

Cleveland Daily Banner

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Legislative bill turns up heat on broadband

By **BRIAN GRAVES**
Banner Staff Writer

State Rep. Kevin Brooks said last week there would be a "major announcement" Wednesday concerning broadband access.

It came in the form of a press conference held in a crowded old Supreme Court Chamber on the first floor of the state Capitol in Nashville.

Brooks was joined with his col-

league, state Rep. Dan Howell, and several other legislators, business leaders and regular citizens calling for the passage of House Bill 1303 and Senate Bill 1134.

The bills would allow utilities who have the capability of providing broadband Internet to offer it in the service area of another utility, should that entity requests those services.

Brooks is sponsoring the House bill with Howell as a co-sponsor.

State Sen. Janice Bowling (R-Tullahoma) is the Senate's sponsor. State Sen. Todd Gardenhire is a co-sponsor.

The announcement was the delivery of what Brooks said was "thousands and thousands" of signatures by Tennesseans on petitions demanding the bills be passed.

"This is about real-time jobs. This is about agriculture. This is about telemedicine. This is about education.

This is about the people of Tennessee having access to the 21st century," Bowling said. "It's 2016. We need it now."

Howell said he had been dealing with the issue for seven years, beginning with his time as assistant to the Bradley County mayor.

"It was then and is now the No. 1 issue from constituents to the mayor's office," Howell said. "Now, with two sessions under my belt here in Nashville,

this is still the No. 1 issue from my constituents."

He said the same technology should be available to rural residents as is available to large cities.

Howell said he recently met with Gov. Bill Haslam, telling the governor there are "literally thousands in my district without this technology."

"There are constituents in my dis-

See **BROADBAND**, Page 8

Inside Today



Sure sign of spring

With spring just around the corner, a sure sign winter is on the wane is the beginning of both the baseball and softball seasons. The Cleveland State Cougars open Friday and the Lee University Flames begin Saturday. Bradley Central High School celebrated the signing of two women's soccer prospects with Union College in Barbourville, Ky. Bradley Central also honored three former Bearettes with induction to the Bearette Hall of Fame. See Sports, Pages 11-13.

School board facing a crisis

The Cleveland Board of Education is staring face to face with a conundrum as it prepares for a special called session Friday regarding Dr. Martin Ringstaff, director of Cleveland City Schools. Incidents of explicit messaging involving him and an unidentified person have surfaced on Twitter, and now he must account for his actions. See the editorial on Page 14 of today's edition.

Forecast



Today looks to be mostly sunny, with a high near 49 degrees. Skies should remain mostly clear tonight, with a low around 26. Friday's forecast is for sunny skies, with a high near 47. Friday night calls for mostly clear skies, with lows again in the mid to upper 20s.

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Around Town

Timothy Carter enjoying conversation ... Dennis Anderson getting back into acting ... Cid Heidel tracking down some information ... Taylor Hoffman playing some great defense ... Addie Mounce hoping she can "get it all together" before an upcoming father-daughter dance.



Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY

DOZENS OF GIRLS AND BOYS are helped every weekday afternoon by programs at the Unity Center, located on Benton Pike. The grandparents of Cathryne Blocker (seated at right center, in white hat) were responsible for the creation of the center. Blocker still gives to the Unity Center, and enjoys visiting with the children, as she did earlier this week. A donation was made recently to Unity by the Community Foundation of Cleveland-Bradley County.

Building hope through Unity

Community Foundation grant helps local children through Blocker Memorial Fund

By **ALLEN MINCEY**
Banner Staff Writer

The Unity Center has received a grant from the Community Foundation of Cleveland and Bradley County through the Blocker Memorial Fund, in support of the center's after-school and summer activities.

The donation was presented Tuesday as dozens of children attended the center after their full day at school in both the Cleveland and Bradley County school systems.

The Blocker Memorial Fund was established in 2010 by Cathryne Blocker in memory and honor of her grandparents, William and Nancy Blocker.

William Edward Blocker and his family moved to Cleveland in the 1930s to begin a new life during the Great Depression, said Cathy Barrett of the Community Foundation. Blocker and his wife, Nancy, bought a home and property in East Cleveland and helped establish Unity Methodist Church with support from



Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY

CATHRYNE BLOCKER gets a special hug from two of the children at the Unity Center during presentation of a donation to the Benton Pike facility.

Broad Street Methodist Church. That property is now where the Unity Center is located.

"Not only did they provide the land for the church and community center in 1942, they also began to cultivate the vision of the importance of education," said Cathryne Blocker, a retired educator who taught at American high schools for the U.S.

Department of Defense in Germany and Japan.

"My grandparents were very active in that community," she added. "People would come there when they needed a prayer or help. Their house was well known for its love. My grandfather became a Sunday school teacher and taught for more than 50 years. In this way he planted seeds of hope again and

again."

Planting seeds is an appropriate adage, as the Blockers planted seeds "many years ago by giving this garden plot to this facility," Cathryne said. "Now it's bearing fruit. Truly, the seeds of hope and education which were planted many years ago are growing into flowers of dreams and love."

In the place where the Blocker home once stood stands the Unity Center, which today is an after-school child-care service facility developed by Broad Street United Methodist. In fall 1999, a two-day after-school program called FUTURE (Fun at Unity Totally United Reaching for Excellence) began.

"The Unity Center is in its 16th year of ministry as God's community at Unity," said Mary Ketchersid. She and her husband, David, are directors of the center. "We are a diverse group of God's children, age K-12, who continue to seek, to live and grow educationally,

See **UNITY**, Page 8

Ringstaff presence on TOSS website removed

Board is set for Friday meeting

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

The future of Cleveland City Schools Director Dr. Martin Ringstaff could hinge on the mindset of Cleveland Board of Education members Friday when the governing body meets in a called session at noon that is open to the public.

The gathering will be held in the Administrative Offices on Mouse Creek Road.

Whether the board will be influenced by

Wednesday's actions by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents to distance itself from the embattled Cleveland educator is uncertain.

TOSS Executive Director Wayne Miller has confirmed he authorized the removal of all references to Ringstaff from the state organization's website. The deletions included a photo of Ringstaff and a "Spotlight" article featuring the Cleveland superintendent.

"This is a very unfortunate situation, but we're not his employer," Miller told the Cleveland Daily Banner early this morning. "The situation Mr. Ringstaff has placed himself in is not within the standards of leadership we require."

Friday's meeting, which was scheduled Wednesday by Cleveland Board of Education chair Dawn Robinson, is open to the public, and the only item of business listed on the agenda is Ringstaff.

The controversy is centered around sexually explicit Facebook messages sent to an unidentified woman a year ago,

See **RINGSTAFF**, Page 8

Blythe-Oldfield partner earns award from KAB

By **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**
Banner Staff Writer

A man known for the work he does for residents of the Blythe-Oldfield neighborhood has been recognized for his efforts.

Cleveland/Bradley Keep America Beautiful presented Matt Polier, owner of Matt Polier Construction, with its White Glove Award on Wednesday.

The quarterly award typically honors a business or organization for its efforts in environmentally sound practices and its commitment to keeping the environment looking "beautiful."

KAB Executive Director Joanne Maskew praised Polier's work to help residents of the Blythe-Oldfield neighborhood repair their homes.

*"We're trying to make a difference in this community. We use construction as just a tool to help others."
— Matt Polier*

"You have gone over and beyond with helping the community to be where it needs to be," Maskew said. "We appreciate everything you've done."

Working with local efforts like the Bradley Baptist Association's Ocoee Outreach program and Impact Cleveland's ongoing work to improve the Blythe-Oldfield neighborhood,



Banner photo, CHRISTY ARMSTRONG

MATT POLIER of Matt Polier Construction has been honored with Cleveland/Bradley Keep America Beautiful's quarterly White Glove Award. At the presentation were, from left, KAB Executive Director Joanne Maskew; KAB board member Debbie Millard; Lisa Pickel, director of existing industry programs for the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce; KAB member Kim Shay; KAB board member Shari Horton; Polier's daughter, Annalise Polier; Polier; and Impact Cleveland staff members Kory Vance, Shiloh Capone and Jake Stum.

See **AWARD**, Page 8



OBITUARIES

Lloyd Robert Arp

Lloyd Robert Arp, 91, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, in Cleveland.

He was born Sept. 22, 1924, in Sweet Gum, Ga., to the late Tom and Ceney Arp.

He was a true music man. He enjoyed making music on his guitar and banjo. He could also tell a good story and liked taking care of his animals.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers: Wade and Hayden Arp; and two sisters: Flora Peak and Dorothy Wilcox.

He is survived by one brother, James Arp; one sister, Ruth Shelton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Friday, Feb. 5, 2016, at 11 a.m. in Elrod Cemetery off of Highway 294 near Hiwassee Dam Access Rd. in Shoal Creek Township, N.C.

You are invited to share a personal memory of Lloyd 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 Arp family with these arrangements.



Jimmy Hayes

Jimmy Edward "Buzzard" Hayes, 69, of Cleveland, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, with his loving family by his side.

He was born on May 19, 1946, in Etowah, to the late Luther Charles and Reba Parrott Hayes.

He attended First Baptist Church of Cleveland and was a member of the Cleveland Masonic Lodge 134 and the 32nd Scottish Rite.

He retired with 32 years of service from Olin Chemical. He loved spending time with his family and friends, farming, and was an avid Tennessee Vols fan.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his father- and mother-in-law, the Rev. Hugh and Edna Triplett; and brothers: Johnny Pellizzari and James Luther Hayes.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Gloria Triplett Hayes; his two sons: Shane (Angela) Hayes and Tyson Hayes, both of Cleveland; granddaughter, Jordan Hayes; brothers: Hillard (Betty) Hayes and of Tommy (Judy) Hayes of Etowah; sisters: Anita (Mickey) Perry of Jackson, and Linda Nolan of Melbourne, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held at 7 p.m. today, Feb. 4, 2016, at First Baptist Church Cleveland with the Rev. Jim Gibson officiating.

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

Interment will be held at Sunset Memorial Gardens on Friday at 10 a.m. with a procession leaving from First Baptist at 9:40 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations to the First Baptist Church Mission Fund.

You are invited to share a personal memory of Jimmy or your condolences 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 Hayes family with these arrangements.



Mary Ellen Kimbrough

Mary Ellen Kimbrough, 81, of Riceville died Tuesday morning, Feb. 2, 2016, at her home.

She was a lifelong resident of McMinn County and was the daughter of the late Lloyd W. and Mary Wade Kimbrough.

She was a member of East Athens Baptist Church in Athens and was a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

She was associated with Bowater for 30 years as an accounting manager until her retirement.

She is survived by a brother, Lloyd W. (Doc) Kimbrough Jr. of Riceville; and several cousins.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016, in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home in Athens with Dr. Jon Hathcock officiating.

Interment was private in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

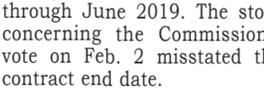
Pallbearers were Bill Kirkpatrick, Dr. J.L. Carter, Calvin Rockholt, Danny Blevins, Bernard Patterson, Brandon Didwiddle, and Johnny Robinson.

If you are unable to attend this service or visitation, you may sign the guest register at www.smithfuneralandcremationservicesofathens.com.

Clarifications

The Wednesday edition of the Banner contained an error. The Rotary Club of Cleveland treasurer is Bethany McCoy.

The new contract between the county and the SPCA will run through June 2019. The story concerning the Commission's vote on Feb. 2 misstated the contract end date.



Colby MacKaye Robinson

Colby MacKaye Robinson, 33, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, in Cleveland.

He was born in Cleveland on Sept. 26, 1982, to his parents, Dr. Don E. Robinson and Dawn R. Robinson.

His middle name came from the founder of the Appalachian Trail, Benton MacKaye.

In 1986, at age 4, he was successfully treated at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for cancer after surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. He was a member of Broad Street United Methodist Church. He graduated from Cleveland High School in 2001, where he was a member of the band and the football team. He attended East Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, majoring in communications.

Like his two brothers, he was an Eagle Scout from Troop 10, Broad Street United Methodist Church and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He was a certified scuba diver.

His free spirit loved the outdoors, hiking, camping and nature. He also loved spending time at the family lake house on Watts Bar Lake and in Northern California, where he lived for several years. He was a music fan and particularly liked the group Widespread Panic.

He leaves behind many faithful friends all across the country who loved his ever-present smile and joyful, giving heart. He was always quick to help others in need or who were going through hard times. His smile lit up the room. His family and friends were the center of his world.

He is survived by his parents, Dr. Don and Dawn Robinson of Cleveland; brothers: Jeffrey B. "J.B." Robinson of Cleveland, and USMC Gunnery Sgt. Christopher T. "Chris" Robinson of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; sister, Amanda B. "Mandy" Robinson Kilpatrick and her husband, Jacob Kilpatrick, of Oak Ridge; his grandmother, Juanita N. Robinson of Athens; two daughters: Aubrey Dawn Robinson and Hazel Lynn Robinson, both of Cleveland and their mother, Jennifer Wry; and several nieces and nephews.

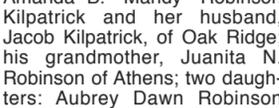
He was preceded in death by grandparents, Dr. Arnold T. Rumbolt and Eyloee G. Rumbolt, both of Knoxville, and Fred A. Robinson of Athens.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m. today, Feb. 4, 2016, at Broad Street United Methodist Church, with a funeral to follow at 7 p.m.

Memorials may be given to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis or to Boy Scout Troop 10 at Broad Street United Methodist Church, Cleveland.

Ralph Buckner Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of funeral arrangements.

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



He is survived by his parents, Dr. Don and Dawn Robinson of Cleveland; brothers: Jeffrey B. "J.B." Robinson of Cleveland, and USMC Gunnery Sgt. Christopher T. "Chris" Robinson of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; sister, Amanda B. "Mandy" Robinson Kilpatrick and her husband, Jacob Kilpatrick, of Oak Ridge; his grandmother, Juanita N. Robinson of Athens; two daughters: Aubrey Dawn Robinson and Hazel Lynn Robinson, both of Cleveland and their mother, Jennifer Wry; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by grandparents, Dr. Arnold T. Rumbolt and Eyloee G. Rumbolt, both of Knoxville, and Fred A. Robinson of Athens.

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



Douglas Shelton

Douglas Shelton, 59, of Delano, died Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016, in an Athens hospital.

Survivors and funeral arrangements will be announced by Higgins Funeral Home.



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.



Gerald Wayne Smith

Gerald "Buzzy" Wayne Smith, 74, passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, at home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Cleveland. He was a 50-year member of United Association Journeymen and Apprentice of the Plumbers and Pipefitting Industry Local 43.

In addition, Buzzy was actively involved at the Ruritan Club where he cooked and participated in many charitable duties. He volunteered at a McDonald and the Cleveland Mall precinct.

He enjoyed gardening, cooking and canning. He's an avid bird watcher and loved the wildlife that surrounds his property. His passion was his family and good friends and frequently hosted gatherings at his home.

He was preceded in death by parents, John Peter "JP" "Smitty" Smith and Edna Earl Ogle and wife of 20 years, Donna Canfield.

He is survived by his former wife of 33 years, Peggy Smith, and their children: Seretha Smith Anderson and her husband, Peter, of Tampa, Fla., Byron J. Smith and his wife, Angela, of Tellico Plains, Trina Smith Jordan and her husband, Steve, of Etowah and David Smith of Chattanooga; his stepson, Steven Canfield and his wife, Sherry, of Greenwood, S.C.; grandchildren: Jake Burger, Mandi Burger, Allie Anderson, Cameron Smith, Kelley Burger, Savannah Smith, Jack Anderson, and Jaxon Smith; great-grandchild, Shane Burger; stepgranddaughter, Anna Canfield; sister, Wanda Nord; girlfriend, Dianne Wade; best friend and brother-in-law, Ted Bayne and numerous cousins, and other extended family members and a host of special friends.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, in the chapel of Ralph Buckner Funeral Home.

Interment will follow at Hilcrest Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday at the funeral home and Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service.

The family suggests memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Department 142, Memphis, TN 38148, telephone number 813-503-1877, contribution number 399-35962.

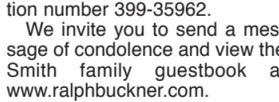
We invite you to send a message of condolence and view the Smith family guestbook at www.ralphbuckner.com.



The family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday at the funeral home and Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service.

The family suggests memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Department 142, Memphis, TN 38148, telephone number 813-503-1877, contribution number 399-35962.

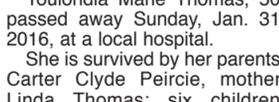
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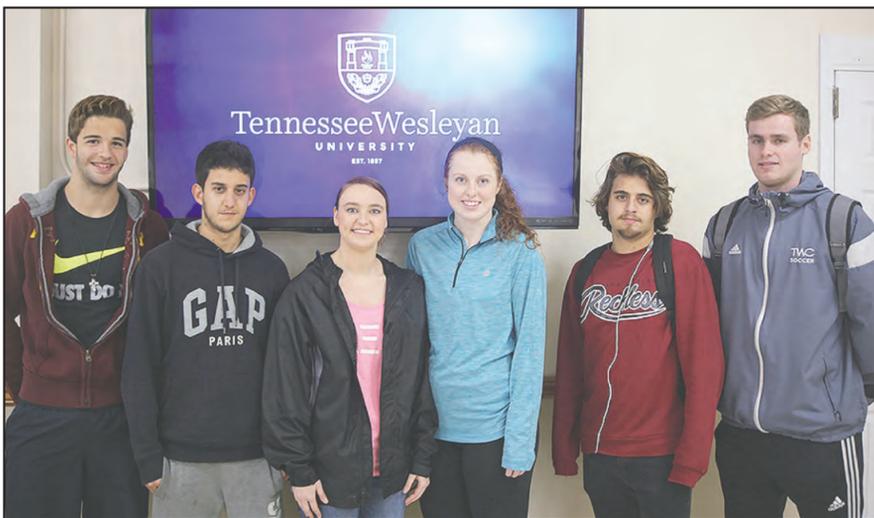
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Tennessee Wesleyan College changing name



TENNESSEE WESLEYAN students Caio Bardauil, Alberto Escobar, Kelci Leamon, Jessica Shirk, Gustavo Linhares and Gerard Lunday stand with Tennessee Wesleyan's new name and academic mark.

Teen arrested in break-in; info on stolen boat sought

From Staff Reports

The Bradley County Sheriff's Office has charged a local teen with theft of property from a residence in the Wilson Heights Subdivision.

Joshua Brent Bowman, 19, of Timberhill Drive, has been charged with aggravated burglary and theft over \$1,000 for the break-in.

Sheriff Eric Watson attributes the arrest of the suspect to a proactive response by patrol deputies with assistance from Criminal Investigations Division deputies and the valuable assistance of neighborhood residents.

The patrol response was the result of a call to the 911 Communications Center from the neighborhood reporting a suspicious person on foot.

In their initial response, deputies could not find the individual fitting a suspect's description, but found Bowman after a second response just over an hour later.

Through further investigation and with the assistance of the Charleston Police Department, several power tools that were



Photo courtesy of Cleveland Police Department

THIS BOAT WAS STOLEN from a local dealership earlier this week, and Cleveland Police are looking for the boat and for those responsible for the theft. Please contact the CPD if you have any information.

taken in the burglary were found. Also recovered through additional investigation were electronic equipment, a handgun and some loose change.

All of the missing property was recovered.

■ In another case, on Monday, a local boat dealer

reported a blue-and-white Supra World Edition Limited 2 boat stolen from the dealership.

The boat is valued at \$80,000.

If anyone has any information, contact Detective Bill Parks at 423-559-3321 or leave confidential tips via the CPD Facebook inbox.

Tennessee Wesleyan College is proud to announce it will become Tennessee Wesleyan University in July 2016.

The name change was approved by the institution's board of trustees in November 2015 as a way to reflect Tennessee Wesleyan's transformation into a more complex institution that includes graduate programs, online offerings and off-site instructional locations.

"The change is driven by our strategic plan, which calls for us to launch new graduate programs as well as additional programs for traditional students and working professionals," said Tennessee Wesleyan President Dr. Harley Knowles.

"As we began to move down that path, we could see we needed to consider changing our name because the term 'university' better describes the growing array of degree offerings. We wanted to make sure our name communicated clearly to a wide variety of prospective students that we are eager to serve their educational needs, including master's, bachelor's and degree completion options for students with some college credits."

The transition to university will begin in July, with the May graduating class being the last class to graduate from Tennessee Wesleyan College.

The name change has been under consideration for a couple years as the institution has grown and added new programs. Over the last few years, the school has expanded into new areas, including a master of science in curriculum leadership, an online master of business administration, a bachelor of science in communication studies and an online RN to BSN program for working nurses.

In the fall, it plans to launch bachelor's degrees in social work and creative writing, as well as several new evening programs for working adults.

"The model we are headed toward is the small, American university with a broad array of undergraduate offerings and select adult and graduate programs that play to the strengths of our faculty," Knowles said.

"We are trying to serve a broader segment of the educational pipeline than just the traditional 18-24-year-old market."

The name change is part of a brand redesign campaign, starting this month with a new academic mark and a new website. While the name and brand of Tennessee Wesleyan will change, the institution will remain part of the Appalachian Athletic Conference of the NAAIA and will maintain and grow the relationship with the United Methodist Church. Throughout the name change process, the identity and core values of Tennessee Wesleyan will remain the same.

"We are an evolving institution to meet evolving educational

needs in the region, and we want to ultimately be a significant provider of educational credentials throughout the Southeast," Knowles said. "We want to augment and join other institutions in the area to get Tennesseans ready for the ever-changing workforce. We are striving to become a small, student-centered university that prepares students to lead and serve in a changing world. That's our vision for the future."

Tennessee Wesleyan College, founded in Athens, in 1857, is a comprehensive liberal arts institution affiliated with the of the United Methodist Church.

The college's dedicated faculty and staff believe in providing the resources and support students need to become socially responsible, intellectually skilled and spiritually developed members of our community.

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TENNESSEE BRIEFS

About 12 people injured after school bus collides with car

KNOXVILLE (AP) — Police say approximately 12 people suffered minor injuries when a Knox County school bus crashed into a car and ran off a road.

The Knoxville News Sentinel is reporting that about 75 students from Cedar Bluff Elementary School were on board the bus at the time of the crash Wednesday afternoon.

The Knox County Sheriff's Office said 11 children on the school bus suffered minor injuries, as well as the driver of the car. Officials at the scene said 10 students were taken by ambulance to local hospitals.

The crash took place about 3:30 p.m. local time. Officials say the bus struck the car when it turned left and then ran down an embankment. The cause is still under investigation.

Grand jury charges 2 men in boy's firework death

NASHVILLE (AP) — Two men have been charged in connection with the death of a 12-year-old boy who was killed last June in an accident involving fireworks.

Nashville police say the Davidson County grand jury has charged 25-year-old Joshua A. Woods and 28-year-old Kenneth Starks with reckless homicide and reckless endangerment. The two are accused of killing Antonio Braden by being reckless and irresponsible.

Authorities say the boy and his friends were setting off bottle rockets and roman candles when Woods and Starks began shooting artillery firework shells off a street outside a Nashville public housing development. The juveniles went over to watch, and some began handling unexploded shells. Police believe a damaged shell exploded, fatally injuring Antonio.

Inmate restraint lawsuit gets \$50K and change in policy

KNOXVILLE (AP) — A convicted killer has won a \$50,000 legal settlement over his restraint in a Knoxville jail and the agreement that jailers would change their policy on the use of a controver-

sial restraining device.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reports that an attorney for Lavonte Simmons has confirmed that Knox County and the inmate reached a settlement in the inmate's federal civil-rights lawsuit.

Simmons was strapped into a restraint chair at one of the county jails and kept there for nearly 48 hours, except for two-hour breaks, in September 2014.

As part of the settlement, jailers changed the policy for when and how long inmates can be restrained in the chair.

Simmons is now serving life in prison after being convicted of killing a bystander in a retaliation shooting.

Weather service: Tornado touched down in Crockett County

ALAMO (AP) — The National Weather Service says a tornado touched down in Crockett County during a storm that barreled through Tennessee.

The weather service said on Twitter that the tornado touched down Tuesday, creating a track 3 to 3½ miles long and 75 yards wide. Several buildings at Crockett County High School were damaged. Officials said four or five homes also were damaged, but no deaths were reported.

Tuesday's storm also caused problems in other parts of Tennessee. In Chattanooga, heavy rains led officials to close flooded roads and left some vehicles stranded in high water. Officials on Wednesday were monitoring the water level of South Chickamauga Creek.

Officials said a driver had to be rescued Wednesday when SUV was swept into a flooded creek in Cheatham County.

Boone Dam sinkhole repaired; 24-hour work begins

JOHNSON CITY (AP) — The original sinkhole discovered at Boone Dam has been repaired, and the Tennessee Valley Authority is installing a device to monitor any new movement in the area.

Media outlets report that the TVA also announced 24-hour work began at the site on Monday.

A sinkhole at the base of the dam was discovered in a 2014 inspection. In July, TVA launched a \$200 million-\$300 million project to repair the dam, a process expected to last at least seven years.

On Monday, the TVA completed the first phase of the project with repairs and drainage improvements just downstream from the dam.

At the site of the sinkhole, the TVA installed a solar panel and equipment box for a piezometer, a device which measures the pressure of groundwater at a specific point.

Cost of Watts Bar nuclear reactor rises to \$4.7 billion

CHATTANOOGA (AP) — America's first new power plant to be built in the 21st century may end up costing \$200 million more than what it was budgeted last year.

A Chattanooga newspaper reports Tennessee Valley Authority directors voted in January to add \$200 million more to the budget to the Unit 2 reactor at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, raising the completion budget to \$4.7 billion since work was revived on the Westinghouse pressurized reactor in 2007.

Watts Bar spokesman Mike Skaggs says the cost rose in part because of delays in completion and extra flood controls and emergency equipment required to prevent an accident like what happened at Fukushima, Japan.

The price for the new TVA plant is still below the projected expense of reactors being built at Plant Vogtle in Georgia, which are projected to top \$10 billion.

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Serving up cocktails with a cinematic twist for the Oscars

By MICHELE LOCKE
Associated Press

Silver shakers and the silver screen go back a long time. Think French 75 from "Casablanca" and Agent 007's dry martinis.

So for those of you planning to drink along at home for the Feb. 28 showing of the Oscars this year, now might be a good time to get your cocktail act together. And Tim Federle, author of "Gone with the Gin," has a few ideas about that.

From The Moon-Shining — moonshine, ruby red grapefruit juice, rum, that's right, red rum — to Tequila Sunrise Boulevard (probably best NOT served pool-side), the best-selling author has a line-up of cinematically inspired cocktails meant to be shaken, stirred and sipped with tongue planted firmly in cheek.

Bubbly as a Champagne cocktail, "Gone with the Gin" nonetheless has serious underpinnings. Federle worked with talented bartender Cody Goldstein, founder of Muddling Memories, a craft cocktail and bar consulting firm in New York. There also are useful sections on tools, techniques and even some fun food recipes.

This cinematic cocktail collection follows Federle's "Tequila Mockingbird," which featured literary libations. For "Gone with the Gin," Federle started by making a spreadsheet of the American Film Institute's Top 100 films. Then, he looked for cocktail-friendly titles. So "White Christmas" plus white Russian became a drink called White Russian Christmas. Then he and Goldstein looked for ways to tweak the recipes to match the movies. For the White Russian Christmas, the classic recipe — vodka, coffee liqueur and cream — got a seasonal twist of vodka, creme de menthe, coffee liqueur, eggnog and crushed candy cane for a garnish.

In all, Federle serves up 50 recipes organized by genre (drama, sci-fi, etc.), and each



AP photo

THIS IMAGE shows a cocktail called Muppets Make Manhattans, made with apple brandy and sweet vermouth, with an apple slice and bacon garnish in Concord, N.H. The drink is inspired by the film, "The Muppets Take Manhattan." Tim Federle is the author of "Gone with the Gin."

recipe comes with a brief but informative blurb about the movie in question. And if you are a punster, the titles will be a delight. A standout: Muppets Make Manhattans. Some of the cute drink names were arrived at with the help of Federle's thousands of Twitter followers, who also voted on which proposed title for the book they liked best.

Recipes aren't just cleverly titled; they also have cunning ties to the films. For example, hibiscus tea in the cocktail Boozy and the Beast echoes the roses of "Beauty and the Beast." And Citizen Grain, named for the groundbreaking "Citizen Kane,"

includes grain alcohol and just a touch of rose water. No promises that drinking it will help you better get to the bottom of the whole, "Rosebud," thing, though.

Goldstein was particularly pleased with Star Wars-themed The Empire Likes Jack, which contains Jack Daniel's, ice cream and root beer. "It's basically a root beer float. You're dropping the light aspect, the vanilla ice cream, into the root beer, which is the dark side."

Some sections took more time than others. "We had a lot of days sitting and eating take-in and just going over some stuff," said Goldstein. An honest man, he

admitted that was "a really good time."

Federle, who grew up in San Francisco and Pittsburgh before moving to New York to dance on Broadway as a teenager, writes in multiple genres, including young adult fiction. His current project is co-writing "Tuck Everlasting," a forthcoming Broadway musical based on the novel by Natalie Babbitt.

Like Goldstein, Federle seems happy in his work.

"Everything that got me sent to the principal's office as a kid gets me paid now," he said.

MONTY PYTHON AND THE STOLI GRAIL

Start to finish: 5 minutes

Servings: 1

1 1/2 ounces vodka

1 ounce light rum

1 ounce coconut water

2 ounces pineapple juice

Sparkling wine, to serve

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker, combine the vodka, rum, coconut water and pineapple juice. Shake well, then strain into an ice-filled rocks glass. Top with a splash of sparkling wine.

(Recipe adapted from Tim Federle's "Gone with the Gin," Running Press, 2015)

THE MUPPETS MAKE MANHATTANS

Start to finish: 5 minutes

Servings: 1

2 ounces apple brandy

3/4 ounce sweet vermouth

1/2 ounce apple juice

1 1/2 teaspoons honey

3 dashes baked apple bitters (or orange bitters)

Green apple slice, to garnish

Bacon, to serve

In a mixing glass filled with ice, combine all ingredients except the apple. Stir well, then strain into a cocktail glass and garnish with the apple slice. Serve with a slice of bacon (with apologies to Miss Piggy).

(Recipe adapted from Tim Federle's "Gone with the Gin," Running Press, 2015)

Family of late New Orleans chef Prudhomme donates cookbooks

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The family of the late Louisiana chef Paul Prudhomme has donated his extensive cookbook collection to a New Orleans museum dedicated to Southern cuisine.

The Southern Food &

Beverage Museum said in a statement Monday that Prudhomme's wife, Lori, donated the approximately 600 cookbooks, as well as wine and food documents and books on food science to the museum.

Prudhomme died Oct. 8. The chef popularized the food of his Cajun upbringing and became one of the first American chefs to achieve worldwide fame.

The museum said Prudhomme made notes in

some of the cookbooks. The museum said the collection is a testament to Prudhomme's "love for cuisine of all countries, particularly the regional cuisine upon which he built his career."



Hints from Heloise

Are these shower shoes a flop?

Dear Readers: Well, it seems some of you don't flip-flop on wearing FLIP-FLOPS in the shower while at home. Some had safety concerns from their own experiences. Good point, if you have a medical condition that makes you unstable and might cause dizziness.

In general, these types of flip-flops are used by a lot of people at gyms, spas and athletic venues to prevent picking up a nasty foot problem. You don't want to catch athlete's foot from a public shower! Read on:

"Greetings, Heloise: I had to chuckle after reading the letter from Peggy M. in Woodway, Texas, about using rubber flip-flops in the shower. As an ex-GI, serving in the Air Force from 1953-1957, all GIs wore those while showering, but we called them 'shower clogs!' Who knew they would become fashionable? Thanks, Heloise. Just thought you'd like to know." — Hans G., Lebanon, Pa.

"Dear Heloise: Your safety hint (a reader's hint — Heloise) of flip-flops for oldsters made me giggle. When I was teaching, we knew spring had sprung when the girls started wearing flip-flops. One principal said they should be banned. (They are, in some schools. — Heloise)

"If you have never seen girls fall up steps, go to a high school on a spring day when flip-flops are in bloom. The girls would try to step up the steps and get the toe of the flip-flop caught on the step edge and go face-down up the stairs.

Lots of skinned knees and spilled books." — Roberta H., via email

"Dear Heloise: Flip-flops in the shower are a bad idea, in my opinion. They provide no support to the heel or ankle. Someone could slip on the soapy, wet surface of the flip-flop. I use a rubber shower mat and grab bars in the shower for support." — Valerie A. in San Antonio

Readers, each to his or her own. What works for one may not be good for another. And why are they called flip-flops? — Heloise

Bad-weather bus ride

Dear Heloise: When the weather is bad, I take the bus to and from work. It has saved me so many times. My neighbor Jan suggested this when we had really bad rain and I did not want to drive to work. I checked the schedule and printed it out for the next time.

My husband drove me to the stop, only a few blocks away. I settled in with the newspaper and my coffee. Thirty minutes later, I got off, walked a block and was at work. The ride home was not bad, either. Saved gas and my nerves. — C.P., via text

The eyebrows have it

Dear Heloise: The plastic knife from a fast-food restaurant can find new life as an eyebrow comb. I carefully "comb" my eyebrows up, and I can see sparse areas that may need a line of eyebrow pencil. — Jenna in New York

Tested, tried and true! Fun, too! — Heloise

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1 dead in listeria outbreak linked to packaged lettuce

WASHINGTON (AP) — Packaged salads produced at a Dole facility in Ohio are linked to one death in Michigan, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday.

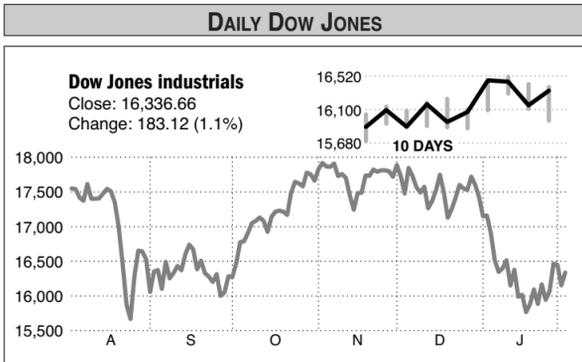
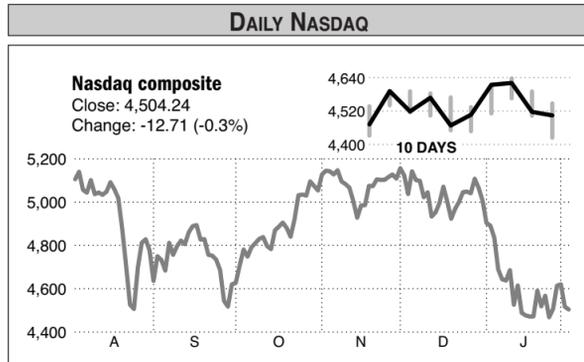
The CDC said 12 people in six states have been hospitalized in the outbreak since July after eating salads sold under the names Dole, Fresh Selections, Simple Truth, Markside, The Little Salad Bar and President's Choice.

The CDC said it linked the outbreak to the Dole salads this

month after Ohio agriculture officials found listeria in a bag bought at a retail location. The strain of listeria was "highly related genetically" to the listeria that had made people sick.

The CDC said Dole had stopped all production at the Springfield, Ohio, plant and is withdrawing packaged salads on the market that were produced there. Consumers can identify the salads by the letter "A" at the beginning of the manufacturing code on the packages.

THE MARKET IN REVIEW



MONEY RATES

	Last	Pvs Wk
Prime Rate	3.50	3.50
Discount Rate	1.00	1.00
Federal Funds Rate	25-50	25-50
Treasuries		
3-year	1.27	1.42
5-year	1.89	2.00
10-year	2.71	2.80
Gold (troy oz., NY Merc spot)	\$1141.30	\$1116.00
Silver (troy oz., NY Merc spot)	\$14.720	\$14.440

British pound expressed in U.S. dollars. All others show dollar in foreign currency.

CURRENCIES

	Day Ago	Pvs Day
Australia	1.3929	1.4186
Britain	1.4601	1.4412
Canada	1.3792	1.4024
Euro	.9018	.9161
Japan	117.71	120.11
Mexico	18.2337	18.5065
Switzerland	1.0058	1.0202

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-Mo %Chg
18,351.36	15,370.33	Dow Industrials	16,336.66	+183.12	+1.13	-6.25	-7.56
9,214.77	6,403.31	Dow Transportation	6,834.76	+70.60	+1.04	-8.98	-23.07
6,432.77	539.96	Dow Utilities	626.64	+8.01	+1.29	+8.45	-1.14
11,254.87	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	9,495.21	+81.44	+8.7	-6.39	-11.88
5,231.94	4,292.14	NASDAQ Composite	4,504.24	-12.71	-28	-10.05	-4.50
947.85	809.57	S&P 100	854.60	+3.51	+4.1	-6.24	-4.74
2,134.72	1,812.29	S&P 500	1,912.53	+9.50	+5.0	-6.43	-6.32
1,551.28	1,215.14	S&P MidCap	1,297.57	+8.46	+6.6	-7.22	-11.58
22,537.15	18,550.48	Wilshire 5000	19,606.93	+82.78	+4.2	-7.37	-8.96
1,296.00	958.48	Russell 2000	1,010.29	+1.46	+1.4	-11.06	-15.20

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.92	5.2	16	36.72	+66	+6.7	+11.9
Apple Inc	2.08	2.2	10	96.35	+1.87	-8.5	-6.0
BB&T Cp	1.08	3.4	12	31.78	+20	+15.9	-20.4
BkofAm	20	1.5	10	13.03	-20	-22.6	-20.6
BIPVxST	...	...	...	25.12	-28	+25.0	-7
CocaCola	1.32	3.1	27	42.72	+28	-6	-8.1
CocaCE	1.12	2.4	20	46.34	...	-5.9	-9.1
CmtlyHrt	...	...	...	7	20.26	-4.7	-23.6
CSVlgChd	...	...	...	2.15	+4.4	-45.6	-2.1
CSVixSh rs	...	...	...	9.10	-22	+45.4	-2.1
DukeEngy	3.30	4.2	22	78.56	+1.81	+10.0	-14.0
Eaton	2.20	4.2	12	52.48	+3.48	+8	+3.7
Facebook	...	...	...	74	112.69	-1.92	+7.7
FstHorizon	24	1.9	14	12.47	+21	-14.1	-19.6
FordM	60	5.2	7	11.46	-0.5	-18.7	-1.1
HomeDp	2.36	1.9	23	123.79	-1.48	-6.4	-10.7
iShJapan	13	1.2	...	11.17	-1.4	-7.8	-15.1
iShMkts	84	2.8	...	30.13	+8.3	-6.4	-8.1
iShRZK	1.73	1.7	...	100.41	+1.3	-10.8	-12.4
Kroger s	42	1.0	20	40.18	+0.3	-3.9	-8.0
Lowses	1.12	1.7	21	67.42	-4.45	-11.3	-16.8
MktVGold	12	8	...	15.35	+1.05	+11.9	-6.0
Microsoft	1.44	2.8	33	52.16	-84	-6.0	-20.4
NorfolkSo	2.36	3.5	13	67.32	+1.31	-20.4	-7.4
Olin	80	5.8	14	13.70	-1.96	-20.6	-7
PaneraBrd	...	...	...	33	193.35	-1.74	-7
Pfizer	1.20	4.0	18	29.67	-1.7	-8.1	-9.1
PwShs QQQ1.52	1.1	...	...	101.66	-4.9	-9.1	-6.2
RegionsFn	24	3.1	12	7.82	+1.9	-18.5	-2.1
S&P500ETF4.13	2.2	...	...	191.30	+1.14	-6.2	-2.1
Scotus	1.88	2.9	23	65.87	-5.3	-2.1	-14.0
SiriusXM	...	...	...	35	3.50	-0.7	-14.0
US OilFd	...	...	...	9.34	+7.7	-15.1	-10.7
UtdCmbks	24	1.4	15	17.40	+0.1	-10.7	-15.1
Walmart	1.96	3.0	14	66.27	-5.9	+8.1	-12.4
WellsFargo	1.50	3.2	11	47.60	-8.5	-12.4	-12.4
Whrpl	3.60	2.7	12	135.08	+2.89	-8.0	-16.8
Yahoo	...	...	...	27.88	-1.38	-8.0	-16.8

MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Total Assets	NAV	Total Return/Rank	Pct Load	Min Init
American Funds AmBalA m	48,205	23.02	-3.4	-2.1/A	5.75
American Funds CapIncBuA m	48,205	54.88	-1.7	-6.6/B	5.75
American Funds CplWldGrIA m	49,551	40.49	-6.6	-10.7/D	5.75
American Funds FrlmVA m	42,282	47.30	-6.7	-3.9/A	5.75
American Funds GrthAmA m	68,248	37.49	-9.2	-5.2/C	5.75
American Funds IncAmrA m	68,659	19.61	-3.1	-5.6/B	5.75
American Funds InvCoAmA m	52,521	31.80	-4.7	-6.8/C	5.75
American Funds NewPersPA m	34,719	33.00	-8.4	-4.8/A	5.75
American Funds WAMutInVA m	47,662	36.49	-5.1	-4.9/A	5.75
Dodge & Cox Income	43,125	13.25	-0.3	-1.9/D	2,500
Dodge & Cox IntlStk	57,028	31.79	-12.9	-24.3/E	2,500
Dodge & Cox Stock	54,845	148.05	-9.0	-11.0/D	2,500
Fidelity Contra	73,007	91.65	-7.3	-1.9/A	2,500
Fidelity ContraK	29,923	91.59	-7.3	-1.8/A	2,500
Fidelity Spartan 500IdxAdvgt	48,827	67.29	-6.3	-4.7/B	10,000
FrankTemp-Franklin IncomeA m	43,644	1.99	-4.3	-12.9/E	4.25
FrankTemp-Templeton GIBondAdv	28,343	11.21	-2.5	-6.8/D	2,500
Harbor IntlInstl	35,375	55.27	-7.0	-13.0/D	50,000
T Rowe Price GrowthStk	39,021	47.52	-11.4	-3.3/B	2,500
Vanguard 500Adml	146,311	176.64	-6.3	-4.7/A	10,000
Vanguard HlCrAdml	36,605	83.89	-9.7	-0.8/A	50,000
Vanguard IntlStkIdxAdm	35,932	22.47	-7.3	-13.7/D	10,000
Vanguard MultAdml	42,832	14.43	+1.5	+3.1/A	50,000
Vanguard PrrmcpAdml	35,771	94.41	-8.6	-6.2/C	50,000
Vanguard STGradeAdm					

Ryan calls for unity, less anger from his fractious GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Paul Ryan called on Republicans Wednesday to unify and stop fighting each other as he tried steering his fractious party into an election year devoid of the collisions between conservatives and pragmatists that transformed parts of 2015 into a GOP nightmare.

"We have to be straight with each other and more importantly, we have to be straight with the American people," Ryan, R-Wis., said at a Heritage Action for America policy meeting. "We can't promise that we can repeal Obamacare when a guy with the last name Obama is president. All that does is set us up for failure and disappointment and recriminations."

That conjured memories of the GOP's unsuccessful 2013 effort — led in part by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas — to force President Barack Obama to repeal his health care overhaul, one of his legislative crown jewels. That battle produced a 16-day partial government shutdown that the public hated and damaged the Republican brand.

Ryan has avoided taking sides

in the presidential contest and did not mention Cruz, a leading GOP contender, in his remarks. But he made clear that he considers such tactics damaging.

"When voices in the conservative movement demand things that they know we can't achieve with a Democrat in the White House, all that does is depress our base and in turn help Democrats stay in the White House," Ryan said. "We can't do that anymore."

Ryan's remarks followed a year of bitter strife between congressional conservatives and more pragmatic Republicans that led to the abrupt departure of the previous speaker, Ohio Rep. John Boehner.

The party's 2012 vice presidential nominee, Ryan ascended to the top House job at the behest of party elders last fall. He has repeatedly stressed the need for GOP harmony while promising to listen to rank-and-file Republicans and give them more power.

One sign of that outreach was choosing Heritage Action, the political arm of the Heritage Foundation, as a forum

Wednesday. The group is one of Washington's more politically aggressive conservative organizations, at times pressuring Republicans to vote against measures backed by GOP leaders that it deems insufficiently conservative.

Jim DeMint, Heritage Foundation president and a former congressional colleague of Ryan's, said in a brief interview that he's met with Ryan and lauded his efforts to engage conservatives.

"Rather than try to beat conservatives as Boehner did, Paul is trying to harness that energy in a positive direction," DeMint said.

Ryan's cautions were echoed by some conservatives at the conference.

"If you want to know, members of Congress, why you have Donald Trump, go look in the mirror, because we've over-promised and under-delivered for so long," said Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., referring to the billionaire GOP presidential hopeful.

Even so, Republicans may struggle this year to push a budget through Congress because of a brewing rebellion on the right over spending.

Members of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, the group that forced Boehner out, say they can't support any budget that endorses last fall's bipartisan pact between GOP leaders and Obama that increased spending for the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

It took many Democratic votes to pass last fall's budget deal, but any GOP budget effort this spring has to be a Republican-only exercise since it will embody sharp spending cuts opposed by Democrats. The Freedom Caucus is balking at supporting any budget that endorses spending increases.

Failing to pass a budget could be a significant embarrassment for Ryan. He wants the House to finish its budget work quickly this year as a signal the GOP can govern and so Republicans can focus on churning out proposals underscoring the party's ideas on topics like national security, the economy and health care.

Ryan met with Freedom Caucus members Tuesday night to discuss the budget.

Ryan said Wednesday that the GOP must unite behind "a bold, pro-growth agenda" that it can display to voters.

"We can't fall into the progres-

sives' trap of acting like angry reactionaries," Ryan said. "The left would love nothing more than for a fragmented conservative movement to stand in a circular firing squad, so the progressives can win by default."

Ryan said Obama will try helping elect another Democrat to the White House by distracting voters.

"So he's going to try to get us talking about guns or some other hot-button issue and not about his failures on ISIS or the economy or national security," he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State extremist group.

"Don't take the bait," Ryan said. "Don't fight over tactics. And don't impugn people's motives."



Ryan

Dem race stirred as Sanders, Clinton meet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are in a tug-of-war over who's the best standard-bearer for progressive values as they road test lines of argument for the first one-on-one debate of the Democratic campaign.

The race for the Democratic nomination, once seen as a sure thing for Clinton, took on new vigor this week after Sanders held the former secretary of state to a whisper-thin margin of victory in Iowa's leadoff caucuses. The tone of their back-and-forth has become increasingly sharp this week, and the candidates agreed to add four more debates to the primary season schedule, including Thursday's faceoff in Durham, New Hampshire.

In a tussle over their very political identities, the two candidates are engaged in an ongoing argument over who is more committed to — and capable of — carrying out a liberal agenda on health care, income inequality, worker rights and more.

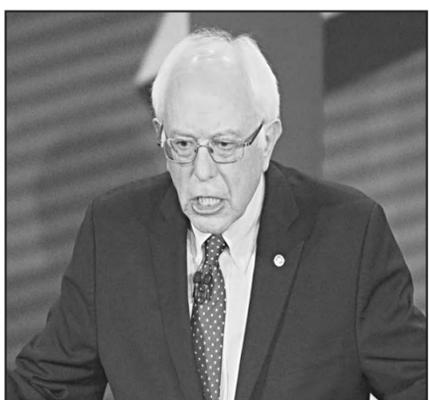
Sanders, favored in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, said Wednesday that Clinton's record is "just not progressive" on any number of issues, including her vote as a senator to authorize the war in Iraq.

Clinton called that a "low blow" and pressed her counterpoint that she's the candidate with the ability to actually implement progressive changes.

"Good ideas on paper are important, but you've got to be able to translate them into action," she said.

The two made their rival cases in interviews and appearances around New Hampshire and in back-to-back appearances at a town-hall style forum on CNN on Wednesday night.

Polls find Sanders holding a commanding lead over Clinton in



DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL candidates Hillary Clinton, left, and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speak during a Democratic primary town hall sponsored by CNN Wednesday in Derry, N.H.

New Hampshire, and he was eager to lower expectations for how he would finish. He cast himself as an underdog going up against "the most powerful political organization in the country."

Clinton, for her part, has signaled her determination at least to narrow the gap before Tuesday's vote. And her prospects are much stronger after Iowa, as the race moves on to states with more diverse electorates that are to her advantage.

The two campaigns even skirmished over why Sanders was doing so well in New Hampshire polls. Sanders' campaign accused Clinton's of insulting New Hampshire voters by suggesting that they only support the Vermont senator because he's from a neighboring state. That was after Clinton's campaign manager referred to New Hampshire as Sanders' "backyard."

On the broader issue, Clinton offers herself to voters as "a progressive who gets things done," part of her pitch that she's the one with the practical skills to implement a progressive agenda.

Sanders counter-argument is that it will take a "political revolution" to achieve goals such as universal health care, a fairer tax system and an incorruptible campaign finance system.

Asked earlier in the week if Clinton was a progressive, he said: "Some days, yes. Except when she announces that she is a proud moderate. Then I guess she is not a progressive."

Sanders added that it was hard to take on the establishment "when you become as dependent as she has through her super PAC and in other ways on Wall Street or drug company money."

Clinton said she found it amusing that the senator thinks he can be the "gatekeeper" of who's progressive.

The Durham debate will be the first faceoff for Clinton and Sanders since former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley dropped out of the race after a poor showing in Iowa.

The candidates next meet on Feb. 11, then on March 9 for a debate that has long been on the schedule. Under an agreement

announced Wednesday, there will also be a March debate in Flint, Michigan, where the city's water contamination crisis has been attracting national attention, and two debates in April and May on dates still to be determined.

Trump and Cruz trade accusations

GOFFSTOWN, N.H. (AP) — Once a bromance, now a brawl.

Donald Trump and Ted Cruz cast aside any veneer of kindness on Wednesday to trade insults and accusations in a show of hardball politics that demonstrated the stakes for both men in the New Hampshire primary six days away.

The billionaire mogul charged the Texas senator with "fraud" and called for a do-over of the Iowa caucuses. That's where Cruz's unexpected victory exposed weaknesses in Trump's unorthodox, personality-driven bid for the White House.

Cruz shot back with his fiercest attack yet on the man who has dominated opinion polls in New Hampshire, suggesting the reality star doesn't like the reality of losing. He's having a "Trumper-tantrum," Cruz told reporters. "He's losing it."

The back-and-forth between two candidates who once made of a show of their rapport underscored the shifting dynamic in a Republican race rattled by the Iowa results.

Cruz's campaign staff popped champagne on the flight to New Hampshire early Tuesday, proud of stealthily out-organizing the political novice. Trump appeared to take the loss graciously Monday night, but by Wednesday morning he had turned.

"Ted Cruz didn't win Iowa, he

stole it," Trump tweeted, and his campaign accused Cruz of dirty tricks in telling Ben Carson's supporters their man was dropping out and they should turn to the Texan.

For all their bluster, the top two were keeping a wary eye on Iowa's surprisingly strong No. 3.

In a blitz of new Hampshire campaigning, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio was casting himself as the sole "unifier" in a deeply fractured party and the man best positioned to beat a Democrat in November.

"When I am our nominee I can bring this party together," Rubio told more than 300 people at an athletic complex in Bow. "We cannot win if we are divided against each other."

For Ohio Gov. John Kasich, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, New Hampshire increasingly looked like a do-or-die proposition: Show some momentum or pack it up. They hustled across the state trying to prevent this from becoming a three-man race.

Christie argued, rather hopefully, that the battle for establishment Republicans was down to him and Rubio.

"He knows we have the best ground game here. He knows we have the most support from folks like this," Christie said.

The long-crowded field continued to shrink.

Rand Paul announced he was

dropping out, and that put a new crop of voters up for grabs for the other contenders. The Kentucky senator had tried to improve the GOP's popularity among younger voters and minorities. But his appeal never broadened much beyond the libertarian-leaning Republicans who backed the previous White House bids of his father, Rep. Ron Paul.

Rick Santorum also ended his White House bid and said he will support Rubio. While Santorum is among the nation's most prominent advocates for conservative Christian family values, he struggled for attention in the crowded GOP field.

Trump was far away — in Arkansas — but still getting plenty of attention.

"Based on the fraud committed by Senator Ted Cruz during the Iowa Caucus, either a new election should take place or Cruz results nullified," he tweeted. "Many people voted for Cruz over Carson because of this Cruz fraud," Trump wrote.

Before Trump's tweets on Wednesday, Cruz spokesman Rick Tyler told CNN the senator had apologized personally to Carson, though Tyler said the Cruz team "as a campaign" never alleged Carson was dropping out.

Carson, who is conspicuously absent in New Hampshire, called on Cruz to fire someone on his staff.

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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

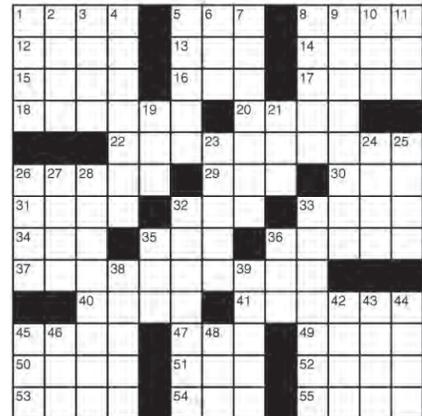
ACROSS
 1 Lose traction
 5 TV alien
 8 First victim
 12 Shake-speare-king
 13 German article
 14 Vega's constellation
 15 Jason's ship
 16 Greek H
 17 Mellowed
 18 Push forward
 20 Christen
 22 Craving for
 26 Navajo or Hopi
 29 Energy
 30 Carnival city
 31 Sly
 32 Twitch
 33 Curved molding
 34 Off-torn knee part, for short
 35 Set (down)
 36 Color workers

DOWN
 1 Open-handed hit
 2 Actress
 3 "Othello" villain
 4 Pops in unannounced
 5 Fred's dancing partner
 6 Allow
 7 In a tizzy
 8 Memorable letter
 9 "Good gracious!"
 10 Before
 11 Young bloke
 19 Ram's ma'am

21 \$ dispenser
23 Musical set in Argentina
24 Level
25 Tackles weeds
26 "— the night before ..."
27 Puerto —
28 Like a mirage
32 Root vegetables
33 Pearl producers
35 Links org.
36 Lair
38 Marsh growth
39 Tubular pasta
42 Egg source
44 Erupted, as a volcano
45 Resistance unit
46 Sheep call
48 Contented sound

Solution time: 24 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 2-4



CNYUWC KEZK OBGFZCKC
 IWUW DUWMAYXCTB OAMWF JYU
 KEW GYCK JTZITWCC UYXKAFWC:
 DZCK DWUJWNK KWFC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DID YOU SEE THAT BIRD MEDITATING WHILE USING A MANTRA? IT WAS PROBABLY AN OM-ING PIGEON.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

ASTROLOGY

by Eugenia Last

FRIDAY, FEB. 5, 2016
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darren Criss, 29; Michael Sheen, 47; Jennifer Jason Leigh, 54; Barbara Hershey, 68.
Happy Birthday: Preparation will be in your best interest. Expect the unexpected and be ready to roll with the punches. Don't expect anything, and don't be too willing to compromise if you aren't ready. This is a year to dedicate your time to your efforts, not someone else's. Be ready to rid yourself of bad influences. Your numbers are 4, 17, 20, 24, 36, 39, 43.

Contract Bridge

by Steve Becker

Defense Is a Logical Process

South dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 7 6 4
 ♥ Q J 10 3
 ♦ Q 9 4
 ♣ 6 5 3

WEST
 ♠ A J 9 5
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ A K 10 9 7

EAST
 ♠ Q 8 3 2
 ♥ 7 6 5
 ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ Q J 4

SOUTH
 ♠ K 10
 ♥ A K 8 2
 ♦ A K J 8 5
 ♣ 8 2

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♦ 2♣ Pass Pass
 2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
 4♥

Opening lead — king of clubs.

It is usually more difficult to defend correctly than to play the dummy correctly. This is mainly because declarer starts out knowing exactly how many cards his side has in each suit, and which honor cards he has and which ones are missing. Conversely, each defender starts without knowing his partner's high-card strength or the number of cards his partner holds in each suit. Nevertheless, if the defenders work as a team, they will nearly always score every trick to which they're entitled.

Here's an example of good partnership rapport. West leads the king of clubs, on which East plays the queen. East's queen play indicates the ability to win the next lead of the suit, either because he holds the jack or because the queen is a singleton.

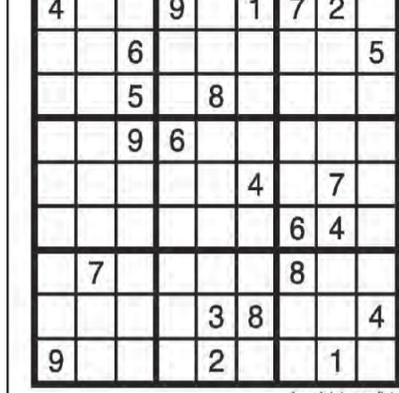
Accordingly, West next leads a low club, knowing his partner will win the trick unless declarer has no more clubs. East takes the jack and, realizing West would not have bid two clubs with fewer than five of them, shifts to the deuce of spades.

West takes declarer's king with the ace and, because East's fourth-best-spade return marks South with a doubleton spade, continues with a spade to set the contract. In doing so, West resists the temptation to try to cash the ace of clubs at trick four.

Observe how smoothly East-West cooperated to find the killing defense. East had to signal with the queen at trick one to induce the crucial low club return by West at trick two. East also knew the futility of continuing with a club at trick three, which would have handed declarer the contract. His shift to the spade deuce at trick three simultaneously told partner how many spades South had and enabled West to put the last nail in the coffin at trick four.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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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!

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!

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

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A past connection will help you get ahead. Call in favors or join forces with someone you know who can contribute to your goal. An organization you believe in will welcome your help and offer you something unexpected in return.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Proceed with caution. Too much of anything will end up setting you back emotionally, financially or physically. Slow down and consider the ups and downs of any situation before you take a leap of faith. Stick close to home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can handle anything and anyone. Strive for perfection and put your skills and knowledge to the test. Make personal changes that will give you a trendy new image. Love is on the rise, and a romantic promise is in your best interest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Check out your options and rely on past experiences and you will be able to make a move that will help you maintain what you have and avoid a run-in with someone who is looking for trouble. Don't divulge private information.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Reestablish a relationship with someone you worked with in the past. Together you can turn an old idea into a new project. An emotional partnership will flourish if you make special plans to spend quality time with one another.

Birthdays: You are persistent and unpredictable. You are meticulous and perceptive.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Table with 17 columns (Time slots: 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) and 39 rows (Channels: WRCB, WELF, WTNB, WFLW, WNGH, DAYSTAR, WTVS, WTPS, WDSF, WDEF, QVC, CSPAN, WGN-A, HSN, E!, ESQTV, LIFE, TLC, TBS, TNT, USA, FX, ESPN, ESPN2, FSTN, SEC, GOLF, FS1, FS2, WEA, CNBC, MSNBC, CNN, HDLN, FNC, HIST, TRUTV, A&E, DISC, NGC, TRAV, FOOD, HGTV, ANPL, FREE, DISN, NICK, TOON, TVLND, AMC, TCM, HALL, OXYGEN, BRAVO, SYFY, SPIKE, COM, MTV, VH1, CMTV, BET, SCIENCE, CSPAN2, EWTV, WPXI, DISXD, GSN, COOK, WE, GALA, TELE, UNIV, NBCSP, DLC)

Thursday Best Bets

8 p.m. on (WRCB) You, Me and the Apocalypse International riots break out as the comet draws nearer, so all eyes are on Scotty McNeil (Kyle Soller, "Poldark") when he proposes his plan to save the world, called Operation Savior. Jamie (Mathew Baynton) searches for his wife, Layla (Karla Crome, "Under the Dome"), while Leanne (Megan Mullally) tests the loyalties of Rhonda (Jenna Fischer, "The Office"). Rob Lowe, Diana Rigg, Pauline Quirke and Paterson Joseph also star in the new episode "An Erotic Odyssey."

8 p.m. on (WDEF) The Big Bang Theory Former Oscar nominee June Squibb ("Nebraska") guest stars in the new episode "The Meemaw Materialization" as Sheldon's (Jim Parsons) often-mentioned but previously unseen grandmother, whose visit absolutely thrills her grandson — until she and girlfriend Amy (Mayim Bialik) almost immediately lock horns. Elsewhere, Raj (Kunal Nayyar) encounters a new girl at the comic-book store who gives him second thoughts about his romance with Emily. Alessandra Torresani also guest stars.

9 p.m. on (LIFE) Project Runway: Junior The freshman class of young designers in this spinoff to "Project Runway" prepares for its graduation in the finale to Season 1, which has seen some pretty sophisticated designs given the tender years of the contestants (ages 13 to 17). There's certainly nothing Mickey Mouse about the prizes tonight's winner will receive: a full scholarship to the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in California, a home sewing and crafting studio, a feature in Seventeen

magazine and \$25,000 to launch a fashion line. Hannah Davis serves as host. 9:01 p.m. on (WDEF) Mom Determined to avoid her needy ex-boyfriend, Steve (recurring guest star Don McManus), Bonnie (Allison Janney) drags Christie (Anna Farris) to a new 12-step group, where she runs into Jeanine (guest star Rosie O'Donnell), an old gal-pal from 30 years ago. Alec Mapa also guest stars in the new episode "Quaaludes and Crack-erjacks"; Mimi Kennedy and Jaime Pressly also star.

10 p.m. on (WRCB) Shades of Blue After Harlee and Tess (Jennifer Lopez, Drea de Matteo) intercept a shipment of heroin from a local drug dealer, the latter stumbles on Woziak's (Ray Liotta) secret and tries to leverage the information into retrieving his drugs in the new episode "Equal & Opposite." As Harlee begins to worry that Stah (Warren Kole) is interested in her for more than professional reasons, she enlists the help of an old friend to spy on him. Tess, meanwhile, tries to use Espada (Vincent Laresca) to get back at her husband.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

FEBRUARY 5, 2016

Table with 17 columns (Time slots: 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) and 39 rows (Channels: WRCB, WELF, WTNB, WFLW, WNGH, DAYSTAR, WTVS, WTPS, WDSF, WDEF, QVC, CSPAN, WGN-A, HSN, E!, ESQTV, LIFE, TLC, TBS, TNT, USA, FX, ESPN, ESPN2, FSTN, SEC, GOLF, FS1, FS2, WEA, CNBC, MSNBC, CNN, HDLN, FNC, HIST, TRUTV, A&E, DISC, NGC, TRAV, FOOD, HGTV, ANPL, FREE, DISN, NICK, TOON, TVLND, AMC, TCM, HALL, OXYGEN, BRAVO, SYFY, SPIKE, COM, MTV, VH1, CMTV, BET, SCIENCE, CSPAN2, EWTV, WPXI, DISXD, GSN, COOK, WE, GALA, TELE, UNIV, NBCSP, DLC)

Ringstaff

From Page 1

and Ringstaff has admitted sending the messages. The Twitter account was reportedly posted to expose Ringstaff's alleged actions to his family and the general public.

Ringstaff contacted the Cleveland Police Department earlier this week to report what he described as two fake Twitter accounts, asking if they could investigate. He has since signed

a non-prosecution form, ending the investigation.

Ringstaff has taken time off from his director's responsibilities to be with his family, but the fallout continues.

The school board gave Ringstaff a positive evaluation on Jan. 28.

Ringstaff has received multiple recognitions during his five years of leadership of the school sys-

tem, including the University of Tennessee's top award last year.

He also directed the school board through two major construction projects, Cleveland High School's new Science Wing and the current Cleveland High School Raider Arena project.

The school system, and school board, are also attempting to move ahead with the construction of a new elementary

school on Georgetown Road, just north of the city.

Ringstaff recently initiated an agreement with Cleveland State Community College to establish a dual-enrollment program, which has been labeled Tennessee Valley Early College.

Seemingly, during his tenure at Cleveland City Schools and in the Cleveland community Ringstaff's reputation and image had been spotless, until the explicit messaging controversy surfaced earlier this week.

When the situation was first unveiled, School Board Pro-Tem Steve Morgan issued a public statement that he had telephoned respective board members, and they supported their superintendent.

Morgan's actions have since come under scrutiny, based on Tennessee's Open Meetings Act, also known as the Sunshine Law.

The board's support, or concerns, are expected to be discussed in Friday's noon meeting.

No information has been released from the board, or from the Cleveland City Schools Administrative Offices, about

Ringstaff's attendance at Friday's called session. Also, on the recommendations of the board's attorney, members have been cautioned not to make any further comments prior to Friday's gathering.

In a brief statement issued Wednesday by school board chair Dawn Robinson, the long-time Cleveland City Schools board representative confirmed the midday called session and advised it will be open to the public.

The statement added, "On the advice of our attorney, there will be no further comments from Board of Education members until this (called) meeting."

Throughout the week the Banner has made repeated attempts to contact Ringstaff for comment, but no calls have been returned.

The newspaper has obtained much of its information from the central office, including a copy of Ringstaff's contract from Andrea Byerly, who represents the Public Relations Department at Cleveland City Schools.

Within the contract's termination section, the term

"immorality" is addressed.

It states that "... the employment contract may be terminated by the board for willful cause upon proof of conduct unbecoming to a member of the teaching profession (unprofessional conduct), inefficient service (including but not limited to performance evaluation scores), neglect of duty, insubordination, incompetence, or failure to follow board policies and directives."

The contract defines conduct unbecoming, based on Tennessee Code Annotated, 49-5-5012, to include, but not be limited to, "... immorality, conviction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, unreliability, continued willful failure or refusal to pay one's just and honest debts, disregard of the teacher code of ethics ... in such manner to make one obnoxious as a member of the profession, or improper use of narcotics or intoxicants."

No school board members, before or after being silenced by attorneys, spoke on the expected contents of Friday's called session.



Submitted photo

STATE REP. KEVIN BROOKS, second from left, holds a stack of signed petitions supporting legislation to allow public utilities to provide broadband Internet access to areas outside their service footprint. From left are state Sen. Todd Gardenhire, Brooks, state Rep. Mike Carter, state Sen. Janice Bowling, state Rep. Jimmy Eldridge and state Rep. Art Swan. Not pictured is state Rep. Dan Howell, a co-sponsor of the bill. The legislators were part of a press conference on the issue in Nashville on Wednesday afternoon.

Broadband

From Page 1

trict that have waited 20 years [for broadband access]," he said. "What if you had to wait 20 years to get electricity even when they had it next door? That's what broadband is today."

He said one of his constituents has a letter from Charter saying it could service his address within a year.

"That letter was dated about 20 years ago," Howell said.

"There are 1,000 constituents in my district in rural Bradley County that can have access to broadband Internet within 120 days, if we pass House Bill 1103," he said, adding, "120 days or 20 years? I think the choice is quite clear."

Bradley resident Debbie Williams was joined with her 10-year-old daughter, Ashlyn, to voice their support.

Both bemoaned having to go outside their home to use the Internet for business and education.

"Online education is not the wave of the future, it is now," Debbie said. "It is a crucial way of doing school, and my kids deal with it every day."

Rebecca Kelly, state director with AARP, also joined the conference, saying the organization representing 650,000 members also endorses the bill.

"We strongly support the efforts of expanding broadband access in Tennessee," Kelly said. "We believe in 2016, broadband is a critical part of the municipal infrastructure — just like electricity, phones and roads."

She said having that access would be beneficial, especially for older Tennesseans and those who live in rural areas.

"Access to broadband is a critical need for adults, especially in improving telemedicine,

"This is about the thousands of Tennesseans who have sent their petitions here to Capitol Hill. Today was delivery day. Thousands of votes have been cast by our constituents that say, 'Enough is enough.' We are hearing it daily from moms and dads, students, teachers, business owners, senior citizens. There is an injustice to not having equal access to broadband."
— State Rep. Kevin Brooks

improving caregiving, those who want to seek a new career, and reducing isolation, which is a significant problem with rural Tennesseans," Kelley said.

Marion County Mayor David Jackson told of a company where the county assisted with \$10,000 to help with the \$20,000 charge to hook the company's facility up with technology access.

"They also had to sign a five-year contract with Charter," Jackson said. "That's outrageous."

He said an AT&T representative had called him last week about his stand on the issue.

"He didn't think it was fair for ratepayers or taxpayers to help pay EPB to expand their service," Jackson said. "I said, 'Aren't you all not subsidized by the federal government?' It went quiet and his next words were, 'Do you have DSL?'"

Gardenhire repeated the position that the major communications companies are government

subsidized.

"Don't fall for the argument that this is the free enterprise system versus the government. It is not," Gardenhire said. "There is \$156 million in subsidies — my money and your money — the big companies get to keep us from getting [broadband]."

Bradley resident Eva Van Hook spoke of the reaction a company gave after she spoke to members of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.

She said it was a year ago, when she was not able to receive access, that she went to the nation's capital.

"I spoke to the chairman and others, painting a picture of what it is like to live without broadband," Van Hook said. "I could not order plane tickets to D.C. from my house."

"Miraculously, within three months after that, I had broadband Internet," she added. "Myself and two neighbors — we are an island. We're not really sure where it comes from because nobody surrounding us has Internet."

"This is about the thousands of Tennesseans who have sent their petitions here to Capitol Hill. Today was delivery day," Brooks said. "Thousands of votes have been cast by our constituents that say, 'Enough is enough.' We are hearing it daily from moms and dads, students, teachers, business owners, senior citizens. There is an injustice to not having equal access to broadband."

He said some have expressed being tired of hearing about the broadband issue.

"Well, we're tired of Tennesseans not having access to broadband Internet," Brooks said.

ing program for over 120 students," she added.

Barrett said the Community Foundation is proud to be involved with this ministry.

"This is a good example of what the foundation can do," said Barrett. "Every year a donation from the Blocker Memorial Fund will be made to the Unity Center for the children's program to continue the family's legacy."

As the only living descendant of her family in Cleveland, Cathryne said seeing all the children at the Unity Center makes her feel so proud, and she knows her grandparents would also be proud.

To show their love to Blocker and the memory of her grandparents, children took time to be photographed with her. It was a touching tribute to all involved.

Award

From Page 1

Polier has repaired numerous houses over the years for people who could not afford to pay for or do the work themselves.

Shiloh Capone, an AmeriCorps VISTA with Impact Cleveland, said Polier has partnered with the local organization since shortly after it began.

She told those gathered for the award presentation that he has made repairs in 54 different homes over the course of the past two years.

"That's huge, in two years," Capone said. "His dedication is also so much more than fixing people's homes."

Capone explained Polier's motives for doing the work made him deserving of the award nomination. She said she believes it has been his intention to help change people's lives by improving their quality of life where they live.

When it came time for Polier to speak, he deflected the attention from himself by explaining

it was a team effort between him and staff and volunteers with the other organizations.

However, he did affirm Capone's assessment that changing lives has been his main order of business.

"We're trying to make a difference in this community," Polier said. "We use construction as just a tool to help others."

He also noted construction is just one resource which can be used to help people in need, and it has been a "blessing" to serve.

Polier said people often undertake community service with the intention of blessing others, but, "ultimately, you get blessed in return" when you begin to build relationships with people.

The Blythe-Oldfield neighborhood has in recent years been the focus of local philanthropic efforts because of its large percentage of low-income residents. Polier has been helping some of them make improvements they

had been wanting to make to their homes but could not.

While the staff of the young Impact Cleveland organization praised Polier's more recent efforts, he also shared he has been volunteering in the Blythe-Oldfield neighborhood for some 12 years, having first partnered with Ocoee Outreach.

"It sounds like this award is very well-deserved," KAB board member Shari Horton said.

Polier was given the traveling White Glove Award, a framed art piece which contains an actual white glove, to display temporarily, and it will be in his possession until KAB's next quarter. Then, he will be given a certificate to keep, and KAB will honor another company or organization for its efforts.

For more information about KAB and how to get involved in keeping the area "beautiful," visit <http://www.cleveland-bradleykab.com> or call 423-559-9789.

Museum Center gift shop set to hold grand reopening Feb. 11

By LARRY C. BOWERS
Banner Staff Writer

Cleveland's Museum Center at Five Points will have a grand reopening of its craft shop at 6 p.m. Feb. 11, for members only.

There have been renovations and rearrangements to the shop over the past few months, with some new artists and displays of their merchandise.

Among the new, featured artists, are jewelry maker Jessica Klaaren, Erik Vetne of Wolftever Creek Pottery, Diane Ravens of Ocoee (who focuses on honeybees), and Western North Carolina doll maker Charlie Patricolo.

Klaaren began making jewelry in 2006. "I love making unique jewelry with unexpected or unusual aspects. My style is very Bohemian and whimsical, but I also have a passion for metal work and darker designs, so the overall collection is a mixup of these two spectrums."

Klaaren has had numerous designs published in *Bead Trends Magazine*, including having her jewelry featured on the cover, and she has had her jewelry included in celebrity gift bags at sponsored events like New York Fashion week and the Oscars celebrity gift lounges. She has been a spotlight feature in both the Athens newspaper and the Banner. She was featured on TV in Chattanooga and Knoxville.

Her pieces were selected and used on screen for TV shows like "Parenthood," "The Vampire Diaries," and "The Bold and the Beautiful." Her jewelry was also selected to be displayed at the 2015 Pre-Primetime Emmy's Awards Celebrity Gifting Suite, and her earrings were in the swag



bags for the celebrities.

Klaaren currently resides in Athens, with her husband and two sons. She can be reached at <http://jessicaklaaren.indiemade.com>.

Vetne, who lives in Ooltewah, offers distinctive stoneware and pottery safe for food, microwave, and dishwasher.

Beginning pottery classes in college, he taught for nine years. He enjoyed making pottery and sharing his love of pottery with students. A 25-year sabbatical as a pediatrician turned his pottery into a spare-time hobby. In 2007 he was able to return full time to his creative love. Since that time, Vetne devoted himself to developing specialized glazes and glazing techniques that result in unique effects. He enjoys creating individual, rare pieces with no two ever the same.

Ravens focuses on honeybees. She said, "The beloved honeybee is an extraordinary creature that has foraged our earth for thousands of years. She bravely defends her home, yet is delicately fragile. Her only pursuit, finding nourishment to sustain the colony. She is nature's gift."

She said she has always felt honeybees were fascinating insects. "Reading about bees in 1991, I was captivated by this social insect. The fact that they have been in existence for thousands of years,

that honey never spoils, and is packed full of vitamins and goodness, made me think there was more to honeybees than I realized. That was the beginning of my fondness for this beloved insect."

Ravens, 20-plus years later, has taken a wonderful journey into the bee world, and says there is no turning back. "I have spent many years collecting honey, pollinating crops, educating people about honeybees, and making products with contributions from the bee," she said.

Making dolls has been a passion of Patricolo for over 30 years. The love of fabric and the creative process began to develop when she was a teenager in the 1960s, making dolls as a hobby. In the early '90s, she left her career in the computer industry and began to devote all of her time to developing dolls from her own designs.

Patricolo ended up in North Carolina about 15 years ago and enrolled in a class at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C. At the end of that first week, she felt she had found a home for her heart and her hands in the mountains of Western North Carolina. She became involved in the work/study program and later the host program at the folk school. She continues to teach and demonstrate doll making in North Carolina.

Unity

From Page 1

socially and spiritually.

"The Unity Center seeks to build hope and opportunity by promoting educational, social and spiritual growth for all," said Mary Ketchersid. The program's focus centers on assistance with homework while providing a variety of enrichment experiences for children. Today the program operates four days a week and provides care and enrichment for kindergarten to fifth grade. Unity Center also has a Youth Leader program for middle school and high school students, and serves over 100 students.

As the only living descendant of her family in Cleveland, Blocker not only cherished her fond memories of her family's charitable works, but said she wanted to ensure the legacy of community service would continue on the same property

"My grandparents were very active in that community. People would come there when they needed a prayer or help. Their house was well known for its love. My grandfather became a Sunday school teacher and taught for more than 50 years. In this way he planted seeds of hope again and again."
— Cathryne Blocker

under the Unity Center.

"We are thankful for people like Cathy Blocker who provide love, encouragement and financial support to help us reach out and offer a safe, stable and lov-

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Officials: 2 plane tires blow out on landing in Pennsylvania

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Airport officials say two tires under the left wing of an airplane blew out during a landing at a Pennsylvania airport.

A spokesman for the Lehigh Valley International Airport in Allentown says the plane arriving from Orlando, Florida, attempted to land Wednesday evening when the tires blew out.

Officials say the Allegiant Air jet managed to stop safely on the wet runway. None of its 158 passengers were hurt.

The airline says the plane had been scheduled to return to Orlando. That flight was suspended and officials worked to get passengers to their destination.

Airport officials say they don't believe there were warning signs before the landing.

Allegiant says mechanics are examining the aircraft.

Florida sheriff's deputy, man shot during standoff

OCALA, Fla. (AP) — A man was critically wounded after opening fire on Florida deputies during a brief standoff outside an Ocala gas station.

Marion County Sheriff's spokesman Ryan Robbins says Sgt. Daniel Trammell was also shot in the leg during the Wednesday night shooting. Deputies arrived at the Marathon gas station after receiving a 911 call about an armed man inside a vehicle.

Robbins says the man told deputies he had three firearms and was going to kill himself and officers. At one point, he got out of the vehicle and paced back and forth before pointing gun at deputies while holding another to his head. Then he opened fire.

The Ocala Star-Banner reports the unidentified man was in critical condition late Wednesday.

The race of those involved in the shooting wasn't available.

Donald Trump's plane makes emergency landing in Nashville

NASHVILLE (AP) — Donald Trump's plane was diverted to the Nashville International Airport after the control tower received a report that the plane was experiencing engine trouble.

News outlets report that the Republican presidential candidate made a brief stop in Tennessee on Wednesday afternoon as he and members of his campaign boarded a smaller aircraft to complete their trip from New York to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Arlene Salac says the FAA is investigating the incident. Officials haven't said how long Trump's Boeing 757 plane was on the ground.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks says the delay was caused by a "minor mechanical issue."

Police: Man faked brain cancer, took thousands in donations

WALLINGFORD, Conn. (AP) — Police say a Connecticut man shaved his head and took weight loss pills to convince people he had stage 3 brain cancer and collect thousands in donations.

Tyler Tomer, of Wallingford, was charged Wednesday with first-degree larceny and first-degree larceny by defrauding a public community.

Police say an investigation started in May after they received complaints that a man claiming to have cancer was collecting donations at benefits in his honor.

Police say there have been multiple benefits for the 29-year-old Tomer in Connecticut and Kansas. They say medical records determined he was never diagnosed with cancer.

Tomer allegedly accepted at least \$22,000.

He is being held on \$250,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 17. It's not clear if he has an attorney who can comment on the charges.

Officials search for cause of death for family in explosion

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Authorities say an Ohio mother and two young girls were so badly burned that investigators can't determine if they suffered any injuries prior to a fatal house explosion and fire.

The Summit County Medical Examiner released a preliminary autopsy Wednesday saying investigators are searching for their causes of death. Records show they haven't determined exactly when they died.

A police report says Jeffrey Mather, who also died in the Jan. 11 Northfield house explosion, had previously threatened to kill himself. Investigators say Mather was found near a gas can inside

the home.

Authorities say Mather showed evidence of smoke inhalation. His wife and daughters did not.

Authorities have said murder-suicide is a possibility in the explosion.

The state fire marshal's office has said investigators determined the fire was intentionally set.

Threat targets sheriff's office at center of Netflix series

MANITOWOC, Wis. (AP) — A caller who phoned in a bomb threat to a Wisconsin county sheriff's office made an apparent reference to "getting justice" for the man at the center of the "Making a Murderer" documentary, authorities said Wednesday.

The Manitowoc Police Department said in a statement a male caller made the threat around 6:40 p.m. Wednesday, warning of bombs inside the Manitowoc County sheriff's office building and a vehicle in the parking lot "packed with explosives."

The caller also mentioned "getting justice for Steven," something the statement described as an apparent reference to Steven Avery, the Wisconsin man whose prosecution in a 2005 killing was the centerpiece of the 10-part Netflix series issued in December.

The series questions whether Avery, who was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide in the death of photographer Teresa Halbach a decade ago, was treated fairly. It suggests the possibility that Manitowoc County sheriff's deputies planted evidence in the case, a claim authorities have denied.

Avery had been wrongfully convicted years earlier in a rape case and served 18 years in prison. He sued Manitowoc County for tens of millions before he and his nephew, Brendan Dassey, were arrested in Halbach's death.

Authorities deemed the area around the sheriff's office all clear around 9 p.m. Wednesday, and the courthouse was checked as a precaution. No suspicious devices were found.

Jurors award \$23.1 million to man shot by deputy in Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A federal jury has awarded \$23.1 million to a black man who was shot and paralyzed by a Florida sheriff's deputy who thought he was armed, but it could be years before the 22-year-old man might see any of the money — if ever.

The six-woman, two-man jury ruled Wednesday that Palm Beach County Sheriff's Sgt. Adams Lin violated the civil rights of Dontrell Stephens when he shot him in September 2013.

Under Florida law, the Legislature has to approve any lawsuit payment exceeding \$200,000 against a government agency.

In the past, legislators have been reluctant to do that, even in non-controversial cases.

In one case, it took about three years for the Legislature to approve a \$3.5 million settlement for a Jacksonville teenager paralyzed when a large branch from a city-owned tree broke off and hit him in the head. That city had admitted fault. In another case, it took more than four years for the Legislature to approve a \$10.7 million settlement for a teenager left permanently disabled when a speeding sheriff's deputy plowed into her car. A jury had awarded her \$30 million.

Jack Scarola, Stephens' lead attorney, said lawmakers "would not be fulfilling their sworn obligation" if they failed to approve Stephens' payment. He said they would be overriding a jury that heard all the evidence and found a "major injustice" had been done to Stephens, condemning him to a life of poverty and suffering.

Lin, who had stopped Stephens for riding his bicycle into traffic, testified that he shot Stephens four times because he reached for his waistband with his left hand and then flashed a dark object he thought was a small handgun. Stephens testified that he was raising his hands when Lin, who is Asian-American, opened fire for no reason. Video from the dashboard camera in Lin's patrol car showed Stephens' left hand was empty and a cellphone was in his right hand.

Columbus joins airports boosting human trafficking awareness

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Columbus airport is joining its counterparts nationwide in training employees to recognize signs of human trafficking.

All 400 employees at Port Columbus International Airport will view a 30-minute video on spotting signs of trafficking beginning this month.

The video by the Ohio

Department of Public Safety recommends keeping an eye out for people not allowed to speak for themselves, not in control of their travel documents or being closely watched or followed.

Last month, San Francisco International Airport trained about 220 employees who come in contact with the public, including baggage handlers and maintenance workers.

The Department of Homeland Security posted human trafficking awareness messages on video monitors and airport shopping bags at 13 airports last summer, including JFK and LaGuardia in New York, Chicago-O'Hare and Los Angeles International Airport.

Deadline closing in to cash unclaimed \$63M lottery prize

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With hours to go and \$63 million on the line, the mystery remains: Where's the winning California Lottery ticket and why hasn't somebody cashed it?

Lottery spokesman Alex Traverso said Wednesday that even he wants to know why the SuperLotto Plus winner let six months pass without claiming the prize.

Whatever the reason, it won't be a good enough excuse if the 5 p.m. Thursday deadline passes and nobody produces the ticket at a lottery office. "Unfortunately, the rules are the rules," Traverso said.

The lottery has repeatedly issued statements urging the winner to come forward before the deadline. "We hope they'll turn their house upside down" to find the ticket, Traverso said Wednesday at the Van Nuys office.

Traverso said he had watched people claim "a thousand bucks here, a thousand bucks there ... but nothing for the big one."

"From my perspective, I'm here and it would be pretty much the best thing for me if the winner popped in the door and we'll have a little celebration," Traverso said.

The ticket was sold on Aug. 8 at a 7-Eleven store on Lassen Street in the Chatsworth neighborhood. The winning numbers are: 46-1-33-30-16 and the Mega number: 24.

The winner can accept the \$63 million in payments spread out over 30 years or accept a much smaller lump sum of \$39.9 million (before federal taxes).

Meanwhile, the legal squabbling has begun before a dime has been awarded.

A lawsuit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles says the holder of the winning ticket was cheated by the California Lottery. Brandy Milliner says he already turned in the ticket and was told to expect his money, but lottery officials told him it was too damaged to be processed. He wants a judge to declare him the winner.

Traverso said the lottery is looking into the alleged claim. He also says those claiming to be jackpot winners routinely face an investigation to determine the credibility of the claim.

Manhunt continues for Los Angeles inmate mistakenly freed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Investigators scrambling to recapture a Los Angeles County murder suspect accidentally released from jail have been notifying potential targets of his freedom, interviewing those who know him best and chasing down tips from the public.

Finding 37-year-old Steven Lawrence Wright is the No. 1 priority of the Major Crimes Division at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Cmdr. Keith Swensson said Wednesday.

"This is a critical incident because an accused murderer is now out on the street," Swensson said, adding that dozens of investigators are focused on tracking down Wright.

Wright was accidentally released from the Inmate Reception Center on Saturday afternoon. Deputies didn't realize the mistake until more than 24 hours later on Sunday night, when they launched their manhunt.

Wright had been behind bars since April 2011 following his arrest in the shooting death of a 47-year-old man that year in Pasadena, California. At the time, police said Wright belonged to the Altadena Blocc Crips, and that the victim belonged to a rival gang.

Wright had been found guilty of the killing in 2014 but his conviction was overturned last year after a judge found the trial wasn't fair. Wright was set for a preliminary hearing in a new murder trial next month, when he also was set to be sentenced for an attempted murder conviction.

Honda to recall 2.2M vehicles for Takata air bag trouble

DETROIT (AP) — Honda is recalling an additional 2.2 million Honda and Acura vehicles because the driver's air bag inflators made by Takata can explode and hurl shrapnel into the passenger compartment.

The recall is a big chunk of the 5 million additional vehicles to be repaired for Takata inflator problems that U.S. safety regulators announced last month.

Honda's recall includes older model years dating to 2005, but also has some newer vehicles from as recently as the 2015 and 2016 model years.

The recall brings to about 24 million the number of vehicles recalled in the U.S. due to Takata inflator problems that have caused at least 11 deaths and 139 injuries worldwide.

Takata uses ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion that quickly inflates the air bag in a crash. But the chemical can degrade over time when exposed to heat and humidity and explode with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister

designed to contain the explosion.

Honda said in a statement Wednesday night that no inflator ruptures of this type have been reported in any of its vehicles.

The company will notify owners by mail and replace the inflators for free with new ones made by manufacturers other than Takata. But parts won't be available until this summer, the company said.

Honda said it has told dealers to provide loaner cars for free to any customer who asks for one while waiting for replacement parts.

Replacement inflators will be sent to high-humidity areas along the U.S. Gulf Coast first, then to the rest of the country.

Affected models include some 2007 through 2011 Honda CR-Vs, 2005-2012 Acura RLs, 2007 to 2016 Acura RDXs including early production 2016 models, 2007 to 2014 Honda Ridgelines, 2009 to 2014 Honda Fits, 2009 to 2014 Acura TLs, 2010 to 2014 Honda FCX Clarities, 2010 to

2014 Honda Insights, 2010 to 2013 Acura ZDXs, 2011 to 2015 Honda CR-Zs and the 2013 to 2016 Acura ILX including early production 2016 vehicles.

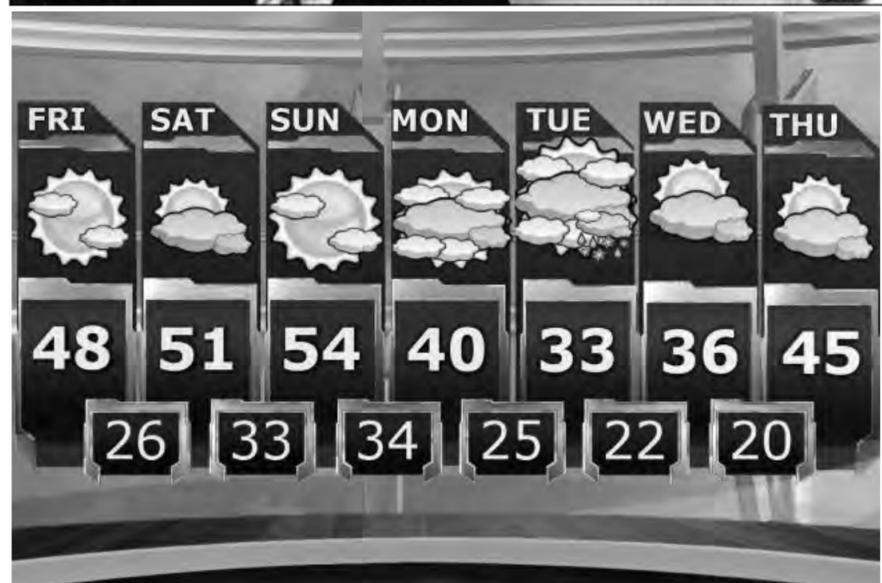
The recall brings to 8.51 million the number of Honda and Acura vehicles recalled in the U.S. for Takata inflator problems. Honda is Takata's largest customer and has stopped buying its inflators for new models.

Also Wednesday, Honda announced the recall of an additional 364,787 vehicles worldwide for a separate air bag issue.

The recall covers the 2008 through 2010 Accord sedan. The company says moisture can get into an electronic control unit and cause it to malfunction. If that happens, the air bags may not inflate in a crash.

Drivers would see a dashboard supplemental restraint system warning light if they have the problem.

Honda says it has two reports of people being hurt because the air bags didn't deploy in a crash.



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Mon	2/8	2	Low
Tue	2/9	2	Low

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

011

General says troop cuts would leave too few to train Afghans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The senior U.S. commander in Afghanistan says if the American troop level is cut to 5,500 as President Barack Obama has proposed, there will be too few left to train the still-fledgling Afghan security forces.

Army Gen. John F. Campbell's assessment underscores the risks of Obama's longstanding goal of ending the war before he leaves office in January 2017.

The president's critics said leaving the Afghans without enough American military trainers would imperil the gains made

since 2002, when the U.S. committed to rebuilding the country. Nearly \$64 billion has been allotted so far for building up the Afghan army and police.

"Fifty-five hundred militarily will not allow you to do what you need to do," Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Wednesday. "It puts the whole mission at risk."

Yet patience among other lawmakers is fraying with the finish line so far away. The Afghans won't be able to independently

sustain their security forces until 2024, according to Campbell.

Campbell, who is expected to retire soon, is scheduled to testify Thursday before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He appeared Tuesday before the House Armed Services Committee and described the Afghan security forces as becoming increasingly competent. Yet significant hurdles remain and "persistent" training and advising is required to overcome them, he said.

The challenges facing the

Afghans are largely structural, such as building an adequate air force, gathering intelligence, maintaining warfighting equipment, budgeting and personnel management. As an example of how time consuming this all can be, Campbell pointed to the effort required to recruit and train military pilots.

"You've got to start that now and make sure they realize if you recruit a guy now, you're not going to see him for another three years before he can be a pilot," he said.

Initially, Obama said he would

reduce the U.S. force in Afghanistan to 5,500 troops by the end of last year, and then down to 1,000 by the end of 2016. But Obama backtracked in October, saying the situation remained too fragile for such a rapid withdrawal.

The current U.S. force of about 9,800 would stay in place through most of 2016 to perform counterterrorism missions and to train and advise the Afghan forces, Obama said during remarks from the Roosevelt Room in the White House. The reduction to 5,500 would occur

"by the end of 2016," Obama said, although he didn't specify exactly when. The smaller force would still be expected to handle the dual-pronged mission.

During an exchange with Rep. Jim Bridenstine, an Oklahoma Republican, Campbell said a force of 5,500 would be focused on conducting counterterrorism operations.

"So we won't be able to do (the training mission) at those numbers?" Bridenstine asked. "We'll have a very limited ability to do (training) with 5,500 number," Campbell responded.

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From CSCOUGARS.COM

Opening day for the 2016 Lady Cougars softball season is set for Friday in Cartersville, Ga.

Cleveland State is competing in the Georgia Highlands College Border Battle this weekend, where they will face West Georgia Technical College and East Georgia State College. The first pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

"We have key returners coming back that will bring leadership and experience to the lineup," said Lady Cougars head coach Katie Willingham. "Along with that, I feel that we have some talented young ladies that I am excited to see contribute and grow over the next two years."

Returning sophomores Courtni Hammers, Hannah Godfrey, Tori Townson, Mallory Souther, Kara Headrick and Alex Rominger saw time on the field last year, and are expected to be leaders this season. There are numerous newcomers working for playing time.

"The infield has solid performers that could prove to be one of the best defenses in the conference," said Willingham. Meigs County standout Madison Stiner, Bryan College transfer Kaitlyn Heath and Bradley's Chanler Grady are the three who will anchor middle infield. Townson and Hammers, along with Cleveland High School graduate Brittany Arnold, are looking to hold down the corners.

The outfield is led by Hannah Godfrey in center while sophomores Souther and Rominger, along with freshmen Rachael Goodson, Carly Frost, and Hannah Jones will compete for playing time.

Sophomore Kara Headrick finished in the top 10 in strikeouts for the conference last season and is the pitching staff's ace this year. Freshmen Kaley Cagle and

See LADY COUGARS, Page 13



THE BRADLEY CENTRAL BEARS finished third in last year's state duals wrestling tournament. They will be looking to move up two spots to the top of the podium at the 2016 tournament beginning Friday, in Franklin.

Banner photo, LYNNAE ROBERTS

Bears look to turn silver
into gold at state dualsBy RICHARD ROBERTS
Banner Sports Editor

After an absence of three years, the Bradley Central Bears again found themselves vying for a state duals wrestling tournament championship.

A loss to Wilson Central in the semifinals relegated the team to a third-place finish and 365 days to figure out how to take the next step and regain their place as wrestling champions.

Bears coach Ben Smith has spent that time thinking about it, wondering about it, figuring how to make his team better and working on ways to prepare his team for another run at the crown. This time around, a year's worth of seasoning and maturing is hopefully the key to wrestling championship No. 23 for the Bradley Central wrestling program.

Smith said he and the Bears may have taken to the mats in Franklin in 2015 just a little bit overconfident, and wound up finishing third. But, the Bears coach also feels that experience helped prepare this year's team for what is to be expected with 16 mats of wrestling action taking place at the same time.

With a year to think things over and retool for another run at a championship, Smith is happy with the Bears' body of work and said the group has earned the No.1 ranking. "But that's just a paper ranking," he noted. "Now that we've put together 3 1/2 months of work, we still have three weeks to close the book on it."

"Even though Cleveland is not there, they are still defending state champions. Right now it is

See BEARS, Page 13

Ford, Hill will kick
it with Union soccerBy TYLER WICKMAN
Banner Sports Writer

National Signing Day occurs on the first Wednesday of February every year; this spotlighted day allows high school seniors to jot down their signatures on a National Letter of Intent with the school of their choice.

Usually the sport of football hogs the "Signing Day" limelight, but at Bradley Central High School, "futbol," or what many call soccer, ended up hogging the attention of many.

Three girls in all inked their names for soccer scholarships, but two made their choices with the same college. Those two individuals were Taelor Hill and Courtney Ford, who decided to make the move to Union College together.

Union finished with a winning record last season at 12-5-3 in NAIA competition, where it lost in the semifinals of the Appalachian Athletic Conference Tournament

to Reinhardt, 1-3.

It didn't take Union coaches very long to know this package deal was a special one which will allow the girls to make an easier transition into the women's soccer program.

"It's great because they already know each other, on and off the field, so they will bring some good chemistry to the team," Union head coach Camilia Mendes stated. Coach Mendes is entering her fifth season at the reins of the Lady Bulldogs soccer team, but she also brings her own experience to the program as she competed at Union from 2001-04. She later spent some time overseas playing semiprofessional soccer.

Hill is excited about making the move to Barbourville, Ky., with her best friend right by her side.

"She (Ford) is my best friend, so it will be fun to live with her and go through the next four years with her," she said. "I like the

See UNION, Page 13



Banner photo, TYLER WICKMAN

BRADLEY CENTRAL soccer players Taelor Hill and Courtney Ford have chosen to continue their athletic careers at Union College next fall. At their signing, seated from left, are Courtney Ford and Taelor Hill. Standing are Bearettes head coach Chrissy McKinney, Union College assistant coach Kennard Brown, Union College head coach Camilia Mendes, and Bradley assistant coach Savannah Edwards.



Banner photo, JOE CANNON

BRADLEY CENTRAL honored a trio of basketball standouts earlier this week when it inducted, from left, Trecia Watson, Martha (Montgomery) Fraser and Traci (Dixon) James to the Bearette Hall of Fame.

Bearettes add 3 new
faces to Hall of Fame

By JOE CANNON

Banner Assistant Sports Editor

In a blast from the very successful Bradley Central hardwood past, a pair of teammates from the mid-1960s, plus a key member of the 90-game winning streak of the 1970s, were inducted into the Bearette Hall of Fame earlier this week.

"These ladies are an example of the great tradition of winning the Bearette program has had throughout the years," proclaimed current Bradley head coach Jason Reuter after Martha (Montgomery) Fraser, Trecia Watson and Traci (Dixon) James were enshrined between Tuesday evening's games against Stone Memorial.

Playing under the old six-on-six rule, the trio were high-scoring forwards for legendary coach Jim Smiddy, who directed the storied program from 1958-93 and retired as the nation's winningest coach with a 1,217-206 record. Smiddy passed away in July 1995 and was inducted into the Naismith Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Fraser and Watson were team-

mates on the 1964-67 teams and each set single-game scoring records during their playing days.

Watson broke the school scoring mark by posting 64 points in a 95-19 rout of Cleveland in the first-ever game between the two schools on Dec. 11, 1965. Known for her 22-foot jump shots that sizzled the nylon and would be 3-pointers in today's game but were just two-pointers back then, Watson finished her career as the sixth all-time high scorer with 2,308 points.

Watson's record was short-lived, as Fraser poured in 65 points in Bradley's next game, an 84-31 win over Polk County on Dec. 14, 1965. Later that season, Jane Brock scored 93 points - she had 40 field goals and 13 free throws - in the second game against Cleveland High to set the Bearettes' current single-game record. Montgomery is No. 13 on the Bearette all-time scoring list with 1,730 points.

Bradley posted a 127-11 record while Watson and Fraser

See BEARETTES, Page 13

Cleveland State Cougars set for 2016 season

From CSCC SPORTS INFORMATION

The Cleveland State Cougars are set to open the 2016 baseball season Friday at Cougar Field with the first game of a three-game series against Roane State. The first pitch is set for 2 p.m.

The 2016 version of the Cougars will show a lot of talent but not much experience. With last year's everyday lineup and five pitchers transferred to four-year schools, Cougars head coach Mike Policastro will make a lineup, and build the pitching staff with a combination of freshmen and sophomores who saw limited action last season.

Returning sophomores seeing a lot of

playing time this year will be second baseman Blake Thomas, who hit .318 last season in 65 at bats. Blake will be joined by sophomore corner infielders Drew Curtis at first base and Austin Phillips (.242) at third base.

Both corner infielders have a chance to produce in the middle of the lineup. Hagen Wilkey (.256 19 RBI) is the only returning outfielder and should patrol right field and has the capability of being a presence in the middle of the lineup.

The rest of the Cougar lineup will be filled with either redshirt freshmen or true freshmen. The talented group consists of Lee Gibson, a Troy State transfer at shortstop

who should be a top of the order hitter. Freshman first baseman Sean McDermott should provide middle-of-the-order pop in the Cougar lineup.

Rounding out the infield will be freshman Billy Brand, a versatile player that can play all infield positions, as well as Brett Browning, a very good offensive player who can make things happen. Adding depth to the infield will be freshman Parker Cochran who can play third base as well as second base and also contribute out of the bullpen in short relief.

Freshman Jake Rogers — penciled in to

See CLEVELAND, Page 13

Flames open with Saturday doubleheader at Olympic Field

From LEE SPORTS INFORMATION

The Lee University baseball team will open the 2016 season as official members of the Gulf South Conference and NCAA Division II when it hosts the Albany (Ga.) State University Golden Rams on Saturday and Sunday at Olympic Field.

The opening pitch for Saturday's doubleheader is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday's single game will also begin at 2. Junior right-hander Justin

Alleman will be on the hill for game one on Saturday while junior lefty Art Vidrio will work game two. Another left-hander, senior Trenton Hill, is slated for Sunday's start.

The Flames finished the 2015 season with a 39-19-1 record. Playing a full GSC schedule, the men of coach Mark Brew were 17-13-1 in league play.

Lee has quickly gained the attention of preseason pollsters. The Flames are ranked No. 25 in the Perfect Game National Poll

and picked seventh in the preseason conference ranking, followed by 10th in the preseason regional poll (the most important poll).

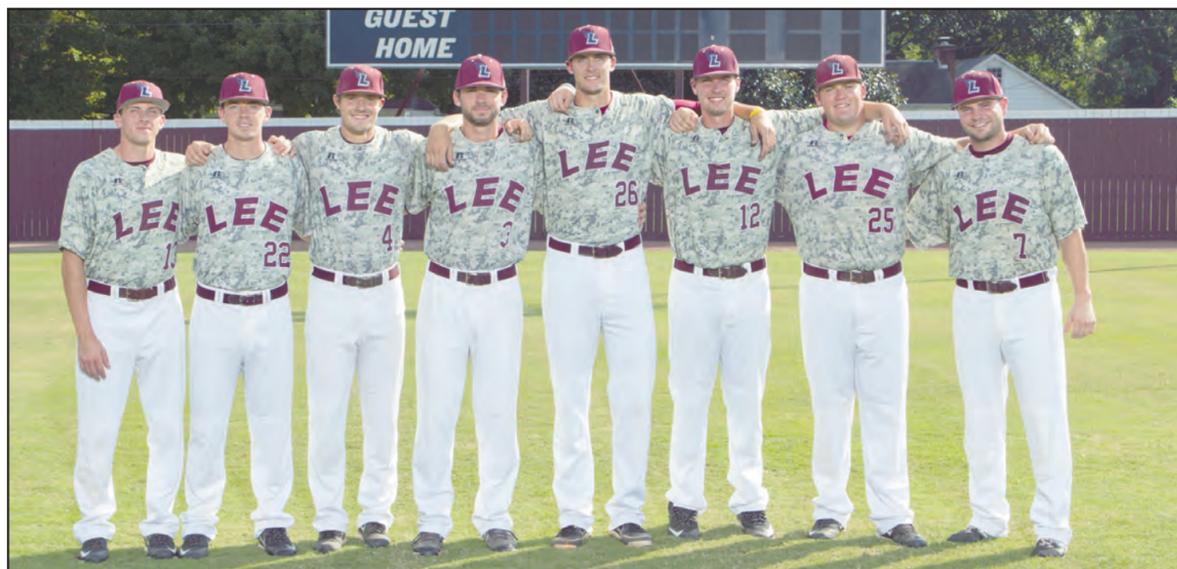
"I think the wide range (in the polls) shows how competitive the Gulf South and South Region are," pointed out the skipper. "There are literally six to eight teams that could win our conference."

"We are excited to be opening with Albany State," said Brew as his squad put the finishing

touches on the preseason training. "They were a South Regional participant last year, and return one of the top players in our region in shortstop Terrence Worthy. It will be a great test for our team as we host these important in-region games."

The coach added, "It's early, but I have been pleased at where we stand in all phases of the game through preseason

See FLAMES, Page 13



Lee University photo

THE LEE SENIORS are ready for the 2016 baseball opener Saturday at Olympic Field. From left: Chris Adams, Ty Broady, Kyle Briner, Luke Toms, Logan Campbell, Trenton Hill, Ben Holland and M.J. Brown.

SCOREBOARD

ON AIR

Sports on TV
Thursday, Feb. 4
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 7 p.m.
 ESPN — Ohio St. at Wisconsin
 ESPN2 — Texas A&M at Vanderbilt
 ESPN — Tulsa at Temple
 8 p.m.
 CBSN — South Florida at Cincinnati
 ESPNNEWS — UCF at Tulane

9 p.m.
 BTN — Minnesota at Northwestern
 ESPN2 — UConn at Memphis
 ESPN — Murray St. at SE Missouri
 FS1 — Colorado at Oregon

11 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Utah at Oregon St.
 ESPN — Portland at Pepperdine

6:30 a.m.
GOLF — European PGA Tour, Omega Dubai Desert Classic, first round, at Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 11 a.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, Coates Golf Championship, second round, at Ocala, Fla.

3 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, Waste Management Phoenix Open, first round, at Scottsdale, Ariz.

2:30 a.m. (Friday)
GOLF — European PGA Tour, Omega Dubai Desert Classic, second round, at Dubai, United Arab Emirates

8 p.m.
NBA BASKETBALL
 TNT — New York at Detroit

10:30 p.m.
 TNT — L.A. Lakers at New Orleans
NHL HOCKEY
 7:30 p.m.
 NBCSN — N.Y. Islanders at Washington

10 p.m.
 NBCSN — Anaheim at Los Angeles
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 7 p.m.
 BTN — Iowa at Indiana
 SEC — Kentucky at South Carolina

9 p.m.
 SEC — Mississippi St. at LSU

ON TAP

Thursday, Feb. 4
BASKETBALL
 Paideia at TCPS, 7 p.m.
 University of Alabama-Huntsville at Lee University, 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL
 Lee University at University of Montevallo (Ala.), 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 5
BASKETBALL
 Cleveland at East Hamilton, 6 p.m.
 Saddy Daley at Bradley Central, 6 p.m.
 McMinn Central at Walker Valley, 6 p.m.
 Sweetwater at Polk County, 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL
 Cleveland State vs. West Georgia Tech, 3 p.m.
 Cleveland State vs. East Georgia State, 7 p.m.

Gulf Coast Invitational
 Gulf Shores, Ala.
 Lee University vs. Mills College (Ala.), 3:15 p.m.
 Lee University vs. Midwestern State (Texas) University, 5:30 p.m.

WRESTLING
 TSSAA State Duals
 at Williamson County Ag Expo Center
 Bradley Central vs. Bartlett, 4 p.m.
 Bradley Central vs. Centennial, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 6
BASKETBALL
 Cleveland State at Roane State (DH), 1 p.m.
 Albany State (Ga.) at Lee University (DH), 2 p.m.

BASKETBALL
 Cleveland State at Chattanooga State, 2 p.m.
 University of North Alabama vs. University, 2 p.m.
 Franklin County at Cleveland, 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL
 Cleveland State vs. East Georgia State, 1 p.m.

Cleveland State at Georgia Highlands, 3 p.m.
Gulf Coast Invitational
 Gulf Shores, Ala.
 Lee University vs. University of Montevallo (Ala.), 1:15 p.m.
 Lee University vs. University of Missouri-St. Louis, 5:45 p.m.

WRESTLING
 TSSAA State Duals
 at Williamson County Ag Expo Center
 Bradley Central participating
 Sunday, Feb. 7
BASKETBALL
 Albany State (Ga.) at Lee University, 2 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Gulf Coast Invitational
 Gulf Shores, Ala.
 Lee University vs. Tuskegee University (Ala.), 3:15 p.m.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	33	16	.673	—
Boston	29	22	.569	5
New York	23	28	.451	11
Brooklyn	12	38	.240	21½
Philadelphia	7	42	.143	26

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	29	22	.569	—
Miami	28	22	.560	½
Charlotte	24	25	.490	4
Washington	21	26	.447	6
Orlando	21	27	.438	6½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	35	13	.729	—
Chicago	26	21	.553	8½
Indiana	26	23	.531	9½
Detroit	26	24	.520	10
Milwaukee	20	31	.392	16½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	41	8	.837	—
Memphis	29	20	.592	12
Dallas	28	24	.538	14½
Houston	26	25	.510	16
New Orleans	18	30	.375	22½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	38	13	.745	—
Portland	24	26	.480	13½
Utah	23	25	.479	13½
Denver	19	31	.380	18½
Minnesota	14	36	.280	23½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	45	4	.918	—
L.A. Clippers	32	16	.667	12½
Sacramento	21	27	.438	23½
Phoenix	14	36	.280	31½
L.A. Lakers	10	41	.196	36

Tuesday's Games
 Boston 97, New York 89
 Houston 115, Miami 102
 Toronto 104, Phoenix 97
 Portland 107, Milwaukee 95
 L.A. Lakers 119, Minnesota 115

Wednesday's Games
 Atlanta 124, Philadelphia 85
 Charlotte 106, Cleveland 97
 Indiana 114, Brooklyn 100
 Boston 102, Detroit 95
 Oklahoma City 117, Orlando 114
 Golden State 134, Washington 121
 San Antonio 110, New Orleans 97
 Miami 93, Dallas 90
 Utah 85, Denver 81
 Chicago at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
 Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
 New York at Detroit, 7 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
 L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 9:30 p.m.
 Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games
 Cleveland State at Georgia Highlands, 3 p.m.
Gulf Coast Invitational
 Gulf Shores, Ala.
 Lee University vs. University of Montevallo (Ala.), 1:15 p.m.
 Lee University vs. University of Missouri-St. Louis, 5:45 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 Indiana at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
 Boston at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
 Sacramento at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Memphis at New York, 7:30 p.m.
 Chicago at Denver, 9 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Utah, 9 p.m.
 San Antonio at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

Men's Top 25 Fared
Wednesday
 1. Oklahoma (19-2) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.
 2. North Carolina (19-3) did not play. Next: at Notre Dame, Saturday.
 3. Villanova (19-3) beat Creighton 83-58. Next: at No. 11 Providence, Saturday.
 4. Maryland (20-3) beat Nebraska 70-65. Next: vs. No. 18 Purdue, Saturday.
 5. Iowa (18-4) beat Penn State 73-49. Next: at Illinois, Sunday.
 6. Xavier (20-2) beat St. John's 90-83. Next: vs. Marquette, Saturday.
 7. Kansas (18-4) beat Kansas State 77-59. Next: at TCU, Saturday.
 8. Texas A&M (18-3) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday.
 9. Virginia (18-4) beat Boston College 61-47. Next: at Pittsburgh, Saturday.
 10. Michigan State (19-4) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Saturday.

11. Providence (19-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Villanova, Saturday.
 12. SMU (19-2) did not play. Next: at South Florida, Sunday.
 13. Iowa State (16-6) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.
 14. West Virginia (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 Baylor, Saturday.
 15. Baylor (17-5) did not play. Next: at No. 14 West Virginia, Saturday.
 16. Oregon (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. Colorado, Thursday.
 17. Miami (17-4) beat Notre Dame 79-70. Next: at Georgia Tech, Sunday.
 18. Purdue (19-4) did not play. Next: at No. 4 Maryland, Saturday.
 19. Louisville (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Saturday.
 20. Kentucky (16-6) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Saturday.
 21. Wichita State (17-5) beat Southern Illinois 76-55. Next: at Illinois State, Saturday.
 22. Indiana (19-4) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Saturday.
 23. Arizona (18-5) beat Washington State 79-64. Next: at Washington, Saturday.
 24. Dayton (18-3) did not play. Next: at George Mason, Saturday.
 25. South Carolina (19-3) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Texas A&M, Saturday.

Women's Top 25 Fared
Wednesday
 1. UConn (21-0) beat Tulane 96-38. Next: vs. East Carolina, Saturday.
 2. South Carolina (21-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Kentucky, Thursday.
 3. Notre Dame (21-1) did not play. Next: vs. N.C. State, Thursday.
 4. Baylor (22-1) beat Kansas State 87-52. Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday.
 5. Maryland (20-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Michigan State, Friday.
 6. Texas (20-1) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.
 7. Ohio State (17-4) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Thursday.
 8. Arizona State (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 UCLA, Friday.
 9. Oregon State (18-3) did not play. Next: at No. 24 Washington, Friday.
 10. Florida State (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Sunday.
 11. Mississippi State (19-4) did not play. Next: at LSU, Thursday.
 12. Texas A&M (15-6) did not play. Next: at No. 22 Florida, Thursday.
 13. Louisville (17-5) did not play. Next: at North Carolina, Thursday.
 14. UCLA (16-5) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Arizona State, Friday.
 15. Stanford (18-5) did not play. Next: at California, Friday.
 16. Miami (18-4) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Thursday.

17. Michigan State (17-4) beat Michigan 85-64. Next: at No. 5 Maryland, Friday.
 18. Kentucky (15-5) did not play. Next: at No. 2 South Carolina, Thursday.
 19. South Florida (16-5) beat Cincinnati 82-49. Next: at Temple, Saturday.
 20. Oklahoma (15-6) lost to No. 25 Oklahoma State 71-69. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.
 21. Missouri (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Thursday.
 22. Florida (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Texas A&M, Thursday.
 23. Tennessee (13-8) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Thursday.
 24. Washington (16-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 Oregon State, Friday.
 25. Oklahoma State (17-4) beat No. 20 Oklahoma 71-69. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Sunday.

FOOTBALL

NFL Playoff Game
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 7
At Santa Clara, Calif.
 Denver vs. Carolina, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

University of Tennessee signees
 Tyler Byrd, ath, 6-0, 195, Naples (Fla.) HS
 Ja'Quan Blakey, lb, 6-2, 210, Colquitt Co. HS, Moultrie, Ga.
 Devante Brooks, rb, 6-5, 225, St. John's College (D.C.) HS, Bowie, Md.
 Corey Buchanan, db, 5-11, 187, Peachtree Ridge HS, Lawrenceville, Ga.
 Marquez Callaway, ath, 6-2, 170, Warner Robins (Ga.) HS
 Andrew Craig, lb, 6-5, 240, Webb School HS, Knoxville
 Carlin Fils-Aime, rb, 5-11, 175, Naples (Fla.) HS
 x-Jeff George, wr, 6-6, 200, Dodge City CC (Kan.)
 Jarrett Guarantano, qb, 6-4, 205, Bergen Catholic HS, Lodi, N.J.
 Corey Henderson, ath, 6-1, 170, Evangel Christian HS, Shreveport, La.
 x-D.J. Henderson, db, 6-0, 180, Dodge City CC (Kan.)
 x-Alexis Johnson, ol, 6-4, 295, Fort Scott CC (Kan.)
 Ryan Johnson, ol, 6-6, 275, Brentwood Academy HS, Brandon Johnson, wr, 6-2, 175, American Heritage HS, Plantation, Fla.
 Jonathan Kongbo, db, 6-6, 260, Arizona Western (Yuma)
 Nathan Niehaus, ol, 6-6, 255, Colerain HS, Cincinnati, Ohio
 x-Marquill Osborne, db, 5-11, 183, William Amos Hough HS, Columbus, N.C.
 Austin Pope, te, 6-4, 218, Christian Academy of Knoxville HS, Knoxville, Tenn.
 Logan Punch, ls, 6-0, 245, Knoxville (Tenn.) Catholic HS
 Marcus Tatum, ol, 6-6, 265, Mainland HS, Ormond Beach, Fla.
 Nigel Warrior, db, 6-0, 186, Peachtree Ridge HS, Duluth, Ga.
 Latrell Williams, wr, 5-11, 175, Columbia HS, Lake City, Fla.
 x-Early Enrollees

BASEBALL
BASEBALL INSTRUCTION
 Cleveland State Community College assistant baseball coach Ryne Foster will be offering baseball instruction and lessons for individuals or small groups. 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@clevelandstate-cc.edu.
BASKETBALL
RISEING STARS OPEN GYM
 The Tennessee Rising Stars will be holding an open gym at Tyler Middle School Feb. 6 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for middle school grades 6, 7 and 8. High school ninth graders may attend only if the school session has completed. For more information, contact Patrick Sheppard at (423)310-7687.
FIRE ELITE
 The Fire Elite girls AAU basketball team will hold tryouts for grades two-eight at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, Feb. 7 from 1-2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jon Simbeck (423)435-3980 or Joe Young at (423)920-8632.
TEAM POWER
 Team Power is looking for seventh-grade girls interested in playing travel basketball. For more information, contact Nathan Cox at (423)618-0942.
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 coaching, NAIA and NCAA Division I basketball. For more information, contact Coach Kilby at (423)596-2515.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	50	30	15	5	65	140	110
Tampa Bay	50	28	18	4	60	133	118
Detroit	50	25	17	8	58	123	127
Boston	50	26	18	6	58	150	135
Ottawa	51	23	22	6	52	144	161
Montreal	52	24	24	4	52	140	142
Buffalo	51	21	26	4	46	118	138
Toronto	49	18	22	9	45	118	137

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	48	35	9	4	74	160	109
N.Y. Rangers	50	27	18	5	59	144	132
N.Y. Islanders	48	26	16	6	58	135	121
Pittsburgh	49	25	17	7	57	127	125
New Jersey	51	26	20	5	57	117	120
Carolina	52	23	21	8	54	124	139
Philadelphia	48	22	18	8	52	113	129
Columbus	52	19	28	5	43	134	168

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	54	34	16	4	72	149	123

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	51	32	14	5	69	167	136
St. Louis	53	29	16	8	66	130	128
Colorado	53	27	23	3	57	144	144
Nashville	51	24	19	8	56	129	132
Minnesota	50	23	18	9	55	124	130
Winnipeg	50	22	25	3	47	129	145

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	50	31	16	3	65	135	115
San Jose	49	28	19	4	56	144	132
Anaheim	48	23	18	7	53	104	113
Arizona	50	24	21	5	53	133	152
Vancouver	50	20	19	11	51	122	139
Calgary	49	22	24	3	47	130	147
Edmonton	51	20	26	5	45	127	150

Wednesday's Games
 Buffalo 4, Montreal 2
 Tampa Bay 3, Detroit 1
 Calgary 4, Carolina 1

Thursday's Games
 Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
 New Jersey at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
 Edmonton at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
 Detroit at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
 San Jose at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Carolina at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.

Friday's Games
 Philadelphia at Nashville, 6 p.m.
 Dallas at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Chicago at Arizona, 9 p.m.
 Columbus at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
 Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Soccer
 Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Nashville, 8 p.m.
 Columbus at Calgary, 9 p.m.
 Arizona at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

LOCAL NOTES

BASEBALL
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 The Tennessee Rising Stars will be holding an open gym at Tyler Middle School Feb. 6 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for middle school grades 6, 7 and 8. High school ninth graders may attend only if the school session has completed. For more information, contact Patrick Sheppard at (423)310-7687.

FIRE ELITE
 The Fire Elite girls AAU basketball team will hold tryouts for grades two-eight at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, Feb. 7 from 1-2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jon Simbeck (423)435-3980 or Joe Young at (423)920-8632.

TEAM POWER
 Team Power is looking for seventh-grade girls interested in playing travel basketball. For more information, contact Nathan Cox at (423)618-0942.

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 coaching, NAIA and NCAA Division I basketball. For more information, contact Coach Kilby at (423)596-2515.

FISHING
CLEVELAND BASSMASTERS
 The Cleveland Bassmasters meet the first Thursday of each month at South 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 tournaments on Chickamauga Lake, Nickajack Lake, Lake Gunterstau, 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
GC&A SOCCER
 Registration for the Spring 2016 soccer season at The Greater Cleveland Soccer Association is now available online at: www.GC&A.com. Athletes may register online through Feb. 29, or in person at the Moses Creek Complex on Feb. 6 from 2-4 p.m., or Feb. 7 from 2-4 p.m.

<

Bears

From Page 11

up for grabs. It's one of those things where we have a little bit more of a one-match-at-a-time focus. We got humbled pretty stoutly in the semifinals by Wilson Central last year and that hasn't left our minds. I tend to exude overconfidence at times and maybe our team was a bit overconfident because of me last year," he stated.

"I think we are the best team in the state, but that doesn't mean we will be the best team in the state. We are going to get what we earn."

Last year's tournament saw the Bears maybe wrestle over their heads a bit with many wrestlers being a part of such a large and boisterous atmosphere for the first time. It will be a seasoned group walking into the Cow Palace this time, looking to make it to the top of the podium.

"This year, I think if we wrestle like we are supposed to, the winning and losing will take care of itself. If we are supposed to win, we will — if we do what we are supposed to," said Smith. "But as long as we put

forth a good effort I'm still going to be pretty happy."

Smith is counting heavily on the wisdom garnered in last year's tournament to help the Bears this time around. Even so, with several juniors and seniors in the starting slots, there are still some younger Bears who will see their first really big-time action in Franklin with 16 mats of wrestling taking place at the same time.

"There are five or six kids who have never been there, but the team as a whole made its presence known last year at the state dual level. Having been there and experienced a big loss kind of takes some of the shock-and-awe factor out of it. Last year wasn't as bad as it could have been, but I felt like that at worst we were the third-best team there last year — and that's what we got," Smith related.

"I think we underachieved last year and we lost a big match. It wasn't necessarily an upset, but it was an upset for us."

The experience factor also

should help with the Bears who made the trip to Franklin with the team but never saw action on the mat during the tournament.

"They've seen it, they've been there, they've smelled it and heard it. Part of our team training has been visualizing the arena and the tournament. We will still visit the arena and do some mental walk-throughs, but I think the shock factor of just being there and getting back there will be more of a relief. I think there will be more of a business-type mindset," Smith Acknowledged.

"If we are going to turn silver into gold at the end of the day we will have to be focused on the task at hand."

The Bears open the tournament Friday at 3 p.m. CST [4 o'clock Eastern] against Bartlett High School. A successful outing against the Panthers will set Bradley up with a second match at 7 p.m. against the winner of Gibbs-Centennial.

With 16 mats going full tilt, one of Smith's main tasks will be keeping his Bears' focus on

the one mat where they are currently wrestling.

"We're sitting (in the bracket) where we want to be and we're in a good spot, however I'm trying to do a better job of getting our guys focused on the task at hand and not thinking too far ahead," he said.

"We are kind of in control of our own destiny to a certain degree. We wrestle every team in the state that's good. We travel and we find the best competition so that when we get to this moment it is another match and we have already been there."

If Smith is able to keep the Bears focused on the task at hand, there is one other person that has also to keep his focus where it needs to be — and that is Smith himself. When not around wrestling, the fifth-year coach turns his attention to family and giving just as much there as he does to the Bears.

"When I'm not around wrestling I've been trying to focus on my family more. I try to give 110 percent to wrestling when I'm there, but when I'm at home I try to give 110 percent there. Balancing some things out at home, turning the phone off, closing the laptop, shutting down the video. My family, my faith and doing a lot of reading helps keep me balanced.

Cleveland

From Page 11

be a starting pitcher — can also contribute at third base. Joining Wilkey in the outfield will be freshman center fielder Devin Gardner, a speedy outfielder who can cover ground defensively as well as be an offensive threat. Also in the outfield mix will be redshirt freshmen Trent Elliott and John Anderson and freshman Jordan Ransom. Elliott, a left-handed hitter can play all outfield positions, and Anderson is an athletic switch

hitter who has showed offensive potential. Ransom is very good defensive outfielder with a strong accurate arm. Handling the Cougars' pitching staff will be a combination of returning catchers Christian Burnett and Koltyn Plumb, along with redshirt transfer Hagen Kennedy and freshmen Ethan Dalton and Jake Griffin. All of the catchers will have a chance to contribute some time during the year. Their continued improvement working with the pitching staff will be key.

The 2016 Cougars' pitching staff will return five pitchers off last year's staff. Sophomores Drew Korzybski (53 4.05 era), Colton Morgan (21 5.10 era) and Christian Amos (11 5.40 era) saw more than 100 innings pitched

"I'm just trying to progress on the maturity level. I think through family and faith that's kind of helping me relax," he said. "I'm just trying to enjoy it. This is a great group of kids — I love my kids. We are a success whether we win the state championship or not. My kids are good kids. We're doing good things. Their lives are being changed and they are changing my life. I am enjoying my time with them."

But still, Smith finds himself having to contain his excitement about the tournament and the Bears' chance to bring home a 23rd state championship.

"It's hard to contain. I've been anxious all week. There is some excitement around Bradley High School. There is some excitement around the coaching staffs. Our school wants this. Our school needs this. Our program in particular needs it," he admitted.

"You don't want to wish time away because you want to take time to prepare, and prepare properly. But at the same time we are excited about getting over there. But, I won't let my guys think ahead. I won't let our fans think ahead. There's no thinking ahead. There's no talking about a state champi-

onship or putting rings on our fingers because we have four matches in two days to turn a silver trophy into gold. That's what we are focusing on."

Focused, anxious, prepared, levelheaded and ready are the group of Bears headed to Franklin. Filled with a controlled confidence and knowing they have what it takes to finish first, the Head Bear feels his team is as good or better than any group leaving it all on the mat this weekend.

"Our chances are as good as anyone's. I think our body of work says if we do what we are supposed to do we should be state champions. That doesn't mean we will be. I know my guys have worked hard and I know my staff has worked hard. I know we have all worked hard together," said Smith.

"This thing has been brewing for a couple of years now. I took over five years ago and this was the group of kids that were fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders. They have been with me from the beginning. A lot of people across the state have seen this group come up together, and they know what we are capable of. If we can cash the check we've written with our hard work, I think we can be state champions."

Vols

From Page 12

n't grab an elite prospect at a high school just a few miles from their campus. Instead, he went to rival Ole Miss.

How they'll fit in: Simmons and Jones are two guys who could contribute immediately, but Mullen has a reputation of bringing young players along slowly.

Missouri

Top 25 Class: No
Best in class: Tre Williams, DL, Columbia, Missouri, Rock Bridge. Four recruits are among the St. Louis Post-Dispatch top 30 list ■■ TE Brendan Scales, P-K Tucker McCann, OL Tre'Vour Simms and RB Jerod Alton.

Best of the rest: Christian Holmes, CB, Atlanta, Georgia., McNair High

Late addition: QB Micah Wilson, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Lincoln Christian High

One that got away: None.
How they'll fit in: Odom was under the gun to produce after replacing Gary Pinkel in early December. It's not a wow class but it should help the school regain its footing in the SEC.

South Carolina

Top 25 Class: No.
Best in class: Brandon McIlwain, QB, Newton, Pennsylvania. He turned down first-round MLB money to go to college and is already scrimmaging with the Gamecocks baseball team.

Best of the rest: Bryan Edwards, WR, Conway, South Carolina; Jamarcus King, DB, Mobile, Alabama

Late addition: WR Kiel Pollard of Moultrie, Georgia, was pledged to Arkansas before turning to the Gamecocks last week.

One that got away: DT Karamo Dioubate of Philadelphia. Was considered a strong lean to South Carolina. No word yet on where he signed.

How they'll fit in: McIlwain should get a chance to show if he can start. Edwards and Pollard will see early playing with receiver Pharoh Cooper off to the NFL. King is expected to bulk up the secondary.

Texas A&M

Top 25 Class: Yes.
Best in class: Kellen Diesch, OL, Trophy Club, Texas.

Best of the rest: Clyde Leflore-Chriss, WR, New Orleans.

Late addition: Clifford Chatman, S, New Orleans.

One that got away: Brandon Jones, S, Nacogdoches, Texas, who chose Texas.

How they'll fit in: Coach Kevin Sumlin has long said that he doesn't recruit players to sit on the sidelines, so expect to see many of these players fill big roles this season like freshmen WR Christian Kirk and DL Daylon Mack did in 2015.

Vanderbilt

Top 25 Class: No
Best in class: JoeJuan Williams, a 6-foot-3 cornerback from Nashville, Tennessee, is a consensus four-star recruit. Williams was rated as the No. 2 prospect in the state of Tennessee according to composite rankings of recruiting websites by 247Sports. Williams already has enrolled at Vanderbilt.

Best of the rest: Quarterback Deuce Wallace, a consensus three-star recruit, passed for 3,505 yards and 37 touchdowns last season while leading Sevier County to the Tennessee Class 5A state championship game.

Wallace, who had been committed to Northwestern at one point, has already enrolled at Vanderbilt. Sean Auwae, a 6-4, 295-pound offensive lineman, is rated as a four-star prospect by 247Sports., Auwae didn't allow a sack or a tackle for loss his senior year at Kapolei (Hawaii) High School.

Late addition: Josiah Sa'o, a defensive tackle from San Diego, announced Wednesday he was signing with Vanderbilt. The addition of Sa'o helped the Commodores absorb the loss of defensive tackle Brandon Adams, who flipped his verbal commitment from Vanderbilt to Georgia Tech in late January.

One that got away: Bradlee Anae, a defensive end from Hawaii, selected Utah over Vanderbilt. Anae was rated as a three-star prospect by Rivals and Scout.

How they'll fit in: Wallace adds immediate depth to a quarterback position following the transfer of Jonathan McCrary, who lost his starting job to Kyle Shurmur last season. Williams has the talent to make an immediate contribution, and his status as an early enrollee should only help in that regard. Mason is a former Stanford defensive coordinator, and this staff showed its West Coast ties by landing kicker/punter Sam Loy and Sa'o from California as well as Auwae from Hawaii.

Bearettes

From Page 11

were on the squad, with four of those losses coming in TSSAA state tournament games. The Bearettes qualified for the state tournament in each of their four seasons, finishing second in 1964 and third the following year.

Averaging over 20 points a game each, Watson and Fraser were named to numerous all-district and all-region teams, plus earned all-state honors their senior season.

Watson, who played elementary ball for the legendary Sam Ledford at Michigan Avenue, received a letter from the Red Heads, a world-renowned traveling team, and was invited to practice with them in Australia.

After high school, she earned a master's degree in education, as well as a bachelor of science in nursing. Along with retiring from teaching and nursing, she has composed and recorded nine albums of original songs and music, plus authored several books.

An animal advocate who runs a "nursing home" for elderly, abandoned and unwanted dogs, Watson is currently writing a historical novel on the Watson family, having reached back to the family roots in Ireland in the 1600s.

"I always wondered why God let me shine, but he let me shine in basketball," stated Watson, a lifelong Christian. "Playing basketball at Bradley was one of the best times of my life. All the girls depended on each other. We were very close and still stay in touch. This reward (induction in the Bearette HOF) is such a blessing to me, and I'm most

appreciative."

Fraser echoed her former teammate's feelings, "I was surrounded by great players. We had great teams. Coach (Smiddy) was tough on us, but it paid off. I tell you, it wasn't just about me. We were all good players. And once a Bearette, always a Bearette. This, tonight, is a humbling experience."

After graduating BCHS, Fraser attended Lee College, but had to settle for intramural basketball as the school had no women's team at the time.

Having played elementary ball at Valley View from grades 4-8, she took her first teaching job in Bradley County at Oak Grove in 1972 as one of three teachers, along with coaches Bill "Birdman" Bigham and Gary Davis, in an experimental classroom that had 100 sixth-graders together in a portable classroom with the middle wall cut in half.

She later returned to Bradley and served as the Bearettes' assistant coach from 1993-98 under head coach Paul Cretton, including the 1995 state runner-up team.

In 2003, she became an assistant principal, plus served as the school's athletic director for a year. She also served as the athletic principal for nine years before retiring in 2012 after 41 years in the Bradley County school system. Fraser is the only woman to play and coach basketball, serve as athletic director and serve as principal in school history.

A decade after Fraser and Watson began their Bearette careers, James was one of 105

last year. All three will log innings as starters, as well as freshmen Jake Rogers and Justin Coleman. The conference weekend rotation will need to be stable with starters needing to be consistent outing to outing.

The bullpen should have depth with returning late inning right-hander Matt Henshaw and Matt Roueche. Rounding out the bullpen will be sophomore LHP Ryan Mahaffey, freshman LHP

Elijah Haney, freshman right-hander Taylor Thompson and Josh Griffin.

Cougars coach Mike Policastro commented that he likes the makeup of this year's team. "They work hard each day. With the inexperience it is going to be on-the-job training for a while, but I believe that we will compete, and if we are able to limit mistakes, we will put ourselves in a position to be successful."

Flames

From Page 11

practice. Our offense has been strong and lots of younger players have shown continued improvement. Defense and pitching are the areas I expect to see improve the most this weekend. They have been solid, but we need each of these areas to take steps forward."

Brew notes, "Overall we are healthy as a team. Freshman Dallas Bryan is the only pitcher who has not thrown competitively, but he will start facing hitters this week."

While pitching usually domi-

nates during the early portion of the season, the coach sees things somewhat differently this time around. "I think this team is swinging the bat on a more consistent basis right now than in the past. If we can add the great pitching and defense we have had throughout the years, we have a chance to have an excellent season."

The Flames officially begin facing GSC competition on Feb. 20 when they venture to the University of Alabama at Huntsville.

Union

From Page 11

location, the coaches, and the team. Camilia really takes care of her team. When we went up there to visit, you could really tell that those were her kids. She really makes sure everybody is OK, so that is what we liked; just how involved she was."

Ford reiterated just how important it is that she will have a companion like Hill around, especially being three hours away from home.

"I was kind of nervous about going to college three hours away from my family and friends, so it's good to have a friend to come with you to experience the college life together. The team and coaches were great (at her Union visit). They made us seem important and bigger than just incoming freshmen," she explained.

Coaches are anticipating the arrival of both girls and expect each to bring specific talents to the table.

"I think her (Hill) attitude and willingness to work hard is something that we look forward to. There are a lot of times that you see players who have all this talent, but they aren't willing to capitalize on that talent and they become average players. For her (Hill), she is willing to put in the work and that will be rewarding for her," said Union assistant coach Kennard Brown.

He continued, "For Courtney, it's the same way, because I remember when she came to play with us she said, 'Coach, we will do whatever it takes.' That is what we look for; we look for players that are coachable and willing to do what it takes to win. We don't want a Usain Bolt of sprinting, we just want someone who will listen and try their best."

Bradley head coach Chrissy McKinney had nothing but praise for her two soccer phenoms. She said she knows they will achieve great things at Union and expects them to have a big impact at the next level.

"Taylor transferred back to Bradley this year, so she was only on my team for one year, but she is athletic and has great eye-hand coordination. She earned a starting position really quick (at goalie), but I think she will do well at Union due to her cross-training in other sports." She added, "Courtney is a pure athlete. Any team who has her will benefit by having her on it. I look to see big things from Courtney, because I think that they can use her right away at Union."

McKinney said, "I am excited to see what their futures hold, especially with the foundations that we set for the players in high school of learning the concept of team (play)."

Lady Cougars

From Page 11

Haley Hodgson, along with Frost, round out the pitching staff.

"Kara is seasoned and smart about her pitches and has to stay healthy to beat the numbers she put up last year," said Willingham. "We have four very different pitchers that bring different styles to the team, and I'm excited to see what they can do this season."

Handling the pitchers this year behind the plate are catchers Souther, Hammers, Arnold, Jones and freshman Emily Banks.

"Offensively, we have a ton of power and consistent hitters that could make that lineup a difficult one for opposing pitchers," said Willingham. "Our goals as a team is to put a lot of runs on the board, along with playing sharp defense, to give our pitchers the support they need to be successful."

The Lady Cougars' home opener is Feb. 18 against the University of the Cumberlands junior varsity squad in a double-header. The first pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Editorial

"I have seen gross intolerance shown in support of tolerance."

— Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet and author (1772-1834)

City school board faces a conundrum

Members of the Cleveland Board of Education are staring into the face of a searing conundrum as they prepare for a special called session Friday.

On one hand, four-year Cleveland City Director of Schools Dr. Martin Ringstaff, from most accounts, has done an exemplary job in leading the local system into the new age of education.

On the other hand, the veteran educator has admitted to a grievous error in moral judgment by exchanging sexually explicit electronic messages with an unidentified woman who is not his wife.

The messages — which Ringstaff claims to have sent more than a year ago — surfaced earlier this week on what the school system director charged were fraudulent Twitter accounts.

The accounts, on which the unnamed creator specified he was not Ringstaff but was seeking to shame the director by exposing his immoral behavior to his wife, students and community, showed what appeared to be screen shots of sexually explicit messaging between the schools director and the woman.

At first requesting an investigation of the Twitter accounts by the Cleveland Police Department, Ringstaff later signed a "non-prosecution form" when CPD Detective Daniel Gibbs advised him such an investigation would have to involve identifying the second person.

Ringstaff reportedly declined to do so.

Not only did the Cleveland City Schools director admit to sending the messages, but, according to a CPD synopsis of the incident, he chose not to pursue the criminal investigation "for the sake of his wife."

In a statement distributed to news media outlets by the Public Relations Department at Cleveland City Schools, Ringstaff said, "I admit to having made previous mistakes in my personal life. My wife, Heather, and I have worked through these issues and are committed to our family and moving past my mistakes. With the support of the Cleveland City Schools Board of Education, I am dedicated to serving the students of Cleveland."

In the same media statement, issued by Andrea Byerly of the Cleveland City Schools Administrative Offices, Ringstaff received the school board's support.

The statement read, "... The Cleveland City Schools Board of Education members are in unanimous agreement that we support and respect Dr. Martin Ringstaff and his family. They are valuable to our community."

It added, "Martin has gone above and beyond what he said he would do for Cleveland City Schools, and now we see an opportunity as a board to be who we said we were."

Apparently, the statement was drawn up with the assistance of Steve Morgan, chairman pro tem of the city school board, who had polled board members individually by telephone in order to arrive at the public statement.

Whether Morgan's actions constituted a violation of the Open Meetings Law (aka the Sunshine Law) is not certain. Deborah Fisher, executive director of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government in Nashville, told the Cleveland Daily Banner she would need to know if the board authorized the release from Morgan, or if he did that on his own.

"It wasn't clear to me if deliberations took place between school board members during the phone calls," Fisher said. "If any governing body wants to take action, it must be in an open meeting."

Fisher said based on the infor-

mation currently available to her, it does not appear a violation took place. However, she also pointed out the fact that the board statement indicated "unanimous agreement" to support the schools director raises a red flag.

If that decision was reached in the phone calls, then it could be a violation, she surmised.

Given the circumstances — at least, based on available information — the potential violation of the Open Meetings Law is bad enough. But this is only part of the story.

At real debate — and the one city school board members must face Friday — is Ringstaff's behavior. Some might argue this is his personal life and it should not be confused with his professional responsibilities.

We disagree.

True, what the Cleveland City Schools director chooses to do, and not do, using social media is his business. But he's also been a community advocate, a church goer, a respected educator and the leader of a much-admired school system whose students — the children of the families of Cleveland and Bradley County — have been impacted by his decisions, and influenced by his actions.

Whether school board members acted prematurely in granting Ringstaff their unanimous support earlier this week is an arguable point. But the truth is, we don't yet know all the facts. And if we don't, perhaps they — at least, the relevant ones — will be made public.

Friday's board discussions won't be easy. We commend board chair Dawn Robinson for scheduling Friday's session and for specifying that it will be open to the public.

While we don't agree with board members being silenced — on the advice of the board attorney — until Friday's board session, we do understand the decision and we respect it. Likewise, we admire Robinson's courage in tackling such a volatile issue during the same week that she and her husband, Dr. Don Robinson, mourn the unexpected passing of their son, Colby.

Admittedly, there are unanswered questions to the Ringstaff quandary that disturb us. One is the identity of the other person involved in the messaging — not because of our sordid curiosity, but because of rumors that are circulating within the community.

If one such rumor is true — that the second person also could be a city school system employee — then the school board's task becomes even more complicated.

We do not wish ill of Ringstaff, nor anyone involved in this disappointing development.

Since joining Cleveland City Schools in March 2011, Ringstaff has led the system to many achievements and his outlook — and commitment — to public education are believed to be among the most progressive.

Surely, these are difficult times.

It is for this reason, board members must deal with the issue by answering these questions: What is best for the students? What is best for the Cleveland City Schools system? What is best for the community? The answers are not easy, nor should they be.

But we do know this. Emotions will be high on Friday — by board members and by those in the audience. We appeal to all to temper their anger, or their support, with sound mind, calm reason and measured response.

No one wants to be a part of this.

But it is here. And we must deal with it.

Let us do it with cool heads and a professional approach.

Those many stories we can tell

'The City With Spirit' has an eventful history of happenings, from Sousa to the Olympics

Our city has many stories to tell even while we are creating new ones each and every day.

Recently a state archivist was here to video some of our residents as they recalled their roles in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. As most of you know, the whitewater competition was held on Polk County's Ocoee River. Whitewater athletes from around the world were housed on the Lee University campus during the competition.

Last weekend marked the 110th anniversary of renowned composer John Phillip Sousa's visit here. Sousa was already a celebrity when he appeared at Craigmiles Hall in 1906. The concert program that night, Jan. 30, 1906, included eight other numbers along with "The Diplomat" march. It was the first time anyone anywhere had heard "The Diplomat." Today, we have adopted it as Cleveland's official song.

In 2004, the Lee University Wind Ensemble played "The Diplomat" in a concert. The director, Dr. David R. Holsinger, presented me with a plaque and then gave



OUR CITY

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland

me the honor of directing the band!

The Advisory Committee of the Tennessee Historical Commission gave preliminary approval last month for a Cleveland Commercial Historic District. The committee visited our city twice last year to look at our downtown. The final decision will come from the Historical Commission.

If that happens, it could have positive benefits for some business property owners. It would also give an extra boost to our already thriving promotion of downtown and its stories, thanks to MainStreet Cleveland and the Chamber of Commerce.

It will help business property owners who

seek to have their property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Already several buildings have been listed on the National Register. The latest was the C.C. Card Building at 125 Inman St.

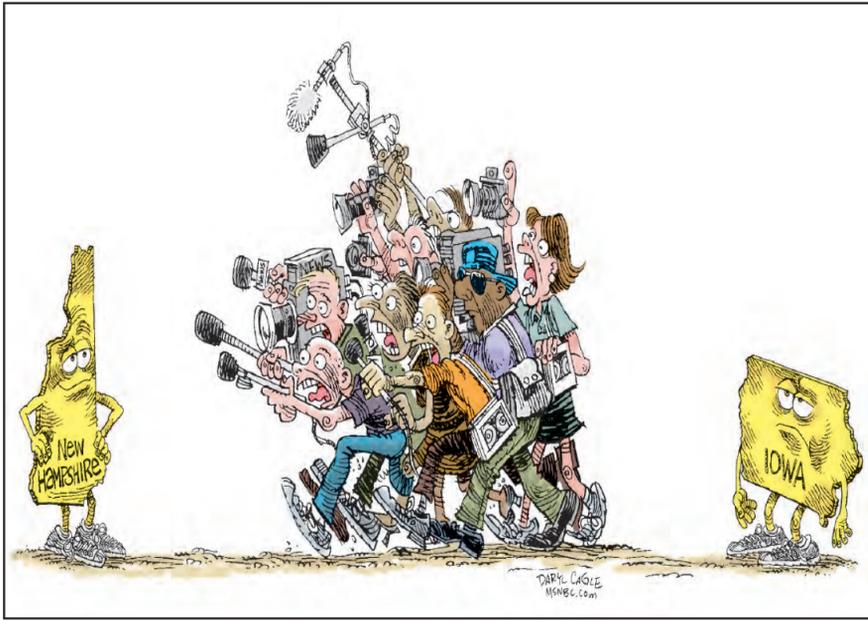
We are currently working toward the creation of a Taylor Spring Park at the place where Cleveland began. We will be watching as the story of Andrew Taylor takes shape.

Cleveland has made history in many other ways. Founded in 1880, Hardwick Clothes is America's oldest maker of tailor-made suits for men and women. Even last year Hardwick was getting national attention.

At the Museum Center at Five Points, where many more of our stories are told, an exhibit about the famous Red Back Hymnal opened last year.

Our city is one with many stories to tell. Those stories, both old and new, help make Cleveland a great place to live and work.

And in learning those stories, we discover that this city has been one "With Spirit" throughout the years.



TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2016. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.

On this date:

In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1919, Congress established the U.S. Navy Distinguished Service Medal and the Navy Cross.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.

In 1941, the United Service Organizations came into existence.

In 1962, a rare conjunction of the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn occurred.

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, 19, was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1976, more than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala with a magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1983, pop singer-musician Karen Carpenter died in Downey, California, at age 32.

In 1987, pianist Liberace died at his Palm Springs, California, home at age 67.

In 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, California, found O.J. Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

In 2004, the Massachusetts high court declared that gay couples were entitled to nothing less than marriage, and that Vermont-style civil unions would not suffice. The social networking website Facebook had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook."

In 2005, Actor and civil rights activist Ossie Davis died in Miami Beach, Florida, at age 87.

In 2010, the first National Tea Party Convention opened in Nashville.

Ten years ago: Thousands of Syrians enraged by caricatures of the prophet Muhammad torched the Danish and Norwegian embassies in Damascus. In Gaza, Palestinians marched through the streets, storming European buildings and burning German and Danish flags. A stampede at a Manila stadium resulted in 74 deaths. Thousands of mourners poured into the Georgia Capitol rotunda to pay tribute to civil rights activist Coretta Scott King. Feminist author Betty Friedan died on her 85th birthday in Washington, D.C. Troy Aikman, Reggie White, Warren Moon, Harry Carson, John Madden and Rayfield Wright were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama appealed to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to focus on his legacy and begin an orderly process to relinquish the power he'd held for 30 years; however, Obama stopped short of calling for Mubarak's immediate resignation. Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, said he would return half of his annual salary to the public treasury in a symbolic gesture that appeared calculated to insulate him against anti-government unrest spreading across the Middle East.

One year ago: As Boston continued to dig out from more than 3 feet of snow in the past week, the New England Patriots were finally honored with a parade celebrating their fourth Super

Bowl win. Some fans defied police warnings and watched the parade from atop giant piles of snow.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Phipps is 94. Former Argentinian President Isabel Peron is 85. Actor Gary Conway is 80. Movie director George A. Romero is 76. Actor John Schuck is 76. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 75. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 74. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 69. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 68. Actor Michael Beck is 67. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 64. Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor is 57. Actress Pamela Ferdin is 57. Rock singer Tim Booth is 56. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 55. Country singer Clint Black is 54. Rock musician Noodles (The Offspring) is 53. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 50. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 46. Actor Rob Corrdry is 45. Singer David Garza is 45. Actor Michael Goorjian is 45. TV personality Nicole Wallace (TV: formerly co-host "The View") is 44. Olympic gold medal boxer Oscar De La Hoya is 43. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 41. Singer Natalie Imbruglia is 41. Rapper Cam'ron is 40. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast-turned-singer Carly Patterson is 28.

ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Dear Annie: I live in the same town as two friends from high school. One of these friends married right out of high school and started having children. My other friend and I both went to college together, and then she also married and started her family. Neither of these women had a career outside the home. I, however, worked in a professional capacity until retirement, and I did not have children.

We are now in our 60s. I love both these ladies and am glad we live in the same town. Here's the problem: When I am with either friend individually, they will talk about a variety of topics with me, which I enjoy. However, when we get together as a threesome, these two mostly talk to each other about their children and grandchildren and I am left out of the conversation. Changing the subject doesn't work, and I don't enjoy feeling like the third wheel.

Any suggestions on how to deal with this touchy matter would be appreciated. — Left Out

Dear Left Out: You've known these women for decades. It's OK to be frank, as long as it is done in a lighthearted way. The next time you get together, say with a smile, "Laurie and Louise, you have five minutes to discuss your kids. I'm happy to know what's going on with your families, and I'll even look at the latest pictures of the grandchildren. But more than that leaves me out of the conversation. We have so many other things to talk about. OK?"

Dear Annie: I love your advice and almost always agree with you. But "Tired of Sex, So Blame Me" said her husband is sexually selfish and was like that in his 20s and 30s. She says sex is still all about him.

If he was sexually selfish in his 20s, why did she marry him? And if she was willing to marry him knowing this, what on earth makes her think he would change? Your advice was sound, but I also think she needs to accept some of the responsibility for her current situation. — B.

Dear B.: We agree that too many spouses marry with the unrealistic expectation that the partner will change. But we also know that it serves no purpose to chastise someone for a poor decision made 30 years ago.

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Judge refuses to throw out sexual-assault case against Cosby

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A judge refused to throw out the sexual-assault case against Bill Cosby on Wednesday, sweeping aside a former district attorney's claim that he granted the comedian immunity from prosecution a decade ago.

Common Pleas Judge Steven O'Neill issued the ruling after a hard-fought two-day hearing, saying witness credibility was a factor. He did not elaborate.

In another setback for the defense, the judge also denied a request to disqualify newly elected District Attorney Kevin Steele from the case. Cosby's lawyers had accused Steele of making a "political football" out of Cosby during the campaign.

Cosby, 78, was arrested in December and charged with drugging and violating former Temple University athletic department employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. The TV star could get up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Cosby held his head in his hands after the ruling, then left the courtroom, using a cane to descend the ornate marble staircase. He waved and smiled at supporters but had no comment. His lawyers put their arms on him to comfort him.

The next step is a preliminary hearing March 8 to determine

whether prosecutors have enough evidence to put him on trial.

The charges represented an about-face by the district attorney's office.

In 2005, then-District Attorney Bruce Castor decided the case was too flawed to prosecute. But Castor's successors reopened the investigation last year after Cosby's lurid, decade-old testimony from Constand's civil suit was unsealed at the request of The Associated Press and after dozens of other women came forward with similar accusations that destroyed Cosby's nice-guy image as America's Dad.

Cosby's lawyers tried to get the case thrown out with help from Castor, who testified at this week's hearing that he intended to forever close the door on prosecuting the comedian. He said he considered his decision binding on his successors.

Similarly, Cosby's lawyers said they never would have let the TV star testify in the civil case if they didn't believe criminal charges were off the table.

"In this case, the prosecution should be stopped in its tracks," Cosby lawyer Chris Tayback argued. "Really what we're talking about here is honoring a commitment."

Steele challenged Castor's

credibility and questioned whether the former DA ever made such an agreement, since it was never put in writing on a legal document and the Cosby attorney with whom Castor dealt is now dead. Steele argued that in any case, Castor had no legal authority to make such a deal.

"A secret agreement that allows a wealthy defendant to buy his way out of a criminal case isn't right," Steele told the judge.

At one point late in the afternoon, the judge signaled which way he intended to rule.

"There's no other witness to the promise," O'Neill said. "The rabbit is in the hat and you want me at this point to assume, Hey, the promise was made, judge. Accept that."

On the stand, Castor defended his decision not to bring charges, citing among other things Constand's yearlong delay in going to police, her continued contact with Cosby, and suggestions that she and her mother might have tried to extort the comic.

The former DA said he made the no-prosecution commitment in hopes of prodding Cosby to testify in Constand's lawsuit without invoking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. In the end, Cosby testified, denying he assaulted

Constand but admitting among other things that he obtained quaaludes to give to women he wanted to seduce. Constand eventually settled for an undisclosed amount.

While more than 50 women have accused Cosby of drugging and sexually assaulting them since the 1960s, the statute of limitations for prosecuting the comic has run out in nearly every instance. This is the only case in which he has been charged.

As the case goes forward, Cosby's lawyers are expected to fight mightily to keep the deposition from being introduced at trial.

Castor tried to make a comeback as DA last fall but lost to Steele in a hotly contested race, during which Steele ran ads criticizing Castor for not prosecuting Cosby when he had the chance. The tension between the two men was on display Wednesday when Steele accused Castor and the Cosby camp of engaging in "revisionist history."

Most of the back-and-forth in court hinged on the wording and interpretation of a 2005 press release in which Castor announced he would not prosecute Cosby. Castor found himself sparring with prosecutors over many seemingly inconsistent statements he made over the years on whether Cosby could

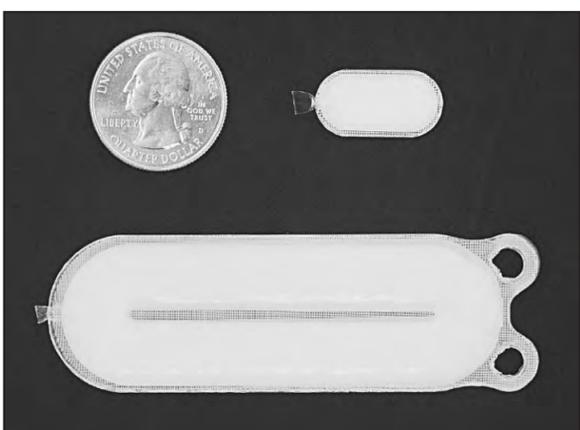


AP Photo
ACTOR AND COMEDIAN Bill Cosby, left, is assisted as he leaves after a court appearance Wednesday in Norristown, Pa. Common Pleas Judge Steven O'Neill refused to throw out the sexual assault case against Cosby on Wednesday, sweeping aside a former district attorney's claim that he granted the comedian immunity from prosecution a decade ago. O'Neill issued the ruling after a hard-fought two-day hearing, saying witness credibility was a factor. He did not elaborate.

still be charged.

The judge said he struggled to find similar cases where a suspect who was never charged received a promise that he would

never be prosecuted. Normally, immunity is granted after a suspect is charged because he or she can provide testimony or information to prosecutors.



VIACYTE VIA AP

THIS PHOTO shows the Encaptra delivery system, placed next to a quarter to give a size perspective. Johnson & Johnson, continuing its long quest for a type 1 diabetes cure, has agreed that biotech company ViaCyte can acquire BetaLogics' assets to speed development of the first cell treatment that could fix the life-threatening disorder. The Encaptra delivery system contains precursor pancreatic cells that are implanted under the skin and mature into insulin-producing cells.

Johnson & Johnson, ViaCyte testing possible diabetes cure

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP Writer

Johnson & Johnson, continuing its long quest for a Type 1 diabetes cure, is joining forces with biotech company ViaCyte to speed development of the first stem cell treatment that could fix the life-threatening hormonal disorder.

They've already begun testing it in a small number of diabetic patients. If it works as well in patients as it has in animals, it would amount to a cure, ending the need for frequent insulin injections and blood sugar testing.

ViaCyte and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen BetaLogics group said Thursday they've agreed to combine their knowledge and hundreds of patents on their research under ViaCyte, a longtime J&J partner focused on regenerative medicine.

The therapy involves inducing embryonic stem cells in a lab dish to turn into insulin-producing cells, then putting them inside a small capsule that is implanted under the skin. The capsule protects the cells from the immune system, which otherwise would attack them as invaders — a roadblock that has stymied other research projects.

Researchers at universities and other drug companies also are working toward a diabetes cure, using various strategies. But according to ViaCyte and others, this treatment is the first tested in patients.

If the project succeeds, the product could be available in several years for Type 1 diabetes patients and down the road could also treat insulin-using Type 2 diabetics.

"This one is potentially the real deal," said Dr. Tom Donner, director of the diabetes center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "It's like making a new pancreas that makes all the hormones" needed to control blood sugar.

Donner, who is not involved in the research, said if the device gives patients normal insulin levels, "it's going to prevent millions of diabetics from getting dangerous complications."

People with Type 1 diabetes no longer produce insulin, the hormone that converts sugar in the

blood into energy, because their immune system has killed off the beta cells in the pancreas. Those cells make insulin in response to rising blood sugar levels after a meal.

Over years, excess sugar in the bloodstream damages blood vessels and organs. Without effective treatment, diabetics suffer severe complications: blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, amputations, even premature death. On the other hand, too much insulin can cause very low blood sugar, which can kill patients, particularly young children.

According to the American Diabetes Association, about 29.1 million Americans have diabetes, including 1.25 million with type 1 diabetes. The number with Type 1, or insulin-dependent, diabetes is growing steadily. Meanwhile, the number with Type 2 diabetes, whose bodies make some insulin but don't use it efficiently, is increasing exponentially due to the global epidemic of obesity and sedentary lifestyles.

Many patients can't control it well because treatment is exhausting, requiring a strict diet, frequent exercise, multiple daily insulin injections or other medicines and several finger pricks a day to test blood sugar. Also, some patients can't afford the expensive medicines.

ViaCyte Inc., based in San Diego, has been researching its treatment for a decade, partly with funding from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Johnson & Johnson, based in New Brunswick, New Jersey, is a major ViaCyte investor and has been conducting parallel research for about 13 years, said Diego Miralles, J&J's head of global innovation.

He wouldn't disclose financial terms of the deal with ViaCyte.

The privately held company began the first round of patient testing a year ago, implanting its product, dubbed VC-01, in a dozen people with Type 1 diabetes, said Paul Laikind, ViaCyte's CEO and president. They received a small dose of insulin-producing cells inside their devices and are being closely monitored for two years.

Report: China's yuan to erode, not end, dollar's dominance

WASHINGTON (AP) — China's yuan will chip away at the U.S. dollar's dominance over the next decade but is unlikely to supplant it as the world's top currency, says a report from a federal watchdog.

The study Thursday by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission predicts the yuan will gain ground at the expense of the Japanese yen, euro and British pound and "may slightly erode" the dollar's status.

Written by Cornell University economist Eswar Prasad, the report predicts that China will allow its tightly controlled financial system to "become largely open within the next three to five years." But Beijing must enact broader reforms before the yuan can join the dollar as a "safe haven" currency, sought after by investors in times of crisis, according to the study.

China has aggressively promoted the use of the yuan in global commerce. It has, for example, allowed yuan-denominated bonds to be issued in Hong Kong and permitted some banks to offer yuan deposit accounts outside China.

But the yuan still is used in fewer than 3 percent of cross-border financial transactions, compared to nearly 44 percent for the dollar and 29 percent for the euro. Beijing won a symbolic victory last year when the International Monetary Fund decided to include the yuan to a basket of currencies used in the IMF's operations.

The commission report Thursday also predicted that Chinese investment in the United

States will begin to change as more Chinese households, businesses and institutional investors take advantage of growing opportunities to invest abroad. Largely because of Chinese government purchases of Treasury's, China is the biggest foreign owner of U.S. government debt. In the future, Chinese investors increasingly will sink money into U.S. stocks, real estate and businesses.

The commission was created by Congress in 2000 to monitor the national security implications of the U.S.-China economic relationship. The group publishes the report "to promote greater public understanding" but does not necessarily endorse its findings.

IRS computer problems shut down e-filing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The IRS stopped accepting electronically filed tax returns Wednesday because of problems with some of its computer systems. The outage could affect refunds, but the agency said it doesn't anticipate "major disruptions."

A "hardware failure" forced the shutdown of several tax processing systems, including the e-file system, the IRS said in a statement. The IRS.gov website remains available, but "where's my refund" and other services are not working.

Some systems will be out of service at least until Thursday, the agency said. "The IRS is currently in the process of making repairs and working to restore normal operations as soon as possible," the IRS said.

Taxpayers can continue to send electronic returns to companies that serve as middlemen between taxpayers and the IRS. But those companies have to hold on to the tax returns until the IRS systems are up and running again, the IRS said.

While the IRS said it is still assessing the scope of the outage, it expects 90 percent of taxpayers will receive refunds within three weeks.

People who have already filed returns don't need to do anything more, the IRS said.



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Seoul, Tokyo threaten to intercept N. Korean rocket debris

SOUTH KOREANS watch a TV news program with a file footage about North Korea's rocket launch plans, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday. South Korea warned on Wednesday of "searing" consequences if North Korea doesn't abandon plans to launch a long-range rocket that critics call a banned test of ballistic missile technology. The headline on the screen reads "North Korea plans to launch a missile."



SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea and Japan vowed to shoot down any debris that falls on their territories from a long-range rocket that North Korea plans to fire this month, with Seoul saying Thursday that it has detected launch preparations by Pyongyang.

North Korea has informed international organizations that it will launch an observation satellite aboard a rocket between Feb. 8 and 25. South Korea, the United States and others say such a move would be a cover for a banned test of a missile that could strike the U.S. mainland.

The launch announcement follows an outpouring of global condemnation over the North's fourth nuclear test on Jan. 6. If North Korea's past patterns are any clue, angry warnings by Seoul, Washington and their allies probably won't dissuade a coming launch.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Thursday that the North is pushing ahead with the launch plans at its west coast Tongchang-ri launch site. Spokesman Moon Sang Gyun said South Korea is using Aegis-equipped destroyers, aircraft, sophisticated radars and other surveillance assets to monitor the North's launch preparations but refused to provide further

details.

Recent commercial satellite images showed an increased number of vehicles at North Korea's Sohae launch station on Feb. 1, compared to a week earlier. This suggests that the North is preparing for a space launch in coming weeks, according to 38 North, a North Korea-focused website run by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

However, the website said it was impossible to tell from the satellite imagery whether a space launch vehicle was present.

South Korean and U.S. officials said a launch would threaten regional security and violate U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban the North from engaging in any nuclear and ballistic activities.

Diplomats at the U.N. Security Council have already pledged to pursue fresh sanctions on North Korea over its recent nuclear test.

South Korea's president on Thursday called for strong U.N. sanctions that will make North Korea realize it cannot survive if it does not abandon its weapons programs.

There are questions, however, over whether any sanctions will force real change in the North

because China, the North's last major ally and a veto-wielding U.N. Security Council member, is reluctant to join in any harsh punishment against the North.

Beijing on Wednesday urged restraint over North Korea's announcement of its launch plans, and expressed skepticism over the U.S. calls for tough new sanctions.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the North Korean announcement "will further aggravate the profound concerns that the international community already has in the wake of the recent nuclear test," a spokesman said.

In South Korea and Japan there are fears about falling debris, although nothing landed in their territories during the North's most recent launches. Seoul officials estimated the first stage of the rocket would fall off the west coast of South Korea, more debris would land near the South's Jeju Island, and the second stage would land off the Philippines' east coast.

Moon, the South Korean military spokesman, said that South Korea would fire missiles to intercept the North Korean rocket or its fragments if they threaten to fall on its territories. Japan's defense minister said Wednesday he issued a missile-

shoot-down order and deployed Aegis destroyers and PAC-3 missile defense units to around Tokyo and Okinawa in case debris fall on the Japanese territory.

Seoul and Tokyo issued similar plans before North Korean rocket launches in recent years.

North Korea has spent decades trying to develop operational nuclear weapons along with missiles capable of striking the mainland United States.

North Korea's last long-range rocket launch, in December 2012, was seen as having successfully put the country's first satellite into orbit after a string of failures. Each new rocket launch improves North Korea's missile technology, which is crucial for its goal of developing a nuclear-armed missile capable of hitting the U.S. mainland.

North Korea, an autocracy run by the same family since 1948, is estimated to have a handful of crude nuclear devices and an impressive array of short- and medium-range missiles, but it closely guards details about its nuclear and missile programs. This means there is considerable debate about whether it can produce nuclear bombs small enough to place on a missile, or missiles that can reliably deliver their bombs to faraway targets.

After 2 days, Syrian peace talks to take a 'temporary pause'

GENEVA (AP) — The peace talks in the Syrian civil war are taking a break. The fighting is not.

U.N. Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura announced Wednesday there would be a "temporary pause" in the indirect peace talks between the government and opposition, saying the process will resume Feb. 25.

In a statement later in the day, de Mistura's office said the talks would take a "recess" by the end of Friday and would resume "no later than 25 February, and possibly much earlier."

The delay reflects the rocky start of the talks Monday in which neither the government nor the opposition even acknowledged that the negotiations had officially begun.

"It is not the end, and it is not the failure of the talks," de Mistura told reporters after a meeting with opposition leaders.

Both sides remain "interested in having the political process started," he added.

The conflict that began in March 2011 has killed at least 250,000 people, displaced 11 mil-

lion and given an opening for the Islamic State group to seize large parts of the country from forces loyal to President Bashar Assad.

"I'm not frustrated I'm not disappointed," de Mistura said of the pause. "When you have a five year war and had so many difficult moments you have to be determined, but also realistic."

The last round of talks broke down in 2014.

The Saudi-backed opposition, known as the High Negotiations Committee, had been reluctant to come to the talks, saying the government should first end the bombardment of civilians, allow aid into besieged rebel-held areas, and release thousands of detainees.

On Wednesday, delegation head Riad Hajib said the Assad government had not met those demands.

"The HNC delegation will leave tomorrow and will not return (to Geneva) until we see positive steps on humanitarian issues," he said.

"This regime that ruined the Geneva negotiations in 2014 is

doing it again during this political process," Hijab added. "We came to Geneva to prove to the world that this regime does not believe in a political solution."

The head of the Syrian delegation, Bashar Ja'afari, said the opposition "had orders from its masters to ruin the talks."

"Yes, there is a failure. It is a failure of everybody except the government of the Syrian Arab Republic," Ja'afari said. "Those who have the responsibility of this failure are the Saudis, the Turks and the Qataris. They are the real handlers and the masters of the Riyadh group."

On Wednesday, Syrian government forces, backed by Russian airstrikes, blasted their way into two Shiite villages in the north, breaking a long-running rebel siege, Syrian TV reported.

The villages of Nubul and Zahra are located in the middle of opposition territory and have been blockaded by rebel groups for about three years, with the army occasionally dropping food and other aid to those inside.

Reaching them marked a major

victory for government forces, which have made significant advances in Aleppo province in recent days. The Syrian troops severed a key supply route linking the rebels in the city of Aleppo to the Turkish border.

If the pro-government offensive succeeds, it will be one of the biggest blows to the insurgents since they captured large parts of Aleppo, Syria's largest city, in the summer of 2012.

The offensive has led the opposition to accuse Damascus of negotiating in bad faith.

The two delegations were not meeting face to face but were in separate rooms, with de Mistura shuttling between them in the so-called "proximity talks." He had scheduled the talks to last six months.

De Mistura said he will ask the U.N. Security Council and the International Syria Support group of about 20 regional and world powers to address some of the pending issues in the talks, including what can be done "to make a difference for the Syrian people."

Assange to accept arrest if U.N. panel rules against him

LONDON (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange says he will accept arrest by British police if a U.N. working group investigating his claims decides that the three years he has spent inside the Ecuadorean Embassy doesn't amount to illegal detention.

Writing on WikiLeaks' Twitter account, Assange said if the U.N. panel finds he has lost his case against the United Kingdom and Sweden then he will turn himself in to police at noon on Friday.

"However, should I prevail and the state parties be found to have acted unlawfully, I expect the immediate return of my passport and the termination of further attempts to arrest me," Assange added.

British police said Thursday that nothing has changed regarding Assange's situation and that police will still seek to arrest him if he leaves the Ecuadorean Embassy.

The U.N. panel based in Geneva doesn't have any binding authority to impose its findings on the British or Swedish judicial authorities, which have been involved in years of legal wrangling involving Assange.

Its decision could, however, influence how aggressively Swedish prosecutors pursue Assange for questioning about allegations of sexual misconduct.

Karin Rosander, a spokeswoman for Swedish prosecutors, told The Associated Press on Thursday that "we have no comment now. We are waiting for the report."

Assange voluntarily took refuge in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden where two women have accused him of sexual assault.

He has said his main legal concern is a possible indictment against him in the U.S. on charges related to WikiLeaks' release of government cables.

He has expressed the fear that British and Swedish authorities plan to send him to the U.S. to face charges against him there.

Greeks strike against pension reforms

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Services across the country ground to a halt Thursday as Greeks walked off the job in a massive general strike that canceled flights, ferries and public transport, shut down schools, courts and pharmacies, and left public hospitals with emergency staff.

Unions called the strike to protest pension reforms that are part of Greece's third international bailout. The left-led government is trying to overhaul the country's ailing pension system by increasing social security contributions to avoid pension cuts, but critics say the reforms will lead many to lose two-thirds of their income to contributions and taxes.

Opposition to the reform has been vociferous, uniting a disparate group of professions, including farmers, artists, taxi drivers, lawyers, doctors, engineers and seamen among others. A heavy police presence was deployed in Athens ahead of planned demonstrations.

Thursday's general strike is the most significant the coalition government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has faced since he initially came to power about a year ago. As an opposition party, Tsipras' radical left Syriza party had led opposition to pension reforms, but he was forced into a dramatic policy U-turn last year when he faced the stark choice of signing up to a third bailout or the country being kicked out of the eurozone.

The strike comes as the government negotiates with Greece's international debt inspectors.

AP photographer reflects on 'bucket baby' in Brazil

RECIFE, Brazil (AP) — The first time I met Solange Ferreira was in December. She was at a hospital, waiting to hear from a doctor whether her baby boy had what so many in her village were talking about — microcephaly, or an abnormally small head that is a sign of severe disabilities and a truncated life-expectancy.

I had no doubt that little Jose, born in September, had the condition that many experts believe is linked to the Zika virus. His head was notably small, his skull practically flat.

"Everybody says he has a small head, but I don't know what's going on," Ferreira, a 38-year-old maid, told me while she waited in Caruaru, a city in northeast Brazil near Recife, where the Zika virus has hit hardest.

Like so many other mothers I have interviewed and photographed, Ferreira asked me what I thought. I said nothing. I didn't want to be the one to dash her hopes that Jose would be fine.

When she emerged from the doctor's office, she told me the news. She had come alone to the hospital with Jose, and it was clear she needed to talk to somebody. She didn't cry, but her sadness was palpable, and she seemed in shock. I asked for her phone number, and she agreed to let me photograph her and Jose the next day.

In her small house in Poco



Fundo, about a three-hour drive from Recife, I saw a mother struggling. The boy would scream uncontrollably for long stretches, getting red in the face and tightening his already stiff limbs. He also struggled to feed, something I had learned was common in children with neurological disorders.

When his screaming got so bad that nobody in the house could take it, Ferreira would put Jose in a bucket. A nurse at the hospital had suggested the technique, and it seemed to calm the child.

"We were lucky to learn about the bucket," said Ferreira.

Editing my pictures that night was hard. I realized that so many

captured Jose suffering, but I didn't want to just show him in that light.

The pictures of Jose in the bucket would have a large impact on me and on readers around the world. So this week I decided to visit the family again.

Ferreira had moved a few hours away to a town called Bonito while her husband remained in their old village. She said she wanted to be closer to Recife, where Jose can get therapy, and to get away from an area infested with mosquitoes.

"If we had not been there, this wouldn't have happened," she said.

In reality, Bonito is no different

than Poco Fundo in terms of mosquitoes and the viruses they transmit, such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya.

Jose looked worse. Not only did he scream uncontrollably, but one of his eyes convulsed. Ferreira told me that she fears Jose could end up paralyzed and blind.

He had lost weight, from 7 to 5 kilograms (15 to 11 pounds), a huge drop for a baby who should be growing. Depending on the severity, some children with microcephaly fail to thrive and thus die before becoming adults.

Ferreira cried when she said she had realized that Jose may never run and play like her two

older children. I realized then that the full weight of what Ferreira was up against had hit her. This wasn't a temporary problem, a challenge that would eventually be overcome. Now a little over 4 months old, Jose would need extreme care for the rest of his life.

As I was leaving, a neighbor with an infant about the same age as Jose came over for a visit.

Ferreira looked at the baby and smiled.

"Now I have started believing that it is actually the other babies that have heads that are too big," she said, in a tone both playful and sad. "Jose is my new normal."

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 Classified Department

*****SPECIAL BONUS***
 All Ads Are Published On Our Website At No Additional Cost!**

5. Lost And Found

LOST YOUR pet? Check daily at the Cleveland Animal Shelter, 360 Hill Street.



MISSING: MALE, neutered, LIGHT tan cat with white chest and foot. Missing from Mouse Creek Road area. Please call 423-284-6403 if found.

7. Personals

AL-ANON OFFERS help for families of alcoholics. For meeting information call 423-284-1612.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE support group for abuse victims. Meets Mondays. Call 479-9339, extension 15 or 25 for location.

IF YOU want to drink that's your business...If you want to quit, call Alcoholics Anonymous. Call 499-6003.

9. Pets And Supplies

UKC REGISTERED American Pit-bull Terriers (BLUE) FOR SALE only serious inquires please !! Contact: 251-586-1738.

14. Want To Buy

I BUY junk cars, trucks, motorcycles from \$150 up to \$500 I will pick up. Call Donny at 423-404-1488.

IF YOU are searching for a product or service AND do not want to use loads of time searching everywhere, WHY NOT Advertise your need under the heading: 014 WANT TO BUY in THE CLEVELAND DAILY BANNER!!

15. Yard Sales

GARAGE SALE: Tools, Friday and Saturday only. 4720 Daisy Avenue.

16. Antiques For Sale

CHINA CABINET Circa 1840's, walnut with glass doors, mint condition, \$150. 423-284-6442.

VERY OLD Railroad Baggage Cart from old Cleveland Depot, immaculate condition, makes 1 of a kind coffee table, original cost \$450, sell for \$175. 423-284-6442.

18. Articles For Sale

HANDMADE QUILTS for sell. All sizes. Ladies clothes, size M. 423-479-1841.

LOSE 30 lbs. in 30 days! Medical doctors say the only way to lose weight is to eat less and exercise more. Learn how to avoid weight-loss scams. Call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. A message from Cleveland Daily Banner and the FTC. Or visit our Web site at www.ftc.gov

LEGAL PUBLICATION**NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE**

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated May 28, 2004, executed by JESSE PARKER, NICOLE PARKER, conveying certain real property therein described to EQUITITLE INC, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Bradley County, Tennessee recorded June 7, 2004, in Deed Book 1441, Page 106-125; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to PNC Bank, National Association who is now the owner of said debt; and WHEREAS, the undersigned, Ruben Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Bradley County, Tennessee. NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Ruben Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on February 25, 2016 at 03:00 PM at the Front Steps of the Bradley County Courthouse, located in Cleveland, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Bradley County, Tennessee, to wit: LOCATED IN THE FIRST CIVIL DISTRICT OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE: LOT TEN (10), WILLBROOK, UNIT I, AS SHOWN BY PLAT OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 158, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS AS RECORDED IN MISC. BOOK 206, PAGE 712, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. SUBJECT TO DRAINAGE/UTILITY EASEMENTS AND SETBACK LINES AS SET OUT ON PLAT OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 158, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. AS FOLLOWS: FIFTEEN (15) FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT OVER FRONT 15 FEET OF LOT; TEN (10) FOOT DRAINAGE/UTILITY EASEMENT ON EXTERIOR LOT LINES; FIVE (5) FOOT DRAINAGE/UTILITY EASEMENT ON INTERIOR LOT LINES; SETBACKS: 25 FEET. SUBJECT TO BRADLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS AS SET OUT ON PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 158, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. SUBJECT TO ANY APPLICABLE GOVERNMENTAL ZONING ORDINANCES OR SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS IN EFFECT THEREON. Parcel ID: 0591-C-010.00 PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 173 BROOKHILL LN NE, CLEVELAND, TN 37323. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control. CURRENT OWNER(S): JESSE PARKER, NICOLE PARKER OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: FIRST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL, A DIVISION OF NATIONAL CITY BANK OF INDIANA, MIDLAND FUNDING LLC AS ASSIGNEE OF ASPIRE VISA, PRINCE HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE-HOLDERS OF THE MLMI TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-SD1 The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. 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. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose. THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Ruben Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee 119 S. Main Street, Suite 500 Memphis, TN 38103 www.rubinelublin.com/property-listings.php Tel: (877) 813-0992 Fax: (404) 601-5846 Ad #92033: 2016-01-28 2016-02-04, 2016-02-11 January 28, 2016; February 4, 11, 2016

18. Articles For Sale

PALLETS!!! FREE WHILE THEY LAST! Cleveland Daily Banner

WASHER AND dryer, good condition, works good, \$250 each, \$450 for pair. 423-458-0403.

25. Livestock-Horses-Poultry

SALERS BULLS- calving ease, performance, great disposition. Salers Females- unsurpassed mothers. Call 423-309-3490. web-site: www.colmorefarms.com

29. Help Wanted - Part-time

PART TIME help needed 3pm-7pm week days and 8am-12noon on Saturday. Must have flexible hours. Champion Cleaners on North Lee Highway. Apply in person.

SIGN INSTALLER/ SERVICE TECHNICIAN, Resume with references, 423-284-6030.

30. Help Wanted - Full Time

BASEBALL AND Softball Officials needed. Maximum pay. Training provided. Some benefits included. Work at your convenience close to home. Meeting February 21st at S Cleveland Community Center at 2pm or call 423-504-3839 for more details.

CHEMICAL TANK Driver CDL Class A with Hazmat/ Tanker. Clean motor vehicle record, 2 years driving experience. Tank experience preferred. Call 423-364-3046.

DETAIL SHOP now hiring. Need help immediately cleaning up cars. Call Mark 423-599-5209.

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

30. Help Wanted - Full Time

DELIVERY DRIVER needed. Box truck experience helpful. Apply in person at Scotts Furniture Company 1650 South Lee Highway, Cleveland.

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

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.

LAWN TECHNICIAN Full time. Great earning potential! You will be responsible for managing your customer base as well as treating lawns. We are a growing company. www.GrassMonkeysTN.com Salary is based on experience. Vacation & holiday pay. Equal opportunity employer Call 423-716-3300 or email GrassMonkeysTN@gmail.com This is not just a job it's a career.

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.

NOW STAFFING our Cleveland location. Several positions available. Great pay, flexible schedule. Must be goal oriented. Email resume to: fotoman101tn@gmail.com to apply.

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.**

SALES PERSON/ ESTIMATOR, Servicing & Calling on customers. High school diploma or above. Drain Right Guttering, 2077 Westland Drive, or call 423-472-7018.

SIGN COMPANY seeks trainable or experience person. Must have Class B CDL. Must not be afraid of heights. Apply at 2009 Blythe Avenue SE Cleveland. 7:30am-3pm Monday- Friday.

SIGN INSTALLER/ SERVICE TECHNICIAN. Resume with references, 423-284-6030.

STARS, INC. is hiring Personal Assistant, wage \$8.50. Call 423-447-2590 ext. # 1

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

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

34. Money To Lend

* LOANS up to \$1,250 * Quick Approval 423-476-5770

39. Services And Repairs

LEWIS APPLIANCES: Sales and services. We do weekend calls also, 423-368-4278.

40. General Services Offered

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, firewood. 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.

OCCOEE SERVICES: Mowing, Landscaping, commercial/ residential, licensed/ insured. Free estimates. www.occoeeservices.com 423-475-7183.

45. Vacation Rentals

2 RIVERS CAMPING: RV Park, Cabin Rentals, directly on the river at junction of Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers. 423-338-7208.

BEAR PAW COTTAGES- 2, 3 bedrooms, \$75- \$85. Mountains, fireplace, 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.

TEMPSAFE STORAGE

Climate Controlled & Outside Units Downtown Location & Georgetown Road 614-4111

47. Business Property For Rent

\$600 MONTHLY. 2400 Square foot building. No deposit. Call 423-479-6377.

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.



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.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 AT 12:00 PM CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING 190 CHURCH STREET NE

The board will hear the following items: Request by Dee Burris for setback variances at a property located at 11th St SE & Church St SE (Tax Map 57F Group H Parcel 1.00). Property is zoned R2 Low Density Single and Multi-family Residential zoning district. Request by Chick-fil-A for an impervious area variance at a property located at 3890 Keith St NW (Tax Map 42H Group C Parcel 1.03). Property is zoned CH Commercial Highway zoning district. February 4, 2016

LEGAL PUBLICATION**NOTICE OF SALE**

The following vehicles are being held at Moe's Towing, 888 Freewill Road, Cleveland, TN 37312. Anyone who has proof of ownership must reclaim the vehicle. Owner and or Lien Holder must pay all storage/towing charges. Failure of the owner or lien holder to exercise their rights to reclaim the vehicle shall be deemed a waiver of all rights, title and interest in the vehicle and consent to sale of the vehicle at public auction. OLDS 1G3NL52M3TM325491 CHRYSLER 1C3EL46X13N530322 CHRYSLER 1C3EL45R92N329320 FORD 1FAPP53U96A201471 FORD 1FAFP34P42W164453 DODGE 1B7HC16YXVS104455 MERCURY 2MECM75FXMX681202 CHEVY 1G1ZS58F37F121659 NISSAN JN8AR05Y3TW008155 NISSAN 1N4EB32A3RC762585 HONDA 1HGEJ6221WL058017 CHEVY 1GNDM19W8PB156084 FORD 1FTRX18W53NB79693 INFINITI JNKC51E66M508513 NISSAN JN1DA31D2T412079 FORD 1FTJX35M6NKB79864 February 4, 2016

49. Apartments For Rent

\$875 LUXURY Townhouse New Castle Drive NW Cleveland 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 423-618-0823.

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 townhouse, tile floors, storage building, \$595 monthly. 423-298-1964.

2 BEDROOM, 1.5 bath townhome, well located, upgraded, \$635 monthly. 423-584-3903.

2031 WYNWOOD- 2 bedroom, den, living room, stove, refrigerator, water furnished. \$600 monthly, \$275 deposit. No pets. No smoking. Noon to 6pm call 423-310-0742.

3 BEDROOM, 2.5 bath townhome, fireplace, wood/ tile, balcony, wooded, \$925 monthly, 423-584-3903.

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

QUIET AREA, very clean, unfurnished one Bedroom- Free electricity, free water, refrigerator and stove. \$550 monthly, \$175 deposit, 6 month lease. No pets, no smoking. 423-304-2973.

SUITES, APARTMENTS, cabins on river, furnished, utilities, cable, laundry. Weekly/ monthly. Pet friendly. 423-715-9892.

50. Mobile Homes For Rent

COLLEGETOWN MOBILE ESTATES: Two bedrooms nice and clean. 472-6555.

MOVE IN special 2 and 3 bedrooms, \$100 weekly and up, \$300 deposit and up. No pets, 423-473-3684.

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, 1,768 square feet, split foyer with fireplace and 1 car garage with opener, large yard. **423-472-4000** or **www.jonesproperties.biz**

53. Houses For Rent

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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2 BEDROOM, 2 bath cabin in the country, SE Cleveland. \$650 monthly, 423-650-5027.

3 BEDROOM, 2.5 bath, double garage, 1 level, \$980. 423-667-4967.

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.

56. Houses For Sale

1ST TIME HOME BUYERS PURCHASE YOUR HOME "WITH NO DOWN PAYMENT"

CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS! HERB LACY CELL # 423-593-1508 EMAIL HLKL3@YAHOO.COM Century 21 First Choice Realtors 478-2332



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.**

59. Mobile Homes For Sale

3 OLDER mobile homes, 423-472-6555.

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.

JOHN SANDERS AUCTION

1780 Church Street SE, Cleveland, TN

AUCTION THIS THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 4TH @ 6:30

NEW MERCHANDISE

TOOLS...FURNITURE...ETC.

BUILDING IS FULL!!!

AUCTION PREVIEW BEGINS @ 5:30PM

WWW.JOHNSANDERSJAUCTIONS.COM

JOHN SANDERS 423-314-6001

FORM#4147 TAL# 4526

Cleveland Daily Banner

is presently accepting applications for independent contracted newspaper carriers for the McDonald area.

Daily newspapers must be delivered by 5: PM Monday thru Friday Sunday by 7: AM

Dependable transportation, valid driver's license and insurance are required.

Applications will be accepted Monday-Friday 9: AM - 4: PM

Cleveland Daily Banner

1505 25th Street NW
Cleveland TN 37311

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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

NASCAR THIS WEEK

ROAD TO DAYTONA

Done deal?

Kauffman says RTA close to NASCAR agreement

By Godwin Kelly
godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

Rob Kauffman has partnered with team owner Chip Ganassi Racing after pulling his resources from Michael Waltrip Racing, which closed its competition department after the 2015 NASCAR season.

Kauffman arrived in NASCAR from the world of high finance and was picked by an elite group of Cup car owners to chair the Race Team Alliance. The RTA has been tasked with improving serieswide efficiency among race teams — such as saving money on travel and pooling together for things such as health insurance.

Last year, Kauffman and RTA members started a conversation with NASCAR to create some sort of charter system to give race teams more tangible value, similar to a league franchise. NASCAR and RTA are expected to announce the charter plan before the start of this season, which begins with the Feb. 21 Daytona 500. Motorsports Editor Godwin Kelly conducted an exclusive one-on-one interview with Kauffman during the Rolex 24 At Daytona for NASCAR This Week.



Rob Kauffman relaxes in his motorhome during the Rolex 24 At Daytona at Daytona International Speedway. NEWS-JOURNAL/GODWIN KELLY

CFOs comparing costs and seeing how they could save money on travel and things of that nature. It evolved over time, and it got to the point where the teams wanted more structure. For a variety of reasons, I wound up getting pushed to the front. The original thought was from a number of team owners and them inviting me to their meetings."

Have any of the plans talked about in 2015 been activated this year?

"The travel stuff, we saved millions of dollars last year. The health insurance we are working on through 2016. Listen, from a fans' standpoint, these are boring things. They want the teams to show up and race. Nobody really cares how we get there. The fact we are getting there much cheaper and safely and on time, that's great."

Talk about what you have been talking about with NASCAR.

"I think it is pretty well known by now, this is a charter system with NASCAR to put more structure around teams so there is more value potentially to teams over time, so that NASCAR racing looks like other sports, which are organized and structured. We'd like team ownership to (look like) that of baseball or football. We are quite optimistic we will have something in place for 2016."

Where does that now stand?

"We have worked on this for a while. The teams have been working on it with NASCAR for a number of months. I think we are quite close to getting something done for the 2016 season, and the season starts in three weeks. I think all the major issues have been ironed out at this stage, and now it's a matter of dotting the i's and crossing the t's and getting the paperwork sorted out. I'm quite optimistic we'll have something for this season."

add to the mix. We did combine some parts of (Waltrip Racing) with Ganassi Racing, so some of the people, technology came over, and we hope that makes us stronger on the NASCAR side."

What is your gut feeling about the Ganassi NASCAR team right now?

"I want to win the championship. We have a strong group. The guys have worked hard on the program. They have all the tools they need. If I have a contribution, maybe it's more to how the teams relate to NASCAR, how the rules-change processes evolve and communication

Godwin Kelly is the Daytona Beach News-Journal's motorsports editor and has covered NASCAR for 30 years. Reach him at godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com



between teams. We want to make sure the competition is good, but that we don't spend ourselves into oblivion."

How did you get the RTA going?
"I didn't really get it going. If you go back a few years, you will find different

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions... and maybe a few actual answers

How close are we?

You're down to just one more boogity-boogity-free weekend before you can start getting your fill of NASCAR on Fox, which means I'm only a few weeks away from collecting all those emails from the amateur TV critics who will insist Jeff Gordon go back to racing (or Manhattan) and turn in his microphone.

What if we love Jeff?

Those who are Jeff Gordon fans will love Jeff Gordon, regardless of how he performs in the Fox broadcast booth. Those who always rooted against him will likely not like him and begin mounting a campaign to "Bring Back Larry Mac." Everyone else will fall somewhere in the middle. There's your one certainty approaching a new season.

How 'bout Katherine Legge?

She's been a known quantity for several years in open-wheel and sports-car racing. She's been the face of DeltaWing the past few years, which has gained her some more attention. And at last week-end's Rolex 24, she dominated the early stage and definitely raised her profile, which might help in the near future since DeltaWing is going away after 2016.

NASCAR, perhaps?

In earlier times, Legge would be a natural intrigue for a NASCAR team at some level, and who knows, maybe something will happen. She sounds open to it. She has a good temperament, a marketable persona, and a neat British accent with the edges slightly rounded off. Oh, and she knows her way around the track.

Ken Willis has been covering NASCAR for The Daytona Beach News-Journal for 27 years. Reach him at ken.willis@news-jrnl.com



Allmendinger wants to run Le Mans

By Godwin Kelly
godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

AJ Allmendinger, whose full-time job is wheeling the No. 47 Chevrolet in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, co-drove the No. 60 Honda Ligier Prototype in the Rolex 24 At Daytona Saturday and Sunday.

Allmendinger has been doing the sports-car thing for more than 10 years with IMSA team owner Michael Shank.

Michael Shank Racing won the 2012 Rolex 24 with Allmendinger behind the wheel of the Prototype at the checkered flag.

The one race on Allmendinger's bucket list is the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France. The 34-year-old driver may get his chance this year.

"If AJ can find a way to get to Le Mans, we'll make it work from our end," Shank told NASCAR This Week. "He has been with me many years. I would love to see it happen."

"It sounds fun to talk about it, but the reality is, AJ has a lot of (NASCAR) sponsor programs built around him."

The Le Mans 24 program will be staged on a NASCAR Cup Series off week, June 14-18.

"Le Mans to me is that last prestigious race I want to compete in," Allmendinger said. "It would be awesome to run that race. Le Mans, all those years I have watched it on TV, it looks so awesome."

"I would do it in a heartbeat," he added. "If the stars aligned and the right people said, 'You can go do this,' I'd jump at the chance."

Define your function with Ganassi Racing.

"Business partner. This is the early days of us figuring it out. Both of us are pragmatic people, and we'll see what makes the most sense for me and what areas I can help benefit the team the most. I'm pretty flexible."

Based on your history at Waltrip Racing, you seem to be able to spark performance with a race team.

"We achieved some level of success at MWR, but not the level that we wanted to reach. Chip is pretty successful, and hopefully I can

SPEED FREAKS A couple questions we had to ask — ourselves

Did the Rolex get your blood flowing?

GODSPEAK: Love those sporty cars. Can they run a couple of Prototype 2 cars in the Daytona 500?

KEN'S CALL: It's the perfect appetizer — enough to tease the palate, but not too filling.

Will we see Tony Stewart in a future Rolex 24?

GODSPEAK: I see a future "Dream Team." How about

Jeff Gordon and Stewart as Rolex 24 racing teammates?
KEN'S CALL: I'm guessing yes, but the prediction game with Tony is always dicey.

Busch beer is back, this time as a team sponsor. Thoughts?

GODSPEAK: Kyle Busch wins Cup championship and now Busch beer is coming back; something is brewing.

KEN'S CALL: I still say "Busch Series" when talking about

the Saturday races, so to me it's like they never left.

Which old sponsor would you also like to see return in some form?

GODSPEAK: Folders, because I like coffee when I have a bag of M&M's.

KEN'S CALL: Is Gwaltney Foods still around? If not, I'd like to see Buddy Baker's old Crisco colors return somewhere.

ONLINE EXTRAS

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NASCAR NEWS AND NOTES

An old NASCAR beer buddy returning

For several years now, the only place to see the Busch beer logo at race tracks has been among the infield party crowd, but the long-familiar brand is returning the sport this year.

Busch will be on Kevin Harvick's No. 4 car for 12 races in 2016, beginning with the Feb. 13 Sprint Unlimited exhibition race at Daytona. To go along with that, the Anheuser-Busch marketing team will debut a TV ad campaign titled "Working for Race Day."

Busch became a common name and common product at NASCAR tracks through its sponsorship of NASCAR's top "minor league" circuit from 1984-2007. Since then, that series has been known as the Nationwide and currently the Xfinity Series.

Fractions and plates

NASCAR announced last week that higher speeds will be a little harder to achieve when Speedweeks arrives at



Busch beer, once highly visible in NASCAR (here with Jason Keller in 2003), makes its return this year. AP FILE

Daytona next week. The horsepower-hobbling restrictor plates will have a

slightly smaller hole, shrinking by 1/64th of an inch, from 5/84ths to 5/64ths.

The plates are used only at Daytona and Talladega, which are host to five Cup races, including the Sprint Unlimited.

Big bid, big donation

Team Penske sold a piece of championship equipment at last week's Barrett-Jackson auction in Scottsdale, Arizona, with the full price going to the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The car was one of Penske's "Blue Deuce" No. 2 Dodge Chargers that Brad Keselowski drove to the 2012 Cup Series championship. The winning bid: \$150,000.

Doubleheader at Bristol

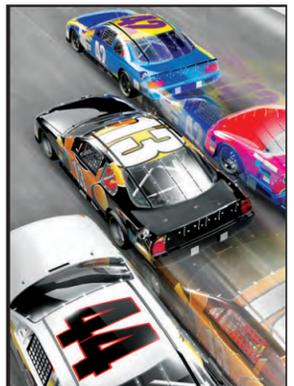
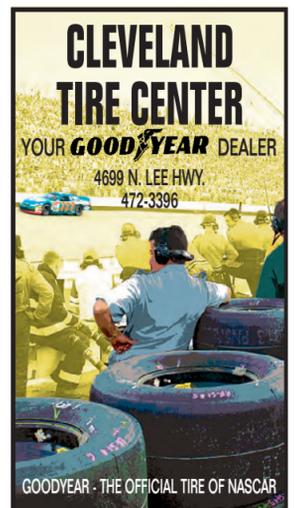
Bristol Motor Speedway is adding a second football game to its September schedule. The Sept. 10 game featuring

Virginia Tech and Tennessee has been in the works a long time and will certainly remain the headliner, but Bristol will leave the field in place and host a second game on Sept. 17 between East Tennessee State and Western Carolina.

Danica hiring

Nature's Bakery, entering its first season as primary sponsor for Danica Patrick's No. 10 team, has introduced a "Fantern Program" as a big marketing campaign for 2016. The program will be in play at 26 events this year, beginning March 3 at Las Vegas. It will allow a fan to serve in the dual role of fan and intern.

"The program will provide a hands-on opportunity to gain a unique and valuable experience tied to a subject matter fans are curious to learn about," the company said through a press release. More info can be found at NaturesBakery.com.



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