

Cleveland Daily Banner

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CLEVELAND, TN 20 PAGES • 50¢

City, county get good Report Card marks

Bradley Schools beat Tennessee averages for English and math

By **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**
Banner Staff Writer

Bradley County Schools had a few reasons to celebrate in light of the Tennessee Department of Education's release of its annual Report Card for schools Tuesday.

Though technological hiccups led to Tennessee students in grades 3 through 8 not completing all their state tests during the 2015-16 year, local school officials say they are happy with how the school students did.

The high schoolers' end of course exams led to the county school system receiving high marks on the state Report Card.

"I am very pleased to report that we have scores of level 5 in all areas of our District-Level Composite," Dr. Linda Cash, director of Bradley County Schools, said in a statement. "A score of '5' is the most effective where there is significant evidence that students are making substantially more progress than the standard for academic growth."

The state Department of Education measures school systems' performance with the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, or TVAAS. Looking at students' state-level test results, the system assigns scores ranging from 1 to 5 in each of the following areas: Overall,

See **BRADLEY**, Page 4



Cash



O'Bryan



McQueen



Kahrs

Cleveland Schools improvement noted in ACT Composite Scores

By **SARALYN NORKUS**
Banner Staff Writer

The Tennessee Department of Education released the annual report cards for school districts across the state on Tuesday, and for Cleveland City Schools there are a number of reasons to be pleased with the results.

As it has been earlier reported, Cleveland High School saw its ACT Composite Scores jump from 18.9 in 2015 to 20.4 this past year.

"Preparation for the ACT is one of the best things we can do for our students as they make postsecondary plans. The class of 2016 continues to leave its mark by earning the highest ACT scores in

recent years," said Cleveland High Principal Autumn O'Bryan.

According to Michael Kahrs, supervisor of data management and assessment, the high school has seen excellent results from integrating ACT activities into academic and Career & Technical Education courses, alongside a daily advisement class called CLIMB Time.

"We're very excited at the positive results after such hard work by students, teachers and administration," Kahrs stated.

Cleveland's graduation rate of 90 percent has also given it plenty of reason to celebrate.

See **CLEVELAND**, Page 4

Food for local families in need

A goal to distribute 750 boxes of food staples and \$24,000 in donations has been set by the William Hall Rodgers Christmas Basket Fund. The food staples will be given to families in need in the community just before Christmas. The fund, which is a 501(c)(3), is a volunteer-supported effort. Donations may be mailed to First Tennessee Bank, P.O. Box 3566, Cleveland TN 37320-3566 or dropped off at First Tennessee Bank at 3870 Keith St.

Inside Today



Looking for security

The Tennessee Titans are looking to continue being stingy with turnovers Sunday, when they face the Kansas City Chiefs. The Tennessee Volunteers will be facing a depleted quarterback corps against Nebraska in the Music City Bowl. Patrick MacCoo takes a look at the departure of UTC head coach Russ Huesman. See Sports, Pages 13-15.

Forecast

Today looks to be sunny, with a high in the mid 30s. Tonight should be partly cloudy and cold, with lows in the upper teens to low 20s. Friday calls for mostly sunny skies and a high near 46. Friday night calls for increasing clouds and a 60 percent chance of rain, with a low around 38.

Index

Classified.....	18-19
Comics.....	8
Editorials.....	16
Horoscope.....	8
NASCAR.....	20
Obituaries.....	2
Stocks.....	4
Sports.....	13-15
TV Schedule.....	9
Weather.....	11

Around Town

Shirley Shadden meeting her neighbor coming home from work with a bowl of hot beef stew and sausage balls ... Doug Blackwell and Jennifer Sprague doing "car karaoke" ... Mary Grace Blackwell enjoying a book ... Charlie Blackwell getting into football workouts.

IT'S A READING 'WIN-WIN'



Banner photo, **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**

SEVENTH-GRADERS Jackson Scarborough and Kaeli Standridge, both from Ocoee Middle School, read to first-graders at Mayfield Elementary School during their visit Wednesday.

Talented OMS writers take skills to Mayfield students

By **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**
Banner Staff Writer

Students from a Bradley County middle school recently wrote their own books. On Wednesday, they visited a Cleveland elementary school to read their new books to younger students.

The unusual city-county partnership allowed young authors from Ocoee Middle School to share their work, while Mayfield Elementary School students got to meet students who could be "role models" to them.

This came about after Judy Weir, a seventh-grade English and social studies teacher at Ocoee Middle, found herself looking for ways get her students excited about their lessons.

"I decided to give my students a project that would help them in both classes," Weir said. "It helped them realize they can be creative and still relay important information."

Inspired by a unit on African history,

"I think it encourages our students to read and write, having older role models that are writing and creating on their own. It's a win-win."
— **Bob Pritchard**

she had students write either nonfiction or fiction books based on what they had been learning.

Working in pairs, students researched facts about African countries and decided whether their stories would be fictional or fact-based. They then set to work writing the stories together.

Using school computers, they typed their stories. They then designed pages and added either photos or original illustrations to their stories using Microsoft Publisher software.

The completed books were then printed and spiral-bound, so the middle



Banner photo, **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**

OCCOEE MIDDLE SCHOOL seventh-graders Kaitlyn South, left, and Desiray Ngige present an original story they created to a group of kindergarteners at Mayfield Elementary School.

schoolers had real books in hand to read to the elementary school students.

Upon their visit to Mayfield Elementary, the Ocoee Middle students took turns reading to kindergarten and first-grade classes in the school library and theater spaces.

See **READING**, Page 6

City school board will be asked to modify contract language

Past projects prompt action

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

Cleveland Board of Education Site Committee members will recommend to the full school board that it modify the language of its general construction contract prior to obtaining a bid for the new Candy's Creek Cherokee Elementary to be located on Georgetown Road.

The Site Committee met Wednesday morning to review modifications to the general contract, prior to a vote by the Board of Education.

The change in language is being suggested by architect Brian Templeton of Upland Design Group in Murfreesboro. It is based on information and knowledge obtained through previous, major construction projects — the Cleveland High School Science Wing and the new Cleveland High Raider Arena.

If approved by the entire board, the modifications will be drawn in to the contract by school board attorney Chuck Cagle. The contract will then come back to the school board for final approval.

Templeton's suggestions are mainly in two areas. One is to provide the school board with more oversight on the eventual contractor's authority to change his superintendent on the project without board consent.

The second suggestion is to provide Cleveland Schools Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor Hal Taylor more authority in overseeing the construction project for the school board.

Taylor has been highly praised by the board and the architectural firm for his efforts with

See **CONTRACT**, Page 6

Taylor Spring fundraiser to coincide with 175th

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

The prospect of a new, historic park in downtown Cleveland is flowing a little stronger today after action by the Andrew Taylor Spring Park Committee Wednesday.

The committee took steps to launch a major community fundraiser to generate funds of around \$250,000 for construction of the park at the "birthplace" of the city of Cleveland. The location of the spring, and future park, is on 1st Street, just west of the downtown courthouse square.

It will be within easy walking distance of a number of downtown businesses and offices, with easy access for visitors to the community. The Museum Center at Five Points, focusing on the history of the Ocoee Region, is only a few blocks away.

Cleveland City Manager Joe Fivas, Cleveland Finance Director Shawn McKay, and Community Foundation President Cathy Barrett were guests at Wednesday's meeting. Barrett will help coordinate the fundraising effort, as she did with the successful Cleveland Dog Park project.

Committee members include Cleveland businessman and historian Allan Jones,

city historian Bob George, Cleveland Councilman Richard Banks (chairman), Cleveland Public Works Supervisor Tommy Myers, and former Bradley County Commissioner Jeff Morelock. Myers could not attend Wednesday's session.

Contractors Dee Burris and Dennis Black, and Toby Pendergrass of Jones Management, also attended the afternoon meeting.

A by-invitation fundraiser has been tentatively scheduled for an historic day to solicit donations for this very historic park. The fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4, the 175th anniversary of

the city of Cleveland's incorporation (Feb. 4, 1842).

Barrett and Pendergrass have been directed by the committee to plan for the February fundraiser, and the overall fundraising effort.

Committee members, especially Jones, are adamant that there be assorted levels of giving. It was the consensus of the group that engraved bricks be available as the Dog Park campaign featured. The bricks will probably sell for \$100, with around \$20 the cost of the brick and approximately \$80 going into the

See **TAYLOR**, Page 6



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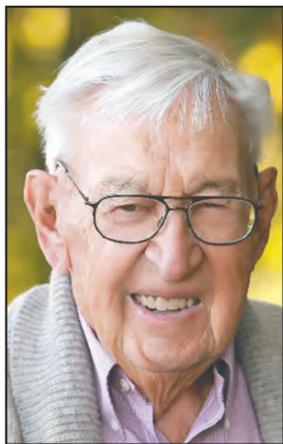
OBITUARIES

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.

Wilfred Adkins

Wilfred Adkins, 67, of Cleveland, died Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016, in a Nashville hospital.

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



Joe Ralph Alexander Sr.

Joe Ralph Alexander Sr., 101, passed away peacefully, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

He was born Oct. 16, 1915, on his family's Century Farm to the late Joseph Peeler and Jennie (Matlock) Alexander.

The family farm has been continuously farmed by an Alexander for more than 200 years. He loved working the land. He was never happier than when he was on a tractor. He was blessed with the physical ability to farm through his 100th year of life. He inspired others as a vocational and agricultural teacher. He helped raise many young farmers and students who had very successful lives. He was patient, kind and humble. He was quoted recently as saying that his success for longevity was to eat a bowl of oats sweetened with honey every day. To start the day early and work hard all day. To go to church on Sunday and most importantly, to eat before you get hungry and rest before you get tired.

He was a graduate of Lenoir City High School, class of 1934, and at the University of Tennessee Class of 1938. He taught vocational agriculture at Vonore High School, Madisonville, Charleston High School, Bradley County and Loudon high schools until he retired into full-time farming in 1974.

He was a member of Charleston Masonic Lodge No. 484 and later Loudon Lodge 204 F&AM for more than 50 years. He became a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Loudon in 1954, where he served in many capacities including elder. He was named "Honorary Chapter Farmer" at Loudon High School. He was a member of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association and the Loudon County Farm Bureau.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Charlotte (Hambricht) Alexander; and sister, Reba Greenway.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Frances and Kenneth Ladd of Dyersburg; son and daughter-in-law, Joe R. and Rikki Alexander of Lenoir City; grandchildren and spouses: Lisa and Johnny Keeling of Dyersburg, Bryan and Michelle Ladd of Nashville, Sarah Ladd of NYC, and Gregg and Teresa Alexander of Vermont; great-grandchildren: Sydney, Sawyer, Jack, Carly Tate, Joseph and Charlotte; brother, Earl Alexander of Loudon; nephew, Bill Alexander; and nieces: Leigh Lamb, Jan Brown, Patricia Demuyan and Sharon Harkrider.

A service honoring and remembering the life of Ralph Alexander will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, in the Fellowship Hall of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Nick Coker and the Rev. Tim Watson officiating.

Interment and Masonic rites will follow in Lenoir City Cemetery. Contributions in memory of Ralph may be made to his church, P.O. Box 373, Loudon, TN 37774 or to the Ralph Alexander, Class of 1938, Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, UT Institute of Agriculture, 107 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, TN 37996 or online at AdvanceUTIA.com.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday prior to the service at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 203 College St., Loudon, McGill-Karnes Funeral Home, 406 Wharf St. Loudon. www.mcgillkarnes.com.



Lorene Alloway

Lorene White Alloway, 87, passed away Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016, in Sterling Heights, Mich.

She was a member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Michigan.

She was the daughter of the late William J. and Ethel Lee White. She was also preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Edison Alloway; six sisters; and six brothers.

She is survived by her one sister, Ruth Hicks of Clinton Township, Mich.; one brother, William D. "Bill" White of Etowah; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be conducted at 7 p.m. today, Dec. 15, 2016, in the chapel of Ralph Buckner Funeral Home with the Rev. Joe Collins officiating.

Interment will be held on Friday at 11 a.m. at Old Shiloh Baptist Church in Ocoee.

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

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



Earl Angle

Earl Angle, 80, of Cleveland, died Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 14, 2016, in a local health care facility.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.



Martha Arp

Martha Arp, 71, of Cleveland, died Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016, in a local hospital.

Survivors and Remembrance of Life arrangements will be announced by the Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services, Wildwood Avenue Chapel.



Aaron Brown

Aaron Brown, 48, of Cleveland, died Monday, Dec. 12, 2016, in Johnson City.

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



Frank Burgan

Frank Burgan, 79, a resident of Cleveland, passed away Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016, at his residence.

He was of the Protestant faith. He was a former firefighter of 32 years for the city of Speedway, Ind.

He loved country music and fishing. He was a retired chief of Speedway, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Violet Ruth Burgan; his second wife, Sandra Sue Burgan; his parents, Ray Burgan and Christabelle Hall Burgan; and his son, Roy Lee Miller.

He is survived by his two children: George Ray Burgan and wife, Lori, of Cleveland, and Ramona Gail Boltinghouse and husband, Duane, of Indianapolis, Ind.; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; two brothers: Bill Burgan of Brownsburg, Ind., and Tom Burgan of Lizton, Ind.; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be conducted at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, at the Speedway Chapel of Conkle Funeral Home in Indiana.

Entombment will be held at the Washington Park North Crypt in Indianapolis, Ind., on Saturday.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home prior to the service.

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

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



Raymond Burns

Raymond Burns, 74, a resident of Cleveland, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

He graduated from Ooltewah High School, where he excelled in sports, and was on the 1960 Ooltewah football team when they won the state championship.

He worked 22 years as an accountant before changing careers and working 25 years as an employee at Maytag.

He was a softball coach for the 10-year-old "Mellow Yellow" girls softball team, where his daughter, Emily, played.

He attended Grace Way Chapel where he loved and was loved by his church family. He was known for never meeting a stranger, and always helping those in need. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and will be dearly missed by all that knew him.

He was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Jana Elyne Burns; parents, Clyde and Dorothy Burns; and brother, Lebron Burns.

He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Brenda Burns; children: Lara (Donny) Harwood, Andy Burns, and Emily Jones; grandchildren: Hannah, Austin, and Lauren Harwood and Kalle Jones; two nephews: Mike and Scott Burns; sister-in-law, Bonnie Burns Cook; and cousin, Betty Padgett Winkler (Wayne).

A Celebration of Life service is planned for 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, at Companion Funeral Home, 2419 Georgetown Road N.W., with Pastor Ronnie Pearson officiating.

The family will receive friends two hours prior, from noon until the 2 p.m. service time.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

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



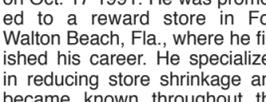
Bill Creagan

William "Bill" Patrick Creagan, a former Cleveland resident, passed away at Tennova Medical Center in Cleveland at approximately 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

He was born on March 9, 1961, in Newton, Iowa, to his parents Wayne and Barbara Creagan.

He attended Newton High School and then went on to get a bachelor of arts in business at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. After graduating, he went to Las Vegas Nev., where he worked for five years as a vendor and then to Montgomery Ward. He then moved to Cleveland, where he soon began a very successful and productive 25-year career with Wal-Mart.

While in Cleveland, he married Laurie Prater. He was soon transferred to stores in Soddy Daisy, Summerville, Ga., then to Cedar Town, Ga., where his daughter, Evelin Ann, was born on Oct. 17 1991. He was promoted to a reward store in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., where he finished his career. He specialized in reducing store shrinkage and became known throughout the corporation as an expert in that field, saving the company enormous amounts of money. This transitioned him to the Wal-Mart Super Center where he received numerous \$100 Million Sales rings. He finished up his career there in 2014.



He was an enthusiastic collector of sports memorabilia and enjoyed keeping up with professional sports. He loved spending time with his beautiful daughter, Evelin.

He was preceded in death by his father, C. Wayne Creagan.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Creagan; brother, Larry (Linda) Creagan; brother, Mike (Denise) Creagan; daughter, Evelin Creagan; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are his brother, Mike Creagan; nephews: Michael Creagan, Travis Creagan, and Jason Creagan; son-in-law, Josh (Brittney) Viar and his good friend, Russell Troupe of Milton, Fla.

The family will be receiving friends Friday, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Companion Funeral Home.

There will be a graveside service Saturday at 11 a.m. at Sunset Memorial Gardens at 7180 North Lee Hwy (Hwy 11) Cleveland. Steve Morgan will be presiding.

Friends are welcome and will be meeting there at 10:45 a.m. Saturday.

In lieu of flower, donations can be given in Bill Creagan's name and will be given towards a newly-formed information and rehabilitation service called ATS Bridge Builders J29 formed to help local youth avoid using, or to receive help, for treating alcohol and drug addiction. Those donations can be sent in Care of the Companion Funeral Home 2415 Georgetown Road, Cleveland, TN, 37320.

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



Michelle Estes

Michelle Estes, 53, of Cleveland, died Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 14, 2016, at Erlanger Medical Center.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.



Virginia Goodwin

Ona Virginia Gamble Goodwin, died on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

She has been a member of Cloverleaf Missionary Baptist Church since 1987, and was the organist. Her "great love" was singing and playing Southern Gospel Songs. She sang in her first quartet at the age of 14 at Hopewell Baptist Church. She sang with others during the years, including her mother, in the churches where her daddy pastored and his radio program at WBAC. She sang five years with "The Davy Conley Trio" of Cleveland.

She has been a member of the DAR Chapter in Cleveland. She was the Worthy Matron 1987 at Harmony Chapter No. 143 of the Order of the Eastern Star in Cleveland.

She was preceded in death by her parents, the Rev. Carl Taylor Gamble and Ruby Victoria Marr Gamble; and both set of grandparents: Robert Ernest Gamble and Mary Ona Gamble and Andy L. Marr and Lethie Virginia Marr.

Survivors include two sons: Tim and his wife, Kim Goodwin, of Etowah, and Mickey and his wife, Aimee Goodwin, of Sweetwater; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren: Nathan and wife, Jamie Goodwin and their children: Taylor, LaShay and Lilly; Tiffany and her husband, Casey, and their children: Eli, Landon and Logan; Brogen Goodwin, McKinley Goodwin.

The funeral will be held on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Ralph Buckner Funeral Home with the Rev. Gary Higgins and the Rev. Johnny Moore officiating.

Interment will follow in Mount Olive Cemetery. A white dove release ceremony will conclude the service.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

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



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Adam Johnson

Adam Lee Johnson, 18, a resident of Cleveland, passed away Monday, Dec. 12, 2016.

He had a love for computers and had a passion for web design. He loved video games, and loved to play basketball with his dad. He came off as a bit shy but when you got to know him he was loving, caring and had a funny sense of humor. He was a beloved son and brother.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Robert Lee Johnson Sr. and Rita Diane Johnson.

He is survived by his parents: Lawrence and Mandy Johnson; and one sister, Kaitlyn Johnson, all of Cleveland; grandparents: Steve Crowe, Shirley Currie and Stephen Currin; childhood best friends: Charles Allen and Cameron Ellis; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The funeral will be conducted at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, in the chapel of Ralph Buckner Funeral Home with Robert Johnson III. Interment will follow in Fort Hill Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

We invite you to send a message of condolence and view the Johnson family guidebook at www.rabblrouser.com.



John P. Morgan

John Parks Morgan, 81, a resident of Cleveland since 1978, having moved from Tacoma Park, Md., passed away Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016.

He moved to Cleveland from Tacoma Park where he served as a sergeant with the police department. John was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp and was employed with the City of Cleveland as a school bus driver and later as a monitor. He and his wife were also former owners/operators of Nationwide Glass Company. He attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James "Pappy" Charles Morgan and Inez Mae Winkler Morgan; and children: Johnny Rymer, Ricky Morgan, Kathy Morgan and Sandy Morgan.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Gail Morgan of Cleveland; children: Randy Morgan of Del Ray Beach, Fla., and JoAnn Morgan and Tiffany Hampton, both of Cleveland; grandchildren: Tabby Ward, Cindy Walker, John Matott, William Key, Brandy Cox, Austin Hampton, Meghan Melnikov, Kody Ward, Caeden Key, Addisen Walker and Jakob Walker; brother, James R.

Morgan and wife, Phyllis, of Adelphi, Md.; and several nieces and nephews.

The service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, in the chapel of Fike-Randolph & Son Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Pettengill officiating.

His family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home prior to the service.

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



Mattie Patterson

Mattie Patterson, 86, died Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016, in a Chattanooga health care facility.

Survivors and Remembrance of Life arrangements will be announced by Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services Wildwood Avenue Chapel.



Michael Spencer Whelan

Michael Spencer Whelan, 33, of Chattanooga, died on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

He was a graduate from Chattanooga State Community College and attended UTC to study environmental law.

He loved his family and was a devoted father, friend, son, brother and nephew. He loved life and was constantly finding new ways to experience it with his son and his friends. He loved life so much that he wanted to allow others the opportunity to live through his death, by donating his organs.

Survivors include his son, Turner Whelan, and Turner's mother, Ashley Carter of Griffin, Ga.; his father, Wyman Whelan; mother, Janet Loftis Whelan; brother, Chris Whelan (Stephanie and Scotty); uncles, Don Loftis (Sandy); aunts: Darlene Crabtree, Kay Hill (Ronnie), Ann Robbins (Ross); and numerous cousins.

A celebration of Spencer's life will be held Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, at 1 p.m. at St. Therese of Lisieux, in Cleveland.

The family will be receiving friends in the fellowship hall immediately following the service.

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

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



Carolyn Wilson

Carolyn Long Wilson, 78, of Cleveland, died Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016, at a local health care facility.

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



THURSDAY

LIFESTYLES

William Wright
Lifestyles Editor

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Lifestyles@clevelandbanner.com

FRODADDY & the Matador
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Exhibit showcases Kay Sekimachi's woven fiber art

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When 90-year-old artist Kay Sekimachi was a child in the San Francisco Bay Area, she drew, painted and made hundreds of dresses for her paper dolls. That love for textiles carried into adulthood.

Over a 65-year career, Sekimachi wove intricate sculptural art, from 3-D wall hangings woven out of nylon monofilament fishing line to fiber tubes, woven boxes, and bowls made of lace paper, maple leaves and other materials.

Fifty-five of the Berkeley-based artist's works form the exhibit "Kay Sekimachi: Simple Complexity" at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles. The exhibit runs through Jan. 8.

"She really is known as a master weaver," said curator Holly Jerger. "She's part of this overall movement that developed in the 1960s, where textiles went from mostly two-dimensional and functional to being a sculptural form. A lot of that was tied to the feminist movement as well, and women taking over those traditional practices but making them big and explosive and large-scale. Her work is more intimate."

From 1942 to 1944, Sekimachi and her first-generation Japanese-American parents were interned at detention camps in California and Utah. While there, Sekimachi took painting and origami classes. After the war, she studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts (now the California College



of the Arts).

She bought her first loom in 1949, took weaving classes, and connected with a mentor, weaver and textile artist Trude Guermonprez. Guermonprez introduced Sekimachi to the architecture-driven Bauhaus art movement, and also to double weaving. Instead of just one warp — long threads stretched through the loom and woven through horizontal threads called the weft — double weaving uses two warps simultaneously to create a layered effect.

"Most of us weavers, we started by weaving things like placemats, hand towels, blankets, kitchen fabrics," Sekimachi said in an interview. "Trude opened my eyes and made me see that weaving could be much more than these

functional things."

A friend whose mother worked for manufacturer DuPont sent Sekimachi samples in the mid-1950s of the nylon monofilament, and she put it on the loom, making a wall hanging. Eventually, she wove several layers at a time. The stiff but malleable monofilament layers could be pulled apart and sculpted.

In the exhibit, 1967's "Nagare I" hangs in the entrance like a beautifully strange, vertical sea creature, woven out of six undulating layers of nylon monofilament dyed jet black.

"It took me about an hour to weave an inch. I was weaving many, many layers," Sekimachi said.

In the '70s, she used a process

called card weaving to make seamless fiber tubes. By threading vertical warp threads through cards or tablets with holes drilled through them, she created floor-to-ceiling tube hangings. The exhibit features 1974's "Marugawa I" and "Marugawa II" in twisty black and white natural linen, and 1978's "Marugawa IV" in orange, blue and natural colored linen.

"There's a crispness to linen when woven, and it has a lot of body," Sekimachi said.

When she started making woven boxes and bowls out of materials such as Japanese antique paper, leaves, lace paper and linen threads, she collaborated with her late husband Bob Stocksedale.

AP photo
THIS PHOTO shows two flax bowls made in 2008 by Berkeley, Calif., based 90-year-old fiber artist and weaver Kay Sekimachi. The pieces are part of the "Kay Sekimachi: Simple Complexity" exhibit at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles, chronicling Sekimachi's decades-long career. The exhibit runs through Jan. 8, 2017.



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Sunday, December 18
6:00 P.M.



Hints from Heloise

Family counseling

Dear Readers: Advice from family members can be funny and honest, but always should be thoughtful and considered. When asked for the BEST ADVICE you'd received from family, you came through! Homemaking, life skills and interpersonal skills were the biggest topics. Enjoy the following. — Heloise

"My Uncle Walt gave me this hint: Leave a clean, dry towel next to the sink. Every time you use the sink, wipe all the water out of it, off the fixtures, the counter around it and the mirror. You will almost never have to clean your sink/counter/mirror, because they stay clean and dry." — Danine F., via email

"The day I told my grandmother that I was engaged to be married, she sat me down at her dining-room table and told me, 'If you want to have a long, happy marriage, always treat your spouse

the way you want him to treat you.' We just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and are looking forward to our 75th!" — Betty T., via email

"Hi, Heloise: We read your column in the Orange County (Calif.) Register. When I got married 57 years ago, my mother advised us to wait before having children. Have some fun and travel before having children, she said. Work and save, then make a nest for your children. We did that, and waited four years until we started our family." — Gisela S., via email

"I will always remember my mother telling me that when raising children, 'Nothing is worth hurt little feelings.'" — T.J.M., Laguna Niguel, Calif.

"My grandmother always said, 'Never leave a room empty-handed.'" — Donna T., Keizer, Ore.

"The best advice I've ever gotten came from my favorite teacher: 'Live your life as though every-

thing you say and do is written in 20-foot letters across the sky.' It was a lesson in integrity. Make each choice a conscious one, rooted in ethics. If it's a mistake, it will be an honest one, and an opportunity to grow in understanding, not an embarrassment. This has proved to be liberating, freeing me of the fear of being wrong." — Cindy B., via email

"The best advice I ever received was from my grandmother, who had lovely, unwrinkled skin. She told me that sunbathing was not good for you, no matter how pretty a tan was. I followed her advice and will be 80 next month, with no wrinkles." — V.P. in Florida

"Get an apprenticeship in a trade. No college is necessary, and the salary can be as good as some college-degreed jobs." — A Reader, Dayton, Ohio

"I read your column in The Daily Sun from The Villages, Fla., every day. My mother taught me

two life hints that I still try to live by: 1. Believe nothing you hear and only one-half of what you see. 2. If you can't say anything nice about a person, don't say anything." — Linda H., via email

"Be sure and learn to boil water, and don't burn the toast." — Nancy M., via email

"Dad always said, 'The harder you work, the luckier you get.'" — John M. in San Antonio

"My dad used to say to us four — mostly at the meal table — 'You can't learn anything by talking. 'Nuff said!'" — Frank D., Kerrville, Texas

Send a money-saving or time-saving hint to Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or you can fax it to 1-210-HELOISE or email it to Heloise@Heloise.com.

I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

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Cleveland

From Page 1

“We have strived toward meeting the state’s 90 percent goal and finally reached it this year, jumping from 86 percent in 2015 to 90 percent in 2016,” Kahrs noted.

One of the reasons that the school has seen such a jump in graduation rates is the opening of its hybrid alternative school, the F.I. Denning Center of Technology & Careers.

The Denning Center allows the school system to be more targeted and to offer more specific interventions to ensure student’s success in working toward a diploma, all while looking forward to postsecondary options.

“With the opening of the Denning Center in 2015, as well as reorganizing and focusing efforts at Cleveland High School, great gains have been made in identifying and serving at-risk students,” Kahrs explained.

When it comes to TVAAS Growth and TNReady Achievement scores, Kahrs added that the numbers could be a bit misleading. In 2015-16, only grades 9-12 took a state test, which had been realigned to a more challenging baseline. In order to get a true reading, Kahrs explained that you have to compare the TVAAS Growth from grades 9-12 in 2014-15 to the newly released scores.

“With grades 3-8 factored out for 2014-15, TVAAS Growth scores actually shot up last year,” Kahrs detailed in an email statement.

The school system is graded on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best possible score and 1 the lowest.

“In comparing only grades 9-12 in both years, Cleveland City Schools jumped as a system from a 1 to 4 on our composite score,” Kahrs continued. “In literacy (English), we moved from a

3 to a 4, while in numeracy (mathematics), we rose two points. Our biggest improvement was definitely in science, where we shot up from the bottom of the scale to the top.”

In 2014-15, the school had a 1 in numeracy, which increased to a 3 in 2015-16. Science saw a jump from a 1 to a 5. Grades 9-12 received a 3 in social studies, but had no scores to compare from 2014-15.

The school system as a whole saw marked growth in total population, with there being 5,638 students and 350 teachers in 2015-16 in comparison to 5,575 students and 338 teachers in 2014-15.

The Education Department announced on Tuesday that the annual report cards had rolled out a new look this year, which was redesigned, layout wise, to help educators and families better access and understand information about their schools.

“We want all our families to have clear information on how their students and schools are doing and (Tuesday’s) announcement moves us closer to that goal,” said state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen. This new report card is easier to use and has better information about whether our students are academically on track, both of which will help parents, educators, district leaders and advocates support our students success.”

LOTTERY NUMBERS

(AP) — These lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Tennessee
Cash 3 Evening: 9-1-3, Lucky Sum: 13
Cash 3 Midday: 2-6-7, Lucky Sum: 15
Cash 3 Morning: 7-3-6
Cash 4 Evening: 8-0-1-1, Lucky Sum: 10
Cash 4 Midday: 6-7-7-3, Lucky Sum: 23
Cash 4 Morning: 2-6-1-7
Hot Lotto: 08-21-32-40-42, Hot Ball: 14
Powerball: 18-26-37-39-66, Powerball: 15, Power Play: 3
Tennessee Cash: 12-15-23-27-33, Bonus: 1

Georgia
5 Card Cash: AD-QS-AS-6C-2H
All or Nothing Day: 01-04-05-09-10-11-12-13-14-17-18-21
All or Nothing Evening: 01-03-06-07-09-10-11-14-16-20-21-24
All or Nothing Morning: 04-06-07-08-10-11-12-13-15-17-18-19
All or Nothing Night: 01-02-03-05-08-11-13-14-15-18-19-23
Cash 3 Evening: 8-4-5
Cash 3 Midday: 4-2-4
Cash 4 Evening: 8-5-9-8
Cash 4 Midday: 0-1-8-6
Fantasy 5: 06-11-14-24-35
Georgia FIVE Evening: 8-3-8-1-8
Georgia FIVE Midday: 1-8-3-0-2
Powerball: 18-26-37-39-66, Powerball: 15, Power Play: 3



Banner photo, DONNA KAYLOR
SPREADING CHRISTMAS
cheer to the employees of Bank of Cleveland, the Valley View Voices choir from Valley View Elementary, under the direction of Kathryn Roman, sang Christmas Carols Wednesday morning.

IT'S A SPECIAL DAY FOR...

Chad Roberts, Tammy Malone, Emily Wattenbarger, Tracey Armer and Ed Jacobs, who are celebrating birthdays today ... Crissy Semak, who is celebrating her 22nd birthday today.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Due to the illness of the scheduled performer at the Cowboy Gospel Jubilee Friday, the program has been canceled for the evening.

The Rev. Robin and Christy Lever from Plant City, Fla., will be speaking at Souls Outreach Church, 2254 Spring Place Road, at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Bradley

From Page 1

Literacy, Numeracy, Literacy/Numeracy, Science and Social Studies.

Bradley County Schools received a score of 5 in every area at the end of the 2015-16 year, despite the scores only being based on the high school tests. The system also received all 5s from its 2014-15 scores, which included results from students in grades 3 through 12.

The high school end of course exams introduced during the 2015-16 year measured students’ levels of understanding with the following designations: “below,” “approaching,” “on track” and “mastered.”

Overall, Bradley County students showed they were more “on track” or had “mastered” the material more than their peers statewide.

Cash noted Bradley County Schools is “above the state average” in terms of the percentage of students who are “on track” or “mastered” in both high school English language arts and math.

The director pointed out the system “had 36 percent of students on track/mastered compared to the state average of 30.4 percent.” Since this was based on a new set of tests, there is no equal score comparison. However, the system’s state rankings show the results were good.

“In 2014-2015, we were at the 43.4 percentile ranking in the state, and the results from 2015-2016 put us at the 76.4 percentile for English at the high school level,” Cash explained. “This is a tremendous improvement and was rec-

ognized by (state Education) Commissioner (Candice) McQueen as being one of the top 5 districts when looking at the change in relative performance.

“In 2014-2015, we were at 31.1 percentile in the state ranking [in math], and we improved our percentile ranking in math to 84.9.”

There was, however, little to no change in students’ biology and chemistry performance.

The school system is also celebrating its high school graduation rate during the 2015-16 school year — 92 percent. Angie Gill, testing coordinator for Bradley County Schools, noted this appears to be the continuation of a positive trend.

“We’ve had a graduation rate of 92 [percent] or above for three years in a row,” Gill said.

She also noted Bradley County’s graduation rate was once again above the state average. The overall graduation rate among Tennessee students at the end of the 2015-16 year was 88.5 percent.

Bradley County also saw a full percentage point increase in its ACT exam scores. The average ACT composite score was 19.8 out of a possible 36 at the end of the 2015-16 year, up from 18.8 at the end of the previous year.

Gill said the number could rise even higher by the end of this school year. This fall, the county high schools are focusing more on ACT exam preparation. Though the test has only been required of high school juniors, the state Department of Education also introduced an optional opportunity for

seniors to retake the test for free.

While school officials say the Report Card represents “exciting news” for the system and its older students, it does not paint a very accurate picture of how the younger ones have done.

With most school systems having received no state testing results from students in grades 3-8 for the 2015-16 year, educators are having to rely on other tests to track students’ progress and prepare for testing in the spring.

Cash said educators will be doing what they can to help all students improve. She added special emphasis will also be on closing achievement gaps among disabled and economically disadvantaged students.

“We believe that all children can learn, and our mission is to

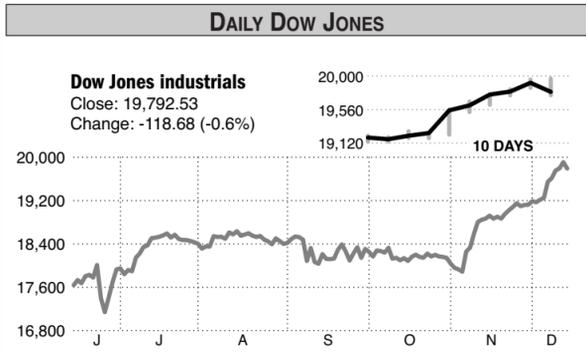
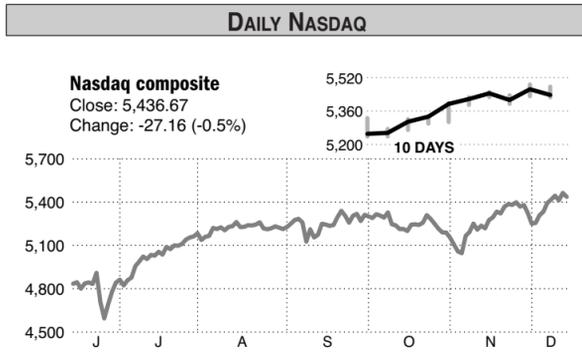
prepare students to be college and career ready,” said Cash.

The Bradley County Schools system will offer paper-and-pencil versions of this year’s TNReady testing and end of course tests to students in all grades, said Gill. This is expected to eliminate the possibility of there being more technology-related problems.

Tennessee Commissioner of Education Dr. Candice McQueen also announced earlier this summer that the durations of the state tests have been decreased. While teachers and schools will still have to plan for testing, Gill said this year’s tests should be “easier” to schedule.

The full state Report Card can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/education/topic/report-card>.

THE MARKET IN REVIEW



MONEY RATES

	Last	Pvs Wk
Prime Rate	3.50	3.50
Discount Rate	1.25	1.00
Federal Funds Rate	50-75	25-50
Treasuries		
5-year	2.05	1.79
10-year	2.57	2.34
30-year	3.13	3.02
Gold (troy oz., NY Merc spot)	\$1161.30	\$1175.00
Silver (troy oz., NY Merc spot)	\$17.152	\$17.203

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

CURRENCIES

	Day Ago	Pvs Day
Australia	1.3471	1.3339
Britain	1.2596	1.2667
Canada	1.3254	1.3123
Euro	.9473	.9414
Japan	116.37	115.23
Mexico	20.4150	20.2536
Switzerland	1.0189	1.0125

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

52-Week		Name	Last	Net Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
High	Low						
19,953.75	15,450.56	Dow Industrials	19,792.53	-118.68	-6.0	+13.59	+11.51
9,490.29	6,403.31	Dow Transportation	9,218.36	-127.49	-1.36	+22.77	+19.92
723.83	548.08	Dow Utilities	645.05	-14.01	-2.13	+11.64	+12.36
11,256.07	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	11,098.67	-138.50	-1.23	+9.42	+8.09
5,486.75	4,209.76	NASDAQ Composite	5,436.67	-27.16	-5.0	+8.57	+7.21
1,007.01	809.96	S&P 100	997.75	-6.64	-6.6	+9.47	+7.54
2,277.53	1,810.10	S&P 500	2,253.28	-18.44	-8.1	+10.24	+8.69
1,698.70	1,215.14	S&P MidCap	1,664.33	-21.72	-1.29	+19.00	+17.94
23,802.01	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	23,544.17	-201.02	-8.5	+11.23	+9.95
1,392.71	943.09	Russell 2000	1,356.02	-17.51	-1.27	+19.38	+18.02

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.96	4.8	16	41.10	-26	+19.4
AMD	...	...	...	10.55	+01	+267.6
Ambev	.06	1.3	...	4.78	-10	+7.2
BB&T Cp	1.20	2.6	17	46.78	-28	+23.7
BkoAm	.30	1.3	18	22.67	+06	+34.7
B IPVxST rs	...	...	...	26.31	-10	...
ChesEng	...	...	...	7.08	-29	+57.3
CocaCola	1.40	3.4	25	41.21	-5.5	-4.1
CmtyHlt	...	...	...	5.32	-09	-75.6
DRGMBll s	...	...	...	5.39	-1.22	...
DxGBull s	...	...	...	6.91	-1.17	...
DukeEnergy	3.42	4.5	16	75.53	-1.79	+5.8
Eaton	2.28	3.4	16	67.67	-1.18	+30.0
FstHorizon	.28	1.4	22	19.79	-10	+36.3
FordM	.60	4.8	6	12.53	-24	-11.1
GenElec	.96	3.0	28	31.50	-24	+1.1
HomeDep	2.76	2.0	22	135.98	-5.6	+2.8
iSHEMkts	.84	2.4	...	35.25	-1.08	+9.5
iShR2K	1.77	1.3	...	135.15	-1.71	+20.0
Kroger s	.48	1.4	16	34.72	+30	-17.0
Lowses	1.40	1.9	20	73.56	-1.09	-3.3
NorfolkSo	2.36	2.2	19	107.58	-2.25	+27.2
Olin	.80	3.2	36	25.39	-22	+47.1
PaneraBrd	...	...	...	35	210.32	-2.52
Pfizer	1.28	3.9	13	32.82	-01	+1.7
PUVixST rs	...	...	...	9.37	-06	...
RegionsFn	.26	1.8	18	14.34	+05	+49.4
S&P500ETF4.13	1.8	...	...	225.88	-1.88	+10.8
Scotts	2.00	2.1	24	94.74	-6.6	+46.9
SouthCo	2.24	4.6	16	48.48	-7.1	+3.6
SPDR Fncl	.46	2.0	...	23.47	-11	+21.3
SunTrst	1.04	1.9	15	55.13	+68	+28.7
Target	2.40	3.1	13	77.19	-48	+6.3
UtdCmbks	.32	1.1	21	29.03	-29	+48.9
US OilFd	...	...	...	11.32	-41	+2.9
Vale SA	.29	3.5	...	8.28	-21	+151.7
VanEGold	.12	.6	...	19.89	-1.15	+45.0
Vericel	...	...	...	4.10	+15.0	+58.9
WalMart	2.00	2.8	15	71.34	-46	+16.4
WeatherInt	...	...	...	5.51	-19	-34.3
WellsFargo	1.52	2.8	14	54.70	-1.14	+6
Whrpl	4.00	2.3	13	175.99	-2.15	+9.8

MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Total Assets Obj (\$Mlns)	NAV	Total Return/Rank 4-wk	12-mo	5-year	Pct Load	Min Init
American Funds AmBalA m	MA 54,793	25.43	+2.3	+9.4/B	+11.4/A	5.75	250
American Funds CapIncBuA m	IH 67,745	57.88	+2.9	+8.3/B	+7.9/A	5.75	250
American Funds CplWldGrIA m	WS 50,454	45.43	+3.2	+8.6/B	+10.8/B	5.75	250
American Funds FnlWIA m	LB 47,027	56.53	+4.4	+14.6/B	+15.4/A	5.75	250
American Funds GrthAmA m	LG 74,611	45.33	+4.2	+11.2/A	+16.0/A	5.75	250
American Funds IncAmerA m	AL 73,289	21.80	+3.0	+11.8/A	+10.0/B	5.75	250
American Funds InvCoAmA m	LB 58,198	37.98	+4.2	+16.8/A	+15.1/B	5.75	250
American Funds NewPerspA m	WS 35,168	36.97	+2.8	+4.3/D	+12.0/A	5.75	250
American Funds WAMultInrA m	LV 52,450	43.13	+4.4	+14.8/D	+14.4/C	5.75	250
Dodge & Cox Income	CI 46,289	13.59	+0.3	+4.8/A	+3.7/A	NL	2,500
Dodge & Cox IntlStk	FB 54,169	39.62	+3.6	+10.6/A	+8.8/A	NL	2,500
Dodge & Cox Stock	LV 61,149	193.58	+4.8	+24.4/A	+18.2/A	NL	2,500
Fidelity 500IdxPr	LB 59,301	79.62	+4.4	+13.9/B	+15.6/A	NL	10,000
Fidelity Contra	LG 74,245	99.83	+3.7	+5.4/C	+14.5/B	NL	2,500
Fidelity ContraK	LV 29,961	99.75	+3.7	+5.5/C	+14.6/B	NL	0
FrankTemp-Franklin IncomeA m	CA 45,222	2.29	+4.1	+17.5/A	+8.1/A	4.25	1,000
Harbor Intlntll	FB 32,098	59.40	+0.6	+2.6/C	+5.6/D	NL	50,000
T Rowe Price GrowStk	LG 36,280	53.82	+3.6	+3.8/D	+16.2/A	NL	2,500
Vanguard 500Adml	LB 177,067	209.04	+4.3	+13.9/B	+15.6/A	NL	10,000
Vanguard DivGr	LB 30,718	24.02	+2.7	+9.4/E	+13.3/D	NL	3,000
Vanguard HlCrAdml	SH 33,963	82.25	+3.3	-6.9/B	+17.7/D	NL	50,000
Vanguard IntlStkIdxAdm	FB 44,652	24.76	+2.6	+6.9/A	+6.1/C	NL	10,000
Vanguard MultAdml	MI 46,406	13.87	+0.8	+0.1/B	+3.0/B	NL	50,000
Vanguard PrrmpAdml	LG 40,102	114.71	+2.8	+12.6/A	+17.7/A	NL	50,000
Vanguard STGradeAd	CS 37,861	10.61	+0.4	+2.3/B	+2.3/B	NL	50,000
Vanguard TgtRe2025	CG 31,785	16.75	+2.0	+8.4/B	+9.4/B	NL	1,000
Vanguard TotBdAdml	CI 7						



AP Photo/Don Ryan

TRAFFIC ALONG the Interstate 5 and Interstate 84 interchange ramps are jammed after a snow storm moved in on the area in Portland, Ore., Wednesday. A wintry afternoon and evening is forecast for much of Oregon, with some cities expected to get a foot of snow.

Dangerous wind chills, snow in Midwest

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Dangerously cold temperatures gripped the Upper Midwest in advance of a storm that's expected to bring several inches of snow in coming days, while schools and officials in the Northeast braced for their own blast of wintry weather.

A wind chill advisory enveloped North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin on Wednesday and stretched into parts of Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Those advisories remained in effect through Thursday morning and beyond.

The cold claimed at least one life: A 34-year-old woman died of hypothermia in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was found Monday, when temperatures dropped to 3 below zero and wind chills were minus 19.

In western Wisconsin,

Thursday morning's wind chills were expected to range from 15 to 30 degrees below zero. Several inches of snow were expected to begin tracking into the region on Friday and into Saturday, the National Weather Service said. Several warming shelters had opened up to help get people out of the cold.

Low temperatures in Fargo, North Dakota, were expected to be around minus 12 Thursday, while Duluth, Minnesota was expected to see an overnight low of minus 5.

With the arctic air tracking northeast, Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said he would activate the state's severe cold-weather protocol on Thursday, calling for state police and other agencies to work with shelters and community groups to protect vulnerable residents.

Malloy also encouraged communities to open warming centers.

Vermont public safety officials warned residents to limit their time outdoors Thursday and Friday due to dangerous wind chills forecast at 35 below. In upstate New York, some schools and government offices were closing early ahead of expected lake-effect snow expected to dump 1 to 2 feet.

Much of the northern Mid-Atlantic and Northeast will stay cold for the next couple of days as the arctic air remains stuck over the northern Appalachians, the National Weather Service said.

The system also is expected to bring widespread snow from the Great Lakes to the Northeast on Thursday. Much of the central U.S. will be dry but cold.

Below-normal temperatures

are expected this weekend and into Monday across the entire northern half of the country, from the Pacific Northwest to Maine and as far south as Oklahoma, Arkansas and Virginia, according to the Climate Prediction Center.

Up to half a foot of snow could fall from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Northeast on Friday and Saturday, and areas east of the Appalachian Mountains could see freezing rain and sleet on Saturday.

Another arctic air mass on the heels of this cold front is expected to bring temperatures to the northern Plains over the weekend and into early next week that will be as much as 24 degrees below normal, according to Climate Prediction Center forecaster Stephen Baxter.

NORTHWEST WEATHER

Thousands stranded as winter storm snarls traffic

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Forecasters said more snow was possible in the Portland area Thursday, a day after a rare snow storm brought Oregon's largest city to a halt with thousands of vehicles barely able to move along numerous roadways.

Many commuters left work early Wednesday, hoping to beat the storm, but they quickly found themselves on streets that were clogged with traffic that was inching along on snow-slick streets. Cars fish-tailed, spun out and collided. Semi-trucks littered Interstate 5, some of them unable to move to the side before getting stuck.

After more than three hours of waiting to travel just a few miles, some motorists abandoned their vehicles and started walking. Others hoped they wouldn't run out of gas.

Kimberly Wrolstad had been stuck on Interstate 5 heading to Tigard for about 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon. She had a quarter tank of gas left.

"It's frustrating," she said. "I don't know what's going on. I don't know if there are accidents. I know some of the trucks are having difficulties."

The National Weather Service said commuters should be pre-

pared for snow-covered streets Thursday morning and possibly some more snow but no real accumulation, the Oregonian/OregonLive reported. "We don't see this thawing overnight for sure," Dylan Rivera, a Portland Bureau of Transportation spokesman, said in the newspaper's report.

"There's definitely a feeling that roads may not be much clearer." The newspaper said that during Wednesday's storm, some buses from Portland Public Schools were trapped in on the roads and an unspecified number of buses had been involved in crashes. Interim chief operating officer Courtney Wilton said he had not heard of any injuries in those accidents.

Up to 5 inches of snow were expected in the Portland area by midnight.

Schools, government offices and other facilities were closed as the storm moved in. The winter storm crept north up the Willamette Valley, the most populous part of Oregon, before reaching Portland, first hitting Eugene and then Salem.

The National Weather Service said a major ice storm hit in Eugene. The City of Eugene said ice-laden trees had led to 140

calls about downed trees and power lines. The Register-Guard reported that several thousand Lane County residents lost power, and crews were working furiously to restore it.

A school bus carrying Scouters Mountain Elementary students spun out amid snowy conditions on Southeast 152nd Drive near Misty Drive in Happy Valley. Principal Kevin Spooner said all children were safe.

Portland does not use rock salt on its roads, for environmental reasons, and because snow is so rare. Portland was ready to put city buses on snow routes, and had taken other precautions, but the suddenness of the storm caught many off guard.

Portland city officials on Wednesday night declared parking meter amnesty, allowing drivers to leave their cars parked overnight without penalties. The Oregon Department of Transportation imposed a chain requirement on Interstate 5 from Albany to Portland and even some bike paths across the city's famous bridges were closed.

In Lake Oswego, a suburb south of Portland, drivers lined up to try to get up a short hill in a residential neighborhood. Many cars didn't make it, sliding slowly backward and sideways down the hill as kids played in the snow nearby. For those who did, the neighbors lined up along the

street cheered.

By evening, the quiet suburban street was littered with abandoned cars parked at all angles as snow continued to fall.

Gary Flock, a safety manager at a bridge construction company, left downtown Portland at 2:30 p.m. after visiting his chiropractor and found himself putting snow chains on his pick-up truck almost six hours — and 8 miles — later.

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TENNESSEE BRIEFS

Dolly Parton telethon raises

\$9M for wildfire victims

NASHVILLE (AP) — Dolly Parton says a star-studded telethon for those affected by recent wildfires in her native Tennessee has brought in about \$9 million.

Parton headlined the Tuesday night event that was broadcast on several cable networks and livestreamed online. Parton says in a statement that all donations have yet to be counted, but the total stands at around \$9 million. The total is expected to rise in the coming days as mail donations are counted and the telethon is rebroadcast.

The money goes to the Dollywood Foundation's My People Fund. It will provide \$1,000 each month for six months to families who lost their primary residence in the fires.

The fires in Tennessee's Sevier County spread to more than 2,500 structures and killed 14 people.

UT Board of Trustees to vote on new chancellor Davenport

NASHVILLE (AP) — The University of Tennessee's Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote Thursday on the appointment of Beverly Davenport as the first female chancellor of the public university system's flagship campus in Knoxville.

Davenport is the interim president of the University of Cincinnati. She would replace Jimmy Cheek, who announced in June he was stepping down to return to teaching. Cheek had been chancellor since 2009.

UT President Joe DiPietro recommends Davenport to earn a base salary of \$585,000 per year, plus housing, expenses and potential performance bonus of up to 15 percent.

If approved, Davenport will become the school's chancellor on Feb. 15 and be granted tenure as a professor at UT's school of communication.

Davenport earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Kentucky and her doctorate from Michigan.

Tennessee House GOP chairman defends secret meeting decision

NASHVILLE (AP) — The chairman of the state House

Republican Caucus is defending a recent decision to hold a meeting behind closed doors.

The Tennessee reports that Rep. Ryan Williams of Cookeville told a Tennessee Capitol Hill Press Corps delegation that he believes there's a "time and place where we have to have the ability to communicate personally with one another."

The decision to remove a reporter from a recent caucus meeting is a break with past practice and at odds with Senate rules that require all meetings to be open to the public.

Republicans hold supermajorities in both chambers, meaning they can pass legislation and prevail on procedural motions regardless of how Democrats vote.

Williams plans to hold open caucus meetings during the legislative session unless there's a vote to close them.

GOP lawmakers introduce bill seeking to legalize medical pot

NASHVILLE (AP) — Republican lawmakers are introducing legislation that would allow the use of marijuana for a variety of medical conditions in Tennessee.

The measure sponsored by Rep. Jeremy Faison of Cosby and Steve Dickerson of Nashville would allow 50 growing operations around the state, including 15 in economically distressed areas.

"At its heart, I really do think this is a very Republican, conservative bill," Dickerson said. "I know that's a little counter-intuitive, but it gets the government out of our lives."

The bill envisions the state generating revenue through licensing by three state departments: Agriculture, Safety and Health. Each agency would develop its own rules and costs for licensing.

Medical practitioners would also have to obtain a special license to be able to prescribe medical marijuana, and patients would have to get a \$35 medical card.

Previous efforts to have Tennessee join the other 28 states that allow medical marijuana have failed in recent years.

Supporters argue that states that have legalized medical marijuana have seen double-digit decreases in opioid-related deaths.

"I think there are significant anecdotes and some data that substantiate the proposition that medical cannabis will have a decrease on the consumption of opiates," Dickerson said.

A Vanderbilt University Poll last month found growing acceptance among Tennesseans for looser restrictions on marijuana use. Three-quarters of respondents said marijuana should be legal for either medicinal or personal use.

"What this bill is not is opening the door to recreational use; this is not a bill that will allow people to get high on the streets," Dickerson said. "This is, however, a bill that would bring a necessary medicine to some of the sickest and most critically ill Tennesseans."

Boy, 12, charged in slaying of 84-year-old Tennessee woman

MOUNTAIN CITY (AP) — Officials say a 12-year-old boy has been charged with murder in the death of an 84-year-old Tennessee woman.

Multiple news outlets report that Johnson County Sheriff Mike Reece made the announcement Tuesday.

Deputies say Teruko Shaw was reported missing on December 6, 2015 and was found dead later that day near her Butler home.

The boy, who was 11 years old at the time of the slaying, was named a suspect in the case.

Reece says the child knew Shaw and they lived near each other.

The juvenile, whose name was not released because of his age, has been charged with felony murder, especially aggravated burglary and theft of property.

Reece says the child was in custody in another state and is awaiting extradition back to Tennessee.

Driver in court for school bus crash that killed 6 children

CHATTANOOGA (AP) — The 24-year-old driver in a school bus crash that killed six children last month in Tennessee is appearing in court.

Johnthony Walker's preliminary hearing will take place Thursday morning in Hamilton County court. He's charged with five counts of vehicular homicide, reckless driving and reckless endangerment. Police say a sixth

charge of vehicular homicide will be added.

Thursday's hearing will determine whether Walker's case will head to a grand jury.

Federal authorities say Walker left the designated bus route Nov. 21 when he wrecked on a curvy road while carrying 37 children. Authorities suspect Walker was speeding.

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Reading

From Page 1

“It was exciting to be able to present our book like this,” said Kaitlyn South, an Ocoee Middle student. “It makes me want to think about writing other stories.”

South and her project partner, Desiray Ngige, wrote a fictional story about a little American boy getting lost while visiting an unidentified African country and happening upon a native tribe.

Fellow student Wyatt Kier wrote a nonfiction book about the city of Timbuktu, Mali, with classmate Zebulon McKnight. Kier explained the project was “a lot more fun” than just writing a paper for class.

“I think this gave it a bit of an edge,” Kier said. “All schools should do this, really.”

While the books were the result of the middle school students’ hours of work, they were for the elementary school students an entertaining way to learn about Africa.

The middle schoolers were sure to show all the pictures and even told their stories with special voices and sound effects. For example, one student used her arm and made a funny trumpeting sound when an elephant was mentioned in her story.

Bob Pritchard, assistant principal of Mayfield Elementary, said the visit was beneficial for all the students involved.

“I think it encourages our students to read and write, having older role models that are writing and creating on their own,” Pritchard said. “It’s a win-win.”

Weir also noted her students’ project was inspired by Bradley County Schools’ Read 20 initiative, which encourages adults to read to their children at least 20 minutes a day. The Ocoee Middle students “are getting to see the impact they can have by reading to a child.”

Statewide, school systems like Cleveland City Schools are promoting reading in their own ways. The Tennessee Department of Education has offered support in that regard by launching its ongoing “Read To Be Ready” initiative. Pritchard said teachers at

Mayfield Elementary work hard to stress the importance of reading, but the children also enjoy hearing from older students.

Ocoee Middle Principal Ron Spangler said he was proud of Weir and the students’ efforts and welcomed the chance for students to share their work with younger students.

While it is not unheard of for older students to visit an elementary school, Spangler said it was “pretty special” to cross school system lines in doing so.

Though they are with separate school systems, Ocoee Middle and Mayfield Elementary are veritable neighbors.

With Ocoee Middle backing up onto Parker Street and Mayfield Elementary accessible from nearby 20th Street, Pritchard noted the corners of the school properties practically touch.

Weir said Ocoee Middle decided to take its students to the city school to read because of the sheer proximity. Students and their teachers walked to Mayfield Elementary together.

Pritchard said his school’s staff were a little surprised by the idea of a county school group wanting to visit a city school. Still, the middle schoolers were welcomed with open arms, because of how beneficial it is for young students to interact with older ones.

“This is another opportunity for them to see what can happen when they practice reading and writing,” Pritchard said. “We’re thankful for this opportunity.”

He added he likes knowing that Mayfield Elementary has classes of middle school “role models” so close to it.

Weir said she plans to repeat the book writing project with her students next semester. Though it has not been finalized yet which elementary school next semester’s students will visit, she now sees both county and city schools as options.

“Even though our systems are separate, we’re still one community,” Weir said. “We all have the same mission — to help our students learn.”



YOUNG AUTHORS from Ocoee Middle School show off some of their original fiction and nonfiction books, while waiting to read to groups of younger students at Mayfield Elementary School.

Banner photo, CHRISTY ARMSTRONG



STUDENTS from Ocoee Middle School get ready to read to students at Mayfield Elementary School. This was the first time students from the county middle school have read to students at a city school.

Banner photo, CHRISTY ARMSTRONG

Taylor

From Page 1

fundraising effort. The top donation level is expected to be \$25,000.

“It helped us to have different levels,” said Barrett of the dog park project. “You must also keep in mind the installation cost (for the bricks),” added the president of the Community Foundation of Cleveland and Bradley County.

“I want to see a lot of donors,” said Jones in favor of multiple levels of giving. “A lot of people will want to purchase these bricks, because they’re going to be there a long time.”

The committee is considering a variety of other recognition items to purchase with donations. Items mentioned include benches, plaques, medallions, trees and more. Barrett and Pendergrass will be working on this possibility.

The downtown spring was hidden for a number of years underneath the old law offices of the late James “Jim” Webb. Webb donated the property to the city. The city later purchased an adjoining parcel, and Jones recently purchased a lot to the west of the spring and donated it to the city.

The property Jones purchased will be used for parking of construction crews, and is expected to provide an entrance and exit to the park when it is completed.

Committee members are planning a tribute to the late Jim Webb, acknowledging his donation to the city and the community, and they also want to provide his family the opportunity to participate in the park project.

They are also hopeful city and county governments will both participate in the effort. It was emphasized that the spring is not

“We would like to see that it is done right, to where it’ll be a jewel for the city for a long time.”
— City Manager Joe Fivas

only the birthplace of the city, but the birthplace of Bradley County. The county was founded almost six years before the city was incorporated, on May 2, 1836.

Banks said he has approached the County Commission about this possibility. “I would think they would want to make it a countywide endeavor,” he added.

City officials at Wednesday’s meeting, Fivas and McKay, both appear enthused by the preliminary plans and anticipations for the park.

“We would like to see that it is done right, to where it’ll be a jewel for the city for a long time,” said the new city manager.

The Taylor Spring Park project is an effort to preserve the area surrounding the spring, which is being called the “Historical Birthplace of Cleveland.” Bradley County might be incorporated into the title, if that government body decides to participate.

The committee was approved by the Cleveland City Council, with Banks serving as committee chairman.

Contractor Dee Burris, who also serves as chairman of the Cleveland Municipal Planning Commission, is donating his time and expertise in compiling engineering specifics and designs for the proposed park. He is coordinating schematics and cost estimates.

Black, the other contractor at Wednesday’s committee meeting,

is expected to be in charge of all the concrete work, including the pouring of walls.

Committee members also discussed a tentative timeline for the project. Following the fundraising effort, it is expected that it will be four to six months before construction will start. This would push actual work to mid-2017.

Another focus for the park is authenticity. Jones has saved a number of logs at his home, which will be used to construct the springhouse over the head of the spring. “We want it to be constructed as it would have been back then,” said Jones.

There are also tentative plans for the Cleveland Greenway to be extended from along Keith Street to the park.

Taylor Spring Park will become the city’s first new park downtown since the building of First Street Square.

According to local historians, Andrew Taylor built a log cabin near the spring in 1835. Taylor’s Place, as it was known, attracted more settlers and eventually grew to become Bradley County, and a few years later the City of Cleveland.

The spring was closed in 1940, and buildings such as Webb’s law office covered it. Jones said one of the previous owners used the spring to cool his building, by pumping the water to a radiator with a fan.

Taylor and a brother, David, were among the first to live in the area. They married Cherokee Indian sisters, prior to the Cherokee Removal to the Oklahoma Territory.

The next meeting of the Taylor Spring Park Committee will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Contract

From Page 1

Raider Arena.

“Hal’s construction knowledge and day-to-day presence on the arena project was very valuable, and I think this document (contract) needs to be amended to more clearly define his role and access to the work over the course of the construction of Candy’s Creek Cherokee Elementary school,” said Templeton.

It was discussed by Templeton, school board members and Taylor that there was information needed from subcontractors during the construction of the Arena that Taylor was unable to obtain without permission from the contractor.

In discussing his first recommendation, Templeton said, “We have experienced a revolving door approach to the superintendent position on these projects.”

The contract language says, “The contractor shall not change the superintendent without the owner’s (school board’s) consent.” Templeton wants to add language to assure that quality and experience are maintained in the case of substituting a new superintendent.

He said, “The best value procurement method the board has used in the past prequalifies contractors, based on several factors. This includes the personnel they intend to use as managers.”

Templeton said he would like to see if a monetary penalty could be deducted from the contract amount, if the contractor needs to make a change in the superintendent or project manager. “I would imagine the board would have the authority to rule on whether the penalty would be

“This document (contract) should tell potential contractors what the rules are. Especially to the people they will designate to do the job.”
— Brian Templeton

necessary, based on a specific situation,” said Templeton.

The architect feels such language would assure the school board receives what the contractor has assured for the job. Without this language, Templeton feels the board would have the potential of losing quality in the finished product.

Templeton also pointed out that the request for qualification, or RFQ, will go out to prospective contractors before the bidding of the job, so contractors will be aware of this language.

The architect also went over the reasons he feels the need for Taylor’s increased oversight authority for the elementary school project.

“Hal Taylor had issues on the Raider Arena project,” Templeton said. “The general contractor attempted to limit his communication with subcontractors. I’d like Mr. Cagle to weigh in and more clearly define what direct communication Taylor will have to the subcontractors, within limits of the contract.”

“This document (contract) should tell potential contractors what the rules are,” continued Templeton. “Especially to the people they will designate to do the job.”

A motion to refer Templeton’s

suggestions to the full school board was approved unanimously by committee members Steve Morgan (chair), Charlie Cogdill and Peggy Pesterfield. Board members Dawn Robinson, Carolyn Ingram and Kristy McKay also attended the meeting. Only Tom Cloud was unable to attend.

In another item on the Site Committee agenda, former school board member and Site Committee Chair Dr. Murl Dirksen was in attendance.

Dirksen, a professor of anthropology and sociology at Lee University, has been appointed by the board as a cultural consultant to Templeton for the construction of the new elementary school.

The Lee staff member was at the meeting to talk with Templeton before his continuation of the design of the new school. The overall schematics of the educational complex have been approved by the board, although plans were somewhat modified with a property swap last week with a nearby Georgetown Road retail developer.

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, joined by Robinson and Director of Schools Dr. Russell Dyer, signed off on the property acquisition Monday.

Dirksen said Wednesday that he has a number of ideas concerning the aesthetics, and how the Cherokee culture might be entwined in the school’s overall vision. He is even considering the possibility of placing a Cherokee basket-weaving design motif in floor tiles.

He said there are many things which could be considered to make the new school historically relatable to the Cherokee.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

NASA launches 8 mini-satellites for hurricane forecasting

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA has launched eight mini-satellites to measure surface wind deep in the heart of hurricanes.

The plane carrying the satellites took off shortly after sunrise Thursday from Cape Canaveral, Florida. An hour later, the co-pilot pushed the button that released the Pegasus rocket and attached satellites 39,000 feet above the Atlantic, 100 miles east of Daytona Beach. The Pegasus fired five seconds later, propelling the satellites toward orbit.

The \$157 million Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System is meant to improve hurricane forecasting. The CYGNSS (SIG-nis) satellites have GPS navigation receivers to measure the surface roughness of oceans, letting scientists calculate wind speed and storm intensity. The spacecraft can peer through rain swirling in a hurricane, into the eye, or core.

Each spacecraft is just 64 pounds, with a 5-foot wingspan.

Lawyer: Man charged in officer death incompetent for trial

DETROIT (AP) — A lawyer for a man accused of shooting a Detroit officer during a chase says a psychiatric review has found his client incompetent to stand trial.

Twenty-one-year-old Marquise Cromer is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Sgt. Ken Steil. Steil died unexpectedly Sept. 17 of a blood clot, five days after being shot in the shoulder.

Cromer's lawyer Sanford Schulman tells the Detroit Free Press that he met with prosecutors Tuesday to discuss the state forensic center's report. The Wayne County prosecutor's office has requested an independent competency evaluation.

A competency hearing was initially scheduled for Thursday in Detroit, but records say the case now is due back in court Jan. 9.

Cromer also has been accused of shooting two other people, including his father.

Grandmother of children who ate heroin gets jail sentence

WARREN, Ohio (AP) — The grandmother of two small children who swallowed heroin at her northeast Ohio home has been sentenced to 90 days in jail.

The Warren Tribune Chronicle reports a judge in Warren sentenced 44-year-old Lisa Davis on Wednesday after Davis pleaded guilty in October to a felony charge of allowing drug abuse.

The two children, ages 9 months and 21 months, and their teenage mother were living in Davis' Warren home in February when they had to be revived with a heroin antidote at a hospital emergency room.

A jury last month convicted the mother, 19-year-old Carlisa Davis, of two counts of child endangering. She awaits sentencing.

Lisa Davis' attorney called it a "tragic situation" during the sentencing hearing. Lisa Davis' mother now has custody of the children.

'Moral Monday' leader sues over being removed from flight

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The leader of North Carolina's "Moral Monday" progressive movement and the state's NAACP is suing American Airlines saying he was removed from a flight because he is black.

News outlets report that The Rev. William Barber filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday in Alexandria, Va., demanding unspecified monetary damages and changes at the airline.

Barber says he was removed from a flight from Reagan National Airport to Raleigh-Durham International Airport in April. He says a nearby passenger said loudly that he had problems with "those people" and criticized Barber's need for two seats. Before the crew gave safety instructions, Barber says he stood up and turned around to respond.

American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller declined to discuss the case since it involves litigation, but he says the airline doesn't tolerate discrimination.

Coast Guard, Royal Navy seize 26 tons of cocaine in Pacific

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Officials from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Navy are in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to offload 26.5 tons of cocaine — worth an estimated \$715 million — seized in the waters off the Eastern Pacific.

Officials from the United States and Canada will discuss the drug interdictions during a

news conference at Port Everglades on Thursday morning.

In a news release, the agencies said Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Naval crews participated in 27 separate drug smuggling vessel interdictions and five bale recovery operations off of Central and South America. The participating ships sailed with embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment teams aboard.

The agency says increased U.S. and allied presence in known drug transit zones off Eastern Pacific and Caribbean Basin is part of its Western Hemisphere Strategy.

Mother of Reno teen shot by school police wants explanation

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The mother of a 14-year-old Reno boy who was shot and wounded by a school district police officer wants the superintendent to explain why campus officers aren't better equipped with non-lethal weapons.

Cheryl Pitchford was among the group of 100 classmates, friends and family of the hospitalized teen who marched to the school district headquarters on the edge of downtown Wednesday afternoon to deliver a petition demanding all campus police carry Tasers and pepper spray.

Reno police say the boy was threatening others with knives when a campus officer shot him in the chest Dec. 7 while surrounded by dozens of students in a school courtyard.

He last was reported in critical but stable condition. His lawyer, David Houston, said earlier he was in a medically induced coma after undergoing surgery for a stroke on Friday.

District officials have refused to say if campus officers typically carry non-lethal weapons. They say they can't comment while an investigation continues into the officer-involved shooting that many Hug High students captured on cellphone video and posted on social media.

Demick La Flamme, the father of a friend of the teen who was shot, organized the march. He said he's gathered more than 1,000 signatures on the petition that says "lethal force should always be a last resort."

"Nothing is worse than shooting into a crowd of children," La Flamme told The Associated Press before they began the 2-mile trek escorted by Reno police cruisers and a half-dozen officers on bicycles along city streets north of U.S. Interstate 80.

Colorado school district to allow teachers to arm themselves

DENVER (AP) — A rural Colorado school district decided Wednesday night to allow its teachers and other school staff to carry guns on campus to protect students.

The Hanover School District 28 board voted 3-2 to allow school employees to volunteer to be armed on the job after undergoing training.

The district's two schools serve about 270 students about 30 miles southeast of Colorado Springs, and it takes law enforcement an average of 20 minutes to get there. The district currently shares an armed school resource officer with four other school districts.

Board member Michael Lawson backed the idea not only as way to protect students from a mass shooting, but also as protection against possible violence connected with nearby marijuana grows, which he believes are connected with foreign cartels, the Gazette of Colorado Springs reported.

Separated conjoined twins meet for first time since surgery

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — The conjoined California twins that were separated last week following a 17-hour marathon surgery have been reunited for the first time since the operation.

Eva and Erika Sandoval have been recovering in separate beds in the same room, but they could not see each other well. On Monday, their parents and intensive care team carefully carried Erika and placed her in Eva's bed to say hello, officials at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford said Wednesday.

It's the closest the twins have been since they were separated on Dec. 6.

"It was such a thrill for us to see the girls next to one another again," said the twins' mother, Aida Sandoval.

Dr. Meghna Patel, who is caring for Erika in the pediatric intensive care unit, said both are doing well. "They have had no significant complications," she said.

Advice for borrowers and investors: Take a deep breath and go ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — If you're about to buy a home, shop for a car or borrow for college, the pros have some advice: Go ahead.

The Federal Reserve's decision Wednesday to slightly raise its key interest rate, advisers say, should have little immediate effect on mortgages or auto and student loans. The Fed doesn't directly affect those rates, at least not in the short run.

That said, rates on some other loans — notably credit cards, home equity loans and adjustable-rate mortgages — will likely rise soon, though only modestly. Those rates are based on benchmarks like banks' prime rate, which moves in tandem with the Fed. After the Fed announced its rate increase, several banks said they were raising their prime rates to 3.75 percent from 3.5 percent.

And if the Fed should accelerate its rate hikes, eventually rates on other categories of debt, like auto loans, would rise, too. On Wednesday, the Fed predicted it would raise rates three more times in 2017, up from two in its previous forecast.

But those predicted increases are just that — predictions. A year ago, the Fed projected that it would raise rates four times in 2016 but has ended up doing so just once.

Mortgage rates had been surging before the Fed acted, for reasons that had little to do with the central bank. Rather, Donald Trump's election as president — with his pledge to slash taxes, loosen regulations and increase infrastructure spending — has raised the prospect of faster economic growth and inflation.

In response, the rate on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note has jumped about half a percentage point. Long-term mortgage rates tend to track the 10-year Treasury. The average rate on a 30-year fixed home loan is up nearly in lockstep with the 10-year Treasury — to about 4.1 percent from 3.5 percent.

"The Fed isn't what's influencing mortgage rates right now," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com.

Nela Richardson, chief econo-

mist at real estate brokerage Redfin, said:

"Mortgage rates will increase but not too much. As long as the Fed remains a trillion-dollar investor in the U.S. mortgage system, a moderate pickup in short-term rates won't dampen the strong home buying demand we've seen as a result of a strengthening economy."

Even if mortgage rates and other borrowing costs rise, they won't likely do so in a straight line, which is why most people need not rush to lock in a rate.

"If you're a first-time home-buyer, yes, rates are higher than they were in September, but they're still reasonably attractive," says David Geibel of Girard Partners, a wealth management firm in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. "You can still get a very juicy mortgage."

Tom Libby, an auto analyst for IHS Markit, noted that if the Fed raised rates three more times next year, car loan rates would eventually rise and likely slow sales. As much as 70 to 80 percent of new-car transactions are financed or leased and dependent on interest rates.

The zero-percent financing deals that have facilitated many auto sales could go away if the Fed keep raising rates, Libby said.

Some investment advisers said they wouldn't recommend that clients make big changes in their portfolios despite the Fed's forecast of three more rate hikes next year.

"We're not going to be changing our investment outlook or our portfolios on a minor change in Fed outlook," said Charlie Smith of Fort Pitt Capital Group in Pittsburgh. "The world is changing where the Fed is not the primary variable anymore."

That said, rising rates can erode the value of longer-term bonds. So some investors may not want to own many bonds that mature more than 10 years out, whether they're individual bonds or mutual funds that hold long-term bonds.

"Longer-term bonds are going to most likely be the biggest losers if the Fed embarks on a cycle of raising interest rates," said

Ken Moraif of Money Matters, a wealth management firm in Dallas. "Shortening up the duration of the bonds in your portfolio is a very good idea."

Moraif has his clients now in bonds that mature in five to seven years.

Don't go too short, though. Though you'll lower your risk, you'll also unduly limit your potential returns. Intermediate-term bonds may be best for some.

Over time, if the Fed steadily raises short-term rates, savings accounts and certificates of deposit would finally begin to sport more attractive yields. Just don't expect that to happen soon.

"We're going to have to go through a series of rate hikes before savings accounts and short-term CDs are attractive again," Heider said.

As for stock investors, advisers say some categories of stocks stand to fare better than others if the Fed raises rates multiple times in 2017.

"More hikes would likely benefit the financial sector a little bit more than fewer hikes would," said Mike Mussio of FBB Capital Partners, an investment adviser in Bethesda, Maryland. "And it

may change how we position clients on the fixed-income side of the asset allocation."

As interest rates rise, shares in bond-like stocks in the utilities, telecom and consumer staples sectors are likely to continue declining. So investors should consider moving out of those, Mussio said.

"It's probably a good time, if you haven't already, to consider rotating out of some of those sectors and into sectors that are a little bit more cyclical in nature and may not have the same interest sensitivity those sectors have."

Among the more cyclical sectors Mussio says would benefit from rising rates are financials, energy and industrials.

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South Carolina church shooting trial closing is expected

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — In the days after nine black worshippers were killed in their Charleston church at the end of Bible study, President Barack Obama called Dylann Roof blind by hate and Charleston's mayor said he was "pure, pure concentrated evil."

Now some 18 months later, the people asked by the government to judge Roof will gather at the federal courthouse less than a mile from the church where the June 2015 massacre happened and decide whether to hold him responsible for those deaths.

Closing arguments are expected Thursday morning in Roof's trial, with jurors likely being asked to deliberate the 33 charges — including hate crimes — before lunch. If they come back with guilty verdicts, the same jury will decide if the 22-year-old white man gets the death penalty or life in prison without parole in another phase of the trial starting Jan. 3.

Defense attorney David Bruck put up no witnesses. The first words in his opening statement last week were to tell jurors everything the prosecution had just accused Roof of doing were true.

Roof's own two-hour confession was played in its entirety for the jury, in which he confessed barely a minute after waving his rights and seemed so far from grasping the reality of the killings at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church that he was stunned when FBI agents told him nine were dead.

But Roof never confessed any regrets, sticking to his assertion that the killings had to happen after he researched "black on white crime" on the internet and accepted as fact dozens of lies about white superiority, leading him to believe he needed to kill black people. He said he chose a church because that setting posed little danger to him.

Roof said in his confession, a journal found in his car and a statement he posted online that he wanted his killings to lead to a return of segregation or perhaps a race war.



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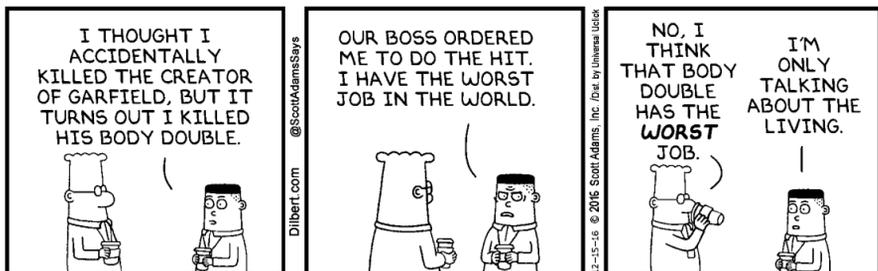
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Beetle Bailey



Dennis the Menace



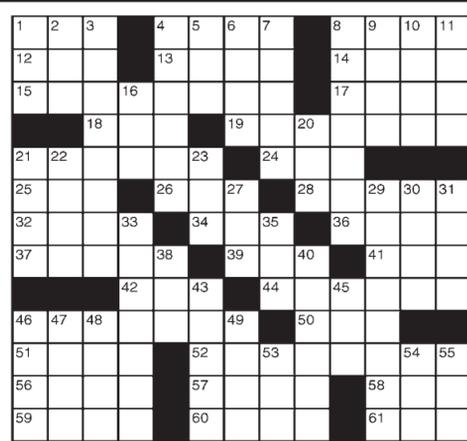
By Ned Classics



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 1 Drone member
 4 Use a sponge
 8 "Non-sense!"
 12 "This test"
 13 Latin love
 14 Sandwich cookie
 15 Almond cookie
 17 Norway's capital
 18 Kipling lad
 19 Rocket launch
 21 Tennis score
 24 Sushi fish
 25 Scoot
 26 Deli meat
 28 Audition CDs
 32 "There oughta be—!"
 34 Spring month
 36 Donated
 37 Showy parrot
 39 Favorite
 41 Garfield, for one
- DOWN**
 2 That guy
 2 Mex. neighbor
 3 Michigan island
 4 Cordiality
 5 "As I see it,"
 6 Combine in a text
 7 Bert's roomie
 8 Pirated product
 9 Guesser's words
 10 Ego
 11 Horse-shoe site
 16 Vacuum's lack
 20 Nourished
 21 Streetcar
 22 Luau dance



Solution time: 26 mins.



F 'H KGDSSFSI YS HYCFSI LY
 D OFZZUPUSL QYTEU CUPX
 EYYS. F EUPFYTEGX SUO D
 JQDSIU YZ KGDJU.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ASSUME THAT THE MOST COMMON BODILY AILMENT SUFFERED BY ACTOR SHEEN MUST BE A CHARLIE HORSE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals M



ASTROLOGY

by Eugenia Last

FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 2016
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallee Hirsh, 29; Benjamin Bratt, 53; Sam Robards, 55; Billy Gibbons, 67.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative to protect and be proactive when it comes to health, wealth and legal matters. The decisions you make will have

an influence on how well you do in the future. Taking liberties without thinking about the emotional consequences will be your downfall. Precision, detail and putting alternatives in place will guarantee your success. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 24, 31, 38, 49.



Contract Bridge

by Steve Becker

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Taking better care of your emotional and physical well-being is encouraged. Participate in community events, helping others and networking with people who can help you get ahead. Romance is featured.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional encounters will not be in your best interest. If you feel the least bit uncertain, back away and wait until you have clarification from someone you trust. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A well-rounded view will encourage you to make wise choices. Look at what's trending and how you can update your look without going over budget. Share your feelings with someone you love and it will be easier to make a decision about your future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your personal information private even if you feel compelled to share with someone who is trying to find out more about you. Work out all the kinks before you present what you have to offer. Protect your reputation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions will flare up, leaving you in an awkward position. Sum up what's transpired and consider what you really want. Choose peace over discord and affection over aggression. Personal improvements will turn out well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you work with will make you look bad if you don't speak up on your own behalf. Don't leave anything to chance and protect your assets, possessions and your health. Refuse to let criticism and unwarranted demands get you down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't expect to get the go-ahead from someone who is indecisive. You are best to set everything up beforehand and present what you have only when you know it is fail-proof. Set aside time to rejuvenate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A day trip, checking out vacation spots or gathering information will encourage you to take on a new endeavor. Monitor any changes you make carefully. Avoid joint ventures and keep your activities within your budget.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take each situation and analyze what's at stake. What you discover could spark a groundbreaking idea that will encourage you to take on more responsibility. Expand your goals and don't give up until you are satisfied.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't tell someone else's secrets. Indulging in something that isn't any of your business will be costly. Keep your distance and stay focused on what's important to you. Problems will develop if you are too vocal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll have an interesting point of view when it comes to business plans or work schedules. Share your thoughts, but don't exaggerate or you will be expected to live up to the promises you made.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay more attention to the way you present who you are and what you represent. Keeping current will help you set the pace instead of trying to keep up with others. Don't limit what you can do. Embrace change.

Birthday Baby: You have spunk, attitude and a willingness to achieve. You are unbeatable.

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K J 9 4
 ♥ Q J
 ♦ A 8 7 4
 ♣ 6 5 2

WEST
 ♠ 6 5 3 2
 ♥ K 8 7 5 3
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ K 4

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 8 7
 ♥ 10 9 6 4 2
 ♦ 3
 ♣ 10 9 8

SOUTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q J 10 9 5 2
 ♣ A Q J 7 3

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
 6 ♦

Opening lead — four of clubs.
Most of Sylvia's partners found it pointless to ask her why she had made a particularly strange bid or play. Her answer invariably left her partners more puzzled than they were before they asked the question, so they ultimately stopped asking for explanations.
For example, take this deal where Sylvia (West) found herself on lead against six diamonds. For reasons best known to herself, she led the

four of clubs! Since declarer had bid clubs, he quite naturally thought that Sylvia's lead was a singleton.

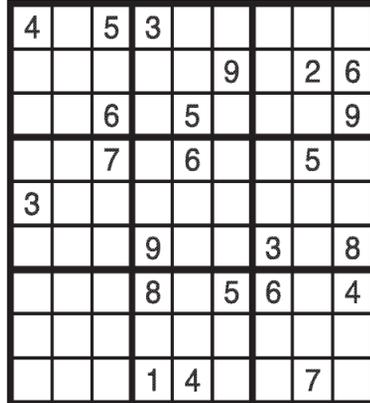
After winning East's eight with the queen, South led the queen of diamonds. When Sylvia followed low, declarer, one of the best players in the club, decided that it would be foolish to finesse. He was afraid of losing to the singleton king and that Sylvia could then ruff the club return.

Accordingly, South went up with the ace of trumps, East following low, and returned a club to the jack, confident that this finesse would succeed because it was inconceivable that Sylvia could have the king. Even if Sylvia ruffed the jack with the diamond king — the only trump outstanding — South would have no trouble collecting the rest of the tricks. But Sylvia took the jack of clubs with the king and cashed the king of trumps to set the slam.

There was an embarrassing silence when the hand was over, since it was clear that South would have made the slam but for Sylvia's extraordinary opening lead. Nobody bothered to ask her how she had happened to hit on the club lead, and, in fact, to this day her lead is still regarded by members as one of the great mysteries in the long history of their club.

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!

Level: Intermediate

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:

THURSDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

DECEMBER 15, 2016

Table with 18 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 31 rows of program listings including channels like WRCB, WELF, WTBN, WFLC, WNGH, DAYSTAR, WTVABC, WTCIPBS, WTVCFX, WDEF, QVC, CSPAN, WGN-A, HSN, E!, ESQTV, LIFE, TLC, TBS, TNT, USA, FX, ESPN, ESPN2, FSTN, SEC, GOLF, FS1, FSSE, 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, SPOKE, COM, MTV, VH1, CMTV, BET, SCIENCE, CSPAN2, EWTV, WPXA, DISXD, GSN, COOK, WE, GALA, TELE, UNIV, NBCSP, and DLC.

Thursday Best Bets

8 p.m. on (WFLI) iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2016
This popular-music concert is an annual holiday-season tradition, and not just in one city, but in several across the country — with many of the artists performing at more than one of the shows. However, this special focuses on the edition staged at New York's Madison Square Garden, with headliners including Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande and Meghan Trainor. The Chain-smokers, Fifth Harmony, Elie Goulding, Diplo, Charlie Puth and Niall Horan also are on the bill.

8 p.m. on (WTVU) Disney Prep & Landing
Santa's elves suffer job burnout too. In this charming animated special, Dave Foley gives voice to Wayne, a member of the elite elf team that prepares for and oversees Santa's arrival at children's houses. He was hoping for a promotion; instead, he has to stay where he is and train an annoyingly overzealous new assistant (voice of Derek Richardson). Of course, no Christmas special would be complete without a crisis and a lesson to be learned.

8:30 p.m. on (WTVU) Prep & Landing: Naughty vs. Nice
The yuletide adventures of Christmas elves Lanny and Wayne continue with this animated special. With the Big 2-5 fast approaching, Wayne and Lanny must race to recover classified North Pole technology that has fallen into the hands of a Naughty Kid. Desperate to prevent Christmas from descending into chaos, Wayne seeks out the foremost Naughty Kid expert to aid in the mission, a bombastic member of the Coal Elf Brigade who's also his estranged brother, Noel.

9 p.m. on (WTVU) The Great American Baking Show
The title "Pies and Tarts Week" leaves little question about what's on the menu in this new episode. Meringue pies provide the hour's first challenge, with blortorches used on what each creator hopes will be the stand-out example. Creating a Partridge in a Pear Tart, inspired by series judge Mary Berry, is the next task for the contestants. Lastly, Hors d'Oeuvre Tartlets form the round's unusual finish. Johnny Iuzzini is the contest's other judge.

9:01 p.m. on (WDEF) Mom
Since he moved in with them, Christy and Bonnie (Anna Faris, Allison Janney) occasionally have looked askance at Adam's (William Fichtner) continued fondness for getting loaded, but he finds himself smugly on the moral high ground when both the ladies of the house start sliding back into some activities that are, strictly speaking, illegal in the new episode "Freckled Bananas and a Little Schwin". Mimi Kennedy, Jaime Pressley and Beth Hall also star.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

DECEMBER 16, 2016

Table with 18 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 31 rows of program listings including channels like WRCB, WELF, WTBN, WFLC, WNGH, DAYSTAR, WTVABC, WTCIPBS, WTVCFX, WDEF, QVC, CSPAN, WGN-A, HSN, E!, ESQTV, LIFE, TLC, TBS, TNT, USA, FX, ESPN, ESPN2, FSTN, SEC, GOLF, FS1, FSSE, 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, SPOKE, COM, MTV, VH1, CMTV, BET, SCIENCE, CSPAN2, EWTV, WPXA, DISXD, GSN, COOK, WE, GALA, TELE, UNIV, NBCSP, and DLC.

Rotary distributes almost \$45,000 in local grants

By **BRIAN GRAVES**
Banner Staff Writer

The Rotary Club of Cleveland will hold its annual gala Feb. 17 with a movie theme, and on Tuesday it handed out what might be called its version of the “Oscars.”

Financial grants to eight different community organizations were presented through the auspices of the Cleveland Rotary Foundation which is supported through the generosity of its members and their annual gala.

“This is the culmination of our year-long efforts and hard work for our club,” said Cooper Hill, president of the foundation.

Hill said the foundation’s focus is on local organizations that work toward eradicating illiteracy and helping with the community’s overall well-being.

“This year’s grant recipients all have worthy programs aimed to eliminate illiteracy in our area,” Hill said.

This year’s grants total \$44,946 and representatives from seven of the eight grant recipients were on hand to accept their donations.

A \$10,000 grant was awarded

“This is the culmination of our year-long efforts and hard work for our club. This year’s grant recipients all have worthy programs aimed to eliminate illiteracy in our area.” — Cooper Hill

to the Bradley County Schools for the purchase of books and reading kits, as part of the “Read 20” initiative which focuses on making students better readers and literate citizens.

Wyatt Bevis accepted the \$10,000 grant for Boys & Girls Clubs to help build an outdoor classroom and reading pavillion in support of their “Great Futures” literacy program.

Chrissy Pugh and Amy West accepted a \$3,000 grant for Family Connections’ “Starfish” program with in-home parent education systems which target economically and educationally disadvantaged children.

Melanie Connatser accepted a \$5,000 grant for Junior Achievement of the Ocoee Region in support of their finan-

cial literacy and work readiness programs for middle and high school students.

Tammy Johnson accepted \$1,429 for the purchase of verbalization and visualization reading platforms for Lee University’s Developmental Inclusion Classroom for students with autism spectrum disorders. sons more interactive.”

Kelli Kyle accepted a \$7,307 grant to help enhance The Refuge’s reading lab by creating three new centers of learning in order to reach more adult students.

Cindy Lawson accepted a \$4,710 grant for the United Way’s involvement in Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library by purchasing books and printed materials during 2017.

Elizabeth Dunn accepted a \$3,500 grant for the YMCA’s Y-CAP program to fund intervention programs which provide individual tutoring and to purchase reading software systems.

“These are some outstanding organizations,” Hill said. “Our gala is coming up in February and our efforts there can help us help more organizations this time next year.”



KELLI KYLE of The Refuge accepts a \$7,307 grant from Rotary Foundation President Cooper Hill, left, and Cleveland Rotary President Victor Boltnew, right.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES



WYATT BEVIS with the Boys & Girls Clubs accepts a \$10,000 grant from Rotary Foundation President Cooper Hill, left, and Cleveland Rotary President Victor Boltnew, right.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES



CINDY LAWSON of the United Way accepts a \$4,710 grant from Rotary Foundation President Cooper Hill, left, and Cleveland Rotary President Victor Boltnew, right.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES



CHRISSY PUGH AND AMY WEST (center left and right) accept a \$3,000 grant from Rotary Foundation President Cooper Hill, left, and Cleveland Rotary President Victor Boltnew, right.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES



ELIZABETH DUNN of the YMCA accepts a \$3,500 grant from Rotary Foundation President Cooper Hill, left, and Cleveland Rotary President Victor Boltnew, right.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES



MELANIE CONNATSER with Junior Achievement receives a \$5,000 grant from Rotary Foundation President Cooper Hill, left, and Cleveland Rotary President Victor Boltnew, right.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES



DR. TAMMY JOHNSON with Lee University accepts a grant for \$1,429 from Rotary Foundation President Cooper Hill, left, and Cleveland Rotary President Victor Boltnew, right.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Thank your customers for their loyalty with a special Holiday Greeting Card ad in the Cleveland Daily Banner.

With Thoughts of You at Christmas

As the holiday season approaches, our hearts are warmed by thoughts of the many good people we've had the opportunity to serve this year. You've certainly brightened our year! Thank you for your support and loyalty. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Your Business Logo,
Address, Phone, Etc.
Here

Skip the envelopes and stamps this year! Put your business greetings in print with the Cleveland Daily Banner. Our special holiday ads will run during the month of December. It gives you the perfect opportunity to just say Thank You. Sizes and prices will fit any budget.

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Trump tells anxious tech leaders: 'We're here to help'

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump, who faced fierce opposition from some Silicon Valley leaders during the election campaign, strove to assure the titans of tech on Wednesday that his administration is "here to help you folks do well."

Trump, still savoring his election victory, convened a summit at Trump Tower for nearly a dozen tech leaders, whose industry largely supported Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. Many in the industry are worried that Trump will stifle innovation, curb the hiring of computer-savvy immigrants and infringe on consumers' digital privacy.

He immediately tried to allay those fears.

"We want you to keep going with the incredible innovation. Anything we can do to help this go on, we will be there for you," Trump said. "You'll call my people, you'll call me. We have no formal chain of command around here."

The CEOs who filled the table in Trump's 25th floor conference room included Apple's Tim Cook, Alphabet's Larry Page, Google's Eric Schmidt, Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Tesla's Elon Musk, IBM's Ginni Rometty, Oracle's Safra Catz and Cisco Systems' Chuck Robbins. Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, attended instead of its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, who is one of many tech executives who have expressed misgivings about Trump's pledge to deport millions

of immigrants who are in the country illegally.

The meeting remained amiable and the group, which agreed to meet quarterly, also had preliminary discussions about immigration and how to stay competitive with China, though no firm commitments were made, according to a person briefed on the meeting but not authorized to discuss it publicly.

Trump was joined by several members of his senior staff and his three eldest children, who are expected to help run his business once he takes office, again blurring the line between the president-elect's personal and professional lives.

Reporters were allowed to witness only the first moments of the meeting and most of the attendees departed without comment. But Bezos, who is also owner of The Washington Post, which has been a frequent target of Trump complaints about campaign coverage, said he found the meeting to be "very productive" and said he "shared the view that the administration should make innovation one of its key pillars."

No industry was more open in its contempt for Trump during the campaign. In an open letter published in July, more than 140 technology executives, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists skewered him as a "disaster for innovation."

And Trump's denigration of Mexicans, his pledge to deport millions of immigrants now living in the U.S. illegally and his crude remarks about women were wide-

ly viewed as racist, authoritarian and sexist by an industry that prides itself on its tolerance.

Trump, in turn, sometimes lashed out at the industry and its leaders, and — despite his reassurances Wednesday — questions remain about how he'll govern.

He has lambasted Bezos for the Post's campaign coverage and has suggested that Amazon could face antitrust scrutiny after his election. Trump also rebuked Cook for fighting a government order requiring Apple to unlock an encrypted iPhone used by a shooter in last year's terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California.

And Trump's repeated negative comments about immigrants raised fears that he might dismantle programs that have enabled tech companies to hire tens of thousands of foreign workers with the skills to write computer programs, design web pages and build mobile apps.

The industry is also worried that Trump might try to undermine "net neutrality," a regulation requiring internet service providers to offer equal access to all online services. Trump's harsh characterization of the media as dishonest and unfair has raised other fears that he might try to restrict free speech online.

Some in Silicon Valley think the industry's best move would be to keep its distance until Trump changes his tone. Former Google executive Chris Sacca, now a tech investor, argues that industry leaders should have steered clear of the meeting altogether.

Sitting down with the presi-



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with technology industry leaders at Trump Tower in New York, Wednesday. From left are, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Alphabet CEO Larry Page, Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, Vice President-elect Mike Pence, and Trump.

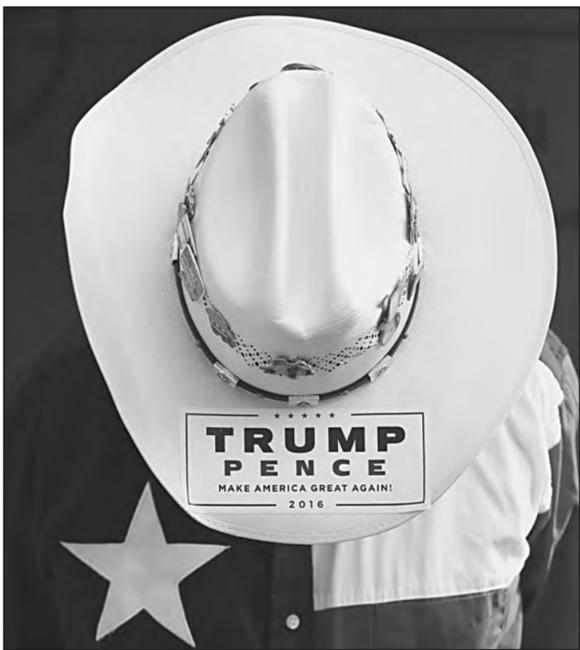
dent-elect "would only make sense after Trump has given public assurances he won't encourage censorship, will stop exploiting fake news, will promote net neutrality, denounce hate crimes and embrace science," Sacca said. "If and until then, tech figures who visit are being used to whitewash an authoritarian bully who threatens not just our industry but our entire democracy."

One major tech company not

invited, despite Trump's frequent use of its product, was Twitter. Sean Spicer, communications director for the Republican National Committee, disputed that they were singled out — Twitter has said it declined to make branded emojis on the campaign's behalf — and explained its absence by simply saying "the conference table was only so big, OK?"

Separately on Wednesday,

Michigan's Republican Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel was officially named Trump's choice to become the new RNC chair next year. The niece of 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney would be the first woman to hold the committee's top position in 40 years, and her promotion comes after Trump became the first Republican to carry Michigan in 28 years.



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

REX TETER, a member of the Electoral College, poses at his home in Pasadena, Texas, Tuesday. The sharp divisions left by last month's presidential election have cast more attention than usual on the Electoral College. Teter, 59, a music teacher and preacher, received about 35,000 emails and 200 letters urging him not to support Trump. It took him several hours to delete them the day after Thanksgiving. A Marco Rubio supporter in the primaries, he is solidly for Trump. "Some have been very personal letters. Some threatening. One was very funny. They view President-elect Trump as a threat so it's personal for them and I can empathize. But I'm not changing my vote as an elector."

Border cities worry that ending NAFTA would hurt economies

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — Donald Trump's only visit to the U.S.-Mexico border while running for president was a stop in Laredo that lasted less than three hours. On some days, that's not long enough for 18-wheelers hauling foreign-made dishwashers and car batteries to lurch through the gridlocked crossing.

Trump's campaign promise to tear apart the North American Free Trade Agreement helped win over Rust Belt voters who felt left behind by globalization. But the idea is unnerving to many people in border cities such as Laredo and El Paso or Nogales in Arizona, which have boomed under the 1994 treaty.

About 14,000 tractor-trailers cross the border daily in Laredo, the nation's busiest inland port. Local officials say roughly 1 in every 3 jobs benefits from international trade.

"We are NAFTA on wheels," Mayor Pete Saenz said.

Free trade across the border, he explained, is the "backbone" of this city of 255,000 people. The Democrat endured a backlash from his party for welcoming Trump in July 2015 after the then-candidate called immigrants from Mexico criminals and rapists.

Trump described NAFTA as "the worst single trade deal ever approved in this country." That kind of talk resonated in hard-hit industrial towns such as Greenville, Michigan, where Electrolux shut down a factory a decade ago and moved jobs to the Mexican border city of Ciudad

Juarez.

During his transition to the White House, the president-elect has not discussed NAFTA at all. The agreement went unmentioned in a video Trump released last month laying out the priorities for his first 100 days in office.

Saenz, the telegenic son of a dairy farmer, talks about the possible repeal of NAFTA like a small-town Midwest mayor trying to keep a factory from moving away. He foresees unemployment spiking to double digits, abandoned warehouses and crippled city finances. Laredo keeps the toll revenue from international bridge traffic, which last year amounted to about \$60 million, enough, according to Saenz, to cover police and fire department payrolls.

His grim predictions are not widely shared. Even customs brokers in Laredo who have cashed in on NAFTA believe they will survive and trade will continue if the agreement is abandoned.

But for now, there's still no better place in the U.S. to get a glimpse of the trade treaty than the Rio Grande city.

Interstate 35, clogged with wheezing 18-wheelers, starts here on its 1,600-mile straight shot to the Canadian border. Busy industrial parks are a revolving door of imported and exported goods. Four years after NAFTA was signed by President Bill Clinton and approved by a Republican-controlled Congress, the Census Bureau named Laredo the country's second-fastest growing area.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Although pestered to a fare-thee-well to abandon Donald Trump, Republican electors appear to be in no mood for an insurrection in the presidential campaign's last voting ritual. This most untraditional of elections is on course to produce a traditional outcome Monday — an Electoral College ticket to the White House for the president-elect.

Whether they like Trump or not, and some surely don't, scores of the Republicans chosen to cast votes in the state-capital meetings told AP they feel bound by history, duty, party loyalty or the law to rubber-stamp their state's results and make him president. Appeals numbering in the tens of thousands — drowning inboxes, ringing cell phones, stuffing home and office mailboxes with actual handwritten letters — have not swayed them.

The Associated Press tried to reach all 538 electors and interviewed more than 330 of them, finding widespread Democratic aggravation with the electoral process but little expectation that the hustle of anti-Trump maneuvering can derail him. For that to happen, Republican-appointed electors would have to stage an unprecedented defection and Democrats would need to buck tradition, too, by peeling away from Hillary Clinton and swinging behind a consensus candidate in sufficient numbers.

Still, people going to the typically ho-hum electoral gatherings have been drawn into the rough and tumble of campaign-season politics. Republicans are being beseeched to revolt in a torrent of lobbying, centered on the argument that Clinton won the popular vote and Trump is unsuited to the presidency. Most of it is falling on deaf ears, but it has also led to some acquaintances being made across the great political divide.

"Let me give you the total as of right now: 48,324 emails about my role as an elector," said Brian Westrate, a small-business owner and GOP district chairman in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. "I have a Twitter debate with a former porn star from California asking me to change my vote. It's been fascinating."

Similarly deluged, Republican elector Hector Maldonado, a Missouri National Guardsman, has taken the time to console one correspondent, a single mother and Air Force veteran who is beside herself with worry about what a Trump presidency will mean.

"Everything's going to be OK," he said he told her. "I know you're scared, but don't worry. Everything's going to be OK. And I know that it will be."

Maldonado, a Mexican immigrant and medical-equipment seller in Sullivan, backed Ted Cruz in the primaries but will cast his vote for Trump with conviction. "I took an oath once to become a U.S. citizen," he said, "and on Aug. 14, 1995, that was the first oath that

I've taken to support the U.S. Constitution. A year later I took the oath again, to support the duties of being an officer in the U.S. Army. This was the third oath that I've taken to execute what I promised to do."

Even a leader of the anti-Trump effort, Bret Chiafalo of Everett, Washington, calls it a "losing bet" — but one he says the republic's founders would want him to make. "I believe that Donald Trump is a unique danger to our country and the Founding Fathers put the Electoral College in place to, among other things, stop that from happening," said Chiafalo, 38, an Xbox network engineer who backed Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primaries.

It takes 270 electoral votes to make a president. Despite losing the national popular vote, Trump won enough states to total 306 electoral votes. He would need to see three dozen fall away for him to lose his majority. Only one Republican elector told AP he won't vote for Trump.

Over the sweep of history, so-called faithless electors — those who vote for someone other than their state's popular-vote winner

— have been exceptionally rare.

Nashville attorney Tom Lawless, who chose Marco Rubio in the primaries, described his vow to cast his electoral vote for Trump in blunt terms. "Hell will freeze and we will be skating on the lava before I change," he said. "He won the state and I've pledged and gave my word that that's what I would do. And I won't break it."

Nor will Jim Skaggs, 78, a developer from Bowling Green, Kentucky, despite deep concern about Trump. "His personality worries me," Skaggs said. "He is not open-minded." Skaggs knew Trump's father through the construction business, met the son in his 20s, and "I wasn't impressed." "I hope he is far better than I think he is," Skaggs said. Even so, "I fully intend to vote for Donald Trump," he said. "I think it's a duty."

State law and practices vary for electors, but even in states where electors don't take an oath to vote a certain way or don't face legal ramifications for stepping out of line, the heavy expectation is for them to ratify the results. As much as they don't want Trump in office, some Democrats are as reluctant

as Republicans to go rogue.

"We lost the election," said John Padilla of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a Democratic ward chairman. "That's how elections are and you shake hands with your opponent and you get on with what you have to do and support your candidate."

Yet Democratic electors, stung by losing an election to a Republican who trails Clinton by more than 2.6 million votes nationwide, spoke strongly in the interviews in favor of overhauling or throwing out the electoral system. Republican electors generally supported it, reasoning that it provides a counterweight to political dominance by coastal states with huge (and largely Democratic) populations, like California and New York.

Chiafalo is a co-founder of the Hamilton Electors, a group formed to steer other electors from both parties to a third candidate. "We've stated from Day 1 this is a long shot, this is a Hail Mary," he said.

But if the effort fails, it won't be from lack of trying. Most of the pleas to reject Trump are coordinated, automated, professionally generated and, for those reasons, none too persuasive.



Tennessee At A Glance

Cleveland Daily Banner
WEATHER INFORMATION

Companion
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SPORTS

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Starting role in bowl would be the big finish for Huskers' Fyfe

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Even though he's wearing a cast on his left wrist and can't take snaps from under center, Ryker Fyfe remains the most practical option No. 24 Nebraska has at quarterback as it prepares for the Music City Bowl against Tennessee.

Four-year starter Tommy Armstrong Jr. hasn't practiced since aggravating his hamstring injury three weeks ago against Iowa, meaning Fyfe must take all the repetitions with the No. 1 offense.

Armstrong needs to practice soon if he's going to play in the Dec. 30 bowl, offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said.

"I don't know if there's a specific timetable," Langsdorf said. "It's hard to go into a game with-

out a good week of practice at least. We're not talking about 10-year veterans here. These are college kids who need the practice. We're hoping to get him back as soon as we can."

Fyfe, a fifth-year senior and former walk-on, said the uncertainty doesn't faze him.

"It's kind of like my whole career has been," he said. "Just got to be ready, I guess."

Tennessee defensive coordinator Bob Shoop's hunch?

"I think Armstrong's going to play," he said. "He's a senior. He's played a lot of football. It's his team."

Fyfe has played sparingly in the three years he's been the top backup. He was sharp in his only start this season, completing 23 of 37 passes for 220 yards and a

touchdown in a 28-7 win over Maryland on Nov. 19. But he landed wrong on his left wrist in the third quarter. Athletic trainers originally thought it was a sprain, and he finished the game. X-rays afterward showed a broken bone, and he underwent surgery the next day.

His injury left the Cornhuskers in a lurch with the final regular-season game against Iowa looming. Armstrong was still gimpy from hurting his left hamstring Nov. 12, and Fyfe couldn't practice until three days after surgery. The No. 3 quarterback, Zack Darlington, moved to receiver in the spring and was prepared to take snaps only in an emergency. The Huskers (9-3) didn't want to take their other QB, Patrick O'Brien, out of a red-



AP photo

NEBRASKA QUARTERBACK Ryker Fyfe warms up before a game against Minnesota in Lincoln, Neb. While wearing a cast on his left wrist and not able to take snaps from under center, Fyfe is the healthiest option Nebraska has at quarterback for the Music City Bowl against Tennessee.

shirt so late in the season.

Fyfe said both he and Armstrong were about 30 percent on the day of the Iowa game,

with Armstrong starting because he practiced more that week. The

See UT, Page 15

MacCOON'S LOCKER ROOM

Patrick
MacCoon

Huesman leaves program he made into national power

Since the beginning of the 21st century one of the most improved college football programs at any level across the country has to be right down the road.

Thanks to Russ Huesman, a program that once finished 1-11 (in 2008) became a Division I-AA powerhouse that won three consecutive Southern Conference regular season championships in his time at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

While the University of Richmond made it official Wednesday morning that it has hired the former defensive coordinator from the Spiders' 2008 national championship season as its new head coach, Huesman turned the Mocs from a laughingstock to a championship contending program.

The sudden departure of a coach who will one day become a Chattanooga legend comes as a shock to many, including UTC verbal commit and Walker Valley standout Bryce Nunnally.

"I was very surprised to see Coach Huesman leave UTC and go to Richmond," said Nunnally, one of eight hard verbal commits as of now for the Mocs 2017 recruiting class. "He seemed like a great coach and an even better man. I couldn't wait to play for him, but I respect his decision and wish him nothing but the best. He definitely turned Chattanooga's football program around for the better and made it what it is today."

The three-time SoCon Coach of the Year 'restored the glory' for a once bottom-dweller program, which was 27-76 overall and 18-51 in SoCon play from 2000-08.

Huesman doubled those win totals in just eight seasons with a 59-37 overall record and 42-20 conference record, while taking UTC to its first playoff quarterfinals in a program-best 10-win season in 2014.

During his tenure he was able to coach three NFL draft picks in Buster Skrine, B.J. Coleman and Davis Tull with former Red Bank and SoCon Defensive Player of the Year Keionta Davis (31 career sacks) expected to make the list grow come the NFL draft, April 27-29.

Huesman leaves behind his alma mater where he accounted for five of the program's seven SoCon regular season championships, three in a row as a head coach from 2013-15 and two as a player from 1978-79. He is expected to make over \$400,000 at Richmond, where his Spiders' defense limited opponents to 15.6 points per game in the 13-win national championship 2008 season.

The Mocs official roster

See HUESMAN, Page 15



AP photo

TENNESSEE TITANS QUARTERBACK Marcus Mariota, left, fumbles the ball as he is brought down by San Diego Chargers defender Melvin Ingram in San Diego. The Titans, and Mariota in particular, are doing a better job of taking care of the football recently. That will be crucial Sunday when they visit the Chiefs.

Titans' ball security faces stiff test

NASHVILLE (AP) — The usually generous Tennessee Titans have become quite stingy with the football during the holiday season.

They have gone four straight games without a turnover.

It's an impressive run for the Titans and quarterback Marcus Mariota in particular in the team's longest such streak since the start of the 2013 season. But they'll face a team Sunday in the Kansas City Chiefs that ranks third in the NFL with a turnover differential of plus-11 and are tied for the league-high with 25 take-aways.

The Chiefs have 14 interceptions and have recovered 11 fumbles this season. Defensive back Marcus Peters leads

Kansas City with five interceptions, while safety Eric Berry has three.

"They're an aggressive defense, not that ours isn't," Titans coach Mike Mularkey said Wednesday. "They've just been able to get more balls. They've got the interceptions they've had. They've been able to score four times with interceptions. They've had a fumble recovery for (a touchdown). They've been more opportunistic. It's not that they're playing any harder or any different than our guys. It's just that they've had things go their way, the ball bounce their way, more than us."

The Titans have 15 takeaways with the defense just recovering their first two fumbles this season in last week's 13-10 win over Denver.

Ball security is an area the Titans struggled with early this starting with three turnovers in the opening loss to Minnesota. Mariota has lost four fumbles with three returned for touchdowns along with eight interceptions — two of those pick 6s. DeMarco Murray, who fumbled in the opener, has the other turnover.

"Everybody has been responsible for taking care of the football, taking care of our football," Mularkey said. "It starts with the quarterback, obviously, and he has done a better job. You can see him in the pocket, some things he's improved on from early in the season, and even out of the pocket when he's carrying it, but everybody has been very good with it. They're all responsible."

The second-year quarterback has not turned the ball over since Nov. 6 when he was intercepted twice with one fumble, which were turned into two touchdowns in a 43-35 win by San Diego. Mariota has thrown 115 consecutive passes since that last interception, which he knows will be challenging against the Chiefs.

"They're probably one of the better defenses in the league, one of the toughest defenses we'll probably face all year," Mariota said. "They've got guys all across the board that can make plays whether it's up front or on the back end. Again, we're going to have our work cut out this week."

See TITANS, Page 15

Lady Vols score season-high 92 points in win over App State

From UT SPORTS INFORMATION

KNOXVILLE — Five Lady Vols scored in double figures, as Tennessee snapped a two-game skid with a 92-66 victory over Appalachian State on Wednesday night at Thompson-Boling Arena.

Junior guard Alexa Middleton led all UT players with 20 points, while Jamie Nared recorded her fifth double-double in the last six games with 15 points and 10 rebounds. The Big Orange got a huge lift from the bench with a season-high 41 points from the reserves on the night.

After giving up 24 first-quarter points, the Lady Volunteers (5-4) clamped down defensively and held the Mountaineers to just 41

points combined for the rest of the game. UT also was efficient on the offensive end, shooting 49 percent for the game while committing just six turnovers, the fewest since a 71-66 loss at South Carolina on Feb. 23, 2015. Tennessee dominated down low, outscoring App State 50-28 in the paint and finishing with a 44-35 advantage on the boards.

The Mountaineers (4-6) jumped out to an early 7-2 lead and led 24-20 at the end of the first quarter, thanks to some red-hot shooting, converting 11 of their 15 shot attempts in the quarter. Middleton came off the bench and shouldered the offensive load for the Big Orange in the opening frame with 10 points

on 5-of-6 shooting.

UT went on an early 8-0 run in the second quarter and outscored App State 25-10 in the period to take an 11-point lead into the locker room. Middleton and Diamond DeShields led all scorers in the first half with 12 points apiece, as the Lady Vols shot a blistering 53 percent from the floor.

Tennessee extended its lead to 23 with a dominant third quarter. Mercedes Russell contributed six points and a pair of rebounds in the period to give the Lady Vols a 69-46 lead entering the final quarter of play.

A pair of 3-pointers from Nared and Kortney Dunbar fueled a 10-0 run to begin the fourth quarter

that ended any chance for an Appalachian State comeback. UT's 92 points were a season high and marked the fifth time this season that the team has scored over 80 points.

Tennessee scored a season-high 92 points in the victory, surpassing the 86 they scored in a win over Tennessee State on Nov. 30. The Lady Vols scored more than 80 points for the fifth time already this season after only doing so four times all of last year. UT also recorded season highs for second chance points (22) and bench scoring (41).

The Lady Vols had five players score in double figures for the

See LADY VOLS, Page 13



UT photo

TENNESSEE'S Jordan Reynolds passes toward the lane Thursday against Appalachian State at Thompson-Boling Arena, in Knoxville.

LSU hires offensive coordinator Matt Canada away from Panthers

(AP) — Matt Canada isn't promising any particular kind of offense at LSU — other than on which scores enough to win.

"We do things according to what the players can do," Canada said Wednesday at his formal introduction as LSU's offensive coordinator. "I don't like to pigeon-hole myself. We're this or we're that. The biggest thing for me is scoring points, but the goal in a game is to score more points than the other team. It is not about to keep scoring to reach a certain number."

LSU hired Canada, who currently serves as Pittsburgh's offensive coordinator, away from the Panthers in hopes he can make the Tigers' run-heavy offense more dynamic and pro-



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH offensive coordinator Matt Canada watches over his players during practice in Pittsburgh. LSU has hired Canada away from the Panthers in hopes he can make the Tigers' run-heavy offense more dynamic and productive against some of the nation's better defenses.

Auburn's White, Pettway both full go in practice

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — Auburn's backfield appears likely to be full-strength for the Sugar Bowl.

The 17th-ranked Tigers began bowl practice Wednesday for the Jan. 2 game against No. 7 Oklahoma with quarterback Sean White and tailback Kamryn Pettway back out there without limitations, coach Gus Malzahn said.

Those two helped power Auburn's rise into Southeastern Conference Western Division contention before injuries late in

the season. White missed the final two games with an injured throwing (right) shoulder but Malzahn was encouraged by Wednesday's practice.

"He practiced the whole time and it looked to me like he was 100 percent," Malzahn said. "He did everything the other quarterbacks did and didn't miss a beat"

Pettway sat out the Georgia and Alabama A&M games and was limited in the regular season finale against No. 1 Alabama. Malzahn said he also was full go in the first bowl practice.

throwing the ball."

Canada's unit at Pitt enjoyed a prolific season, averaging 42.3 points and 447.5 yards as the Panthers went 8-4 this season. Pitt next meets Northwestern in the Pinstripe Bowl in Dec. 28 in New York, and Canada is expected to remain with the Panthers through that game.

Canada's offenses have been defined by balance, creativity and misdirection. Of Pitt's 5,370 total net yards of offense this season, 2,757 have come on the ground and 2,613 through the air.

Orgeron also has already retained defensive coordinator Dave Aranda, whose unit allowed just 16.4 points per game. Back when Aranda was with Utah State, he went up against Canada, who was then the offensive coordinator at Wisconsin.

"There are not a lot of guys who do as good a job adjusting to his players than Matt," Aranda said. "You notice all the shifts and misdirection. I love to see that type of offense in the spring. It gets your defense ready for anything. It's tough to defend all the shifts and motions. Plus, he makes a lot of adjustments in the game."

Canada, who turned 45 next month, takes over for Steve Ensminger, who'd moved up from tight ends coach on an interim basis after former coordinator Cam Cameron was fired on the same day Miles was.

Miles was let go after several seasons in which his quarterbacks, with the exception of Zach Mettenberger, largely struggled to produce consistently. The lack of a passing game has been exposed most during what is now a six-game losing streak against Alabama. While LSU's defense

kept the game close, the Tigers were shut out by the Crimson Tide, 10-0, this season.

This season, LSU has averaged 238 yards rushing and only 188 passing.

"We have a real opportunity under coach Orgeron to propel LSU football to another level," Canada said in a statement released by LSU. "The chance to put together a high-powered offense with the athletic ability available at LSU and the leadership of Coach 'O' is incredibly exciting. I've long-respected Coach Orgeron's ability to recruit, lead and motivate. What he did as head coach at LSU under difficult circumstances was really impressive.

"We're going to develop quarterbacks, score points and bring some excitement to the offense here at LSU," Canada added.

A two-decade veteran of college coaching, Canada also has held offensive coordinator positions with Indiana, Northern Illinois, and North Carolina State.

He was fired from his post at North Carolina State after the 2015 season despite his unit averaging about 413 yards per game with Jacoby Brissett at quarterback. Canada did not get into specifics about his departure from North Carolina State. But he was quickly taken off the market by Pitt and added another productive season on his coaching resume.

"Professionally and personally, this has been the hardest year of my life," Canada said, adding that he was surprised by his firing at North Carolina State. "Obviously, there was a reason for it. I am fortunate the change was made, because I'm here."

returned for a touchdown. Senior Jeremy Johnson started the final two games but passed for just 34 yards against the Crimson Tide.

Pettway rushed 12 times for just 17 yards against the Tide. The third-year sophomore has already announced that he will return to Auburn next season instead of leaving to enter the NFL draft.

White will have new competition for the starting job in the spring from former Baylor starter Jarrett Stidham. Stidham signed with the Tigers on Wednesday.



CLEMSON QUARTERBACK Deshaun Watson (4) runs the ball in the first half against Auburn, in Auburn, Ala. Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said his team is right where it expected to be, and ready for the next playoff challenge.

A relaxed coach Swinney, Clemson return to practice

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — With an easy smile and a stress-free attitude, Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said his team is right where it expected to be and ready for the next challenge.

The third-ranked Tigers (12-1, No. 2 College Football Playoff) returned to campus this week to start practice for its national semifinal matchup with No. 2 Ohio State (11-1; No. 3 CFP) at the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Eve.

If Swinney is concerned about Clemson's mindset or the pressure of trying to reach the national title game again after last year's runner-up finish to Alabama, he didn't show it Tuesday as he stood in the program's festively decorated team room.

"At the end of day, we're where we wanted to be," Swinney said. "We wanted to be in the final four, that's where we are. We've got a shot to get back to the championship."

Oh, Swinney said there will be lots of time to zero in on the Buckeyes' stellar defense and knack for making the decisive play on offense when it counts most. Right now, he'll focus getting the Tigers' football legs back under them before leaving for Arizona on Dec. 26.

For Swinney, that means recommitting to football fundamentals that may have gotten sloppy in Clemson's weekly grind to the Atlantic Coast Conference title, which the Tigers captured earlier this month with a 42-35 win over Virginia Tech. He'll have the Tigers best players go against each other like the do during August scrimmages, something teams don't always have the luxury of doing much once the regular-season starts.

Clemson's staff has been locked onto the Buckeyes since re-gathering this past weekend and Swinney said nearly all preparations for the Fiesta Bowl will be complete before the team leaves campus the day after Christmas. He's been on other staffs where coaches have left key parts of game plans under wraps until the

handful of bowl-site workouts — which Swinney believes can lead to problematic results.

"It's really not the best environment" to get major work done that late, he said. "Game week is about details, it's polishing."

The Tigers have players who've been polished to a lustrous shine in recent seasons.

Swinney believes his experienced group will approach the game the way they have each week of the regular season and as they did before last year's title game. Eight Clemson offensive starters played in the 45-40 loss to Alabama last January. The Tigers have remained in the moment and have not let themselves peek too far ahead as this season unfolded.

"It's about just be great where your feet are," Swinney said.

Defensive coordinator Brent Venables said the week is about reminding players to go fast, but with discipline.

"We try and give our guys a refresher course," he said.

Ben Boulware, who won the Jack Lambert Award last week as college football's top linebacker, said the Tigers haven't forgotten the sick feeling in the locker room after the Alabama loss in the same stadium that they'll play Ohio State. Boulware said he and his teammates have rallied around leaving that stadium as winners this time.

"The hunger has been there from day one, been there since January," he said. "It will continue to be there until the last game."

Returning to practice was also a return to normalcy for Clemson's Deshaun Watson, who won the Davey O'Brien and Johnny Unitas awards this month. However, he finished behind Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson for the Heisman Trophy and ACC player of the year.

On Tuesday, Watson also was runner-up to Jackson in The Associated Press' college football Player of the Year voting.

Siemian

From Page 14

No. 1 picks in his first month as Manning's successor. So, they're not exactly celebrating Manning's retirement.

"For a younger quarterback that hasn't played much, he does a good job of just keeping his eyes downfield, moving around in the pocket and just getting to the best play no matter really what happens with the rush or anything," Patriots defensive back Devin McCourty said.

Despite unrelenting pressure and big hits that have resulted in injuries to both shoulders and his left foot, Siemian has completed 61.2 percent of his passes while throwing for 16 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Siemian's athleticism, arm strength and mobility drew praise from Patriots coach Bill Belichick this week.

Siemian's quarterback rating of 89.8 is higher than Manning (67.9) and Osweiler (86.4) had last year, when Manning completed 59.6 percent of his throws

with nine TDs and 17 interceptions and Osweiler completed 61.8 percent of his passes with 10 TDs and six interceptions.

Osweiler prevailed in the regular season against the Patriots last year and Manning won the 17th and final meeting with Brady.

Two months after the Broncos overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit for a 30-24 overtime win behind Osweiler, Manning threw for just 176 yards in the AFC championship that Denver won 20-18 thanks to a defense that hit Brady a career-high 23 times, sacked him four times and intercepted him twice.

The Broncos are the only team Brady has a losing record against (6-9), and he's just 2-7 in Denver.

"I think they've had really good teams," Brady said Wednesday. "More so than where you play, it's how you play. We just need to play better than the way we've

been playing out there. It's a great place to play. They've got great fans."

Brady added that Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware are "a lot more dangerous ... than the people in the crowd. So, we're going to have to do a good job handling all those guys up front."

Nothing will ever match the Brady-Manning matchup, but Siemian is counting on this one being the first of many with Brady, who aims to play several more seasons.

When the season started, many saw Siemian as a stop-gap, keeping the seat warm for Paxton Lynch. Now, there's buzz about him being the long-term solution at QB in Denver, although that's not a notion Siemian was keen to entertain Wednesday.

"I'm not looking too far ahead," Siemian said. "I want to make the most of these next couple of games and get us into the playoffs and make a run here."

Huesman

From Page 13

from this past season had 15 players from Chattanooga and will add two from Cleveland next season, with Nunnally and Bradley Central quarterback Cole Copeland.

"I am committed to UTC because it just felt right when I went down there for a visit," Nunnally said. "I really liked the campus and especially wide receivers coach Rob Spence. Coach Huesman has made Chattanooga a top 10 program and that goes for the years to come hopefully. It's a great place to be able to play a high level of football."

While the Mocs' fan base may be in somewhat of a panic-attack mode for the time being, the new job opening should be filled by a candidate who can carry on the success built during the Huesman era.

UTC should definitely be an attractive job, based its success over the last several seasons. Mocs standout quarterback Alejandro Bennifield will return for his senior season after scoring 32 touchdowns (26 passing, six rushing) throwing for 2,622 yards and rushing for 377 more in a 9-4 2016 season.

While Huesman could take several coaches with him, offensive coordinator Jeff Durden would make for an interesting candidate to hire from within.

Former Bradley Central standout and a captain of the 1986 Tennessee Volunteers football team Dale Jones is a hot list candidate as well. This season was his 21st as an assistant coach with Appalachian State, where he has been a part of three national championships.

Tennessee Tech's Marcus Satterfield and Austin Peay's Will Healy both have strong ties to UTC and should entertain interest in the job, but both head coaches have just completed their first seasons at their respective programs.

A list of possible candidates for the UTC post published by Chattanooga media include Bob Shoop, Randy Sanders, Jamey Chadwell, Adam Fuller, Shane Montgomery, Bobby Hauck, Bobby Lamb, Andy McCollum, Jason Simpson, Mark Elder, Thomas Brown and David Bibee.

"I'm anxious to see who the next head coach will be," Nunnally said. "I have strong relationships with some of the coaches still there. They have been in contact with me, and that really means a lot."

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Titans

From Page 13

The respect is mutual, according to Berry.

"Honestly, they've been doing a great job of taking care of the ball," Berry said of the Titans. "The offense is pretty good. You can tell they're very disciplined. We're just going to have to try to make some plays to make some things happen."

Kansas City coach Andy Reid called Mariota a good player whose improvement from his rookie season is easy to see. The Titans quarterback also looks more comfortable and appears to be seeing both defenses and the field well. Reid said Mariota's deep passes are

"beautiful."

As much as the Titans see the Chiefs as a test of how well they can protect the ball, the Chiefs still want to find a way to take it

away.

"That's what makes this such a great challenge," Reid said. "We'll try to do our best that we can against them."

Lady Vols

From Page 13

first time since last year's season opener against Central Arkansas. Middleton (20), DeShields (16), Nared (15), Russell (15) and Schaquilla Nunn (12) all posted 10 or more points for UT on the night. Nunn's 12 points were a

career high for her at Tennessee. Tennessee continues its five-game homestand with a highly-anticipated showdown against No. 10 Stanford on Sunday. The game will be broadcast live on the SEC Network at 3 p.m.

UT

From Page 13

Huskers lost 40-10.

"I would have been shotgun (only) and it would have been kind of tough," Fyfe said. "I had surgery five days prior. I would have been able to do it but it would have been a lot tougher. I couldn't go under center."

Fyfe said this week his left wrist is better but he still won't be able to take snaps from under center at least until next week as the team prepares for the Volunteers (8-4).

Other than starting against Maryland last month and in the loss at Purdue last year, Fyfe has mostly taken the last few snaps

in blowouts in 17 appearances over three seasons.

Fyfe is a capable runner, but he's more natural as a passer. Langsdorf said Fyfe is most effective throwing downfield off play-action.

"He's come a long way for a guy who has had two career starts," Langsdorf said. "It would have been a lot of fun to have him healthy and be able to play him more. I think he's a good player. You're seeing his daily improvement. He gets better and better. I'm excited for him to finish his career strong."

Fyfe's football days probably

will be over after the bowl, and he said he'll be ready if called on. The Huskers will be trying for a 10-win season and a positive ending they can carry into the offseason.

"It would mean a lot," Fyfe said. "Play hard one last game and finish out the career hopefully on a high note."

After Wednesday's practice the Volunteers went to Gatlinburg to visit elementary school students and sign autographs for them. The Gatlinburg area has been devastated by wildfires that killed 14 people and damaged more than 2,400 buildings.

Cleveland's spirit of giving is forever far-reaching

Our area has had many tragedies lately. Our neighbors in Polk and McMinn counties continue to recover from tornadoes. Many of us have friends or acquaintances in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge dealing with tremendous losses from forest fires. Children have been lost or injured here at home, and in neighboring Chattanooga, with a tragic school bus crash.

But in the midst of heartbreak there is good news. It's the same good news that has brought peace on Earth and joy to all people for over 2,000 years now.

It's the reason why it's still OK to say "Merry Christmas" in Cleveland — and always will be.

Because we live in "The City With Spirit," we all started the season by celebrating the spirit of compassion. The



OUR CITY

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland

Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign is well underway around town. Thanks to an internet video of our dancing city police officer, the Red Kettle drive was a bigger success than ever. And not to be outdone by Cleveland Police Officer Sean Bulow, some of our city firefighters showed off some video moves of their own at the Keith Street Walmart, bringing more donations to "The Battle of the Bells."

Our Empty Stocking Fund once again involved many people in a mission to bring Christmas cheer to children who may otherwise go without. We set a radiothon record this year — \$77,568. To reach that point, many families and individuals pitched in. Many children helped by singing in their school choirs during the 10 days of broadcasting on My Mix 104.1. Many local businesses opened their doors for a "live" radio appeal and hundreds of people, businesses, churches and schools opened their hearts to give to this worthy cause. It was a record year with more donations coming in to finance gifts for more than 1,000 children and a giant celebration Dec. 17 at Ocoee Middle School. The campaign was all driven by a Spirit of

Compassion and a Spirit of Faith.

Our Spirit of Compassion is showing up in many other ways this Christmas. Police officers took part in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 8's Blue Christmas For Kids last weekend. Kids shopped with police officers at Walmart South and Kohls.

Members of churches and civic clubs, workers in shops and offices are reaching out to someone or some family needing a helping hand. Donations are continuing to the William Hall Rodgers Christmas Basket Fund, a drive faithfully promoted by the Cleveland Daily Banner, to bring a holiday meal to hundreds of families. Places like The Blythe Family Support Center have also held community Christmas events in recent days.

In the midst of all this activity, some of our firefighters went to Gatlinburg to help relieve the fire tragedy there. Others went to help neighbors in Athens and Ocoee after tornadoes struck there.

Several years ago I was proud to represent our city in Washington, D.C., when Cleveland received national recognition for National Make A Difference Day, part of the Points of Light foundation. Cleveland has always had a generous spirit. So even after this happy and holy season draws to a close once more, the good news it represents will still be here.

During the coming days, please wish everyone you see a "Merry Christmas!" "The City With Spirit" is still making a difference.

Editorials

"It is no simple matter to pause in the midst of one's maturity, when life is full of function, to examine what are the principles which control that functioning."
— Pearl S. Buck, American author (1892-1973)

America, be thankful for Trump's presidency

Thanksgiving may officially be over, but Americans have much to be thankful for.

To my liberal and Democratic Party friends (not always one and the same), please enjoy the freedom you have to protest and fear the unknown that is President-elect Trump.

While Trump tweets and Vice-President-elect Mike Pence demonstrates calm maturity, political opponents from "Saturday Night Live" to MSNBC, from the Broadway stage to the streets of Portland, all have the freedom to freak out, cry, pout and insult them in a variety of fashions, from rude and crude to self-aggrandizing.

In Cuba, one of the 167 political prisoners reported by The Associated Press is Yoelkis Rosabal Flores, a member of the Union Patriótica de Cuba, described by Amnesty International as a peaceful political party whose platform is in opposition of the Castro regime.

Flores was arrested in May 2014, for staging a protest calling for the release of a fellow party member. Flores was charged with public disorder and sentenced to four years in jail.

Protesters and their families might just want to take a moment to be thankful that our Constitution and those who vow to uphold it ensure no citizen is jailed for years simply for protesting that their candidate did not win the election, thus continuing our peaceful transfer of power.

We're thankful not to have been born in Maiduguri, Nigeria, the self-proclaimed caliphate of Boko Haram.

So many thousands of little girls and women have been kidnapped to be used as sex slaves that it's estimated every family there knows someone whose daughter, sister, mother or wife was raped.

Americans were shocked by the news two years ago when 276 school girls were kidnapped by these Islamic terrorists. Today, most of them are still missing, and the girls who were rescued from being raped nearly every day are shunned by their own people.

Some were as young as 8 years old.

And to think celebrated, adored Broadway actors are

(About the writer: Rick Jensen is Delaware's award-winning conservative talk show host on WDEL, streaming live on WDEL.com. Contact him at rick@wdel.com, or follow him on Twitter @Jensen1150WDEL. © 2016 Rick Jensen, distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate. Opinions expressed in guest "Viewpoints" do not necessarily reflect the views of the Cleveland Daily Banner.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Banner welcomes letters to the editor. The guidelines call for letters to be in good taste and no more than 300 words. Some minor editing, not affecting the meaning, may be required. All letters must include the author's signature, address and a telephone number for confirmation. Since letters must have a signature, they cannot be emailed. Letters reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters may be sent to Letters to the Editor, Cleveland Daily Banner, P.O. Box 3600, Cleveland, TN 37320-3600.

fearful ... fearful ... of a man who talks trash, is limited in power by two other branches of government and is now building a cabinet including women and people who have disagreed with him.

To my conservative and Republican friends (not always the same), be thankful that we will not have four or eight years of mind-numbing Hillary corruption and scandals.

We will have Democrats and multimillion dollar Super PACS "investigating" and demanding Freedom of Information Act requests for tons of documents as they work to undermine the Trump administration.

Even though Trump is not required to dissolve his companies or sell them and put the money into a blind trust, the political left will publicize as many appearances of business impropriety as scandals, as well as any real scandals that arise.

And some will. After all, he's Trump, not Walker or Cruz.

But be thankful Trump has promised to repeal Common Core. Any work to return education control to the local level is a blessing.

Let us also be thankful for the millions of Americans who put aside partisan politics, standing for the rights of others as decent, flawed human beings.

Thankful for the majority of Americans who refuse to acquiesce to racists believing Trump's win is a win for white nationalists.

Thankful for the majority of Americans who refuse to accept black youth publicly beating white people because they may have voted for Trump.

While some in the news media are giving white supremacists far too much publicity in their quest to equate these fearful people with our next president, let us be thankful for the majority of Americans who refuse to join their little cults who curse black people with the n-word.

Let us be thankful for what we do have and build upon it each day as individuals.



TODAY IN HISTORY

(AP) — Today is Thursday, Dec. 15, the 350th day of 2016. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

On this date: In 1814, the "Hartford Convention" began as New England Federalists opposed to the War of 1812 secretly gathered in the Connecticut capital. (America's victory in the Battle of New Orleans and the war's end effectively discredited the Convention.)

In 1864, the two-day Battle of Nashville began during the Civil War as Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas attacked Confederate troops led by Gen. John Bell Hood; the result was a resounding Northern victory.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1938, groundbreaking for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington, D.C., with President Franklin D. Roosevelt taking part in the ceremony.

In 1939, the Civil War motion picture epic "Gone with the Wind," starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

EU tightening fishing rules in North Atlantic

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union nations have reached a deal to tighten some fishing rules in their eastern waters to edge closer toward a fully sustainable industry by 2020, but environmentalists said lenient quotas still allowed for far too much overfishing.

After marathon talks that started Monday and finished only early Wednesday, EU fisheries ministers said more stocks will be fished at maximum sustainable yield in hopes of pushing more species to within safe biological limits after decades of overfishing in the Northeast Atlantic.

Ministers from fisheries nations such as Britain came away happy enough with increased quotas for some stocks of cod and mackerel, a sign environmentalists and maritime scientists would be left grumbling

In 1966, movie producer Walt Disney died in Los Angeles at age 65.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he would grant diplomatic recognition to Communist China on New Year's Day and sever official relations with Taiwan.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

In 1995, European Union leaders meeting in Madrid, Spain, chose "euro" as the name of the new single European currency.

In 2001, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, was reopened to the public after a \$27 million realignment that had dragged on for over a decade.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld bid farewell to the Pentagon in a splashy sendoff featuring lavish praise from President George W. Bush. Gov. Jeb Bush suspended Florida executions two days after the prolonged death of a condemned inmate because the needles had been wrongly inserted. (Florida's moratorium was lifted in July 2007.) Executions in California were effectively put on hold when a federal judge in San Francisco declared the state's lethal-injection procedure unconstitutional.

Five years ago: The flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered in a low-key Baghdad airport ceremony marking the end of a war that had left 4,500 Americans and 110,000 Iraqis dead and cost more than \$800 billion. The Senate, in an 86-13 vote, joined the House in passing a massive \$662 billion defense bill. British-born author, essayist and polemicist Christopher Hitchens, 62, died at a Houston hospital.

about the slow recovery of the EU's vast eastern waters.

"We worked constructively to put people's livelihoods first," Scottish Fisheries Secretary Fergus Ewing said, adding he had "secured crucial increases for the majority of our key species."

However, what sounded appealing to many of the fishermen left a bad taste in the mouth of environmental organizations.

The EU has about 145,000 fishermen, many of whom have struggled as overfishing depleted stocks and increasingly tight quotas were imposed. The EU is legally bound to return to sustainable fishing by 2020, but faces an uphill task to get there in time.

That task only will become tougher if fishing quotas are set too high as the deadline approaches.

DEAR ANNIE

Dear Annie: I have been dating "Connor" for about three months. With the holidays approaching, I'm getting anxious for a couple of reasons. One, I'm thinking of what to get him for Christmas. We really like each other, and I see this as having the potential to be a very serious relationship, but it's still fairly new. He enjoys hiking and surfing and loves food and wine. What's a gift that says "you mean something to me" but doesn't go overboard? Is there some sort of chart for gifts for dating milestones as there is for wedding anniversaries (e.g., paper the first year, cotton the second year)?

The other reason I'm anxious is that he invited me to his office holiday party. He is an attorney at a successful law firm, and I'm a hairstylist. I didn't even go to college. So I'm a little intimidated. I've never met his boss or any of his colleagues, but from what he says, most of them are very serious, rude and unpleasant to be around. I'm quite the opposite of all that. Still, I'd love to support him. Is there a particular reason I should or shouldn't go? — Krissy Kringle

Dear Kriss: Sounds as if your stomach is more a bowl full of butterflies than jelly. It's OK to feel nervous — that giddy feeling is a fun part of any new relationship — but don't let nerves stop you from showing your enthusiasm for this man.

Why not buy him a cooking lesson or a gift certificate to a nice restaurant he's been meaning to try? Experience-based gifts are thoughtful and fun, and sites such as Groupon and Living Social have good deals.

As for his office holiday party, go. Don't fret too much about the bigwig colleagues. Remember that no one can make you feel inferior without your consent. They're probably not so bad as he says they are. (If they are, you'll be able to commiserate all the better when he vents about work in the future.)

(Editor's Note: Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.)

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Ice-busting ship preps for trip

Push to replace fleet underway

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — The only U.S. ship capable of breaking through Antarctica's thick ice is getting scrubbed down, fixed up and loaded with goods in balmy Hawaii this week as it prepares to head to the frigid south.

The voyage by Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star comes as the U.S. looks to replace and expand its aging fleet of polar icebreakers so it can maintain a presence in the most remote corners of the world. The demand for icebreaking ships is expected to grow as climate change melts sea ice and lures more traffic to northern Arctic waters.

"The specter in the future is more marine use in the Arctic, more shipping, more offshore development, more tourism," said Lawson Brigham, a professor of geography and Arctic policy at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The Coast Guard needs to be able to enforce U.S. laws as well as search for and rescue people in the Arctic like it does in other waters, Brigham said. Though sea ice is melting faster than before, the Arctic Ocean is fully or partially covered by ice for about three-quarters of the year.

The Seattle-based ship has stopped in Pearl Harbor to stock up on food and fuel. It was scheduled to leave Monday to carve a channel through 30 miles of ice in Antarctica so ships can resupply a U.S. research center, but it was delayed by last-minute repairs.

The Polar Star specializes in the Antarctic mission because it can handle the thicker ice, leaving the jobs in the Arctic to a medium icebreaker called the Cutter Healy.

The 40-year-old Polar Star was built to last only three



AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy

THE U.S. COAST Guard Cutter Polar Star rests by a dock in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The only U.S. ship capable of breaking through Antarctica's thick ice is undergoing repairs in balmy Hawaii this week as it prepares to head south.

decades of grinding through thick sheets of ice. It forces its way through by riding up on ice and crushing it. When it can't break through, it backs up and rams the ice.

Brigham, a retired Coast Guard captain who commanded a heavy icebreaker in the Arctic and Antarctic in the 1990s, said policymakers have debated boosting the icebreaker fleet for decades. Climate change adds a new element to the discussion.

More cargo ships already have been taking Arctic routes as the planet warms. Last summer, a luxury cruise liner sailed to Nome, Alaska, then farther north to become the largest ship to ever traverse the Northwest Passage. Melting ice also will attract those seeking to extract oil, metals and other natural resources.

The U.S. should be present in the northern and southern reaches of the planet as a global power, Brigham said.

Russia has 40 icebreakers but owns more than half of the Arctic Ocean coastline and operates over a much larger stretch of icy seas. Russia's fleet is primarily used to escort commercial ships, while Coast Guard icebreakers only do so in emergencies, Brigham said.

The Obama administration proposed spending \$150 million this fiscal year for early work on a new heavy icebreaker. The Senate Appropriations Committee instead voted to spend \$1 billion, the estimated cost of one ship.

Neither proposal was adopted because the sides could not agree on a new federal budget, maintaining last year's spending levels through April.

Coast Guard Capt. Michael Davanzo, the Polar Star's commanding officer, told reporters Monday that the agency needs additional icebreakers partly in case something goes wrong.

"If we go down there on this

trip and we run into problems, there's nobody down there who can come and help us," he said.

The Coast Guard has only one other heavy icebreaker, the Polar Sea, that also was built in the 1970s and isn't operational. The agency is using some of its parts to keep the Polar Star running.

The Coast Guard has said it needs three total heavy icebreakers, which can bust through ice 6 feet thick. It also wants three other icebreakers that can break slightly thinner ice, up to 4½ feet thick, like the Healy.

On the Polar Star's upcoming journey to Antarctica, 14 months' worth of food will be aboard for the crew in case the ship gets stuck and it needs to wait until next year's thaw to get out.

If that happens, some of the crew would be flown off the ship, while others would stay behind until the vessel is able to break its way out or get a tow when the weather warms.

Study: Premium hikes add \$10B to taxpayers' health law expense

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taxpayers will fork over nearly \$10 billion more next year to cover double-digit premium hikes for subsidized health insurance under President Barack Obama's law, according to a study being released Thursday.

The analysis from the Center for Health and Economy comes as the Republican-led Congress is preparing to repeal "Obamacare" and replace it with a GOP alternative whose details have yet to be worked out. With incoming President Donald Trump likely to sign such legislation, historic coverage gains under the 2010 health law are at stake.

The study estimates that the cost of premium subsidies under the Affordable Care Act will increase by \$9.8 billion next year, rising from \$32.8 billion currently to \$42.6 billion.

The average monthly subsidy will increase by \$76, or 26 percent, from \$291 currently to \$367 in 2017.

Currently more than 8 in 10 consumers buying private health insurance through HealthCare.gov and state markets receive tax credits from the government to help pay their premiums. Those subsidies are designed to rise along with premiums, shielding consumers from sudden increases. But the bill ultimately gets passed on to taxpayers.

Shortly before Election Day, the administration revealed that premiums for a midlevel benchmark plan on HealthCare.gov would jump by an average of 25 percent next year.

Administration officials are touting the premium subsidies as they race to sign up as many people as possible before open enrollment ends Jan. 31, about a week after Obama leaves the White House. Upbeat, carefree ads for HealthCare.gov say most consumers can find subsidized coverage for as little as \$50 to \$100 a month.

Republicans are planning a multistep process to first repeal

the health law and replace it later. The new study is unlikely to affect the "repeal" part of the debate.

However, the findings could affect how Republicans design future subsidies that would be part of their replacement legislation. Some kind of limit on assistance is more likely to appeal to them.

Under current law, "you get a premium increase, you pour more money in," said economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin, founder of the Center for Health and Economy. "The concern is that will feed more premium increases." He predicted that Republicans would take a different approach.

Holtz-Eakin, a former Congressional Budget Office director, is also a longtime GOP adviser. However, the center functions as a nonpartisan research organization, and its work is overseen by a board of experts that spans the political spectrum. The Associated Press requested the center's new estimate.

After reviewing the study, the Obama administration said that despite the increase in premiums, the health care law is still helping to reduce federal deficits, keeping the program affordable for taxpayers. The law also raised taxes and cut Medicare spending.

"The Affordable Care Act is covering 20 million Americans, and 2017 marketplace premiums remain on par with the Congressional Budget Office's November 2009 projections," spokesman Aaron Albright said.

A health economist who also reviewed the study said it shows that the law is working as designed.

"Since the premiums for 2017 are a lot higher than for 2016, it's no surprise that premium tax credits would go up as well," said Paul Ginsburg, who directs the Brookings Institution health policy center. "The premiums in 2015 and 2016 appear to have been unduly low."

Obama's law has helped drive the nation's uninsured rate to a historic low of about 9 percent.

Yellen signals caution about Trump's economic stimulus plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump has pledged deep tax cuts and increased infrastructure spending to restore lost jobs, accelerate the economy and bring prosperity to more Americans.

Janet Yellen has her doubts. After a presidential campaign full of blunt words and sweeping promises, the Federal Reserve chair sought Wednesday to make a nuanced point: The moment for a deficit-fueled stimulus to improve job creation has likely passed.

With unemployment at a low 4.6 percent and hiring consistently solid, Yellen said she thought employers no longer needed large tax cuts and heavy infrastructure spending to create jobs.

In fact, she suggested that with unemployment at a nine-year low, a major stimulus of the kind Trump is pushing could pose risks. For one thing, Yellen indicated that the government's debt could become a heavier burden.

"As our population ages, the debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to rise," she said. "And that needs to continue to be taken into account."

Yellen's remarks, at a news conference after the Fed announced it was raising its key interest rate, cast her in an unusual role: Once a strong advocate of federal spending to support the economy in the aftermath of the Great Recession, Yellen now has cautionary words about such efforts.

Besides expanding the government's debt, a heavy dose of economic adrenaline at this stage could also cause the economy to overheat. If that were to happen, the Fed would likely feel compelled to repeatedly raise its benchmark rate. Higher borrowing rates, in turn, would slow growth.

"I would say at this point that fiscal policy is not obviously needed to provide stimulus to help us get back to full employment," Yellen said.

For years after the recession officially ended in 2009, Yellen and her predecessor, Ben Bernanke, had encouraged additional federal stimulus, concerned that the Fed alone could not support a fragile recovery.



AP Photo/Alex Brandon

FEDERAL RESERVE Board Chair Janet Yellen listens to a reporter's question during a news conference about the Federal Reserve's monetary policy, Wednesday in Washington. The Federal Reserve is raising a key interest rate for the first time in a year, reflecting a resilient U.S. economy and expectations of higher inflation. The move will mean modestly higher rates on some loans.

Her retreat from that view reflects a belief that the economy is now on firm ground. With low unemployment and inflation edging toward their 2 percent target, Fed officials voted unanimously Wednesday to raise the federal funds rate for just the second time in more than a decade. That rate sets the range for what banks can charge each other for short-term loans, and it heralds higher rates for some consumer and business lending.

Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust, saw Yellen as taking a cautious tack. "She was very careful," he said. "She was pretty good today about being balanced on the prospects of new policies. She was good at deflecting questions about the new administration."

Yellen declined to say whether she thought a Trump stimulus program would necessarily prompt faster Fed rate hikes over the next few years. Fed officials now forecast that they will raise rates three times in 2017, up from two increases in their previous forecast.

Details about Trump's policies remain too scarce for the Fed to adjust its policies accordingly. But the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Budget estimates that Trump proposals would add \$5.3 trillion to the national debt over 10 years.

"I wouldn't want to speculate until I were more certain of the details and how they would affect the likely course of the economy," Yellen said.

Yellen herself has frequently noted that many Americans haven't benefited from the job market's steady improvement. And on Wednesday, she said she'd welcome having the White House and Congress take steps to support job seekers and increase economic growth over the long run.

She spoke favorably, for example, about job training initiatives, tax reform, increased public and private investments and policies that aim to spur innovation and create businesses.

Greater worker productivity is "the ultimate determination of the evolution of living standards," Yellen said.

And then, ever focused on the Fed's independence, Yellen stressed that she was "not trying to provide advice to the new administration or to Congress."

But private economists noted that her remarks suggested that the Fed might choose to raise rates at an accelerated clip if Trump manages to enact a massive dose of stimulus. A sustained series of rate increases would likely limit the economy's ability to grow 3.5 percent annually — the pace Trump's advisers say can be achieved.

The Fed might "have to push against some of the stimulus in terms of higher interest rates," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at the Bank of the West.

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Yahoo's big breach helps usher in hacker anxiety

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo has become the worst-case example of an unnerving but increasingly common phenomenon — massive hacks that steal secrets and other potentially revealing information from our personal digital accounts, or from big organizations that hold sensitive data on our behalf.

On Wednesday, Yahoo disclosed a gargantuan breach affecting more than a billion user accounts, the largest such attack in history. The company said that attack happened in August 2013, although Yahoo only discovered it recently. Worse, the company's announcement followed a similar announcement last September of a 2014 hack — one Yahoo ascribed to an unnamed foreign government — that affected 500 million accounts.

Neither Yahoo breach has yet been linked to online fraud or any specific repercussions for Yahoo users. But their disclosure closely follows U.S. intelligence concerns about Russian hacking of Democratic emails during the presidential campaign — not to mention other recent attacks on a major health insurer, a medical lab-test company and the government office that manages millions of federal employees.

"The lesson is clear: no organization is immune to compro-

mise," said Jeff Hill, director of product management for cybersecurity consultant Prevalent. And since most of us are dependent on big organizations that hold our digital lives in their hands, in a broad sense that effectively means no one is safe.

GOVERNMENT ATTACKERS

Of course, it's not that simple. The most sophisticated break-ins are likely the work of digital burglars working for foreign governments that are mostly interested in manipulating their enemies, not emptying your bank account. In the past few years, hackers tied to foreign governments are believed to have stolen emails to embarrass celebrities and Hollywood moguls (recall the Sony Pictures break-in during 2014) and possibly even to influence the 2016 presidential election.

"Espionage has gone digital like so many other things our world," said Steve Grobman, chief technology officer at Intel Security. "We're increasingly seeing data being used as a weapon, where leaked or fabricated information is being used to intentionally damage individuals and governments."

Yahoo's security breakdowns could turn into expensive deal breakers for the Sunnyvale, California, company.

Both lapses occurred during the reign of Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer, a once-lauded leader who found herself unable to turn around the company in the four years since her arrival. Earlier this year, Yahoo agreed to sell its digital operations to Verizon Communications for \$4.8 billion — a deal that may now be imperiled by the hacking revelations.

TWO HACKS, MORE THAN A BILLION ACCOUNTS

Yahoo didn't say if it believes the same hacker might have pulled off two separate attacks. The Sunnyvale, California, company blamed the late 2014 attack on a hacker affiliated with an unidentified foreign government, but said it hasn't been able to identify the source behind the 2013 intrusion.

Yahoo has more than a billion monthly active users, although some have multiple accounts and others have none at all. An unknown number of accounts were affected by both hacks.

In both attacks, the stolen information included names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers. The company says it believes bank-account information and payment-card data were not affected.

But hackers also apparently

stole passwords in both attacks. Technically, those passwords should be secure; Yahoo said they were scrambled by a cryptographic technique called hashing. But hackers have become adept at cracking secured passwords by assembling huge dictionaries of similarly scrambled phrases and matching them against stolen password databases.

That could mean trouble for any users who reused their Yahoo password for other online accounts. Yahoo is requiring users to change their passwords and invalidating security questions so they can't be used to hack into accounts. (You may get a reprieve if you've changed your password since September.)

Security experts said the 2013 attack was likely the work of a foreign government fishing for information about specific people. One big tell: It doesn't appear that much personal data from Yahoo accounts has been posted for sale online, meaning the hack probably wasn't the work of ordinary criminals.

That means most Yahoo users probably don't have anything to worry about, said J.J. Thompson, CEO of Rook Security.

QUESTIONS FOR VERIZON

News of the additional hack further jeopardizes Yahoo's plans

to fall into Verizon's arms. If the hacks cause a user backlash against Yahoo, the company's services wouldn't be as valuable to Verizon, raising the possibility that the sale price might be renegotiated or the deal may be called off. The telecom giant wants Yahoo and its many users to help it build a digital ad business.

After the news of the first hack broke, Verizon said it would re-evaluate its Yahoo deal and in a Wednesday statement said it will review the "new development before reaching any final conclusions." Spokesman Bob Varettoni declined to answer further questions.

At the very least, the security lapses "definitely will help Verizon in its negotiations to lower the price," Gartner analyst Avivah Litan predicted. Yahoo has argued that news of the 2014 hack didn't negatively affect traffic to its services, strengthening its contention that the Verizon deal should be completed under the original terms.

"We are confident in Yahoo's value and we continue to work toward integration with Verizon," the company said.

Investors appeared worried about the Verizon deal. Yahoo's shares fell 96 cents, or 2 percent, to \$39.95 after the disclosure of the latest hack.

Carter confident U.S. will remain key partner to the anti-IS coalition

LONDON (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter expressed confidence Thursday that under the Trump administration the U.S. will remain central to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

"While I cannot speak for the next administration, I'm confident that based on the results we're seeing and the strength of our coalition, the United States and its military will continue to be with you as a leading partner in this campaign," Carter said, in kicking off his final war-planning conference with core members of the coalition.

The meeting got underway against the backdrop of questions about what Donald Trump's arrival in the White House next month will mean for the future of the coalition.

Closing out a nearly two-week overseas trip that included a stop in Iraq, Carter was meeting with his counterparts from 14 nations. They were to receive an update from Army Gen. Joseph Votel on the battles to retake Mosul, the Islamic State's key stronghold in Iraq, and Raqqa, the self-declared IS capital in Syria. As head of U.S. Central Command, Votel is the top officer overseeing the counter-IS campaign in Syria and Iraq.

The defense officials also were to discuss doing more to train and equip the kinds of local Iraq and Syrian forces, including police and tribal fighters, that will be needed to hold Mosul and Raqqa once, as expected, the Islamic State is uprooted from those cities. IS has held those centers for more than two years.

In his introductory remarks, Carter said the coalition must remain involved in Iraq even after the Islamic State is driven from Mosul.

"We'll need to continue to counter not only foreign fighters trying to escape, but also ISIL's attempts to relocate or reinvent itself," he said, according to his prepared remarks. "To do so, both the United States and the coalition must remain engaged militarily. In Iraq in particular, we must be prepared to provide sustained assistance to the Iraqi security forces to consolidate security over the rest of the country."

The U.S. has about 5,000 troops in Iraq.

But the backdrop to Thursday's conference is deep uncertainty in London, Berlin and other coalition capitals about the implications for the counter-IS efforts of a change in U.S. administrations in January. Trump has criticized President Barack Obama's approach to fighting the militant group as weak and ineffective, and he has suggested that the U.S. has blindly supported anti-IS groups without knowing their true aims.

Among the questions Carter cannot answer: Will Trump withdraw support for U.S.-backed rebels groups in Syria, who have now lost the city of Aleppo? And if he does, will he join forces with

Russia? How might such moves affect public support for the anti-IS coalition in Germany and elsewhere?

Though Obama has tried to work diplomatically with Russia, Syria cease-fire deals have repeatedly collapsed, with the U.S. accusing Moscow of failing to use its influence to prevent Syria's President Bashar Assad from violating them. Meanwhile, Russia's military intervention has succeeded in helping Assad reclaim the upper hand. The U.S.-led coalition has avoided direct military action against Assad's force, focusing instead on supporting local rebels willing to fight the Islamic State group while coupling that effort with aerial bombing in both Syria and Iraq.

Carter was expected to emphasize to his counterparts at the London conference the prominent role that retired Marine Gen. James Mattis will play as the president-elect's choice to succeed Carter at the Pentagon. Mattis is well-known and widely admired in Europe, having headed NATO's Supreme Allied Command Transformation from 2007 to 2009, a role focused on preparing the military alliance for security challenges of the future.

Carter has held five other counter-IS conferences with coalition partners. Thursday's will be the first to include Iraq's army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Othman al-Ghanami. The other countries represented, in addition to the U.S., are Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Britain, Norway, Spain and Turkey.

In addition to hearing from Votel about the military campaigns in Iraq and Syria, the officials will receive a briefing by Marine Lt. Gen. Joseph Osterman on U.S. efforts to disrupt the Islamic State group's plans for directing, supporting and inspiring attacks outside of Iraq and Syria. Osterman is deputy commander of U.S. Special Operations Command.

At nearly every stop on his current round-the-world tour, Carter has met with U.S. troops and assured them that the counter-IS campaigns are going according to plan. At Aviano air base in Italy on Wednesday, Carter said coalition-backed Arab and Kurdish fighters are within 15 miles of Raqqa, the self-declared IS capital in Syria, and that they are "completing the envelopment and ultimately the seizure" of the city.

He also alluded to the uncertain future of the campaign and the coalition.

"We need to look ahead," he said. "What comes after? And are we getting ready for that?"



HISTORY CANADA & MORE4 VIA AP

A 16TH CENTURY TAPESTRY at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans is shown. It had been in Adolf Hitler's retreat in the Bavarian Alps. Looking at the tapestry are Dr. Nick Mueller, top left, and Toni Kiser, right, both from the museum, Cathy Hinz, bottom left, the daughter of Lt. Col. Paul Danahy, the American officer who took the tapestry from Hitler's Eagle's Nest in 1945, and Robert Edsel, presenter of the television documentary series "Hunting Nazi Treasure." On Friday, the tapestry, purchased for Hitler's Eagle's Nest a year before the war began from an art gallery in Munich owned by a Jewish family, will be formally returned to Germany in a ceremony.

Tapestry from Hitler's alpine retreat returning to Germany

DALLAS (AP) — Growing up, Cathy Hinz and her five siblings would run up and down the stairs at their Minneapolis home, one hand on the banister, the other skimming a memento hanging on the wall that their father had brought back after fighting in World War II: a 16th century tapestry that once graced Adolf Hitler's retreat perched high in the Bavarian Alps.

On Friday, that tapestry, purchased for Hitler's Eagle's Nest the year before the war began from a Munich art gallery owned by a Jewish family, will be formally returned in a ceremony in Germany. It will eventually be displayed at the Bavarian National Museum in Munich.

"The tapestry has been on a journey, and now it's going home," Hinz said.

The tapestry's trip back to Germany began when Hinz gave it to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Enough was known about its past that Gordon "Nick" Mueller, president and CEO of the museum, and Robert Edsel, a board member and founder of the Dallas-based Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, knew it needed to be returned to its rightful owner.

So Edsel began untangling the mystery.

Hinz's father, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Paul Danahy, often told the story of taking the tapestry after being struck by the historical significance of the moment after his 101st Airborne Division made it to the Eagle's Nest above Berchtesgaden and began interrogating German officers. Danahy, who served in the war as an intelligence officer, died in 1986 at the age of 71, and the tapestry eventually landed on the wall of Hinz's dining room.

Seeing carefully preserved tapestries on a trip to Italy in 2000 gave Hinz pause about continu-

ing to keep the 7-foot-by-7-foot tapestry depicting a courtly hunting scene. She knew it was time to let go of it, she just wasn't sure how.

Edsel said the key was determining whether the September 1938 sale of the tapestry would have been considered forced. His foundation endeavors not only to honor but also continue the work of the Monuments Men, a group of art experts from more than a dozen countries who worked with Allied forces to protect cultural treasures during the war, and afterward to return works stolen by the Nazis.

Thomas R. Kline, a Washington D.C.-based attorney who specializes in art restitution, said multiple factors can go into determining if a sale was forced. For instance, some gallery owners decided to sell collections for fear the Nazis would confiscate them anyway.

It was the family of Konrad Bernheimer, a present-day Munich art dealer, who owned the gallery that sold the tapestry.

"My first reaction was, if you have the invoice then let's have a look at how much they paid," Bernheimer said. "There are two possibilities: Either it was sold below the actual value — then it would indicate that this was a false sale. Or it was sold at the full price — then I would not be able to say it's a false sale."

Bernheimer said he didn't consider it a false sale because the full price — about \$10,000 U.S. dollars at the time — was paid. "Not everything that was sold between 1933 and 1945 could be considered a false sale," he said.

Bernheimer said that up until the Nazis' attacks on Jewish synagogues, businesses, schools and homes on Kristallnacht in November 1938, his family was convinced they were safe. After that, family members were taken to a concentration camp, and the

Nazis took over their gallery. They were eventually able to rebuild the business after the war.

So with Bernheimer not laying claim to it, the tapestry goes to the Bavarian State, the heir to items once belonging to Hitler. Bavarian National Museum official Alfred Grimm said the tapestry will be restored, studied and then displayed at the museum.

Edsel said the return is a reminder to family members of World War II soldiers to be aware of what items might be found in their homes.

"They're going to inherit these things, and so this is going to be a good chance for us if we can make sure people are aware of the foundation to come forward without feeling any sense of concern about getting in trouble — that's not what we're about," he said.

Edsel founded his group in 2007 and has written several books on the efforts to save art during WWII, including "The Monuments Men," on which the 2014 George Clooney movie of the same name was based. Last fall he announced his foundation would likely be closing due to a lack of funds, but it was reinvigorated after a donation and the offer to participate in a television show called "Hunting Nazi Treasure" that will air next year.

Hinz, who is traveling to Munich for the return ceremony, said she's been a bit nostalgic about seeing the tapestry go so far away, but says it feels right.

"My thought was, you know, it never was ours to begin with. It's something that came into our lives as a result of a moment in history, but the tapestry itself is so much more than our history with it," she said.

Online:
<http://www.monumentsmen-foundation.org/>

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LOST YOUR pet? Check daily at the Cleveland Animal Shelter, 360 Hill Street.

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I BUY junk cars, trucks, motorcycles from \$125 up to \$300, I will pick up. Call Donny at 423-404-1488.

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50% OFF sale at Thrift Warriors Elite Resale. 1641 South Lee Highway. Wednesday through Saturday 11am-5pm. See you there!

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We're online!

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15. Yard Sales

DO YOUR Christmas shopping at 122 Vermont Drive NW inside Garage Sale (rain or shine). Friday/Saturday. From Publix take Mouse Creek 2 miles to Windtrace, 2 blocks to Vermont Drive. Star Wars, Nas-car, Matchbox, WWE, Tools, angel figurines, TN Vols 20" Mongoose bike, 32" TV, twin mattress and wood bed frame, softball bats, 5 piece dining room, 3 piece slate top coffee and end tables, computer hutch, cubby hole cabinet, 4 Cooper Discoverer 265/70R16 tires on Heli Wheels HE791, 16x8 with 8 on 6.5 bolt pattern.

18. Articles For Sale

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

PALLETS!!! FREE WHILE THEY LAST! Cleveland Daily Banner**29. Help Wanted - Part-time**

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PART TIME Caregivers and CNAs in Bradley and Hamilton county areas. Must be able to pass background check and drug screen. Please call 423-503-4851 and ask for Jacqueline for more information. We look forward to hearing from you. 5619-D Main Street, Ooltewah, TN 37363.

30. Help Wanted - Full Time

DELIVERY TRUCK Driver Positions available: Competitive pay, load pay, extra delivery pay, \$500 monthly safety/performance bonus, daily opportunities for extra bonus, weekly direct deposit, modern fleet of Cascadia Tractors. Requirements: Class A CDL, able to operate forklift (willing to learn). If interested or for more information call 423-338-0583 or 931-409-1015. Office hours: Monday-Friday 7am-4pm.

30. Help Wanted - Full Time

DIETARY AIDES, Full Time, 1st and 2nd shifts available. Great pay and benefits. Apply at Bradley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center 2910 Peerless Road, Cleveland, TN.

DO YOU own a vehicle and are looking to make extra money? LSO Final Mile is currently contracting drivers for deliveries in-town and within a 200 mile radius. **Weekly Commissions** Average from \$600- \$1000 Call Luke at 423-510-0271 EXT 4013 for more information or come to: 2131 Polymer Drive #107 Chattanooga, TN 37421 (We are located behind Cintas)

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

FAST PACEV medical office seeking medical assistant. Front and back office experience is a plus. Organized and dependable person with good phone and communication skills. Send resumes to: browntwork6@gmail.com.

FOWLER'S CONSTRUCTION is looking to hire a skilled carpenter. Needs experience in laying tile, hardwood flooring, framing and have all basic remodel/ new construction skills/ experience. Must have a valid Driver's license and have reliable transportation. Excellent starting pay for experienced applicants. Apply in person at 411 North Congress Parkway Athens, TN 37303. 423-649-2961.

FULL TIME Certified Pharmacy Technician. Experience preferred. Apply in person at Rite Aid Pharmacy, 1805 Dalton Pike, Cleveland, TN. 423-478-3850.

FULL TIME Customer Service Representative needed. No nights or weekends. Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. Excellent bonus and benefits package. Please send resume to: #783-P, c/o Cleveland Daily Banner, P.O. Box 3600, Cleveland, TN 37320-3600

GCA SERVICES Group is looking for full and part time general cleaners in the Cleveland area. Positions will be Monday- Friday with day and evening shifts available. A background check and fingerprint are required. If interested, call Chuck 423-457-1956.

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EXPERIENCED DIESEL mechanic needed, apply in person at 798 County Road 180, Athens, TN. For directions call 423-744-0121

MORNINGSIDE OF CLEVELAND

LPN MORNINGSIDE OF CLEVELAND, a premier Assisted Living is seeking a LPN for a full time position, preferably a nurse who loves to work with seniors and has geriatric experience. This position is a 7.5 hour evening shift. We offer an excellent benefit package. All interested candidates please apply in person to: 2900 Westside Drive Cleveland, TN or fax resume to 423-614-6259.

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WANTED PRIVATE duty caregiver. Monday- Friday from 9am until 4pm. \$10 per hour. Experienced, caring and reliable CNAs submit your resume & job related references to: djqualitycare@gmail.com.

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

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 October 30, 1997, executed by GINA L HAYNES, conveying certain real property therein described to FMLS, INC., HAMILTON COUNTY, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Bradley County, Tennessee recorded November 4, 1997, in Deed Book 656, Page 174; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to REGIONS BANK SUCCESSOR BY MERGER WITH AMSOUTH BANK 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 January 12, 2017 at 1:00 PM at the Main door of the Bradley County Courthouse, 155 North Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311, 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 FOURTH CIVIL DISTRICT OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, FIRST WARD OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND: BEING THE SOUTHERN PORTIONS OF LOTS 19, 20 & 21, BLOCK "D", W.F. SLOAN REVISED JOHN SMITH ADDITION, A PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 182 IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. SAID PARCELS LIE IN ONE BODY AND TOGETHER ARE MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF SPRING STREET WITH BLOUNT AVENUE, AND RUNNING THENCE WITH THE NORTHERN LINE OF SPRING STREET, NORTH 66 DEGREES 07 MINUTES WEST, 175 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 18 OF SAID BLOCK; THENCE ALONG THE COMMON DIVIDING LINE OF SAID LOTS 18 AND 19, NORTH 16 DEGREES 30 MINUTES EAST, 81 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 66 DEGREES 55 MINUTES EAST, 184.5 FEET TO A POINT IN THE WESTERN LINE OF BLOUNT AVENUE; AND THENCE WITH SAID LINE OF SAID AVENUE, SOUTH 23 DEGREES 13 MINUTES WEST, 83 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL AS SHOWN BY THE SURVEY OF JIMMY L. RICHMOND, TRLS #917, 123 SHEEP RANCH ROAD SE, CLEVELAND, TN 37323 DATED FEBRUARY 10, 1996. Parcel ID: 057GH01100000138 PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 1616 SW BLOUNT AVE, CLEVELAND, TN 37311. 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): GINA L HAYNES OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: First Franklin Financial 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 #107698: 2016-12-15 2016-12-22, 2016-12-29 December 15, 22, 2016

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45. Vacation Rentals

2 RIVERS CAMPING: RV Park, Cabin Rentals, directly on the river at junction of Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers. 423-338-7208.

46. Storage Space For Rent

CALFEE'S MINI Warehouse for rent: Georgetown Pike, Spring Place Road and Highway 64. Call 476-2777.

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49. Apartments For Rent

\$395, 1 bedroom, clean, convenient, appliances, new carpet. No pets/smoking. 423-479-2174.

\$525: 1 Bedroom, 1 bath, laminate flooring, new paint, central heat/ air, includes all utilities up to \$100. Half off 1st months rent. 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.

1 LEVEL, 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Private owner maintained courtyard style lawn. Minutes from shopping, restaurant and the Greenway. \$700 monthly. \$300 deposit. 423-715-7735.

2 BEDROOM apartment, updated, close-in, \$650 monthly, plus security deposit. No pets, No smoking. 423-476-9101.

2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, excellent one level newer duplex. \$745 monthly. 423-298-1964.

3 BIG bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Double garage. One level. 5 minutes to the mall. \$980 monthly. 423-667-4967.

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50. Mobile Homes For Rent

COLLEGETOWN MOBILE ESTATES: Two bedrooms nice and clean. 472-6555.

52. Sleeping Rooms

\$149 PLUS tax weekly special, 1 person with ad, HBO/ ESPN. 423-728-4551.

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53. Houses For Rent

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2 BEDROOM, 3 Bath home for rent, finished basement, all appliances, granite counter tops, fireplace, sun-room, central air and gas heat, double carport and double garage. Rent \$1250. Deposit \$1250. BENDER REALTY 423-476-5518.

2 LARGE bedrooms, 1 bath, totally remodeled, hardwood, gas logs, large covered front porch, shade trees, storage building, great location in the historic district, off Ocoee Street. \$825 monthly, plus deposit. 423-478-3717/ 423-464-0563.

3 BEDROOM, \$700 monthly, \$700 deposit. Laundry hookups, appliances. 423-472-7816.

3 BEDROOM, 1 bath Home on large lot, One level, Stove and refrigerator, Hardwood flooring, Central heat/ air, Carport. Quiet area, Near new Wal-Mart, It is on Cleveland Utilities. NO PETS! \$850 monthly. \$800 deposit Call 423-715-6117, if no answer please leave message.

4 BEDROOM, 2 bath with basement. South Cleveland. \$1,100 monthly, 423-650-5027

CLEAN 3 bedroom, two bath, garage, screen porch. Walker Valley School. One year lease, \$1195 rent. Owner/ Agent STONY BROOKS REALTY 423-479-4514.

ROOMMATE WANTED, 2 rooms available, \$600 or \$900, includes utilities and internet. 423-715-9519.

56. Houses For Sale

OWNER FINANCING! Lease with option, 3 and 4 bedroom homes. Owner/ agent STONY BROOKS REALTY 423-479-4514.

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72. Cars For Sale

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LEGAL PUBLICATIONS**LEGAL PUBLICATION**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT CLEVELAND- PROBATE DIVISION. IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDNA E. GEREN, Deceased; JOE C. GEREN, JR AND RITA N. BURNS, Personal Representatives No. 2016-PR-228. NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of December, 2016, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of Edna E. Geren who died on October 25, 2016, were issued to the undersigned Joe C. Geren, Jr and Rita N. Burns by the Chancery Court of Bradley County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred: (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. ENTERED this 8th day of December, 2016, Joe C. Geren, Jr, Personal Representative; Rita N. Burns, Personal Representative; Bryson M. Kirksey, BPR No. 027358. Burns, Henry & Kirksey, Counsel for the Personal Representatives, 175 Spring Street NW, P. O. Box 236, Cleveland, TN 37326. Telephone: (423) 338-0529 Facsimile: (423) 478-2308. Sarah E. Coleman, Clerk & Master. Date: December 8, 2016 December 15, 22, 2016

LEGAL PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CHANCERY COURT, TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT, PROBATE DIVISION. The Estate of Katherine Brown, Deceased, Case No. 2016-PR-229. Martha Brown and Phil Brown, Executors. NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR THE ESTATE OF KATHERINE BROWN (DECEASED). Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of December 2016, Letters Testamentary (or of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of Katherine Brown who died September 2, 2015, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court of Bradley County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above name court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred: (1) (A) Four (4) month from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication or posting; or (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This 8 day of December, 2016: By: Martha Brown, Petitioner; By: Phil Brown, Petitioner. BLACKWELL LAW OFFICES, PLLC. By: Douglas N. Blackwell, BPR #19298, 623 Broad Street, PO Box 1455, Cleveland, TN 37364. (423)472-3000 / (423) 472-4533 (fax) Sarah E. Coleman, Clerk and Master. December 15, 22, 2016

LEGAL PUBLICATION NOTICE OF MEETINGS Tennessee Valley Regional System

The TVRS Advisory Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on December 20, in the Cleveland Utilities Board meeting room, at 2455 Guthrie Drive, NW, Cleveland Tennessee, where and at which time the Committee will consider such matters as may be properly presented. The TVRS Executive Commission will meet at the same location immediately following the Advisory Committee meeting, where and at which time the Commission will consider such matters as may be properly presented. Future meetings will be held at the same time and location on the 3rd Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December, until further notice. The public is welcome.

Pat Rollins, Interoperable Coordinator
December 15, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tennessee Division of Air Pollution Control (TDAPC) has received requests for construction and/or modification of air contaminant sources as noted below. The proposed construction and/or modification is subject to part 1200-3-9-.01(1)(h) of the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Regulations, which requires a public notification and 30-day public comment period. Interested parties may express their comments and concerns in writing to Mrs. Michelle W. Owenby, Director, Division of Air Pollution Control, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 15th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice. Questions concerning a source may be addressed to the assigned Division personnel at the same address or by calling 615-532-0554. Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate should contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to discuss any auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate such participation. Such contact may be in person, by writing, telephone, or other means, and should be made no less than ten days prior to the end of the public comment period to allow time to provide such aid or services. Contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ADA Coordinator, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, 1-866-253-5827. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service, 1-(800)-848-0298. The applicant is Wacker Polysilicon North America LLC with a mailing address of PO Box 446, Charleston, TN 37310. They seek to obtain a construction permit (Division identification number: 06-0282-04/72253) for the modification of a Hydrochloric Acid (HCl) Generation Operation at 553Wacker Boulevard, Charleston, TN 37310. This proposed operation consists of three (3) HCl tanks. Two (2) wet caustic scrubbers are used as pollution control. The proposed modification would increase the feed of chlorine to the source. There would not be physical construction. Regulated air contaminants would be emitted by this source. Mr. B. Hall is the assigned Division person.

NASCAR THIS WEEK

TOP-FIVE CUP RACES OF 2016

No. 5: Cheez-It 355 at The Glen

By Godwin Kelly
godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

For the next five weeks, NASCAR This Week will review the top-five races of the 2016 Cup Series based on the race as a whole and not the finish. This is the first of that five-part series.

NASCAR Cup Series drivers used to dread racing at Watkins Glen International or Sonoma Raceway. Now some of those same drivers see an opportunity for victory and a position in the NASCAR Chase playoffs.

The Cheez-It 355 at The Glen is a 90-lap romp over The Glen's "short course," which snakes 2.45 miles in the vineyard country of upstate New York.

This race was a dogfight from the first green flag to the final checkered flag, filled with spills, chills and a wild finish, which produced a multicausal pileup in the last turn on the last lap.

Before Denny Hamlin flashed under the checkered flag to score the victory, there were nine lead changes among eight drivers and eight yellow flags, plus two red flags (complete stop of racing) to clean up numerous messes.

Along the way, Danica Patrick led 11 consecutive laps in her No. 10 Stewart-Haas Racing Chevrolet before order could be restored. For the record, Patrick led 30 laps in all of the 2016 season. She finished 21st in this race.

There was pushing and shoving among race cars all afternoon. The first big casualty was Jimmie Johnson, who got knocked out of the race after Austin Dillon, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Greg Biffle pinballed each other in Turn 5.

Johnson's No. 48 Chevy slammed into Stenhouse's disabled No. 17 Ford, causing a debris field big enough to warrant a red flag. Johnson finished last among the 40-car field.

"We got some on-camera exposure, but not the kind we wanted," said Johnson, who months later would capture his seventh Cup Series championship.

There were hard feelings all around as the event progressed and racing intensified.

Hamlin got the jump on Brad Keselowski on a Lap 81 restart and never looked back at the destruction that was happening behind his No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

On Lap 85, just five laps from the



Denny Hamlin celebrates his first career road-course win at Watkins Glen International on Aug. 7. GETTY IMAGES/JOSH HEDGES

finish, mayhem took hold as seven stock cars crashed out in the Inner Loop area at The Glen, forcing NASCAR to throw a second red flag.

"We had it where we needed to be," said Kevin Harvick, who was in the middle of the crash and finished 32nd. "We just got back there and we got tore up."

Once the race resumed, so did the elbow throwing on the narrow road course.

Martin Truex Jr. and Keselowski were chasing Hamlin, while AJ Allmendinger and Kyle Larson were battling for fourth-place honors.

Truex was turned by Keselowski, and Allmendinger got into Larson, allowing Joey Logano to finish second.

Larson was not happy with Allmendinger, saying "pretty dumb move right there" and AJ "was flat-out stupid." Allmendinger apologized after exiting his car.

Truex could not contain his anger. His No. 78 bumped and banged

Keselowski's No. 2 Ford all the way around the cool-down lap.

It was Hamlin's first win at a road course and second of three wins for the season. He opened the year by powering to victory in the Daytona 500.

He had led the last lap at Sonoma, but overshot the last turn, giving Tony Stewart the opening he needed to make the pass and score the victory.

"I was probably driving a little bit more conservative there after my last-lap shenanigans at Sonoma," Hamlin said. "I thought 'Look, don't overshoot the corner,' and it probably lent itself for them getting closer than they probably should've."

Keselowski finished third, followed by Allmendinger and Stewart.

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



QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions... and maybe a few actual answers

By Ken Willis
ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

Smart move in Kentucky?

Maybe, maybe not, but definitely a bit of a gamble. The 16-year-old Kentucky Speedway will go totally smoke-free in all seating areas next year. That includes e-cigs and vapor. "We are committed to having the very best customer experience in sports," was the lofty boast of Speedway general manager Mark Simendinger. Unfortunately, we're guessing a lot of race fans still smoke, including many of those old-time fans who are tired of finding reasons to be mad at the modern product. For some, this will likely be just another reason.

What would you do?

Pretty simple: Offer smoking sections in the grandstands. This isn't a Boy Scout gathering, it's an automobile race, and for generations those things have been a tad gritty. A section of grandstands that allows ticket-buying fans to smoke 'em if they got 'em doesn't seem like a hard call. But what do I know?

Speaking of potentially silly thinking, what's wrong with Indy?

Nothing that a little tempering of pride wouldn't help. You can probably say the same for the NASCAR folks, by the way. This past week, Team Penske President Tim Cindric suggested that Indy should go back to an 11 a.m. local start to the Indianapolis 500, a move that would facilitate a "double" for NASCAR stars who might be interested in running the 500 and that night's Coca-Cola 600 on the same day. "We are always open to see what can be done to help make it easier. ... But we're not thinking about revisiting the time for the 500," IndyCar boss Mark Miles told USA Today last week. Those two sentences don't exactly match up, do they?

What to do?

Forget bumping the Indy 500 an hour or even bumping the Coke 600 back an hour. Get them off the same day entirely. Several years ago, this would've probably benefited Indy more than NASCAR, given the opposite directions the two entities were moving in terms of popularity. But now, they both need a jolt, and this is one way to make it happen.

Ken Willis has been covering NASCAR for The Daytona Beach News-Journal for 27 years. Reach him at ken.willis@news-jrnl.com



NASCAR LOOP STATS

The following are NASCAR Loop Statistics for the Cup Series based on computer data collected at races during the 2016 season. The driver ratings are based on the following formula: wins, finishes, Top-15 finishes, average running position while on lead lap, average speed under green, fastest lap, led most laps, lead-lap finish.

Driver ratings: 1. Kevin Harvick 106.5; 2. Kyle Busch 104.9; 3. Martin Truex Jr. 103.8; 4. Joey Logano 101.2; 5. Matt Kenseth 99.7; 6. Brad Keselowski 99.1; 7. Carl Edwards 98.0; 8. Denny Hamlin 96.7; 9. Jimmie Johnson 96.1; 10. Chase Elliott 91.9

Laps led: 1. Martin Truex Jr. 1,809; 2. Kevin Harvick 1,384; 3. Kyle Busch 1,379; 4. Matt Kenseth 948; 5. Carl Edwards 918; 6. Jimmie Johnson 737; 7. Joey Logano 703; 8. Brad Keselowski 549; 9. Denny Hamlin 524; 10. Kyle Larson 379

Miles leaders: 1. Martin Truex Jr. 2,230.76; 2. Kevin Harvick 1,783.71; 3. Kyle Busch 1,477.03; 4. Joey Logano 1,159.24; 5. Brad Keselowski 1,118.74; 6. Matt Kenseth 1,073.92; 7. Jimmie Johnson 982.03; 8. Carl Edwards 956.89; 9. Denny Hamlin 713.31; 10. Chase Elliott 652.28

SPEED BREAKS A couple questions we had to ask — ourselves

Junior said he's "good to go" for Daytona in February. Ever any doubt?

GODSPEAK: Again, it will be Mr. AND Mrs. Dale Earnhardt Jr. this time around. Uncharted waters for America's former most eligible bachelor.

KEN'S CALL: I had a little doubt, and still might. Remember, he has to survive a honeymoon.

Smoke-free at Kentucky Speedway. Smart move?

GODSPEAK: Obviously, that does not include tire smoke. It's good

to see Kentucky falling in line behind Daytona International Speedway, which banned grandstand smoking a few years ago.

KEN'S CALL: Not to stereotype, of course, but I could see it at Sonoma and maybe even Watkins Glen, but Kentucky? My guess is, for every fence-sitting fan they attract, they'll drive off a few longtime ticket holders. But I'm also guessing they did some research before this decision.

With two openings at BK Racing,

who's getting the call?

GODSPEAK: They say they will use a "variety of drivers" in the car, so it will be a variety show, and you know how popular those are these days. Maybe we will get to see "Mad" Max Papis behind the wheel for a road race. That would be fun.

KEN'S CALL: I have to assume Casey Mears is an obvious choice. I'll personally accept the other phone call, assuming they're still not expecting much more than the occasional top-30.

ONLINE EXTRAS

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Questions? Contact Godwin Kelly at godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com or Ken Willis at ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

NASCAR NEWS AND NOTES

Mr. H is happy

The announced return of Dale Earnhardt Jr. to NASCAR racing made a lot of people happy, including the driver of the No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports Chevy. But the happiest guy in the room might be team owner Rick Hendrick, who has mentored the 42-year-old driver for the past decade.

"At this place we are as big a fan of Dale's as the rest of the community," Hendrick said, after Earnhardt was cleared to drive by two doctors after a daylong test session at Darlington Raceway. "When you've got the most popular driver in the sport you lose him and he is a big spark plug to this place, having him out of the car kind of deflated the place.

"When that test finished and he came through with such flying colors ... and just the text I got and the conversation



Dale Earnhardt Jr. and car owner Rick Hendrick, right, enjoy Victory Lane activities after Earnhardt won the 2014 Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway. Hendrick hopes for more magic moments like this now that Earnhardt has been cleared to race again. GETTY IMAGES/CHRIS TROTMAN

I had (with Earnhardt), you could feel it in the place when we were with the rest of the team. It just elevated the whole place. I think Dale being back in a car and Jimmie's (Johnson) championship, man; it's going to be a really nice Christmas here for all of us."

No smoking

Kentucky Speedway grandstands will be smoke-free, including the use of e-cigarettes and vapor cigarettes, beginning with the 2017 season. The track said in a press release that this policy applies to all seating areas, including suites, clubs and terrace boxes. The speedway will continue to permit smoking in all other areas of the grounds.

Drivers needed

BK Racing has parted ways with both of its NASCAR Cup Series drivers. David Ragan was the first to the exit, followed a few days later by Matt DiBenedetto. Team owner Ron Devine says he will use a variety of drivers in 2017. "Our finishes of 33rd and 35th in the standings did not achieve our goals," Devine told Motorsport.com.

Dover downsizes

Dover International Speedway is on the downsizing bandwagon and will have fewer grandstand seats for the

2017 season. Dover hit capacity in 2009 with 135,000 grandstand seats. A year later, the seating capacity dropped to 113,000. The "Monster Mile" will have 85,000 seats for sale for its two NASCAR Cup Series races next year. Dover officials call it "right-sizing" the facility. "This is a decision we made two, three years ago," Dover President Michael Tatroian told The (Delaware) News Journal.

Oh, baby

Clint and Lorra Bowyer welcomed daughter Presley Elizabeth into the world on Friday. Bowyer must be a fan of old-school rock 'n' roll because his son's name is Cash Aaron in honor of Johnny Cash, and Presley's name is spelled the same as Elvis Presley. The 37-year-old driver will be behind the wheel of the car Tony Stewart wheeled in 2016, only it will be the No. 14 Ford instead of Chevrolet after Stewart-Haas Racing announced the change in car manufacturers earlier this year.

— Godwin Kelly, godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com



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