE COMMUNITY Elementary School students in second and third grade, along with second-grade teacher Lisa Dempsey, back right, present a check to Southeast Tennessee Veterans Home Council co-chair Cid Heidel.

CHS, CSCC launch 2-way TVEC

Dual enrollment is program focus

By LARRY C. BOWERS
Banner Staff Writer

The education world for Cleveland High School students has become a little more complex after Thursday evening's Board of Education meeting at the central office, and hopefully in an exciting new way.

The school system has entered into an agreement with Cleveland State Community College to allow students to graduate from Cleveland High School and CSCC simultaneously.

The Tennessee Valley Early College program has been established at the college, which will provide high school students the opportunity to receive their high school diploma, and an associate degree from Cleveland State, at the same time.

Cleveland State President Dr. Bill Seymour, who attended Thursday's school board meeting, emphasized that the high school graduates would enter college as juniors.

Seymour added the idea of an early college high school was initiated by Cleveland City Schools administrators, but has since been embraced as a Cleveland State program.

CSCC officials are also talking with the Bradley County Schools system, and hope to interest other regional high schools in this opportunity. Seymour said it would be an excellent opportunity for McMinn County's two high schools, at CSCC's Athens facility.

School board members unanimously approved funding for the



Ringstaff



Seymour

See **TVEC**, Page 8

OBITUARIES

Charles Allen

Charles Allen of Cleveland died Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016, surrounded by his family.

He was administrative assistant of the Tennessee Eastern District of the Church of God in Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mark and Gertrude Allen; seven brothers: Mark, John, Joe, Howard, Will, James, and Epluribus; and five sisters: Annie Pearl, Florell, Rena, Nancy and Mildred.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Lacy D. Allen, of Cleveland; daughters: Janice Bradford of Cleveland and Vanessa Outlaw; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brother, Tommie Allen of Starkville, Miss.; four sisters: Pearlina, Mary, and Elzena of Chicago, Ill., and Magnolia of Starkville, Miss.; and many extended family members.

The body will lay in repose today, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Patton Funeral Home, 265 Fair St. S.E. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 tonight at North Cleveland Church of God.

Family visitation will be from 10 to the service time at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016. Bishop James M. Scott will give the eulogy.



Haskel Allison

Haskel "Hack" Allison, 75, of Georgetown, died Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016, at the family residence.

Survivors and funeral arrangements will be announced by the North Ocoee Chapel of Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services.



Marsha Brewer

Marsha Darlene Brewer, 60, of Cleveland, passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016, in a local hospital. She was a member of Abundant Life Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Steven Dale Brewer; father, John Casson, and brother, Michael Casson.

She is survived by her two children: Lori Castelow Miller and Timothy of Cleveland, and Kristie Michelle Davis of Sweetwater; mother, Lorine Moore Casson; several grandchildren: Olivia Grant, Amie Grant, Dustin Davis, Dekota Grant, Michael Davis, Jadie Miller and Macala Ledbetter; several great-grandchildren: Cameal Grant, Mia Davis, Whaylon Looper, Carter Grant, Neyland Ledbetter, Carson Warren; and siblings: Ricky Casson, Floyd Casson, Gaylynn Stephens, and Vickie Casson Davis.

The funeral will be conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan.31, 2016, in the chapel of Ralph Buckner Funeral Home with the Rev. Gary Nelson officiating.

Interment will follow in Cookson Creek in Polk County. Pallbearers will be Robert Grant, Michael Davis, Dekota Grant, Dustin Davis, Tyler Looper, and Hubert Roark.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

We invite you to send a message of condolence and view the Brewer family guestbook at www.ralphbuckner.com.



To submit an obituary, have the funeral home or cremation society in charge of arrangements e-mail the information to obituaries@clevelandbanner.com and fax to 423-614-6529, attention Obits.



Gala Faye Coile

Gala Faye Hall Coile, 71, a resident of Cleveland, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016, in a local health care facility.

She was a beloved mother, nana, sister and aunt. Her greatest joy was living for and loving her family with a gentle fierceness that will never be forgotten. Nothing meant more to her than the time spent with her God in prayer and devotion, daughters, and grand-angels. She enjoyed singing, being outdoors and taking long drives.

She was born in Cleveland on Oct. 31, 1944. In earlier years, she was a member of the Children's Sunshine Choir, which was sponsored by Faith Memorial and Pastor M.E. Littlefield. Later, as a member of the Church of God of Prophecy, she was a member of the choir Hallelujah Chorus.

Many friendships were made during that time. By making regular contributions to the Samaritan's Purse and Locks for Love, she showed her passion for these two generations.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Horace Hall and Carolyn Melvene O'Neal Hall; sister, Carolyn Ann Hall Beatty; brother, Milton Hall; and one nephew.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her daughters: Carolynne (Richard) Smith, Shannon McDaniel, and Angel Coile; ex-husband and friend, Mack Coile; eight grandangels: Michael Curry, Sydney Blackmon, SeAira Coile, Schuler Blackmon, Bailey Craig, Jordan Sims, Casey McDaniel, and Adyson Coile, one great-grandson: Jude Lilley; sister, Devada Ball-Cooper; and nieces and nephews: Dianna Calfee, Elang Holden, Joseph Beatty, Curtis Hall and Janice Graff.

The family would like to extend appreciation to Courtney at Bradley Health care for the exceptional love and care she gave to Gala.

Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan.31, 2016, at Beacon Baptist Church on Corvin Road.

You are invited to share a personal memory of Gala or your condolence with her family at her online memorial located at www.companionfunerals.com.

Companion Funeral and Cremation Service and the Cody family are honored to assist the Coile family with these arrangements.



Junior Collins

Junior Allen Collins, 81, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016, in a local hospital.

A former resident of Fort Meade, Fla., he moved to Cleveland eight years ago and he and his wife became members of First Baptist Church.

A graduate of Florida State University, he served his country in the United States Army and then became an art teacher. Always active in his community, he was a former president of the Rotary Club in Fort Meade and a founding member of the ROMEO Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out) in Cleveland. He was a sport car enthusiast and loved photography, but teaching art was his passion.

He was the son of the late Walter Louallen Collins and Willie Odessa Still Collins; and was

also preceded in death by his son, Wesley Howard Collins.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Gene "Genie" Collins of Cleveland; children: Wade Alan Collins and Tara of Lawrenceville, Ga., Lauretta Cook and Christopher of Saluda, N.C., John C. Collins of Buford, Ga., and Amy E. Hazleton and Tate of Cleveland; and adopted daughter, Kimberley Collins; grandchildren: Caleb Collins, Clark Collins, Hunt Collins, Cagney Collins, Maggie Johnson, Matthew Grainger, Fitzhugh Sthreshley, Tabitha Collins, Justin Everett, Sam Hazleton, Shelby Hazleton; great-grandchildren: Liam Duncan Collins and Adia Collins; and two sisters: Annette Wilson and Wylene Lockhart.

Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, at First Baptist Church.

Interment will follow in Lee Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today at the funeral home, and also on Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. at the church prior to the service.

We invite you to send a message of condolence and view the Collins family guestbook at www.ralphbuckner.com

Ralph Buckner Funeral & Crematory Services is in charge of arrangements.



Deanna D. Cooper

Deanna D. Cooper, 49, of Benton, died Thursday night, Jan. 28, 2016, in a local health care facility.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.



Daniel Lamar Dietz

Daniel Lamar "Danny" Dietz, 56, of Ringgold, Ga., passed away on Thursday morning, Jan. 28, 2016 at home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Chattanooga on Aug. 13, 1959, to the Rev. Lamar and Sarah Dietz. He was the owner and operator of Dietz Body Shop for 34 years.

He was an ordained minister and served at Antioch Baptist Church in McDonald. He also served as a Sunday School teacher in many churches throughout his life. He had a passion for the "Old Fashioned Camp Meeting" and helped establish The Red Field Tabernacle. His love for The Lord and sharing the gospel with others was evident in all he did. He was quoted as saying – "God did it all... The closer I get, I don't want no glory. He did it all... Make much of Christ. To God be the Glory." He enjoyed NASCAR, fishing and football, just to mention a few, but will be most remembered for being a loving son, brother, husband, father and grandfather.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his loving and devoted wife of 22 years, Starla Mauldin Dietz; three children: Brad Dietz, Danielle Scott (Zach) and Caleb Dietz; mother and father, the Rev. Lamar and Sarah Dietz; five siblings: Edward Nolen (Waynette), Hank Nolen (Barbara), Nancy Mammen, Joy Bolton (Jimmy) and Christine Littlejohn (Robbie); one grandson, Bentlee Cruz Housley; and numerous other extended family members and a host of special friends.

A celebration of his life is planned for Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, at 2 p.m. at the Bible Baptist Church located at 110 Talley Avenue in Rossville, Ga., with Brother Dean McNeese, Brother Dana Williams and Brother Ricky Gravely officiating.

Interment will follow in the Dietz Cemetery with Farrell Sprayberry, Anthony Byrd, Chris Hughes, Chris Thomas, Bobby Blevins, Kenny Shaw, Blake Foster and Alan Cummings serving as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends at the church on Saturday night, Jan. 30, 2016, from 5 until 8 p.m. and also one hour prior to the 2 p.m. service on Sunday.

The family would like to say a special appreciation to Dr. McCravey and his staff, the

CVICU department at Erlanger, and Dr. Gullett and her staff.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made in his memory to the Red Field Youth Building Fund at Northwest Georgia Bank.

You are encouraged to share a memory of Danny and/or your personal condolences with his family by visiting his memorial web page and guestbook at www.companionfunerals.com.

Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist the Dietz family with his arrangements.



James Evans

James Evans, 90, of Cleveland, died Thursday night, Jan. 28, 2016, in a local health care facility.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.



Marion Elish Locke

Marion Elish Locke, 92, a lifelong resident of Polk County, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016, at his residence.

Son of the late Francis Locke and Dora Payne Locke, he served his country in the United States Navy during the Second World War. Prior to his service in the Navy, he served in President Roosevelt's U.S C.C. Corps. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting. He never ran out of a good hunting story to tell the great-grandchildren and he never told the same one twice.

Locke is proceeded in death by his wife of 65 years, Vivien Locke; daughter, Wanda (Willard); and grandson, Doug Waters; brothers: William, Henry, Carl, Wesley, George, Roy, and Oscar Locke; and sisters: Emily, Lillie, Ola and Mattie.

Left to cherish his memory are three daughters: Shirley (George) Waters, Barbara (JB) Mull, and Esther (Terry) Satterfield; sister, Marilene Hughes; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, at Mountain View Baptist Church in McCaysville, Ga., with the Rev. Ray Harper officiating.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., Saturday, prior to the service. Burial will be held following the service at Grassy Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Gene Barker, John E. Barker, Scott Barker, Cole Barker, Keith Barker and Greg Barker.

You are invited to share a personal memory of Marion or your condolence with his family at his online memorial located at www.companionfunerals.com.

Companion Funeral and Cremation Service and the Cody family are honored to assist the Locke family with these arrangements.



Frances Longwith

Frances Longwith, 86, of Cleveland, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016, at the family residence.

She was the daughter of the late Fred and Maggie Poe

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Lawson. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Herman Longwith; brothers: Sonny Bill Lawson and Herbert Lawson; and sisters: Louise Payne and Irene Bishop.

She was a member of the North Cleveland Church of God and was retired from Charleston Hosiery Mill.

Survivors include her sister, Edna Hampton; nieces: Sherry Whitener, Brenda Williamson and her husband, Terry, Judy Calfee and her husband, Kester; nephews: Ronnie Bishop and his wife, Peggy, and Billy Dale Lawson, all of Cleveland; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

A Remembrance of Life service will be held at 7 p.m. today, Jan. 29, 2016, at the North Ocoee Chapel of Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services with Pastor Ronnie Bishop officiating.

The interment will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Fort Hill cemetery.

The family will receive friends today from 5 p.m. until the service time at 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

We encourage you to share your memories and or condolences with the family by going to www.jimrushfuneralhomes.com.

Paul McCleary

The Rev. Paul McCleary, 69, died Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016, at his home in Charleston.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced by M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home.

Bill S. Quinn

Bill S. Quinn, 84, of Cleveland, died Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016, at a Chattanooga hospital.

Survivors and funeral arrangements will be announced by Fike-Randolph & Son Funeral Home.

Elizabeth Ann Swinford

Elizabeth Ann Cross Swinford, 67, of Cleveland, left her earthly home and entered her heavenly home Tuesday morning, Jan. 26, from a Chattanooga health care facility.

She was a native of Bradley County. Her husband, Hubert Cross, her mother, Mable Louise Dye, and her sister, Gladys Faye Dye, preceded her in death.

She took care of children most of her life, something she loved to do! She also enjoyed singing gospel music and was well liked by anybody who knew her. She was a very loving lady who loved her family dearly! Elizabeth was a member of the Cohutta Hills Community Church in Cohutta, Ga.

Survivors include her father, James R. Dye; stepmother,

Judith Dye; sister, Ruby Cross; and her husband, J. L. Cross; brothers: Alan Bowers and Steven Bowers and his wife, Teresa; and several nieces, nephews and other family members.

The Remembrance of Life service will be conducted Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, at 2 p.m. from the Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services Wildwood Chapel with the Revs. Sam Randolph, Tim Gann and John Wesley McCann officiating.

Interment will follow in the Cohutta Community Church Cemetery with Lonnie Cross, Kenneth Cross, Sean Truelove, Matthew Duckett, Coby Truelove, J.T. Chambers, Jeffery Cross and Dustin Duckett serving as casketbearers.

The family will receive friends from 6 until 9 p.m. this evening at the funeral home.

You may share your condolences and your memories with Elizabeth's family at www.jimrushfuneralhomes.com.

Alma Dell Taylor

Alma Dell Taylor, 82, of Cleveland, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016.

She was born on April 7, 1933, to the late Arthur Adams and Lillace Adams. In addition to her mother and father, she is preceded in death by her husband, Charlie Taylor; two children: Jeneva Baliles and Ricky Baliles; siblings: Willard Adams, Carl Adams, Clarence Adams, CA Adams, Minnie Bates, Loreen Coleman, and Ruby Weaver.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory four children: Ronald Baliles, Jeanette Goins (Baliles), Jeff Baliles, Aaron Baliles; siblings: Irene Morrow Rose, Sarah Cole, Dorothy Painter; grandchildren: Judith Cole, Darrell Baliles, Renee Baliles, Keith Goins, Melissa Mason, Cody Baliles, Christian Baliles, Andrea Baliles, and Sebastian Baliles; great-grandchildren: Katelyn Mason and Caleb Mason.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. at Maple Grove Baptist Church in Copperhill on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016.

The family will receive friends at the church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. prior to the service.

Interment will follow the service in the church cemetery with Jonathan Branyon, Eathen Huskins, Mikey Collins, Harold Adams, Tommy Taylor, and Abe Taylor serving as pallbearers.

You are invited to share a personal memory of Alma or your condolences with her family at her online memorial located at www.companionfunerals.com.

Companion Funeral and Cremation Service and the Cody family are honored to assist the Taylor family with these arrangements.

More obituaries, Page 3

OBITUARIES



Velma P. Watts

Velma P. Watts, 92, of Etowah, passed away Thursday morning, Jan. 28, 2016, at a local health care facility.

She was born Nov. 18, 1923, in Georgia to the late Tom and Susie Watts.

She was a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County. After graduating from Tennessee Wesleyan College, she began her career as an educator teaching for more than 30 years, first at Etowah High School and then McMinn Central High School.

She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Etowah and a member of the Etowah Chapter of The Eastern Star. She enjoyed reading, traveling throughout many European countries and spending time with family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Q. Watts; sisters: Sarah Coranto, Pearl Huffman, Claude Malone, Betty Arnold Kathylene Mull, and Joan Owens; and brothers: S.L. Poteet and J.L. Poteet.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Tyresha and Jack Isbill Sr. of Athens; sister, Jean White of Athens; brother, Bennie Poteet of Delano; and several nieces, nephews, and other extended family.

A graveside service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, at Green Hill Cemetery with Pastor Pete Mullins officiating.

Tommy Owens, Don Barnet, Jackie Lee Isbill Jr, Gregory Moore, and Bud Mull will serve as pallbearers.

A white dove release ceremony will conclude the services.

The family will receive friends

from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to www.serenityfunerals.com.

Serenity Funeral Home and Cremation Center of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.



Frankie Burris Womac

Frankie Lee Burris Womac, 86, of Cleveland, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016, at her home.

She retired as a seamstress from American Uniform after 35 years of service.

She was of the Baptist faith. She was a NASCAR fan, and also enjoyed quilting and crafts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Zena Smith Burris; husband, Howard Womac; and niece, Gail Liner.

Survivors include her sisters: Dorothy Liner of Cleveland and Beatrice Tallent of Copperhill; niece, Kay Williams of Cleveland; nephew, Clifford Liner of Murfreesboro; and great-nieces and great-nephews: Kristi (Luke) Parker and their son, Garrett, of Murfreesboro, Jeremy (Jaclyn) Williams and their children, Ava and Jack of Birchwood, Sean (Promise) Williams of Cleveland, Joseph (Judy) Toomey and Zelda Toomey Lee.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, in the chapel of Fike-Randolph & Son Funeral Home with Pastor David Peters officiating.

Interment will follow in Double Springs Cemetery with Joseph Toomey, Garrett Parker, Jeremy Williams, Sean Williams, Clifford Liner and Luke Parker serving as pallbearers.

Her family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

The family requests that memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

We invite you to send a message of condolence and view the Womac family guest book at fikefh.com.



LOTTERY NUMBERS

(AP) — These lotteries were drawn Thursday:

Tennessee

Cash 3 Evening: 6-7-6, Lucky Sum: 19

Cash 3 Midday: 3-5-3, Lucky Sum: 11

Cash 3 Morning: 4-3-4

Cash 4 Evening: 2-0-0-8, Lucky Sum: 10

Cash 4 Midday: 5-7-9-6, Lucky Sum: 27

Cash 4 Morning: 1-3-2-0

Cash4Life: 04-05-15-25-59, Cash Ball: 2

Georgia

All or Nothing Day: 01-02-03-05-07-08-13-14-15-17-22-24

All or Nothing Evening: 01-02-04-05-08-10-11-12-13-18-21-22

All or Nothing Morning: 02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-11-18-19-21

All or Nothing Night: 03-04-08-09-10-11-14-15-17-18-19-20

Cash 3 Evening: 8-1-2

Cash 3 Midday: 1-4-4

Cash 4 Evening: 0-6-1-7

Cash 4 Midday: 8-4-7-9

Fantasy 5: 01-05-07-12-32

Georgia FIVE Evening: 8-2-3-5-9

Georgia FIVE Midday: 5-1-2-5-9

Jumbo Bucks Lotto: 12-14-19-20-22-47

IT'S A SPECIAL DAY FOR ...

Joe Evans, Clara Mizell, Fred Bryson, Melody Smith and James Graig, who are celebrating birthdays today ... Joel Curtis, who turns 32 ... Eric Bankston, who turns 28 ... Tommy Boring, Tammy Leatherwood, Karen King, Pam Huff, Debbie Anderson, David Long, Dewey Woody, Jeanie Wright, Annette McCall and Khristie Hannah, who will celebrate birthdays Saturday ... Richard Yarber, who will celebrate his 48th birthday Saturday.

TENNESSEE BRIEFS

Tennessee Supreme Court weighs appeal in Knoxville slayings

KNOXVILLE (AP) — Tennessee Supreme Court justices could use the case of the ringleader of a 2007 double slaying of a young Knoxville couple to craft new law.

The state high court heard arguments Wednesday in Knoxville in the appeal of Lemarcus Davidson, who was sentenced to die for his role in the carjacking, kidnapping, beating, rape and killings of 21-year-old Channon Christian and her 23-year-old boyfriend, Christopher Newsom, news outlets reported.

The justices will weigh various issues surrounding Davidson's case, but made clear by their questions they are interested in using a search warrant foul-up to explore the possibility of crafting what is known as a "good faith exception."

Federal courts have used good faith exceptions to forgive mistakes such as clerical errors, but no such exception currently exists in Tennessee courts.

"This court has the authority to adopt that, and we want to know if we should adopt that," Justice Jeffrey Bivins told attorney David Eldridge, who represents Davidson.

Davidson's defense team has argued that the trial court should not have allowed evidence from searches of Davidson's house because the search warrant wasn't signed in the correct place. Investigators found Christian's body during the search before noticing the signature was missing.

John Bledsoe, an attorney for the state Attorney General's Office, has called the missing signature a faxing error. Bledsoe said the detective had signed the affidavit accompanying the search warrant and had sworn to its truthfulness, but the signature line was cut off when the document was sent to a judge for approval.

Eldridge argued that the mistake at issue is more serious than a clerical error because an officer's signature on a search warrant application is proof that officer swore under oath that the facts therein are true.

"Failure to comply with the legal rules of procedure is pretty significant," Eldridge said.

In 2014, the state Court of Criminal Appeals held that because police already had amassed evidence against Davidson as a suspect and had discovered Newsom's body and Christian's missing vehicle near Davidson's house, authorities inevitably would have found Christian's body through legal means.

Monday deadline to register to vote in presidential primary

NASHVILLE (AP) — Tennesseans who want to vote in the March 1 presidential primary must register to vote by Monday.

In a news release, Secretary of State Tre Hargett is recommending voters take advantage of early voting because of unpredictable winter weather and an incredibly long ballot. Early voting begins Wednesday, Feb. 10, and runs until Tuesday, Feb. 23. Information on early voting locations is available from the local elections offices in each county.

Tennesseans must bring valid state or federal photo identification with them to the polls.

More information is available

at GoVoteTN.com or by downloading the GoVoteTN app. Voters can also call toll free for information at (877) 850-4959.

Haslam, lawmakers see need to clear pending records requests

NASHVILLE (AP) — Gov. Bill Haslam and two top Tennessee lawmakers say they recognize the need to clear a backlog of hundreds of open records requests.

John Dunn, a spokesman for Comptroller Justin Wilson, said Wilson has requested nearly \$265,000 in the budget to help with the growing number of requests for information.

Haslam, speaking to a group of journalists Thursday, wouldn't say whether his upcoming budget will contain new positions to help clear the backlog.

A recent comptroller's audit documented 603 open or pending cases where citizens or governments had made requests to the Office of Open Records Counsel, which helps people obtain government records.

Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey said the number of pending cases is now closer to about 1,000. Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell said they would support extra staff to clear the backlog.

Carrie Underwood to honor military families during tour

NASHVILLE (AP) — Country star Carrie Underwood is working with Carnival Cruise Line and Operation Homefront to honor military families throughout her upcoming "Storyteller" tour.

Underwood will meet with selected military families in 10 cities, and she'll perform a free concert for hundreds of military families onboard the Carnival Vista in New York on Nov. 4.

Her tour begins Saturday in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Grammy-winning singer said in a phone interview that meeting military families is a special experience.

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Pentagon chief seeks to improve family leave, child care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Thursday unveiled a series of family-friendly proposals for the military that would increase parental leave, child care and health care coverage to bolster efforts to recruit and retain high-quality service members.

Carter told a Pentagon news conference that he will double the length of fully paid maternity leave for female service members and work with Congress to boost time off for paternity leave and adoptions.

He said he also intends to expand health care coverage to include more benefits for women trying to get pregnant. And he is directing the military services to expand the hours that military child care facilities are open and the number of children that can be accommodated.

The changes, which will cost an estimated cost of \$385 million over the next five years, are part of Carter's ongoing effort to modernize the military and make it more attractive to job seekers. He's already pushed past Marine Corps objections to allowing women to apply for combat jobs and has expressed a willingness to consider allowing transgender people serve openly.

The new initiatives, said Carter, "will strengthen our competitive position in the battle for top talent, in turn guaranteeing our competitive position against potential adversaries."

But, he added, any adjustments had to be balanced against the need to maintain a strong and ready fighting force. "Fairness is important, but always, always the mission effectiveness of our force comes first,"

he said. "We are not Google. We are not Walmart. We're war fighters."

Pregnancy is a key issue for military women, who often have to deploy for months at a time and try to plan childbirth around their more stable duty assignments. And men worry about injuries during their deployments to warzones that might impair their abilities to father children.

Officials said the military service chiefs and leaders largely endorsed the changes. There were concerns, however, expressed mainly by the Army and Marine Corps about the impact of any significant increase in maternity leave.

The maternity leave issue is complicated by the fact that Navy Secretary Ray Mabus already increased paid time-off

for Navy and Marine Corps forces to 18 weeks. His decision last July tripled the current military leave of six weeks. The Marine Corps and Army, however, raised worries about extending leave to 18 weeks, saying it would keep key combat support troops off their jobs for too long and make it difficult to cover their posts by shifting personnel around.

Carter's decision to settle on 12 weeks would force the Navy to scale back its 18-week leave and make accommodations for those who may already have planned the longer time off. Carter said that any Navy or Marine Corps service members who are pregnant would get the 18 weeks they expected.

The health care coverage proposal is complex, but would involve increased benefits for

women seeking more extensive fertility and pregnancy assistance. Specifically he called for a pilot program that would extend health care coverage to active duty women seeking to freeze their eggs and men who wanted to freeze their sperm.

"As a profession of arms, we ask our men and women to make incomparable sacrifices," Carter said. "We ask them, potentially, to place themselves at risk of sacrificing their ability to have children when they return home. It's clear that the benefits we offer our troops can better account for this."

The planned increase for paternity leave would go from 10 days to two full weeks. And officials said Carter wants to expand the current three-week leave for an adoptive parent, and allow the second parent to take

two weeks off, if that person is also are in the military. The paternity and adoption leave changes would require approval from Congress.

The child care plan would increase the minimum time the facilities are open to 14 hours, from the current 12. Carter also wants the services to modernize and improve the child care system to reduce waiting lists and increase the number of children who can be served.

One of the more flexible changes unveiled Thursday, Carter said, would allow service members to stay at a particular base or duty station for a longer time, and in exchange they would commit to a longer time in the service. Such decisions would be at the discretion of commanders who would consider the military needs of the unit.

Barbie has a new look

NEW YORK (AP) — Poor Barbie. She had plastic surgery to become more socially acceptable. But a lot of her critics still don't like her.

Barbie's manufacturer, Mattel, announced Thursday that the doll has three new body types — curvy, tall and petite. Barbie will also now come in seven skin tones, 22 eye colors and 24 hairstyles. Mattel spokeswoman Michelle Chidoni said the product is evolving to "offer more choices" to make "the line more reflective of the world girls see around them."

But Kris Macomber, who teaches sociology at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina, says she's "reluctant to celebrate Barbie's new strategy because it doesn't change the fact that Barbie dolls and other kinds of fashion dolls still over-emphasize female beauty. Sure, all body types should be valued. And, sure, all skin colors should be valued equally. But why must we keep sending girls the message that being beautiful is so important?"

Josh Golin, executive director of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said Barbie's changes are a testament to activists who for years have challenged her "unrealistic and harmful body type." But body type "was only one of the criticisms," he said. "The other was the brand's relentless focus on appearance and fashion."

Kumea Shorter-Gooden, co-author of "Shifting: The Double Lives of Black Women in America," has said in the past that Barbie has a bigger impact on black girls struggling with messages about skin color and hair. Shorter-Gooden applauded Mattel "for diversifying the



THIS PHOTO provided by Mattel shows a group of new Barbie dolls introduced in January 2016. Mattel, the maker of the famous plastic doll, said it will start selling Barbies in three new body types: tall, curvy and petite. She'll also come in seven skin tones, 22 eye colors and 24 hairstyles.

size and look of Barbie," but noted that "European-American hair still prevails," and that the dolls' outfits still "convey a traditional and constraining gender norm about how girls and women should look."

Aside from whether Barbie's looks will ever measure up to society's changing expectations, another question worth asking is whether kids still want to play with Barbies. Barbie sales fell 14 percent in the most recently reported quarter, with worldwide sales falling every year since 2012. A study by BAV Consulting found

that consumers perceive the Barbie brand as being "less relevant" than 80 percent of 3,500 brands in 200 categories BAV studied. BAV's data analysis also found that consumers perceive Barbie as being in the bottom third of all brands when it comes to social responsibility but in the top 2 percent when it comes to being traditional.

Mattel said it will still sell the original 11.5-inch Barbie. The new versions will begin arriving on U.S. store shelves in March and will roll out globally after that. They are available for pre-order at shop.mattel.com, and will ship in February.

Quiana Agbai, an African-American mother of two who has written about "the effects of dolls not looking like my 5-year-old daughter" on her blog, www.harlemlovebirds.com, said Barbie's new look is "a step in the right direction" but noted that "there are brands already filling this need in greater detail." Agbai's husband's family is Nigerian, so she found a Nigerian princess doll for her daughter from a line called Queens of Africa. Agbai herself grew up playing with the American Girl doll Addy, whose story line involved escaping from slavery.

U.S. economy slowed to scant 0.7% growth rate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy's growth slowed sharply in the final three months of 2015 to a 0.7 percent annual rate. Consumers reduced spending, businesses cut back on investment and global problems trimmed exports.

The slowdown could renew doubts about the durability of the 6½-year-old economic expansion.

The government's estimate Friday of the economy's expansion in the October-December period was less than half the 2 percent annual growth rate in gross domestic product in the third quarter. It was the weakest showing since a severe winter reduced growth to a 0.6 percent annual rate in last year's first quarter.

Activity should rebound in the current January-March period, though economists worry that China's troubles and sinking oil and stock prices could dampen the recovery.

A boost this year is expected to come mainly from consumer spending, which typically fuels about two-thirds of economic activity. Continued solid job growth could embolden consumers to spend more.

The Federal Reserve issued a cautious assessment of the economy this week. The Fed left interest rates unchanged after having raised its benchmark short-term rate in December from record lows. Many analysts think that economic weakness, subpar inflation and global pressures will cause the Fed to slow its pace of rate hikes this year from what had been expected to be four increases to perhaps only two.

For all of 2015, economists have estimated that the economy grew around 2.3 percent, about equal to the 2.4 percent growth for 2014. That would

continue the economy's pattern of subpar growth since the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009.

For 2016, economists are forecasting another year of modest growth of around 2 percent. At the same time they have nudged up the prospects for a recession this year. While still low, the likelihood is now put at around 20 percent, though most analysts still see an outright recession as unlikely.

Many economists expect the strength in the domestic economy to offset weakness in export sales and in the U.S. energy sector, which has been slashing investment in response to the plunge in energy prices.

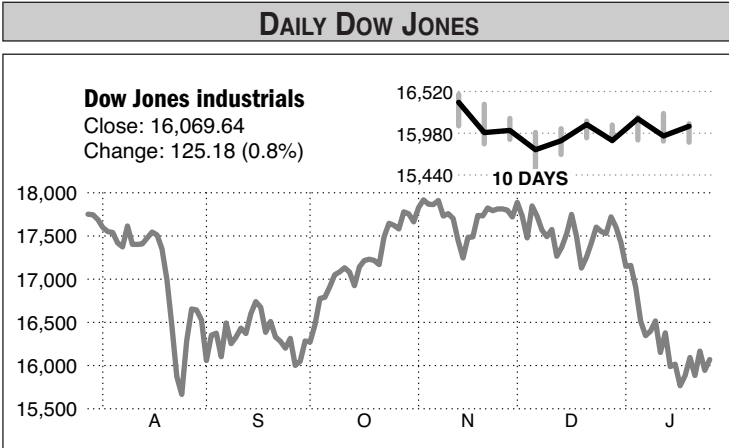
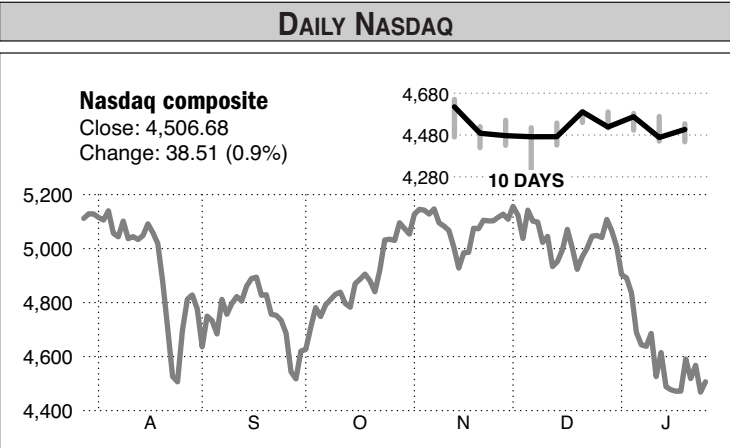
While economic growth was lackluster last year, hiring was not. The economy added an average of 284,000 jobs a month in the final quarter of last year. The unemployment rate ended the year at a low 5 percent.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, has said he expects strong job growth to keep lowering unemployment and to help boost wages, which have lagged in this recovery. He said the extra consumer spending, which will be aided by lower gas prices, will likely support economic growth of around 2.5 percent in 2015.

Growth at that level is above the economy's potential right now, which many analysts put at around 2 percent, reflecting a slower pace of people entering the job market and slower productivity growth.

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STOCK MARKET INDEXES									
52-Week		Name	Last	Net	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg		
High	Low								
18,351.36	15,370.33	Dow Industrials	16,069.64	+125.18	+7.9	-7.78	-7.74		
9,214.77	6,403.31	Dow Transportation	6,701.97	-54.15	-.80	-10.74	-24.28		
657.17	539.96	Dow Utilities	599.19	+9.69	+1.64	+3.70	-8.12		
11,254.87	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	9,397.79	+24.01	+2.6	-7.35	-12.10		
5,231.94	4,292.14	Nasdaq Composite	4,506.68	+38.51	+8.6	-10.00	-3.77		
947.85	809.57	S&P 100	847.84	+8.00	+9.5	-6.98	-4.35		
2,134.72	1,812.29	S&P 500	1,893.36	+10.41	+5.5	-7.37	-4.33		
1,551.28	1,215.14	S&P MidCap	1,276.53	-.05	...	-8.73	-12.29		
22,537.15	18,550.48	Wilshire 5000	19,434.32	+98.66	+5.1	-8.19	-8.89		
1,296.00	958.48	Russell 2000	1,003.27	+53	+0.5	-11.67	-15.70		

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST																	
YTD										YTD							
Name	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Chg	%	Chg	%	Name	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Chg	%	Chg	%
AT&T Inc	1.92	5.4	15	35.53	+05	+3.3			Lowes	1.12	1.6	22	69.23	-32	-9.0		
Apple Inc	2.08	2.2	10	94.09	+67	+10.6			MktfYGold	.12	.9	...	13.86	+34	+1.0		
BB&T Cp	1.08	3.4	12	31.91	+26	+15.6			Microsoft	1.44	2.8	35	52.06	+83	+6.2		
BkofAm	.20	1.5	10	13.53	+17	+26.1			Norfolk Sp	2.36	3.4	13	70.11	+22	+17.1		
BiViPvXst	...	...	...	25.15	-87	-19.5			OasisPet	...	...	3	4.79	+53	-35.0		
CocaCola	1.32	3.1	27	42.57	+48	-9			Olin	.80	5.4	16	14.73	+23	-2.7		
CocaCE	1.12	2.4	20	46.04	+57	-6.5			PaneraBrd	...	...	32	190.50	+134	-24.2		
CmtyHlth	...	...	7	20.55	-128	-22.5			Petrobras	...	...	...	3.20	+07	-25.6		
CSLgCrd rs	...	...	...	2.50	+39	-36.7			Pfizer	1.20	4.0	23	30.20	-32	-64.6		
CSvShVsr	...	...	...	9.20	-165	+47.0			PwShs QQQ1.52	...	...	...	102.00	+142	-8.8		
DukeEnergy	3.30	4.5	20	73.47	+1.06	+29.9			RegionsFnc	2.1	3.0	12	8.01	+06	-16.6		
eBay	...	...	15	23.13	-3.29	-15.8			SP&P0ETF4.13	2.2	...	...	189.11	+98	+7.2		
eBaton	2.20	4.4	12	50.19	+75	-3.6			Scotts	1.88	2.9	22	64.96	+35	-7.7		
Facebook	...	...	71	109.11	+14.66	+6.3			SouthCo	2.17	4.5	18	48.28	+64	+3.2		
Falcorizon	.24	1.9	14	12.67	+21	+12.7			SPDR Fncl	4.6	2.2	...	21.13	+01	-13.1		
FordM	.60	5.1	10	11.71	-14	-16.9			SunTrest	.96	2.0	20	36.32	+102	-5.2		
FrtPMcM	...	...	...	44.42	-23	-34.7			Tdget	2.24	3.2	...	70.99	+30	-9.3		
HomeDep	2.36	1.9	23	122.28	+71	-7.5			UdCmBks	.24	1.4	15	17.67	+40	-15.2		
iSNEdMk	.84	2.8	...	29.61	+46	-8.0			US OilFld	...	...	...	9.70	+52	-11.8		
KindMorg	.50	3.3	23	15.29	+120	+2.5			WalMart	1.96	3.1	14	64.22	+27	+4.8		
Kroger S	.42	1.1	19	37.82	+36	-9.6			Whrpl	3.60	2.7	15	132.02	-35	-10.1		

Pass the dogfish nuggets? Seafood industry rebrands ‘trash’

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Call them fish sticks for millennials. At any rate, Dana Bartholomew is banking on college students warming up to “Sharck Bites.”

Ipswich Shellfish, of Massachusetts, for which Bartholomew oversees sales, is offering that product — nuggets of dogfish coated in a gluten-free, allergen-friendly crust.

Bartholomew, who believes so-called “trash fish” such as dogfish are part of the new wave in New England seafood, already has a couple of colleges on board.

Bartholomew’s fondness for dogfish — a species of shark that East Coast fishermen catch millions of pounds of every year and sell for just pennies at the dock — is part of a growing trend in fish markets around the country. The industry is putting more emphasis on fish that have traditionally lacked market appeal or economic value as old staples — such as cod, tuna, haddock and shrimp — decline or become the subject of tougher fishing quotas.

“We know we have to make a great-tasting product that supports local fishermen, supports the local industry and economy,” Bartholomew said. “And it’s local — it’s right here.”

New England’s traditional food fish has long been the Atlantic cod, but it has faded in the face of overfishing and environmental changes. Restaurant owners, fishermen and food processing companies said a growing shift to other species is helping to fill that void. Catch of species such as spiny dogfish, Acadian redfish and scup have all increased dramatically since 10 years ago as cod has fallen.

The shift toward trash fish reflects a broader trend in U.S. seafood toward species that are more abundant. Florida fishing regulators, for instance, have incentivized the hunt for invasive lionfish, which many view as pests. Elsewhere, the Jonah crab has also found acceptance as an alternative to the West Coast’s popular Dungeness crab.



AP photo

REDFISH are displayed at the Portland Fish Exchange in Portland, Maine. Fishermen are being forced to start adapting more quickly to changing fish stocks in the ocean and market new species based on what is available. As a result, more former “trash fish” such as redfish, dogfish and skate are the wave of the future in sustainable fishing.

The evolution of food from trash to delicacy goes back centuries. Many species have overcome an ugly name or gruesome appearance to grow in value. Lobster, for instance, was long ago regarded as food fit only for the lower classes.

Seafood marketers have also had to contend with health risks that have kept some species off plates. Dogfish, for instance, can contain high mercury levels, and pregnant women and young children should avoid eating them.

Creating a market for underutilized fish species is important in New England today because of warming waters and corresponding changes in fish populations, said Melissa Bouchard, chef at the popular DiMillo’s On The Water restaurant in Portland.

“We’re trying to get the focus off of cod and haddock and Northern shrimp and bring to light all these species in the Gulf of Maine that are delicious and abundant,” Bouchard said.

She served dogfish tacos at a festival in food-crazy Portland and they were well received, she said.

The movement toward trash fish is not without skeptics, some

of whom point to sustainable harvesting programs for fish that already have broad market appeal. Ray Hilborn, a marine biologist with the University of Washington, said the push is unnecessary from a sustainability point of view.

“If they truly believe that traditional species are not sustainable, then they don’t know much and have not looked very hard,” Hilborn said. “There is plenty of cod, haddock, salmon, tuna and shrimp in the world that is sustainably harvested.”

But Azure Cygler, a fisheries specialist with the Coastal Resources Center at the University of Rhode Island, said the shift toward what she called “underloved” species is critical for sustaining fisheries and providing local protein sources in New England.

She pointed to the growth of scup, an Atlantic species sometimes sold as “porgy,” which has grown from less than 3 million pounds in 2000 to more than 15 million pounds in 2014 and is now advertised by Whole Foods. The fish could be just a more attractive name away from a bigger breakthrough, she said.

Norwegian preschool drops carnival over gender stereotypes

STAVANGER, Norway (AP) — A preschool in egalitarian Norway has canceled its traditional carnival celebration saying it encourages gender stereotypes, with boys dressing up in macho superhero costumes and girls in frilly princess dresses.

Renate Kvivesen, the principal of the Vikaasen preschool near Trondheim, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that “we don’t think it fits our values to host an event where children feel it’s important to fit into specific gender roles.”

The preschool has children from 0 to 6 years old.

Parents were informed by email that the annual dress-up for carnival, held just ahead of Lent in the Christian calendar, would not be taking place as usual this year after a split decision by the parent-teacher board.

Kvivesen said some parents

were disappointed but added “the nature of the celebration has changed in recent years so we felt we needed to look again at the arrangements.”

Norwegians are proud of their record in promoting women’s rights. Some 40 percent of Norwegian lawmakers are women, including the prime minister and finance minister, while company boardrooms are required to have a female quota of four in every 10.

Still, some are sensitive about letting gender politics affect the upbringing of their children.

One of those who disagreed with the decision to cancel the dress-up was Sarah Askim, a Swiss-born mother of three boys, the youngest of which attends the preschool.

“I appreciate that they try to open the kids’ minds,” she said. “I am happy if the girls play with

cars and the boys play with kitchen stuff. But I won’t dress my boys later on with a skirt. I believe at one point we have to admit that there is difference between girls and boys.”

While referencing gender-stereotyped costumes, the email to parents also added concern at the commercialization of the holiday. “Not all children experience this day as something positive,” it said.

Hilde Noest, who had planned to send her 18-month-old daughter to preschool in a piglet costume, said some might think of Norway as “the crazy equality country,” but added the decision would help protect children.

“It’s OK if all of the boys want to be Batman and all of the girls want to be princesses,” she said. “But maybe some of them feel differently and they should not be made to feel left out.”



Hints from Heloise

No pain on the plane
Dear Heloise: I have a BAD BACK and do a lot of flying for work. I have tried several types of items to add lumbar support to the airplane seat.

A couple of trips ago, I had an empty 16-ounce water bottle that I decided to try putting behind my back for added lumbar support. It worked perfectly. I’ve used a water bottle like this several times now, and it really makes a huge difference.

One of the nice things about the bottle trick is that you can let air out of the bottle to adjust how much lumbar support is needed.

The reason I’m sending you this hint is that the flight atten-

dant noticed and said that she’d never seen anyone do this, so I thought it would be helpful to others who have back problems.

I really enjoy your column. — Mitch C., Omaha, Neb.

Mitch, you are brilliant! As someone who has logged more than 2.5 million miles (one airline alone) sitting on planes, I’ve never seen this! It was tested in Heloise Central, and it’s fabulous!

I filled one with hot tap water and am using it in my office chair right now. Thank you, thank you, and oh, my back thanks you! — Hugs, Heloise

P.S.: Readers, I just got off the phone with Mitch to tell him I love this hint! He said he wanted to pass it along to help

others. He did!

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

Hand-held photo stick
Dear Heloise: I live in a college dorm. When I want to watch a movie and not disturb my roommate, I use my cellphone and earphones. I put the phone on a selfie stick to view the movie. I watch the movie without disturbing my roommate and without stress or discomfort to me. — Bill T., via email

Consumers Livid Over Rumors to Block the New AloeCure

Big Pharma stands to lose billions as doctors’ recommend drug-free “health cocktail” that adjusts and corrects your body’s health conditions.

by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

Drug company execs are nervous. That’s because the greatest health advance in decades has hit the streets. And analysts expect it to put a huge crimp in “Big Pharma” profits.

So what’s all the fuss about? It’s about a new “health enhancing cocktail” that’s changing the lives of millions who use it. Some doctors call it **“the greatest discovery since penicillin”!** And their patients call it “a miracle!”

The name of the product is the AloeCure. And since it’s completely drug-free; the product is available to anyone who wants it, at a reasonable price. But it won’t stay like that forever. Not if Big Pharma has its way.

TOP DOC WARNS: DIGESTION DRUGS CAN CRIPPLE YOU!

Company spokesperson, Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist out of Texas recommends an AloeCure health cocktail before she prescribes any digestion drug. Especially after the FDA’s stern warning about long-term use of drugs like **PriLOSEC®**, **Nexium®**, and **Prevacid®**. In a nutshell, the FDA statement warned people should avoid taking digestion drugs for longer than 14-days; you risk spine and hip damage. Most people take them for decades.”

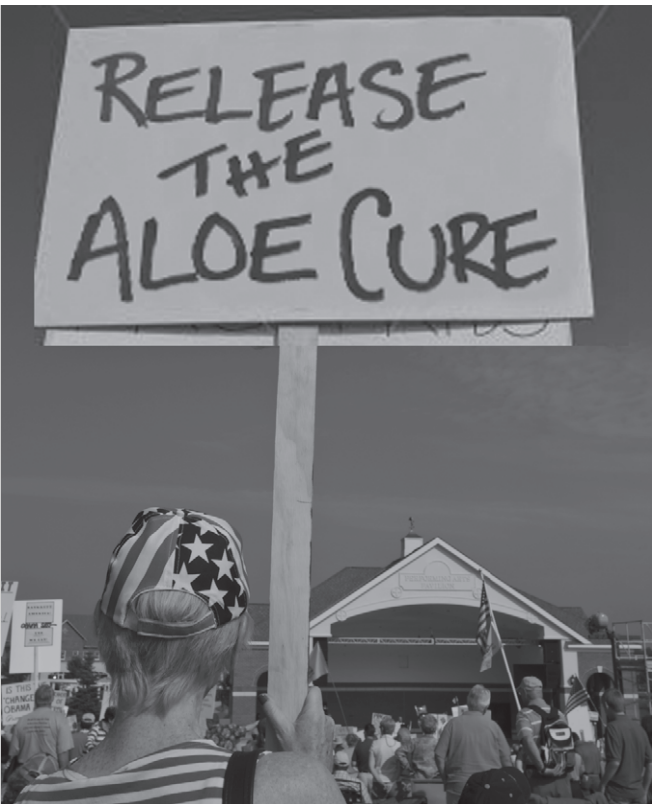
Dr. Leal should know. Many patients come to her with bone and joint complaints and she does everything she can to help them. One way for digestion sufferers to help avoid possible risk of tragic joint and bone problems caused by overuse of digestion drugs; is to take the AloeCure.

Analysts expect the AloeCure to put a huge crimp in “Big Pharma” profits.

The secret to the AloeCure’s “health adjusting” formula is aloe vera. But not the same aloe vera that mom used to apply to your cuts, scrapes and bruises. This revolutionary strain of aloe is grown in special Asian soil; under very strict conditions. And despite its surprisingly pleasant taste, the AloeCure is so powerful it begins to benefit your health the instant you drink it. It soothes intestinal discomfort and avoids the possibility of bone and health damage caused by overuse of digestion drugs. Much like aloe works externally on cuts, bruises and abrasions. Studies show aloe has dozens of health applications...

HELPS CALM DOWN PAINFUL INFLAMMATION

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To my colleagues, if you’re not using AloeCure, you really need to. To all patients there is powerful help available, find a practitioner who knows of AloeCure.

*Dr. Rick Marschall, Port Angeles, WA**

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So you’ve been taking proton pump inhibitors for years and you feel just fine. A 2015 medical study showed long-term use of digestion meds may be a leading cause of heart damage. Getting off those meds and drinking the AloeCure daily, helps you support a healthy heart.

UNLEASH YOUR MEMORY

Think about it. If you kept dumping fat and grease down your drain; how long do you think it would take to clog it up? The answer is, not very long at all. And that’s exactly what happens to your brain every time you eat processed, fried or fatty foods. Studies show that your brain needs the healthy bacteria from your gut in order function at its best. Both

Doctors call it “The greatest health discovery in decades!”

low and high dosages of digestion drugs are proven to destroy that healthy bacteria and get in the way of brain function. So you’re left with a sluggish, slow-to-react brain without a lot of room to store information. AloeCure’s special formulation actually makes your gut healthier; so healthy bacteria flows freely to your brain so you think better, faster and with a larger capacity for memory.

SLEEP LIKE A BABY
A night without sleep really damages your

body. And continued lost sleep can lead to all sorts of health problems. But what you may not realize is the reason why you’re not sleeping. Some call it “Ghost Reflux”. A low-intensity form of acid reflux discomfort that quietly keeps you awake in the background. A couple of teaspoons of the AloeCure will help you sleep more soundly and comfortably through the night.

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OPTIMIZE YOUR LIVER

Your liver cleans out your blood and neutralizes its toxins. Without it, your body would be overrun with deadly toxins and a frail immune system. Aloe helps neutralize and remove toxic acids from your bloodstream. Studies suggest, if you started taking aloe today; you’d see a big difference in the way you feel, in no time at all.

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The makers of AloeCure are excited to offer you a **risk free supply**. So you can get it into your hands, (before the drug companies force it off the market). Take advantage of this special opportunity to try the AloeCure in your own home for a full 60 days. Don’t worry, it’s completely risk-free.

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THE SINGING ECHOES will be ministering in song and worship on Sunday, 6 p.m., at Cloverleaf Baptist Church, 2290 Waterlevel Highway. For some 45 years, members of the Epperson family have been sharing the Gospel message in Word and song. Among their hit songs are the Grammy nominated “Wake Up to Sleep No More” as well as “It’s Enough,” “Think I’m Excited” and “Somebody’s Here.”

Dr. Kim Klaudt to be speaker Sunday morning at Church Alive

Dr. Kim Klaudt will be the speaker Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at Church Alive Ministries. During 2016, Kim and Susan Klaudt will celebrate 37 years of ministry.

“Together they have and still are making a difference in this world, and changing lives,” a church spokesman said. Each year the couple travels thousands of miles to share the Gospel in churches and at various ministry outreaches across the United States. Especially dear to their hearts is the ministry the Native American Outreach. For three decades the Klaudts have delivered the Gospel, Bibles and blankets to impoverished reservations. They also conduct special engagements on Native American life and culture.

Susan Klaudt’s newest outreach is Natural Horse Faith-Man-Ship. The equine ministry teaches biblical faith using horses. She uses her love and knowledge of horse to “visually” teach faith and share God’s Word.



Kim Klaudt

Church Alive Ministries is located three miles past The Home Depot, on Mouse Creek Road. Watch for sign on the left if traveling north out of Cleveland’s city limits. “Come early and fellowship with coffee and ‘goodies’ beginning at 10 a.m.,” the spokesman invited. Church Alive is “loves gathering place.”

May we be found faithful

At the Banner, there is a lady who brings each of us the newspaper every day as soon as it comes off the press. Although she has other duties, Bondy doesn’t complain about “delivering” the papers. In fact, I think she rather enjoys it. She is faithful. My mail deliverer faithfully brings the mail — puts it into my mailbox — and gives a cheerful wave if I’m in sight. I have neighbors who check on me faithfully — Sylvia and Ed Coates and Shirley Shadden care about how I’m getting along. And when David Marr lived on my street, he would always stop when I was outside and ask if he could do anything for me — so faithful in “loving thy neighbor.” My church family is faithful to pray for me. My pastor Roger Ammons and small group leader Hilda Sutton, too, are faithful to see that my physical needs, as well as spiritual needs are met. They, along with other fellow members and friends, keep in contact, faithfully. But the most faithful of all is my Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Thessalonians 3:3 (KJV): “But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” In 1 Corinthians 10:13 (KJV), he assures that “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” The psalmist writes in Psalm 92:2 (KJV) — one of my favorite Scriptures — “To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.” He says in Psalm 36:5 (KJV): “Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.” And Jeremiah declares in Lamentations 3:22, 23 (KJV): “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” We have no doubt God is faithful, but people’s faithfulness in temporal things is sometimes taken for granted. “That’s their job,” we exclaim. But we can’t discount “their job” as nothing, when it is performed in faithfulness and grace. We see faithfulness in giving, tithing, church attendance, visiting the sick and shut-ins and



Lifelines

Bettie Marlowe

helping one another, but faithfulness in serving God in any sense has to be done in love, or it becomes merely “duty.” Does the joy of serving vanish in the effort expended? (Even if it involves cleaning the church restrooms or mowing the grass for a shut-in.) What a wonderful opportunity God gives us to be faithful — to be dependable and trustworthy. Luke gives us the admonition and the desire to be faithful. “And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?” (Luke 12:42 KJV). Luke 16:10, 11 (KJV): “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” Don’t you want to be able to say, “Lord, you can count on me to do your will.” There’s a song that says: “May those who go behind us find us faithful.”

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The strength of angels

John G. Paton, a missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, gave a stirring account of the protection of angels. Angry natives surrounded his compound one night, intent on burning the compound and killing the Patons.

Filled with terror, the missionary and his wife prayed throughout the night for God's deliverance. As daylight came, they were amazed to see the natives turn and walk away. The Patons thanked God for their escape from what appeared to be certain death.

About a year later, the chief of the tribe turned to Christ and Paton was eager to ask him why they turned and left the morning of the attack.

The chief perplexed at the question, asked, "Who were all those men you had with you?" The missionary replied, "There were no men, just my wife and me."

The chief insisted there were men — hundreds of them — big men with drawn swords and glistening armor. The large men completely encircled the compound and the natives were afraid to attack.

Only then did Paton realize that God had sent hundreds of angels to protect two of His servants. The chief agreed there was no other explanation.

Angels, like men, were created by God. Although they do not have physical bodies, they sometimes take on human form when on special assignment by God. Nor do angels reproduce (Mark 12:15).

Hundreds of times the Old Testament and the New Testament give testimony to the existence of angels, and if we believe the Bible we know they exist.

The Psalmist David spoke of 20,000 angels among the stars. He said, "The chariots of God are 20,000, even thousands of angels" (Psalm 68:17).

Obviously, God sent one of His heavenly chariots to take



The Bible and Current Events

Clyne W. Buxton

the Prophet Elijah to Heaven. Yes, the Bible speaks often of the action of angels: Ten thousand were at Sinai when the Law was given (Deuteronomy 33:2).

The New Testament tells of John seeing 10,000 times 10,000 angels ministering to God in Heaven (Revelation 5:11).

One angel is unbelievably mighty. For example, a lone angel protected Daniel in the lions' den and all night held the lions at Bay (Daniel 6:22); and a lone angel rolled the heavy stone away at the resurrection.

The Book of 2 Kings tells the exciting story of the whole mountainside filled with angels.

The Prophet Elisha had infuriated the king of Syria, and the king sent an army to capture Elisha, one lone man. The forces came by night and surrounded the town of Dothan where Elisha was staying.

The story from the Bible is exhilarating!

"When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?' the servant asked.

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

"And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:15-17).

(Column 3 of a series on Angels)

Night of Prayer reaches around globe

Special to the Banner

Prayer was the priority as thousands of viewers from around the globe tuned in to the second annual Night of Prayer live simulcast being broadcast from the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices.

The two-hour event, translated into Spanish and French, drew more than 300 requests, which were prayed over by church leaders and live operators.

Among the more than 1,500 live connections, which could represent tens of thousands in locations where members gathered to watch together, were viewers from China, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Poland, Peru, Brazil, Bulgaria, Egypt, Morocco, Australia, South Korea, Kenya, and many others, representing a total of more than 60 different countries.

The webcast is also available on demand at www.cogop.org and within hours of the end of the live broadcast, more than 1,100 more viewers had tuned in.

"It is amazing that we can connect with our church family to pray over the same needs at the same time," said Bishop Sam N. Clements, general overseer.

"This incredible connection point we have with our church family perfectly illustrates our 21 Days of Prayer theme, 'United In Prayer'."

Through the evening, Bishop Clements, along with General Presbyters and International Offices leaders, led the partici-



THE SECOND NIGHT OF PRAYER was recently broadcast from the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices. More than 60 countries had individuals and groups tuning into the broadcast.

pants in various prayer points relating to the "core values" of the Church of God of Prophecy, including leadership development, the harvest and stewardship, as well as prayer for local churches, pastoral families, and needs that were sent in during the night.

"I believe we will see mighty results from this time of prayer," Bishop Clements said.

"United Through Prayer" tied into the theme for the Church's International Assembly, "United," taking place July 13 through 17, at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Fla.

During the prayer simulcast, a

pre-Assembly simulcast was announced that will be held at 7 p.m. on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.

Along with the online viewers, the public will be invited to the worship service, which will be

held at the new Ministry Training Center at the International Offices in Cleveland.

More details will be announced.

www.cogop.org.



"UNITED IN PRAYER" was the theme for the second annual Night of Prayer broadcast from the Church of God of Prophecy International Headquarters.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Under Grace will be singing at the Fifth Sunday singing Sunday, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at Center Point Baptist Church, Lower River Road. Lunch will be served after the service.

Heartstrings will sing Sunday at Cedar Springs Baptist Church's fifth Sunday singing. Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m., singing at 10:30 a.m. and lunch after the morning service.

The fifth Sunday song and praise service will be held at Oak Grove Baptist Church, 4452 Bates Pike S.E., Sunday at 5 p.m. Local church singers will also be singing.

Bishop Gene Dasher will moderate the East Tennessee Church of God of Prophecy District Fellowship service at the Durkee Road Church, 221 Durkee Road, Sunday at 6 p.m.

Fifth Sunday singing will be held at New Liberty Baptist Church, 900 King St., Sunday. There will be dinner after the morning service and the singing at 2 p.m. Jeff Cabrera and Trio will be the featured singers.

Trinity Trio will be singing in the morning service Sunday, 11 a.m., at Bethel Baptist Church, Old Chattanooga Pike.

The Morrison Sisters will be singing Sunday morning at Little Conasauga Baptist Church in Little Murray, Ga.

Covenant Baptist Church, 249 Calhoun Road, will have youth service Sunday. Jamie Gladson will speak in the morning service and Elijah Pickel in the evening service.

The Wissmann Family will sing at Philippi Baptist Church, 2484 Harrison Pike, Saturday at 7 p.m.



THE WISSMANN FAMILY will sing at 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Philippi Baptist Church, 2484 Harrison Pike. Loren and Gloria Wissmann have 13 children, and now an extended family of grandchildren. Each concert showcases bluegrass, gospel, original selections, patriotic numbers, audience participation and creative arrangements of timeless hymns. The Wissmanns said their "heart's desire is to honor the Lord by serving Him together as a family."

RELIGION IN NEWS

Virginia couple weds despite snow, with tiny change in plan

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — A Virginia couple wouldn't let the weekend snowstorm ruin their wedding plans.

WSET-TV reports that Michael and Emilee Ellsworth of Lynchburg had planned to be married Saturday at a country club, but blowing snow made travel dangerous for the couple and their guests.

They canceled the wedding at the country club and then made a last-minute decision to have an intimate ceremony at their pastor's home.

Pastor Michael Sherrett says when they posed for pictures outdoors, "it sort of seemed like a warmth there that the Lord gave us from the cold wind."

The couple said the date 1-23 was already engraved on the groom's ring, so there was no turning back.

On Sunday, as the weather cleared, they walked down the aisle at the country club in front of family and friends.

DiCaprio greets pope in Italian, discusses environment

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Actor Leonardo DiCaprio brushed up his Italian to greet Pope Francis at the Vatican Thursday, discussed their shared concern over the environment and gave the pontiff a check for his charitable works.

"Your Holiness, thank you for granting me this private audience with you," DiCaprio said in Italian as he arrived in the Apostolic Palace and kissed the pope's ring.

Later, in English, DiCaprio offered Francis a book of works by the 15th-century Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch, and showed him the reproduction of Bosch's "Garden of Earthly Delights" that had hung over his crib as a child. The triptych, which DiCaprio has referred to in the past, depicts Adam and Eve in the first panel, a teeming landscape in the center panel, and finally a vision of hell.

"As a child I didn't quite understand what it all meant, but through my child's eyes it represented a planet, the utopia we had been given, the overpopulation, excesses, and the third panel we see a blackened sky that represents so much to me of what's going in in the environment," DiCaprio told the pope.

DiCaprio said he thought the painting also represented Francis' environmental concerns.

Francis' encyclical Laudato Si (Praise Be) has been embraced by environmentalists for its denunciation of the world's fossil fuel-based economy and its demand for greener energy sources.

An assistant then handed Francis an envelope and explained it was a check for the pope to use for charity works "close to your heart."

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ATTEND A CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS WEEKEND

TVEC

From Page 1

first two years of the partnership at a cost of \$15,960 per year.

“There will be no financial impact on students (or the family of the students) for the first two years,” said Director of Schools Dr. Martin Ringstaff. Financing for following years still has to be worked out.

The money approved by the board (\$32,000) finances the first two years.

He said there is the possibility of utilizing Tennessee Promise money, grants, or other sources.

“The worst-case scenario,” said the director of schools, “is the student could spend \$2,800 out of pocket. But, he/she would have an associate degree after four years.”

Current eighth-grade students are the focus of this newly initiated program.

Ringstaff also pointed out the school system will have to work out plans for transportation from the high school to the Cleveland State campus.

This agreement, and the establishment of Tennessee Valley Early College, are a continuation of Ringstaff’s exploration into ways to energize the students’ mindset with more personalized learning (and teaching).

The focus of the college high school is on the 50th- to 80th-percentile students, not those on the high or low end.

It is anticipated that the Honors and Advanced Placement students will not be that interested, since their educational journey is pretty much mapped out in the traditional way.

It is hoped this program will enable these “middle” students to become more engaged in the educational process, to be challenged.

Also, the program is not excepted to lure a large number of students. Cleveland High Principal Autumn O’Bryan said officials are looking at perhaps 35 students, which is the number allowed by the state in a high school classroom.

A team of Cleveland High and Cleveland State administrators put the concept together.

Cleveland Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Jeff Elliott, and Cleveland High English teacher Anita Atkins, conducted Thursday evening’s presentation to the school board, with assistance from Seymour and Ringstaff.

The concept of this new college high school allows for the motivated student to complete all state requirements for graduation, and earn a significant number of dual enrollment and dual-



CLEVELAND STATE Community College President Dr. Bill Seymour, left, talks with Cleveland Director of Schools Dr. Martin Ringstaff prior to Thursday evening’s school board meeting. The two administrators announced the establishment of Tennessee Valley Early College on the CSCC campus, and the future involvement of CHS students.

credit college courses.

During freshman and sophomore years, students will remain on the Cleveland High campus.

Juniors and seniors will experience a hybrid-model of learning, shuttling from Cleveland High to the CSCC campus as their class needs designate.

Students will enter the program through an application process, similar to the standard college entrance exam, and be selected through a joint decision between Cleveland High and Cleveland State authorities.

All students at the high school can apply, from the lowest-ranked student to the highest.

In this concept, there are three active pathways of study, with a fourth (health sciences) being developed.

The freshman cohort will not be required to select a pathway until after the first nine weeks.

Thursday’s presentation included the proposed business and mechatronics pathways, as well as a sample of several options for general transfer.

General transfer students are those who intend to continue to a four-year university. Their electives are determined by their anticipated university major.

In order to accommodate the unique needs of the TVEC students, two policy changes are being proposed.

One change states: “Students who have completed at least 22 state credit requirements, completed all applicable state tests, and who have completed or are actively enrolled in TVEC will be awarded a Cleveland High School diploma.”

The other change will replace the lines: “Off-campus dual enrollment courses cannot be used to fulfill a graduation requirement other than an elective credit or TVEC credit without the principal’s approval.”

These lines will be added: “The following are requirements for a dual enrollment course as part of Tennessee Valley Early College: 1. The student must be currently active and enrolled in the TVEC program; 2. The student must have parental permission; 3. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher must be attained; and 4. ACT scores of at least 19 composite or 19 subtest in the subject area, if applicable to the course.”

School board members had some questions, but seemed to agree with the assessments of the administration, Seymour, and Ringstaff.

Board Chair Dawn Robinson said, “I can’t think of anything more exciting. I can’t think of anything better for our students.”

O’Bryan said, “This is a great opportunity.”

Waterville

From Page 1

change was rewarded with a popcorn party.

“Second grade is the grade that brought in the most,” second-grade teacher Lisa Dempsey said.

The donation drive had started on Veterans Day, and went through the end of that month.

“It is always exciting when you get the children involved. They understood why they were giving money and who they were giving money for,” Dempsey said.

Dempsey said the school had projects in the past collecting money for the existing veterans home in Knoxville. Now that the efforts for the local veterans home are gaining more momentum, Dempsey said the school wanted to keep the donation local by giving to the Southeast Tennessee Veterans Home Council.

Heidel’s voice broke with emotion as he thanked student representatives from the second and third grades for the school’s donation. He commented that efforts to have a state veterans home built locally had begun before the students were born.

He explained the money would be helping veterans who had gotten sick and needed care.

“A patriot is someone who sacrifices for their country. ... So in my opinion, what you guys did, you are patriots, too, because you got to help the veterans. Thank you,” Heidel said.

He told the students he was proud of them and the school’s efforts.

Students had searched high and low, in piggy banks, under rugs and couches, in cars and under beds, while enlisting the help of their parents in order to raise the funds.

“I wanted to be a part because it reminded me of all the good veterans that have fought for our country, like my uncle,” said second-grade student Cason Stewart.

Stewart said he “felt really happy because it is helping the veterans that are sick” when he

“A patriot is someone who sacrifices for their country. ... So in my opinion, what you guys did, you are patriots, too, because you got to help the veterans. Thank you.”
— **Cid Heidel**



CID HEIDEL tells Waterville Community Elementary students they are patriots for supporting the veterans home.

found out that his class had raised the most money.

Second-grade student Tucker Boome said “he feels really bad” for the veterans “because some of them die and they don’t have any shelter and that stuff, and they need to be taken care off.” He added he felt good to be able to help.

The project was a part of the school’s study of generosity.

Principal Jennifer Huskins said that throughout the study whenever a teacher saw a student being generous, they wrote their name of a paper leaf for the “Generosity Tree.” Some of the

leaves feature the names of students who collected money for the veterans home.

Heidel said the money would be helpful for taking care of preliminary costs, such as preparing the site for construction.

Two major steps remain before construction on the Cleveland Bradley County Veterans Home can begin.

First, the state must officially accept the site. Second, the federal funding for the project must be approved. Although progress is slow on the federal funding, state acceptance of the land will be considered next month.

Program

From Page 1

one year in the StopIt Program. This is an online program where students can immediately contact an authority figure, or supervisor.

In approving the one-year enrollment, board members also requested a six-month update on the success and/or anticipations for the program.

The StopIt Program is being provided by the Tennessee Risk Management Company, and board member Dawn Robinson is a member of the trust’s board.

Tom Montgomery made Thursday’s presentation.

“We brought this program to board, and several schools have already signed up,” said Montgomery.

“Kids can load the application on their phones, where they can manage serious incidents,” Montgomery said. He added this can be very beneficial for students, because they have created another world in social media.

“It protects students, protects schools, and protects community,” he added in his sales pitch.

Addressing an inquiry from board member Steve Morgan about success to date at schools of 1,200 students or more (like Cleveland High School), Montgomery said the program is still in its start-up stage.

Director of Schools Dr. Marton Ringstaff explained that the way such situations are currently handled is that the students report to the school resource officer.

“I would like this, because it is something we can track,” said Ringstaff. “I love the program, and tracking is simple.”

Board member Dr. Murl Dirksen suggested the board put a group together (of Cleveland High and Cleveland Middle administrators) and look at this opportunity. He said the board should decide “if the program is needed or not.”

ness.

No jobs will be affected in the Dayton-area, but sites in West Chester Township will be affected by reductions, said spokesman Rick Kennedy.

Kennedy said the cuts are necessary as the company’s new jet engines move from development and testing to production.

received resolution approval from the board.

Bill 1303 would allow Cleveland Utilities to provide broadband service, which Ringstaff said would benefit the school system. Bill 675 will help Cleveland’s Hispanic students, Ringstaff added.

— The board approved an accumulative evaluation for Ringstaff

The director of schools receive an overall rating of 4.96, of a possible score of 5.0, from the seven board members.

He received a perfect, 5.0 rating in three categories: collaboration with family and community; integrity, fairness and ethics; and superintendent-board relationship.

His lowest score was a 4.87 for school culture and instructional programs. He got 4.98 for political, social and cultural contexts; a 4.92 in management and operations; and 4.93, in vision of learning.

— Members of Ross Elementary School’s Student Leadership Team attended Thursday’s meeting to salute the board during School Board Appreciation Week.

They were accompanied by the program’s teacher-sponsors, and Principal Lisa Erby.

Ringstaff also acknowledged the board members, and they were treated by members of the Cleveland High School’s Culinary Department students.

— Board members approved the 2016-17 Cleveland High Course of Study Handbook and curriculum changes.

Passed on first reading were the policy changes on advanced college placement, graduation requirements and family and medical leave.

— Newly appointed Board Chairman Dawn Robinson, for her eighth term, announced several committee appointments. She named George Meacham to the Insurance Committee, and Cogdill remains with Policy. The Site Committee will retain Chair Dirksen and Peggy Pesterfield, with Morgan replacing Robinson on this panel. Tom Cloud was named to the Tennessee Legislature Committee.

— In her final report from the state Legislature, Robinson reviewed several proposals being discussed in Nashville.The opinion was expressed that the legislative sessions seems a “little edgy.”

Unemployment

From Page 1

and Hamilton County market which finished December with a jobless mark of 5.1, which was unchanged from November.

For December, Tennessee’s statewide rate was 5.6 and the U.S. mark was 5 percent.

“Bradley County’s 4.9 not only beat the state rate, but the national rate as well,” Green said. “And that’s always a good sign as far as local employment.”

The Bradley County figure landed in a two-way tie with Blount County for the 16th lowest unemployment mark in Tennessee, according to the monthly state labor department report.

Some of the jobless rates in counties surrounding the Bradley perimeter included McMinn, 6.1, down from 6.3 in November; Meigs, 7.3, unchanged; Monroe, 6 percent, unchanged; Polk, 6.8, up from 6.4; and Rhea, 7.8, up from 7.3.

Statewide, the unemployment marks dropped in 43 counties, increased in 35 and remained the same in 17.

Recorded rates came in under 5 percent in 17 counties, ranged from 5.1 to 9.9 in 78 counties, and no jurisdictions reported marks exceeding 10 percent.

Some of Tennessee’s lowest jobless figures were found in Williamson County, 3.6 percent; Davidson and Rutherford, 4; Moore, 4.1; Lincoln, 4.2; Knox, Sumner, Wilson and Cheatham, 4.3; and Robertson, 4.5.

Counties with the state’s highest marks included Hancock, 9.9; Scott, 9.3; Lauderdale, 9.2; Lake, 9; Obion and Clay, 8.5; Pickett, 8.4; and Decatur, Haywood and Unicoi, 8.

As he does this time each year, Green pointed out the December rate is traditionally the lowest jobless mark of the year — or, at the very least, one of the lowest. This is due to hiring increases in the retail trade industry whose

“The only way for us to tell [the impact of the Kmart closing] is to keep an eye on our [unemployment] claims. March is already not a very good month for retail trade hiring. There’s not much going on. So, we might see a reduction in retail trade in March, but Bradley County is so big it shouldn’t have a big impact on unemployment.”
— **Larry Green**

jobs begin to fizzle in late December and January. Generally, this sparks a rise in unemployment starting in January.

“Normally, the January rate goes up ... because of the layoffs [in retail trade],” he stated. “We would anticipate an increase in the rates in January.”

One local negative on the horizon is the pending closure of the Kmart store in the Bradley Square Mall which is expected to affect about 70 jobs. However, because of Bradley County’s job-market size and its diversity, Green looks for the store closing to have minimal impact on the local unemployment rate.

“I was in there (Kmart) the other day,” he said. “I talked to a cashier who said he already has a job at the Kmart in Athens. That’s just one person, but it’s one person who won’t be unemployed because of a transfer.”

Green pointed out others could be doing the same while still others are looking at other job prospects, and some could even be in retail trade.

“The only way for us to tell [the impact of the Kmart closing] is to

keep an eye on our [unemployment] claims,” he said. “March is already not a very good month for retail trade hiring. There’s not much going on. So, we might see a reduction in retail trade in March, but Bradley County is so big it shouldn’t have a big impact on unemployment.”

By contrast, he pointed to the smaller employment market in Meigs County where the recent opening of a new McDonald’s restaurant actually favorably influenced the employment rate.

“... In that size market, you can tell a difference [by one store opening],” he said.

In Bradley County, Green expects to see a rise in unemployment rates in January, a stable February and by March and April the construction industry should again kick in to help offset any drops in other job industries.

Excluding the recent corporate announcement signaling the Kmart closure, Green projected “... everything seems to be looking pretty good in Bradley County.”

At the very least, it continues to show “significant” progress, he said. In December 2014, the jobless rate was 5.6, as compared to the mark a year later of 4.9.

“That’s a good improvement,” Green noted.

GE Aviation cutting more than 7% of engineering workforce

EVENDALE, Ohio (AP) — GE Aviation is cutting 238 engineering jobs in southwestern Ohio and 69 at other U.S. sites as it trims more than 7 percent of its engineering workforce.

A spokesman for the General Electric Co. unit based in the Cincinnati suburb of Evendale said Thursday that the cuts are not due to any decline in busi-

Library board hears updates, including landscaping

By **LARRY C. BOWERS**
Banner Staff Writer

Cleveland Bradley County Public Library Board Chairman John Hagler told board members Tuesday afternoon of ongoing landscaping plans for the downtown facility.

The work is already under way, but should speed up with improvements in the weather this spring.

Much of the landscaping will be on the North Ocoee side of the complex, although the main entrance to the library is on the opposite side of the building from Church Street.

According to Hagler, there will be an intensive rearrangement of the boxwoods at the North Ocoee side of the library. “I know why boxwoods are so popular,” said Hagler. “They’re a very tough plant.”

The board chair said two major moves (of boxwoods) will be dropping the hedges back and opening up the view from the south along North Ocoee.

According to a graphic illustration Hagler handed out to board members, administration, and the media, one boxwood near the Carmichael House will be moved to the north side of the property along 8th Street.

A boxwood near the south pedestrian gate will be moved back beside the Carmichael House. A smaller boxwood to the south of the Carmichael House will be situated alongside the historic yew tree in the central portion of the library complex.

The old yew tree will be trimmed to expose its trunks and reduce the risk of winter damage.

Another boxwood to the south side of the Carmichael House will be relocated.

An enclosed limestone bed will be located in front of the Carmichael House, work will continue on the courtyard alongside the library’s meeting room, and the lawn and lighting will be upgraded at the front of the property along North Ocoee.

“The appearance on this side of the library will not change a lot,” Hagler continued. “Much of it will just be rearranged.”

Other landscaping is ongoing on the Church Street side of the library.

Main Library Director Andy Hunt added the buildings and grounds report to Hagler’s presentation.

Renovation of the History Branch of the library, located in the Craigmiles House just north of the main library on North Ocoee, is also continuing. The

“The appearance on this side of the library will not change a lot. Much of it will just be rearranged.”
— John Hagler

project is nearing completion.

Hunt said painting and exterior wood repair at the History Branch is complete.

A planting on the Church Street side of the main library was removed on Veterans Day, and some signage was replace. This was partially paid for by the Law Library. The library was added to the directional signs, and a new, round sign has been located at the corner and Church and 8th Street.

An upgrade of the main library’s Genealogy Section is under way, with upgraded lighting and improvements for the windows.

In other library business:

— Human Resources and Operations reported that 49 children/youth programs were offered last month with 954 attendees.

Fifteen teen programs had 179 in attendance, 41 adult programs were attended by 384, the Second Sunday program for December was “Healthy Homes

In the Public Relations report, nine “Library Corner” articles were printed in the Cleveland Daily Banner’s Sunday edition, there were 75 Tweets, and 17 postings on the Library’s Facebook Page.

— Richard “Tiger” Jones presented his monthly report on the library’s financials.

Almost every line item was on track, give or take a few percentage points.

Repairs/Building Equipment was slightly out of line due, to what Jones termed “The air-conditioning Gods.” Insurance was up a little over the budgeted amount of \$21,690, at \$23,094. This is a once-a-year payment.

Other expenditures were right around 50 percent (from 41.7 percent to 50.4 percent).

— Ocoee River Regional Library Director Beth Mercer attended to give her report.

She handed out the results of a standards survey for the region, and praised Cleveland board member Barbara Fagen for completion of the Tennessee Trustee Certification Program.

Fagen is the former director of the Cleveland History Branch, and a recent selection

to the board.

Mercer discussed the 16th Summer Reading Program at Art Circle Library in Crossville, and presented the board a handout on magazines available through the READS program.

Upcoming events include Heather Lambert and the Summer Reading Program at the Regional Center from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28; and the Tennessee Library legislative visit in Nashville, Feb. 3.

— Library officials are talking to the Cleveland Daily Banner about the possibility of starting a new column with input from the general public.

The column would include memories of local residents (and out-of-towners) of their first visit to the old Cleveland Public Library, now the History Branch.

They hope to start this suggested library feature with memories from some of the community’s dignitaries. The possibility is still in the planning stage.

— This year’s remaining five library board meetings are scheduled at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays — March 22, May 24, July 26, Sept. 27 and Nov. 22.

KAB sets schedule for annual event and for the next HHWCD

By **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**
Banner Staff Writer

Cleveland/Bradley Keep America Beautiful’s board of directors has finalized the details for two upcoming events.

The organization’s annual Solid Waste Breakfast is coming up on Friday, March 11, and the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will take place Saturday, May 14.

The featured speaker at the breakfast with the attention-grabbing name will be Cameron Fisher, chairman of the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway board.

“He’s excited to share all that has been going on with the greenway,” said Joanne Maskew, KAB’s executive director.

The breakfast, set to take place March 11 at Westwood Baptist Church, will begin at 7:30 a.m. The event will also help kick off the Great American Cleanup, a national effort which encourages people to take care of their communities.

The semiannual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be taking place later in the spring than usual — and at a new location.

Board President Cheryl Dunson said she wanted to

The breakfast, set to take place March 11 at Westwood Baptist Church, will begin at 7:30 a.m. The event will also help kick off the Great American Cleanup, a national effort which encourages people to take care of their communities. The semiannual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be taking place later in the spring than usual — and at a new location.

schedule the event later in the spring so there will have been more time between the fall and spring events.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day allows Bradley County residents to safely dispose of hazardous household chemicals and the like. She explained the turnout is not as great if the collection events are too close together.

Dunson said the previous location, the Tri-State Exhibition Center, was not available on a

Saturday in May, so it is now slated to be at the Bradley County Justice Center from 8 a.m. to noon on May 14.

“We’ll see how it goes,” Dunson said. “I’m hoping that it actually works better.”

Bradley County Sheriff’s Office Lt. Tim Mason said the new location may allow more officers to be on hand to help direct traffic. Trustees from the justice center also help unload and sort the waste each year, and they will not have as far to travel.

During its recent meeting, the board also passed its proposed budget for the coming year, which totals \$78,565.

The 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which leads everything from environmental cleanup efforts to presentations to local schoolchildren, draws its funding from both private and public sources.

The proposed budget for the 2016-17 year includes \$28,000 from the Bradley County government and \$28,500 from the Cleveland government. That is up from last year, when the organization received \$27,000 from Bradley County and \$28,200 from Cleveland.

For more information about KAB, visit <http://www.cleveland-bradleykab.com> or call 423-559-97.

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
45	51	51	60	62	61	63
29	30	32	38	42	48	

Tennessee At A Glance

Sousa

From Page 1

ago, before performing in Chattanooga on the same trip to the region. The Sousa Band toured around the world, performing at the World Exposition in Paris (where it marched through the Arc de Triomphe), and was known to have played over 15,000 concerts from 1892 through 1931.

Craigmiles Hall, which is also known as the Craigmiles Building, is located on Ocoee Street across from the Bradley County Courthouse. While the courthouse was altered many years ago into its present state, renovation of the Craigmiles Building has brought the site back to its luster of earlier times, with the exterior looking much like it did when it first opened in 1878.

The renovation is attributed to local businessman Allan Jones, who purchased the building in 1993. In fact, Jones was presented a commendation of appreciation by the city for his interest in Cleveland history as well as his restoration of the historic building.

A plaque that signifies the visit to Craigmiles Hall by Sousa has

He traveled with his band throughout the late 1800s and into the 1900s, making a stop in Cleveland 110 years ago, before performing in Chattanooga on the same trip to the region. The Sousa Band toured around the world, performing at the World Exposition in Paris (where it marched through the Arc de Triomphe), and was known to have played over 15,000 concerts from 1892 through 1931.

been placed on the exterior entrance to the building. The plaque was presented to Jones in October 1994 by Lee University President Dr. Paul Conn and the university’s Wind Ensemble, to signify Sousa’s visit to Cleveland and his presentation at Craigmiles.

“I was invited to direct the

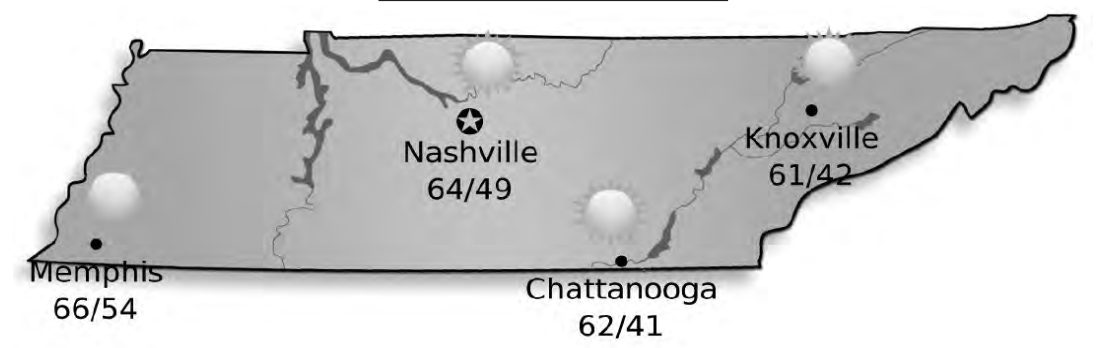
ensemble at the presentation,” remembers Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland. “I have always enjoyed showing the building to visitors to the area.”

Rowland said the Craigmiles Hall “is the most photographed building in Cleveland,” and is described as the city’s “first cultural center.”

He said the building especially shines during the Downtown Halloween Block Party due to special lighting put in by Jones, and over the winter months when the city has snowfall. In fact, it is prominently featured, along with the bandstand on the grounds of the courthouse, in a holiday photograph on the city’s website, and by MainStreet Cleveland and the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce.

The Craigmiles Building now houses several businesses as well as a restaurant on the first floor. This is similar to when it was in its heyday, and the Opera House was on the second floor of the building with businesses on the ground level.

The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.



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Area Cities											
City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Athens	48	27	Sunny	Greeneville	39	24	Cloudy	Milan	54	40	Sunny
Bristol	37	25	Cloudy	Jackson	55	41	Sunny	Morristown	40	25	M Cloudy
Chattanooga	49	30	Sunny	Jamestown	43	30	Sunny	Nashville	47	35	P Cloudy
Clarksville	48	35	Sunny	Jefferson City	42	27	M Cloudy	Oak Ridge	47	29	Sunny
Columbia	50	36	Sunny	Johnson City	38	25	Cloudy	Paris	48	35	Sunny
Cookeville	48	34	Sunny	Kingsport	40	23	Cloudy	Pulaski	52	36	Sunny
Crossville	44	33	Sunny	Knoxville	47	28	P Cloudy	Savannah	55	40	Sunny
Dayton	47	32	Sunny	Lewisburg	50	36	Sunny	Shelbyville	50	34	Sunny
Dyersburg	53	42	Clear	McMinnville	47	32	Sunny	Sweetwater	48	28	Sunny
Gatlinburg	42	28	Cloudy	Memphis	59	46	Clear	Tulahoma	47	32	Sunny

Moon Phases

First Jan 16

Full Jan 24

Last Feb 1

New Feb 8

UV Index

Sat	1/30	4	Moderate
Sun	1/31	4	Moderate
Mon	2/1	3	Moderate
Tue	2/2	2	Low
Wed	2/3	3	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

011

NATIONAL BRIEFS

University tries to secure library after multiple robberies

ATLANTA (AP) — The president of Georgia State University says the library on its main campus in downtown Atlanta will be temporarily closed to the public to install new security measures after a series of robberies inside the library.

Georgia State President Mark Becker said in a statement that security cameras will also be added at the library and more police will patrol campus.

Campus police say the latest crime occurred Thursday morning, when two students reported being robbed of their laptops at gunpoint.

It was at least the fourth robbery the university has reported since December — all happening at Library North.

Deputy Chief Carlton Mullis says the university is looking into why robberies keep happening in the library.

Cross-examination expected of man shot, paralyzed by deputy

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A young black man left paralyzed when shot by a sheriff's deputy is expected to be cross-examined in the federal trial over his lawsuit.

Dontrell Stephens is expected to resume testifying Friday. The 22-year-old man testified Thursday that his hands were up and he was unarmed when he was shot in September 2013 by Palm Beach County deputy Adams Lin. The Asian-American deputy says Stephens had reached for his waistband and had thrust his left hand forward while holding a dark object, making him think he was about to shoot him.

Stephens says the shooting violated his civil rights and is seeking over \$5 million in damages.

Stephens says he is in such constant pain he often finds himself crying. Lin has been cleared of criminal wrongdoing.

'Affluenza' teen facing 1st court hearing since deportation

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The Texas teenager who used an "affluenza" defense in a fatal drunken-driving wreck is expected to learn Friday whether he'll be moved to an adult jail as he awaits a judge's ruling on transferring his case to the adult court system.

Ethan Couch, 18, was booked into a juvenile detention facility in Fort Worth after he was deported from Mexico on Thursday. Authorities believe he and his mother fled the country as Texas prosecutors investigated whether he may have violated his probation in the 2013 wreck that killed four people.

A judge could decide Friday to keep Couch at the juvenile facility, move him to an adult jail or release him ahead of a hearing on Feb. 19. The hearing next month will determine whether the case will be transferred to the adult system, where Couch could face time behind bars.

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said Thursday that he supports moving Couch to an adult jail, given his age and the severity of his offenses. Couch was 16 at the time of the fatal accident, so the case is being handled for now in juvenile court.

"He's certainly capable of understanding now what's going on, and I'd feel better if he was there," Anderson said.

During the sentencing phase of the 2013 trial, a defense witness argued Couch had been coddled into a sense of irresponsibility by his wealthy parents. The expert deemed the condition "affluenza," which isn't recognized as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association and drew widespread derision.

The teen was later sentenced to 10 years' probation, which including barring him from drinking or leaving Tarrant County, Texas. Prosecutors and law enforcement officers blasted the sentence as too weak.

San Francisco pier shooting suspect seeks case's dismissal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Mexican national charged with fatally shooting a young San Francisco woman walking on a city pier is seeking dismissal of his criminal case, which added to the national debate over illegal immigration.

Juan Francisco Sanchez-Lopez and his lawyer Matt Gonzalez are expected to ask a judge Friday to drop a second-degree murder charge and related counts, arguing that the judge presiding over a preliminary hearing late last year made procedural mistakes.

He has pleaded not guilty. Gonzalez didn't return a phone

call and email inquiry.

A San Francisco judge on Sept. 4 ordered Sanchez-Lopez to stand trial on murder charges after a five-day preliminary hearing.

Kate Steinle, 32, of San Francisco was walking with her father along the city's popular and crowded waterfront on July 1 when she was shot in the back. She died in her father's arms.

Sanchez-Lopez was arrested several hours later a few blocks from the incident. Sanchez-Lopez told police he found a gun on the pier and that it fired accidentally when he picked it up. The gun was the service weapon of a Bureau of Land Management ranger, who reported it stolen from his car in late June.

18-year-old woman indicted in stabbing death of step-cousin

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — A teenager accused of fatally stabbing her 17-year-old step-cousin in suburban Atlanta last year has been indicted on four charges, including malice murder and felony murder.

WXIA-TV reports that 18-year-old Olivia Smith of Canton was indicted Thursday by a Cobb County grand jury in connection with the Nov. 14 death of Abbey Hebert of Acworth.

A search warrant says Smith admitted to stabbing Hebert with a knife after the two smoked marijuana and got into an argument inside the victim's house.

Police say Smith stabbed Hebert inside the house, then chased her outside, where a witness saw Hebert get stabbed multiple times.

Detective Matt Fuller testified in December that Smith told a neighbor that God had "made her" commit the crime.

Smith's attorney says his client is very remorseful.

Navy commander pleads guilty in massive bribery case

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A Navy commander accused of diverting ships to Asian ports for a Malaysian contractor offering prostitution services and other gifts pleaded guilty to bribery charges Thursday, marking the eighth conviction in the massive scandal.

Michael Misiewicz is one of the highest ranking Naval officers charged in the case, which is centered on businessman Leonard Francis, nicknamed "Fat Leonard" because of his wide girth. Misiewicz pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy to commit bribery and bribery of a public official at a hearing in federal court in San Diego.

He faces up to 20 years in prison if sentenced to the maximum amount for both charges.

His defense lawyers said in a statement that Misiewicz regrets his actions from 2011 to 2012. They went on to say that they plan to show at his sentencing hearing this was an "extreme departure from his otherwise distinguished and honorable 30 plus year career."

Only one defendant of the nine named in the case is still fighting the charges. Prosecutors say the investigation is ongoing and there could be more arrests.

Francis has admitted to providing an exhaustive list of gifts in exchange for classified information that helped his Singapore-based company, Glenn Defense Marine Asia Ltd., or GDMA, overbill the Navy by at least \$20 million. He is awaiting sentencing.

Misiewicz accepted theater tickets, prostitution services and other items, according to the criminal complaint. He provided ship routes to Francis and then they moved ships like chess pieces, diverting them to Pacific ports with lax oversight where GDMA submitted fake tariffs and other fees, prosecutors said.

Police: Vehicle fleeing officers hits another, killing 2

PEACHTREE CORNERS, Ga. (AP) — Authorities say a vehicle fleeing police in suburban Atlanta collided with another vehicle, killing two occupants.

Gwinnett County Police spokesman Cpl. Deon Washington said in a statement early Friday morning that the incident started as a pursuit by Johns Creek police that crossed into Gwinnett County.

Washington says the fleeing vehicle "failed to yield" to police late Thursday night and collided with a second vehicle as it approached an intersection on Peachtree Parkway. The driver and passenger of the second vehicle were killed.

Washington says the driver of the fleeing car faces DUI, drug charges and vehicular homicide charges. The passenger faces drug and gun charges.

Glimpse of what could have been

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — For the Republican candidates for president, it was a glimpse of what could have been.

Front-runner Donald Trump's boycott of the final debate before the Iowa caucuses created space for his rivals to delve more deeply into their differences on immigration, foreign policy and their approach to governing.

And for some candidates — former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in particular — Trump's absence from the debate stage Thursday night appeared to ease some of the tension created by his sharply personal attacks.

A frequent target of Trump, Bush opened the debate by saying wryly, "I kind of miss Donald Trump; he was a teddy bear to me."

Iowa voters kick off the 2016 nominating process with Monday's caucuses, and they'll provide the first indication of whether Trump's abrupt decision to skip the debate will have any impact on his standing atop the GOP field. His lead in Iowa had already become more tenuous in recent days, as Texas Sen. Ted Cruz pulled in support from conservative and evangelical voters.

Trump's decision to pull out of the debate over a feud with host Fox News was a gamble, particularly so close to the state of voting. But having defied political convention throughout his campaign, it was a risk the real estate mogul was willing to take.

He still looked to steal attention away from his rivals with a competing rally elsewhere in Des Moines, an event he said raised \$6 million for military veterans.

"When you're treated badly, you have to stick up for your rights," Trump said in explaining his boycott. Broadening his point, he said, "We have to stick up for ourselves as people and we have to stick up for our country if we're being mistreated."

Trump's absence put the spotlight on Cruz, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, as well, who needs a strong showing in Iowa in order to stay in the top tier of candidates.

The two senators were confronted with video clips suggesting they had changed their positions on immigration, one of the most contentious issues among Republicans. While each insisted the other had flip-flopped, both denied they had switched their own views on allowing some people in the U.S. illegally to stay.

Cruz accused Rubio of making a "politically advantageous" decision to support a 2013 Senate bill that included a pathway to citizenship, while the Florida senator said his Texas rival was "willing to say or do anything to get votes."

"This is the lie that Ted's campaign is built on," Rubio said. "That he's the most conservative guy."

In a rare standout debate moment for Bush, the former Florida governor sharply sided with Cruz in accusing Rubio of having "cut and run" on the Senate immigration bill.

"He cut and run because it wasn't popular with conservatives," said Bush, who was more consistent in this debate than in previous outings.

Cruz was put on the spot over his opposition to ethanol subsidies that support Iowa's powerful corn industry — a position that has long been considered politically untenable for presidential candidates in the state. The Texas senator cast his position as an effort to keep the government from picking economic winners and losers.

With their White House hopes on the line, the candidates worked hard to present themselves as best prepared to be commander in chief and take on terror threats.

Rubio struck an aggressive posture, pledging that as president he would go after terrorists "wherever they are. And if we capture them alive, they are going to Guantanamo." Rubio also stood by his previous calls for shutting down mosques in the U.S. if there were indications the Muslim religious centers were being used to radicalize terrorists.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul — back on the main debate stage after being downgraded to an undercard event because of low poll numbers earlier this month — warned against closing down mosques. A proponent of a more isolationist foreign policy, Paul also raised concerns about the U.S. getting involved militarily in Syria, where the Islamic State group has a stronghold.

The candidates focused some of their most pointed attacks on



REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES (L-R) New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, talk after the Republican presidential primary debate, Thursday, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

"She is not qualified to be president of the United States," New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said.

Christie is part of a crowded field of more mainstream candidates who have struggled to break through in an election year where Trump, and increasingly Cruz, have tapped into voter anger with the political system. Party leaders have grown increasingly anxious for some of the more traditional candidates to step aside to allow one to rise up and challenge for the nomination.

Asked whether the crowded establishment lane was putting Trump in position to win, Bush said: "We're just starting out. The first vote hasn't been counted. Why don't we let the process work?"

Bush also defended the flurry of critical advertisements his well-funded super PAC has launched against Rubio and other rivals.

"It's called politics," Bush said. "That's the way it is. I'm running hard."

Bush and Christie, along with Ohio Gov. John Kasich, are looking beyond Iowa and hoping New Hampshire's Feb. 9 primary jumpstarts their campaigns. In



REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Donald Trump poses with a ring given to him by a group of veterans during a campaign event on the campus of Drake University Thursday, in Des Moines, Iowa.

an election where a lengthy political resume has been a liability, Kasich defended government's ability to tackle big problems.

"We serve you," Kasich said of government officials and voters. "You don't serve us. We listen to you and then we act."

Cruz proudly claimed he was "not the candidate of career

politicians in Washington." Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who has a small but loyal base in Iowa, said that even though he hasn't been in government, he's made plenty of life-and-death decisions as a doctor.

"I don't think you need to be a politician to tell the truth," he said.

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Bears back on top as region champs

By RICHARD ROBERTS
Banner Sports Editor

SODDY-DAISY — As the Cleveland/Soddy-Daisy battle raged one mat over, Bradley Central wrestling coach Ben Smith was hastily scribbling a lineup for the championship match of the Region 4-3A duals tournament after his grapplers eliminated Walker Valley 44-21 in the semifinals.

As it turned out, Smith could have spent the rest of his evening at Soddy-Daisy High School as an observer.

The war between the Blue Raiders and Trojans came to a close with Soddy-Daisy rallying from behind and holding off a late charge to eliminate Cleveland with a 39-26 victory, ending the Blue Raiders’ shot at a fourth consecutive state duals championship.

“I’m relieved. We made our way back to Franklin, that was the goal. This is our first dual championship since Steve (Logsdon) stepped down (as head wrestling coach). That feels good,” said a happy Smith, who completely agreed with the decision between Soddy and Bradley to forgo the championship match.

“The biggest thing is we are injury free. I think the smart thing to do is get ready for next week and not show your cards and keep everybody safe.”

The fifth-year Bradley coach stopped short of saying the Bears were completely back after a few seasons of putting the train back on the track.



BRADLEY CENTRAL'S ETHAN ANDERSON wrestled to a technical fall victory over Walker Valley's Cam Dwyer in their semifinal bout at the Region 4-3A duals tournament Thursday, at Soddy-Daisy High School.

“We’re back for three more weeks, hopefully,” Smith said with an almost smile. “Then we will get ready for next season.”

With a berth in the state duals tournament in place, Soddy-Daisy chose to concede the region championship to the Bears and settle for second.

Smith said the Bears were ready to go if necessary, no matter which team wins the other semifinals match.

“Absolutely,” he said with no hesitation, when asked if his team

was prepared for one more match. “We felt like the momentum was going the other way and honestly we were over there planning for Cleveland. I think it was the 220 match that was huge. It was just back and forth. Then I started seeing the momentum shift and felt if they got hot they might come after us, so we got ready to go. We were ready to wrestle.”

The Bears started with a technical fall victory by T.J. Hicks at 113 pounds and never looked back. Ethan Anderson followed with a

second tech fall and Joshua LaCoe put Bradley out front 16-0 with a pin at 126.

Joe Munoz put the Mustangs on the board with a decision at 132, but the Bears countered with pins at 138 and 152 to take a commanding 32-3 lead. Mikel Gregory (160) and Jaylon Martin (182) scored the only other points for the Mustangs with decisions. The teams traded forfeits on four of the final five matches to make the final score 44-21.

“I saw a lot better effort from our

guys. Bradley is the No. 1-ranked team in the state for a reason. But I liked the way we went out there in most of the matches we wrestled, and competed,” said Mustangs coach Al Morris. “We reversed a loss and picked up a win in another weight class from the last time. I was hoping to get a few more, but I understand Coach Smith’s (forfeit) strategy. There is no reason to continue to wrestle.

“We’re going to focus on the individual region. Our objective is to send 14 wrestlers to the state

every year, but as many as we can is what we are looking for.”

**TROJANS 39,
BLUE RAIDERS 26**

The semifinal battle between Cleveland and Soddy-Daisy was anything but a pushover for either team. The Blue Raiders led 20-6 after the first five matches. After 10 bouts, Cleveland found itself down by four points to the Trojans after the Trojans, trailing 5-2 in the second period of the 182-pound bout, turned the tables and momentum in favor of Soddy-Daisy with a pin.

A win by Cleveland’s Samuel Garcia at 195 pounds closed the gap to 27-26, but it was a close as the Blue Raiders would get to the region finals. A Soddy-Daisy pin at 220 put the Trojans on top 33-26 and a decision at 285 locked up the win. The Trojans closed out the meet with a final decision that made the final score 39-26.

Triston Blansit picked up the only pin for the Raiders at 126. Michael Whiteside (120) won a major decision, Cody Mathews (132) and Samuel Garcia (195) both earned decisions and Colton Landers won by injury default.

“We lost a few that we thought we could have won, so they came out on top,” said a disappointed Yost.

Yost said he saw no match in particular that turned the meet around one way or another for the Raiders, and interjected lost opportunities were the biggest rea-

See **BEARS**, Page 13



LADY FLAMES FRESHMAN GUARD Haris Price goes to the rack for two points in Lee’s double-overtime loss to West Florida in Pensacola, Fla., Thursday.

Flames combine to put burn on Argos; Lee women fall to West Florida in 2OT

From Lee Sports Information

PENSACOLA, Fla. — After a furious comeback to send the game into overtime, the Lee women’s basketball team came up just short, falling to West Florida, 89-85 in a double-OT thriller on Thursday evening in a classic Gulf South Conference battle.

The Lady Flames trailed by 15 points at the halftime break but stormed back in the third period to cut the deficit to one heading into the final quarter of regulation.

In the fourth quarter the two clubs jostled back and forth before Carrie Cheeks calmly hit two free throws to tie things up at 69 with nine seconds remaining in regula-

tion to send the contest to over-

time. The Argonauts’ Kelly Preston hit a jumper with 16 seconds left in the first extra period to tie things up at 76. The Lady Flames held the final possession but were unable to get off a game-winning shot attempt.

West Florida would pull away late in the second overtime period and hit timely foul shots to finally stave off the Lady Flames’ comeback effort and seal the victory.

Lee’s Erin Walsh and Christina Johnson led the way with 17 points. Walsh was 4 of 6 from the 3-point line while Johnson grabbed a team-high 13 rebounds.

“I thought we did a nice job of battling back in the second half,” said head coach Marty Rowe. “As poor as we played in the first half, I was really proud of the way we came back. We continue to get into foul trouble and had to play the last few minutes without some of our key players.”

Freshman Haris Price scored 13 points and was perfect 5 of 5 from the free-throw line for the Lady Flames. Carrie Cheeks tallied 12 points and grabbed six boards, while freshman Anna Woodford added 12 points of her own.

The two teams shot a nearly identical percentage from the field.

See **FLAMES**, Page 13

Lady Flames load up for 2016 softball season

From LEE SPORTS INFORMATION

The Lee University softball team will open up the 2016 season Saturday as the Lady Flames host Bellarmine University out of Louisville, Ky., in a doubleheader beginning at noon at Butler Field.

The Lady Flames are coming off a 36-19 season, and were 18-11 in the Gulf South Conference, finishing fourth. Lee closed out the final year of the NCAA D2 transition by finishing third at the NCCAA National Tournament.

This season the Lady Flames are fully eligible for postseason play and awards. Lee was picked to finish fifth in the GSC preseason poll. Valdosta State is the preseason pick with four first-place votes and 92 total points. Alabama Huntsville came in second (87), followed by Shorter (86) and North Alabama (80).

A look at the Lady Flames

Head coach Emily Russell will enter her 14th season as leader of the Lady Flames. Her teams have earned 20 or more

wins in all 13 seasons and have eclipsed 40 wins in six of those seasons.

The Lee squad will be led offensively by senior shortstop Amanda Lynn and First Baseman Lexie Dean. Both players were named to the pre-season All-GSC team. Lynn hit .352 out of the leadoff spot and stole 32 bases to rank as the all-time career stolen base leader in school history. Dean led the team with a .417 batting average and a .480 on base percentage.

In the circle, senior Angie

Hughes will be back for her fourth and final season to anchor the Lady Flames’ pitching staff. The flame thrower from Blairsville, Ga., was 18-9 with a 3.27 ERA last season and struck out 196 batters in 173 1/3 innings of work. Sophomore Leigh Beatenbough will also return after leading the team in ERA (3.05) a year ago.

Freshmen Hallie Davis (Walker Valley) should make an immediate impact in the outfield for the Lady Flames along with Stevie Baird (Goodletsville) at third base and Madyson Stallcup in the circle.

Lee will also benefit from the return of Annabeth Pruett and Hailey Clark, who were sidelined last year with injuries.

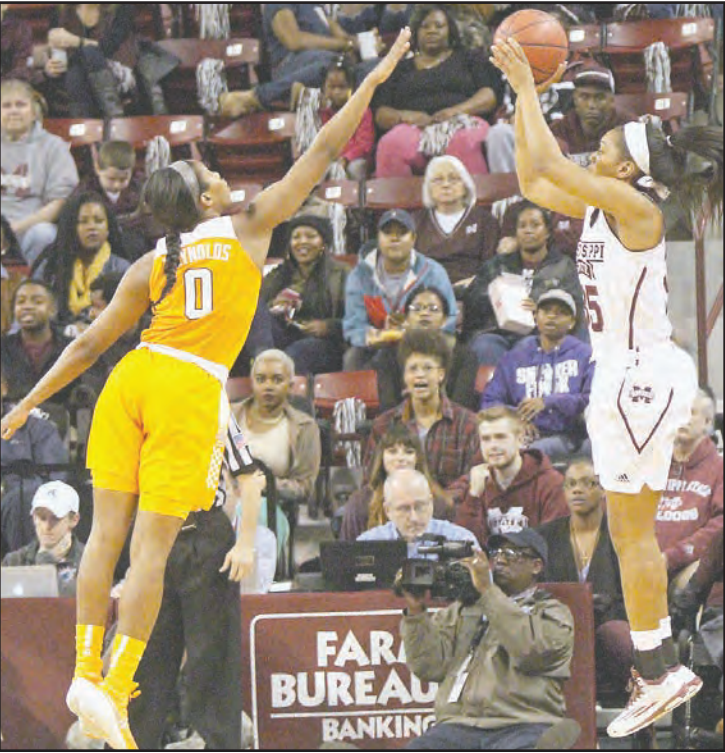
Focusing on the Knights

The Knights ended 2015 with a 32-16 mark and were 20-8 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, making it the second-best season in school history.

Sophomore Marlee Tevis led the team in ERA (1.02) last season and the Lady Flames should see her in the circle in of the games on Saturday.

Senior Ally Foster is a player to keep an eye on for the Kentucky club. Foster is All-American and First Team GLVC selection. The pitcher/outfielder led the team in batting average (.323), slugging percentage (.631) and home runs (11) while also

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 13



MISSISSIPPI STATE FORWARD Victoria Vivians, right, shoots a 3-pointer over Tennessee guard Jordan Reynolds in the first half in Starkville, Miss., Thursday.

Mississippi State gets 1st-ever win over UT Lady Vols

STARKVILLE, Miss. (AP) — For 30 years, Mississippi State endured 36 losses and no wins against Tennessee in women’s basketball.

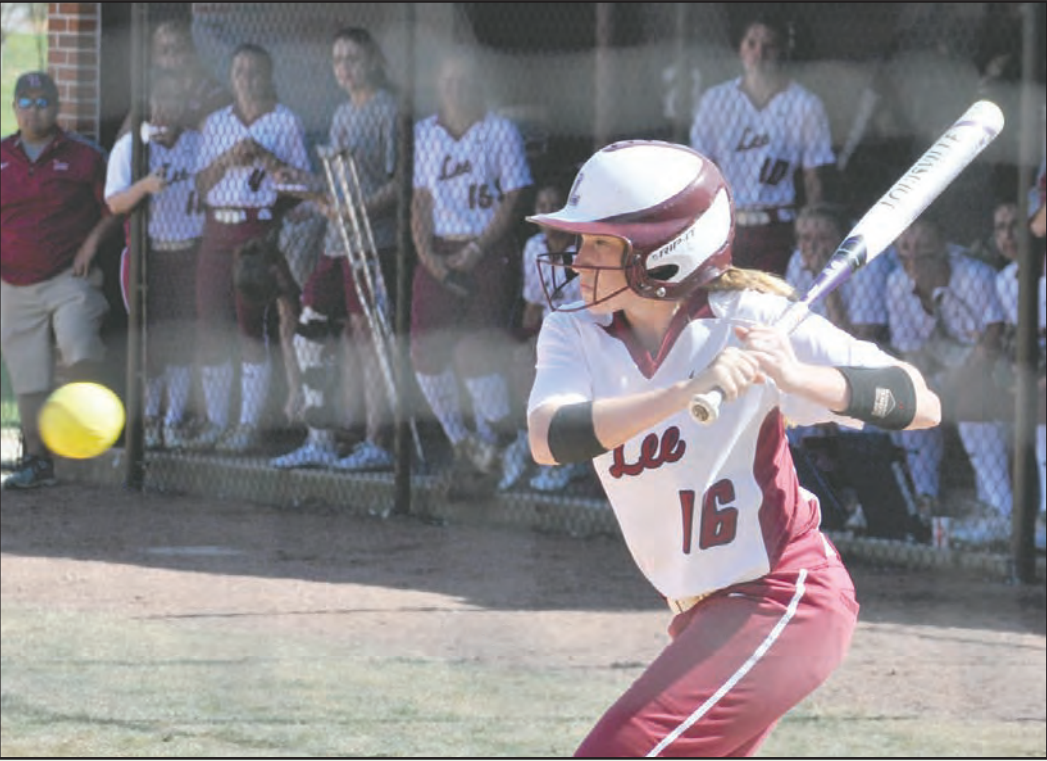
That streak ended on Thursday night.

The No. 13 Bulldogs fought back from a 12-point third quarter deficit to stun the Lady Vols at Humphrey Coliseum in a

65-63 overtime thriller in front of 5,710 fans.

“I really feel blessed. We didn’t play well — the third quarter we were awful,” Mississippi State head coach Vic Schaefer said. “(Tennessee) made one basket in the fourth quarter. I’m really proud of our kids.”

See **LADY VOLS**, Page 13



LEE SENIOR SHORTSTOP senior Amanda Lynn and the Lady Flames are eyeing big things for 2016 beginning Saturday, at Butler field against Bellarmine University.

SCOREBOARD

ON AIR

Sports on TV
Friday, Feb. 5
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
5 p.m.
FS1 — Columbia at Yale
7 p.m.
ESPN — Harvard at Princeton
8 p.m.
CBSSN — Central Michigan at Akron
9 p.m.
ESPN — St. Peter's at Siena
GOLF
5:30 a.m.
GOLF — European PGA Tour, Omega Dubai Desert Classic, second round, at Dubai, United Arab Emirates
11 a.m.
GOLF — Champions Tour, Allianz Championship, first round, at Boca Raton, Fla.
3 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, Waste Management Phoenix Open, second round, at Scottsdale, Ariz.
8 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, Coates Golf Championship, third round, at Ocala, Fla. (same-day taped)
4 a.m. (Saturday)
GOLF — European PGA Tour, Omega Dubai Desert Classic, third round, at Dubai, United Arab Emirates
NBA BASKETBALL
7 p.m.
ESPN — Indiana at Atlanta
9:30 p.m.
ESPN — San Antonio at Dallas
SOCER
2:20 p.m.
FS2 — Bundesliga, SV Werder Bremen at Borussia Mönchengladbach
10:30 p.m.
FS1 — Men, International friendly, United States vs. Canada, at Carson, Calif.
WINTER SPORTS
Midnight (Saturday)
NBCSN — FIS Alpine Skiing, Men's Downhill, at Jeongseon, South Korea
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
5 p.m.
ESPN — Quinnipiac at Siena
8 p.m.
FS1 — Providence at Xavier

ON TAP

Friday, Jan. 29
BASKETBALL
Soddy-Daisy at Cleveland (CMS), 6
Walker Valley at Bradley Central, 6
Maryville Christian at TCPS, 5:30
Volunteer State at Cleveland State, 5:30
Saturday, Jan. 30
BASKETBALL
Motlow State at Cleveland State, 2
Lee University at Valdosta State University, 2
Monday, Feb. 1
BASKETBALL
Tyner at Walker Valley, 6
Tuesday, Feb. 2
BASKETBALL
Ooltewah at Cleveland (CMS), 6
Stone Memorial at Bradley Central, 6
Walker Valley at Soddy-Daisy, 6
Cleveland Christian at Cary-Chattanooga, 6
Thursday, Feb. 4
BASKETBALL
Paideia at TCPS, 7
University of Alabama-Huntsville at Lee University, 6
Friday, Feb. 5
BASKETBALL
Cleveland at East Hamilton, 6
Soddy-Daisy at Bradley Central, 6
McMinn Central at Walker Valley, 6
Cleveland Christian at Dogwood, 6
WRESTLING
State Duals at Franklin, TBA
Saturday, Feb. 6
BASKETBALL
Cleveland State at Chattanooga State, 2
University of North Alabama at Lee University, 2
Franklin County at Cleveland, 6
WRESTLING
State Duals at Franklin, TBA

BASEBALL

Free Agents Signings
NEW YORK (AP) — The 80 free agents who have signed, with name, position, former club if different, and contract. The contract information was obtained by The Associated Press from player and management source. For players with minor league contracts, letter agreements for major league contracts are in parentheses:
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE (3) — Matt Wieters, c, accepted \$15.8 million qualifying offer; re-signed Darren O'Day, rhp, to a \$31 million, two-year contract; re-signed Chris Davis, 1b, to a \$161 million, seven-year contract.
BOSTON (2) — Signed Chris Young, of, to a \$13 million, two-year contract; signed David Price, lhp, Toronto, to a \$217 million, seven-year contract.
CHICAGO (3) — Signed Alex Avila, c, Detroit, to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract; signed Dioner Navarro, c, Toronto, to a \$4 million, one-year contract; re-signed Matt Albers, rhp, to a \$2.25 million, one-year contract.
CLEVELAND (5) — Signed Rajai Davis, of, Detroit, to a \$5.25 million, one-year contract; signed Tom Gorzelanny, lhp, Detroit, to a minor league contract (\$1 million); signed Joe Thatcher, lhp, Houston, to a minor league contract (\$1 million); signed Ross Detwiler, lhp, Atlanta, to a minor league contract (\$1 million); signed Mike Napoli, 1b, Texas, to a \$7 million, one-year contract.
DETROIT (6) — Signed Jordan Zimmermann, rhp, Washington, to a \$110 million, five-year contract; signed Mike Pelfrey, rhp, Minnesota, to a \$16 million, two-year contract; signed Jarrod Saltalamacchia, c, Arizona, to a \$507,500, one-year contract; signed Mark Lowe, rhp, Toronto, to an \$11 million, two-year contract; signed Mike Aviles, inf-of, Cleveland, to a \$2 million, one-year contract; signed Justin Upton, of, San Diego, to a \$132.75 million, six-year contract.
HOUSTON (3) — Colby Rasmus, of, accepted \$15.8 million qualifying offer; re-signed Tony Sipp, lhp, to an \$18 million, three-year contract; signed Doug Fister, rhp, Washington, to a \$7 million, one-year contract.
KANSAS CITY (3) — Re-signed Chris Young, rhp, to an \$11.5 million, two-year contract; signed Joakim Soria, rhp, Pittsburgh, to a \$25 million, three-year contract; re-signed Alex Gordon, of, to a \$72 million, four-year contract.
LOS ANGELES (2) — Signed Cliff Pennington, ss, Toronto, to a \$3.75 million, one-year contract; signed Geovany Soto, c, Chicago White Sox, to a \$2.8 million, one-year contract.
MIAMI (2) — Signed Rich Hill, rhp, Boston, to a \$6 million, one-year contract; signed Ryan Madson, rhp, Kansas City, to a \$22 million, three-year contract.
SEATTLE (4) — Re-signed Franklin Gutierrez, of, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Chris Iannetta, c, Los Angeles Angels, to a \$4.25 million, one-year contract; signed Nori Aoki, rhp, to a \$7.25 million, one-year contract; re-signed Hisashi Iwakuma, rhp, to a \$12 million, one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY (1) — Signed Steve Pearce, of, Baltimore, to a \$4.75 million, one-year contract.
TEXAS (1) — Re-signed Colby Lewis, rhp, to a \$6 million, one-year contract.
TORONTO (2) — Re-signed Marco Estrada, rhp, to a \$26 million, two-year contract; signed J.A. Happ, lhp, Pittsburgh, to a \$36 million, three-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA (1) — Signed Zack Greinke, rhp, Los Angeles Dodgers, to a \$206.5 million, five-year contract.
ATLANTA (4) — Re-signed A.J. Pierzynski, c, to a \$3 million, two-year contract; signed Bud Norris, rhp, San Diego, to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract; signed Gordon Beckham, 3b, Chicago White Sox, to a \$1.25 million, one-year contract; signed Kelly Johnson, inf-of, New York Mets, to a \$2 million, one-year contract.
CHICAGO (4) — Signed John Lackey, rhp, St. Louis, to a \$32 million, two-year contract; signed Ben Zobrist, inf, Kansas City, to a \$56 million, four-year contract; re-signed Trevor Cahill, rhp, to a \$4.25 million, one-year contract; signed Jason Heyward, of, St. Louis, to a \$184 million, eight-year contract.
COLORADO (4) — Signed Jason Motte, rhp, Chicago Cubs, to a \$10 million, two-year contract; signed Chad Kuhl, rhp, Houston, to a \$6 million, two-year contract; signed Mark Reynolds, 1b-3b, St. Louis, to a \$2.6 million, one-year contract; signed Gerardo Parra, of, Baltimore, to a \$27.5 million, three-year contract.
LOS ANGELES (4) — Brett Anderson, lhp, accepted \$15.8 million qualifying offer; re-signed Chase Utley, 2b, to a \$7 million, one-year contract; signed Scott Kazmir, lhp, Houston, to a \$48 million, three-year contract; signed Jose Blanton, rhp, Pittsburgh, to a \$4 million, one-year contract.
MIAMI (3) — Re-signed Jeff Mathis, c, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Edwig Jackson, rhp, Atlanta, to a \$507,500, one-year contract; signed Wei-Yin Chen, lhp, Baltimore, to an \$80 million, five-year contract.
NEW YORK (6) — Signed Asdrubal Cabrera, ss, Tampa Bay, to an \$18.5 million, two-year contract; re-signed Jerry Blevins, lhp, to a \$4 million, one-year contract; re-signed Bartolo Colon, rhp, to a \$7.25 million, one-year contract; signed Alejandro De Aza, of, San Francisco, to a \$5.75 million, one-year contract; signed Antonio Bastardo, lhp, Pittsburgh, to a \$12 million, two-year contract; re-signed Yoenis Cespedes, of, to a \$75 million, three-year contract.
PHILADELPHIA (2) — Signed David Hernandez, rhp, Arizona, to a \$3.9 million, one-year contract; signed Edward Mujica, rhp, Oakland, to a minor league contract (\$2.5 million).
PITTSBURGH (3) — Re-signed Sean Rodriguez, inf-of, to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract; signed Ryan Vogelsong, rhp, San Francisco, to a \$2 million, one-year contract; signed John Jaso, 1b-c, Tampa Bay, to a \$8 million, two-year contract.
ST. LOUIS (3) — Signed Brayan Pena, c, Cincinnati, to a \$5 million, two-year contract; re-signed Jonathan Broxton, rhp, to a \$7.5 million, two-year contract; signed Mike Leake, rhp, San Francisco, to an \$80 million, five-year contract.
SAN DIEGO (2) — Signed Carlos Villanueva, rhp, St. Louis, to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Alexei Ramirez, ss, Chicago White Sox, to a \$4 million, one-year contract.
SAN FRANCISCO (3) — Signed Jeff Samardzija, rhp, Chicago White Sox, to a \$90 million, five-year contract; signed Johnny Cueto, rhp, Kansas City, to a \$130 million, six-year contract; signed Denard Span, of, Washington, to a \$31 million, three-year contract.
WASHINGTON (5) — Signed Shawn Kelley, rhp, San Diego, to a \$15 million, three-year contract; signed Oliver Perez, lhp, Houston, to a \$7 million, two-year con-

tract; signed Daniel Murphy, 2b, New York Mets, to a \$37.5 million, three-year contract; signed Stephen Drew, 2nd-ss, New York Yankees, to a \$3 million, one-year contract; signed Bronson Arroyo, rhp, Los Angeles Dodgers, to a minor league contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	31	15	.674	—
Boston	26	21	.553	5½
New York	22	26	.458	10
Brooklyn	12	34	.261	19
Philadelphia	7	40	.149	24½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	27	21	.563	—
Miami	25	21	.543	1
Charlotte	22	24	.479	4
Washington	20	24	.455	5
Orlando	20	24	.455	5
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	32	12	.727	—
Chicago	26	18	.578	6½
Detroit	25	21	.543	8
Indiana	24	22	.522	9
Milwaukee	20	28	.417	14
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	39	7	.848	—
Memphis	27	20	.574	12½
Dallas	26	22	.542	14
Houston	25	23	.521	15
New Orleans	17	28	.378	21½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	35	13	.729	—
Portland	21	26	.447	13½
Utah	20	25	.444	13½
Denver	18	29	.383	16½
Minnesota	14	33	.298	20½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	42	4	.913	—
L.A. Clippers	30	16	.652	12
Sacramento	20	26	.435	22
Phoenix	14	33	.298	28½
L.A. Lakers	9	39	.188	34
Friday's Games				
Orlando at Boston, 7:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.				
Phoenix at New York, 7:30 p.m.				
Miami at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.				
Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.				
Minnesota at Utah, 9 p.m.				
Charlotte at Portland, 10 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Golden State at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.				
Orlando at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.				
Brooklyn at New Orleans, 7 p.m.				
Denver at Indiana, 7 p.m.				
Sacramento at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Washington at Houston, 8 p.m.				
San Antonio at Cleveland, 8:30 p.m.				

Top 25 Fared				
Thursday				
1. Oklahoma (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Tuesday.				
2. North Carolina (18-2) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Saturday.				
3. Iowa (16-4) lost to No. 8 Maryland 74-68. Next: vs. Northwestern, Sunday.				
4. Kansas (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 Kentucky, Saturday.				
5. Texas A&M (17-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Iowa State, Saturday.				
6. Villanova (17-3) did not play. Next: at St. John's, Saturday.				
7. Xavier (18-2) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Saturday.				
8. Maryland (18-3) beat No. 3 Iowa 74-68. Next: at Ohio State, Sunday.				
9. West Virginia (17-3) did not play. Next: at Florida, Saturday.				
10. Providence (17-4) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Saturday.				
11. Virginia (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Louisville, Saturday.				
12. Michigan State (18-4) beat Northwestern 76-45. Next: vs. Rutgers, Sunday.				
13. SMU (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Saturday.				
14. Iowa State (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Texas A&M, Saturday.				
15. Miami (16-3) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Saturday.				
16. Louisville (17-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 Virginia, Saturday.				
17. Baylor (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Saturday.				
18. Arizona (16-4) vs. No. 23 Oregon. Next: vs. Oregon State, Saturday.				
19. Indiana (17-4) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Saturday.				
20. Kentucky (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 4 Kansas, Saturday.				
21. Purdue (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Saturday.				
22. Wichita State (15-5) did not play. Next: at Evansville, Sunday.				
23. Michigan (16-4) at No. 18 Arizona. Next: at Arizona State, Sunday.				
24. Duke (15-6) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Tuesday.				
25. Notre Dame (14-6) lost to Syracuse 81-66. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Sunday.				

Women's Top 25 Fared				
Thursday				
1. UConn (19-0) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Saturday.				
2. South Carolina (20-0) beat Mississippi 81-62. Next: at No. 10 Texas A&M, Sunday.				
3. Notre Dame (20-1) beat Georgia Tech 54-42. Next: at Duke, Monday.				
4. Baylor (20-1) did not play. Next: at No. 24 West Virginia, Saturday.				
5. Maryland (18-2) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Saturday.				
6. Texas (19-1) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.				
7. Ohio State (16-4) beat Northwestern 76-73. Next: at Illinois, Monday.				
8. Arizona State (17-3) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Friday.				
9. Oregon State (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona, Friday.				
10. Texas A&M (15-5) beat Alabama 59-56. Next: vs. No. 2 South Carolina, Sunday.				
11. Florida State (17-4) beat Wake Forest 96-55. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Sunday.				
12. Kentucky (15-4) lost to Vanderbilt 71-69. Next: at Florida, Sunday.				
13. Miami (18-3) beat Virginia Tech 17-4 vs. No. 19 Tennessee. Next: at Arkansas, Sunday.				
14. Louisville (16-5) beat Clemson 75-33. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Sunday.				
15. UCLA (14-5) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Friday.				
16. Stanford (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25 Washington, Friday.				
17. Miami (18-3) beat Virginia Tech 57-45. Next: vs. Syracuse, Monday.				
18. Michigan State (15-4) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Sunday.				
19. Tennessee (12-7) at No. 13 Mississippi State. Next: vs. Alabama, Sunday.				
20. North Florida (14-5) did not play. Next: at SMU, Sunday.				
21. Oklahoma (14-5) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.				
22. Missouri (17-4) beat LSU 52-46. Next: at Mississippi, Sunday.				
23. DePaul (15-6) did not play. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Friday.				
24. West Virginia (16-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Baylor, Saturday.				
25. Washington (15-4) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Stanford, Friday.				

BOXING

Fight Schedule	
Jan. 29	
At Belasco Theater, Los Angeles, Julian Ramirez vs. Christopher Martin, 10, for the vacant WBC Silver Youth featherweight title.	
Jan. 30	
At Bell Centre, Montreal (HBO), Sergey Kovalev vs. Jean Pascal, 12, for Kovalev's IBF-WBA Super World-WBO light heavyweight titles; Francis Laferriere vs. Renan St-Juste, 10, for the vacant IBF International midweight title; Dmitry Mikhaylenko vs. Karim Mayfield, 10, for the vacant USBA welterweight title; Virgilijus Stapulionis vs. Laszlo Fazekas, 10, junior midweight titles.	
Feb. 5	
At Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, Indio, Calif., Frankie Gomez vs. Silverio Ortiz, super lightweights; Randy Caballero vs. Ruben Garcia, 10, super bantamweights.	
Feb. 9	
At Sands Bethlehem (Pa.) Center (FS1), Jamel Herring vs. Luis Ederado Flores, 10, lightweights.	
Feb. 18	
At The Hangar, Costa Mesa, Calif., Sergey Kuzmin vs. Rodney Hernandez, 10, heavyweight; Dmitry Bivol vs. Darnell Boone, 10, light heavyweight.	
Feb. 19	
At Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, N.J. (SHO), Adam Lopez vs. Mario Munoz, 10, junior featherweights.	
Feb. 20	
At Oberhausen, Germany, Fedor Chudinov vs. Felix Sturm, 12, for Chudinov's WBA World super midweight title.	
At Las Vegas, Leo Santa Cruz vs. Kiko Martinez, 12, for Santa Cruz's WBA Super World featherweight title; Julio Ceja vs. Hugo Ruiz, 12, for Cela's WBC World super bantamweight title.	
Feb. 27	
At Manchester, England (SHO), Carl Frampton vs. Scott Quigg, 12, for Frampton's IBF-WBA Super World bantamweight titles.	
At Madison Square Garden, New York (HBO), Terence Crawford vs. Hank Lundy, 12, for Crawford's WBO junior welterweight title; Felix Verdejo vs. William Silva, 10, lightweights.	
At Honda Center, Anaheim, Calif. (SHO), Leo Santa Cruz vs. Kiko Martinez, 12, for Santa Cruz's WBA Super World featherweight title; Julio Ceja vs. Hugo Ruiz, 12, for Ceja's WBC World super bantamweight title.	
March 5	
At Grozny, Russia, Ruslan Chagaev vs. Lucas Browne, 12, for Chagaev's WBA World heavyweight title.	
March 26	
At New York, Jose Pedraza vs. Stephen Smith, 12, for Pedraza's IBF super featherweight title.	

At Los Angeles, Julio Ceja vs. Hugo Ruiz, 12, for Ceja's WBC World super bantamweight title.

March 12
At the Downtown Las Vegas Events Center, Jesus Gutierrez vs. Leon Spinks III, 10, junior welterweights.

April 8
At Moscow, Grigory Drozd vs. Ilunga Makabu, 12, for Drozd's WBC cruiserweight title.

April 9
At MGM Grand, Las Vegas (PPV), Timothy Bradley Jr. vs. Manny Pacquiao, 12, for Bradley's WBO welterweight title; Oscar Valdez vs. Evgeny Gradovich, 10, featherweights; Jose Ramirez vs. Manny Perez, 10, junior welterweights.

FOOTBALL

NFL Playoff Glance
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
Kansas City 30, Houston 0
Pittsburgh 18, Cincinnati 16
Sunday, Jan. 10
Seattle 10, Minnesota 9
Green Bay 35, Washington 18
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 16
New England 27, Kansas City 20
Arizona 26, Green Bay 20, OT
Sunday, Jan. 17
Carolina 31, Seattle 24
Denver 23, Pittsburgh 16
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 24
AFC
Denver 20, New England 18
NFC
Carolina 49, Arizona 15

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 31
At Honolulu
Team Rice vs. Team Irvin, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 7
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Denver vs. Carolina, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

TENNIS

Australian Open Results
Thursday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: \$30.18 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard, Outdoor
Singles
Men
Semifinals
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Roger Federer (3), Switzerland, 6-1, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Women
Semifinals
Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, 6-0, 6-4.
Angelique Kerber (7), Germany, def. Johanna Konta, Britain, 7-5, 6-2.
Doubles
Semifinals
Jamie Murray, Britain, and Bruno Soares (7), Brazil, def. Adrian Mannarino and Lucas Pouille, France, 6-3, 6-1.
Daniel Nestor, Canada, and Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and Marcel Granollers (16), Spain, 7-6 (11), 6-4.
Mixed Exhibition
Kim Clijsters, Belgium, and Todd Woodbridge, Australia, def. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Spain, and Henri Leconte, France, 4-2, 4-3 (3).

LOCAL NOTES

BASEBALL
BASEBALL INSTRUCTION
Cleveland State Community College assistant baseball coach Ryne Foster will be offering baseball instruction and lessons for individual or small group. Lessons will be offered on weekdays and weekends for hitting, catching, infield play, outfield play and pitching. For times and pricing, contact coach Foster at (317)650-1064 or email rfoster01@clevelandstatecc.edu.
BASKETBALL
GIRLS TRAVEL BASKETBALL TRYOUTS
A tryout for a competitive girls travel team will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30, at Oak Grove Elementary School from 1-3 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 31 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The tryouts are open to third and fourth graders. Please contact Tim Rogers at (423)303-8550 with any questions.
KILBY INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION
Individual basketball instruction for male and female elementary, middle school, high school and post graduate athletes is being offered by former Junior College and University coach L.J. Kilby. Coach Kilby brings 10 years of head coaching experience as well as 30 years experience in junior college, NAIA and NCAA Division I basketball. For more information, contact Coach Kilby at (423)996-2515.

FISHING
CLEVELAND BASSMASTERS
The Cleveland Bassmasters meet the first Thursday of each month at Socle Cleveland United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Cleveland Bassmasters includes boaters and non-boaters and are associated with FLW. The club fishes and holds tournament on Chickamauga Lake, Nickajack Lake, Lake Guntersville, Lake Weiss, Watts Bar and Neely Henry. Dues for the Bassmasters are \$35 quarterly. Other fees include \$35 FLW joining fee, \$8 insurance, \$20 per year for biggest largemouth or smallmouth bass and \$15 for tournament largemouth or smallmouth prize. For more information, contact Dewayne Lowe at 423-715-5772.
SOCCER
GCSSA SOCCER
Registration for the Spring 2016 soccer season at The Greater Cleveland Soccer Association is now available online at: www.GCSCSAFC.com. Athletes may register online through Feb. 29, or in person at the Mouse Creek Complex on Feb. 6 from 2-4 p.m., or Feb. 7 from 2-4 p.m.
SOFTBALL
ASA UMPIRES MEETINGS
The Bradley/Cleveland Softball Umpires Association is recruiting umpires and scorekeepers for the upcoming season. Training will be provided. The association will be holding preseason meetings at the Cleveland Community Center on South Church Street on the following dates: Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.; March 3 at 6 p.m.; March 13 at 2 p.m.; March 24 at 6 p.m. and April 3 at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Randy Moore at 504-3839 or Rita Hannah at 559-3322.

TRANSACTIONS

Thursday's Sports Transactions
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended San Francisco RHP Dylan Brooks (AZL Giants) and free agent INF Luis Mateo 50 games and free agent INF Joshua Palmer 100 games for violations of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.
American League
HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with RHP Doug Fister on a one-year contract.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Designated SS Ronald Torreyes for assignment.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with RHP Ivan Nova on a one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Agreed to terms with 1B-OF Steve Pearce on a one-year contract.
National League
COLORADO ROCKIES — Acquired LHP Jake McGee and RHP German Marquez from Tampa Bay for OF Corey Dickerson and 3B Kevin Padlo. Designated LHP Christian Friedrich for assignment.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Designated OF Shane Peterson for assignment.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Named Andy Galdi director of baseball research and development.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Traded OF Rymer Liriano to Milwaukee for LHP Trevor Steidenberger.
Frontier League
EVANSVILLE OTTERS — Signed LHP Kenneth Frosch. GAVESWAY GRIZZLIES — Signed RHP Ja'Vaun West to a contract extension. SIGNED OF Edwin Drexler. SCHAUMBURG BO

It sounds like a story about shoes, but it’s not

One of my first solo clothing purchases when I was a teenager was a pair of shoes.

I had been wanting these particular shoes quite a while. They were white leather with a blue Converse star on each side. Upon wearing them, I would be the sophomore sensation. I would be "styling," as we used to say.

I walked into the store, told the salesman my size and he disappeared behind that curtain that all shoe stores had.

As I waited, I realized just how grown up I was. I probably scoffed at the children who were there — fidgeting and wincing while their mothers searched for the end of their toe with an iron thumb.

Just about the time my superiority had reached a fever pitch, the salesman re-emerged empty-handed.

"We have them in a 10, but not a 10

STORIES OF A WORLD GONE MAD

Barry Currin



1/2."

"Bring me the 10s."

They were beautiful. They were perfect. They were also too short.

"I'll take them."

My logic went something like this. Since they're leather, they must stretch. When a cow grows, the hide grows as well. It makes perfect sense. It's science.

Besides, that upcoming weekend I was going to Knoxville for a football game. How better to stretch out a pair of shoes than walking 10 miles before climbing to row 740 in the stadium?

It went exactly as you would expect. I learned a painful lesson with the shoes. But sadly, that knowledge hasn't always extrapolated to other situations.

Fast forward 3 1/2 decades to last Tuesday.

We had been out of firewood since the end of last winter. Yes, I could've bought it at the beginning of spring and let it season over the summer. Or, I could've bought it during October before demand grew. Or, I could've bought it in December when the temperature was in the 70s and they couldn't give it away.

But, I didn't. Instead, I headed out after work at dusk last Tuesday, only a few hours before the snow was forecast to begin.

I pulled up to the lot where at least three or four wood trucks normally sit.

Of course, there sat one — free to name his own price without any competition within 10 miles.

It instantly became clear why this guy was the last one left. His wood obviously was still a thriving tree a couple of days before. It was so green and heavy I could barely pick up a stick with one hand.

I knew better, but I was in a pinch.

The guy quoted me the price.

"I'll take it."

My logic went something like this. I still have a few old sticks I can mix it with to help it burn. It will cure fairly fast. Plus, it's not like we depend on the heat. We largely burn a fire for looks. It'll be fine.

The same way shoes don't stretch, green firewood doesn't burn very well. Still, we used it a couple of nights, and I was able to coax it into flickering a little bit by supplementing it with kindling and lots of paper from my shred pile.

It never put out much heat, but it smelled good and looked nice.

As luck would have it, though, last Sunday morning I woke up to a dead heat pump and a cold house to go along with my stack of green firewood which was now under an inch of snow.

I spent the day shivering, stoking and cramming reams of junk mail, old check stubs and other obsolete papers under the fireplace grate. By evening, I had created enough coals to keep it going, but it was a struggle.

The whole situation made me reminisce about those shoes. I wished I still had them.

I'll bet they would burn.

(About the writer: Barry Currin runs BeaverDamUSA.com, a humor, sports and entertainment website. "Stories of a World Gone Mad" is published in the Friday edition of the Cleveland Daily Banner. Email the writer at currin01@gmail.com.)

Viewpoint

"Sometimes it's worse to win a fight than to lose."

— Billie Holiday, American jazz singer (1915-1959)

GOP needing budget cuts to fulfill promise

Thanks to Congress' recent tax-and-spending spree, Republicans intent on fulfilling a political promise will have to propose far deeper cuts to domestic programs to bring the government's deteriorating balance sheet back into the black.

And if the GOP should win the White House, those promises are likely to come back and haunt them.

A weakening economy means Republicans will have to dig even further into the budget to find sufficient spending cuts to balance the budget, according to the latest projections from the Congressional Budget Office. The budget — a non-binding wish list of cuts and policies — was already unrealistic, promising cuts that lawmakers have never shown they'd be willing to make.

Last year, for instance, Republicans promised more than \$5 trillion in spending cuts over a decade. Instead, they worked with President Barack Obama to add about \$750 billion to the deficit over the decade through a mix of spending increases and permanent tax cuts. Even a token effort to curb the federal crop insurance program was immediately reversed after a revolt by farm state lawmakers.

Now, the dismal fiscal picture, budget experts say, would mean Republicans would have to slash more than \$2 trillion over 10 years, with the most draconian cuts required in the final years. That's assuming they will still try to balance the budget.

"Realistically speaking, that's just not going to happen," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a Washington group that advocates for lower deficits.

With Social Security, the Pentagon and most of Medicare insulated politically from cuts, Republicans are likely to call for even further reductions to programs like Medicaid, domestic agency budgets, student loan subsidies and food stamps.

The GOP chairmen of the House and Senate Budget panels insist they will find a way.

"It's not only realistic but essential," Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., said of balancing the budget. "This country is going to be bankrupt if we don't do something."

Under Congress' arcane budget process, lawmakers vote first on a broad, non-binding outline called a budget resolution — which is akin to the blueprints for a house — and then use follow-up legislation to fill in the details. The second-step of votes to implement the budget are invariably more difficult than the first.

Congress does a lot more bragging about budget blueprints than actually trying to enact them. House Republicans boast but they've never drafted legislation detailing how they

AP NEWS ANALYSIS

would turn Medicare into a voucher-like program for most future retirees or cut Medicaid funding by about one-fifth — and force many millions of people from health coverage or nursing home care.

Even architects of the budget acknowledge that there's no stomach to actually try to impose its cuts.

"The critical mass does not yet exist in the country or the Congress that recognizes that we need to save and strengthen and secure these mandatory programs," said House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, R-Ga. Price was referring to programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security whose mandatory budgets grow automatically unless Congress cuts them.

So in some ways the budget process is perfect for politicians: It gives them a chance to tell voters they're cutting spending even as they avoid the politically dangerous votes required to actually do it.

The budget process also fits into Speaker Paul Ryan's vision for using the House agenda to tell voters what they'll get if Republicans win the White House. The annual budget debate will come before efforts to replace the health care law or reveal the party's plans to update the loophole-clogged tax code after five years of controlling the House.

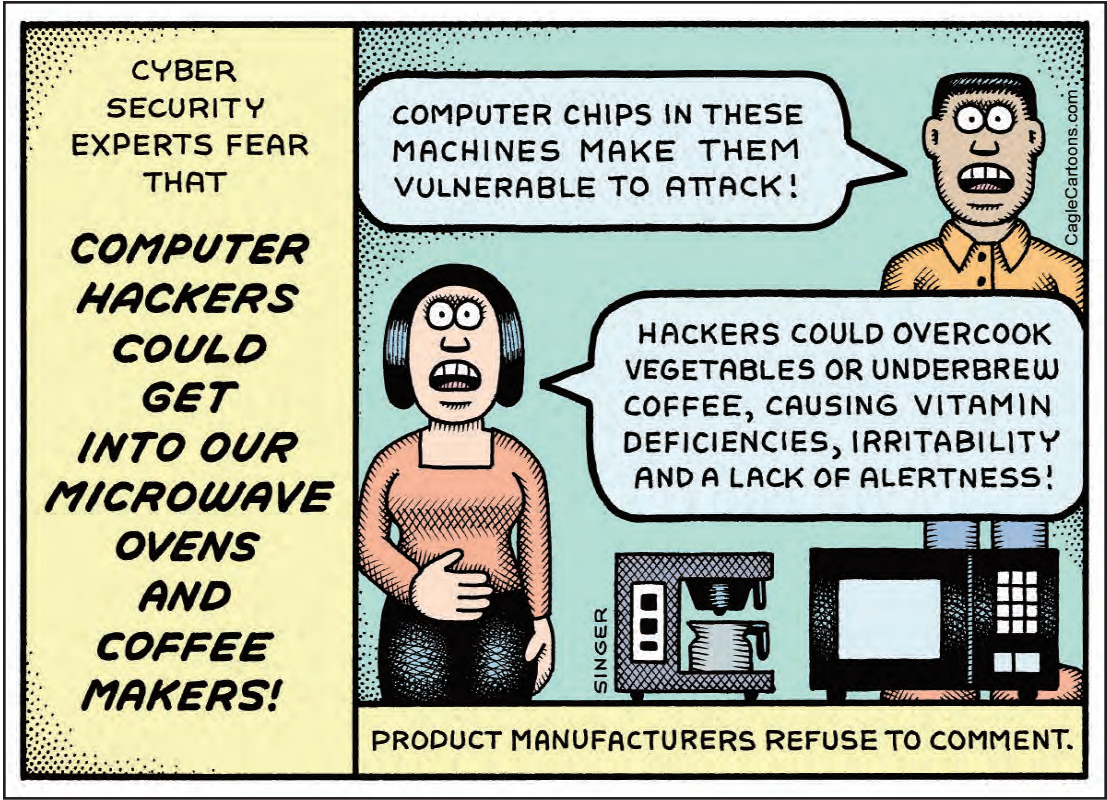
Conspicuously left off the agenda? Emphasizing spending cuts, even as the deficit has begun growing again and the latest estimates reveal trillion-dollar deficits returning in just a few years.

"Clearly that's going to take a Republican president because this president has continued to kick the can down the road and I see no change in his behavior," Ryan, R-Wis., said recently.

But it's by no means clear that balancing the budget will be a top priority for presidential candidates who have promised big tax cuts and aren't really talking about the issue on the campaign trail. If there is a GOP president next year, he will have to answer questions about living up to the balanced-budget promises of Republicans in Congress.

If a GOP president embraces a balanced budget, they'll have to offer an enormously difficult set of cuts to Republican lawmakers unschooled in what balancing the budget really means.

"The magnitude of the policy changes that you would have to implement to achieve the savings that are promised in the budget — I don't think there's an appreciation for the magnitude of those changes," said Neil Bradley, a former top House GOP aide who now works for the Conservative Reform Network, which offers policy advice to GOP candidates and lawmakers.



TODAY IN HISTORY

The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2016. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 29, 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven" was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

On this date:
In 1820, Britain's King George III died at Windsor Castle.

In 1843, the 25th president of the United States, William McKinley, was born in Niles, Ohio.

In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state of the Union.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1936, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1956, editor-essayist H.L. Mencken, the "Sage of Baltimore," died at age 75.

In 1958, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married in Las Vegas.

In 1964, Stanley Kubrick's nuclear war satire "Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" premiered in New York, Toronto and London. The Winter Olympic Games opened in Innsbruck, Austria. Actor Alan Ladd, 50, died in Palm Springs, California.

In 1975, a bomb exploded inside the U.S. State Department in Washington, causing considerable damage, but injuring no one; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility.

In 1990, former Exxon Valdez skipper Joseph Hazelwood went on trial in Anchorage, Alaska, on charges stemming from the 1989 oil spill. (Hazelwood was acquitted of the major charges, and convicted of a misdemeanor.)

In 1995, the San Francisco 49ers became the first team in NFL history to win five Super Bowl titles, beating the San Diego Chargers, 49-26, in Super Bowl XXIX.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, killing security guard

Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

In 2005, Jetliners from China landed in rival Taiwan for the first time in 56 years. Serena Williams defeated Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 in the Australian Open final. Ashley McElhiney, the first female coach of a men's pro basketball team, was fired after an on-court dispute with Sally Anthony, co-owner of the Nashville Rhythm of the ABA. Irina Slutskaya won a sixth title at the European Figure Skating Championships.

Ten years ago: ABC "World News Tonight" co-anchor Bob Woodruff and a cameraman were seriously injured in a roadside bombing in Iraq. Roger Federer won his seventh Grand Slam title, overcoming an early challenge from unseeded Marcos Baghdatis to win the Australian Open 5-7, 7-5, 6-0, 6-2. Avant garde video artist Nam June Paik died in Miami at age 74.

Five years ago: With protests raging, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak named his intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, as his first-ever vice president as chaos engulfed Cairo. Kim Clijsters finally won her first Australian Open title and the fourth major of her career, after she beat Li Na 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Alissa Czisny won her second title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Avant-garde composer Milton Babbitt, 94, died in Princeton, New Jersey.

One year ago: A sundown deadline passed with no word on the fate of a Japanese journalist and a Jordanian fighter pilot held by the Islamic State group. President Barack Obama called for a surge in government spending and asked Congress to throw out the sweeping spending cuts both parties agreed to four years earlier when deficits were spiraling out of control. Obama proposed \$74 billion in added spending to be split about evenly between domestic and defense programs. Nine Democrats joined 53 Republicans in passing a Senate bill to construct the Keystone XL oil pipeline in defiance of a

presidential veto threat. Rod McKuen, whose music, verse and spoken-word recordings made him one of the best-selling poets in history, died at 81.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-composer-lyricist Leslie Bricusse is 85. Feminist author Germaine Greer is 77. Actress Katharine Ross is 76. Feminist author Robin Morgan is 75. Actor Tom Selleck is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bettye LaVette is 70. Actor Marc Singer is 68. Actress Ann Jillian is 66. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 63. Rhythm-and-blues/funk singer Charlie Wilson is 63. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 62. Actor Terry Kinney is 62. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 60. Actress Diane Delano is 59. Actress Judy Norton Taylor (TV: "The Waltons") is 58. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 57. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 56. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 55. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 55. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 54. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 52. Actor-director Edward Burns is 48. Actress Heather Graham is 46. U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is 46. Actor Sharif Atkins is 41. Actress Sara Gilbert is 41. Actress Kelly Packard ("Baywatch") is 41. Country singer Eric Paslay is 41. Actor Justin Hartley is 39. Actor Sam Jaeger is 39. Actor Andrew Keegan is 37. Actor Jason James Richter is 36. Blues musician Jonny Lang is 35. Pop-rock singer Adam Lambert ("American Idol") is 34.

ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Dear Annie: My fiance and I became engaged a year ago. He has many good qualities: He is really sweet most of the time, and he is a good provider. He takes me on nice trips and buys me lovely presents. He even rubs my feet and cooks for me.

However, there are three bad qualities that give me grief. Like all couples, we argue now and then. But about once a week, we stay up all night arguing and can't get to work the next day. He hangs out at the casino into the wee hours of the morning. Last week, he came home at 5:30 a.m. He says he does it just to make me angry. Two weeks ago, he left on Sunday afternoon and didn't return until Monday morning. Then he wonders why I don't trust him.

The other problems are that he drinks heavily and he likes to gamble a lot. I've prayed that God will allow him to be the man I need and deserve. When we first started dating, I didn't see any of these signs. I knew he frequented the casino, but it didn't seem so bad.

Now he says he will work on coming home so late if I stop fussing. I told him if it happens again, the relationship is over. But he refuses to stop gambling. Can he possibly change? Please help me. I love this man, but I must be insane to put up with this mess. — Vicki in Vegas

Dear Vicki: You are engaged to a man who is unlikely to change just because you want it and pray for it. Please don't lopsidedly balance minor good points (he rubs your feet) with major difficulties. Gambling is an addiction. Is he in debt? Does he have enough money to keep losing it at the casino? Drinking is a different addiction and can affect his health, as well as your safety. Staying out all night is a trust issue, and arguing all night is totally unproductive.

It is always a mistake to marry someone and expect him to change. That rarely happens. Please look into Gam-Anon (gam-anon.org) and Al-Anon (al-anon.org) for a better understanding of his behavior. Before marrying him, be sure you have a full report on your joint finances. And we strongly urge you to get pre-marital counseling. Your fiance sounds like an oncoming train wreck.

(About the writers: Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd St., Hermosa Beach CA 90254.)

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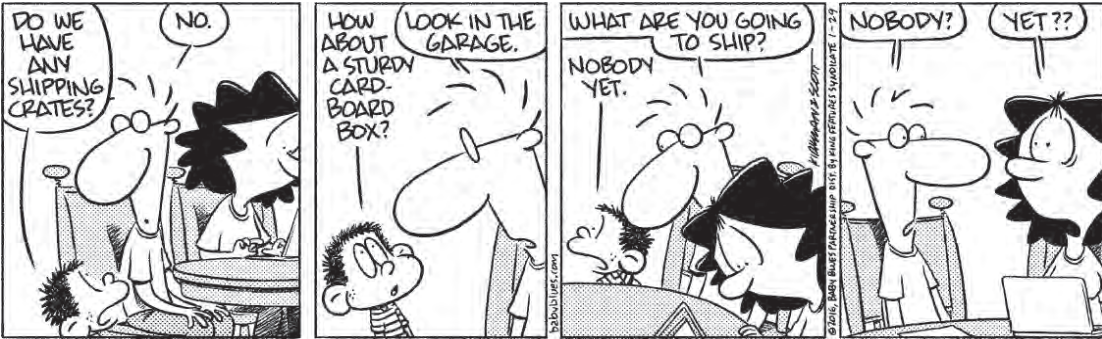
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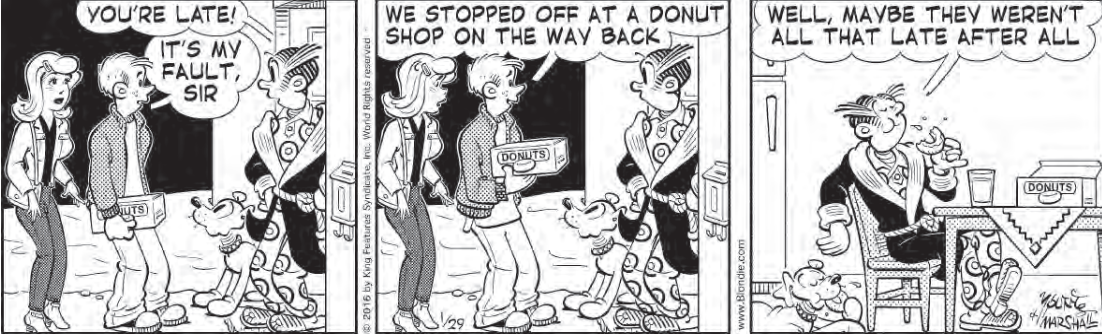
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Blondie



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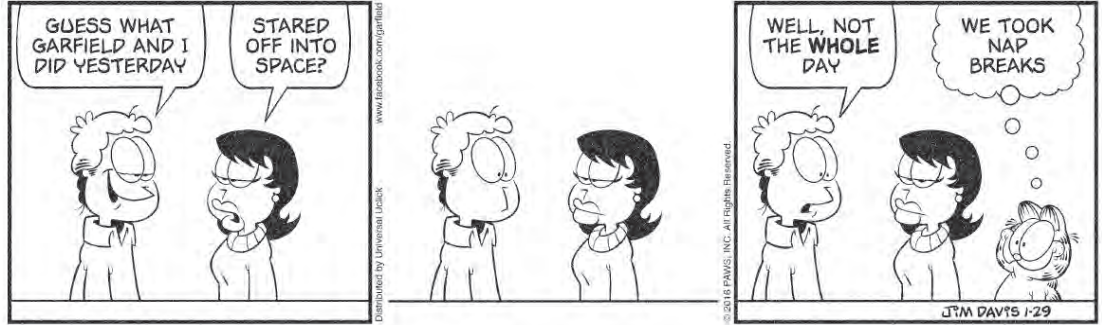
Hagar the Horrible



Dilbert



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Dennis the Menace



By Ned Classics



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unruly crowd
4 Epic tale
8 Slothful
12 Jurist
13 Prudish
14 "Got it!"
15 Mexican staple
17 Camera part
18 Prof's job
19 Day, to
21 — Tin Tin
22 Squire
26 General
29 Boy king
30 Pizza unit
31 Fixes a squeak
32 Gloomy —
33 First-rate
34 Sault —
35 Sly one
36 Aquariums
37 Frolic
39 "Crying" singer

DOWN

1 Lauer of "Today"
2 Bassoon kin
3 Swiss capital
4 Team morale
5 Sen. Specter
6 Baseball's
7 Mozart's middle name
8 Pale purple
9 Enzyme suffix
10 Buddhism type
11 "Indeed!"
12 Ending for "real"
13 Ajar, say
14 Jeopardize
15 Hanoi holidays
16 Pear type
17 Moreno or
18 Everest stat
19 Rented prom suit
20 Deteriorate
21 Ronstadt's "Blue —"
22 Monk's title
23 Tribal drum
24 Cove critter
25 More scarce
26 The same (Fr.)
27 Naive one
28 Reunion attendee
29 Small ammo
30 Wade foe
31 Coach
32 Parseghian
33 Flamenco cheer

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-29

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
18									19	20		
									21			
26	27	28					29				30	
31									32		33	
34									35			
37									38			
									39			
									40			
45	46	47							48	49		
50									51			
53									54			
											55	

YH NO ZEBMIU BIMB JF N
UIMYUIQIOM NRRZJOM, Y
NBBJQI MVIUI'B N FIONDME
HZU FINUDE CYMVSUNCND.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE ARBORISTS' CONFERENCE, A LARGE BANNER DECLARED "THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE TREES."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals P

ASTROLOGY
by Eugenia Last

SATURDAY, JAN. 30, 2016
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wilmer Valderrama, 36; Christian Bale, 42; Phil Collins, 65; Charles S. Dutton, 65.
Happy Birthday: Easy come and easy go. You will have to be careful how you handle money matters.

Contract Bridge
by Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♥*	Pass
3 NT	Pass		

* forcing

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠17 ♥AKQ1952 ♦63 ♣J8
2. ♠4 ♥KQ9872 ♦K974 ♣KJ
3. ♠72 ♥KQJ9764 ♦A5 ♣J6
4. ♠AJ8 ♥KJ8743 ♦A75 ♣K

1. Pass. There is no good reason to think that four hearts is safer than three notrump. On the contrary, partner will almost certainly be able to take nine quick tricks in notrump, as your hearts are solid and partner should have a stopper in any suit that is led. At four hearts, you could conceivably lose four tricks, particularly with partner having twice shown minimum values after opening the bidding. The hand can stand four losers in notrump, but not in hearts.

2. Four diamonds. This hand does not figure to lend itself well to notrump and is obviously better designed for suit play. Four diamonds (forcing) permits partner to go on to five diamonds, or possibly show belated support for hearts. Minor-suit games are relatively rare, since most hands with a potential for 11 tricks usually produce at least nine in notrump, but here the likelihood of making nine tricks in notrump is too remote. If partner should make a move toward slam, say by cuebidding five clubs, you will show no interest by retreating to five diamonds.

3. Four hearts. The chance of making four hearts is excellent, while three notrump might prove very precarious. The danger in notrump is that the opponents, having the advantage of the opening lead, might establish their long suit before dummy's hearts can be established.

It may turn out that both four hearts and three notrump can be made, depending upon partner's hand, but in the long run four hearts will prove the surer bet.

4. Four diamonds. It's almost a sure thing that partner can make three notrump, but passing is not right because there is still too good a chance for a slam. For example, six diamonds would be a strong favorite if partner held:

♠K92 ♥5 ♦KQ9863 ♣AJ4

Investigating a slam by bidding four diamonds does not really jeopardize game possibilities. It keeps the avenue open to both game and slam, and what you do next depends largely on how partner reacts. Thus, if he now cuebids five clubs, indicating the club ace and interest in slam, you would go right to six diamonds.

Tomorrow: Uncanny approach to the play.

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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Inquiry finds sales of concert tickets are a 'fixed game'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Had a hard time getting a ticket to a concert or sporting event? New York's attorney general says that's probably because more than half of tickets to many events are held for industry insiders or otherwise unavailable to the general public.

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said in a report released Thursday that his investigation of the industry was prompted by consumer complaints, which his office receives regularly.

"Ticketing, to put it bluntly, is a fixed game," the report said. Investigators found abuses and practices that prevent consumers from buying tickets at affordable prices or sometimes even getting them at all.

Investigators found that third-party brokers resell tickets on sites like StubHub and TicketsNow at average margins of 49 percent above face-value and sometimes more than 10 times the price. Some brokers use illegal specialty software, called "ticket bots," to quickly purchase as many desirable tickets as possible for resale at significant markups, they said.

The report cited a single broker buying 1,012 tickets within one minute to a U2 concert at Madison Square Garden when they went on sale on Dec. 8, 2014, despite the vendor's claim of a four-ticket limit. By day's end, that broker and one other had 15,000 tickets to U2's North American shows.

Madison Square Garden is "well aware of the issue of tickets getting into the hands of brokers" and has been working to address it, spokeswoman Kimberly Kerns said. "While

there are no obvious solutions, we continually look for ways to avoid selling tickets to brokers," she said.

Venues and sellers like Ticketmaster regularly tacked on fees that added more than 21 percent to the face value, investigators said. They found that on average, 16 percent of tickets are reserved for various industry insiders like the venue employees, artists and promoters, while 38 percent are reserved for presales to certain groups like holders of a particular credit card.

Ticketmaster did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The report also criticized “price floors,” particularly by sports leagues and teams including the NFL and New York Yankees, which are rules meant to prevent tickets from being sold below their face value and that deprive the public of possibly cheaper tickets. Many NFL teams encourage or even require ticket holders to use Ticketmaster’s NFL Ticket Exchange platform, where the seller is prohibited from cutting the price.

"The more aggressively sports leagues and individual teams push ticket buyers and sellers to use their 'official' secondary markets, the more serious this problem becomes," the report said.

"This investigation is just the beginning of our efforts to create a level playing field in the ticket industry," Schneiderman said.

An NFL spokesman said the NFL Ticket Exchange is just one of many options for ticket holders to buy or sell tickets.

Friday Best Bets

8:30 p.m. on (FOOD) American Diner Revival	9 p.m. on (WNGH) (WTCI) American Masters	9 p.m. on (WDEF) Hawaii Five-0	10 p.m. on (WNGH) (WTCI) Mary Tyler Moore: A Celebration	10:02 p.m. on (DISC) Deadliest Job Interview
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New Orleans finally has rebounded from its Hurricane Katrina disaster to re-emerge as one of the world's leading American travel destinations, but some older businesses are struggling to retain a toehold against shiny new competition. Such is the case with Anita's Grill, which has lost a lot of its business to other sports bars that have opened up nearby. Chef Amanda Freitag and renovation expert Ty Pennington try to help turn things around in the new episode "Who Dat' Nation Fixin' Anita's Grill!"

Mike Nichols, one of the most celebrated directors of stage and screen, is recalled — largely through his own words, in an interview with producer Julian Schlossberg — in this new profile directed by the late Nichols' longtime comedy-performing partner, Elaine May. Clips from such Nichols films as "The Graduate" and "The Birdcage" underscore his comments, as do remarks by Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Matthew Broderick, playwright Neil Simon and others.

If pirates and buried treasure seem like things of the past, they pose modern concerns for McGarrett (Alex O'Loughlin) and his team in "Mai ho'oni i ka wai lana malie" (Hawaiian for "Do Not Disturb the Water That Is Tranquil"). A killer's efforts to find the riches leads the police detectives to an ancient palace in Oahu — but absent is Kono (Grace Park), who faces peril along with her new husband Adam (Ian Anthony Dale).

There's certainly a lot to celebrate in the case of one of television history's most popular talents ... not only her iconic roles on "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and her eponymous 1970s sitcom, but also her tenure as a chief of one of the industry's most revered and honored production companies. This tribute includes comments from Moore and many of her associates, plus a bounty of clips — and expect to hear, "Ohhhh, Robbbbi!" (and Van Dyke, an interview-ee here).

This new series spotlights eight of the most extreme and downright perilous jobs anywhere, for which applicants must risk everything just to land the gig in the first place. That includes arborists who must prove they're up to climbing 200 feet above the floor of California's Redwood Forest, as well as volcanologists climbing up the volatile Italian peak of Stromboli and iron erectors who perform their tasks while hundreds of feet in the air. In these cases, there literally is no room for error.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

		4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WRCB	NBC 3	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Live at 5:00	Live at 5:30	News	Nightly News	Ent. Tonight	Inside Edition	Undateable (N) (Live) (66)	(Live) (66)	Grimm "Eve of Destruction"		Dateline NBC (N) (66)		News	Tonight Show-J. Fallon		Seth Meyers
WELF	FTBN 4	John Hagee | The Bible		Praise the Lord (66)			Creation	Supernatural! | Pottery		Trinity Family	Hal Lindsey	End/ Age	Perry Stone	Praise the Lord (66)			The Bible	F.K. Price	L. Fontaine
WTNH	5	Around Town				Body	Southern-Fit	Game of the Week										Around Town	
WFLJ	10w 6	Judge Mathis A clingy friend.		Friends (N)	Friends	Mod Fam	Family Feud	Family Feud	The Middle	The Vampire Diaries (N) (N)	(N)	The Originals (N) (N) (66)		Tosh.0 (66)	Crazy Talk	Hollywood	Paid Program	Anger	Paid Program
WNGH	PBS 7	Martha Speak | Odd Squad		Wild Kratts	Wild Kratts	PBS NewsHour (N) (N)		Masterpiece Classic (66)		A Place to Call Home		American Masters (N)		Mary Tyler Moore		Variety Studio: Actors	In Their Own Words (66)		
DAYSTAR	8	Sam Adeyemi | Bill Winston		Love a Kralts	Jewish Kratts	Z. Levitt	Creflo Dollar	Jewish Voice	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Marcus and Joni		J. Van Impe	Jewish Jesus	Hour of Sal	K. Copeland	Life Today	Joyce Meyer
WTVCA	ABC 9	Dr. Phil (N) (N) (66)		News	News	News	World News	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Last-Standing (:31) Dr. Ken	Shark Tank (N) (N) (66)			(:01) 20/20 (N) (66)		News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N)	(:37) Nightline	
WDSI	IPBS 10	Odd Squad | Odd Squad		Wild Kratts	Wild Kratts	World News	World News	Business Rpt.	PBS NewsHour (N) (N)	Washington	Chattanooga	American Masters (N)		Mary Tyler Moore		Indies	World News	Charlie Rose (N) (N) (66)	
WICI	FOX 11	(3:00) *** "For a Few Dollars More" (1965) (66)				*** "Death at a Funeral" (2007) Matthew MacFadyen.				*** "I Spy" (2002) Eddie Murphy, Owen Wilson. (66)				*** "No Way Out" (1987) Kevin Costner. (66)				*** "Narrow Margin"	
WDEF	CBS 12	The Dr. Oz Show (N) (66)		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News 12 at 6	CBS News	Prime News	Andy Griffith	Undercover Boss (N) (66)	Hawaii Five-0 (N) (66)			Blue Bloods (N) (66)		News	Late Show-Colbert		Corden
QVC	13	Women With Control		IT Cosmetics				Marc Fisher - Footwear		Fashion Forecast (N)						Friday Night Beauty			Screen Time (N)
CSPAN	14	Key Capitol Hill Hearings (N)		Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (N)															Key Capitol Hill Hearings (N)
WGN-A	15	Blue Bloods "Little Fish" (N)		Blue Bloods (N) (66)		Blue Bloods "Family Ties"		Person of Interest "Firewall"		Person of Interest (N) (66)		Person of Interest (N) (66)		Person of Interest (N) (66)		Outsiders "Farrell Wine"		How I Met	How I Met
HSN	16	On the Go Electronics (N)		Beauty Bioscience Skin		Healthy Innovations (N)		Coin Collector (N)		Coin Collector (N)		Electronic Connection (N)		Electronic Connection (N)		Joyful Discoveries		Joy Mangano (N)	
E!	23	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	Kardashian	E! News (N) (66)		Total Divas (66)		** "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous" (2005)		E! News (N) (66)		Team Ninja Warrior (66)		Team Ninja Warrior (66)	
ESQTV	24	CSI	CSI: Crime Scene	CSI: Crime Scene	CSI: Crime Scene	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (N) (66)		Parks	Parks	Parks	Parks	Parks	Parks	Team Ninja Warrior (66)		(:02) Little Women: Atlanta		(12:02) Bring It! (66)	
LIFE	25	Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Rap Game (66)		The Rap Game (66)		Bring It! "Hell Week" (66)		Bring It! (N) (66)		Bring It! "Ritanny's Revolt"		(:02) The Rap Game (N)		Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Love; Lust	First Swipe
TLC	26	Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Love; Lust	First Swipe	Say Yes: ATL	Say Yes: ATL	Love; Lust	First Swipe
TBS	27	Friends (N)	Friends (N)	Friends (N)	Friends (N)	Seinfeld (N)	Seinfeld (N)	Seinfeld (N)	Seinfeld (N)	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	** "We're the Millers" (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. (66) (DVS)		(:05) Jennifer Aniston. (66) (DVS)		(:05) Jennifer Aniston. (66) (DVS)	
TNT	28	Bones (N) (66)		Bones (N) (66)		Bones (N) (66)		Bones (N) (66)		*** "The Blind Side" (2009) Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw. (66) (DVS)		*** "Flightplan" (2005) Jodie Foster. Premiere. (66) (DVS)		*** "Flightplan" (2005) Jodie Foster. Premiere. (66) (DVS)		*** "Flightplan" (2005) Jodie Foster. Premiere. (66) (DVS)		*** "Flightplan" (2005) Jodie Foster. Premiere. (66) (DVS)	
USA	29	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	** "The Proposal" (2009)	
FX	30	Two Men	Two Men	*** "The Avengers" (2012, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo.		Winter X Games Snowboarding, Snowmobile Freestyle, Women's Skiing. (N) (Live) (66)		** "The Wolverine" (2013, Action) Hugh Jackman, Hiroyuki Sanada, Famke Janssen.		** "The Wolverine" (2013, Action) Hugh Jackman, Hiroyuki Sanada, Famke Janssen.		** "The Wolverine" (2013, Action) Hugh Jackman, Hiroyuki Sanada, Famke Janssen.		** "The Wolverine" (2013, Action) Hugh Jackman, Hiroyuki Sanada, Famke Janssen.		** "The Wolverine" (2013, Action) Hugh Jackman, Hiroyuki Sanada, Famke Janssen.		** "The Wolverine" (2013, Action) Hugh Jackman, Hiroyuki Sanada, Famke Janssen.	
ESPN	31	NFL Live (N)	Questionable	Around/Horn	Interruption	SportsCenter (N) (66)		Winter X Games Snowboarding, Snowmobile Freestyle, Women's Skiing. (N) (Live) (66)		Winter X Games Snowboarding, Snowmobile Freestyle, Women's Skiing. (N) (Live) (66)		Winter X Games Snowboarding, Snowmobile Freestyle, Women's Skiing. (N) (Live) (66)		Winter X Games Snowboarding, Snowmobile Freestyle, Women's Skiing. (N) (Live) (66)		SportsCenter (N) (66)		SportsCenter (N) (66)	
ESPN2	32	2016 Australian Open Tennis		Men's Second Semifinal.		College Basketball VCU at Davidson. (N) (Live)		NBA Coast to Coast (N) (Live) (66)		NBA Coast to Coast (N) (Live) (66)		NBA Coast to Coast (N) (Live) (66)		Globetrotters 90th		First/Re-Take | First/Re-Take		NFL Live (N) (66)	
FSTN	33	XTERRA Adv. | Snow Motion		Red Bull Crashed Ice		ACC Access		College Basketball | Gymnastics at UCLA.		College Basketball | Gymnastics at UCLA.		Women's College Basketball		SEC Name at Georgia Tech.		World Poker Tour: Alpha8		World Poker Tour	
SEC	34	(3:00) The Paul Finebaum Show		Paul Finebaum discusses all things SEC. (N) (Live)		Women's College Gymnastics		Women's College Gymnastics		Women's College Gymnastics		Women's College Gymnastics		SEC Now (N) (Live)		SEC Now		SEC Now	
GOLF	35	(3:00) PGA Tour Golf Farmers Insurance Open, Second Round. (N) (Live)				Golf Central		PGA Tour Golf Farmers Insurance Open, Second Round.		Golf Central		Golf Central		Golf Central		Golf Asian Tour: SMBC Singapore Open, Third Round. (N)			
FS1	36	FA Cup Soccer Teams TBA.		A Perfect Storm		UFC's Road to the Octagon		UFC Weigh-In (66)		Women's College Basketball		Villanova at Creighton. (N)		UFC Unleashed (66)		FOX Sports Live (N) (66)		TMZ Sports	Best I Herd
FSSE	37	NBA Basketball Auburn Bask		ACC Access		Georgia Tech | Future Phen.		Boxing From Sept. 27, 2008 in Carson, Calif.		Carson, Calif.		XTERRA USA Championship		3 Wide Life | Raceline (N)		Auburn Bask | Rodeo From March 22, 2015.			
WEA	38	(3:00) Weather Center Live (N) (66)				(5:59) Weather Underground (N)		Strangest Weather on Earth		Strangest Weather on Earth		Fat Guys in the Woods		Fat Guys in the Woods		Fat Guys in the Woods		Fat Guys in the Woods	
CNBS	39	(3:00) Closing Bell (N) (66)		Fast Money	Option Action	Mad Money (N)		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed	
MSNBC	40	MSNBC Live W/ Kate Snow		MTP Daily (N)		With All Due Respect (N)		Hardball Chris Matthews		All in With Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show		Lockup "Inside Kern Valley"		Lockup		Lockup "Inside Alaska"	
CNN	41	The Lead With Jake Tapper		The Situation Room (N)		The Situation Room (N)		Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		CNN Tonight w/ Don Lemon		CNN Special Report		CNN Special Report		Escape From Jonestown	
HDLN	42	Dr. Drew		To Be Announced		The Situation Room (N)		Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		CNN Tonight w/ Don Lemon		Forensic File | Forensic File		Forensic File | Forensic File		Escape From Jonestown	
FNC	43	Your World With Neil Cavuto		The Five (N)		Special Report		Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)		The O'Reilly Factor (66)		The Kelly File	
HIST	44	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	American Restoration (N) (N)		American Restoration (N) (N)		Smartest Guy | Smartest Guy		Smartest Guy | Smartest Guy		(12:01) American Restoration	
TRUTV	45	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Genius	Genius	Top Funniest | Top Funniest		Top Funniest | Top Funniest		Top Funniest | Top Funniest		Genius	Genius
A&E	46	Criminal Minds (66)		Criminal Minds "Lauren" (N)		Criminal Minds (N) (66)		Criminal Minds (N) (66)		Criminal Minds (N)		(:01) Unforgettable (N) (66)		(:01) Unforgettable (N) (66)		(:02) Criminal Minds (N)		(12:01) Criminal Minds (N)	
DISC	47	Gold Rush "Captain Monica"		Gold Rush "Crew War" (N)		Gold Rush "Goldzilla Gold"		Gold Rush (N) (66)		Gold Rush - The Dirt (N) (N)		(:01) Gold Rush (N) (N) (66)		(:02) Deadliest Job Interview		(:03) Gold Rush (N) (66)		Deadliest Job Interview (N)	
NGC	48	Unabomber: Secret History		The Real Bonnie and Clyde		The Strange Truth		Secret History of UFOs		Bigfoot: The New Evidence		Mystery Bear of the Arctic		The Strange Truth		Mystery Bear of the Arctic		The Strange Truth	
TRAV	49	Ghost Adventures (66)		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Castle (N)		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Castle	
FOOD	50	Diners, Drive | Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive | Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive | Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive | Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive | Am. Diner		Diners, Drive | Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive | Brew & 'Que		Diners, Drive | Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive | Diners, Drive	
HGTV	51	House Hunters Renovation		House Hunters Renovation		House Hunters Renovation		House Hunters Renovation		Love It or List It (66)		Love It or List It (66)		Hunters Int'l		Dream Home		Love It or List It (66)	
ANPL	52	To Be Announced						Alaska Proof	Alaska Proof	Alaska Proof	Alaska Proof	Treehouse: Out on a Limb		Treehouse Masters (N) (N)		Alaska Proof	Alaska Proof	(12:02) Treehouse Masters	
FAM	53	(2:30) "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1"		** "Twilight" (2008, Romance) Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke.		** "Twilight" (2008, Romance) Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke.		Recovery Road "Blackout"		Recovery Road "Blackout"		Shadowhunters (N) (N)		The 700 Club (N) (66)		"Robin Hood"			
DAYSTAR	54	** "Ramona and Biezuz"		Best Friends	Girl Meets	K.C. Under.	Liv-Mad.	Bunk'd (66)	Mako	Star Darlings	K.C. Under.	K.C. Under.	Girl Meets	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	K.C. Under.	K.C. Under.	Jessie (66)	Jessie (66)
NICK	55	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Alvin!!! and Alvin!!!	and Alvin!!!	and Alvin!!!	Thundermans	Make It Pop (N) (N)		Old Parents	Harvey Beaks	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends (N)	Friends (N)	(:33) Friends	
TOON	56	Teen Titans	Spongebobs	Clarence	Uncle Gra.	and Teen Dangers	Gumball	We Bare	Advent. Time	King of Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Cleveland	Family Guy	Family Guy	Childrens	Neon Joe	Eric Andre	Aqua Teen
TVLND	57	Bonanza "The Legacy"		Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	* "Big Daddy" (1999) Adam Sandler, Joey Lauren Adams.		Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	King	King	King
AMC	58	(3:00) *** "The Italian Job" (2003) (66)		*** "Bad Boys" (1995, Action) Martin Lawrence, Will Smith. (R) (66)		*** "The White Cockatoo" (1935) Pat O'Brien.		*** "The White Cockatoo" (1935, Mystery)		*** "Rocky IV" (1985) Sylvester Stallone. "PG" (66)		*** "First Blood" (1982) Sylvester Stallone. "R" (66)		*** "First Blood" (1982) Sylvester Stallone. "R" (66)		*** "Legally Blonde" (2001) Reese Witherspoon.		*** "Legally Blonde" (2001) Reese Witherspoon.	
TCM	59	Modern Hero | (:45) *** "Stars Over Broadway" (1935) Pat O'Brien.																	
HALL	60	Little House on the Prairie		Little House on the Prairie		Last-Standing	Last-Standing	Last-Standing	Last-Standing	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls
OXYGEN	61	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	*** "Pretty Woman" (1990, Romance-Comedy) Richard Gere, Julia Roberts. (66)				(10:50) *** "Pretty Woman" (1990) Richard Gere. (66)					
BRAVO	62	Vanderpump Rules		Housewives/Potomac		Housewives/Potomac		Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		The People's Couch (N)							
SYFY	63	** "Blade: Trinity" (2004)		Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson. (66)		** "From Dusk Till Dawn" (1996) Harvey Keitel, George Clooney. (66)		** "I Know What You Did Last Summer" (1997) (66)		** "I Know What You Did Last Summer" (1997) (66)		Bellator MMA Live (N) (N) (Live)		** "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder.		** "The Ringer" (2005, Comedy) Johnny Knoxville.		** "The Ringer" (2005, Comedy) Johnny Knoxville.	
SPIKE	64	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Jail (N) (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	(:15) Cops (N)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Cops (66)	Jail (N) (66)	
COM	65	South Park	South Park	Futurama (N)	Futurama (N)	Futurama (N)	Futurama (N)	Archer (66)	Archer (66)	Archer (66)	Archer (66)	Archer (66)	Archer (66)						
MTV	66	(3:40) Catfish: The TV Show		(4:50) Catfish: The TV Show		The Shannara Chronicles (N)		(:10) The Shannara Chronicles	"Reaper" (N)	(:20) *** "Employee of the Month" (2006, Comedy) Dane Cook. (N)									
VH1	67	Love & Hip Hop "Fallout" (N)		Love & Hip Hop		Stevie J	*** "Drumline" (2002, Comedy-Drama) Nick Cannon, Zoe Saldana. (N)	*** "What to Expect When You're Expecting" (2012) Cameron Diaz.		*** "What to Expect When You're Expecting" (2012) Cameron Diaz.		Steve Austin's Broken Skull	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.
CMTV	68	Reba (66)	Reba (66)	Reba (66)	Reba (66)	Last-Standing	Last-Standing	Last-Standing	Last-Standing	(:03) Martin	(:39) Martin	(:14) Martin (66)		(9:50) Martin	(:25) Martin	Lip Sync	Daily Show	The Wendy Williams Show	
BET	69	House/Payne	House of Payne	House/Payne	House of Payne	Husbands	Husbands	(:03) Criminals at Work		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science	
SCIENCE	85	How/Made	How/Made	How/Made	How/Made	How/Made	How/Made	How/Made	How/Made	Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science		Outrageous Acts of Science	
CSPAN2	86	(3:00) U.S. Senate		The Senate assembles for a legislative session. (N)						Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (N)									Key Capitol Hill Hearings (N)
EWTV	100	Catholic	Cross	51st International		EWTN News	Let Us Love	Daily Mass - Olam		Life on the Rock (N)		EWTN News	Holy Rosary	The Church	Lord, Mercy	Bridging Hope	Women of	Daily Mass - Olam	
WPXA	ION 107	Criminal Minds (N) (66)		Criminal Minds "Plain Sight"		Criminal Minds (N) (66)		Criminal Minds "L.D.S.K."		Criminal Minds "The Fox"		Criminal Minds (N) (66)		Criminal Minds "Derailed"		Saving Hope (66) (DVS)		Saving Hope (66) (DVS)	
DISXD	117	Wander	Gravity Falls	Yo-Kai Watch	Star-For.	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	The 7D (66)	Phineas, Ferb	Becoming	Gamer's G.	Gamer's G.	Gamer's G.	Gamer's G.	Gamer's G.	Gamer's G.	Gamer's G.
GSN	144	Deal or No Deal (N) (66)		Deal or No Deal (N) (66)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Chain Rea.	Chain Rea.	Family Feud	Family Feud	The Chase (66)		Chain Rea.	Chain Rea.	Family Feud	Family Feud
COOK	153	Grandmother | Eat St. (66)		Unique Eats	Unique	Chopped Canada		Chopped Canada		Chopped Canada		Donut	Sugar	Cupcake Wars		Good Eats	Good Eats	Chopped Canada	
WE	163	(3:00) *** "Monster-in-Law" (2005)		*** "Monster-in-Law" (2005) Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda.						Marriage-Reality Stars		Marriage-Reality Stars		Ex Isle "Cutting the Cord"		Marriage-Reality Stars		(12:01) Ex Isle	
GALA	217	Llena de amor		Cómplices al Rescate		El Chavo	El Chavo	El Chavo	El Chavo	Guereja	Guereja	Familia Diez | Familia Diez		Familia Diez | Familia Diez		Guereja	Noticiero Con	Joaquin	Aquí y Ahora
TELE	223	Maria Celeste		Caso Cerrado	Caso Cerrado	Decisiones	Noticiero	Caso Cerrado: Edición		Celia (N) (N) (SS)		Eva la Trailera (N) (N) (SS)		La Querida del Centauro (N)		Al Rojo Vivo	Titulares	Gran Hermano: La Novela	
UNIV	224	El Gordo y la Flaca (N)		Primer Impacto (N) (SS)		Hotel Todo	Noticiero Uni.	Muchacha italiana viene a		Antes Muerta que Lichita (N)		Pasión y poder (N)		El Hotel de los Secretos (N)		Impacto	Noticiero Uni	Contacto Deportivo (N)	
NBCSP	311	(1:30) Mecum Auto Auctions		NASCAR	NASCAR	Pro Ftb Talk	NFL Turning Point (N)	NHL Top 10		NHL All Star Red Carpet		Center of Attention		Curling From Eveleth, Minn. (N)				Curling From Eveleth, Minn.	
DLG	319	Trama: Life in the ER (N)		Trauma: Life in the ER (N)		Untold Stories of the E.R. (N)		Untold Stories of the E.R. (N)		Trauma	Trauma	Untold Stories of the E.R. (N)		Trauma	Trauma	Untold Stories of the E.R. (N)		Untold Stories of the E.R. (N)	

JANUARY 30, 2016

SATURDAYAFTERNOON/EVENING

JANUARY 30, 2016

[illegible]



YEMENIS CARRY relief supplies as they walk along a path after Shiite rebels, known as Houthis besieged the city of Taiz, Yemen. Residents have been going hungry for weeks, the WFP said.

In Mideast wars, hunger grips millions across the region

BEIRUT (AP) — In a Middle East torn apart by war and conflict, fighters are increasingly using food as a weapon.

Millions of people across countries like Syria, Yemen and Iraq are gripped by hunger, struggling to survive with little help from the outside world. Children suffer from severe malnutrition, their parents often having to beg or sell possessions to get basic commodities including water, medicine and fuel.

The biggest humanitarian catastrophe by far is Syria, where a ruinous five-year civil war has killed a quarter of a million people and displaced half the population. All sides in the conflict have used punishing blockades to force submission and surrender from the other side — a tactic that has proved effective particularly for government forces seeking to pacify opposition-held areas around the capital Damascus.

Since October, Russian airstrikes and the start of yet another winter have exacerbated a humanitarian crisis and led to deaths from starvation in some places.

Humanitarian teams who recently entered a besieged Syrian town witnessed scenes that “haunt the soul,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He accused both the government of President Bashar Assad and the rebels fighting to oust him of using starvation as a weapon, calling it a war crime. Although sieges are an accepted military practice that are often carried out by forces seeking to avoid intense urban conflict, the conduct of forces carrying them out and their behavior toward civilian populations are regulated by international humanitarian law. Past cases include the sieges of Gorazde and Sarajevo during the Bosnian war. The Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, home to 1.8 million people, has also been under an Israeli and Egyptian blockade, restricting the flow of many goods into the war-torn Palestinian territory.

The U.N. and aid agencies have struggled with funding shortages and growing impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance despite Security Council resolutions insisting on the unconditional delivery of aid across front lines.

In Yemen, the Arab world’s most impoverished nation, nearly half of the country’s 22 provinces are ranked as one step away from famine conditions.

Here’s a look at major areas in the Middle East under siege or suffering starvation:

SYRIA

The United Nations estimates more than 400,000 people are besieged in 15 communities across Syria, roughly half of them in areas controlled by the Islamic State group. In 2014, the U.N. was able to deliver food to about five percent of people in besieged areas, while today estimates show the organization is reaching less than one percent.

In 2015, the World Food Program was forced to reduce the size of the food rations it provides to families inside Syria by up to 25 percent because of a funding shortfall. The agency says it has to raise \$25 million every week to meet the basic food needs of people affected by the Syrian conflict.

Some of the hardest hit blockaded areas in Syria are:

Madaya: A town northeast of Damascus with a population of 40,000. The town has been besieged by government and allied militiamen for months and gained international attention after harrowing pictures emerged



A MALNOURISHED CHILD lies in a bed waiting to receive treatment at a therapeutic feeding center in a hospital in Sanaa, Yemen. This child is one of millions of people across countries like Syria, Yemen and Iraq who are gripped by hunger, struggling to survive with little help from the outside world.

showing emaciated children. Doctors Without Borders says 28 people have died of starvation in Madaya since September. Two convoys of humanitarian aid were delivered to the town last week. Aid workers who entered described seeing skeletal figures; children who could barely talk or walk, and parents who gave their kids sleeping pills to calm their hunger.

Fouaa and Kfarya: Two Shiite villages in the northern province of Idlib with a combined population of around 20,000. The villages have been blockaded by rebels for more than a year. Pro-government fighters recently evacuated from the villages describe desperate conditions there with scarce food and medicine, saying some residents are eating grass to survive and undergoing surgery without anesthesia. Aid convoys entered the villages simultaneously with the aid to Madaya after months-long negotiations between the government and armed groups.

Deir el-Zour: An estimated 200,000 people living in government-held parts of this city in eastern Syria are besieged by the Islamic State group. The U.N. says most of the residents are women and children facing sharply deteriorating conditions due to the ban on all commercial or humanitarian access, as well as the inability of residents to move outside of the city. While government stocks continue to provide bread, there are severe shortages of food, medicine and basic commodities. Opposition activists say they have documented the death of 27 people from malnutrition. Water is available only once a week for few hours.

YEMEN

The humanitarian situation has dramatically deteriorated, nearly 300 days after the Saudi-led coalition began its air campaign aimed at driving Yemen’s Shiite rebels from cities under their control. Coalition naval ships are blockading traffic in Yemen’s ports and rebels are besieging several areas, particularly the southern city of Taiz.

Some 14.4 million Yemenis, more than half of the population, are food insecure, an increase of 12 percent in the last eight months, the U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization said Thursday. In late December, the WFP said 7.8 million of Yemen’s 24 million people are in even more dire condition, “facing life-threatening rates of acute malnutrition,” up by more than 3 million in less than a year. It said 10 of the country’s 22 provinces

are in “the grip of severe food insecurity” at the “emergency” level, one step short of famine on the agency’s 5-level scale of food security.

In Taiz, with a population of about 250,000, residents have been going hungry for weeks, the WFP said. The United Nations humanitarian coordinator for Yemen Jamie McGoldrick said recently that basic services in Taiz are scarce, including access to water and fuel.

The severe shortage of food, fuel and medicine across Yemen led to an increase in the number of children suffering from malnutrition while the destruction of health facilities treating them led to deaths.

Some 3 million children under five years require services to treat or prevent malnutrition, according to a UNICEF report on Jan. 13.

A new report by a U.N. panel of experts, obtained this week by the AP, said civilians in the Arab world’s poorest country are suffering under tactics in the conflict that “constitute the prohibited use of starvation as a method of warfare.”

IRAQ

Massive population shifts in Iraq due to violence has made it more difficult for millions of people to access food, medicine and safe drinking water. More than 3 million Iraqis are displaced within the country by violence and instability. “They’ve lost their livelihoods, their jobs, and hunger and the inability to purchase food is a reality in their everyday life,” said Marwa Awad, with the World Food Program. In total 8.2 million Iraqis are in need of humanitarian assistance: food, water, shelter or medicine, she said.

Ongoing violence in many of Iraq’s provinces that are also home to people who have been uprooted by conflict is of the greatest concern, Awad said. In Anbar, Ninevah and Salahuddin the price of food has risen by as much as 38 percent in the last month, and in some cases the Iraqi government has had to airlift families out of towns and villages besieged by fighting between Iraqi government forces and Islamic State group fighters.

In Ramadi, families who had been held by IS fighters as human shields said they survived for days on just rice and flour.

While conflict in Iraq hasn’t led to cases of starvation, Awad said WFP has seen an increase in cases of malnutrition as people eat less to conserve the little food they do have.

Teenage suicide bomber kills 8 in Nigeria — Red Cross

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — The bombers in the northeastern town from which Boko Haram abducted scores of schoolgirls were men wearing hijabs with explosives strapped to their backs to look like babies, Nigeria’s military said Friday. A community leader said multiple explosions in Chibok killed 18 people.

In a new attack Friday, a teenage boy detonated himself at a market in northeast Gombi town, killing at least eight people and wounding 25, according to local Red Cross official Maikano Abdullahi.

Such attacks are blamed on Boko Haram Islamic extremists who have turned to suicide bombings of soft targets since troops last year forced them out of towns and villages.

The six-year insurgency has killed some 20,000, driven 2.5 million from their homes and spread across Nigeria’s borders. On Monday, four suicide bombers attacked a market and town in northern Cameroon, killing at least 35 people and wounding 65, according to officials who said the bombers came from Nigeria. On Thursday, two female suicide bombers targeted a school in northern Cameroon. Officials said they killed only themselves and wounded some students.

In Nigeria’s northeastern town of Chibok, one bomber was discovered to be a man wearing a woman’s dress when bodies were brought to the hospital, according to a nurse who requested anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to reporters.

2 Chinese miners rescued after 36 days, 2 still trapped

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese state media say two miners have been rescued from a collapsed mine after spending 36 days trapped underground.

Efforts continued Friday to reach the remaining two people in the mine in east China’s Shandong province.

The gypsum mine collapsed on Christmas Day, killing one and leaving 13 others missing. In the days that followed, rescuers detected four survivors 200 meters (660 feet) below the surface.

Eleven other people in the mine made it to safety or were

rescued earlier.

Report: U.S. and U.K. spied on Israeli drones for years

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S and British intelligence cracked the codes of Israeli drones operating in the Middle East and monitored their surveillance feeds for almost 20 years, according to documents leaked by an American whistleblower and published in international media on Friday.

Reports by the German magazine Der Spiegel and the investigative website The Intercept said the details emerged from documents leaked by Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor who leaked millions of documents about U.S. government surveillance in 2013.

The reports said the intelligence agencies were able to watch information that the drones and other aircraft broadcast back to their handlers. The project codenamed “Anarchist” has operated since 1998 and was based near the highest point in Cyprus. Israel was the focus of the program but it also hacked into systems in Egypt, Turkey, Iran and Syria, the reports said.

The Intercept report said the hacking granted intelligence agencies a “virtual seat in the cockpit” as Israeli drones hit militant targets. In one instance in 2008, an NSA internal newsletter boasted of the Anarchist program successfully collecting video from the cockpit of an Israeli F-16 fighter, the report said.

FM: Poland wants equal rights in EU, higher NATO security

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland wants the European Union to guarantee equal treatment to all member states, especially now when the bloc is facing multiple crises threatening its unity, the nation’s new foreign minister said Friday.

Making his policy speech in Parliament Witold Waszczykowski said the EU has been hit by crises in security; on its borders, where hundreds of thousands of migrants are arriving; and in the idea of the union itself.

He said Poland wants to participate in overcoming these problems, but also wants its interests guaranteed.

Poland’s government will “counter creation of any internal difference, the idea of a mini-

Schengen or of discriminating against Polish citizens living in EU countries,” especially their right to free travel, Waszczykowski said.

“We want an EU of free and equal nations,” he said.

Waszczykowski is a member of Poland’s new conservative government that is making sweeping change to some key legislation. That has prompted the EU to open a preliminary assessment of whether Poland might be violating the bloc’s fundamental principle of the rule of law.

The crisis over migrants has put in peril the passport-free Schengen Zone within Europe, while Britain is among countries seeking a rollback of the EU free-movement rules that guarantee citizens of all EU nations the same rights.

Iran says it flew drone over U.S. aircraft carrier

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran flew a surveillance drone over a U.S. aircraft carrier and took “precise” photographs of it as part of an ongoing naval drill, state television reported Friday. The U.S. Navy said an unarmed Iranian drone flew near a French and American carrier on Jan. 12, but couldn’t confirm it was the same incident.

The reported overflight by the unmanned aircraft came after a series of naval incidents between Iran and the U.S. in the greater Persian Gulf, including test rocket fire by the Islamic Republic and its brief capture of American sailors who strayed into its territorial waters.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the footage, which shows the drone taking video as it flies over the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet based in Bahrain, said an unarmed Iranian drone flew near the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle and “directly over” the USS Harry S. Truman on Jan. 12 as the vessels were in international waters in the Persian Gulf.

He said the drone “posed no danger to the ship” as the unmanned aircraft was unarmed and the carrier wasn’t conducting flight operations at the time. It was unclear under what conditions the Navy would have prevented the overflight.

“It was, however, abnormal and unprofessional,” Stephens said.

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Nicholson: Afghanistan situation is worsening

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama’s nominee to be the next U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Thursday the security situation in the war-torn country is deteriorating and assured senators he will do a thorough review of American troop levels needed to stabilize the nation.

Army Lt. Gen. John W. “Mick” Nicholson Jr. told the Senate Armed Services Committee he will have a better sense of conditions in Afghanistan within a few months if he is confirmed by the Senate.

As wartime commanders must often do, Nicholson walked a fine line during his confirmation hearing. He supported the Obama administration’s exit strategy, which critics have derided as politically driven, while also promising the senators his decisions will be grounded in sound military strategy.

He peppered his answers with phrases like “right-sized” and “right-sourced” to make sure Afghanistan didn’t devolve into the same terrorist harbor it was before the 9/11 attacks. The U.S. mission in Afghanistan is to conduct counterterrorism missions and to train and assist the Afghan security forces.

Nicholson would succeed Gen. John F. Campbell, who is expected to retire.

There are about 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. At Campbell’s urging, Obama decided last October to abandon his plan to reduce troop levels to near zero by the end of 2016. Instead, he said they would shrink to 5,500 by the end of the year. His advisers could press Obama to maintain the current level of 9,800 troops until he leaves office in January 2017.

Asked at a Pentagon news conference whether the Taliban is making a comeback, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said: “That’s happened this past fighting season. We expected that.” And while the Afghans fought well last year, he said, they are still “a force-in-the-making” that can be expected to perform better this year as they gain more experience and capability.

Carter said Campbell has not recommended to him any increase in U.S. troop levels.

During an exchange with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Nicholson said he would be concerned that the military would not be able to perform counterterrorism operations if the number of American troops fell to a hypothetical 1,000 suggested by Graham.

Nicholson said he supported the decision to retain the 9,800 American troops and he agreed with Campbell’s approach. But the general also said at numerous points during the hearing that he would conduct his own assessment.

Although American forces are no longer engaged in direct action missions against the Taliban, Nicholson said he could not envision U.S. troops remaining on the sidelines if the strategic city of Kandahar were at risk. Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan, is the spiritual birthplace of the Taliban.

“We need to prevent Kandahar from falling into the hands of the Taliban,” Nicholson said.

The committee chairman, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., opened Nicholson’s confirmation hearing with a blistering assessment of Obama’s handling of the

war in Afghanistan and the president’s adherence to a “calendar-based withdrawal.”

“By now, we should have learned from the precipitous withdrawal from Iraq and the disaster that ensued that wars do not end because politicians say so,” McCain said. “Nor will any politician be able to schedule an end to the threat of radical Islamist terrorism emanating from Afghanistan or the region more broadly.”

McCain prefaced a question to Nicholson about the security situation in Afghanistan with his own stark appraisal of the conditions there. He cited recent battlefield successes by the Taliban, who he said are being aided with weapons from Iran, and the presence of the Islamic State extremist group in Afghanistan.

“The view of many of us is that the security situation in Afghanistan has been deteriorating rather than improving,” McCain said.

“Sir, I agree with your assessment,” Nicholson said. Later, he added, “This is Afghanistan. There will always be some level of violence in Afghanistan.”

Nicholson, a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a career infantry officer, is currently commander of NATO’s Allied Land Command, headquartered at Izmir, Turkey. Among numerous tours of duty in Afghanistan starting in 2006, he served as deputy chief of staff of operations for the international military command and for U.S. forces in 2010. Before that he spent 14 months as director of the Pentagon’s Afghanistan-Pakistan coordination cell.



AP Photo
ARMY LT. GEN. JOHN NICHOLSON JR. testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday before the the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his nomination to become next top American commander in Afghanistan.

U.S. official: activity detected at N. Korean launch site

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea may be preparing to launch a rocket or missile, according to a U.S. defense official and expert analysis of commercial satellite imagery published Thursday.

The analysis comes just three weeks after North Korea drew international condemnation for conducted its fourth nuclear test explosion.

The official told The Associated Press the U.S. has seen activity at a ballistic missile test site that is consistent with previous tests, but the official would not go into more detail. The official was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter and requested anonymity.

The North Korea-focused website, 38 North, said it has detected what could be the early stages of preparation for launching a space launch vehicle at the nation’s main rocket launch site at Sohae. It based its findings Thursday on satellite imagery taken this week.

North Korea fired its first rocket into space from Sohae, on its west coast, in December 2012, sending into orbit a satellite that soon malfunctioned. The North has said it has the right to launch rockets any time for its space program, but such long-range launches have drawn U.N. sanctions because similar technology can be used for development of ballistic missiles.

The U.N. Security Council is deliberating over how to respond to the Jan. 6 underground nuclear explosion. The U.S. is pressing for tighter sanctions — a step that China, the North’s only ally, appears reluctant to take.

Governments and experts have been skeptical about North Korea’s claim it tested a hydrogen bomb, but whatever device the North detonated, it will likely push the country a step closer toward its goal of manufacturing a miniaturized warhead to place on a missile that can threaten the U.S. mainland. A major launch would only deepen those concerns.

Initial word of a possible launch came Wednesday. The Japanese news agency, Kyodo, cited an unnamed Japanese government source as saying that satellite imagery analysis showed the North may be readying to fire a long-range ballistic missile from Sohae, and that the launch could occur in about a week at the earliest.

The 38 North analysis said a rocket test in the coming week appeared unlikely. Imagery from Monday showed vehicles or equipment and personnel near the rocket launch tower, but a rocket wasn’t visible. The website said there’s a high level of uncertainty about what snapshots of activity at the launch pad offered by the commercial imagery indicate.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner declined to comment Thursday on the reports of preparations for a missile test, saying it was an intelligence matter.



AP Photo
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, center, is presented a commemorative bowl from Rep. Mark Takai, D-Hawaii, left, and Rep. Robin Lynne Kelly, D-N.Y., right, before speaking at the House Democratic Issues Conference in Baltimore, Md.

Democrats get Obama pep talk, face long odds

BALTIMORE (AP) — House Democrats are heading home from their annual issues retreat energized by a pep talk by President Barack Obama but facing steep odds of reclaiming the majority that delivered Obama his greatest first-term victories.

Obama promised Democrats that the party “will win in November” and chided Republicans for “phony tough talk and bluster” on defeating Islamic militants.

In Baltimore on Thursday evening, Obama said the country is “doing a lot better” than when he took office, citing progress against Islamic State forces and curbing Iran’s nuclear program — as well as lower gas prices, 18 million people gaining health insurance and 5 percent unemployment.

In a not-so-veiled shot at GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump, Obama said the U.S. won’t strengthen itself “by allowing politicians to insult Muslims or pit groups of Americans against each other.”

Obama defended his global leadership against a chorus of GOP attacks from Trump and other presidential candidates. He said the U.S. and a coalition of more than 60 countries continues “to hunt down and destroy ISIL, including with nearly 10,000 air strikes.”

“We’re not going to build progress with a bunch of phony tough talk and bluster and over-the-top claims that just play into ISIL’s hands,” Obama said. “That’s not keeping America safe.”

Obama chided Republicans for opposing him at every turn.

“Sometimes I get a little frustrated that we don’t run back the tapes to what Republicans said back then when predicting his policies wouldn’t work, Obama said. He noted that his 2012 presidential opponent, Mitt Romney, promised 6 percent unemployment but it has already dropped to 5 percent.

“At each juncture, every single one of the steps we took, they said the opposite. Wanted to go in a different direction, claimed that our policies would crush jobs and destroy the economy,” Obama said. “Do people remember that?”

On the upcoming elections, Obama promised that “we will have a Democratic president succeeding me. ... And the reason I can say that with confidence is because we focus on the things that matter in the lives of the American people.”

During the closed-door back and forth with lawmakers, according to an aide in the room, Obama defended his administration’s deportations of migrants from Central America and said

bipartisan action was possible on criminal justice reform and in combating opioid abuse. He promised action on Puerto Rico’s fiscal crisis.

Earlier Thursday, Vice President Joe Biden likened the Republican presidential race to a “gift from the Lord” for Democrats trying to win control of the House and Senate.

Democrats say that if Republicans nominate Trump or Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, it could be a windfall in their effort to regain control of the House, where their numbers are the lowest since the Truman administration in the late 1940s.

Still, the party faces an uphill battle to recapture capture a House majority. Republicans currently outnumber them 246-188.

Democrats held the House by a substantial majority when Obama took office and were integral to enacting an economic stimulus bill, Obama’s health care rewrite and an ambitious overhaul of financial regulations.

On the political front, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California announced Thursday that she raised \$40 million for House Democrats last year, including \$30.4 million for the campaign committee. A prodigious fundraiser, Pelosi held 205 fundraisers in 35 cities.

FBI shows video of Tuesday shooting of Oregon occupier

BURNS, Ore. (AP) — A video showing the shooting death of an occupier of an Oregon wildlife refuge appears to show the man reaching into his jacket before he fell into the snow. The FBI said the man had a loaded gun in his pocket.

Authorities played the video shot by the FBI at a Thursday evening news conference, in an apparent effort to counter claims that the man killed in the confrontation Tuesday on a remote Oregon high-country road — Robert “LaVoy” Finicum — did nothing to provoke officers.

The FBI’s release of the footage came as four occupiers remaining at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge refused to leave without assurances they wouldn’t be arrested. The group’s jailed leader, Ammon Bundy, urged them to surrender. The occupation began nearly a month ago.

During the confrontation in which Finicum was killed, the FBI and Oregon State Troopers arrested five main figures in the occupation, including Bundy. Bundy and several of the other occupiers have another federal court hearing scheduled for Friday afternoon.

The video, shot by the FBI from aircraft, shows Bundy’s vehicle stopped by police on a road. He and an occupier riding with him — Brian Cavalier — were arrested. A white truck driven by Finicum was stopped but took off, with officers in pursuit. The video shows Finicum’s vehicle

plowing into a snowbank when encountering a roadblock.

A man identified as Finicum gets out of the truck. At first, he has his hands up, but then he appears to reach into his pocket and he falls into the snow.

“On at least two occasions, Finicum appears to reach his right hand toward a pocket on the left inside portion of his jacket,” said Greg Bretzing, special agent in charge for the FBI in Portland.

“He did have a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun in the pocket,” he said.

Bretzing also said Finicum’s truck nearly hit an FBI agent before it got stuck in the snow.

“Actions have consequences,” Bretzing said. “The FBI and OSP tried to effect these arrests peacefully.”

The FBI posted the video to its YouTube channel.

With Finicum lying in the snow, the video shows the arrest of two other occupiers as they got out of the stuck truck: Ryan Bundy, who is Ammon’s brother, and Shawna Cox. Bretzing said another woman was in the truck but was not arrested. He did not identify her.

Bretzing said agents and troopers “provided medical assistance to Finicum” after they were “confident that they had addressed any further threats.” He said that happened about 10 minutes after the shooting.

Two loaded .223 caliber semi-automatic rifles and a loaded revolver were found in the truck, Bretzing said.



FBI via AP
THIS PHOTO taken from an FBI video shows Robert “LaVoy” Finicum before he was fatally shot by police Tuesdaynear Burns, Ore. A video released Thursday by the FBI of the shooting death of a spokesman for the armed occupiers of a wildlife refuge shows the man reaching into his jacket before he fell into the snow. The FBI said the man had a gun in his pocket.

West report OK’d, stricter ammonium nitrate standards urged

WACO, Texas (AP) — Federal regulators approved a report Thursday that found inadequate emergency response coordination and training and careless storage of potentially explosive materials contributed to a catastrophic 2013 blast at a Texas fertilizer plant.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board’s unanimous vote also adopted recommendations that federal regulators set higher standards for safe handling and storage of fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate. It came at the end of a three-hour public meeting in Waco, at which investigators presented the findings of their examination of the West Fertilizer Co. plant explosion. The blast in the Central Texas town of West killed 15 people, including volunteer firefighters

trying to extinguish the blaze that led to the explosion. It injured about 200 others and leveled part of the town.

According to the report, dozens of similar plants are still operating in Texas near schools, hospitals and residential neighborhoods.

“The risk to the public from a catastrophic incident exists throughout the state of Texas,” the report said.

Texas has 80 plants that store more than 5 tons of ammonium nitrate, a chemical used in fertilizer. Nineteen plants storing fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate operate within a half-mile of a school, hospital or nursing home, according to the report. More than 30 of them are within a quarter-mile of a home or apartment building.

The West plant “was about 550 feet from the closest school, which sustained catastrophic damage as a result of the explosion, which could have resulted in additional loss of life had the school been in session at the time,” the report noted. That explosion caused about \$100 million in property damage, according to the Texas Department of Insurance, and insurance-related losses were approximately \$230 million.

Federal regulators say the way the fertilizer was stored, with combustible materials nearby, and the lack of ventilation were contributing factors to the detonation. But they also cited a failure to conduct safety inspections of the plant, shortcomings in emergency response such as with hazmat training,

and poor land planning that allowed development to sprout around the plant over the years. The CSB report recommends that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency require risk-management plans for plants storing large amounts of fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate, and that the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration set standards for handling the fertilizer ingredient as a highly hazardous chemical.

Among those killed in the April 2013 explosion were 12 emergency personnel, primarily ones with the West Volunteer Fire Department who responded to the initial blaze. The report says the response to the fire was flawed for various reasons, including for not establishing an

incident command center and a lack of understanding about the possibility of a detonation. It’s not certain how the fire started, but inspectors have three possible scenarios: faulty electrical wiring, a short circuit in a golf cart stored at the plant, or arson.

West city officials declined to address the report’s findings. A call to the plant owner was not returned, but officials there have denied allegations that the plant was negligent in how it handled and stored ammonium nitrate.

Navarro Mills Volunteer Fire Chief Phil Calvin, who lost one of his firefighters to the blast, told the board volunteer firefighters’ first priority is to start fighting a fire, not to set up a coordinated incident command.

Reuse the News

Recycle this newspaper



AP Photo

IN THIS FILE PHOTO, a high tide submerges a narrow causeway leading to the Mont Saint-Michel, on France's northern coast. This offshore islet topped by a stunning 8th century Benedictine abbey was France's first heritage site and among the first ever designated. Already a major pilgrimage destination in the Middle Ages, it underwent many transformations but has always drawn romantics and the faithful, even when it served as a prison during the French Revolution.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites under threat around the world

Luang Prabang (AP) — A number of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites face major challenges, including the following:

MACHU PICCHU, PERU

This magnificent "lost city of the Incas" is cited by UNESCO as beset by logging, poor waste management and agricultural incursion but hasn't been placed on its list of sites in danger. Peruvian experts are raising other alarm bells, from vehicle fumes to the unceasing tread of footsteps producing a similar effect as a small-scale earthquake that could lead to collapse of the temples and other structures.

The number of visitors — nearly 2,500 daily — appears to be overwhelming the site's safe carrying capacity. The 15th century royal retreat was built high up in the Peruvian Andes to accommodate a population estimated at no more than 800.

OMORI, JAPAN

This sleepy western Japanese town had "no outstanding universal value," according to the International Council on Monuments and Sites, which makes recommendations on world heritage sites. Its only attraction was a long defunct silver mine and no tourist infrastructure existed aside from one eight-room guesthouse. But following intense lobbying by Japanese authorities, Omori was inscribed in 2007. A year later, almost 1 million tourists poured in, rupturing the quiet lifestyle of the unprepared community.

Another controversial site in Japan was added to UNESCO's roster last year: factories and mines of the country's Meiji Industrial Revolution. Tens of thousands of Koreans, Chinese and Allied prisoners of war were forced to work at some of the locations, prompting Chinese media to charge the listing "helped Japan cover up or glorify some of its past wartime atrocities."

Cosby's lawyers: DA playing game of 'gotcha' after 12 years

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Lawyers for Bill Cosby are accusing prosecutors of playing a game of "gotcha" by waiting 12 years to charge him in a sex-assault case and using his testimony in a civil lawsuit against him.

Defense lawyers filing their final motion Thursday before a key pre-trial hearing next week say Cosby had a promise from authorities that his testimony in the accuser's civil lawsuit wouldn't be used against him.

District Attorney Kevin Steele cites Cosby's recently unsealed testimony as part of the new evidence driving the charges against Cosby over a 2004 sexual encounter at his home.

Kathryn Bigelow to direct Detroit-set true crime drama

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Zero Dark Thirty" filmmaker Kathryn Bigelow's next project will move her from the Middle East to Detroit.

Bigelow will direct a film set amid the week of deadly race-related rioting in Detroit that claimed 43 lives in 1967.

The as-yet-untitled film will be financed by Annapurna Pictures and written by Mark Boal.

ties." South Korea demanded that Japan make it clear that South Korean slave labor was used.

LIJIANG, CHINA

Amid widespread publicity, the 800-year-old town in China's southern province of Yunnan was declared a site in 1997, and is today one of the country's top domestic tourist destinations. Outsiders with more capital and skills moved in, sparking tensions with mostly ethnic minority residents who felt they were "losing their town." Already in the early 2000s, many streets of the old quarter were up to 90 percent in the hands of newcomers profiting by the mass influx.

Annual visitors swelled from some 150,000 before the heritage designation to 2.8 million three years later and some 16 million last year. Local culture has been adulterated in a complete tourism-oriented make-over. The charming houses are reproductions: Virtually the entire old town was razed by a 1996 earthquake.

MONT SAINT-MICHEL, FRANCE

This offshore islet topped by a stunning 8th century Benedictine abbey was France's first heritage site and among the first ever designated. Already a major pilgrimage destination in the Middle Ages, it underwent many transformations but has always drawn romantics and the faithful, even when it served as a prison during the French Revolution.

With a resident population of about 50 and only 247 acres (100 hectares) in size, it now attracts up to 2.8 million visitors a year.

The Smithsonian Magazine wrote that its narrow, medieval streets are packed with tourists "who shoulder to shoulder, four to five thick, mill about like subway commuters at rush hour along the main street, which is nonstop cafes, hotels, restaurants and shops, selling every kind of souvenir imaginable."

LEGAL PUBLICATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ANNUAL AGENCY PLAN CLEVELAND HOUSING AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Cleveland Housing Authority, the citizens of Cleveland and all persons interested, that the housing authority is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 Final Rule to submit a Public Housing Agency Plan.

The Annual Plan provides details about the housing authority's immediate operations, program participants, programs and services, and the housing authority's strategy for handling operational concerns, residents' concerns and needs, programs and services for the upcoming fiscal year.

Prior to submission of the Agency Plans to HUD, we are soliciting comments and suggestions. We will be conducting a **Public Hearing on Monday, March 21, 2016, at 12:00 p.m.(noon)**, at the Cleveland Housing Authority, 450 Walker Street, NE in Cleveland, Tennessee, to discuss the proposed plans. All residents are encouraged to attend.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may submit written comments regarding the Annual Agency Plan to *Mr. Paul Dellinger, Executive Director, Cleveland Housing Authority, Post Office Box 2846, Cleveland, Tennessee 37320*. Written comments will be received through March 18, 2016. January 29, 2016

LEGAL PUBLICATION

Request for Bids

Orthoimagery, Impervious Surface Updates, and Optional Oblique Imagery

Bradley County, TN, and the City of Cleveland, TN, will be accepting bids for Aerial Photography to produce Digital Orthography, Oblique Imagery (Optional) and Impervious Surface vectorization. Interested vendors may obtain bid specifications from Cleveland Utilities during normal business hours. Cleveland Utilities is located in Cleveland, TN, at 2450 Guthrie Avenue NW. Bids must be returned to Cleveland Utilities no later than 4:00 P.M. EST on Tuesday, February 16th, 2016 to the Cleveland Utilities Main Offices. Bradley County/City of Cleveland, TN, reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of Bradley County. Questions may be addressed to David Yost, Cleveland Utilities/City of Cleveland, TN, GIS Director, at (423) 478-9355 or Wayne Owenby, Bradley county GIS Director, at (423) 728-7110.

"It is the policy of Cleveland Utilities to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 49 CFR, Part 21; related statutes and regulations to that end that no person shall be excluded from participation in or be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance or any other funding source on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or ancestry. By virtue of submitting a response to this solicitation, bidders agree to comply with the same non-discrimination policy."

"Cleveland Utilities reserves the right to waive all formalities and informalities in any bid received, to reject any and all bids for any reason whatsoever and to accept any bid which in its opinion may be in the best interest of Cleveland Utilities."

Send Bids to:
Cleveland Utilities
Co: David Yost
PO Box 2730
Cleveland, Tennessee 37320-2730

Bids will be opened at the Cleveland Utilities Tom Wheeler Training Center at 9:00 A.M. EST on February 17, 2016.

Contact information:

David Yost
Cleveland Utilities/City of Cleveland, TN
GIS Director
2450 Guthrie Drive NW
Cleveland, Tennessee 37320-2730
(423) 478-9355 p
(423) 478-6263 f
dyost@clevelandutilities.com

Wayne Owenby
Bradley County Tennessee
GIS Director
155 Broad Street NW – Room 104
Cleveland, Tennessee 37311
(423) 728-7110 p
(423) 478-8885 f
wowenby@bradleycotn.gov

January 28, 29, 31

0. WEBSITE DIRECTORY

CLEVELAND DAILY Banner
(423)472-5041
www.clevelandbanner.com
classifieds@clevelandbanner.com

1. Classified Ad Policy

ERRORS NOT the fault of the advertiser which clearly reduce the value of the advertisement should be corrected the first day. Then, one corrected insertion will be made without charge, if the advertiser calls before 3pm the afternoon the error appears. The CLEVELAND DAILY BANNER assumes no responsibility for errors after the first corrected insertion. The Publisher reserves the right to revise or reject, at his option, any advertisement he deems objectionable either in subject or phraseology or which he may deem detrimental to his business. Deadline for classified ads: Tuesday through Friday is 2pm for business ads and 3pm for personal ads the day before ad is to run. Sunday deadline is 11am Friday for business ads and 12 noon Friday for personal ads. Monday deadline is Friday 4pm. All corrections must be made by deadline day before ad runs. Visa/Mastercard/Discover/American Express are accepted. Cleveland Daily Banner..... 472-5041

Legal Publications

**LEGAL PUBLICATION
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE PROBATE DIVISION OF THE CHANCERY COURT FOR BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. IN RE: ESTATE OF TERRY LANG GRIFFITH, deceased, Christy Griffith Critchfield and Debra Griffith Bates, Petitioners. No 2016-PR-17. NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Terry Lang Griffith, (Deceased). Notice is hereby given that, on the 27th day of January 2016, Letters of Testamentary in respect to the Estate of Terry Lang Griffith, who died on December 6 2015, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court (Probate Division) of Bradley County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the Chancery Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred: 1. A. Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or 2. Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This 27th day of January, 2016. Signed: Christy Griffith Critchfield, Debra Griffith Bates Co-Executors. SARAH COLEMAN, Clerk & Master. By: Sarah E. Coleman, Deputy Clerk. By: M. SUSIE STARNES, BPR #20294, Attorney for the Estate of Terry Lang Griffith, 223 Harle Avenue, NW, Cleveland, TN 37311 (423) 614-5600. January 29, February 5, 2016

2. Special Notices

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS at Your Convenience!

24 Hours A Day!
Email your AD to us!
classifieds@clevelandbanner.com

or fax to 423-476-1046
Include the following information:
• Name with address & phone number
• Person to contact if a business
• Requested start date & classification
• We will contact you for prepayment. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express
• If you are a billing customer, please confirm your current billing address.

Deadline for ads:
2pm Monday for Tuesday ad
2pm Tuesday for Wednesday ad
2pm Wednesday for Thursday ad
2pm Thursday for Friday ad
11am Friday for Sunday ad
4pm Friday for Monday ad

For Personal Assistance
CALL 423-472-5041

CLEVELAND DAILY BANNER
Classified Department

*****SPECIAL BONUS*****
All Ads Are Published On Our Website At No Additional Cost!

SCHOLARSHIPS GUARANTEED or your money back! Beware of scholarship "guarantees." Before you pay for a search service, get the refund policy in writing. Call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to learn how to avoid scholarship scams. A message from Cleveland Daily Banner and the FTC. Or visit our Web site at www.ftc.gov

5. Lost And Found

LOST YOUR pet? Check daily at the Cleveland Animal Shelter, 360 Hill Street.

FOUND: LONG haired, Persian type multi-color cat. Outside cat, has claws. Found 1/19 in northeast area around Blythe Ferry Road/ N. Ocoee Street area. 423-476-9833.

MISSING MALE white Bischon, missing from the Mouse Creek area, last seen January 25th. Call 865-679-3909. \$500 reward.

7. Personals

AL-ANON OFFERS help for families of alcoholics. For meeting information call 423-284-1612.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

EDC February Meeting Notice

The Economic Development Council (EDC) of the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce will hold its regular quarterly meeting Thursday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. in the boardroom of the Chamber offices. The EDC executive committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting. Both meetings are open to the public. January 29, 2016

LEGAL PUBLICATION SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the debts and obligations secured to be paid in a certain Deed of Trust executed the 22nd day of October, 2007, Sergio Pineda and wife, Leyva Roblero, to Jeanine B. Saylor as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Bradley County, Tennessee in Book 1790, Pages 200-216 and John B. Philip or Paul N. Royal or James A. Crislip, Jr. of Shelby County, Tennessee were substituted in her place and the holder of the note, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, and the owner of the debt secured having requested the undersigned to advertise and sell the property described in and conveyed by said Deed of Trust, all of the said indebtedness having matured by default in the payment of a part thereof, at the option of the owner, this is to give notice that John B. Philip or Paul N. Royal or James A. Crislip, Jr., Substitute Trustee, will on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 commencing at twelve o'clock noon at the front door of the Bradley County Courthouse, Cleveland, Tennessee proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property, to wit: Situated in the County of Bradley and State of Tennessee: Property Address: 406 Kirby Drive, Cleveland, TN 37323 (Property Description) Land in Bradley County, Tennessee, being Lot No. 10, on the plan of Kirby Heights, Revised, of record in Plat Book 3, Page 233, Register's Office for County, to which plat reference is hereby made for a more complete description. This being the same property described by deed of record in Book 1790, Page 198, Register's Office of Bradley County, Tennessee. Parcel No. 0650-016.00-000 OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: None The street address of the above described property is believed to be 406 Kirby Drive, Cleveland, TN 37323, but such address is not apart of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control. SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION. All right and equity of redemption, Statutory and otherwise, homestead and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but John B. Philip or Paul N. Royal or James A. Crislip, Jr., Substitute Trustee, will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee, subject to any prior deeds of trust, real estate taxes, assessments and liens. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. This office is a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. John B. Philip, Paul N. Royal, James A. Crislip, Jr., Substitute Trustees Crislip, Philip & Associates By: John B. Philip, Attorney 901.525.2427 CRISLIP, PHILIP & ASSOCIATES, 4515 Poplar Ave., Suite 322, Memphis, TN 38117 (901) 525-2427 January 22, 29; February 5, 2016

30. Help Wanted - Full Time

CHEMICAL TANK DRIVER CDL Class A with Hazmat/ Tanker. Clean motor vehicle record, 2 years driving experience. Tank experience preferred. Call 423-364-3046.

CUSTOM WOOD working shop looking for an individual with recent experience in operating small wood shop equipment, ability to lift, measure accurately and be dependable. Please call 423-464-8009 to set up interview.

DELIVERY DRIVER needed. Box truck experience helpful. Apply in person at Scotts Furniture Company 1650 South Lee Highway, Cleveland.

EARN THOUSANDS from home. Be careful of work-at-home schemes. Hidden costs can add up, and requirements may be unrealistic. Learn how to avoid work-at-home scams. Call the Federal Trade Commission. 1-877-FTC-HELP. A message from Cleveland Daily Banner and the FTC. Or visit our Web site at www.ftc.gov

EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION Helper needed. Must apply in person: 130 Interstate Drive.

FULL TIME AUTO MECHANIC NEEDED Call 423-244-5817.

FULL TIME clinical assistant needed for busy medical office. Some experience required. Send resume' to: clinicalresumes@yahoo.com

FULL TIME Manufacturing positions available. Day/ Night shifts, production bonus. Drug screen required. Apply at 525 Industrial Drive, Cleveland.



GROWING COMPANY seeks Auto Detailer, full time. No experience required. We'll train you! Previous experience preferred, strong initiative, self starter, reliable, good people skills, organized. Apply in person at 2155 S. Lee Highway RugRats Automotive Apply now!

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVERS and CNAs who are available to work 2nd, 3rd, or weekends. Please apply in person at 60 25th Street NW #3, in Cleveland. Monday- Friday from 11am-5pm.

LOCAL COMPANY hiring over the road drivers Class A CDL. 2 years minimum experience with good record. 423-595-8922.

NOW HIRING: Newly Weds Foods, Inc. Starting Pay \$11 hour. Apply in person at 187 Industrial Lane SW Cleveland TN 37311.

SALES ASSISTANT
Local office seeks a full time Sales Assistant to assist the management staff with the day to day administration of all elements of the sales process and front office duties. Responsibilities will include, but not limited to: Answering incoming phone calls, greeting clients and visitors, sales office support duties, data entry, light off-site deliveries of information. Applicants must have: Good MicroSoft Office skills with willingness to learn new industry related programs, high school degree, proof of valid TN driver's license and insurance, comfort working with members of the public, smart appearance and articulate, ability to handle many tasks at once and to prioritize workload.
Please send cover letter, resume and three references to:
Box #3906-P
c/o Cleveland Daily Banner
P.O. Box 3600
Cleveland, TN 37320.

NOW HIRING CAREGIVERS!
Are you a CNA or experienced Caregiver?
HELPING PEOPLE, CHANGING LIVES!
We are looking for Qualified Caregivers in your area! Medical, Dental, Vision & Life Insurance available.
FAMILY HOME CARE SERVICES, LLC
Apply online at WWW.FHCSSLIC.COM or Call 423-744-4674 Ask for Brandy

Thompson Industrial Services
COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
Immediate openings for **TECHNICIANS/OPERATORS**
Operates extremely high pressured water blast units and industrial vacuum units.
We work in paper/pulp mills, steel mills, refineries, nuclear plants, etc. Must have valid driver's license (CDL a plus); work flexible hours (on call 24/7), travel, lift 50 lb hoses; pass drug tests. Complete application online at www.thompsonindustrialservices.com.
EOE

SALES ASSISTANT
Local office seeks a full-time Sales Assistant to assist the management staff with the day-to-day administration of all elements of the sales process and front office duties. Responsibilities will include, but not limited to: Answering incoming phone calls, greeting clients and visitors, sales office support duties, data entry, light offsite deliveries of information. Applicant must have: Good MS Office skills with willingness to learn new industry related programs, high school degree, proof of valid TN driver's license and insurance, comfort working with members of the public, smart appearance and articulate, ability to handle many tasks at once and to prioritize workload.
Please send cover letter, resume and three references to:
Box #3906P
c/o Cleveland Daily Banner
P.O. Box 3600
Cleveland, TN 37320

30. Help Wanted - Full Time

OPTICAL LAB Personnel, NOT receptionist position. Apply at Sherrie Holman Optometrist 1450 Decatur Pike, Athens.

FIVE STAR SENIOR LIVING
LPN
MORNINGSIDE of Cleveland, a Premier Assisted Living is seeking an LPN, preferably a nurse who loves to work with seniors and has geriatric experience. This position requires 8 hour shifts. All interested candidates please apply in person to 2900 Westside Drive Cleveland, TN or fax resume to: 423-614-6259
EOE

SALES PERSON/ ESTIMATOR, Servicing & Calling on customers. High school diploma or above. Drain Right Guttering, 2077 Westland Drive, or call 423-472-7018.

STARS, INC. is hiring Personal Assistant, wage \$8.50. Call 423-447-2590 ext. # 1

TRAVELODGE: FRONT desk clerk needed, computer experience preferred. Housekeeping personnel needed. Apply 156 James Asbury Drive. I-75, exit 27.

33. Business Opportunities

INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU INVEST!
Always a good policy, especially for business opportunities and franchise. Call TN Division of consumer Affairs at (800) 342-8385 or the Federal Trade Commission at (877) FTC-HELP for free information. Or visit our Web site at www.ftc.gov

PROCESS MEDICAL claims from home? Chances are you won't make any money. Find out how to spot a medical billing scam. Call the Federal Trade Commission, 1-877-FTC-HELP. A message from Cleveland Daily Banner and the Federal Trade Commission. Or visit our Web site at www.ftc.gov

34. Money To Lend

* LOANS up to \$1,250 *
Quick Approval
423-476-5770

NEED CASH fast but can't get a loan? Don't pay for the promise of a loan. Call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to learn how to spot advance-fee loan scams. A message from Cleveland Daily Banner and the FTC. Or visit our Web site at www.ftc.gov

39. Services And Repairs

LEWIS APPLIANCES: Sales and services. We do weekend calls also, 423-368-4278.

40. General Services Offered

BOBCAT FOR Rent or Hire with trencher or brush cutter, mini excavator with thumb, tractor loader with boxscrape or bushhog. 423-478-2724.

BO'S TREE SERVICE: Over 30 years experience. Insured, free estimates. Bucket Truck. 423-284-9814 or 423-544-2249.

DANNY'S TREE SERVICE: Tree removal, shrubbery trimmed and planted. Senior Discounts. 30 years experience. 423-244-6676.

EXTREME MAINTENANCE Home/Mobile Home Commercial, residential, Painting (interior/ exterior). Decks, plumbing, electrical, roofing, siding, all work! 30 years experience. Free estimates. 423-331-7045.

40. General Services Offered

BOX TRAILERS, 40' goose neck trailer, dump trailer, towable grill for rent. 423-478-2724.

45. Vacation Rentals

2 RIVERS CAMPING: RV Park, Cabin Rentals, directly on the river at junction of Hwassee and Ocoee Rivers. 423-338-7208.

BEAR PAW COTTAGES- 2, 3 bedrooms, \$75- \$85. Mountains, fire-place, serenity. 423-476-8480.

46. Storage Space For Rent

CALFEE'S MINI Warehouse for rent: Georgetown Pike, Spring Place Road and Highway 64. Call 476-2777.

NEED STORAGE? Heated indoor RV, boat, car, and motorcycle storage. 24 hour surveillance and security. 423-728-2947.

TEMPSAFE STORAGE
Climate Controlled & Outside Units
Downtown Location & Georgetown Road
614-4111

47. Business Property For Rent

OFFICE/ RETAIL- Star Vue Square 7,000 square feet, \$4,000 monthly. Owner/ Agent 423-987-9232.

48. Office Space For Rent

NORTH KEITH Street: First month free rent with acceptable application and paid deposit. Owner/ Agent STONY BROOKS REALTY 423-479-4514.

OFFICE AVAILABLE. Multiple sizes, 423-991-4984.

OFFICE/ RETAIL Space Available. short and long term lease. Several locations, priced from \$300 up. Call Jones Properties 423-472-4000 www.jonesproperties.biz.

49. Apartments For Rent

\$1,800: LUXURY Apartment, fully furnished, utilities paid. Located on quiet side street. **Contact Jones Properties 423-472-4000** www.jonesproperties.biz

\$400: 1 Bedroom, 1 bath close to Greenway, water/ sewer paid. **423-472-4000 or** www.jonesproperties.biz

\$495: 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, wood floors, new paint, water included. **PROVISION REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC** 423-693-0301.

\$550: 2 Bedroom, 1 bath on Georgetown Road. **423-472-4000 or** www.jonesproperties.biz.

\$600: 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath with basement/ garage. **423-472-4000 or** www.jonesproperties.biz.

\$650: 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath with private garden patio. **423-472-4000 or** www.jonesproperties.biz

\$680 MONTHLY: 2 Bedroom townhome, 1,200 square feet, 1160 Weeks Drive. No pets/ No smoking. 423-961-3699 Agent/ Owner.



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the Tennessee Human Rights Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, handicap/ disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. Equal Housing Opportunity, M/F.

1 BEDROOM duplex, in the city, ground level, No pets, No smoking. \$450 monthly. Call for more information 423-479-5570.

1 OR 2 bedroom available. No pets, no smoking in house. For more information call 423-227-9146.

2 BEDROOM behind Ace Hardware on Peerless Road. Ground level, walk to shopping. Stove, refrigerator, water furnished. For information, call between 9am-6pm. No pets/ smoking. 423-479-5570.

2 BEDROOM, 1.5 bath townhome, well located, upgraded, \$635 monthly. 423-584-3903.

2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, washer/ dryer hookup, \$550 monthly, \$350 deposit. NO PETS! 423-310-8792.

3 BEDROOM, 2.5 bath townhome, fireplace, wood/ tile, balcony, wooded, \$925 monthly, 423-584-3903.

APARTMENT FOR Rent off Georgetown Road, Winwood Drive and Thompson Lane. 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath, full garage, \$300 deposit, \$500 monthly. 423-593-7303.

AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1st: 2 Bedroom, 1 bath duplex, great location, nice yard. Credit check required. No pets. No smoking \$575 monthly, \$575 deposit. 1 year lease. 423-255-2426.

BEST PLACE for living! 2 Bedroom with bonus room, 2 full bath, \$740 monthly 423-667-4967.

BLYTHEWOOD- STEEPLECHASE APARTMENTS- 1 Bedroom with utilities furnished (\$389- \$579); 2 Bedroom (\$429- \$609). Appliances furnished; duplexes. 423-472-7788.

CLEVELAND SUMMIT Apartments Rent is based on income for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled. We have immediate openings. Equal Housing Opportunity 44 Inman Street 479-3005

LARGE 1 Bedroom apartment located on Ocoee, 1 block from Lee. Very nice with hardwood floors, new paint, central heat/ air, \$650 monthly includes all utilities. No pets/ smoking. 423-595-2891.

LARGE 2 BEDROOM 1 bath, washer/ dryer furnished, also water and sewer. \$525 monthly, \$350 deposit. Call 423-618-8579 for appointment.

TAKING APPLICATIONS for a 1 bedroom apartment. Near Lee University, available February 1st. \$500 monthly, \$250 deposit. Water furnished. 1-423-728-5413.

WEEKLY RENT- INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES! 1 bedroom with central heat/ air! Off Georgetown Road. \$175 weekly. NO DEPOSIT! Call 423-476-6113.

50. Mobile Homes For Rent

COLLEGETOWN MOBILE ES-TATES: Two bedrooms nice and clean. 472-6555.

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY 2 and 3 bedrooms, \$110- \$160 weekly, year lease, no pets, 423-473-3684.

NICE 1700 SQUARE feet double-wide on private lot in northwest area. Stove/ refrigerator furnished, washer/ dryer hookup. \$700 monthly. 423-476-8292.

52. Sleeping Rooms

\$129 PLUS tax weekly special, 1 person with ad, HBO/ ESPN. 423-728-4551.

BREEZEWAYEXTENDEDSTAY.COM WEEKLY rate paid in advance, averages \$46.43 nightly plus tax. 423-584-6505.

53. Houses For Rent

\$1,050: 3- 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2,080 square feet, 2 car garage, central heat/ air, large deck on back overlooking a duck pond. **423-472-4000 or** www.jonesproperties.biz.

\$1,050: 3- 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1,768 square feet, split foyer with fireplace and 1 car garage with opener, large yard. **423-472-4000 or** www.jonesproperties.biz



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the Tennessee Human Rights Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, handicap/ disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. Equal Housing Opportunity, M/F.

3 BEDROOMS, 2 bath ranch, den, living room, in country, Pinhook community off Bowater Road. \$750 monthly plus deposit.
2 Bedroom, Cabin in Ocoee, off Highway 64, \$750 monthly plus deposit.
1-706-266-7844.

4 BEDROOM, 2 bath, bonus room, 2 car garage, NE, \$1,350 monthly. 423-829-0447.

NICE HOUSE north of town 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large bonus room, formal dining room, double garage \$1,650 monthly. 423-667-4967.

WANT TO RENT: March through May, small furnished house or mobile home outside of park. Senior couple. 423-762-9568.

56. Houses For Sale



BY OWNER: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1,552 square feet, propane gas log fireplace in living room, black refrigerator, glass top stove and dishwasher included, white GE washer/ dryer, large deck on back of house accessible from master only, double pane/ storm windows, hardwood/ carpet, unfinished basement, 1301 Harrison Pike, Stuart School Zone, \$149,900. Call 423-593-4574.

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68. Sport Utility Vehicles

1999 JEEP Wrangler. Many upgrades, well maintained, 200,000 miles, very good condition! Cooper tires. \$8,500. 1-210-316-8332.

72. Cars For Sale

2001 VOLKSWAGEN Jetta GLS sedan, automatic, all power, leather, sun roof, air, cruise, tilt, only 125,000 miles, good transportation, \$2,495/ offer. 423-920-8509 or 423-728-5989.

72. Cars For Sale

BRANTLEY AUTO SALES. 2050 South Lee Hwy Wholesale to the public. 423-479-6484.

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3BR, 2BA ranch home with with a split BR plan in Foxfire subdivision.
It offers a gas fireplace, sunroom, 2 car garage, walk-in pantry and more. All appliances stay including the washer-dryer.
MLS#: 20155722. **STOP BY THIS SUNDAY FROM 2-4!**
DIRECTIONS: N. on Keith St. to right on Stuart Rd., right on Michigan Ave., left on Foxfire Rd., home on left.

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OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4
Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 full bath home located in NW Bradley County in desirable Horse Creek Farms Subdivision.
411 Thoroughbred Drive NW \$217,900
Walk into the living room where you'll see gorgeous hardwood floors, soaring vaulted ceilings, and plenty of windows overlooking the vacant rolling fields behind you. The kitchen features stained custom cabinets, granite counter tops, and hardwood floors. This home has a split floor plan with the huge master suite on the left that boasts tray ceilings and a large master bathroom featuring tiled floors, stand-up tiled shower with sliding glass doors, deep jetted tub, a double vanity with granite counter top and a roomy walk-in closet. Two bedrooms and one full bathroom with tiled floors sit on the other side of the house. The large fourth bedroom is located on the second level with the third full bathroom, also featuring tiled floors. Enjoy the beautiful view from the partially covered back deck and fenced-in yard! A must see!
DIRECTIONS: From Paul Huff & Mouse Creek, North on Mouse Creek approx 4 Miles, right into Horse Creek Farms, right on Thoroughbred, house on right. SOP
Listing Agent Vickie Vernon 432-3556

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INSIDE COLLEGE BASKETBALL

A WEEKLY SPIN AROUND THE WORLD OF COLLEGE HOOPS

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

1. THE YEAR OF NO FAVORITES CONTINUES

By the time Virginia Tech took North Carolina to the wire in Blacksburg on Sunday, the only upset seemed to be that there was no upset — the Tar Heels eked out a 75–70 win over the Hokies. That’s the kind of week it was for teams at the top. Seven of the top eight teams in the AP poll lost this week, starting with Oklahoma’s loss Monday at Iowa State and ending with Villanova’s loss at home in overtime to Providence on Sunday afternoon. In between, Kansas, Xavier, West Virginia, Maryland and SMU all lost, too. The preseason rankings were marked by a lack of consensus at the top. With seven weeks until Selection Sunday, the picture is no more clear.



David Fox
Athlon Sports
Senior Writer
@davidfox615

ing 13 turnovers *per game*. Was this week a sign of a team figuring out how to win or a fluke in an otherwise disappointing season?

3. THE BIG 12 IS A SLUGFEST

Here’s a recap of what was just another week in the Big 12: National No. 1 Oklahoma lost at Iowa State on Monday. On Tuesday, No. 3 Kansas lost at Oklahoma State to a Cowboys team that’s been without its best player, Phil Forte, since November. And on Wednesday, No. 6 West Virginia lost at home to Texas. By Saturday, all three looked like top-10 teams again. OU beat Baylor on the road. West Virginia scored the final eight points in the closing minute in a four-point win at Texas Tech. And Kansas took care of Texas at home. The final picture was four teams (Kansas, West Virginia, Oklahoma and Baylor) tied atop the league at 5–2. Iowa State is the only team in the league riding a winning streak (three games), and TCU (four games) is the only team on a losing streak.

4. IOWA CAN STAKE ITS CLAIM AS THE BIG TEN’S BEST

Two weeks ago, Iowa completed a season sweep of Michigan State. On Sunday, the Hawkeyes did the same with Purdue. The Hawkeyes are 7–0 in the Big Ten and left little doubt in their most recent matchups with a full-strength Michigan State and Purdue. The next major test is Thursday at Maryland, a matchup that will pit two National Player of the Year contenders in forward Jarrod Uthoff for Iowa and point guard Melo Trimble for Maryland. If Iowa can get to February at 8–0 in the Big Ten, the Hawkeyes have to be considered a legitimate Final Four contender — if they aren’t already.

5. INDIANA IS RED HOT

After starting 5–3, Indiana is riding a 12-game winning streak, pounding Illinois and Northwestern last week by a combined 66 points to improve to 7–0 in the Big Ten. Just how good is Indiana? We’re not sure. During this win streak, the Hoosiers have faced just one top-50 opponent (Notre Dame in Indianapolis). Indiana is talented and balanced and is playing far better defense than a year ago. But the Hoosiers are also prone to turning the ball over. Indiana may get a better idea of where it stands in the next three games with road trips to Wisconsin and Michigan, but IU won’t face the best of the Big Ten until mid-February when the Hoosiers face Iowa and Michigan State.

6. MATT COSTELLO IS A CLOSER

One of the best images of the week was 6’9” Michigan State forward Matt Costello hoisting coach Tom Izzo in the final moments of a 74–65 win over No. 7 Maryland, ending the Spartans’ three-game skid. The bear hug came after Costello put on a show as Michigan State secured the victory. In the final 9:05, Costello tallied 10 points, including 8-of-8 free throws, five rebounds and three blocks. Suddenly, the Spartans look the part of a Final Four team again.

PRIME TIME PLAYERS

Iowa State guard **Monte Morris** had 20 points, seven rebounds and three assists in the Cyclones’ 82–77 win over No. 1 Oklahoma on Monday and 18 points and six assists in a 73–60 win at TCU on Saturday. ... Duke guard **Grayson Allen** led the Blue Devils as they ended their three-game losing streak with an 88–78 win at NC State. Allen had 20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists with just one turnover. ... Temple guard **Devin Coleman** made all seven of his 3-point shots and went 1-for-1 from inside the arc for 23 points to hand SMU its first loss of the season. ... Oregon State guard **Gary Payton II** had one of the best stat sheet-stuffing efforts of the season with 22 points, 15 rebounds, eight assists and four steals in an 85–70 win over USC. ... Xavier forward **James Farr** helped

the Musketeers bounce back from their second loss of the season with 24 points, 15 rebounds, four assists and three blocks in an 84–76 win over Seton Hall. ... Three days after a lopsided loss to Vanderbilt, Tennessee turned around to beat a ranked opponent for the first time in more than a year with a 78–69 win over South Carolina. **Kevin Punter** topped 30 points for the third time this year with 36 points against the Gamecocks. ... South Florida guard **Jahmal McMurray** scored 30 points in a 71–62 upset of Houston on Saturday. The Bulls’ win was their first since Dec. 16 and only their fourth victory overall. Houston has lost four in a row after starting 13–2 this season. ... Oakland guard **Kahlil Felder**, the nation’s second-leading scorer, had 29 points and 14 assists in a 111–95 win at Green Bay. Felder has scored at least 20 points in every game this season.



Guard Tyler Ulis helped Kentucky turn its fortunes with 45 points and 10 assists combined in two wins last week.

7. A NEW CHALLENGE FOR SMU

Before Sunday, Larry Brown could motivate his SMU team with a chase for history. An undefeated season ending March 6 would be the best the Mustangs could do as they sit out the postseason due to NCAA sanctions. Temple beat SMU 89–80 on Sunday, dropping the Mustangs to 18–1. SMU is clearly the top team in the American, but now that the allure of an undefeated season is gone, will the Mustangs continue to play that way?

8. CAL GOT A WIN IT NEEDED

Despite missing the postseason last year, Cal was a trendy pick to contend in the Pac-12 thanks to the addition of talented freshmen Jaylen Brown and Ivan Rabb to a veteran core. That never materialized as the Bears started 2–3 in the Pac-12. Cal, though, is starting to look like an NCAA Tournament team after a dramatic 74–73 win over Arizona. Cal has five RPI top-50 wins, but they’re all in Berkeley. All six of Cal’s losses are on the road or on neutral courts. If Cuonzo Martin’s team has any staying power, the Bears will need to show it this week with a road swing against Utah and Colorado — two teams they already beat at Haas Pavilion.

9. OKLAHOMA’S OTHER GUYS ARE GOOD, TOO

Buddy Hield’s bid for National Player of the Year hasn’t diminished, but Buddy’s — *ahem* — buddies are why OU is a Final Four contender. The Sooners trailed Baylor 22–16 when Hield picked up his second foul inside the final nine minutes of the first half. With Hield on the bench, the Sooners outscored Baylor 21–8 the rest of the half for the decisive stretch in an 82–72 win. The Sooners simply ran good offense, assisting on 29 of 31 field goals. Point guard Jordan Woodard finished with 20 points, including 15 in the first half. It was the first time since Dec. 7 someone other Hield led the Sooners in scoring.

10. BUTLER IS FADING

On Dec. 28, Butler was 11–1, but since then the Bulldogs have fallen on tough times in conference play. After back-to-back losses to Providence and Creighton on the road, Butler is 2–5 in the Big East. The Bulldogs are the victim of some unfortunate scheduling. Seven of their first 12 league games have been on the road. They’ve played Providence twice, plus Villanova and Xavier. That’s four of seven games against the top three teams in the league. Butler must take advantage of the upcoming stretch against DePaul, Marquette, Georgetown, St. John’s and Seton Hall to stay above water in the Big East.

Ben Bentil, Providence

The Friars’ Kris Dunn is a National Player of the Year candidate, but he wasn’t the Player of the Week for Providence. That honor goes to forward Ben Bentil, an All-America candidate in his own right. Bentil had 31 points and an astonishing seven offensive rebounds (to go with six defensive boards) in an 82–76 overtime win at Big East leader Villanova. Bentil had 20 points and seven rebounds in Tuesday’s win over Butler.



ATHLON SPORTS TOP 25

- Oklahoma (17-2)
- North Carolina (18-2)
- Iowa (16-3)
- West Virginia (16-3)
- Michigan State (17-4)
- Kansas (16-3)
- Villanova (17-3)
- Maryland (17-3)
- Providence (17-3)
- Virginia (15-4)
- Baylor (15-4)
- Iowa State (15-4)
- Xavier (15-2)
- Texas A&M (17-2)
- Miami (15-3)
- SMU (17-1)
- Purdue (17-4)
- Notre Dame (14-5)
- Kentucky (15-4)
- Duke (15-5)
- Indiana (17-3)
- Clemson (12-7)
- Arizona (16-4)
- Oregon (16-4)
- Louisville (16-3)

PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH

- 1. Buddy Hield, Oklahoma** Hield has one of the best efficiency stat lines in recent memory: 52.4 percent shooting from 2, 51.7 percent from 3 and 90.5 percent from the free throw line.
- 2. Kris Dunn, Providence** Dunn eventually may have to fight off teammate Ben Bentil for postseason hardware, but the Friars guard is still averaging 17.0 points, 7.1 assists and 6.2 rebounds.

- 3. Ben Simmons, LSU** Simmons is averaging 21.8 points per game in LSU’s wins and 16.0 points in the Tigers’ losses. The splits were clear this week, with 23 points and eight rebounds in a win over Alabama and a 3-of-9 performance from the field with four turnovers in a loss to Texas A&M.

- 4. Jarrod Uthoff, Iowa** The Hawkeyes are 7–0 in the Big Ten thanks to 20.0 points and 6.0 rebounds per game in league play from the senior forward Uthoff.

- 5. Brice Johnson, North Carolina** The biggest reason UNC is 7–0 in the ACC, Johnson averaged 23.0 points and 14.0 rebounds in two games last week.

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