

School archery teams take aim at nationals this weekend



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THE CITY WITH SPIRIT

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

'In God We Trust'



Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES

THESE ARE the new decals which are being placed on BCSO vehicles. "In God We Trust" has been the national motto for 51 years.

Sheriff adds national motto to patrol cars



Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES

BRADLEY COUNTY SHERIFF ERIC WATSON on Thursday announced that the new "In God We Trust" decals have been placed on the BCSO fleet of vehicles. During the press conference, held at the Bradley County Sheriff's Office, Watson was joined by a team of local pastors and community leaders who supported the decision to place the national logo decals on the BCSO units. Watson told attendees and news media representatives the decision is based on his commitment to "embody more of our county's symbolism."

By **BRIAN GRAVES**
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The Bradley County Sheriff's Office is following what has become a national trend concerning the national motto.

Sheriff Eric Watson unveiled the new "In God We Trust" decals which will now be placed on all of the BCSO's fleet vehicles.

"Since taking office in 2014, one of my priorities for the Bradley County Sheriff's Office was to embody more of our county's symbolism, which included our agency's official patch to include the American flag in the background," Watson said.

He noted the phrase is the national motto, which was passed by the U.S. Congress and approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956.

"These four words are not just patriotic, but is simply a part of this country's heritage," the sheriff said.

Watson said he has received "an overwhelming amount of support from the community when discussing this idea at various civic organizations and meetings."

Some media sources report as many as 250 departments across the nation have now placed the motto on their cars.

Some of those in Tennessee include: Gibson County, Dyer County, Elizabethton City, Henderson County, Bradford City, Tipton County, Franklin County, Hardeman County, Cumberland County, Unicoi County, White County, Hickman County, Sequatchie County, Hardin County, and Loudon County.

The placing of the motto across the country has not been without its detractors.

"In God We Trust" first appeared on a 2-cent coin in 1864. The 1955 law, which is still in effect, made the phrase mandatory on all U.S. money, both bills and coins, and another law in 1956 made it the national motto.

The Supreme Court has not heard a specific case on the motto.

The atheist Freedom from Religion Foundation challenged the Childress Police Department in Texas when it began displaying the motto a month after Harris

County Deputy Darren Goforth was killed in an ambush at a suburban Houston gas station.

According to Dallas media reports, Police Chief Adrian Garcia responded to co-founder Annie Laurie Gaylor with a one-sentence letter telling her to "go fly a kite."

The Texas attorney general, Ken Paxton, ruled in November 2015, that a court "is likely to conclude that a law enforce-

See **PATROL CARS**, Page 8

"We look at this as an investment back into our community from the standpoint of doing good. We want to make sure our community is constantly aware who it is we trust. We have a great sheriff, chief of police and mayor, but our ultimate trust is in God who oversees our community and has kept us safe and fruitful throughout the years."

— Pastor Paul Davis

Bradley County board approves \$73M budget for coming FY

By **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**
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The Bradley County Board of Education voted Thursday night to approve a \$73 million general budget for the 2017-18 year.

The budget, with expenditures totaling \$73,011,860 versus this past year's \$70,963,151, includes 2 percent raises for all salaried Bradley County Schools employees, and more than \$1 million worth of capital projects.

Having discussed the budget during a work session Tuesday and in earlier meetings, the board passed it with very little discussion. The vote was unanimous among the six board members present.

Now that the school board

has passed the coming year's budget, it will go to the Bradley County Commission for its questions and votes.

"I spoke with the county mayor ... and he was asking about it," board Chairman Rodney Dillard said. "I told him it was very likely we

"I spoke with the county mayor ... and he was asking about it. I told him it was very likely we would pass a good budget tonight."

— Rodney Dillard

would pass a good budget tonight."

The budget includes \$4,556,268 in expenditures for the regular instruction program, \$4,608,024 for the special education program and \$3,076,487 for the vocational education program.

Director of Schools Dr. Linda Cash has said that some 80 percent of the school system's money is spent on school teachers and person-

See **BUDGET**, Page 8



Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY

SIX-YEAR-OLD MICAH STONE and his "Papaw" Jim have already gathered food to place at the mailbox for local letter carriers to pick up on Saturday. Cleveland postal carriers and rural postal carriers will take the bags of food back to the U.S. Postal Service facilities on Keith Street, where the food will be distributed to area churches, food banks and other nonprofit organizations. The local postal carriers stress that the food needs to be non-perishables and also not in glass containers.

Letter carriers to pick up food Saturday on routes

By **ALLEN MINCEY**
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The National Association of Letter Carriers food drive hits a milestone, with this being the 25th anniversary of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive program on Saturday.

This food drive is the country's largest single-day food drive, and provides residents with an easy way to donate

food to those in need.

U.S. Postal Service customers simply need to leave their donations of non-perishable goods next to their mailbox before the delivery of the mail on Saturday. Letter carriers will collect these food donations on that day as they deliver mail along their postal routes, and return that food

See **LETTER**, Page 8

AROUND TOWN

Kyrh  Zehr being complimented on a unique name ... Ashley Powell getting her name in the newspaper ... Paige Cordell drawing compliments for a pretty smile.

WEATHER

Today's forecast calls for clouds and an 80 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m., with a high near 76. Tonight calls for clouds and an 80 percent chance of rain, with a low around 60. Saturday should see clouds and a 30 percent chance of rain through mid-morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 74. Saturday night should be clear, with a low around 53.



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OBITUARIES



Mamie Bacon

Mamie Wilson Beasley Bacon, of Cleveland, passed away Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at her home.

She was an active member of Broad Street United Methodist Church, where she served on numerous committees. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved spending time with her family and special friends.

She was born Sept. 3, 1923, in Elkton to Oscar Noel and Mamie Young Beasley. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Paul H. Bacon Sr.; brother, John Beasley; and sister, Katie Smartt.

She is survived by her son, Dr. Paul Bacon Jr. (Sheryl) of Cleveland; daughter, Chita Beasley Johnson (Paul) of Alta Loma, Calif.; grandchildren, Adam Paul Johnson of Upland, Calif., Chita Katherine Craft (Lane) of Houston, Texas, Morgan Cheek (Hugh) of Birmingham, Ala., and Lauren Tuck (Chad) of Nashville; great-grandchildren, Les William Craft of Houston, Texas, John Paul Tuck and Challoner Tuck, both of Nashville, Ally Cheek and Bailey Grace Cheek, both of Birmingham; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 13, 2017, at Broad Street United Methodist Church with the Rev. Randy Martin officiating.

Interment will immediately follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens with Scott Taylor, Lamar McKenzie, Allan Jones, Richard Banks, Bozo Queener and Jim Park serving as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Broad Street United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be made to the Rodgers Benevolent Fund or the Congregational Care Fund of Broad Street United Methodist Church, 155 Central Ave. N.W., Cleveland, TN 37311.

Send a message of condolence and view the Bacon family guestbook at www.ralphbuckner.com.



Virginia P. Boring

Virginia P. Boring, 85, of Cleveland, died Thursday, May 11, 2017, at a local healthcare facility.

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



Duncan Jones

Duncan Jones, of Benton, died today, May 12, 2017, at a local health care facility.

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



Virginia Dyer Penwell

Virginia "Susie" Dyer Penwell, of Athens, passed away Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at her home.

She was a retired owner/hair

stylist at Susie's Cut & Style and a member of Watt's Bar Church of God. A kind and a caring woman, Mrs. Penwell loved her family, singing in the choir at her church, and working at the Food Bank.

She was born on July 3, 1944, to the late Newman Hastings and Margaret Farris Dyer. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Jim and Leon Dyer; and her stepson, David Penwell Jr.

She is survived by her husband, David Wayne Penwell; daughter, Judy Samples Buckner (Morgan) of Athens; and daughter, Cynthia Penwell (Kit) of Austin, Texas; son, Randy Penwell (Linda) of Parkersburg, Iowa; grandchildren: Payton Tanner Graham and Christopher Thomas Smith of Athens; Alex Penwell, Carter King Penwell, and Kendal Montgomery of Austin; Morgan Truax, Jamie Holkan, and Justin Penwell of Parkersburg, Samantha Spooner of Clinton, Iowa, Briana Penwell of San Antonio, Texas, and Dalton McIntosh of Omaha, Nebraska; brother, Kenneth Dyer of Jacksonville, Fla.; sister, Mary McAmis of Cleveland; 21 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be conducted at 1 p.m. Monday, May 15, 2017, in the chapel of Ralph Buckner Funeral Home with Pastors Connie Goins, Kelly Goins and Roger Roark officiating.

Interment will immediately follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens with Morgan Buckner, Wayne McAmis, Keith McAmis, Chad Hensley, Warren Chapma, and Lynn Taylor serving as pallbearers. A white dove release ceremony with bagpipes will conclude the service.

The family will receive friends noon to 1 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Send a message of condolence and view the Penwell family guestbook at www.ralphbuckner.com.



Mary Eloise Rawlston

Mary Eloise Rawlston, 85, died in her sleep on April 28, 2017, at her residence in Howell, Mich.

She was preceded in death by her husband, L.J. "Chick" Rawlston III, and grandson, Saleh Kassabieh.

She was born in Seminole, Fla., on Nov. 16, 1931, and grew up in Wilmington, N.C. She reared her children in Chattanooga before moving to Cleveland with her second husband. She was active in the Eastern Star and Red Fez Club for many years.

Survivors include three daughters: Teresa A. Graham of Newark, Del., Pamela G. (L. Robert Jr.) Phillips of Chattanooga, and Sandra L. Graham of Howell; four grandchildren: Melissa (Scott) De Lap of Chattanooga, Rex Bledsoe of Howell, Desirée Fitterer (Rocky) Gregory of Portland, Ore., and Jasmine Kassabieh of Pinckney, Mich.; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A memorial service and Celebration of Life will be held on Sept. 29, 2017, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Calhoun Cemetery Meditation Park (pavilion), 109 Church St., Calhoun TN.

Memorial contributions may be made to your local Hospice organization.

Melody Walker

Melody Walker, 54, died this morning, May 12, 2017.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced later by Companion Funeral & Cremation Service.



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.

IT'S A SPECIAL DAY FOR ...

Jacob Russell, Alicia Levengood and Jeff Harrod, who are celebrating birthdays today ... Mitch Bunch, Jonathan Sivley, Heather Matthews, Patrick Abercrombie, Desirée Colón, Caitlyn Tarver, Nigel Newberry, Brian Conn and Chris Duggan, who will celebrate birthdays Saturday.

Walker Valley High School graduation events announced

A calendar of events in the 2017 Graduation Section included in Thursday's edition of the Cleveland Daily Banner failed to list the date for graduation at Walker Valley High School.

The correct schedule of graduation-related events at WVHS includes:

■ Senior Awards Night will be held Tuesday, May 16, at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium.

■ Baccalaureate will be held on Wednesday, May 17, at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium.

■ Graduation will be Thursday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Daily Banner apologizes for the omission of the graduation date, and regrets any inconvenience it may have created.

Cleveland Middle School holds new student registration May 24

Cleveland Middle School will be holding new student registration on Wednesday, May 24, at 12:45 p.m., and on Tuesday, June 6, at 9 a.m. This registration is for students who are new to Cleveland City Schools.

Parents will need to complete a registration packet and provide a copy of the birth certificate, Social Security card, last report card, proof of residence, Tennessee Immunization Record, and proof of custody, if applicable.

Please contact Tammy Adams at 479-9641, ext. 8005, or tadams@clevelandschools.org if you have any questions.

New VA head: It'll take longer to end veteran homelessness

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The new Veterans Affairs chief shares the goal set by former President Barack Obama's administration of ending homelessness among veterans, but he says it will take longer than his predecessor predicted.

Reducing the number of homeless veterans nationwide from roughly 40,000 to 10,000 or 15,000 is an "achievable goal" for President Donald Trump's administration, VA Secretary David Shulkin told The Associated Press during a visit to Rhode Island last week.

"This is a continuous problem of people finding themselves in economically difficult situations and then being out on the street or going from shelter to shelter," Shulkin said.

Homelessness among veterans has been effectively ended in Virginia, Connecticut and Delaware and in more than 40 communities. The outgoing head of the VA, Robert McDonald, said in January that "we should be there" nationwide within a couple of years.

Shulkin, who formerly was VA undersecretary of health under Obama, said on Friday, "We're still looking at a multi-year process."

While advocates are encouraged to hear Shulkin's commitment, some wish he was more ambitious. "My personal take is, the VA secretary is being cautiously optimistic about what can be achieved and not wanting to kind of set the administration up for a missed goal," said Lisa Vukov, who works to prevent and end homelessness in the Omaha, Nebraska, area. "I'm a firm believer in setting your goals big because you achieve more that way."

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat, said veteran homelessness can be ended during the Trump administration.

"There's no reason we can't achieve it if enough resources are dedicated to the fight," said Blumenthal, a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Shulkin said some veterans offered housing by the VA prefer other alternatives and high real estate prices and a shortage of available housing in some parts of the country make it hard to house veterans there. He sees the biggest challenge in Los Angeles.

Democratic Mayor Eric Garcetti said that homelessness in Los Angeles is a long-term

crisis, but that the city has housed more than 8,000 veterans since 2014 and he's fighting to ensure all veterans have a safe place to call home. Los Angeles voters approved a bond in November to raise \$1.2 billion for up to 10,000 permanent units.

Navy veteran Chris N. Cardenas said there are some veterans who refuse help or have trouble accessing benefits because of mental illness or substance abuse issues, but 40,000 homeless veterans is far too many.

"That's a very high number," Cardenas said. "It can get down to zero for the ones that want the help."

Cardenas, 52, said he stopped working as a deliveryman in Santa Fe because of problems with his right knee in 2013 and became homeless after he used up his savings. He moved into an apartment in the Santa Fe area in 2016 with the help of a VA grant program and is now a student at the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos.

"I'm at a loss for words because it's so great," he said. "It makes you feel like a functioning person in society."

To get homeless veterans into permanent homes, the Obama administration used a program that was created in 2008 and combines rental assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development with case management and clinical services from the VA, so-called HUD-VASH vouchers. Some areas of the country currently have a waiting list for a voucher, including Los Angeles.

While programs for helping homeless veterans received funding increases in fiscal 2017, there's less money for new HUD-VASH vouchers. There's \$40 million available, compared to \$60 million for new HUD-VASH vouchers in 2016 and \$75 million in 2015, according to HUD.

"We urge the VA to prioritize finishing the job and I have absolute confidence the new secretary has that commitment," said Chris Ko, director of homeless initiatives for the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. "We need to see that commitment exercised in additional federal resources."

Shulkin said he's committed to maintaining the voucher program and continuing strategies that are working, such as housing people first and then pointing them toward help to confront the root cause of their homelessness.

Calorie counts still come to some menus, despite rule delay

NEW YORK (AP) — Calorie counts are popping up on some restaurant menus and for prepared foods at supermarkets, whether you want to see them or not.

A federal regulation requiring food sellers to post the nutrition numbers by Friday was postponed again this week until 2018, after years of delays amid opposition from pizza chains, convenience stores and grocers. But many chains had been scrambling to comply, and say they don't plan to alter course right now.

"We were running hard toward the Friday deadline," said Keith Dailey, a spokesman for Kroger, in an

email.

Kroger Co., which operates chains including Ralph's and Fry's, said it plans to be "mostly" compliant by this week. Albertsons, which owns Safeway and Vons, also said shoppers will find calorie counts for prepared foods like cut fruit, salads and muffins. The company's Jewel-Osco chain is also sticking with plans to do so, the Chicago Tribune reported earlier this week.

At Whole Foods in New York this week, calorie counts were posted on most hot food and salad bar items, and the chain said it's still committed to this week's deadline.

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Abating bait: Decline in prized worms threatens way of life

WOOLWICH, Maine (AP) — Dan Harrington makes his living unearthing marine worms by hacking away at mudflats with a tool that resembles the business end of an old steel rake.

He's fine with the freezing weather, the pungent aromas and the occasional nip from an angry crab, but his latest problem is the big one — the worms just aren't there like they used to be.

"A bad day is zero worms," said Harrington, a second-generation worm raker. "A bad day is when you try out five, six different spots and don't even make enough money to replenish the gas that you put in your tank."

Harrington's struggle, and that of his fellow wormers, has reverberations around the world. A mysterious drop in the harvest of two of the most popular worms for sport fishermen is proving expensive for anglers, perilous for bait shop owners and a threat to a way of life in Maine.

Maine harvesters are by far

the U.S.'s largest suppliers of sandworms and bloodworms, twisty, fat critters that can grow longer than a foot and have teeth that inflict a painful bite. Wormers dig the wriggling creatures out of coastal muck so they can be sold to fishermen worldwide.

The worms are especially popular with American striped bass fishermen and in Europe. An October study in the journal Fish and Fisheries said bloodworms are the most valuable marine worm species on the retail bait market, and sandworms aren't far behind.

The worms, which burrow into the mud and eat things like algae and microorganisms, are coveted as bait because they are natural food to some fish. But the worm falloff has disrupted the supply chain. Maine's catch of bloodworms has dropped from more than 600,000 pounds in 2004 to less than half that last year. Sandworms dipped by two thirds, to less than 130,000 pounds.

I SEE BY THE BANNER

Ocoee Region Beekeepers Association encourages everyone interested in raising honeybees to come learn from guest speakers. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Benton Municipal Building, 6496 Highway 411, Benton. The next meeting will be held May 16, 7 p.m., with guest speakers Allen and Margie Haines, who will discuss "From your Apiary to the Bottle to your Customers."

Great Strides Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation will have a fundraiser Saturday at Southview Baptist Church, 533 13th St., from noon to 3 p.m. This is a cystic fibrosis awareness event to benefit Kaisley Gill. Two-year-old Kaisley, along with others living with CF, need help and donations. The event will include hot dogs (plates \$5), snow cones, a bake sale and an auction.

The Disabled American car show will be Saturday afternoon at Bradley Square Mall.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

(AP) - These lotteries were drawn Thursday:

TENNESSEE	Cash 3 Night: 4-4-8
Cash 3 Evening: 2-7-0, Lucky Sum: 9	Cash 3 Evening: 9-0-7
Cash 3 Midday: 9-8-9, Lucky Sum: 26	Cash 3 Midday: 5-2-4
Cash 3 Morning: 9-6-0, Lucky Sum: 15	Cash 4 Night: 5-3-4-9
Cash 4 Evening: 2-8-7-6, Lucky Sum: 23	Cash 4 Evening: 9-9-8-9
Cash 4 Midday: 2-3-1-3, Lucky Sum: 9	Cash 4 Midday: 3-9-6-7
Cash 4 Morning: 0-7-1-7, Lucky Sum: 15	Georgia Five Evening: 6-9-5-4-4
Cash4Life: 06-20-30-34-36, Cash Ball: 1	Georgia Five Midday: 2-9-3-1-5
GEORGIA	All Or Nothing Night: 04-06-08-11-13-15-16-17-18-19-23-24
Cash 4 Life: 06-20-30-34-36, Cash Ball: 1	All Or Nothing Evening: 01-02-05-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-18
Jumbo Bucks Lotto: 04-10-17-27-28-43	All Or Nothing Day: 02- 03-07-10-12-13-14-18-19-21-22-23
Fantasy 5: 01-05-16-22-23	All Or Nothing Morning: 03-04-05-08-10-14-16-18-19-20-22-24
	5 Card Cash: JC-AC-8C-6C-4D



Banner photo, DANIEL GUY

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD representatives donated a replacement American flag to the South Cleveland Community Center on Tuesday. Present for the even were W.W. Johnson, James Mowery, Dudley Whaley, Joyce Johnson and Eula Kile.



Banner photo, DANIEL GUY

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD Chapter President, W.W. Johnson, left, speaks to the Taylor Elementary Students at their Loyalty Day celebration on Tuesday, in the Taylor Elementary gym. Johnson and Woodmen representatives were on hand to present a replacement American flag to Taylor Elementary. Also pictured is Principal Elizabeth Kaylor.

JAIL DOCKETS

The following information was gathered solely from the Bradley County Sheriff's Office. This list include individuals who are, or have been, incarcerated in the Justice Center, and can include arrests made by the BCSO, the Cleveland Police Department, the Charleston Police Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Drug Task Force and other local law enforcement agencies.

Those being held by federal law enforcement are not listed, as these individuals are only held at the jail, but not locally charged.

Not every arrest leads to a conviction, as these charges may be rescinded.

Guilt and innocence are determined through the court system. Any charge that is dropped should be reported to the Cleveland Daily Banner, which will confirm the action through an inspection of jail records.

- **Michael James Flowers**, 42, 6691 Waterlevel Highway
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for aggravated domestic assault, aggravated assault, simple possession, possession of drug paraphernalia; arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for pawned or conveyed rental property.
- **Chad Alfred Deluca**, 27, 565 17th St.
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear (driving on a revoked license).
- **Charles Robert Cross**, 27, 137 Stephens Drive
Arrested by the Bradley

County Sheriff's Office for aggravated assault, failure to appear (driving on a suspended license), misdemeanor probation violation, attachment.

- **Sharon Rose Young**, 42, 1175 Dockery Lane S.E.
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for violation of community corrections.
- **Darius Wayne Killian**, 53, 600 Corvin Road N.E.
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for misdemeanor probation violation; arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office as a fugitive from justice.

- **Derrick Ryan Rowland**, 25, 14987 Oaktree Lane S.E.
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for robbery (serving).
- **Christopher Lee Woodruff**, 31, 2110 Blackburn Road
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for shoplifting/theft of property, criminal trespass, violation of probation; arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for shoplifting.

- **Dustin Ryan Duggan**, 33, 844 Church St.
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for failure to appear (violation of probation, theft), misdemeanor failure to appear; arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear.
- **Justin Dean Renner**, 26, Homeless Shelter
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for criminal trespass.

- **Kara Swafford**, 27, 3704 Hilldale Drive N.E.
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for misdemeanor probation violation.

- **Lyndsey Janelle Leonard**, 33, 752 12th St.
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for misdemeanor probation violation (failure to appear).
- **Troy Lee Foster**, 50, 1175 South Ocoee St.
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for public intoxication.
- **Miguel Espinoza**, 35, 1800 Westland Drive S.W.
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for public intoxication.

- **Abraham Rios**, 39, Homeless
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for failure to appear (assault, vandalism under \$500).
- **Kirklan Adams**, 19, 3710 Stephens Road
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for domestic violence.

- **Clara Renee Bolt**, 48, 319 Brown Ave N.W.
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department as a fugitive from justice.
- **Stewart Craig King**, 56, 585 Fifth St. S.E.
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for simple possession/casual exchange.
- **Lavonte Eugene Griffin**, 31, 117 Crawford Lane S.E.
Arrested by the Cleveland Police Department for misdemeanor probation violation.
- **Oscar Nathaniel Morgan**, 33, 393 Sim Goodwin Road, McDonald
Arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office for simple possession of meth, violation of probation, theft of property, misdemeanor violation of probation.

No cut in salt, fewer grains: Gov't eases school meal rules

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — Schools won't have to cut more salt from meals just yet and some will be able to serve kids fewer whole grains, under changes to federal nutrition standards announced Monday.

The move by the Trump administration partially rolls back rules championed by former first lady Michelle Obama as part of her healthy eating initiative.

As his first major action in office, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the department will delay an upcoming requirement to lower the amount of sodium in meals while continuing to allow waivers for regulations that all grains on the lunch line must be 50 percent whole grain.

Schools could also serve 1 percent flavored milk instead of the nonfat now required.

"If kids aren't eating the food,

and it's ending up in the trash, they aren't getting any nutrition — thus undermining the intent of the program," said Perdue, who traveled to a school in Leesburg, Virginia, to make the announcement.

Before he signed the proclamation, Perdue and Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, ate chicken nuggets, fruit and salad with children at Catocin Elementary. Perdue said he doesn't see the changes as a rollback, but "we're just slowing down the process."

He praised Obama's nutrition efforts as first lady but said he wants the healthier meals to be more palatable.

He said the department will work on long-term solutions to further tweak the rules.

The changes reflect suggestions from the School Nutrition Association, which represents

school nutrition directors and companies that sell food to schools. The group often battled with the Obama administration, which phased in the healthier school meal rules starting in 2012.

The Obama administration rules set fat, sugar and sodium limits on foods in the lunch line and beyond.

Schools have long been required to follow government nutrition rules if they accept federal reimbursements for free and reduced-price meals for low-income students, but these standards were stricter. Obama pushed the changes as part of her "Let's Move" campaign to combat childhood obesity.

The Trump administration changes leave most of the Obama administration rules in place, including rules that students must take fruits and vegetables on the lunch line.

BCSO warns of scam calls claiming to be local law enforcement

From Staff Reports

The Bradley County Sheriff's Office wants the community to be aware of a scam targeting area residents.

The caller and/or message will identify themselves as an employee of the Bradley County Sheriff's Office Civil Process Division and demand for a number not associated with the agency to be called immediately.

In the event these fraudulent calls are received, residents are advised by BCSO to never give their personal or financial information over the phone.

"The Bradley County Sheriff's Office will never solicit methods of payment and/or personal identifiers over the phone," said BCSO Communication Director James Bradford. "Additionally, all arrests performed by the Civil Process Division are done in person, never on the phone and the individual is brought to jail to comply with the designated court's demand. Any suspicious calls regarding a civil process should be directed to 423-728-7390 for verification."

As is happening across the country, this community is targeted frequently with various scams, and Bradford said "it's our agency's duty to alert the public once a fraudulent scam" has been detected. "We encourage residents to visit our website at

www.bradleysheriff.com, and click on the "Imposters Scam" tab," he said.

"This informational page provides a list of the most-common scams, preventative tips, resource links to report a specific scam, and a government resource directory."

Bradley County Sheriff Eric Watson said, "The best practice for a suspicious phone call is to hang up, and immediately call the Bradley County Sheriff's Office to validate if an outstanding civil process exists.

"If the suspicious call is repeated, advise the caller you are going to report the calls to law enforcement, and usually the caller will become agitated and hang up. We are optimistic this scam-alert will diminish the possibility of a person falling prey to a scammer, and give residents knowledge to pro-actively protect themselves," he said.

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Prospect Elementary reflects on security changes, goals

By **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**
christy.armstrong@clevelandbanner.com

Even as Prospect Elementary School celebrates the \$80,000 worth of security upgrades made to the campus in recent years, plans are in the works for even more.

Principal Steve Montgomery and School Resource Officer John Davis told members of the school's safety committee Thursday what those next steps could look like.

The local school began taking a serious look at campus security after the tragic 2012 shooting which took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. Montgomery said he remembers former Bradley County sheriff Robert Lawson contacting him to ask about the school's emergency plan. "Our thinking changed," Montgomery said. "We hope that something like this [shooting] never happens here, but if it does we want to be as prepared as we can be."

Since Sandy Hook, the school has installed new safety doors at the main entrance, erected fences to enclose the playground, added inside locks to classroom doors, put up new security cameras around campus and began using Hall Pass, a computer software system which allows school staff to do instant background checks on visitors.

Montgomery said the changes, which totaled about \$80,000, were made with help from the Bradley County Board of Education and a variety of com-

munity supporters. Future security measures being considered include adding a bullet-resistant glass film to all the exterior windows and equipping every classroom with a special locking device.

The window film, made by 3M, allows any broken glass to remain stuck together instead of instantly shattering everywhere, meaning it would take more time for a would-be intruder to get inside.

The Barracuda locking devices made by Bilco slide over the arms at the tops of classroom doors to prevent the doors from being opened. Teachers would be able to place these on their doors from inside their classrooms during school lockdowns.

"These would help buy some time if an intruder came onto the campus," Davis said.

The school is in the process of raising money to fund these security measures, with a goal of \$3,719. The glass film product would total about \$1,595 to install, and it would cost about \$2,134 to provide the door locking devices for every room.

While he credits the Sandy Hook tragedy with inspiring staff at Prospect to improve their school's security, Montgomery stressed the momentum is still ongoing.

He added the school is in close proximity to Interstate 75, making security an especially vital concern for the school.

"When things like that shoot-up happen, things get hot and then sort of slow down,"



Contributed photo

THIS PHOTO provided by manufacturer Bilco shows the Barracuda door-locking device which can secure a classroom door. Prospect Elementary School staff are looking at purchasing these for all their classrooms.

Montgomery said. "We're going to keep the stove hot."

Current Bradley County Sheriff Eric Watson praised the school's efforts and thanked Montgomery for working so closely with Davis on the changes.

While he noted emergency personnel will respond as fast as they can in the event of an emergency, Watson said it can take minutes for help to arrive. However, in situations like school

shootings, seconds rather than minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

Watson said anything school personnel can do to slow down would-be intruders and buy extra seconds while waiting for law enforcement officers would be beneficial.

"This is a very important part of public safety," Watson said. "It is a very good idea for all schools — including Cleveland City



Banner photo, CHRISTY ARMSTRONG

STEVE MONTGOMERY, principal of Prospect Elementary School, speaks to the school's safety committee during a breakfast event Thursday. The school is looking at a few new ways to improve campus security.

schools — to get involved in efforts like this."

Lawson added that it is "better to be proactive than reactive," when it comes to school security. He praised the efforts the school has taken already to improve security on campus.

Bradley County Schools Director Dr. Linda Cash said it is "a crying shame" that schools now have to be so worried about visitors wishing to harm stu-

dents.

However, she stressed the county school system takes security seriously and sees it as a major concern for all its schools — not just Prospect Elementary.

"Across the district, there are still things we need to do, and we know that," Cash said. "However, there's not a better place to put our money. ... It's all about keeping our students and school personnel safe."

Sean Scott Hale hearing delayed again for psychological evaluation

By **ALLEN MINCEY**
allen.mincey@clevelandbanner.com

The arraignment hearing for Sean Scott Hale, the accused murder of Thomas Creek Jr., has been delayed once again as a psychological evaluation is still in progress.

Hale is accused of the death of Creek, whose body was found in a remote area of the Cherokee National Forest in Polk County. Creek was reported missing on March 23, though he was reportedly last seen on March 14.

His body was found in the Sylco area of Polk County, and local authorities said Creek was shot at least twice.

Hale had reportedly picked

up Creek at Tennova Healthcare, where the victim was being checked for undisclosed medical purposes. Hale was later identified as a possible assailant, and police began a search for him that ended when he was located walking along the side of Interstate 59 near Fort Payne, Ala. on March 29.

Reports said that when Cleveland Police Department detectives spoke with Hale, who was later returned to Cleveland, he admitted to his involvement in the homicide.

He was eventually charged with first-degree murder. He was also charged with misdemeanor probation violation (failure to appear) and misde-

meanor failure to appear.

Hale, 25, is being represented by the Public Defender's Office, which requested the psychological evaluation before proceeding with further court appearances.

Bradley County General Sessions Court Judge Sheridan Randolph allowed the change, and set Hale's next appearance for May 11. However, that evaluation had not been completed, so Hale's next appearance in court will be June 13.

He remains in custody. No one else has been charged in Creek's death, though investigation into the incident is continuing by the Cleveland Police Department.

Wastewater discharge in N.C. lake analyzed for impact on Hiwassee

By **ALLEN MINCEY**
allen.mincey@clevelandbanner.com

Testing on a wastewater discharge from the Wastewater Treatment Facility of Murphy, North Carolina, will possibly be available at the end of the day, but officials say that nothing at the present time indicates any issues with water coming into East Tennessee through the Hiwassee River.

The Cherokee County Health Department, in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality, issued a precautionary advisory pending that water quality investigation.

"I want to stress that this is purely a precautionary alert that we have sent out," said David Badger, health director for the Cherokee County Health Department. "We hope to know something about the water quality by the end of the afternoon."

He said that there are no

reports of fish kills or discoloration of the water in

Hiwassee Lake, where the treatment plant is located, but until the issue is resolved, the health department is asking people in that area to avoid contact with the lake, as well as contact that might be made by pets. This includes such activities as swimming, wading or boating until further notice, and anyone who encounters the water in the lake near the plant should wash thoroughly with clean water and soap as soon as possible.

The Hiwassee River flows from Hiwassee Lake, so there are local concerns that if the water is a health issue it could flow into this area, primarily into Polk County.

"At this time, there is no plume in the Hiwassee Lake or River and the travel time to the Tennessee state line is several days away with the current release rates," said Kim Schofinski, deputy communications director for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. "This volume of spillage into these large bod-

ies of water is not expected to cause any detectable impact to water quality in Tennessee, or pose any realistic threat to recreation, but we will monitor the situation closely to make certain until all potential for impact is past.

"We will continue to review all information received from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and from our own sampling activities, and convey pertinent data to the public as necessary," she said.

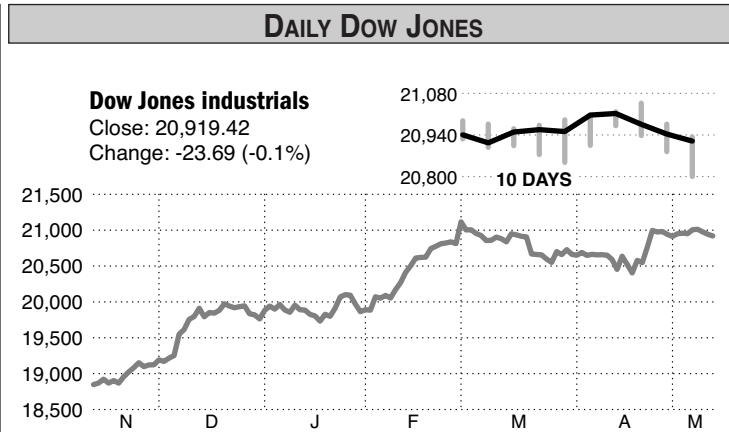
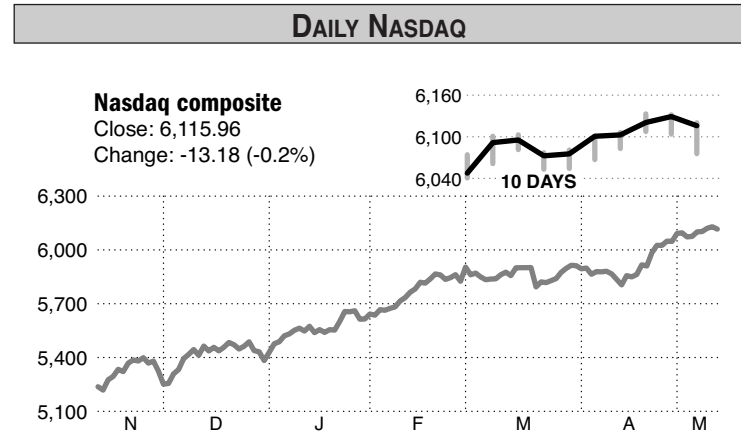
Badger said he understands the discharge was due to a technical issue at the wastewater treatment plant in Murphy, which he said took a "very proactive" approach in the incident.

"And I can't stress enough that at the present time, the alert that was sent out is purely precautionary," Badger said. "We will know more once the water in the lake is analyzed."

The incident occurred on Wednesday, and the health department issued the alert the following day, after being notified of the situation.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

THE MARKET IN REVIEW



MONEY RATES

	Last	Pvs Wk
Prime Rate	4.00	4.00
Discount Rate	1.50	1.50
Federal Funds Rate	.75-1.00	.75-1.00
Treasuries		
5-year	1.92	1.88
10-year	2.40	2.35
30-year	3.03	3.00

Gold (troy oz., NY Merc spot) \$1222.70 \$1226.50
Silver (troy oz., NY Merc spot) \$16.209 \$16.244

CURRENCIES

	Day Ago	Pvs Day
Australia	1.3561	1.3581
Britain	1.2890	1.2941
Canada	1.3695	1.3675
Euro	.9203	.9207
Japan	113.88	114.33
Mexico	18.8731	19.0282
Switzerland	1.0073	1.0093

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

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
21,169.11	17,063.08	Dow Industrials	20,919.42	-23.69	-0.11	+5.85	+18.05
9,639.33	7,029.41	Dow Transportation	9,037.99	-34.36	-0.38	-0.07	+18.92
723.83	616.19	Dow Utilities	696.80	-0.10	-0.01	+5.64	+4.24
11,688.45	9,918.72	NYSE Composite	11,563.60	-35.38	-0.31	+4.58	+11.89
6,133.00	4,574.25	NASDAQ Composite	6,115.96	-13.18	-0.21	+13.61	+29.10
1,064.64	883.20	S&P 100	1,057.24	-1.86	-0.18	+6.64	+15.42
2,403.72	1,991.68	S&P 500	2,394.44	-5.19	-0.22	+6.95	+16.00
1,761.08	1,409.53	S&P MidCap	1,727.54	-11.02	-0.63	+4.03	+18.83
25,052.13	20,583.79	Wilshire 5000	24,905.72	-71.84	-0.29	+6.32	+16.88
1,425.69	1,085.88	Russell 2000	1,390.20	-9.39	-0.67	+2.44	+25.40

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.96	5.1	15	38.44	-0.01	-9.6	NorfolkSo	2.44	2.1	21	116.73	-18	+8.0
AMD	...	...	...	11.07	+28	-2.4	Nvidia	.56	4	40	126.50	+5.21	+18.5
Ambev	.06	1.0	6	6.15	+13	+25.3	Olin	.80	2.6	32	30.78	+0.4	+20.2
BB&T Cp	1.20	2.8	15	43.03	-34	-8.5	PaneraBrd	...	...	...	312.98	-0.03	-52.6
BkofAm	.30	1.2	15	24.07	-0.8	+8.9	Penney	...	...	...	5.29	-42	-36.3
B IPVxST rs	...	...	...	14.08	-0.02	-44.8	PUVixST rs	...	...	...	12.44	-0.07	-...
ChesEng	...	...	...	5.72	-0.03	-18.5	RegionsFn	.28	2.0	16	14.18	-1.7	-1.3
CocaCola	1.48	3.4	27	43.67	+1.0	+5.3	S&P500ETF4.13	1.7	...	...	239.38	-4.9	+7.1
CrmtyHlt	...	...	...	10.15	-0.05	+81.6	Scotts	2.00	2.3	23	87.25	-2.68	-8.7
DukeEngy	3.42	4.1	18	83.00	+5.2	+6.9	SnapInc A n	...	...	...	18.05	-4.93	-26.3
Eaton	2.40	3.1	18	77.03	-0.6	+14.8	SouthCo	2.32	4.7	17	49.77	+4.8	+1.2
FstHorizon	.36	2.0	19	17.62	-4.2	-11.9	SPDR FncI	.46	1.9	...	23.66	-1.5	+1.8
FordM	.60	5.4	6	11.01	-0.3	-9.2	SunTrst	1.04	1.8	16	56.95	-6.5	+3.8
FrontierCm	.16	13.3	...	1.20	-1.2	-64.5	Target	2.40	4.3	11	56.06	-2.35	-22.4
GeneElec	.96	3.3	20	28.87	+1.7	-8.6	21stCFoxA	.36	1.3	17	28.52	+6.2	+1.7
HomeDp	3.56	2.3	24	156.20	-1.93	+16.5	UtdCmBks	.36	1.3	18	27.26	-4.0	-8.0
IShEMkts	.84	2.0	...	41.05	+0.9	+17.3	ValeantPh	...	...	...	13.80	+1.12	-5.0
Kroger	1.77	1.3	...	138.24	-9.7	+2.5	VanEGold	.12	...	...	22.37	+4.4	+6.9
Kroger s	.48	1.6	14	30.43	+5.1	-11.8	Walmart	2.04	2.7	17	76.13	-5.7	+10.1
Lowe's	1.40	1.7	21	84.70	-1.36	+19.1	WellsFargo	1.52	2.8	13	53.74	-9.8	-2.5
Macys	1.51	6.2	9	24.35	-4.99	-32.0	Whrpl	4.40	2.4	14	185.85	+4.0	+2.1

MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Total Assets	NAV	Total Return	Rank	Pct Load	Min Init
American Funds AmrenBalA m	58,504	26.05	+1.0	+11.1/C	+10.6/A	5.75
American Funds CoflWdGrInC m	53,356	48.30	+3.3	+17.4/C	+10.8/B	5.75
American Funds CoflIncBldrA m	70,299	60.59	+1.1	+8.4/D	+7.6/A	5.75
American Funds FdmInlvsA m	49,948	59.05	+2.1	+19.9/A	+14.6/A	5.75
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	79,563	46.74	+2.9	+22.2/A	+15.3/A	5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA m	75,405	22.43	+0.6	+10.9/D	+9.4/B	5.75
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	60,556	38.45	+1.0	+16.7/D	+14.0/B	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	38,172	40.37	+4.5	+19.1/B	+12.1/A	5.75
American Funds WAMInvsA m	53,976	43.09	+1.4	+16.6/C	+13.4/B	5.75
Dodge & Cox Inc	49,309	13.73	+0.3	+3.6/A	+3.3/A	NL
Dodge & Cox IntlStk	60,060	43.51	+5.5	+29.3/A	+10.0/A	NL
Dodge & Cox Stk	65,546	19.17	+1.3	+28.8/A	+16.5/A	NL
DoubleLine TtlRetBdI	44,421	10.65	+0.2	+1.5	+3.5	NL
Fidelity 500IdxPremium	67,399	83.90	+1.9	+18.4/B	+14.5/A	NL
Fidelity Contrafund	79,724	112.48	+4.8	+20.4/B	+14.2/B	NL
Franklin Templeton IncA m	45,983	2.35	+0.9	+15.8/A	+7.6/A	4.25
T. Rowe Price GrStk	39,969	62.35	+5.4	+25.8/A	+15.7/A	NL
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	199,100	221.48	+1.9	+18.4/B	+14.5/A	NL
Vanguard DivGrIn	31,586	24.98	+1.2	+11.5/E	+12.9/D	NL
Vanguard HCAdmrl	36,105	85.42	+2.1	+10.4/D	+18.3/B	NL
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	48,180	14.07	+0.3	-0.2/A	+2.8/B	NL
Vanguard MidCpldxAdmrl	33,293	174.74	+1.5	+18.2/B	+14.0/A	NL
Vanguard PmCpAdmrl	44,579	121.01	+3.4	+26.9/A	+18.0/A	NL
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	39,806	10.66	+0.1	+1.5/B	+2.1/A	NL
Vanguard TgtRtr2025Inv	34,928	17.38	+1.6	+12.0/B	+8.9/B	NL
Vanguard TlBIdxAdmrl	75,214	10.69	-0.2	0.0/D	+2.0/D	NL
Vanguard TlNIdxAdmrl	54,445	27.63	+4.0	+17.8/B	+7.1/C	NL
Vanguard TlNStkAdmrl	103,049	16.52	+1.0	+17.8/B	+7.0/C	NL
Vanguard TlSMIdxAdmrl	165,531	59.88	+1.7	+19.0/B	+14.3/B	NL
Vanguard TlSMdlnx	113,745	59.86	+1.7	+19.0/B	+14.2/B	NL
Vanguard WnghtAdmrl	79,718	70.06	+1.1	+15.4/B	+10.3/A	NL
Vanguard WsllyInCAdmrl	37,471	63.03	+0.3	+5.8/E	+7.1/A	NL
Vanguard WndrslAdmrl	33,617	66.01	+1.6	+18.0/B	+12.9/B	NL

CA - Conservative Allocation, CI - Intermediate-Term Bond, CS - Short-Term Bond, FB - Foreign Large Blend, IB - World Bond, IH - World Allocation, LB - Large Blend



AP photo

FORMER FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY walks at his home in McLean, Va., on Wednesday. President Donald Trump fired Comey on Tuesday, ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of an investigation into whether Trump's campaign had ties to Russia's election meddling.

Trump contradicts White House on reasons for Comey firing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Contradicting previous White House explanations, President Donald Trump has declared he had planned to fire FBI Director James Comey all along, regardless of whether top Justice Department officials recommended the stunning step. His assertions came as Comey's temporary replacement joined in, contradicting other administration statements on the snow-balling controversy.

In an interview with NBC News, Trump also said he'd asked Comey point-blank if he was under investigation and was assured three times he was not. Trump showed no concern that the request might be viewed as interference in an active FBI probe into his 2016 campaign's possible ties to Russia's election meddling.

"I said, 'If it's possible, would you let me know, am I under investigation?' He said you are not under investigation," Trump said. He said the discussions happened in two phone calls and at a dinner in which Comey was asking to keep his job.

Comey has not confirmed Trump's account.

The New York Times late Thursday cited two unnamed Comey associates who recounted his tale of a January dinner with the president in which Trump asked for a pledge of loyalty. Comey declined, instead offering "honesty." When Trump then pressed for "honest loyalty," Comey told the president, "You will have that," said the associates, who told the newspaper they agreed to keep the story confidential while Comey was FBI director.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders disputed the report and said the president would "never even suggest the expectation of personal loyalty."

But the account echoed wording in a comment made a day earlier to The Associated Press by longtime Comey friend Daniel Richman, a former federal prosecutor, who said the president had removed "somebody unwilling to pledge absolute loyalty to him."

The White House initially cited a Justice Department memo criticizing Comey's handling of last year's investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails as the impetus for Trump's decision. But Trump on Thursday acknowledged for the first time that the Russia investigation — which he dismissed as a "made-up story" — was also on his mind as he ousted the man overseeing the probe.

The shifting accounts of the decision to fire Comey, whom

Trump derided as a "showboat" and "grandstander," added to a mounting sense of uncertainty and chaos in the West Wing, as aides scrambled to get their stories straight and appease an angry president. Not even Vice President Mike Pence was spared the embarrassment of having told a version of events that was later discredited by Trump.

The White House's explanations continued to crumble throughout the day Thursday. On Capitol Hill, acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe strongly disputed the White House's assertion that Comey had been fired in part because he had lost the confidence of the FBI's rank-and-file.

"That is not accurate," McCabe said. "Director Comey enjoyed broad support within the FBI and still does to this day."

Unfazed, Sanders insisted she had heard from "countless" members of the FBI who welcomed the president's decision.

McCabe also pointed out the remarkable nature of Trump's version of his conversations with Comey. McCabe told a Senate panel it was not "standard practice" to tell an individual whether they are or are not under investigation.

Previous presidents have made a public show of staying out of legal matters, so as not to appear to be injecting politics. Trump's comments demonstrated his striking deviation from that practice.

The ousted director himself is said to be confident that his own version of events will come out, possibly in an appearance before Congress, according to an associate who has been in touch with him since his firing Tuesday.

Trump and Comey's relationship was strained early on, in part because of the president's explosive and unsubstantiated claims that Barack Obama wiretapped Trump Tower.

Comey found the allegations confounding, according to his associate, and wondered what to make of what he described as strange thoughts coming from his new boss.

The president was no kinder to Comey on Thursday, calling him names and saying he'd left the FBI in "virtual turmoil." He said that while he received a scathing assessment of Comey's performance from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein on Monday, that memo was not a catalyst for his dramatic decision as the White House had said earlier.

"I was going to fire Comey," Trump said. "Regardless of rec-

ommendation I was going to fire Comey."

That's far different that the White House's initial account in the hours after Comey's firing. Multiple officials, including Pence, said the president was acting at the behest of Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

But it quickly became clear that the president had been stewing for days over the Russia investigation and Comey's refusal to defend him in appearances before lawmakers. By Wednesday afternoon, the officials, like Trump, were saying he had in fact been considering ousting the FBI director for months because of a lack of confidence in his ability to lead the agency.

And the Russia investigation was still on his mind.

"In fact when I decided to just do it, I said to myself, I said you know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story, it's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should have won," he said.

Sanders attributed the disconnect in the week's explanations to the fact that she had not directly asked Trump when he'd made the decision to fire Comey until shortly before Thursday's press briefing.

White House officials and others insisted on anonymity in order to disclose private conversations and internal deliberations.

The White House said Trump is weighing options for replacing Comey, a decision that could have broad implications for the future of the Russia investigation.

Some senior officials have discussed nominating Rep. Trey Gowdy, the South Carolina Republican who ran the House committee that investigated Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's actions in connection with the 2012 attack on a U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya.

Trump's advisers have repeatedly tried to downplay the Russia-election matter, with Sanders saying Wednesday the FBI was "doing a whole lot more than the Russia investigation."

But McCabe characterized the investigation as "highly significant" and assured senators that Comey's firing would not hinder it. He promised he would tolerate no interference from the White House and would not provide the administration with updates on its progress.

"You cannot stop the men and women of the FBI from doing the right thing," he declared. He said there has been no interference so far.

U.S. prosecutors told to push for more, harsher punishments

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions is directing federal prosecutors to pursue the most serious charges possible against the vast majority of suspects, a reversal of Obama-era policies that is sure to send more people to prison and for much longer terms.

The move has long been expected from Sessions, a former federal prosecutor who cut his teeth during the height of the crack cocaine epidemic and who has promised to make combating violence and drugs the Justice Department's top priority.

"This policy affirms our responsibility to enforce the law, is moral and just, and produces consistency," Sessions wrote in a memo sent Thursday night to U.S. attorneys and made public early Friday.

The move amounts to an unmistakable undoing of Obama administration criminal justice policies that aimed to ease overcrowding in federal prisons and

contributed to a national rethinking of how drug criminals were prosecuted and sentenced. Critics said the change will subject more lower-level offenders to unfairly harsh mandatory minimum sentences.

Sessions contends a spike in violence in some big cities and the nation's opioid epidemic show the need for a return to tougher tactics.

"The opioid and heroin epidemic is a contributor to the recent surge of violent crime in America," Sessions said in remarks prepared for a Thursday speech in Charleston, West Virginia. "Drug trafficking is an inherently violent business. If you want to collect a drug debt, you can't, and don't, file a lawsuit in court. You collect it by the barrel of a gun."

The policy memo says prosecutors should "charge and pursue the most serious, readily provable offense" — something more likely to trigger mandatory minimum

sentences. Those rules limit a judge's discretion and are typically dictated, for example, by the quantity of drugs involved in a crime. The memo concedes there will be cases in which "good judgment" will warrant a prosecutor to veer from that rule. But any exceptions will need to be approved by top supervisors, and the reasons must be documented, allowing the Justice Department to track the handling of such cases by its 94 U.S. attorney's offices.

And even if they opt not to pursue the most serious charges, prosecutors are still required to provide judges with all the details of a case when defendants are sentenced, which could lengthen prison terms.

The requirements "place great confidence in our prosecutors and supervisors to apply them in a thoughtful and disciplined manner, with the goal of achieving just and consistent results in federal cases," the memo states.

China, U.S. reach trade agreement on beef, poultry and natural gas, with goal of boosting U.S. exports

WASHINGTON (AP) — China will finally open its borders to U.S. beef while cooked Chinese poultry is closer to hitting the American market as part of a U.S.-China trade agreement.

Trump administration officials hailed the deal as a significant step in their efforts to boost U.S. exports and narrow America's trade gap with the world's second-largest economy.

The United States would also allow U.S. companies to ship liquefied natural gas to China as part of the bilateral agreement reached following President Donald Trump's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in April. The agreement covers a number of long-standing barriers in areas ranging from agriculture to energy to the operation of American financial firms in China.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross hailed the agreement as "a herculean accomplishment" forged in record time.

"This is more than has been done in the whole history of U.S.-China relations on trade," Ross told reporters Thursday evening at the White House. "Normally trade deals are denominated in multiple years, not tens of days."

But while the agreement touches on many of the trade barriers American companies have long complained about, it remains to be seen just how far China will go to allow more American exports. Previous administrations have hailed market-opening agreements, only to be left disappointed.

"The key in these negotiations is specifics that are enforceable — literally the devil is in the details," said Scott Mulhauser, the former chief of staff at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

"The more these agreements include real, concrete outcomes rather than platitudes, rehashing old ground or punts to the future, the better they are. American companies, workers, farmers and more are eager for more access to Chinese markets and they'll look to ensure reality matches the rhetoric of these promises," Mulhauser said.

Trump made America's mas-

sive trade deficits and specifically the gap with China a major issue in his campaign and during the early days of his administration. He's argued that America's perennial trade deficits have cost millions of factory jobs and pledged to take a tougher stance in trade negotiations to lower the imbalances.

Under the agreement, the United States would welcome Chinese companies negotiating agreements to purchase U.S.-produced liquefied natural gas. The Energy Department has already authorized the shipment of 19.2 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas exports to China

and other interested countries, the Commerce Department said.

A number of U.S. companies are seeking permits to build facilities to process liquefied gas, which would allow America to become a net exporter of gas, something it has not been since the 1950s. China is attempting to turn to natural gas as a way to reduce its dependence on coal and combat the country's extensive air pollution.

The move would allow China to diversify its supply and provide a significant market for American suppliers — though the expansion could boost prices for U.S. consumers.

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Churches

FRIDAY,
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Contributed photo
ON SUNDAY, Father Joel Huffstetler offered the first of three sessions on "Much More than Basketball: The Spiritual Legacy of Dean Smith." The series reflects on how Smith's legacy has shaped a generation of players, fans, and one particular Episcopal priest. Dean Smith is remembered for his 36 years as coach of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. This course is offered the next two Sundays (May 14 and 21) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. From left are Bryan Gentry, Charlie Cogdill, Chuck Condo, Father Joel Huffstetler, Emma Kate Brown, Chuck Clark, Kent Smith and Lew Warren.



Great Strides

CF fundraiser to benefit Kaisley Gill

Great Strides announces a Cystic Fibrosis Awareness fundraiser to benefit 2-year-old Kaisley Gill, who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when 10 days old.

Little Kaisley is the daughter of David and Samantha Gill and the granddaughter of David and Ann Harrold of Cleveland. "My parents," she said, "say I'm special."

CF is a rare genetic disease that makes her body produce extra mucus. The mucus can clog up her lungs and pancreas. Through her parents, Kaisley

said, "My pancreas can't put out enough enzymes to digest my food. I have to do breathing treatments and airway clearance therapy daily to clean my lungs of the mucus, and I have to take enzymes before each meal so my body can properly digest my food and help me gain weight."

Currently, there are no cures for CF. The life expectancy of people living with CF used to be teenage years. Now, because of the research and donations, the life expectancy is up to 40-50 years old.

"I, along with a lot of other

people living with CF," Kaisley relayed through her parents, "need your help and donations."

She asks for people to come to Southview Baptist Church, 533 13th St., Cleveland, on Saturday for hot dogs (\$5 plate), and snow cones, as well as an auction and bake sale. All donations will be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The CF Foundation is leading the way in innovative research and drug development, promoting high-quality, individualized care and helping people with CF live better today.



Kaisley Gill

A mustard seed:

A reminder to believe

A couple of weeks ago I attended a ladies retreat at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. One highlight of the retreat was a young woman who gave her amazing testimony of courage and faith.

Five years ago, she was at the retreat — a severely crippled and disabled victim of a motorcycle accident, in which her husband was killed. I can't describe the shape she was in — head injury, couldn't walk, talk, swallow or even use her arms — a crumpled figure of humanity. But her faith in God shone.

This year, although she uses a walker as a help for long walks, she walked to the podium and gave a clear testimony as to what God is doing in her life as she is trusting him for her healing of body and emotions.

She was able to talk and use her arms and hands. So far, she is still unable to eat but is progressing in that, also. Her countenance glowed as she talked of God's blessings in her life. I was told she teaches and her students help her in the ordinary functions of food intake and breathing. What an inspiration to us all!

We all vowed to send her a note every month with a mustard seed inside — a reminder we are praying for her and share her faith.

When I came home, I found a little packet of mustard seeds given to me by a United Club members, who had given a similar testimony of where faith in God had brought her.

So now, I'm sharing those mustard seeds with someone else who is depending by faith on God, our heavenly Father, who is our healer, our comforter and deliverer.

I have a little plaque on my desk at the Banner, which was given to me by friends here, and I treasure it. It reads: "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" — a paraphrase of Hebrews 11:1, the beginning of the "Faith



LIFELINES

Bettie Marlowe

Chapter." It is a constant reminder just to believe God.

A man took his son camping and was teaching him to put up a tent, which was constructed to require air blown into channels for support. The little boy was trying his best to blow enough air into the structure, but it just wouldn't stand up. Finally he said, "Daddy, I don't have enough breath to make it strong. It needs your breath."

We need the breath of the Lord. His Spirit will empower — it will give strength — it will help us to stand. And what's more, God doesn't get out of breath. He will grant you "according to the riches." "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

Our heavenly Father does not make it difficult to communicate with Him. He does not require complicated prayers. He is moved by our needs and by our confidence in Him.

To pray is to acknowledge that our blessings come from God. Our dependence is in Him, and this is what Jesus taught us in the model prayer he gave the disciples.

What do you need from God? Do you need deliverance or do you need grace?

Most of us don't know what we need. That doesn't mean the need is not real.

God doesn't require us to diagnose our condition. He is simply listening for the cries of His children. "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:16).

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Gum Springs Baptist Church will have Mother's Day Special services on Sunday, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Ricky Vaughn will be preaching.

Cedar Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, 8408 Highway 60, Georatown, will host Brenda Walsh at a vespers and book signing on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Fairhaven Ministry, 1807 Blythe Avenue S.E., is hosting "From Battered to Blessed, the Amazing Journey of Rose Wilson Little and how God healed her from Trauma" on Friday at 6:30 p.m. This is a time of healing for those who have experienced abuse and want to learn about wholeness. For more information, call 423-650-0483.



LEONARD ALBERT will be the speaker Wednesday for the His Hands Extended Ministries' devotions. The nondenominational devotions are held from 7 to 7:30 a.m. at Garden Plaza, 3500 Keith St. The devotions include an inspirational speaker, intercessory prayer, music and fellowship.

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Spaces available for church use

Reservations for the free church page ad are still being accepted for this year.

A church may schedule two nonconsecutive spaces — size is 2-column by 4-inch block — for the announcements of special church events or regular services. The free space is not to be used for denominational or doctrinal editorials.

Contact church news reporter Bettie Marlowe, 472-5041, to reserve the blocks. Space is limited and will be awarded on a first-called, first-served basis. Information for the space must be submitted by Monday before the Friday it will run or the block will be forfeited.

Other articles or information, including photos, for the Religion pages will be accepted through Wednesday at 5 p.m. for the next Friday. Brief announcements can be included in the daily church activities and should be submitted by noon the day before publication.

Contact the advertising department for information for paid display ads. The newsroom does not handle paid advertising.

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American who joined al-Qaida faces sentencing

NEW YORK (AP) — After growing up in obscurity on Long Island, Bryant Neal Vinas became a militant Muslim convert, relocated to an outlaw region of Pakistan and schemed with senior al-Qaida members on how best to attack the Long Island Railroad.

A federal judge must now decide whether the admitted terrorist known as “Bashir al-Ameriki,” or Bashir the American, should be spared a long prison term - and maybe even be freed - for switching sides and becoming a prized U.S. government cooperator.

Vinas, 34, of Patchogue, is due in federal court in Brooklyn on Thursday for sentencing on charges he tried to kill American soldiers and provide support to al-Qaida before Pakistani authorities captured him in 2008 and turned him over to the United States.

In a letter to U.S. District Judge Nicholas, prosecutors wrote that once in custody, Vinas eagerly became what “may have been the single most valuable cooperating witness” in efforts to identify members of al-Qaida, pinpoint their hideouts and disrupt their terror plots in the late 2000s when the nation was still reeling from the Sept. 11 attacks.

Prosecutors haven’t revealed details of classified FBI reports it gave to the judge to show the depth of cooperation known to have prompted security alerts on mass tran-

sit systems around New York City. But in court papers, they said Vinas “did 100 interviews, reviewed approximately 1,000 photographs and contributed to the opening and closing of more than 30 investigations.”

He also testified at the trial of one of three New York City men convicted in a foiled plot in 2009 to bomb the subways, and gave statements against French and Belgium defendants accused of going to Pakistan to join al-Qaida.

The government hasn’t recommended a sentence, but the defense has argued the cooperation came at great risk and should be rewarded with a term of time served.

“While Mr. Vinas cannot take back his mistakes, he has done everything in his power to make up for them, and as a result, he will spend the rest of his life with a target on his back,” his lawyers wrote in court papers.

Vina’s family declined through his lawyers to talk about him. But the court papers give some glimpses of his background — how his parents divorced at age 10, how he washed out of the Army after only a few weeks in 2002 and how he left the Catholic faith in favor of an extremist form of Islam in 2004.

After that, he “became increasingly angered by what he perceived to be the persecution of Muslims by Western countries,”

and decided to travel to North Waziristan in 2007 to retaliate, the papers say.

After agreeing to become a suicide bomber for a splinter jihadist group, he was introduced to al-Qaida operatives who had him train in explosives and heavy weapons. He has admitted to participating in two rocket attacks on U.S. forces.

The rare American-born recruit caught the attention of al-Qaida leaders who wanted to draw on his knowledge as a regular rider of the LIRR and the New York City subways, authorities said. In the summer of 2008, Vinas recommended placing a suitcase bomb that could explode on a moving train, preferably inside the tunnel where a number of train lines converge on Manhattan — a scheme that apparently was never set in motion.

More than eight years after his capture, his lawyers call Vinas “a complex individual now on the path to redemption,” with hopes of becoming a counterterrorism expert.

Prosecutors sound less hopeful, saying he still needs supervision, mental health treatment and vocational training.

Though he is no longer a terror threat, they wrote, it is difficult “to evaluate Vinas’ current mindset ... because he has become increasingly withdrawn and less willing to communicate.”

Brazilian boy’s survival of brain injury is Fatima ‘miracle’

FATIMA, Portugal (AP) — The parents of a Brazilian boy whose recovery from a severe brain injury is being cited by the Vatican as the “miracle” needed to canonize two Portuguese children broke their silence Thursday to share the story.

Joao Baptista and his wife, Lucila Yurie, appeared before reporters at the Catholic shrine in Fatima, Portugal on the eve of Pope Francis’ arrival. Francis will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the so-called Fatima visions of the Virgin Mary by canonizing the Portuguese children who experienced them.

The “miracle” required for the canonization concerns the case of little Lucas Baptista, whose story has to date been shrouded in secrecy.

His father said Thursday that his son, then 5 years old, fell 6.5 meters (21 feet) from a window at their home in Brazil in 2013 while playing with his infant sister, Eduarda.

The ambulance to the hospital took an hour, and when Lucas arrived he was in a coma and had suffered two heart attacks before undergoing

emergency surgery, Baptista said. Doctors diagnosed a severe traumatic brain injury and a “loss of brain material” from the frontal lobe.

Doctors said he had little chance of survival, and if he did live, would be severely mentally disabled or even in a vegetative state, he said.

Baptista said he and his wife, as well as Brazilian Carmelite nuns, prayed to the late shepherd children who said the Virgin Mary appeared to them in “visions” in 1917. Two of those children, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, will be made saints on Saturday. They will become the Catholic Church’s youngest-ever non-martyred saints.

Baptista, wearing a blue shirt and tie as he read out a statement at the Fatima shrine, with occasional pauses to compose himself, said doctors removed tubes from his son six days after the accident.

“He was fine when he woke up, lucid, and started talking, asking for his little sister,” Baptista said. Another six days after that, Lucas

was released from hospital.

“He’s completely fine ... with no after-effects. Lucas is just like he was before the accident,” his father said. “The doctors ... said they couldn’t explain his recovery.”

Journalists were not allowed to ask questions.

Sister Angela Coelho, the Portuguese postulator who led the project to canonize the shepherd children, said her office was informed of the Brazil story about three months after it happened. She said officials had to wait see whether the recovery was complete before presenting the case to the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The recovery must be medically inexplicable.

The Fatima basilica and the vast square in front of it, where some 1 million people are expected to attend the canonization Mass, were filling up with pilgrims Thursday as rain fell. Huge images of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, 11 meters (36 feet) long, were hung from the sides of the basilica.

N.C. NAACP leader of protest movement to step down

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Rev. William Barber, who led the state NAACP in blocking North Carolina’s attempts to limit voting rights and fiercely supported gay rights, said he’s stepping down as state chapter president and will focus on a poor people’s campaign like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was building when he was slain.

Barber gained prominence in launching “Moral Monday” protests in North Carolina this decade and trained others in more than 20 states in such peaceful civil disobedience. But he said Wednesday that after 12 years as an NAACP state leader, he wants to focus on the new campaign and “a national call for a moral revival.”

“We need a moral narrative because somewhere along the line we’ve gotten trapped in this left vs. right conversation,” said the 53-year-old NAACP leader in an interview via conference call.

Barber also leads a nonprofit called Repairers of the Breach and said that group, along with the Kairos Center, Union Theological Seminary and others will lead a movement that will concentrate on 25 states and the nation’s capital where voter suppression, poverty and other problems are prevalent. The groups plan major actions next summer, which would mark the 50th anniversary of the start of King’s campaign in 1968.

Barber said more details would be forthcoming at a news conference Monday.

Though Barber’s term officially ends in October, he said he would step down in June. He will remain on the NAACP’s national board of directors, whose chair, Leon Russell, said he’ll “continue to be a voice for

North Carolina, for the South and for issues he holds dear.”

Barber took the national stage in the literal sense last July, when he addressed the Democratic National Convention, saying then that the heart of the country’s democracy was on the line in the November elections. He called on voters to be “the moral defibrillator of our time” and to shock the nation with the power of love, mercy and the fight for justice.

Barber’s path to that stage began publicly when he was elected in 2005 to lead the state chapter of the NAACP, turning himself into a national leader fighting on progressive issues both on the streets and in the courts.

The minister of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, Barber founded a movement called “Moral Mondays” during which more than 1,000 people were arrested for civil disobedience at North Carolina’s Legislature, including Barber on several occasions. Typically, the protesters rallied outside the legislative building, then moved to the legislative building, singing and holding up signs. Police warned them to leave before arrests began.

The protests were part of the broader Forward Together movement led by the NAACP, which won several protracted battles over voter access in the state.

Under Barber’s leadership, the NAACP fought the North Carolina law known as House Bill 2, the “bathroom bill” limiting rights for gay and transgender people that drew a national outcry, business boycotts and was subsequently modified under a political compromise.

The NAACP chapter also



AP photo
IN THIS JULY 8, 2013, file photo, General Assembly police direct the Rev. William Barber, center, president of the N.C. chapter of the NAACP to step down during “Moral Monday” demonstrations at the General Assembly in Raleigh, N.C. Barber, who led the state NAACP as it successfully challenged North Carolina’s attempts to limit voting rights and took the organization deeper into support of gay rights, said Wednesday he won’t seek re-election as president of the state chapter.

opposed North Carolina’s constitutional ban on gay marriage, which passed in 2012.

It was clear that the same people who opposed gay rights also supported bills such as voter identification, Barber said. “We refused to allow the extremists to isolate our position,” he said.

The various causes are parts of Barber’s vision for a country where like-minded people work together and not against each other.

“We need a narrative shift that’s ... not just about the normal discussion of left vs. right and conservative vs. liberal, but really a reset of our deepest values,” he said. “Dr. King said in 1968 we needed a moral revolution of values, and we say we need a moral revival.”

German airport offers prayer booth featuring 300 various prayers in 65 different languages

BERLIN (AP) — Feeling nervous before your flight? Travelers at one German airport can now receive spiritual solace by entering a booth and listening to a prayer of their choice before boarding the plane.

The prayer booth at Stuttgart Airport’s Terminal 3 features 300 prayers from various religions in 65 different languages, airport spokesman Johannes Schumm said Friday.

“Often, passengers still have a bit of time before their departure at the gate,” Schumm added. “The prayer booth is an offer by the airport’s chaplains to provide a moment of contem-

plation.”

Designed by Berlin artist Oliver Sturm, the former photo booth offers a vast variety of prayers, including the Christian Lord’s Prayer, the Jewish Shema Israel and the Islamic muezzin’s call to prayer. The Hindu Hare Krishna chant, Tibetan monk chants, Buddhist sutras, prayers of Shamans from New Guinea or Mali, even American TV preachers are also available on the touch-screen display.

In addition to the big monotheistic faiths, polytheistic religions and animist beliefs are also included.

The ‘Gebetomat,’ which rough-

ly translates as ‘Pray-o-Matic,’ was first designed by Sturm in 2008. Its red cabin has a gray curtain and an adjustable swivel chair inside. The booth is free and will be available for three months at Stuttgart Airport’s boarding area next to Gate 310.

The artist, who could not immediately be reached for comment, writes on his home page that “all prayers are real prayers of believers, gathered in worship, prayer rooms, homes.”

Sturm has designed several prayer booths in recent years that have been installed at schools, universities and museums.



Contributed photo

CEDAR RIDGE Seventh-day Adventist Church will host Brenda Walsh at a vespers and book signing on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. She is a best-selling author of many books, including her life story, “Battered to Blessed.” Walsh produces and hosts the popular TV program, “Kids’ Time,” as well as hosting cooking programs. Together with her two sisters, she has authored six vegan cookbooks and recorded four gospel CDs. Light refreshments will be served. The church is located at 8408 Highway 60, Georgetown.

WWII vet receives wife’s love letter after 72 years

WESTFIELD, N.J. (AP) — A love letter lost in the walls of a New Jersey home reached a World War II veteran 72 years after it was written.

Melissa Fahy and her father found the letter in a gap under the stairs while renovating her Westfield home.

The letter, postmarked May 1945, was written by a woman named Virginia to her husband, Rolf Christoffersen. Her husband was a sailor at the time in the Norwegian Navy.

“I love you Rolf, as I love the warm sun,” Virginia Christoffersen wrote. “That is what you are to my life, the sun about which everything else

revolves for me.”

Fahy told WNBC-TV in New York that she could not believe the love and admiration Virginia had for her husband. “It was really sweet to see that long-distance love,” she said.

She decided to find the Christoffersens and deliver the letter, turning to a Facebook page for help. Facebook users located the couple’s son in California hours after Fahy’s post.

The son read the letter to his 96-year-old father. Virginia died six years ago this weekend.

“In a way, I guess it’s his wife coming back and making her memory alive again,” Fahy said.

Mormon church pulls teens out of Boy Scouts

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Mormon church, the largest sponsor of Boy Scouts troops in the United States, is pulling older teenagers from the organization as the religion takes a step toward developing its own global scouting-like program.

The Utah-based religion’s announcement Thursday means an estimated 130,000-180,000 teenagers ages 14-18 will no longer participate in Boy Scouts starting next year, a significant loss for the Boy Scouts

of America.

The Boy Scouts, with 2.3 million youth, has been grappling with declining membership in recent years and has enjoyed a close bond with the Mormons for more than a century.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said in a news release that it will keep some 280,000 younger boys in Boy Scouts while it continues to develop a scouting-type program that it could implement for members around the world.

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SHERIFF ERIC WATSON, center, announces the new "In God We Trust" decals for the BCSO's fleet of vehicles. Standing with Watson are some who have contributed to the purchase of the decals. From left are FBI retiree Harold Mize; Paul Davis, associate pastor of Westwood Baptist Church; Dr. Mark Williams, senior pastor of North Cleveland Church of God; Watson; Alecia and David Kramer, pastor and minister from the Church of God at Jerusalem Acres; and Evan Cockerham, senior pastor at Living Word Church.

Banner photo, BRIAN GRAVES

Patrol cars

From Page 1

ment department's display of the national motto, 'In God We Trust,' on its patrol vehicles is permissible under the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution."

"There is an unbroken history of official acknowledgment by all three branches of government of the role of religion in American life from at least 1789," the attorney general's ruling stated.

"A law enforcement department's decision to display the national motto

on its vehicles is consistent with that history," Paxton wrote. "Thus, a court is likely to conclude that a law enforcement department's display of 'In God We Trust' on its patrol vehicles is permissible under the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution."

In essence, the Texas AG said the decals do not coerce individuals into participation or approval of the message.

Watson emphasized the decals are not being purchased with taxpayers' money,

and instead are being funded by donors "who have made a contribution for the specific purpose of buying these decals for the agency's vehicles."

Joining Watson for the announcement were FBI retiree Harold Mize; Paul Davis, associate pastor of Westwood Baptist Church; Dr. Mark Williams, senior pastor of North Cleveland Church of God; David and Alecia Kramer, pastor and minister from the Church of God at Jerusalem Acres; and Evan Cockerham, senior pastor at Living Word Church. All

of Thursday's participants said it was a project they very much wanted to be involved in.

"We believe what that motto says, and we want to support that," said David Kramer.

"We look at this as an investment back into our community from the standpoint of doing good," Davis said. "We want to make sure our community is constantly aware who it is we trust. We have a great sheriff, chief of police and mayor, but our ultimate trust is in

God who oversees our community and has kept us safe and fruitful throughout the years."

"I think being able to brand this national motto on our cars is just a silent affirmation of that which is already on our coins — that we trust in God," Williams said. "It is also a silent reminder to those who drive those cars that we are praying for them. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to participate as so many other counties have done."

Budget

From Page 1

nel. Because all staff are getting 2 percent raises this year, in addition to their regular step raises, each of those educational program totals saw modest increases over last year.

This coming year's budget also includes \$1,285,118 in capital outlay spending, which will cover payments for an ongoing series of energy-related improvements, roofing repairs, computers and various projects at individual schools.

This fiscal year's capital outlay budget was almost \$1 million higher, totaling \$2,130,230. However, the current budget includes something the new budget will not — a \$1 million allocation toward the construction of Lake Forest Middle School's

new building.

The funding responsibility for the new building has, since last budget season, been

"We feel good about where we are now with the schedule. Walls are starting to go up now, and we're planning to start on the second level this summer. ... We'll be looking at roofing by the end of the summer."

— Cason Conn

handed off to the Bradley County Commission, which agreed to borrow funds on the school system's behalf.

The new two-story academic building, estimated to cost \$17.1 million when all is said and done, is now under construction.

During Thursday's board meeting, Douglas Caywood of Lewis Group Architect and Cason Conn of Tri-Con Inc., the project manager, gave brief updates on the progress of the new building.

Caywood detailed how he and his colleagues have been sifting through some 45 product submittals and shop drawings to finalize plans for the building's interiors. Conn said the construction of the building itself is on schedule, despite springtime rain delays.

"We feel good about where we are now with the schedule," Conn said. "Walls are starting to go up now, and we're planning to start on the second level this summer. ... We'll be looking at roofing by the end of the summer."

Letter

From Page 1

to Cleveland's USPS facility on Keith Street, where it will be distributed to local food agencies.

Those involved in the drive stress that no food in glass containers should be donated, for safety purposes.

The Letter Carriers' food drive is held annually on the second Saturday in May, in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. It remains as important as ever, with many people facing economic struggles. Hunger affects about 50 million people around the country, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans.

Letter carriers see these struggles in the communities they serve, and believe it's important to do what they can to help.

"It's an honor to be able to help people in need by leading an effort that brings out the best in so many Americans," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "All of our food drives have been special. The fact that this year marks the 25th anniversary makes this one a bit more special."

Locally, postal workers also see the need for helping the community's food programs.

"We are grateful to the citizens of Cleveland and Bradley County, our city and rural carriers, clerks and management, for getting behind this important drive. We appreciate everyone so much."

— Penelope Brown

"We appreciate all who donated food to the drive, and the volunteers who showed up at the post office helping us divide the food up for these churches," local NALC Chapter 1995 Penelope Brown said following last year's drive. "You help us all make a difference in the lives of many people who need assistance," Brown said.

In 2016, she said that 29,970 pounds of food was donated.

"We are grateful to the citizens of Cleveland and Bradley County, our city and rural carriers, clerks and management, for getting behind this important drive," she said. "We appreciate everyone so much."

The timing is important, with food banks, pantries and shelters running low on dona-

tions from the winter-holidays and with summer looming, when most school meal programs are suspended.

Last year, letter carriers collected a record 80.1 million pounds of food donations along their postal routes. That brought the total since the NALC's food drive began in 1993 to 1.5 billion pounds.

On May 13, as they deliver mail, the nation's 175,000 mail carriers will collect the donations that residents leave near their mailboxes. People are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag (paper or plastic) containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meats and fish, pasta, rice or cereal next to their mailbox before the regular mail delivery on Saturday.

Several national partners are assisting the NALC in the food drive: the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, United Way Worldwide, the AARP Foundation, the AFL-CIO, Valpak and Valassis.

Those agencies and churches come to the post office where the food is distributed to pick up items for their pantries. Last year, each entity received between 1,500 and 2,000 pounds of food.

While it is an extra task for the letter carriers to pick up the food at residents' mailboxes, the USPS workers do not mind, as they know they are helping those in need in the community.



Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY

BRADLEY COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE is conducting its annual "Fill the Boot" campaign to help collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Brooke, left, and Rachel Wooten put their donations in the boots at the South Walmart, where the BCFR firefighters will be again today and Saturday. Accepting the donations are Firefighter Brandon West, left, and Engineer Robert Cross.

Local firefighters seeking donations in 'Fill the Boot' campaign for MDA

By **ALLEN MINCEY**
allen.mincey@clevelandbanner.com

If you notice local firefighters at the two area Walmarts or in Charleston holding out boots and asking for donations, they are doing so to help the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Bradley County Fire-Rescue is showing its support for MDA again this year as its employees are staging their annual "Fill the Boot" fundraising campaign to help kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases live longer and grow stronger.

Over 65 dedicated BCFR firefighters began the "Fill the Boot" campaign on Thursday, and it will continue through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the Walmart on McGrady Drive, the Walmart on Paul Huff Parkway and at Station 9 off Highway 11 in Charleston.

In the past, firefighters have been stationed at intersections in Cleveland and Charleston, but for safety purposes, are now stationed at the two Walmarts and at the Charleston fire station.

"We are thrilled to be working with the Bradley County Fire-Rescue for another year of 'Fill the Boot' to help provide the funds needed to find treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases that severely limit strength and mobility," said MDA Director of Business Development Whitney Bolinger. "The dedication of these firefighters to MDA's mission is unwavering, spending countless hours with the 'Fill the Boot' campaign. We know that their devotion to our families will

make this year's drive a success."

Funds raised through Bradley County's "Fill the Boot" events in 2017 empower families who inspire everyday Americans to help kids and adults with Muscular dystrophy and related muscle-debilitating diseases live longer and grow stronger, displaying how these individuals all can truly live unlimited no matter what limits they may face," Bolinger said.

"We are thrilled to be working with the Bradley County Fire-Rescue for another year of 'Fill the Boot' to help provide the funds needed to find treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases that severely limit strength and mobility. The dedication of these firefighters to MDA's mission is unwavering, spending countless hours with the 'Fill the Boot' campaign. We know that their devotion to our families will make this year's drive a success."

— Whitney Bolinger

Contributions also help fund groundbreaking research and life-enhancing programs such as state-of-the-art support groups and Care Centers, including the MDA Care Center at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. They also help send more than 80 local kids to "the best week of the year" at MDA summer camp at Camp Widjwagan — all at no cost to their families.

As MDA's largest national partner, the International Association of Fire Fighters fuels MDA's mission to find research breakthroughs across diseases; care for kids and adults from day one; and provide families with services and support.

IAFF support for MDA began in 1954 when the organization committed by proclamation to support MDA until a cure is found, and the organization's unwavering commitment to MDA has remained strong to this day. The IAFF raised \$100,000 for MDA in 1955, and \$1 million in 1970, and fire fighters continue to raise the bar in their fundraising efforts.

The IAFF represents more than 300,000 professional fire fighters and paramedics who protect 85 percent of the nation's population. More than 3,200 affiliates and their members protect communities in every state in the United States and in Canada.

MDA is leading the fight to free individuals — and the families who love them — from the harm of muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases that take away physical strength, independence and life. MDA uses its collective strength to help kids and adults live longer and grow stronger by finding research breakthroughs across diseases; caring for individuals from day one; and empowering families with services and support in hometowns across America.

To learn how you can fund cures, find care and champion the cause, visit www.mda.org.

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Banner photo, CHRISTY ARMSTRONG

YOUNG ARCHERS from Black Fox Elementary School show off their shooting stances during a recent practice. The team is now vying for a national title by competing in the National Archery in Schools Program 2017 Nationals in Kentucky.



Banner photo, CHRISTY ARMSTRONG

THE BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS middle school archery team gathered for a recent photo. Joining the students is coach Wendy Canida (back row, center). Though in their first year as a team, these students are now competing in the National Archery in Schools Program 2017 Nationals in Kentucky.

School archery teams to compete in nationals

By **CHRISTY ARMSTRONG**
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Two school archery teams in Bradley County are competing on the national level this weekend, and one of the teams was started only this year.

The archery program Black Fox Elementary School launched during the 2015-16 school year has this school year led to the creation of the Bradley County Schools archery team, which is open to middle school students.

“This is the very first Bradley County Schools team — and the very first secondary school team locally,” said Dr. Kim Fisher, Black Fox Elementary’s principal. “We’re very proud of all these students.”

The Black Fox Elementary team and the Bradley County Schools archery team both placed in the Tennessee State National Archery in Schools Program Tournament, which took place in Murfreesboro in late March. This gave them the chance to compete nationally.

This Thursday through Saturday, the students are competing in the 2017 NASP Nationals taking place in Louisville, Ky.

For months, the fourth- and fifth-grade elementary students and the middle school students have been gathering after school to practice their archery skills.

Using compound Genesis bows, the students take aim while putting their skills of concentration to work. There is also an emphasis on safety, as the students know to wait for special cues before letting the aluminum arrows fly.

Coaches lead the students through the “11 Steps to Archery Success” outlined by the NASP. These include instructions like “aim,” “release” and “follow through and reflect.”

Last year’s Black Fox team was the first of its kind in Cleveland or Bradley County. Many of the students explored the sport of archery for the first time at school, and many said they were thrilled to have the opportunity to become archers.

“It’s really, really fun,” then-fourth-grader Steven Wallace said. “I like it so much I really want to continue doing it for a long time.”

While the team did give students something new to do, coaches Darryl Canida and Naomi Dycus also began noticing a difference in how the students acted outside the prac-



Banner photo, CHRISTY ARMSTRONG

BLACK FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL’S current archery team is shown in this photo. For the second year in a row, a team of archers from Black Fox is representing the school at the National Archery in Schools Program Nationals.

Canida said the “aim,” “release” and “follow through and reflect” skills learned in archery teach students the self-discipline they need to be successful in the classroom.

Archery also became a confidence builder for some students that first year, because they found they could practice their skills and immediately see results.

“These kids lit up when they came in to practice for the first time,” Dycus said then. “You could see their self-confidence rise as they began to master this new skill.”

“This is the very first Bradley County Schools team — and the very first secondary school team locally. We’re very proud of all these students.”
— Dr. Kim Fisher

The coaches recently said they have witnessed this again as a new crop of grade 4-5 students joined the team — and as they helped launch the new middle school team. They knew they wanted to see more local students taking part in archery, and giving Black Fox alumni a way to continue in middle school was the natural next step.

The new Bradley County Schools team consists of students from the two county middle schools — Ocoee and Lake Forest — and Black Fox alumni attending another school.

That team, coached by Wendy Canida and David Fisher, is also reportedly gain-

ing popularity. “The great thing about this is they get the camaraderie of a team, but it is an individual way for them to show off their talents,” said Wendy Canida.

And show off their talents they have. In its first state tournament, the Bradley County Schools team placed eighth among all the middle school teams in Tennessee. Their coach said this is “great, for a first-year team.”

The Black Fox Elementary team also went into nationals after having performed well on the state level. This year, Black Fox’s team placed fourth among the elementary school teams in the state tournament.

“We’re all very excited to see how these teams will do at nationals this year,” Dycus said. “No matter how they do, we’re excited for them. They’ve all been working hard and, I think, having fun in the process.”

Though this year’s archery teams are in the middle of competition, plans are also in the works for next year’s teams.

Coaches say plans for the future include working with the two Bradley County high schools to form at least one high school team. It is also hoped that more elementary schools will begin to embrace archery.

Those interested in participating in archery at Black Fox or on the middle or high school levels can contact Darryl Canida at dcanida@bradleyschools.org or Dycus at ndycus@bradleyschools.org.

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68	72	78	81	76	72	67
44	50	56	60	60	52	

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United flight delayed after scorpion reported aboard

HOUSTON (AP) — A United flight from Houston to Ecuador was delayed after a scorpion was spotted aboard.

United says Flight 1035 returned to the gate Thursday night after a scorpion “reportedly emerged from a customer’s clothing.” Paramedics examined the man and determined that he hadn’t been stung. It’s unclear whether a scorpion was found.

United says it found a new aircraft for the flight and all passengers were given a meal voucher for the inconvenience.

The flight eventually got underway 3½ hours late.

Another man was stung by a scorpion on a United flight from Houston to Calgary, Alberta, last month.

United has been under fire since a passenger was violently dragged off an overbooked flight by aviation police in Chicago on April 9.

Boy, 4, fatally hit by van after leaving Florida motel room

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The Florida Highway Patrol says a 4-year-old boy with special needs was fatally struck by a car after he left his parents’ motel room and wandered onto a nearby road.

Sgt. Kim Montes said in a news release a 56-year-old man was driving just after 2 a.m. Friday when he struck something along the dark road. He stopped and found the child dead.

The boy was wearing mismatched shoes and a T-shirt. Montes says troopers followed small footprints in the dirt to a nearby Extended Stay America motel. They noticed a side door cracked open and went inside, finding a motel room door that was not completely shut.

Troopers awakened the parents, who said the boy had special needs and they weren’t aware he had left.

Restaurant gets angry response after serving horse meat

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A Pittsburgh restaurant is causing a stir after serving horse meat.

KDKA-TV reports (http://cbsloc.al/2r251Kr) that Cure Restaurant hosted a special dinner with Canadian chefs

Monday. The Quebecois-themed fare included horse tartare.

Horse welfare advocate Joy Braunstein says she was outraged to hear that horse was served. Braunstein says that there are no American slaughter plants that

handle horses. She says that horses are given medication that is toxic to humans if ingested.

Cure chef and co-owner Justin Severino released a statement explaining that the meat was sourced from a sustainable horse

farm in Canada. Severino says that the dish is not part of the regular menu.

Horse is served in Canada and other countries.

Braunstein has started an online petition to ban horse meat

from being served in Pennsylvania restaurants.

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Lee photo

LEE FRESHMAN pitcher Taylor Moran dazzled in relief to key a 7-4 win over The University of Alabama in Huntsville, on Thursday afternoon in Saint Leo, Fla. Moran set down 12 straight to cap off the first NCAA Region win in Lady Flames history. Moran is 12-5 in the circle this season with a 1.32 ERA, and has smacked seven home runs to go along with a .273 batting average.

Lady Flames notch first Regional win

From Lee Sports Information

SAINT LEO, Fla. — The Lee University softball team made history on Thursday afternoon as it won the first NCAA Regional Playoff contest in program history.

The Lady Flames captured a 7-4 win over No. 17 and third-seeded Alabama-Huntsville.

Lee advanced to face another GSC foe in North Alabama at noon today, as the double-elimination NCAA South Region 2 bracket continues.

The Lions won their first game 10-4 with a six-run eighth inning over host Saint Leo.

In their victory, the Lady

Flames used a four-run fourth inning to turn a 4-3 deficit into a three-run advantage.

Annabeth Pruett got things going in the big four-run inning as she laced a two-run double to left field.

Sophomore Stevie Baird followed with a perfectly executed squeeze bunt to score Pruett and give Lee a 6-4 advantage. The final run of the inning came home on a wild pitch.

With the three-run cushion freshman Taylor Moran (12-5) took control in the circle and showcased why she was an All-GSC Second Team selection and

See **REGIONAL**, Page 13

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Sports

FRIDAY,
MAY 12,
2017

Raiders repeat as 5-AAA champs

By **PATRICK MacCOON**
patrick.maccoon@clevelandbanner.com

Cleveland celebrated as one on its home field soon after the state's third-ranked program repeated as District 5-AAA soccer champions.

While the combination of Casey Beck and Dillon Alexander made for the lone goal in a hard-fought victory over Ooltewah, the undefeated Blue Raiders' collective effort had a big impact in obtaining a new piece of hardware Thursday night.

"The team chemistry has been absolutely

fantastic all season," said CHS head coach John Brose. "Even the guys who didn't hit the field tonight were cheering their hearts out, and have worked hard in practice all year. It was a full 24-man effort for us."

Before the season began, only four varsity players returned with significant minutes.

Now, an 18-0-2 overall record will be put to the test against Warren County at the greater Cleveland soccer complex in the Region 3-AAA semifinals Tuesday at 7 p.m.

"We definitely thought we could make it this far, but I didn't think we would be undefeated, necessarily, at this point," the

11th-year head coach said. "Hats off to our kids for buying into our vision."

"With so many new faces this year, it is just remarkable to see how far we have come and what we have accomplished at this point. Hopefully we can keep it going next week."

A Cleveland goal by Will Estes was called back four minutes into play as his kick made contact with a teammate's hand. An offensive stalemate ensued over the first 40 minutes.

See **CHAMPS**, Page 13



Banner photo, PATRICK MacCOON

CLEVELAND SENIOR captain Dillon Alexander (14) holds the District 5-AAA championship plaque high to the sky after a 1-0 win against Ooltewah, at the greater Cleveland soccer complex Thursday night. Alexander's score in the 53rd minute was his sixth goal of the season for the Blue Raiders, who will host Warren County in the region tournament Tuesday.

Local pipeline to UTC continues

Landers inks with Mocs

By **PATRICK MacCOON**
patrick.maccoon@clevelandbanner.com

Athletes who love their chosen sports and compete with their hearts on their sleeves, or perhaps singlets, live for the "championship" moment.

As one of the most decorated wrestlers in Cleveland High history, 146-win and 132-pound state champion Colton Landers pinned down his college decision to wrestle with his hometown favorite.

Remaining a part of the extended Cleveland family, Landers will wrestle for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and former Blue Raider head coach Heath Eslinger.

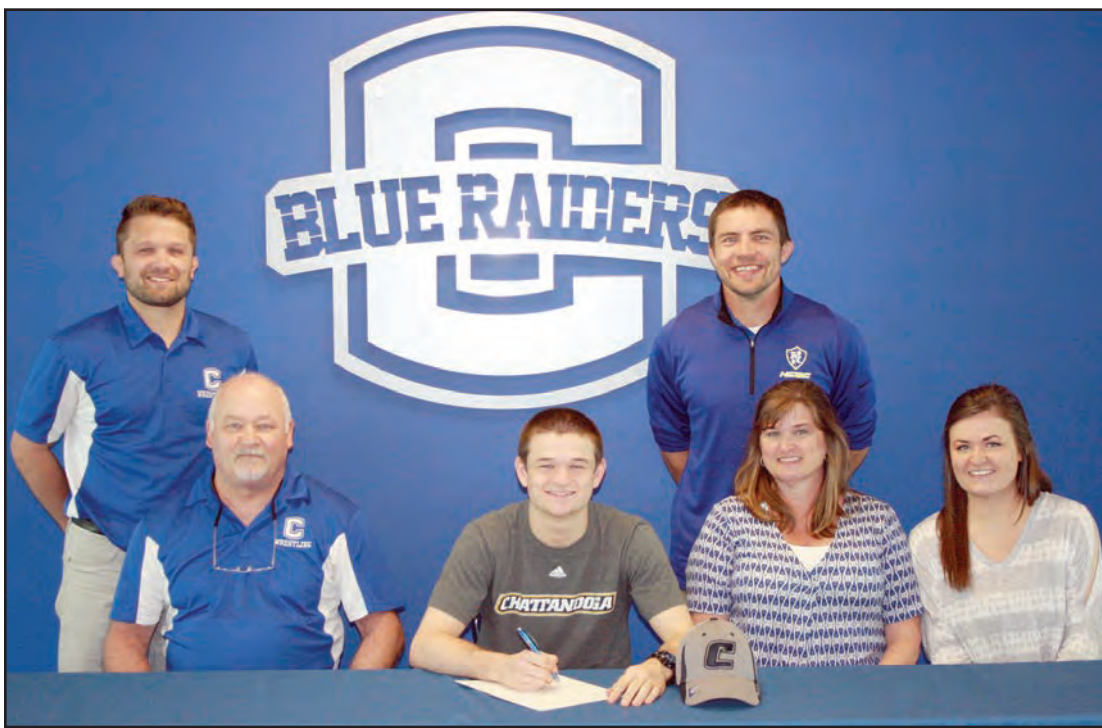
"I have always been around UTC, so I have always wanted to go there," Landers said. "I have grown up watching them wrestle on the Division I level, and I pretty much know everybody there."

"I have always gone to their tournaments and camps. I am excited to be a part of another great program."

With a 42-2 overall record (29 pins) in his senior season, a "Best Wrestler" and five wins against defending state champions, Landers proved his worth in gold for a dynamic Cleveland squad.

"He really led the way for the underclassmen and showed them being a state champion is possible,"

See **LANDERS**, Page 13



Banner photo, PATRICK MacCOON

COLTON LANDERS signed to wrestle with Division-I powerhouse University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tuesday afternoon at Cleveland High School. Landers was the state's Class AAA champion at 132 pounds in February. Front row, from left, are Bobby Landers, Colton Landers, Debi Landers and Bradlee Landers. In back are CHS head wrestling coach Josh Bosken and CHS assistant Joey Knox.

Sowder leaves leadership legacy

By **PATRICK MacCOON**
patrick.maccoon@clevelandbanner.com

Natural leadership ability and the strength to live in the strike zone has helped Dani Sowder leave her mark with the Walker Valley softball program.

The right-handed pitcher not only walked an average of 0.35 batters per seven innings, but also picked up half of her career wins this season.

Sowder, who will play collegiately at Hiwassee College in

the Division III level, finished her final prep campaign with a 10-5 record and a 3.28 ERA (81 IP, 33 K, 4 BB) to help a 22-win season.

"Dani really did a great job on the mound for us," WVHS head coach Lauren Limburg said. "Her pitches move really well and she has a great curveball. We are so proud of her and are really going to miss her next year."

With seven different hitters in

the Lady Mustangs' starting lineup at times this season either being freshman or sophomores, not to mention a rookie ace in Natalie Pruitt on the mound, Sowder was one of three seniors to help lead the way.

Whether leading energetic and on-beat bucket chants in the dugout or communicating the situation from her defense from the rubber, Sowder's voice was hard to miss.

See **SOWDER** Page 13

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Sowder

From Page 11

The ability to lead vocally was something the senior captain learned at a very young age while playing baseball.

"At a very young age my mom taught me it is not always about how great of an athlete you are, but about what kind of leader you can be," Sowder said. "Teammates can help one another get better, and I always try to help anyway I can."

Through her four-year career with Walker Valley, Sowder was responsible for 20 of the powerful program's 96 wins.

She also was a part of two teams that appeared in District 5-AAA championship contests and won a region playoff game against Rhea County.

Sowder's favorite memories on the mound were a win in a Gulf Shores tournament where her shortstop made a diving catch to turn a double play to help win a ballgame and a run-rule defeat of Rhea County in the preseason.

This past postseason, she threw three shutout frames against Soddy-Daisy in relief

duties.

"Dani was just such a great leader for our team and stepped up in several ways in her team captain spot," Limburg said. "She has been a great teammate for our younger girls and they really looked up to her. She always kept everyone mentally in the game."

Sowder's future with the Hiwassee College is one she is very thankful for, and she hopes to have a lasting impact on the program as well.

The Lady Tigers, who are

coached by Ethan Carroll, notched the program's first ever back-to-back double-digit win seasons.

"To play college softball is just the complete dream," Sowder said. "I am excited to play close to home to where my family can easily come to games. I want to spread leadership in college and help the pitching staff in any way."

She believes the future is as bright as ever for her younger Lady Mustang teammates, who made up the youngest team in District 5-AAA.

"They are going to be very special," she said. "The energy level and excitement the program has is awesome. I was glad to be a part of such a great program and I will always be a Lady Mustang."

Regional

From Page 11

the league's ERA leader (1.32).

Moran sat down the last 12 batters of the high-powered Chargers offense in order. She allowed just one unearned run and three hits over 5 1/3 innings of relief.

Leigh Beatenbough started but the Chargers got to the junior early as Ashely Cornell hit a solo home run in the first inning and Brooke Miller belted a two-run blast in the second. Miller finished with two hits while Emily Glover also added two hits.

For the second straight game leadoff hitter Baird got things going early for Lee as she ripped a double to left to open things up. She would come around to score on a base hit by Abby McKinney.

"I'm proud of the team and their effort today. They had to overcome some obstacles today but we worked through them," said head coach Emily Russell after the game.

"Taylor came in and pitched well and AB (Annabeth Pruett) had a huge hit that really made a big impact in the game. The girls as a whole hit well today and that was good to see."

All totaled the Lee offense pounded out 13 hits as Baird, Beatenbough, Moran, Courtney Crawford, and Kayla Louie each had two hits.

Tyler Harrison (20-8) got the start for UAH and suffered the loss. Harrison lasted 3 1/3 innings and yielded seven runs on 12 hits. Glover came on and pitched 3 2/3 scoreless innings.

Canada rookie tied for lead at Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Mackenzie Hughes arrived at the TPC Sawgrass with no scar tissue and played his first round at The Players Championship with no bogeys.

Pretty simple, eh? The Canadian rookie shook his head and laughed. Even after going bogey-free in his debut Thursday for a 5-under 67 to share the lead with William McGirt, Hughes saw enough of the Players Stadium Course to realize that surprises lurk around every corner.

"There's just not really a moment where you can let up," Hughes said.

No need explaining that to Adam Scott, who won The Players in 2004 and was off to a strong start on a steamy afternoon when he was 6 under and heading to the infamous par-3 17th with its island green.

First, he watched Masters champion Sergio Garcia hit a gap

wedge that took one big hop, land just behind the cup and disappear for a hole-in-one. Scott followed by spinning a shot off the bank and into the water for a double bogey, and he compounded that with another double bogey.

"I played some good golf out there and unfortunately not on the last two," Scott said after settling for a 70. "It happens."

At least he had company. Dustin Johnson's first wedge

of the way hit the pin, caromed off the green and led to bogey. On a day when nothing seemed to go his way, the world's No. 1 player opened with a 71. Rory McIlroy went to tap in from 2 feet and missed it, and then had to make one twice that long for his double bogey on the 10th hole. He shot 73.

Through it all, Hughes was rock solid. Only twice did he have par putts longer than 3 feet, and he made them both.



Banner photo, PATRICK MacCOON

WALKER VALLEY'S Dani Sowder will continue her softball career at Hiwassee College this upcoming fall after a stellar prep career. Front row, from left, are Austin Sowder, Dani Sowder, Toye Sowder and Sammy Sowder. In back are WVHS Principal Nat Akiona, WVHS softball head coach Lauren Limburg, Hiwassee College softball head coach Ethan Carroll, WVHS softball assistant coach April Richards and WVHS athletic director Mike Turner.

Champs

From Page 11

Both goalkeepers made tremendous saves, as second-team All-District selection Braxton Wiggins leapt high to punch over the goal a shot headed for the upper right hand corner in the 29th minute.

After district MVP Tommy Marino (18 goals, 10 assists) drew a penalty kick in the 36th minute, a fast-flying shot from the league's leading scorer in Jordan Lopez (22 goals) was denied with a diving deflection by the Owls keeper to his left.

A halftime scoreless affair seemed as if it could go anyone's way, as both sides matched each other's physicality.

In the 53rd minute came the decisive play of the night and of the season for the Blue Raiders.

On a free kick in front of the CHS bench, Beck elevated a 40-yarder into the penalty box where Alexander did his magic.

The senior defensive captain and first-team All-District selection skied high over a defender and the goalkeeper less than 10 yards from the goal, and used the left side of his head to find the back left of the goal.

"Communication is the key, and Casey is an amazing talent," said the versatile

Alexander, who also starred on defense. "We were on the same page and I just tried to time it right and head it with some power into the back net."

Alexander has scored five of his six goals this season off headers, which have been assisted by Beck, who is tied for the team lead with 10 assists.

"I didn't think it was one of my best kicks, but Dillon is so good in the air and managed to get a head on it," said the sophomore midfielder and first team All-District selection. "I'll definitely take it because he was able to score the winning goal."

Cleveland finished off its 16th consecutive win over a district opponent by denying several close attempts by Ooltewah in the final 10 minutes.

River Shaffer played the entire game, as the senior provided strong backline defensive support along with fellow upperclassmen and second-team All-District selection Toren Beck.

Marino missed a chance to put the Blue Raiders ahead by a pair of goals in the last five minutes as his follow up shot banged off the left post.

Anxiousness filled a challenging tournament, as the Blue

Raiders also won a 1-0 semifinals match against East Hamilton.

"Winning by two or three goals would have been easier on my heart, and my hair wouldn't be turning gray as quickly, but it is sweet nonetheless," Brose said with a laugh. "The best things in life are the things you have to work really hard for. I think it makes it sweeter at the end of the day we had to fight for this championship."

With the money belt in hand, an award given to Cleveland's Player of the Game after each win or tie this season, Yvan Salinas awarded the honors to Coach Brose.

Cleveland has now won six district championships under its long-tenured head coach's guidance.

"We knew it would be difficult to break Ooltewah down because they are very well coached and their keeper made some incredible saves," Brose said. "We talked at halftime about how somebody is going to have to get big and put it in the back of the net, and Dillon was able to do that for us."

Soon after the final whistle was blown, the lone scorer of the night raised the Blue

Raiders' newest trophy piece and gave thanks.

"It is not about me, it is all God's doing," Alexander said. "We are out here doing our best, but you just have to look up and give thanks to who is in charge of all things."

DISTRICT AWARDS & HONORS
 District Defensive MVP: Skyler Swafford (WV)
 District Midfield MVP: Sam Gibson (WV)
 District Offensive MVP: Tommy Marino (CHS)
All-District First Team:
 Dillon Alexander, Jordan Lopez, Casey Beck (CHS); David Camacho-Ordaz, Alex Cresswell, Samuel McDonald (WV); Caleb Lee (Bradley Central); Nurija Beganovic, Roberto Baza (Ooltewah); Gabe Waters, Ramiro Casas (East Hamilton); Gavin Gilreath (Soddy-Daisy); Caleb Underdown (McMinn County).
All-District Second Team:
 Braxton Wiggins, Toren Beck (CHS); Kevin Lopez, Adrian Franco (WV); Vincent Vaughan (Bradley Central); Stephen Turman (Ooltewah); Chandler White (East Hamilton); Balke Milliken (Soddy-Daisy); Abel Crisostomo (McMinn County).

Landers

From Page 11

said CHS head coach Josh Bosken, whose team featured 11 underclassmen in the starting lineup this past season.

"It is definitely comforting knowing Colton's going to wrestle for a guy like Heath. He's going to be shown the right way to live. The most important thing is he is surrounded by good people, because wrestling only lasts so long."

With a strong pursuit of his ultimate goal, the prideful and technical brawler came away with three pin falls in a total time of 8:38, majored 11-0 and completed his state champion march with a 9-4 decision.

After holding off his opponent, Ryan McElhaney, in the Class AAA state title "Bradley County special," Landers reflected back on the closing moment he had sacrificed blood and sweat for since taking the varsity mats as a freshman.

"When I was getting my hand raised by the official, I looked up to the stands and everyone was running down the stairs to congratulate me," said Landers, who soon after embraced his father

and coaches with a hug after running off the mat. "It's a moment I will never forget."

As just one of three seniors in Cleveland's 14-man lineup this past season, Landers believes the future for the Blue Raiders' may be as bright as ever for a group that had a 222-86 point advantage over Soddy-Daisy, Father Ryan, Baylor, Wilson Central and Science Hill this past season.

"For our future senior wrestlers, I hope to see them take the leadership role on, and give it their all," Landers said. "If they can step in and fearlessly lead, then I believe they will have no problem with winning a lot of hardware."

Landers became the 24th individual state champion wrestler for CHS in program history dating back to 1966. He also is a three-time state medalist, as he was a runner-up at 126 as a sophomore and 132 as a junior.

As a state-ranked freshman he also helped the Raiders land their second straight duals and traditional championship sweep in 2014 and led the program to a "three-peat" in 2015 as he made

the leap from 106 to 126.

Through his love and commitment for the sport, Landers believes his life has been significantly and positively affected by his wrestling career.

"There is a saying that once you have wrestled, everything else in life is easy," he said. "I learned how to overcome tough obstacles through it in high school and would not have done it any other way."

Landers is excited to pursue a degree in engineering at UTC, where he will also train again with former teammate Chris Debien, who competed at the national championship for the Mocs this past year.

He and Debien, who will be a junior, both expect to wrestle at 133. A fellow local standout in three-time state champion TJ Hicks also signed to wrestle with UTC, in March.

"I have to work harder, be smarter and manage my weight even better over the next few years," he said. "I can't wait to wrestle for a powerhouse program in the Southern Conference," Landers said.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Sydney Ventura

Congratulations to Walker Valley's Sydney Ventura for being named the Check Into Cash Player of the Week.

The senior center fielder for the Lady Mustangs batted .300 this season and finished with 30 hits and 30 runs scored. She was a part of 96 wins in four varsity seasons with Walker Valley.

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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

Viewpoint

Some bold predictions for Mother's Day 2037

Whether it's a matter of hardwired instincts or dutifully handed-down rituals, we can all nod our heads and acknowledge that there are certain statements or behaviors that are typical of almost all mothers.

Even in another 20 years, Mother's Day will still bring to mind universally recognized traditions. But technology, economic conditions and social mores will bring subtle variations in the way mothers express themselves.

Some mothers will take disciplinary matters into their own hands, but others will continue to punt to their husbands. ("You're really in trouble, young man. Just wait until your father reconnects to the Matrix!")

Sometimes authorities even more fearsome than Dad will be invoked. ("As long as you're living under my roof, you'll obey the rules of the One World globalist government.")

Children's caterwauling expressions of fear, anger and disappointment may be dealt with a little differently in the geopolitical world of

2037. ("Stop your crying right now or I'll give you something to catch your tears in so we can re-process them and maybe survive this water crisis.")

As consumers continue to copy the daring fashions of Golden Globe nominees, it will be reflected in parent-child confrontations. ("You're not leaving this house wearing that ... young lady. I need it to tie up the sandwich bread bag.")

Moms will still be proud of their offspring, but regulatory overkill will make it harder to show it. ("I'd love to put your Crayola crayon drawing on the refrigerator door, but the mandatory government sugar and sodium warnings take up all the room.")

Advances in cosmetology may also change the nature of keepsakes. ("No, I didn't have your baby shoes bronzed, but I did have my stretch marks bronzed.")

Moms will still embarrass their kids in front of their friends. ("You're going to see 'Fast & Furious 24'? Is that about David's first two dozen diapers?")

Piles of dirty laundry and dirty dishes will still be something for mothers to deal with. ("Clean your room! This place looks like a plant-based, laboratory-grown meat substitute lives here!")

Issues of an aging population will not go away. ("You're the oldest and should know better — and should also appear before the Death Panel first and make room for the younger ones.")

Elon Musk and other space-travel proponents will give little white lies a fresh twist. ("You can't find Spot the dog? Oh, he has just gone to Mars to frolic. Rabies and tire tread marks are actually an advantage up there.")

Science will also render some parental concerns less monumental. ("Don't put that in your mouth! You don't know where it has been! What? Thanks to Google Earth and geocaching apps you do know where it has been? Carry on.")

Mothers will continue to lose sleep over the well-being of their traveling kids; but if the current trend toward mayhem continues, stereotypical phrases will take on a more macabre tone. ("Be sure to suicide-bomb as soon as you get there. Just so I'll know you arrived safely.")

Yes, two decades from now, mothers will still say puzzling, hypocritical and aggravating things. They will also still love us and will still utter sweet observations like, "Remember, you'll always be my baby. Or the clone of my baby. Or the brain of my baby's clone transferred into an immortal robot body. Or something like that. Somebody kiss my brain and make it feel better!"

(About the writer: Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page, "Tyree's Tyrades." His weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate. © 2017 Danny Tyree. Opinions expressed in guest "Viewpoints" do not necessarily reflect the views of the Cleveland Daily Banner.)

Today in History

(AP) — Today is Friday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2017. There are 233 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

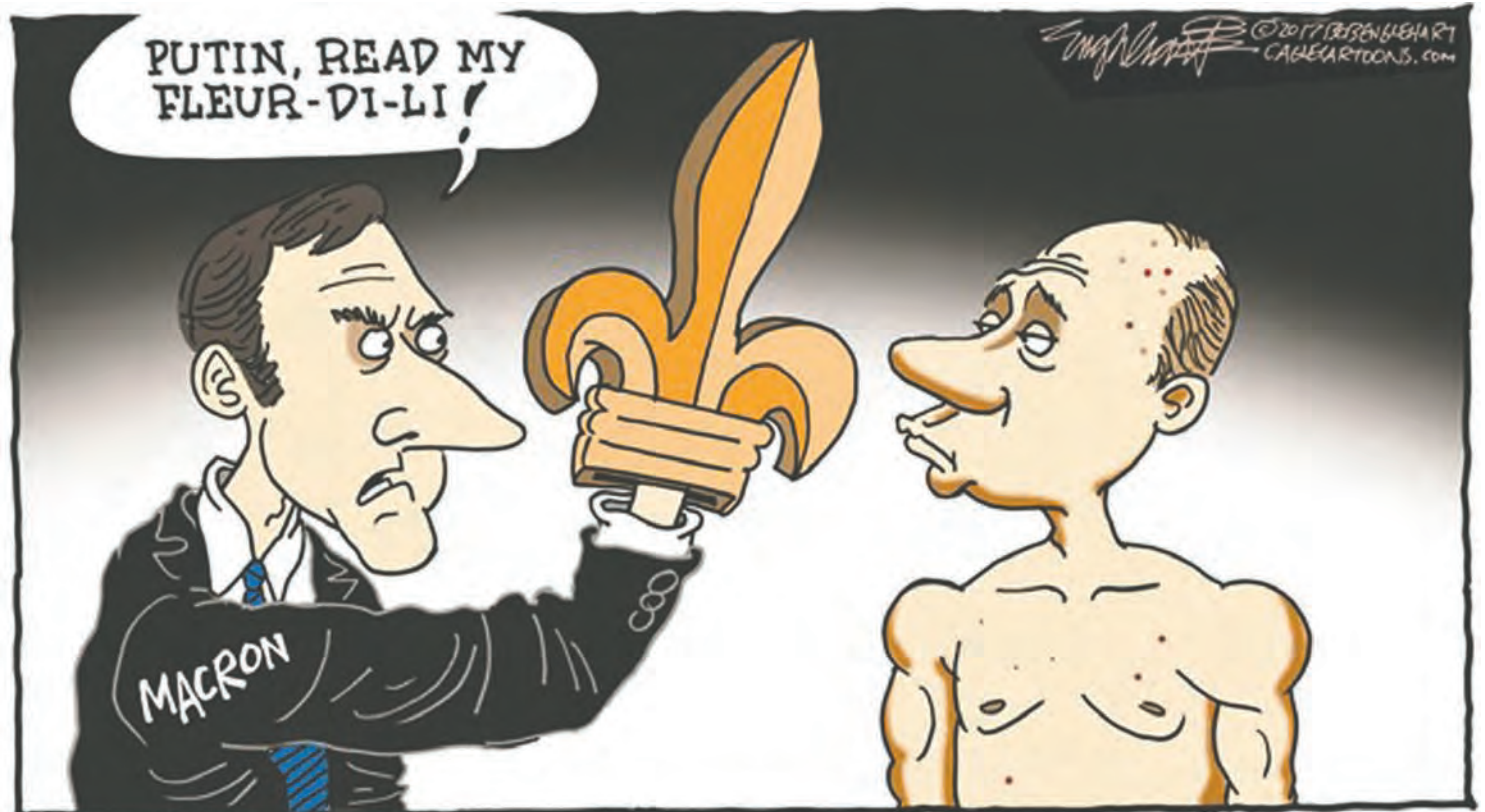
On May 12, 1967, "Are You Experienced," the groundbreaking debut album of the Jimi Hendrix Experience, was released in Britain by Track Records (a version with a somewhat different playlist went on sale in the United States the following August on the Reprise label). Procol Harum's debut single "A Whiter Shade of Pale" was released in the United Kingdom on the Deram label. English poet laureate John Masefield ("And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by...") died in Abingdon, England, at age 88.

On this date:

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered to British forces.

In 1870, an act creating the Canadian province of Manitoba was given royal assent, to take effect in July.

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, New Jersey.



STORIES OF A WORLD GONE MAD

Barry Currin

Grant graduates from college on Saturday.

Yesterday he was following us around asking, "Wha'zat, wha'zat, wha'zat?" about everything he saw. One blink later, we're heading to Knoxville for a commencement ceremony.

But, this isn't about that.

Make no mistake, I would love nothing more than to spend the rest of my time this week telling you about his decorated college career, the scholarships he earned and his plans for the future. But, I usually let his mother handle that department.

What astounds me is how much things have changed in the 30 years since his parents walked across the stage.

My first dorm at Martin Methodist College had one phone — for the entire dorm. It was a pay phone located in the lobby where the one TV was.

I transferred to UT as a junior. By the time I was a senior, I had upgraded to a dorm with a phone extension in each room of our two-room suite. We were uptown by then.

Of course, calling home was always an issue. Remember long-distance charges? I always called after 5 p.m., after the rates were lower. I had certain times I would call when Mama would almost always be home.

That's the way it had to be. There was no caller ID to let our parents know we had tried to call. We couldn't leave a "Hey, not dead in a ditch. Love you," message either, since there were no answering machines.

Now, we are in constant contact with the world with our own personal devices. I'm not

This graduation season has hit me like no other

Commentary

sure our 20-somethings will ever have to call a phone number and ask for someone besides the person who answers the phone. It has become a lost art, like freezing corn or darning a sock.

The first big change I noticed when Grant went to UT, though, was how much emphasis is now placed on studying abroad. He has been out of the country five times — the first being during the summer *before* his freshman year.

It's like colleges share joint custody of their students with the rest of the world.

My study abroad experience was limited to this place way out on the west side of town, where Kim and I would go for a free Italian buffet on Thursday nights.

It was pretty good, and no passport was required.

Probably the most notable change on college campuses is the food.

We had four or five cafeterias on campus where all the employees looked alike, dressed alike and served the same things. It was fine. But, let's face it, there wasn't much variety.

Have you been on a college campus lately and seen where these kids eat?

The common areas are teeming with every type of restaurant imaginable. It's like the food court at the mall. All the hamburgers have names — something besides "hamburger." I'm not saying this is a good thing, by any means. But, variety is the spice of

life, you know.

Technology, of course, has accounted for the biggest changes on campuses.

Students check out books online, then they pick them up at the front desk in the library. They email their professors without having to trudge six miles during office hours. They get text messages from the university when something important happens. They access dorm rooms and ballgames with the electronics embedded in their student ID cards.

The new buildings which are replacing the older buildings are state-of-the-art palaces with every possible perk known to man.

I don't think there is any doubt that Grant enjoyed his years at UT. The opportunities he was provided were first class, just like I knew they would be. And, he took advantage of each opportunity to the fullest.

I think he's going to miss it. I know he's going to miss his ninth-floor apartment downtown. I wouldn't mind having that place myself.

I enjoyed going to college — even though it looks like the Dark Ages through today's lens. I enjoyed the classes and the good times we had.

I think I would've enjoyed it more, though, if my hamburger would've had a name besides "hamburger."

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

Dear Annie: A surprise letdown

Dear Annie: I am writing to you with a problem that probably seems pretty petty compared with some of the more life-or-death questions you get, but I am too embarrassed to bring it up with anyone else, so here goes.

I recently celebrated my 30th birthday. Weeks in advance, my husband promised me a great day. For weeks, I looked forward to it and imagined what he might have planned. We'd talked about hot air balloon rides not too long before that, so I was thinking that might be the secret plan.

The day arrived, and I woke up wondering what the plan was. Then I kept wondering. We watched TV and bummed around more than we usually would on a Saturday — which was a treat, in a way, but nothing special. Finally, around 6 p.m., he told me to get ready to go out; he had a surprise.

Well, he ended up taking me to a concert of one of his favorite bands. I like them, too, but he's definitely the bigger fan. I tried to conceal my disappointment. It's been a few weeks now, and I still find it nagging at the back of my mind. I don't want to seem ungrateful. Is there any way to address this with him without hurting his feelings? — Blah Birthday

Dear Blah: Expectation is the root of all disappointment.

Advice

Though it's perfectly healthy to have standards for how you'd like to be treated in your relationship, it's important to learn how to manage expectations — and to take the initiative when it's really important to you that something go a certain way. I've known many people who love celebrating their birthdays in a big way, so they take the planning upon themselves. There's no shame in that.

Finally, I would just give your husband the benefit of the doubt on this one and communicate more clearly about your wishes next time.

Dear Annie: I just read the letter from "Crybaby," the woman who is embarrassed by excessive crying. Whenever she feels an extreme emotion — positive or negative — she cries.

I can empathize. I have the same problem, although for me it is almost always only for extremely positive emotions. The thing is that I am a man. Forgive the gender stereotype, but it is really inappropriate for a male to cry a lot, especially when it's not even over anything bad.

Anyway, I once happened to sit next to a psychologist on a long train ride, and I confided my problem to him. He basically said, "Look, this is just

the way your body is wired. Your emotions come out through your tear ducts. Some people react in other 'inappropriate' ways. In your case, it is through tears. Accept that this is the way you are, and don't make a big deal of it, because chances are that this is not something you can change. It's not harmful, and if you don't make a big deal out of it, others will probably not, either. If they do, you can explain it any way you wish."

When people do comment, which is really rare, I simply say something to the effect of, "When I get emotional in certain ways, the tears flow. I'm not really crying; I'm just shedding tears. Please just ignore it."

If "Crybaby's" husband cannot understand this about her, then they have a very serious problem of communication, and your advice to seek counseling over that was spot on.

— Another Crier

Dear Another: I'm sure your empathetic words will make "Crybaby" feel less ashamed of her active tear ducts.

(Editor's Note: Send your questions to 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.)

Letters To The Editor

Budget cut proposal is questioned

To The Editor:

Mother's Day is when we celebrate the efforts of moms everywhere to deliver on the promise they make to us when we're born, to nurture and protect us so we can reach our full potential.

But no matter how hard some moms try, they don't have the knowhow or resources to ensure their babies get the nutrition they need to grow and develop properly. Without this essential nutrition between pregnancy and age 2, many children die. Others are "stunted," meaning their brains and bodies are irreversibly underdeveloped.

President Trump's budget proposes a 30 percent cut to development assistance programs that help moms deliver on their promises to children. I'm calling on our senators and representative to speak to leadership in the Senate and House about protecting effective development assistance programs, particularly nutrition programs. What better gift to ask for this Mother's Day?

— Elizabeth Kelly Dalton, Ga.

Baby Blues



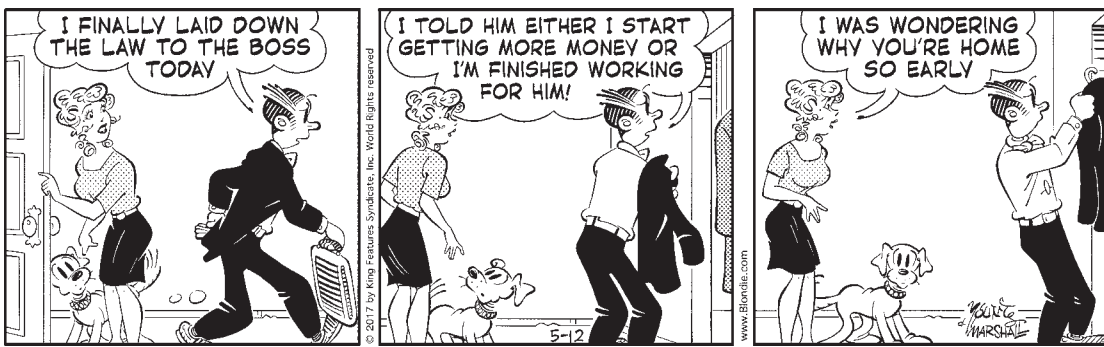
Barney Google and Snuffy Smith



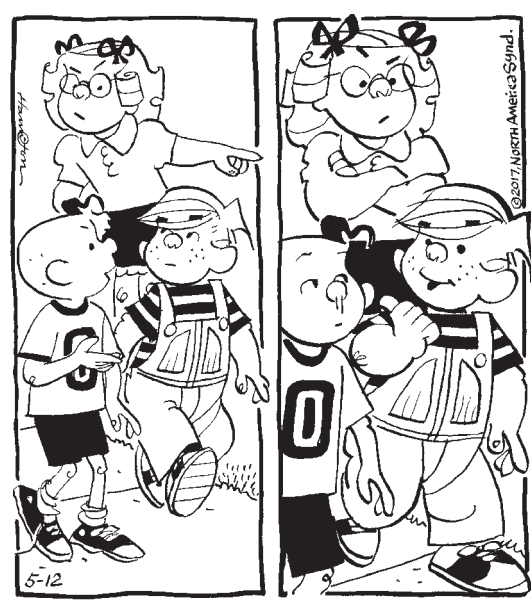
Beetle Bailey



Blondie



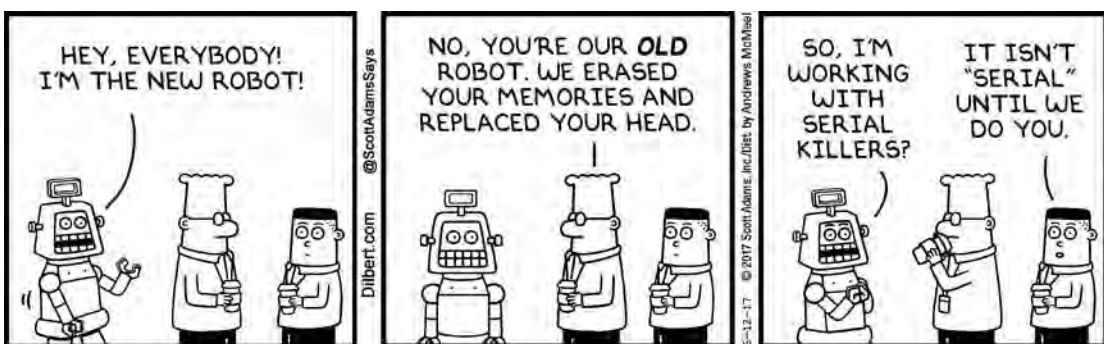
Dennis the Menace



Did You Know?

HAMBURGERS MAY BE TRACED BACK TO HAMBURG, GERMANY, WHERE MEAT PATTIES WERE COOKED ON A GRILL AND SERVED ON BREAD.

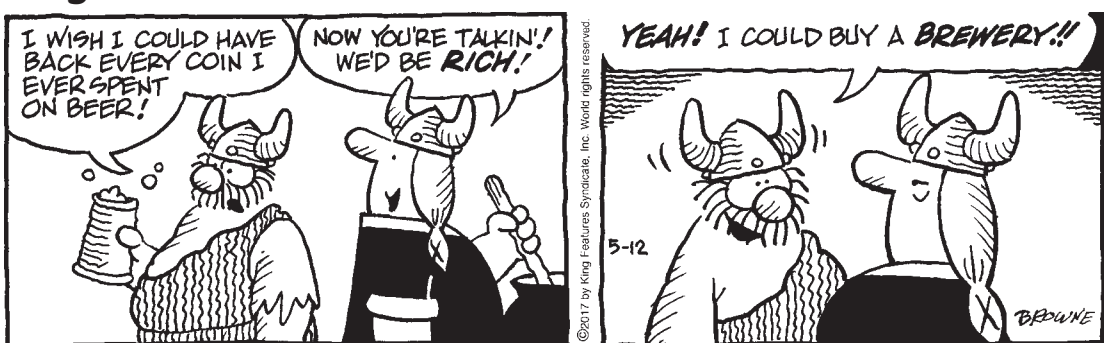
Dilbert



Garfield



Hagar the Horrible



Tina's Groove

6 Tina's Groove Spin-offs

SPINOFF #5
AFTER GETTING FIRED FROM HER JOB AT PEPPER'S, MONICA DISCOVERS THE EXCITING AND LUCRATIVE FIELD OF BEING A TEST SUBJECT FOR MEDICAL TRIALS.
TITLE: "EXPERIMENTAL-MONICA"
GENRE: COMIC STRIP

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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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 - 6 Stitch
 - 9 Learning ctr.
 - 12 Actress
 - 13 Pub order
 - 14 One of the five W's
 - 15 Cockeyed
 - 16 Inane
 - 18 Lane on Broadway
 - 20 Zilch
 - 21 Sashimi fish
 - 23 "— the ramparts ..."
 - 24 Skating spots
 - 25 Scoop holder
 - 27 Thin coins
 - 29 Going out with
 - 31 Sidesteps
 - 35 Sigmund or Anna
 - 37 Minn. neighbor
 - 38 Israeli port
 - 41 Expert
 - 43 — tizzy (worked up)
 - 44 Capri, for one
 - 45 False
 - 47 Inane
 - 49 "Untrue!"
 - 52 Hostel
 - 53 Chairman of China
 - 54 Like fresh apples
 - 55 Mermaid's home
 - 56 Calif. clock setting
 - 57 Host
 - 2 Nanny's charge
 - 3 Inane
 - 4 Actress
 - 5 "Same here"
 - 6 Jungle trek
 - 7 Panache
 - 8 Drench-ed
 - 9 Feel
 - 10 Hefty portion
 - 11 Firetruck necessities
 - 17 Together-ness
 - 19 Bet both ways
 - 21 Rm. coolers
 - 22 Weed whacker
 - 24 Gun the engine
 - 26 French tower designer
 - 28 Sierra
 - 30 Gun lobby org.
 - 32 Inane
 - 33 Dapper fellow
 - 34 Reggae relative
 - 36 Result
 - 38 Stereo hooksups
 - 39 Unanimously
 - 40 Actress Massey
 - 42 Pound fraction
 - 45 Unpaid TV ads (Abbr.)
 - 46 Campus digs
 - 48 Little rascal
 - 50 Compass dir.
 - 51 Unlock, in verse
- DOWN**
- 1 Madrid Mrs.
- Solution time: 25 mins.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12											
15											
21	22			23				24			
25			26		27		28				
29			30				31		32	33	34
38	39	40					41	42		43	
44							45			46	
47				48				49		50	51
52				53				54			
55				56				57			

UG NGX HAFQM F'W KGFQK
HG OSII SQN LFK LJDSMRSH
JDIHSXJSQHI GQ WN JGSU
HJFO HGUSN? FAGO IG!
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I TRIED TO DISCUSS THAT BEAUTIFUL ROW OF BUSHES, BUT I COULDN'T GET A WORD IN HEDGE-WISE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals H

ASTROLOGY

by Eugenia Last

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lena Dunham, 31; Robert Pattinson, 31; Stephen Colbert, 53; Stevie Wonder, 67.
Happy Birthday: Put more emphasis on personal, legal, contractual, financial and medical issues to avoid anything going wrong. As long as you stay on top of what needs to be done to ensure your stability in these areas of your life, you will feel stronger mentally, emotionally and physically. Live within your means and without excess, and you'll acquire greater personal stability. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 24, 31, 39, 43.

Contract Bridge

by Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone:
West North East South
1 ♣ 1 ♥ 2 ♣ ?

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠ J4 ♥ K96 ♦ KQ85 ♣ A762
2. ♠ AK963 ♥ 952 ♦ 6 ♣ 9843
3. ♠ K108 ♥ 87 ♦ KQ1092 ♣ KQ10
4. ♠ KJ87 ♥ KQ63 ♦ AJ963 ♣ —

1. Three hearts. Since an overcaller may hold anywhere from eight to 16 points, you're not in a good position to judge whether 10 tricks can be made. You know from the bidding thus far that partner almost surely has a singleton club to go with the strong five-card or longer suit that an overcall promises. But whether or not his hand is good enough to escape four losers is something you have to let partner decide. You therefore make a jump-raise to invite partner to go on to game if he is on the upper end of his overcall.

2. Two hearts. Since an overcall is rarely made with a four-card suit, hearts must be regarded as a feasible trump suit. A raise to two hearts, even with your unimpressive trump support, is decidedly preferable to a two-spade bid. Hearts are known to be playable, spades are not. A two-spade call would ordinarily indicate a better spade suit than this one and tend to deny heart support.

3. Two notrump. This expresses a far greater interest in game than a two-diamond bid would. Two diamonds would sound like a competitive move for partscore purposes, while two notrump is a direct try for game. With 13 high-card points facing a vulnerable overcall, and two club stoppers to back you up, game cannot be far away. Indeed, a reasonable case can be made for bidding three notrump.

4. Three clubs. A cuebid in the opponent's suit indicates a strong hand and, by implication, announces very good trump support. Several purposes are simultaneously served by the cuebid. Most importantly, your partner learns that there's not only a game in prospect, but perhaps a slam.

In addition, by rejecting a leap to four hearts, you may forestall a difficult bidding problem that might arise later. Thus, a four-heart bid now might make it impossible for you to know what to do if the opponents continue on to five clubs. By your indicating a big hand immediately, partner may be better able to decide how high to go.

Tomorrow: Hidden asset.
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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!

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

Level: Advanced

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

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

ANSWER:



AP photo

U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY STEVEN MNUCHIN, center, smiles as he takes a walk in the Puglian town of Bari, southern Italy, which is hosting a G7 of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting on Thursday.

U.S. Treasury chief to brief key allies on Trump policies

BARI, Italy (AP) — Top finance officials from seven advanced economies have gathered to hear more about U.S. President Donald Trump's economic policies on taxation and trade as well as to look for ways to promote growth, combat terrorist financing and stop tax avoidance by major corporations.

The meeting of the Group of 7 finance ministers in the southern Italian seaside town of Bari is to kick off Friday with a discussion of how to make economic growth benefit more people. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is due to explain Trump's plans to cut business taxes and regulation, and explain the president's push for what he considers more balanced trading relationships.

The group is gathering with the global economy showing steady growth. There are concerns that the economy has not reached the levels seen before the global financial crisis, and that labor productivity continues to lag.

Increasing output per worker is a key to growth, and economists say it may be held back by businesses' reluctance to invest in plants and equipment due to lingering fear from the Great Recession, as well as uncertainty about new regulations.

In theory, corporate tax cuts and deregulation along the lines proposed by Trump could address some of those problems

in the world's largest economy. But the details, and to what extent those policies will be implemented, remain unclear.

During his presidential campaign, Trump repeatedly charged that past administrations had failed to take a tough stand on enforcing trade agreements and this failure had cost millions of good-paying factory jobs and resulted in an enormous U.S. trade deficit.

Since taking office, his administration has issued a report that names two G-7 countries, Germany and Japan, for special monitoring because of their large trade surpluses with the U.S. and has sparked a trade battle with Canada, another G-7 country, by imposing higher tariffs on imports of Canadian softwood lumber.

Fluctuations in currency values can have a big effect on trade flows, so any measure a country takes to lower their exchange rate is often dimly viewed by trade partners on the receiving end.

Countries in the G-7 have committed in the past to avoid explicitly trying to weaken their own currencies.

Euro member and top exporter Germany has benefited from a drop in the euro against the dollar but has little influence over the exchange rate since it shares it with 18 other countries.

"I think the secretary has made clear to his counterparts that it is

very important for all countries to abide by their exchange rate commitments that they have made ... I think that message is coming through loud and clear," the senior Treasury official told reporters in a briefing on the upcoming talks.

The official spoke under ground rules that prevented use of his name.

Mnuchin held a one-to-one meeting with Italian finance minister Pier Carlo Padoan on Thursday. An Italian G-7 official, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the discussion took place in a "good climate." Padoan said Italy underlined its willingness to meet its commitments to increase defense spending — something Trump has stressed to NATO allies like Italy.

The Italian hosts say the meeting themes will include making economic growth benefit more people; coordination among international financial organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and efforts to stop companies from dodging taxes by moving income across borders.

The meeting prepares the way for a summit at the level of presidents and prime ministers in Taormina, Italy, on May 26-27.

The G-7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, the United States and U.K., with representatives of the European Union also attending.

Four-nation drills postponed after landing craft runs aground on Guam

NAVAL BASE GUAM (AP) — Military drills on Guam in which four countries were to practice amphibious landings and moving their troops have been postponed indefinitely after a French landing craft ran aground Friday.

The weeklong exercises involving the U.S., U.K., France and Japan were intended to show support for the free passage of vessels in international waters amid concerns China may restrict access to the South China Sea.

The French landing craft ran aground just offshore and didn't hit coral or spill any fuel, said Jeff Landis, a spokesman for Naval Base Guam. No one was injured.

Friday's landing was meant to be a rehearsal for a drill at Tinian island on Saturday, Landis said.

U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff Grimes, chief of staff for Joint Region Marianas, said the authorities involved were working to assess the situation and didn't know when the drills would resume.

"I have directed that we stop all operations associated with this exercise until we conduct a further assessment of the situation as we gather all the facts," Grimes said.

"NOAA in Honolulu is aware and is collecting information about the incident," said Michael Tosatto, administrator of a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration regional office.

The drills around Guam and Tinian islands were scheduled to include amphibious landings, delivering forces by helicopter and urban patrols.

Two French ships on a four-month deployment to the Indian and Pacific oceans were to be involved.

Joining were Japanese forces, U.K. helicopters and 70 U.K. troops deployed with the French amphibious assault ship FS Mistral. Parts of the exercise were to feature British helicopters taking U.S. Marines ashore from a French vessel.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and has tried to fortify those claims by building islands — some



AP photo

JOINT REGION MARIANAS CHIEF OF STAFF CAPT. JEFF GRIMES announces that joint exercises involving the U.S., U.K., France and Japan at the U.S. Pacific island of Guam have been indefinitely postponed after a French landing craft ran aground Friday on Naval Base Guam. Grimes told reporters he didn't know when the drills would resume. U.S. Naval Base Guam spokesman Jeff Landis says a French catamaran landing craft ran aground just offshore. No one was injured.

with runways, radars and weapons systems — on seven mostly submerged reefs. The reclamation work is opposed by other governments that claim the atolls and by the United States, which insists on freedom of navigation in international waters.

China says its work is intended to improve safety for ships and meet other civilian purposes.

It has said it won't interfere with freedom of navigation or overflight, although questions remain on whether that includes military ships and aircraft.

This week members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressed concern that the U.S. hasn't conducted freedom-of-navigation operations since October.

Republican Bob Corker, Democrat Ben Cardin and five other senators wrote the letter to President Donald Trump, saying they supported a recent U.S. military assessment that China is militarizing the South China Sea and is continuing a

"methodical strategy" to control it.

The letter, dated Wednesday and obtained by The Associated Press, urged the administration to "routinely exercise" freedom of navigation and overflight.

Japan, which sent 50 soldiers and 160 sailors and landing craft, has been investing in amphibious training so it can defend its own islands. Japan controls a group of rocky, uninhabited outcrops in the East China Sea that Beijing also claims. Japan calls the islands Senkaku while China calls them Diaoyu.

Japanese defense officials said they were waiting for further details, including what happens to the rest of the exercise in Guam, from the U.S. side.

The four militaries were to move to the Tinian islands for more training next week.

Guam and Tinian are about 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) south of Tokyo and about the same distance to the east from Manila, Philippines.

U.S., EU in urgent discussions on pitch to expand laptop ban

BRUSSELS (AP) — European governments alarmed at a proposed expansion of the ban on in-flight laptops and tablets to planes from the EU are holding urgent talks Friday with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Chief among the concerns are whether any new threat prompted the proposal, said European Commission transport spokeswoman Anna-Kaisa Ikonen, who confirmed the talks and said the EU had no new infor-

mation about a specific security concern.

U.S. officials have said the decision in March to bar laptops and tablets from the cabins of some international flights, mostly from the Mideast, wasn't based on any specific threat but on longstanding concerns about extremists targeting jetliners.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security organized a telephone conference to take place Friday afternoon with "key European partners" — France,

Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy. It will be a ministerial level call. The French attendee is expected to be Louis Gautier, secretary general for defense and national security.

A French official with direct knowledge about Friday's meeting said France planned to push back against the measure, saying there was no information to suggest a significant increase in the terror threat. Friday marks the final working day of the current French administration.

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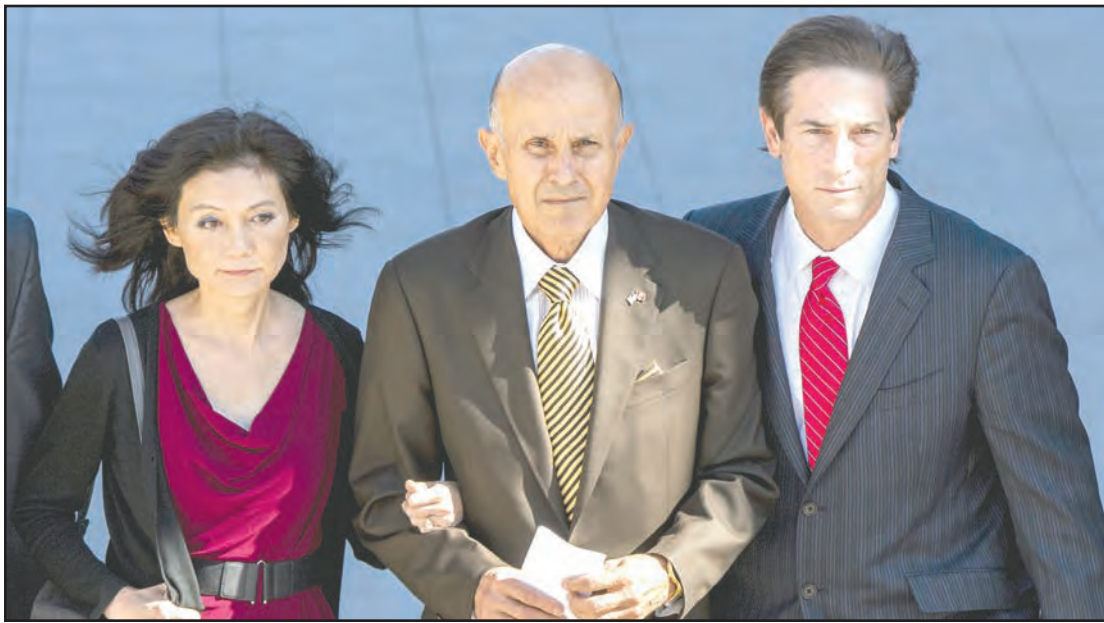
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A Special Feature Section From
Your Cleveland Daily Banner



AP photo

IN THIS MARCH 15 FILE PHOTO, former Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, center with his wife, Carol, left, and his attorney, Nathan Hochman, leave federal court in Los Angeles. Baca is being sentenced today for obstructing a federal investigation into abuses and corruption in the nation's largest jail system.

Former L.A. sheriff awaits sentencing for obstructing FBI investigation of jail system

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former Los Angeles Sheriff Lee Baca is relying on a lifetime of public service, letters of support ranging from ex-governors to ex-cons, and his diagnosis of Alzheimer's in a bid Friday for probation for obstructing an FBI investigation into abuses at the jails he ran.

Baca, 74, faces up to 20 years in federal prison when he's sentenced by a judge who has shown little leniency when it comes to his role atop a department rife with corruption.

The lawman who worked his way up from guarding inmates to running the nation's largest jail system — and largest sheriff's department — was convicted in March of obstructing justice, conspiring to obstruct justice and lying to federal authorities.

Baca abruptly resigned in 2014 as the probe netted several underlings who plotted to hide an inmate informant from his FBI handler when they learned the jails were being investigated.

The crimes tarnished Baca's reputation as a man on a mission to promote education and rehabilitation behind bars and who preached tolerance and understanding between people of different cultures and faiths.

The question is how to reconcile the image of the soft-spoken, rail-thin, Zen-like reformer with the man who told the local FBI head and top federal prosecutor he was ready to "gun up" for battle with them and furiously stated: "I'm the goddamn sheriff, these are my goddamn jails."

Baca, who jetted around the world to speak about his approach to law enforcement, denied any involvement in the

scandal, but acknowledged he had fallen out of touch with what was happening in his department. But prosecutors said he had turned a blind eye to problems at his jails, including vicious beatings by guards who covered up the abuse by falsifying records.

Baca's "crimes showed that corruption went all the way to the top," Assistant U.S. Attorney Brandon Fox wrote in sentencing papers suggesting a two-year prison term. "Instead of acting as a leader, Baca distanced himself from the actions of his subordinates, and lied about his own conduct."

Prosecutors also won convictions against 20 other members of the department for crimes ranging from assaults by rank-and-file deputies to the department's second-in-command, Paul Tanaka, who oversaw efforts to derail the federal probe.

While Tanaka, also convicted of the obstruction and conspiracy charges, was sentenced to five years in prison, prosecutors said Baca deserves the lighter term because there was no evidence he tampered with witnesses and Tanaka fostered a culture of corruption. They also cited Baca's degenerative disease.

Baca had originally pleaded guilty to a single count of lying to federal investigators in a deal that would have required no more than six months in prison. But when Judge Percy Anderson rejected that as too lenient, Baca withdrew his plea.

Prosecutors then hit him with the two additional obstruction counts. At Baca's first trial, a jury deadlocked 11-1 for acquittal and a mistrial was declared. He was convicted three months

later by a different jury at his second trial.

Defense attorney Nathan Hochman said Baca's misdeeds over six weeks in 2011 and four false answers to 400 questions during a voluntary interview with authorities in 2013 must be weighed against an "extraordinary record of public service" over 48 years and along with his condition, which has progressed from mild cognitive impairment to mild dementia.

More than 200 friends and supporters wrote letters of support to the court on behalf of Baca, including former Mexican President Vicente Fox, former California Govs. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gray Davis, former Los Angeles Ram-turned-minister Rosey Grier, former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, Hollywood executives, former jailbirds — even a public relations executive whose firm represents the deputies union that has been critical of Baca.

They hailed his unconventional style of policing, his compassion and a lifetime of good works.

Hochman has filed papers asking the judge to allow Baca to remain free pending appeal.

He plans to challenge several of Anderson's rulings that he said were improper and showed bias toward Baca, including a decision not to allow medical experts to testify whether Baca's medical condition impaired his memory when he lied to federal authorities.

"This diagnosis is a sentence of its own," Hochman wrote. "In this case, a sentence of imprisonment is essentially a cognitive death sentence given the progression of Mr. Baca's Alzheimer's disease."

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LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

LEGAL PUBLICATION SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the terms, conditions, and payments provided in a certain Deed of Trust dated JULY 13, 2009, executed by BRIAN JORDAN BALLEW, UNMARRIED, to DAVID S. HUMBERD, BRADLEY COUNTY, Trustee, of record in BOOK 1921 PAGE 242, for the benefit of BANK OF CLEVELAND, EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TN, P.O. BOX 5000, CLEVELAND, TN 37320-5000, in the Register's Office for BRADLEY County, Tennessee and to J. PHILLIP JONES AND/OR JESSICA D. BINKLEY, either of whom may act, appointed as Substitute Trustee in an instrument of record in the Register's Office for BRADLEY County, Tennessee, to secure the indebtedness described; WHEREAS, the said Deed of Trust was last assigned to TENNESSEE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, the entire indebtedness having been declared due and payable by TENNESSEE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BY AND THROUGH ITS SERVICER AND AUTHORIZED AGENT, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, being the present owner/holder or authorized agent, designee or servicer of the holder/owner of said indebtedness, has requested foreclosure proceedings to be instituted; and as provided in said Deed of Trust, I, J. PHILLIP JONES/JESSICA D. BINKLEY, will by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Substitute Trustee, on THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017 AT 1:00 P.M. (LOCAL TIME) AT THE MAIN DOOR OF THE BRADLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 155 NORTH OCOEE STREET IN CLEVELAND, BRADLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, sell to the highest bidder for cash, free from the equity of redemption, homestead, and dower, and all other exemptions which are expressly waived, and subject to any unpaid taxes, if any, the following described property in BRADLEY County, Tennessee, to wit:

PROPERTY LOCATED IN COUNTY OF BRADLEY, TENNESSEE:

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THIS CONVEYANCE IS MADE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

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AP photo

IN THIS JUNE 24, 2015 FILE PHOTO, Nashville district attorney Glenn Funk watches the proceedings during the Vanderbilt rape trial in Nashville. At a news conference Thursday, Funk said Officer Josh Lippert had a sufficient claim of self-defense when he shot and killed Jocques Scott Clemmons following a traffic stop.

No charges for white Nashville officer in black man's death

NASHVILLE (AP) — A white Nashville police officer won't face charges for shooting and killing an armed black man after a traffic stop in February, a district attorney said.

At a news conference Thursday, District Attorney General Glenn Funk said Officer Josh Lippert's actions met the legal definition of self-defense when he shot and killed Jocques Scott Clemmons following a traffic stop.

"Based on the facts of his incident and application of the law of self-defense in the state of Tennessee, Officer Lippert has a legally sufficient claim of self-defense, and therefore the state will not pursue criminal charges against Officer Lippert," Funk said.

The decision drew swift outcry from the NAACP, some clergy, Clemmons' family and other

community members.

"We do not accept that this investigation was unbiased and we will continue to fight for justice for Jocques," Michael Hoskins, a lawyer for the family of Clemmons said.

Nashville NAACP president Ludy Wallace said black men were getting killed like this all over the country. He was critical of how Clemmons had been shot in the back.

"In the Western days, when everybody has guns, you didn't shoot them in the back," Wallace said.

At one point during the confrontation, the gun Clemmons was holding was pointed in Officer Lippert's direction, Funk said.

"Jocques Clemmons never drew down on the officer and pointed it at him," Funk said. "He had a gun in his hand. He

picked it up in the middle of an altercation. Had he kept running and this was an unarmed person that was shot in the back, it would be a completely different situation."

Lippert shot Clemmons three times, striking him twice in the back and once in the left hip.

Clemmons, who has a lengthy history in the criminal justice system, was convicted of a cocaine felony in 2014, and as a convicted felon, it would have violated both state and federal law to possess the pistol, according to police.

Authorities maintain that the incident happened within seconds. Funk said Clemmons was holding the gun when he was shot.

The public outcry after the shooting resulted in major changes in policing in Nashville.

33. Business Opportunities

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49. Apartments For Rent

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49. Apartments For Rent



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49. Apartments For Rent

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50. Mobile Homes For Rent

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52. Sleeping Rooms

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