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Banner file photo

Cemetery agreement includes committee to oversee complaints and maintenance

By LARRY C. BOWERS
Banner Staff Writer

Chancellor Jerri Bryant has signed off on an agreement between the office of 10th District Attorney General Stephen Crump, and the Georgia firm of Cecil Lawrence Inc., owner of Sunset Memorial Gardens and Hilcrest Memorial Gardens in Cleveland. Assistant District Attorney Drew Robinson has been negotiating with representatives of the cemetery firm for the past few months. They fine-tuned language of the tentative agreement during the weekend, and the doc-

ument was given to Bryant on Tuesday morning.

"The important thing concerning the agreement is that it establishes a five-person citizens committee, with an ex-officio member from the state," said Robinson.

This committee will oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery and forward recommendations to cemetery officers.

"All complaints on the operation and care of the cemetery will go through this committee," said Robinson when talking with the Cleveland Daily Banner.

Robinson emphasized that anyone with

interests and/or concerns about Sunset Memorial Gardens, can contact him at the District Attorney's Office in downtown Cleveland.

"This (citizens) committee should be up and running in the next couple of weeks," added Robinson.

The cemetery firm has been in hot water with state and local officials for the past few years.

Representatives of Tennessee's Burial Services Division of the Department of

See CEMETERY, Page 6

Inside Today



Lady Raiders earn volleyball sweep

The Cleveland Lady Raiders highlighted a big day of local sports with a volleyball sweep of the Bradley Central Bearettes. The Lady Mustangs, Lady Raiders and Bearettes were all in action on the soccer pitch while the golf teams battled it out on the links. The Bears and Mustangs are set to face off in the football season opener Thursday. The game is previewed in today's Sports section. See Sports, Pages 11-13.

Young people to lead the way

In Cleveland and Bradley County, the kids will be leading the way in the fight against drug abuse. Inspired by need and supported by school administrators, educators, community leaders and parents, the older generation will be looking to their younger counterparts to convince their peers drug use is not cool. It all starts Thursday night. See the editorial on Page 14 of today's edition.

Forecast

Today's forecast calls for partly sunny skies and a 60 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms, with a high near 93. Tonight calls for mostly cloudy skies and a 60 percent chance of rain, with a low around 71. Thursday should see clouds and a 40 percent chance of rain, with a high near 90. Thursday night calls for cloudy skies and a 30 percent chance of rain, with a low around 71.

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Around Town

Keisha Shelton keeping people healthy ... Doug Blackwell running out of ideas ... Allison Mizzell enjoying the "Bubble Guppies" kids' TV show and chicken nuggets ... Dana Sledge always working tirelessly for her customers, helping them in any way she can ... Mickey and Niki Bullington enjoying married life.

Economic strength locally drawing business interest

Message spreading, IDB group is told

By BRIAN GRAVES
Banner Staff Writer

The Cleveland and Bradley County community is getting more and more attention about the good economy as well as the economic opportunities that can be found here.

Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Economic Development Doug Berry told members of the



Berry

Industrial Development Board Tuesday the word is getting out about the benefits of doing business here.

He highlighted the recent food processing study released by The Boyd Group, which shows Cleveland is the most

See ECONOMIC, Page 6

McPherson is denied parole for 4th time

By ALLEN MINCEY
Banner Staff Writer

Parole was denied Tuesday for Karen McPherson, the woman who admitted to being involved in the kidnapping of Clevelander Carrie Smith Lawson 25 years ago.

This is the fourth time McPherson had appeared before the Alabama State Board of Pardons and Paroles, the last being in October 2013. Each plea has been rejected by the state board.

See PAROLE, Page 6



Contributed photo

NEW HOPE PREGNANCY CARE Center recently went to full medical, with the opportunity to provide free ultrasounds. The center's first client was Lindsey Denman, second from left, with her son, Conner. With the first client are New Hope CEO Tracie Shellhouse, left, Nurse Manager Alondra Cooley, second from right, and Client Services Director Judy Gault, right.

Care center goes full medical

New Hope Pregnancy Center offering free ultrasounds, nurse-verified tests

By LARRY C. BOWERS
Banner Staff Writer

New Hope Pregnancy Care Center CEO Traci Shellhouse, and her staff and volunteers, are elated that the Cleveland clinic has achieved its quest of having full medical certification.

The assistance organization will retain the name "care center" although it opened on July 25, as a medical center.

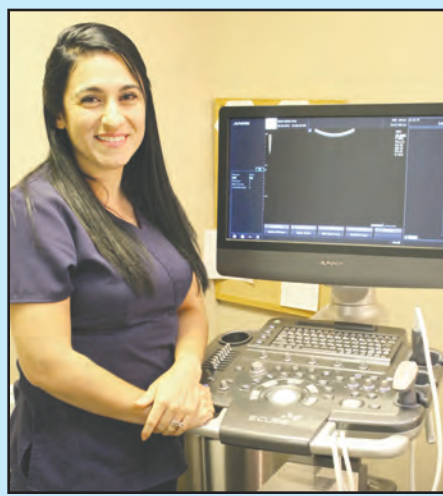
New Hope announced tentative plans to go to full medical in 2013, but it has taken approximately three years to reach that goal. A key to this achievement was the hiring of Nurse Manager Alondra Cooley.

New Hope now offers free ultrasounds and nurse-verified urine pregnancy tests.

The clinic previously offered self-administered pregnancy tests where clients took the test and interpreted the results.

Now, clients can use the nurse-verified proof of pregnancy they receive from the clinic to apply for health insurance through the Bradley County Health Department.

"If a client has a positive pregnancy test, then either myself or a volunteer nurse will give them a list of referrals which includes



Contributed photo

NURSE MANAGER Alondra Cooley was instrumental in the recent conversion of New Hope Pregnancy Care Center to full medical services. She is shown with the center's ultrasound machine.

local OBGYN doctors, Tennova and the health department," Cooley said. "We discuss the importance of pre-natal care, get-

ting connected with programs like WIC, and applying for insurance through the health department."

A huge advantage to New Hope is the ability to provide limited obstetrical ultrasounds.

With the ultrasound, clinic staff focuses on the viability of the pregnancy, the gestational age of the baby, and determining whether or not there is a heartbeat. It is anticipated this will be a major boost to New Hope's Pro Life mission.

"According to statistics, 80 to 90 percent of abortion-minded women will choose life once they have seen their baby via ultrasound," Shellhouse said. "In that moment, the client goes from thinking 'my pregnancy' to 'my baby.'"

Cooley or a trained volunteer nurse will perform the ultrasound, which includes taking images to determine cardiac activity and the measurements and location of the baby. Medical Director Dr. David Chaffin will then review the images to determine the viability of the pregnancy, and if it is an intrauterine pregnancy versus an ectopic or

See MEDICAL, Page 6

Big information at PTSD event, but a small crowd

By LARRY C. BOWERS
Banner Staff Writer

In spite of the sparse gathering at Tuesday evening's Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Townhall Meeting at Keith Street Ministries, the array of speakers delivered a wealth of information.

The group was led by Tennessee State Council President Barry Rice of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Bradley County Veterans Officer Larry McDaris, retired Lt. Gen. Hugh Smith of Clarksville, Centerstone Military Services Executive Director Kent Crossley, veteran LaWanda Jenkins, and B. Yvonne Hubbard of the

Veterans Center in Chattanooga. Rice, a PTSD survivor, served as the meeting's moderator. He spoke of his battles with the affliction following combat in Vietnam.

Other than the speakers, there were a few local veteran officials, members of the Edward G. Sharpe Chapter 596 of Vietnam Veterans which organized the meeting, and family members.

Chapter President James Dean said he didn't understand the low turnout.

"We placed fliers throughout the community, including the Bradley County Justice Center and Cleveland Police Department," he said.

See PTSD, Page 6



Smith



Crossley



Rice



Hubbard



Jenkins



McDaris

Brewer pre-trial hearing delayed until Sept. 26

By ALLEN MINCEY
Banner Staff Writer

A pre-trial hearing for the man accused of causing a deadly crash on Interstate 75 near Ooltewah has been delayed until September.

Benjamin Brewer was arrested and charged in the June 25, 2015, accident in which Cleveland resident Brian Gallaher was killed. Gallaher was a music teacher at Ocoee Middle School.

Five other people died in the accident, and Brewer has been charged with six counts of vehicular homicide. He has also been charged with four counts of reck-

See BREWER, Page 6



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LOOK WHO'S READING THE BANNER



Banner photo, DONNA KAYLOR
VICK CHAYDHARY enjoys keeping up with local news and weather each day in his Cleveland Daily Banner.

TENNESSEE BRIEFS

Smokies 'Species Mapper' predicts where plants, animals live

GATLINBURG (AP) — The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is using supercomputers to predict where different plants and animals can be found in the park.

The result is a web application called Species Mapper that park officials hope will help them to protect park resources. But visitors can also use it to explore what lives in the park and what they might see during a visit.

According to the park, Species Mapper uses supercomputers managed by the University of Tennessee/Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Joint Institute for Computational Sciences to crunch vast amounts of data and make predictions about the distribution of different park species.

Data on those species was collected over decades through observation and research studies.

Over 19,000 different species have been recorded in the Smokies, with 1,000 of those first discovered there.

Nashville officer accused of slapping woman during arrest

NASHVILLE (AP) — A Metro Nashville police officer has been decommissioned after being accused of slapping a woman during an arrest.

News agencies report police say Officer Elizabeth Berry-Loucks is charged with misdemeanor assault in Tuesday's early morning incident.

Officials say Berry-Loucks was conducting a search of a woman under arrest for drug and gun charges when Berry-Loucks was stuck by an uncapped syringe hidden in the suspect's bra.

Police say that's when Berry-Loucks slapped the woman in the face.

Berry-Loucks is a three-year veteran of the department. Authorities say she sought medical treatment for the needle stick and has been assigned to desk duty pending the investigation.

Police say the woman she was arresting, 22-year-old Rachel Hall, faces several charges including possession of heroin for resale. It's unclear if she has an attorney.

2 charged after thousands of pills seized in investigation

NASHVILLE (AP) — Two convicted felons have been charged after police say they seized thousands of prescription pain pills following a drug investigation.

News outlets report Metro Nashville police say 41-year-old Ronald Floyd and 45-year-old Eric Kwiatkowski Sr. were arrested for their involvement in a pain medication sales operation.

Investigators say they seized more than 3,000 high-potency prescription pain pills, 10 guns, a vehicle and nearly \$20,000 in cash during searches at the suspects' residences. Three of those firearms were reported stolen.

Police say both men were previously convicted of drug and other charges.

Floyd is charged with engaging in a pain medication distribution conspiracy, among other gun charges.

Kwiatkowski is charged with conspiracy to distribute pain pills.

It's unclear if they have attorneys.

Registry finds \$190K discrepancy in Durham campaign finances

NASHVILLE (AP) — Campaign finance documents indicate a more than \$190,000 discrepancy between state Rep. Jeremy Durham's bank records and his re-election account.

The Tennessee reports that bank records show that the Franklin Republican's campaign

account had a balance of less than \$7,000 even as his financial disclosure with the state said he had almost \$200,000 on hand.

Durham lost the Republican primary earlier this month after suspending his campaign in the wake of a state attorney general's report detailing allegations of improper sexual interactions with 22 women. Durham has denied most of those allegations.

A Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance memo says Durham created a \$30,000 line of credit for himself from his campaign account, which was also the source of other loans and investments to companies and individuals.

Attorney: FBI conned engineer into incriminating himself

KNOXVILLE (AP) — An engineer accused of helping a Chinese energy company build nuclear reactors with U.S. technology is accusing the FBI of conning him into talking without a lawyer.

The Knoxville News-Sentinel reports that Szuhsiung "Allen" Ho is the owner and president of Delaware-based Energy Technology International, which had the state-controlled China General Nuclear Power Company as a client.

An indictment unsealed in April accuses Ho of helping develop special nuclear material outside the United States.

Two FBI agents confronted Ho in April at an Atlanta hotel to arrest him. In a report, the FBI acknowledges that Ho quickly asked to speak to an attorney before answering any questions.

The FBI says Ho "attempted to justify his situation" and volunteered information.

Ho's attorney Peter Zeidenberg says the agents purposely engaged Ho in a conversation designed to elicit incriminating statements.

Google Fiber warns it could pull plug over Nashville impasse

NASHVILLE (AP) — Google is warning that an impasse over access to utility poles could lead the company to pull the plug on its plans to bring its fiber optic broadband service to Nashville.

Google Fiber says it needs Metro Council to enact a "one touch" policy to allow its contractors to move other telecoms' lines in order to install its own. Comcast and AT&T say current rules requiring their own employees to move the lines prevent outages and limit liability and safety concerns.

The Tennessean reports that Mayor Megan Barry is urging the Nashville Electric Service to help seek a resolution among Google Fiber, AT&T and Comcast regarding the city's utility pole policy.

"High-speed broadband service is critical to the city of Nashville's future," said Barry, who has not come out on either side of the dispute. "A resolution to this issue that is fair to all will only benefit our citizens."

Chris Levandos, head of Google Fiber's network deployment, said the impasse is delaying the rollout of fiber — and possibly endangering it altogether.

"Worst-case scenario is either elongation or it just ceases to happen," Levandos said.

Google Fiber announced its plans to expand into Nashville in January 2015, but efforts to connect the service have been slower than expected because the city's hard limestone soil has made the company rely on utility poles instead of underground cables for 90 percent of the 3,200 miles of fiber it plans to install.

Google wants Nashville to pass a similar ordinance to one enacted in Louisville, Kentucky, to overcome what the company describes as an overly burdensome process to attach cables.

Webb-Curtis to present program on 'Your Personal Brand' Aug. 22

The 2016 series of Women's Council programs has focused on "Your Personal Brand."

The third session in the series will focus on how we portray ourselves in our online communications. The session will be held from noon to 1:15 p.m. Aug. 22, at the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce.

Susan Webb-Curtis, dean of Business and Technology at Cleveland State Community College, will be the presenter.

In a highly technical and connected job market, professional image is as critical in today's professional arena as a resume. Whether an individual is actively seeking employment or preparing for future career growth, developing a professional brand image is essential.

In this luncheon presentation, learn the basics in creating a cohesive online identity through strategic use of social media tools:

- Creating your public profile and professional brand image
- Facebook, Websites, Blogs, Hyperlinks, Google

Reputation development/management and

- What you can do yourself and when to consider contracting with a professional.

Webb-Curtis has taught job search strategies, including resume development, proactive

interviewing, networking and skill set development tactics, for more than 25 years. She spent 14 years as a student services administrator and taught for 13 years serving as associate professor/director of Cooperative Education & Service-Learning.

Webb-Curtis started the college's service-learning program in 2008, recruiting and training faculty, developing community partnerships, and writing numerous grants to build a strong infrastructure.

Cleveland State faculty have embraced this high-impact learning practice with over 60 percent of full-time faculty now incorporating service-learning. The college's program was named to the President's Higher Education Honor Roll in 2010, 2013 and 2014, one of only 33 community colleges to receive that honor.

Along with her valued colleague, Sherry Holloway, she has presented at numerous national conferences and served as a consultant for other Tennessee Campus Compact colleges.

Webb-Curtis was the recipient of the Cleveland State 2009 Distinguished Faculty and 2003 and 2010 Faculty Star Service Awards. She was awarded the 2010 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award, 2010

Tennessee Campus Compact Treasure Award, 2013 Roueche League of Innovation Excellence Award and 2015 CSCC Service-Learning Visionary Award.

She is a 2003 graduate of Leadership Cleveland and 2006 graduate of Leadership Monroe. She holds a master's in education from Stetson University.

Admission is \$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Since seating is limited, register today by contacting Bernadette Douglas, 423-472-6587 or email:BDouglas@clevelandchamber.com.



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The Family of Joe Baker

Making extra mortgage payments can pay off, but should you?

The Associated Press

It's a strategy that crosses the mind of many borrowers when they take on a home loan: Make an extra mortgage payment or two every year and save tens of thousands of dollars in interest.

The move can shave off costs for a home loan and ensure it's paid off faster. Even one additional payment a year can translate into big savings.

On a \$250,000, 30-year mortgage with a fixed rate of 4 percent, making an extra payment every year would save the homeowner roughly \$27,724 over the life of the loan. It would also cut the amount of time needed to pay back the loan by four years and one month.

Even so, there are potential financial drawbacks to consider. Borrowers who can afford to make extra mortgage payments tie up cash that could be put toward retirement or used for emergencies.

"It's really important to look at your financial health in the broader sense," said Suzanne Martindale, staff attorney at Consumer Union. "The most important thing is to maintain in good standing all of your debts."

Here are some tips to consider before taking steps to make extra payments on your home loan:

1. WEIGH YOUR PRIORITIES

It may be tempting to double down on your mortgage payments, but doing so before you've taken care to shore up your finances overall isn't a good idea.

Financial advisers recommend ensuring that you are saving for retirement and have set aside three to six months' salary to cover emergencies. If you have children, you'll also want to put saving for their college tuition ahead of making extra mortgage payments.

"At today's low mortgage rates, if you are cutting into your retirement savings to pay off a mortgage, you are likely making a mistake," said David Mullins, an independent financial adviser in Richlands, Virginia. "You don't want to have your nest egg tied up in a property where you can't easily convert it to cash."

2. SLASH OTHER DEBT FIRST

Paying off high-interest debt such as credit cards is another priority that should be put before focusing on paying down your home loan faster. Consider paying off car loans, too.

That's because home loans are likely the least costly debt a borrower will have, especially if they took advantage of low mortgage interest rates. In addition, homeowners are allowed to take a deduction on their income taxes for the interest paid on their home loan.

3. DO IT YOURSELF

You've decided to accelerate payments on your mortgage, so what is the best approach?

There are many ways to get

there, including paying a little bit extra every month, or making a lump-sum payment at the end of the year. Another approach involves paying half of your monthly mortgage bill every two weeks. Over the course of a year, you end up making 26 transfers, which works out to an additional monthly payment.

Contact your lender to make sure they allow extra payments and will apply the funds toward the principal on your loan, not the interest.

Try this extra payments calculator from Bankrate to compare how much money the different approaches to making extra mortgage payments can save you.

4. WATCH OUT FOR FEES

Regardless of the payment plan, steer clear of businesses that offer to handle your extra payments for a fee, said Martindale.

"Consumers need to be very wary from sales pitches from third-party companies," she said. "If they're charging a fee for their service, it can undercut any potential benefits they might be offering."

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has sued several companies that offer to handle borrowers' twice-monthly mortgage payments. The agency claims the companies misled consumers about how much they could save in interest on their home loan.

One company, Paymap Inc., agreed last year to pay a \$5 million civil penalty and return \$33.4 million in fees to consumers. Another firm in the biweekly mortgage payment collection business, LoanCare LLC, agreed to pay a \$100,000 civil penalty.

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 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Communication Arts Building, Room 113
 Registration will not occur on Friday, August 19th

Fast Track Registration:
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CAMPAIGN 2016

Trump campaign shakes up leadership

TETERBORO, N.J. (AP) — Republican Donald Trump announced a shakeup of his campaign leadership Wednesday, the latest sign of tumult in his bid for the White House as his poll numbers slip and only 82 days remain before the election.

The billionaire real estate mogul named Stephen Bannon of the conservative Breitbart News website as chief executive officer and promoted pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager. Paul Manafort, Trump's controversial campaign chairman, will retain his title, but it is unclear if his role will change.

In tapping Bannon for a top campaign role, Trump is doubling down on his outsider appeal rather than appeasing more traditional Republicans. The conservative Breitbart figure has been a cheerleader for Trump's campaign for months and was critical of Republican leaders, including Ryan. Bannon is a former Goldman Sachs banker and does not bring presidential campaign experience to Trump's White House bid.

Trump has resisted pleas from fellow Republicans to overhaul the flame-throwing approach on the campaign trail that powered his surge to the top of the Republican field in the primary season. Instead of working to broaden his appeal, Trump has largely hewed to the large rallies and attention-grabbing comments that appealed to the party base.

Conway joined Trump's campaign earlier this year as a senior adviser. A longtime Republican strategist and pollster, she has close ties to Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

"I've known both of them for a long time. They're terrific people, they're winners, they're champs, and we need to win it," Trump told The Associated Press in a phone interview early Wednesday.

Manafort deputy Rick Gates, who has been traveling often with Trump, is expected to maintain a senior role with the campaign.

Manafort, who took over the reins following the departure of campaign manager Corey Lewandowski in June, has come under scrutiny because



REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL nominee Donald Trump concludes his speech at his campaign rally Tuesday in West Bend, Wis.

of his past work for a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party. The Associated Press reported Wednesday that Manafort helped the party secretly route at least \$2.2 million in payments to two prominent Washington lobbying firms in 2012, doing so in a way that effectively obscured the party's efforts to influence U.S. policy. Gates, who had worked with Manafort on Ukrainian issues, told the AP he and Manafort had consulted with the lobbying firms on Ukrainian politics, but called the actions lawful.

The campaign shakeup, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, comes as polls show Trump trailing Clinton nationally and in key battleground states following a difficult campaign stretch that saw him insulting the Muslim parents of a U.S. Army soldier who died in Iraq and temporarily refraining from endorsing House Speaker Paul Ryan in his primary race.

Trump has resisted pressure to change his campaign style. "You know, I am who I am," he told a local Wisconsin television station Tuesday. "It's me. I don't want to change. Everyone talks about, 'Oh, well you're going to pivot, you're going to.' I don't want to pivot. I mean, you have to be you. If you start pivoting, you're not being honest with people."

Conway called the moves "an

expansion at a critical time in the homestretch."

Details of the new pecking order were hashed out at a lengthy senior staff meeting at Trump Tower Tuesday while Trump was on the road. A statement announcing the hires was released Wednesday. Additional senior hires are expected soon.

Trump, whose campaign is built on his persona as a winner, said several times Wednesday that the campaign was "doing well," and said his speech hours earlier in Wisconsin Tuesday was well-received.

"We're going to be doing something very dramatic," Trump added.

Trump's campaign announced earlier that it would finally begin airing its first ads of the general election next week in the battleground states of Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

While polls have shown Clinton building a lead following last month's convention, Democrats fear that a depressed voter turnout might diminish support among the minority, young and female voters who powered Obama to two victories.

Clinton said at a voter registration event at a Philadelphia high school that she's "not taking anybody anywhere for granted" in the race for the

White House.

In the Wisconsin outing Tuesday, Trump accused Clinton of "bigotry" and being "against the police," claiming that she and other Democrats have "betrayed the African American community" and pandered for votes.

Trump charged that Clinton has been on the side of the rioters in Milwaukee, declaring: "Our opponent Hillary would rather protect the offender than the victim."

"The riots and destruction that have taken place in Milwaukee is an assault on the right of all citizens to live in security and to live in peace," he said.

The Clinton campaign responded by accusing Trump of being the bigot instead.

"With each passing Trump attack, it becomes clearer that his strategy is just to say about Hillary Clinton what's true of himself. When people started saying he was temperamentally unfit, he called Hillary the same. When his ties to the Kremlin came under scrutiny, he absurdly claimed that Hillary was the one who was too close to Putin. Now he's accusing her of bigoted remarks — We think the American people will know which candidate is guilty of the charge," spokeswoman Jennifer Palmieri said in a statement early Wednesday.

Congress receives FBI notes from Clinton interview

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress received FBI documents related to the agency's recently closed investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server during her tenure as secretary of state, lawmakers said Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for the Republican-led House oversight panel said staff is reviewing documents that are classified as secret. Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the intelligence committee, said in a statement that the panel received "FBI witness interview reports, including that of Secretary Clinton's interview, along with other materials from the FBI's now closed investigative file."

The FBI last month closed its yearlong probe into whether Clinton and her aides mishandled sensitive information that flowed through a private email server located in the basement of her New York home. Though he described Clinton's actions as "extremely careless," FBI Director James Comey said his agents found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing by the Democratic presidential nominee.

In a statement, the FBI said the materials were provided to Congress consistent with the agency's "commitment to transparency" in the Clinton case. The material contains classified information and was provided "with the expectation it will not be disseminated or disclosed" without the FBI's agreement, the agency said Tuesday.

Furious the FBI didn't press charges against their political rival, House Republicans pressed the agency to release notes from its agents' July interview with Clinton. They claim the FBI notes, which are typically kept confidential after an investigation is closed, may show Clinton provided inconsistent answers to questions about her handling of emails containing classified information during testimony last year before the House Benghazi panel.



AP Photo/John Locher, File

IN THIS MAY 24 FILE PHOTO, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks in Commerce, Calif. The House oversight committee says it has received FBI documents related to the investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. A spokeswoman for the committee says the committee is reviewing documents that are labeled classified.

Republicans are also demanding that the Justice Department open a new investigation into whether Clinton lied to Congress. Justice Department spokeswoman Melanie Newman declined to comment Tuesday on the GOP request for a perjury investigation.

Though the Republicans failed to find evidence to support their claims that Clinton was negligent in preventing or stopping the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, they are now focusing on questions surrounding the Democratic nominee's haphazard handling of emails containing government secrets. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump routinely criticizes Clinton over her email use when she was secretary of state.

Clinton said last year that she turned over all 55,000 pages of work-related emails from her server, but said she deleted thousands more she and her lawyers deemed as personal. Clinton also

says she never sent any information by email that was marked "classified."

More than 100 emails exchanged by Clinton were subsequently reviewed and determined to contain information classified. Republicans have pointed to three email chains forwarded to Clinton that contained paragraphs marked "(C)," signifying they contained classified information, as evidence she lied.

Democrats, meanwhile, expressed concern that the Republicans would leak snippets of the classified materials carefully selected to make the presidential candidate look bad without providing a fair account of what happened.

Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said Tuesday the campaign would like the FBI notes to be publicly released in full.

"This is an extraordinarily rare step that was sought solely by Republicans for the purposes of further second-guessing the

career professionals at the FBI," Fallon said. "We believe that if these materials are going to be shared outside the Justice Department, they should be released widely so that the public can see them for themselves, rather than allow Republicans to mischaracterize them through selective, partisan leaks."

Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, agreed, saying: "The FBI should make as much of the material available as possible. ... The people's interest would be served in seeing the documents that are unclassified."

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House oversight committee, said Clinton did not originate the three email chains in question, which were forwarded to her private account by aides. He said only one of those emails was later determined by the State Department to contain classified information.

"The FBI already determined unanimously that there is insufficient evidence of criminal wrongdoing," said Cummings, D-Md. "Republicans are now investigating the investigator in a desperate attempt to resuscitate this issue, keep it in the headlines and distract from Donald Trump's sagging poll numbers."

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Tuesday that the FBI allowed the department to review emails the agency is providing Congress.

"I think we're satisfied after having reviewed these emails that the FBI has made arrangements that the documents will be transmitted subject to appropriate handling controls," he said, adding that the department respects the FBI's desire to accommodate the requests of its congressional oversight committees.

Toner said, however, that the department is still discussing with the FBI the release of additional notes from the interviews investigators did with Clinton and her aides.

Trump brags about crowds but will it turn into votes?

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a staple of nearly every Donald Trump rally: a boast from the candidate about his massive crowd size, a claim — sometimes true and sometimes not — that thousands more outside are hoping to get in, and a belief that the turnout foreshadows victory in November.

"I actually think I'm going good, I have the biggest crowds," Trump told Fox on Tuesday, in light of sinking poll numbers. "Nobody's ever had crowds like this."

But Trump may be buying into the hype. Crowd size is frequently not a good indicator of success on Election Day — and some Republicans attribute Trump's refusal to alter his message for the general election to his insistence on measuring success by the adulation he receives from audiences he's already won over. In a general election, candidates typically broaden their message to reach the people not in the event halls, who have yet to be convinced.

"Campaigns that rely too much on anecdotal evidence like crowd sizes when looking to measure progress are easily lulled into a false sense of security," said Kevin Madden, a senior adviser on Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. "They assume, often wrongly, that the echo effect of being surrounded by big crowds of already converted voters is automatically translating into momentum."

Boisterous, often full-house rallies have long been the lynchpin of Trump's campaign, and the Republican nominee took to Twitter in recent days to complain

that the media were not giving them the credit they deserve.

"My rallies are not covered properly by the media. They never discuss the real message and never show crowd size or enthusiasm," Trump posted Sunday.

Madden, who does not support Trump, recalls that in the closing days of the campaign four years ago, Romney drew massive crowds on each side of Pennsylvania, one outside Philadelphia and one in Pittsburgh on Election Day.

"Based on crowd size, you'd have thought we had a good chance to win the state, but we ended up losing by about five points," Madden said. "The crowd sizes were there, but the data and the empirical evidence never really were."

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Louisiana flooding

Staying ahead of the mold, residents salvage what they can

GONZALES, La. (AP) — The heartbreaking task of sorting through waterlogged belongings and ripping out carpets and drywall is kicking into high gear Wednesday in flood-wracked southern Louisiana as the state faces a long-term challenge of how to house thousands of displaced people.

But even as the water receded in some areas, it was rising in other places downstream, sending people fleeing to shelters.

Officials painted a stark picture of the crisis: at least 40,000 homes damaged and 11 people killed in some of the worst flooding in Louisiana history. More than 30,000 people have been rescued since Friday.

There were scattered reports of looting, and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said parishes with widespread damage were being placed under curfew as of Tuesday night.

The smell of muddy water hung heavy in the air as people donned surgical masks and began the back-breaking job of ripping out soggy carpet, drywall and insulation. They cleared out spiders and cockroaches that had bubbled up through the sewer grates.

By noon Tuesday, more than two dozen volunteers had arrived at Rhonda Brewer's Baton Rouge home, helping her

take water-damaged belongings to the curb. Volunteers worked to remove wooden floor boards, sheet rock and insulation before the mold set in.

"The water was waist deep, so it's iffy if I can take the sheet rock and insulation half way or have to go to the ceiling," she said. "If we don't make it in time, we trash it."

Officials started going house to house to ensure everyone was accounted for. They also searched countless cars caught in the flooding.

"I don't know we have a good handle on the number of people who are missing," the governor said.

About 60,000 people have signed up for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and 20 parishes were included in the federal disaster declaration.

And help was coming from quarters beyond the federal government.

Performer Taylor Swift told The Associated Press she is donating \$1 million to flood relief. She noted the state's residents graciously welcomed her kickoff of the U.S. dates of her "1989 World Tour" in Louisiana last year.

"The fact that so many people in Louisiana have been forced out of their own homes this

week is heartbreaking," the 26-year-old said in a statement. "I encourage those who can to help out and send your love and prayers their way during this devastating time."

In Livingston Parish, one of the hardest-hit areas with about 138,000 people, an official estimated that 75 percent of the homes were a total loss.

Officials from Livingston Parish were in Baton Rouge on Tuesday to talk to federal officials about getting some sort of temporary housing for their first responders — a sign of the housing crunch likely to come with so many people out of their homes for weeks and perhaps months.

Rivers and creeks were still dangerously bloated south of Baton Rouge as water drained toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Nearly 800 evacuees waited Tuesday in a makeshift Red Cross shelter in Gonzales at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center, a multipurpose facility that has hosted rodeos, car and truck shows and concerts.

Floyd Melancon, 71, and his partner, Judy McGehee, 61, remained in the dark about how much water — if any — their Prairieville home received.

"My neighbor sent me a picture. Water was in the yard. I don't know where it's at right



CATTLE HUDDLE together in the water, caused by flooding after the heavy rains in Ascension Parish, in St. Amant, south of Baton Rouge, La., Tuesday. Bill Feig/The Advocate via AP

now," Melancon said. "Judy and I think it's come up since then."

In the house for 14 years, the couple doesn't have flood insurance to cover repairs.

"We weren't in a flood zone. It had never flooded before," McGehee said.

Many of the homeowners in inundated areas have no flood insurance, leaving them prone to draining savings accounts

and relying on federal disaster programs to rebuild and repair.

Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon said in hard-hit Baton Rouge only 12 percent of residences are covered by flood insurance, and 14 percent in Lafayette — what he called "shocking."

People in many of the areas that remain underwater weren't considered in a high-risk flooding area and weren't required to carry flood insurance by mortgage lenders.

The governor said he is worried about "battle fatigue" setting in as rescuers and resi-

dents deal with day upon day of stress.

The trauma was evident among people who went back to their homes.

David Key used a small boat to get to his house in Prairieville and said it had taken on 5 inches of "muddy, nasty bayou water." There were fish and thousands of spiders, and mold had started to grow.

"I'm not going to lie, I cried uncontrollably," he said. "But you have to push forward and make it through. Like everybody says, you still have your family."

Ford says it will have a fully autonomous car by 2021

DETROIT (AP) — Ford Motor Co. intends to have a fully driverless vehicle — no steering wheel, no pedals — on the road within five years. The car will initially be used for commercial ride-hailing or ride-sharing services; sales to consumers will come later.

"This is a transformational moment in our industry and it is a transformational moment for our company," said CEO Mark Fields, as he announced the plan at Ford's Silicon Valley campus in Palo Alto, California.

Ford's approach to the autonomous car breaks from many other companies, like Mercedes-Benz and Tesla Motors, which plan to gradually add self-driving capability to traditional cars. Just last month, BMW AG, Intel Corp. and the automotive camera maker

Mobileye announced a plan to put an autonomous vehicle with a steering wheel on the road by 2021.

Instead, Ford is taking the same approach as Alphabet Inc.'s Google, which supports moving directly to self-driving cars once the technology is perfected.

"We abandoned the stepping-stone approach of driver-assist technologies and decided we were going to take the full leap," said Raj Nair, Ford's chief technical officer.

Nair says Ford will continue developing systems that assist the driver, like automatic emergency braking or lane departure warning. But he said semi-autonomous systems that can operate the car but then cede control back to the driver when an obstacle is encountered are

actually dangerous in Ford's view. Engineers couldn't figure out how to make sure drivers stay engaged and ready to take over. So, Ford decided to remove the driver altogether.

"We learned that to achieve full autonomy, we have to take a completely different path," Nair said.

Jeremy Carlson, a senior analyst with IHS Automotive, says he doesn't know of another automaker who's taking Ford's approach. But there are challenges either way, he said. Riders may have a hard time trusting fully autonomous cars, for example, but semi-autonomous cars can be dangerous because drivers may not understand what the vehicles can and cannot do.

"I don't think there's going to be any one right answer," he said.

Ford's vehicle will be specifically designed for commercial mobility services, like taxi companies, and will be available in high volumes. Ford says personal ownership of self-driving cars will come later.

Ford didn't say whether it would work with a ride-sharing partner or try to establish services on its own. Rival General Motors Co. has a partnership with the ride-hailing company Lyft and has also bought a self-driving software company called Cruise Automation.

Dearborn, Michigan-based Ford also said it plans to double the staff at its Palo Alto research center by the end of next year to nearly 300 people. It will buy two more buildings next to its current building in order to expand its campus, Fields said.

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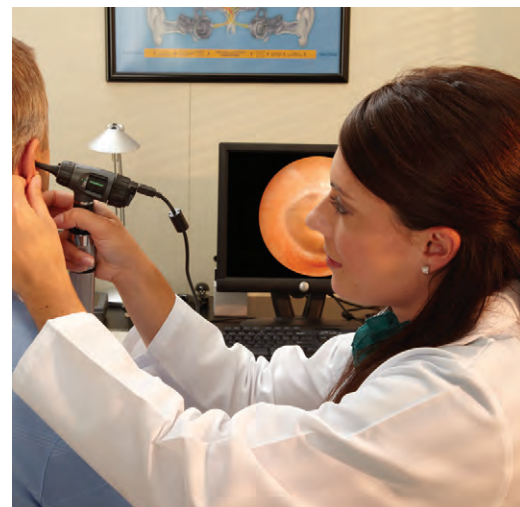


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Interagency Council updated on RCP, Samaritan Center

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

Members of the Bradley County Interagency Council received a wealth of information about the Relative Caregiver Program, as well as the mission of the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, at the group's August meeting at the Bradley County Health Department.

Interagency Chair Brian Stewart conducted the meeting, welcoming Jennifer Rose of RCP and Tony Dahlberg and Sharon Smith-Hensley of the Samaritan Center.

Rose explained that the RCP is a one-stop assistance program for relatives raising non-birth children, such as grandparents bringing up grandchildren.

She said the service links family assistance through a number of community resources and peer support groups.

The program is headquartered in Chattanooga, and assists families in Hamilton, Bradley, Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea and Sequatchie counties.

Anyone who is caring for a grandchild, niece or nephew, cousin, or a sibling is eligible for the program.

Qualifying criteria includes:
— The caregiver must be related to the child by blood or marriage;
— The caregiver does not have to have custody of the child;
— The child must live with the

caregiver in Tennessee; and
— The child must be 18 years of age or younger.

Services provided by RCP includes short-term case management, support groups for both the caregivers and the children, family advocacy, enrichment activities such as fun family events, limited respite for caregivers, educational workshops, and limited emergency start-up and financial assistance.

The Relative Caregiver Program is administered by the Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability, and is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

Rose said that oftentimes staff members have to guide clients through the program. "We meet with them once each month, and we attempt to stabilize their family situation every three months," she said.

The program also establishes support groups among the caregivers, where they can visit with each other. "We also have outside speakers come in and talk to them," she added.

Rose said there are drawbacks in the program. "We are continually looking for resources, and our ability to provide financial assistance is very limited," she said.

Birth parents cannot be in the home while this program is being administered.

Asked how many families are being served by the program,



BRIAN STEWART, left, chair of the Bradley County Interagency Council, is shown with Jennifer Rose, second from left, of the Relative Caregiver Program, and Sharon Smith-Hensley and Tony Dahlberg of the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah. On Monday, the two agencies presented this month's Interagency program at the Bradley County Health Department.

Rose said there are around 110 in the 11-county service area.

She emphasized that the only thing the caregivers have to do to participate after qualifying for assistance are the home visits.

Referrals to the program can be called in to 1-866-735-8752.

Dahlberg then provided extensive information about the

Samaritan Center of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, which manages a very popular thrift store for Bradley County shoppers in Ooltewah.

But, the thrift store and shopping center are just a small part of what the Samaritan Center is about.

The center's mission is to meet the basic physical, spiritual, and social needs of people in the Hamilton/Bradley communities.

The Samaritan Center provides emergency assistance for low income families and individuals throughout the region. Dahlberg pointed out that assistance is available by appointment for those who live in the center's service area, if you can provide documentation of need.

The center has assisted a number of Bradley County organization during its 30 years of operation.

Among the services offered are helping with utilities, rent and life-sustaining medication, food, Christmas toys, school supplies, cleaning supplies and personal care items, clothing and furniture, and more.

The center has approximately 40 staff members, and more than 300 volunteers who provid-

ed 16,681 volunteer hours in 2015 through 13 volunteer groups.

Volunteer positions include working in the thrift store, game checker, puzzle tester, gardener, fabric pricer, electronics checker, knife taper, bag/newspaper prepper, doll cleaner/dresser, and working in the food pantry.

Statistics for 2015 show the Samaritan Center had 9,787 clients who were assisted, with 46,679 food items distributed.

Thrift store sales for 2015 was \$1,263,818.67, and recycling brought in an additional \$163,933.11. Total assistance provide was over \$1.8 million, the estimated value of volunteer hours was \$417,040, community assistance from the thrift operation was \$838,841, and community assistance from social services is estimated at \$557,061.

Services for the year included 16 baby layettes to new mothers, 14 kids were sent to summer camp, 250 kids received school supplies, 110 families were provided Thanksgiving boxes, and 2,714 Christmas presents were given out and opened.

Dahlberg discussed a little history of the center, and how

the church ladies opposed the idea of a thrift store, at first. It started on the college campus, but quickly outgrew its facilities. The thrift store later moved to its current location in East Ooltewah with the purchase of the old Red Food Store.

The current facility is around 70,000 square feet, and staff and volunteer needs have increased significantly.

Dahlberg, who is a former nursing home director, joined the center in 2006 as plans were being formed to build a warehouse.

He highlighted the \$3 million facelift which was completed two years ago which has improved the facility. He also emphasized the success of the thrift store. "We have a lot of people who buy a lot of stuff," he said.

He also stressed the affordable prices at the thrift store. "We believe the quick nickle beats a slow dime," he emphasized.

Dahlberg said the Samaritan Center staff enjoys doing a lot of things behind the scene. He said they provided soccer balls to kids in Afghanistan, have assisted with youth baseball programs, provided assistance for mission trips to 31 countries and provided many items to disaster and emergency situations around the country.

"We're a real family, working closely with organizations and churches in Bradley and Hamilton counties," he said. He added that there are a lot of local churches who need help.

He said the thrift store and its operation is of vital importance. "However you touch a dollar bill, it helps the community," he said.

Dahlberg said the thrift store will take almost all donations. "We don't take automobile tires, or mattresses," he said. The elimination of mattresses was made recently, and it has created somewhat of a financial problem. The center must now get rid of old mattresses, which is quite expensive.

Dahlberg closed his discussion by describing the center's end-of-year sale just before Christmas each year. All items in the thrift store are sold during the bag sale, and the store is then re-stocked before the start of a new year.

This sale generates substantial revenue, but also provides customers with many items at bargain prices.

Cleveland subdivision regulations might be receiving some updates

By **JOYANNA LOVE**

Banner Senior Staff Writer

Subdivision regulations in the city will be getting an update, possibly with resident input.

During Tuesday's meeting, Cleveland Municipal Planning Commissioner Larry Presswood asked that an advisory board be formed to give input on potential improvements to the regulations.

"It would be nice to have people in the industry and regular citizens to advise," Presswood said.

He commented he would like the board to be "a cross section of the community."

Senior City Planner Corey Divel said there are some updates that need to be made to the subdivision regulations to include changes made in zoning. He said planning staffers are already working internally to determine what changes need to be made. However, he said an advisory board could also be formed.

City Manager Joe Fivas proposed city staff come back with a plan for such a board at the next planning commission meeting.

The planning commission approved abandoning an unused

"It would be nice to have people in the industry and regular citizens to advise."
— Larry Presswood

alleyway located between 2023 and 2043 Harle Ave.

Divel explained the alley already looks like it is a part of the property. Once the abandonment process is complete, the adjoining property owners will divide the alley. The Cleveland City Council must approve the action before it can take effect.

Ordinarily each property owner would get half, but Divel said the property owners were in discussions to work out an agreement where one of the property owners would get more of the abandoned property.

Approval was also given for infill setback standards for another Harle Avenue address. Divel said giving the property an infill setback would put the setback at 14 feet, which is what other homes in the area are. The property owner

Deanna Hanson is building a house with garage on the vacant lot.

The following was approved on the consent agenda. (Chair Dee Burris did not vote on the consent agenda, due to a conflict of interest, because he is the builder on one of the projects.)

■ Final plat approval of Ocoee Landing Townhomes, lots 39-41 on Emmylie Court. The property is a part of Planned Unit Development PUD5.

■ Final plat approval of Ramsey Street Townhomes.

■ Final plat approval of John R. Porte Property on Adkisson Drive and Arlena Drive N.W. The properties are zoned R2 Low Density Single and Multi-family Residential.

■ Final plat approval of Foster Lang Street Property. Property is located on Lang Street S.E. and is zoned R2 Low Density Single and Multi-family Residential.

■ Final plat approval of Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland's Victory Cove, Phase II, located on Arnold Avenue S.W. and Huff Avenue S.W. The property is a part of Planned Unit Development PUD10.

■ Final plat approval of Haven at Glenwood, revised lot 3. Property is located on Glenhaven Cove and is zoned R3 Multi-family Residential.

France holds security meeting to discuss protecting schools

PARIS (AP) — The French government held a special security meeting Wednesday to discuss increasing protection measures at schools after a series of deadly extremist attacks in the country.

The meeting, led by President Francois Hollande, was designed to adapt security measures to the new school year starting in September. The extremist threat is still at a "very high level," Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

As summer winds down, the number of military troops protecting sensitive sites will be decreased in the French regions and increased in Paris, Le Drian

said. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said he will announce specific measures to protect schools next week in coordination with Education Minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem.

Cazeneuve also confirmed the goal to form a national guard of 84,000 people in the coming months, based on the existing reserve forces, to help ensure security.

French intelligence services "are conducting investigations every day" and are making arrests of "individuals we think could pose a threat," Cazeneuve

said. France has been under a state of emergency since attacks claimed by Islamic State in Paris in November killed 130, extended after a radical truck driver killed 85 in Nice.

Later Wednesday, Hollande visits the Vatican to meet Pope Francis and discuss an attack on a Catholic Church last month in northwest France, in which extremists slit a priest's throat.

Authorities are also concerned about religious tensions in Corsica after a weekend clash between local residents and beachgoers of North African descent.

Biden urges Serbia-Kosovo reconciliation

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden urged wartime foes Serbia and Kosovo on Wednesday to mend ties and normalize relations, a condition for both Balkan countries to join the European Union.

Speaking to reporters after talks with Kosovo President Hashim Thaci, Biden said, "I know the scars of war are raw ... but reconciliation is necessary."

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, but Belgrade does not recognize its former province's statehood.

Serbia and Kosovo have signed a series of EU-brokered deals to regulate relations between the two. Some of those agreements — including one giving more self-rule to Kosovo's Serb minority — remain unimplemented.

"It will be difficult, but it is necessary and important, urgent work," Biden said, adding that he delivered the same message to Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic on Tuesday in Belgrade.

As a U.S. senator during the 1990s, Biden was a strong advocate of American involvement in the war-torn Balkans. He is in the second day of three-day trip that will be his last as vice president to the region.

Later Wednesday, Biden attended with his family an emotional ceremony naming a road near an American military base after his late son, Beau Biden, who died last year of brain cancer at age 46.

Beau Biden, former Delaware Attorney General, served in 2001 in Kosovo as an interim legal adviser.

"It was his strong belief from having been here at the depth of a very difficult time (for Kosovo) that made me confident that calling for the independence of this great country was the right thing to do," Biden said.

"Beau loved this country like I do," Biden said, turning around and pointing to grassy hills nearby as American and Kosovo flags fluttered in the background. "On behalf of the Biden family, we are extremely grateful and humbled beyond words."

With Thaci standing at his side, the vice president said earlier in the day that both the Kosovo president and the Serbian prime minister understand that normalizing relations "has to be done" and would benefit both Belgrade and Pristina.

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AP photo

IN THIS JULY 29 FILE PHOTO, the entrance to the former Nazi German death camp of Birkenau is lit by the morning sun, in Oswiecim, Poland. The Polish government has approved a new bill that foresees prison terms of up to three years for anyone who uses phrases like "Polish death camps" to refer to Auschwitz and other camps that Nazi Germany operated in occupied Poland during World War II.

Poland plans prison terms for using term 'Polish death camp'

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The Polish government approved a new bill on Tuesday that foresees prison terms of up to three years for anyone who uses phrases like "Polish death camps" to refer to Auschwitz and other camps that Nazi Germany operated in occupied Poland during World War II. The bill aims to deal with a problem the Polish government has faced for years: foreign media outlets — and even U.S. President Barack Obama — referring to the Nazi camps as "Polish."

The Justice Ministry said the Cabinet of Prime Minister Beata Szydlo approved the legislation during a weekly session on Tuesday.

It is expected to pass easily in the parliament, where the nationalistic right-wing ruling Law and Justice party enjoys a majority.

Poles fear that as the war grows more distant younger generations across the world will incorrectly assume that Poles had a role in running Auschwitz, Treblinka and other German death camps, a bitter association

for a nation that was occupied and subjected to brutality that left some 5.5 million Polish citizens dead during the war, about 3 million Jews and 2.5 million non-Jews.

"It wasn't our mothers, nor our fathers, who are responsible for the crimes of the Holocaust, which were committed by German and Nazi criminals on occupied Polish territory," Zbigniew Ziobro, the justice minister, said Tuesday. "Our responsibility is to defend the truth and dignity of the Polish state and the Polish nation, as well as our fathers, our mothers and our grandparents."

Many Poles support such legislation and feel that it differs little from laws that some countries, including Poland and Germany, have that make Holocaust denial a crime.

However, critics note that the government will ultimately be powerless to punish people outside of Poland, those most likely to use such language.

They fear its true intent is to repress historical inquiry within Poland into Polish behavior

toward Jews. Though the Polish state never collaborated with the Nazis, there were some Poles who killed Jews or identified them to the Germans. That subject is anathema to the country's nationalistic leadership, which has an official "historical policy" of promoting knowledge of the heroic episodes in Poland's past. There were also Poles who risked their lives to help Jews. The Israeli Holocaust museum Yad Vashem has recognized more than 6,000 Poles as "Righteous Among the Nations" for rescuing Jews, more than from any other country.

The bill had been under discussion for many months and originally foresaw a prison term of up to five years. The version approved Tuesday is milder.

The Justice Ministry says that prison terms of up to three years would be reserved for those who intentionally slander Poland's good name by using terms like "Polish death camps" or "Polish concentration camps."

Those who use such language unintentionally would face lesser punishments, including fines.

S. Korea: Senior N. Korean diplomat based in London defects with family

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A senior North Korean diplomat based in London has defected to South Korea, becoming one of the highest Northern officials to do so, South Korea said Wednesday.

Thae Yong Ho, minister at the North Korean Embassy in London, has arrived in South Korea with his family and is under the protection of the South Korean government, Seoul's Unification Ministry said.

Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-Hee said Thae told South Korean officials that he decided to defect because of his disgust with the government of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, his yearning for South Korean democracy and worries about the future of his children.

Jeong said Thae was the second-highest official in North Korea's embassy, and is the most senior North Korean diplomat to defect to South Korea. In 1997, the North Korean ambassador to Egypt fled but resettled in the United States.

Jeong refused to give further details about Thae's defection, citing possible diplomatic problems with a concerned country he didn't identify. Britain's Foreign Office declined to comment.

The highest-level North Korean to seek asylum in South Korea is Hwang Jang-yop, a senior ruling Workers' Party official who once tutored Kim Jong Un's late father, dictator Kim Jong Il. Hwang's 1997 defection was hailed by many South Koreans as an intelligence bonanza and a sign that the North's political system was inferior to the South's. Hwang died in 2010.

Thae's defection will likely

enrage North Korea, which often accuses South Korea of kidnapping or enticing its citizens to defect.

South Korea doesn't always make high-level defection cases public. Its revelation of Thae's defection came as ties between the rivals are at one of their lowest points in decades over the North's nuclear ambitions. North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January, and South Korea has been working hard to apply more international pressure on the North.

Jeong said Thae's defection could be a sign that unity in Kim Jong Un's ruling class is weakening.

Analyst Chang Yong Seok at Seoul National University's Institute for Peace and Unification Studies disputed that assessment, saying there are no tangible signs that Kim's grip on power is being challenged. "Senior North Korean officials have defected before, but these have all been isolated cases that weren't followed by a chain of defections by other officials," he said.

Ramon Pacheco Pardo, senior lecturer in international relations at King's College London, said a diplomatic defection "could prove very valuable to South Korea, the U.S. and other countries."

"Most North Korean defectors have limited access to the inner workings of the North Korean regime," he said. "The defection of a diplomat would allow intelligence services and military forces in other countries to learn more about the level of support that Kim Jong Un enjoys, recent developments in North Korea's nuclear and missile programs or the extent to which real economic reforms are

being implemented.

"The defection of a high-level diplomat could also signal growing internal skepticism about the strength of the Kim Jong Un regime, since they are a rare occurrence."

Thae, 55, is a veteran diplomat who is experienced in dealing with countries in Western Europe. He led a North Korean delegation that held talks with European Union representatives over the North's human rights situation in Brussels in 2001, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

Thae had worked at the North Korean Embassy in London for about 10 years, Yonhap said. Previously, he worked at its now-closed embassy in Denmark and spent a short period of time at its embassy in Sweden, it said.

More than 29,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, according to South Korean government records. Many defectors have said they wanted to leave North Korea's harsh political system and poverty.

In April, 13 North Koreans working at a North Korean-operated restaurant in China defected to South Korea in the largest group defection since Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011. Later in April, South Korea also revealed that a colonel in North Korea's military spy agency had defected to the South last year.

Wednesday's announcement came as North Korea is responding angrily to a U.S. plan to place an advanced missile defense system in South Korea. The North has warned of unspecified retaliation and fired several missiles into the sea earlier this month.

Russia: Striking Syria from Iran does not violate sanctions

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian foreign minister on Wednesday rejected allegations that its use of Iranian military bases for airstrikes in Syria violates United Nations sanctions on Iran.

Russia on Tuesday announced that it had launched the strikes from near the Iranian city of Hamedan and struck targets in three provinces in northern and eastern Syria. The defense ministry on Wednesday announced a new wave of airstrikes out of Iran, saying its jets took off earlier in the day from a base southwest of the Iranian capital, Tehran, to strike targets in the east of Syria.

It is virtually unheard in recent history for Iran to allow a foreign power to use one of its bases to stage attacks. Russia has also never used the territory of another country in the Middle East for its operations inside Syria, where it has been carrying out an aerial campaign in support of President Bashar Assad's government for nearly a year. Iran is also a major supporter of Assad.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Wednesday denied allegations by U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner, who the day before said Russia's operation out of Iran

could violate the U.N. resolution that prohibits the supply, sale and transfer of combat aircraft to Iran unless approved by the Security Council.

"In the case we're discussing there has been no supply, sale or transfer of fighter jets to Iran," Lavrov told a news conference. "The Russian Air Force uses these fighter jets with Iran's approval in order to take part in the counter-terrorism operation" in Syria.

The minister also called on the U.S. not to "nitpick about what is happening in terms of the remaining restrictions on trade and ties with Iran."

In Syria, seven civilians were killed and nine were wounded by rocket rounds fired by armed groups on a government-controlled district of the city of Aleppo, Syria's state-run news agency said on Wednesday.

SANA reported that the rockets struck the Salaheddine residential district in the northern city, which has been divided into a rebel-held eastern part and a government-controlled western part since 2012. On Tuesday, nearly 20 civilians were reported killed in airstrikes in eastern districts of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and its former commercial center which

has become the focal point of the country's ruinous civil war.

Iran allowing Russian warplanes to take off from its territory to bomb targets in Syria was an unprecedented move, underscoring the deepening cooperation between two powerhouses heavily invested in the Syrian civil war.

Ali Larijani, the speaker of Iran's parliament, insisted on Wednesday that Russia does not have a permanent military base within the Islamic Republic. His comments were geared at easing domestic concerns over the strikes. Iran's constitution, ratified after its 1979 Islamic Revolution, bars foreign militaries from having bases within the country.

In his remarks, reported by the state-run IRNA news agency, Larijani did not directly discuss the strikes, though he said Iran has "cooperated with Russia, as it is our ally on regional issues, especially on Syrian issues."

Col. Christopher Garver, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, told reporters at the Pentagon that the Russians activated a communications link with coalition officials just ahead of the first bomber mission on Tuesday.



AP photo

A MAN PLAYS "POKEMON GO" at a popular PokeStop in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Saturday. One week after being released in Vietnam, the game has become one of the most talked-about topics in the Southeast Asian country.

French mayor bans 'anarchical' Pokemon settlement in village

PARIS (AP) — A French mayor has denounced the "anarchical settlement" of "Pokemon Go" characters on the "territory" of his eastern village and has ordered the game's creator to remove the virtual creatures.

Bressolles Mayor Fabrice Beauvois said Tuesday that he has mailed a decree to California-based Niantic Inc. and The Pokemon Company to make sure they stop setting up Pokemons in the village of about 800 inhabitants northeast of Lyon.

In his decree, the mayor says the search for Pokemons puts pedestrians and drivers at risk because players get inattentive while watching their smartphones and that it may also result in groups of people forming at night.

The game, increasingly popular around the world, sends players into the real world to search for digital monsters known as Pokemons, which appear on their smartphone screens.

Beauvois insisted in a phone interview with The Associated Press that his order, issued last week, is only targeting the two companies, not the players. He said that Bressolles is the first French municipality to issue such a decree.

The mayor lamented the settlement of Pokemon characters on the "territory" of his village without Niantic asking for prior authorization.

"When a cafe or a restaurant

owner wants to open a business in any French town, they have an obligation to request prior authorization to the mayor. The rule applies to all people wishing to set up an activity or occupy a space on a public property. So it applies to Niantic as well, even though their settlement is virtual," Beauvois said.

Beauvois maintains the "Pokemon Go" phenomenon is spreading in a "contagious" way, that the game may lead to a "dangerous addiction" among young people and that it is his responsibility to ensure public tranquility and order.

"They (Niantic developers) use the entire planet as a playground," he said.

The mayor said he wants to raise a debate about the issue and that local citizens are happy with the decree. He acknowledged he is unaware of any incidents related to a Pokemon search in his village but he wants to keep his village "quiet." He was told Pokemon figures have been found by Bressolles' war memorial.

Following recent complaints, Niantic has removed game stops from sensitive sites, including from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Japan's Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Cambodia's genocide museum.

Niantic didn't immediately respond to a message seeking a comment on the mayor's decree. However, last week a Niantic

spokesman said in a statement that the company is "moving quickly to review and address all such requests" and that property owners can request the removal of a stop by visiting the "Pokemon Go" website.

Iran has prohibited "Pokemon Go" entirely, Israel has banned it from military bases and Indonesia has barred it from the presidential palace, citing national security issues.

In France, authorities have often tried to regulate new technology that oversteps traditional legal boundaries, targeting companies like Facebook, Twitter, Google or Uber in the past.

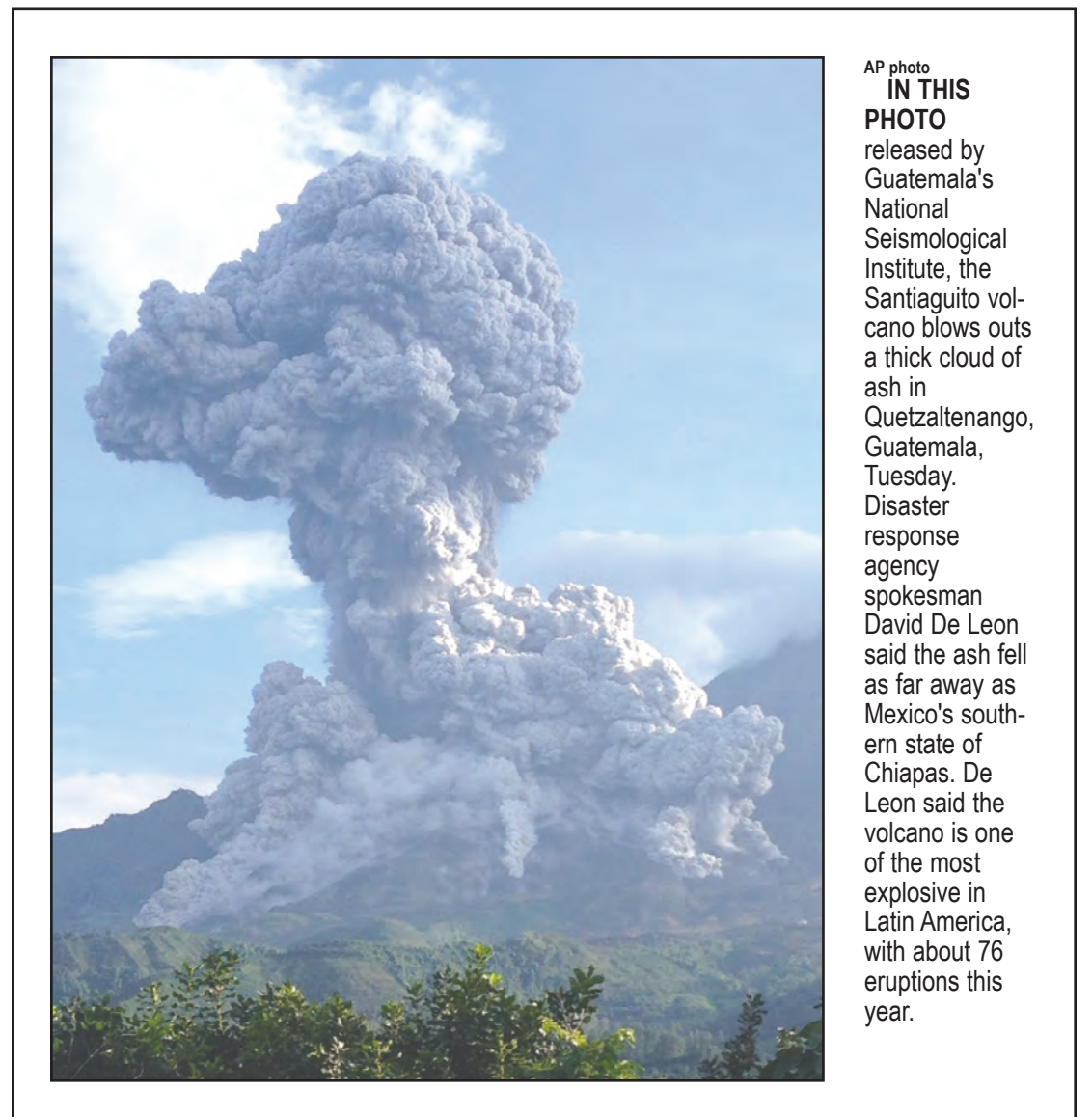
Madonna joins in the stream of celebrities visiting Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Madonna is the latest celebrity to visit Cuba, dancing in a restaurant for her birthday and touring Havana with her family and friends.

The singer arrived in Havana on Monday. Excited crowds have gathered outside the hotel where she is staying in historic Old Havana, but have caught few glimpses of the 58-year-old star.

Fan Taimi Estrada Joba says she hopes to see Madonna perform a concert in Cuba someday. In her words, "We are very happy she came."

A string of U.S. celebrities has visited Havana as part of a boom in tourism set off by the declaration of detente with the U.S. in December 2014.



AP photo

IN THIS PHOTO released by Guatemala's National Seismological Institute, the Santiaguillo volcano blows out a thick cloud of ash in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, Tuesday. Disaster response agency spokesman David De Leon said the ash fell as far away as Mexico's southern state of Chiapas. De Leon said the volcano is one of the most explosive in Latin America, with about 76 eruptions this year.

SPORTS

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Patel hat trick paces Lady Mustangs' win

By RICHARD ROBERTS
Banner Sports Editor

Walker Valley girls soccer coach Nate Brown was all smiles after the Lady Mustangs' soccer season opener Tuesday afternoon.

The Lady Mustangs overcame what head coach Nate Brown considered a slow start — even though Walker Valley took a 1-0 lead less than two minutes in — and rolled to a big win over Boyd-Buchanan.

Senior Mya Patel helped put the smile on Brown's face with a season-opener hat trick in the 6-2 victory.

"It wasn't a bad start at all. We got off a bit slow, but I think it gradually got better. The first game at home the girls can sometimes be a bit nervous. We've got some new things out here and a new field, but I think the girls really stepped into who they know they are," said Brown.

Senior Jade Mayo helped the Lady Mustangs find their soccer legs, taking a pass from Patel to put the first goal of the season in the net for Walker Valley.

The Lady Buccaneers tied the game in the 16th minute with the second goal of the game.

Mayo set up the next Walker Valley score with an assist to junior Taylor Ellis in the 32nd

minute to put the Lady Mustangs out front for good, 2-1.

In the 36th minute, Patel scored her first goal of the half on a breakaway with an assist from Ellis to make it 3-1. Patel repeated the performance 65 seconds later with her second score of the first half with another breakaway goal, this one on a pass from Kendall Harris.

"I think they were just finding their feet early. We've played some scrimmages but this was our first regular-season game," said Brown, whose Lady Mustangs face a tough test on the road Friday. "Now I think we can push on. We've got a tough game next against GPS. Hopefully we can come out firing for that one as well."

Boyd-Buchanan showed it was capable of putting points on the board, cutting the lead to 4-2 less than two minutes into the second half.

Mayo and Ellis hooked up again in the 50th minute with Mayo getting the assist on a perfectly placed shot from the left corner by Ellis that sailed over the Boyd keeper's head into the upper right corner of the uprights. The score put the Lady Mustangs on top 5-2.

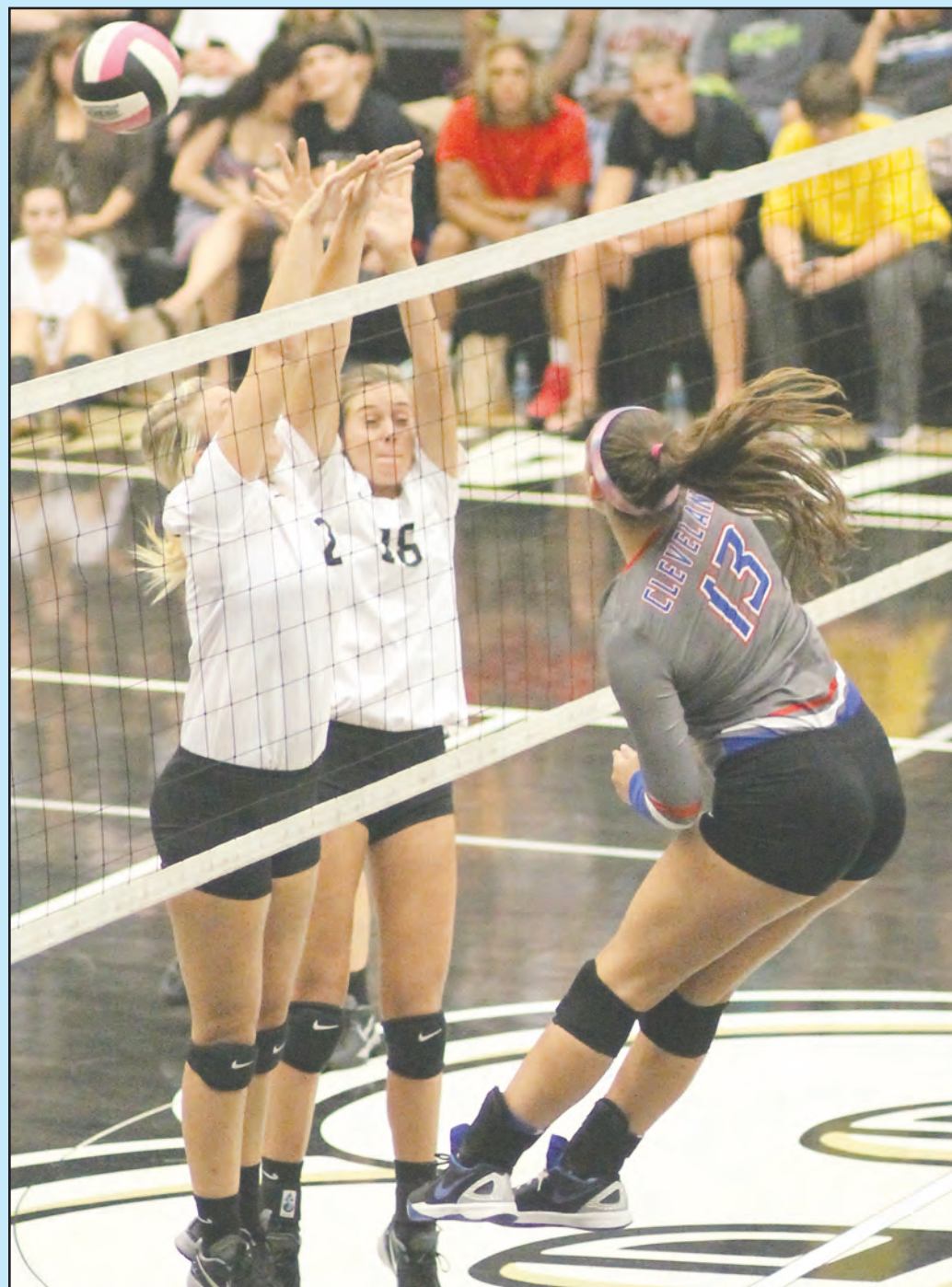
Minutes later, Patel capped off

See MUSTANGS, Page 13



Banner photo, RICHARD ROBERTS

WALKER VALLEY senior Mya Patel, left, battles a Boyd-Buchanan defender in the second half Tuesday, at Walker Valley. Patel scored a hat trick in the Lady Mustangs' 6-2 win in their season opener.



Banner photo, JOE CANNON

CLEVELAND HIGH senior Morgan Moffett (13) powers a shot past Bradley Central defenders Ashley Gatlin (2) and Morgan Ruth (16) during Tuesday evening's season-opening action at Jim Smiddy Arena.

Lady Raiders blank Bradley

By JOE CANNON
Banner Assistant Sports Editor

After taking nearly three hours to play the best-of-three freshman and junior varsity matches, the best-of-five varsity match was done in less than an hour, as a veteran Cleveland High squad straight swept the young Bradley Central team to open the new TSSAA volleyball season at Jim Smiddy Arena Tuesday evening.

"Bradley is young, but they'll get better as the season goes along," proclaimed veteran Lady Raider head coach Patricia Flowers after the 25-16, 25-11, 25-17 sweep. "We have a full senior class (seven) with a lot of experience and that

made the difference tonight.

"I was proud for my girls to pull off a win. I wouldn't say this is the best I have seen the team play together, but it was nice to get a district win under our belt and get those first game jitters over with so we can start playing with a little more intensity," she added.

Trailing just twice in the match, the Lady Raiders dominated with 17 aces and 22 kills on the night.

"We served well and hit the ball well for our first match, but we need to turn more of our hits into kills," assessed Coach Flowers.

After the visitors jumped out to a quick 4-1

See RAIDERS, Page 13

State ranking hypes 'County Conflict'

By JOE CANNON

Banner Assistant Sports Editor

As if the season-opening "County Conflict" needed any more hype, Tuesday it became a state-ranked rumble.

When the much-anticipated clash of county teams open the TSSAA football season Thursday evening, it will be an eighth-ranked (5A) Walker Valley herd stampeding into the Bear's Den to face the fifth-ranked (6A) Bradley Central sleuth.

Both local teams were recognized by Associated Press sports writers from across the state when the preseason poll came out Tuesday, adding fuel to the fan frenzy that is already at a fever pitch, as supporters of both squads are expecting big seasons from their favorite teams.

"This has turned into something very exciting," proclaimed Mustang head coach Glen Ryan. "The community is really talking about it and there's a lot of excitement on both sides.

"It's a tough situation in that you want your kids pumped up, but not to the point where nerves cause mistakes or we wear ourselves out before the game," he added. "We are going to have to focus on football and not the hype."

While last year was Walker Valley's first time to start a season against a rival, Bradley has been doing so for several years.

"We're used to a rivalry game to start the season after playing them (Walker Valley) last year,

plus opening with Polk County the previous six years," declared Bear head coach Damon Floyd. "We can't let the state ranking go to our heads. We've haven't played a game, so nobody has proven anything yet.

"It's a difficult situation in that with it being the first game, you're more likely to make mistakes that can really hurt you," he added. "You are trying to get things done you need to do in any first game, but the fact that you are having to do it against a rival team, magnifies it."

Both coaches expressed great respect for their Thursday night opponents long before the state rankings came out.

"Walker Valley scored against everybody last year. They put 44 points on Ooltewah in their final game last season and just missed the playoffs, plus they beat a pair of state champions in scrimmages this offseason — Ravenwood in the spring game and Knox Catholic the other day," remarked Coach Floyd.

The Mustangs averaged 35.7 points per game, scoring 40-plus points in four of their 10 contests in 2015, and have all but one of the offensive starters back this season.

"They have as much firepower as anyone we'll face this season," proclaimed Floyd.

"They have so many weapons. (Kolten) Gibson, their quarterback, is a dual threat that can throw or run. They are dangerous on the edges with a slew of receivers including (Bryce) Nunnally, (Cooper) Melton, (Zach) Eslinger and (Tucker) Mendenhall, plus (Alex) King is a

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Banner photo, SARALYN NORKUS

BRADLEY CENTRAL'S Hannah Dalton (6) works to beat a Grace Academy player to the ball during Tuesday's season opener. The Bearettes defeated Grace 3-0.

Bearettes roll past Grace

By SARALYN NORKUS
Banner Sports Writer

The 2016 soccer season opened up in differing fashions for Bradley Central and Cleveland.

The Bearettes got off on the right foot in a 3-0 win over Grace Academy, while the Lady Raiders' fate came down to a penalty kick in the final minutes of play for a 1-0 loss to Ooltewah.

Returning 15 players from last year, it didn't take too long for Bradley to get comfortable in Tuesday's game.

Just seven minutes in, Reagan Harrod, with an assist from Miranda Atkins, got a shot past the Grace keeper to put the Bearettes up 1-0. That one-goal lead held for the majority of the game.

Halfway through the second half, Anna Stouffer put Bradley up 2-0 on an unassisted goal.

The two-goal lead soon turned into a three-goal cushion. A corner kick from Stouffer made it to Harrod, who passed it over

See BEARETTES, Page 13



Banner file photo

WALKER VALLEY senior running back Alex King (33) will be looking for running room against the Bradley defense Thursday evening, as the eighth-ranked (5A) Mustangs stampede into Bear Stadium to face the fifth-ranked (6A) Black-and-Gold to open the new TSSAA gridiron season.

WEDNESDAY

LIFESTYLES

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Rafael Santiago: Bringing a boxing gym to Cleveland

Special to the Banner

Cleveland newcomer Rafael Santiago is passionate about working with troubled children and getting a workout in a good boxing gym. Now that the New York native is working with the local Court Appointed Special Advocates nonprofit which helps children in abuse and neglect situations, Santiago is able to combine his two loves into a knock-out experience to help troubled youths.

In the afternoons, Santiago trains youngsters, teenagers — even adults — who have never boxed, and introduces them to the challenging training boxers go through in his new fitness center, 5.B (for Five Point Boxing) Gym, located across from the Cleveland Police Department.

"I love working with children at CASA, and I really love introducing children and adults to boxing and all the training involved," Santiago said. "It is what I have been doing all of my life and, with some luck, I will one day be able to coach an Olympian on the U.S. boxing team."

Santiago forged his boxing knowledge in many of the boroughs of the Big Apple that produced champions like Sugar Ray Robinson, Jake LaMotta and other boxing greats. He uses the same training techniques taught in New York boxing gyms, considered the mecca of boxing in the United States.

Born in Queens, N.Y., Santiago explained how boxing became a transformative exercise in his life. "My father, Nelson, was a diamond cutter in New York. Many years ago, the New York diamond industry made an effort to attract Puerto Ricans to be diamond cutters, and my father learned and taught diamond cutting in New York, surrounding areas, and Spain. My mother worked in hospital finance. Along with my brother and sister, our family had a good life, even though we lived a lot of places," he said.

While the diamond industry provided well for Santiago's family, as he got older his father worried about him becoming a target of gangs and other bad elements around the neighborhood that were pitfalls for local youths.

"I began having issues with people at school by not knowing how to handle conflict with my classmates," he admits. "I did not



have a clear path on how to handle myself. My father saw this and decided he needed to do something. Even though the Bronx and Brooklyn could be rough places at times, they had the best boxing gyms in the world."

So Santiago's father enrolled him at the Morris Park boxing gym in the Bronx, when he was only 9. From his very first contact with a boxing facility, Santiago describes it as "a life-changing experience" and "love at first sight."

"My first time at the gym, it was 10 degrees outside with a terrible wind chill and the coach told me to run around the block five times before we could start training," he said smiling. "It was a cold and hard day, but I was instantly hooked because this was exactly what I wanted to do."

Santiago boxed all the way through grammar school, middle school and high school — com-

peting in local tournaments and in state Golden Gloves competition. Later, when he was not boxing, he was training others. Santiago confessed he found he "truly enjoyed motivating others and helping them improve" in the sport.

"Boxing teaches respect, self-control, self-defense, and everyone learns how hard you must work to get good," he explained. "Regardless of how much I loved it, my mother hated boxing. She threw all my boxing gear in the garbage one time when I snuck out of the house and went to the gym to train."

Santiago shook his head at the memory and smiled, saying, "She just never understood."

After graduating from high school, he went to Nyack College in New York where he met his future wife, Rose, while she was an undergraduate. The two met at a student social where Santiago was performing



Contributed photos
RAFAEL SANTIAGO, seen with his wife, Rose, and their three children, Jeriah, 6, Shya, 4, and Livia (2 months) are newcomers to Cleveland who enjoy the friendly, cozy comforts of a community that puts family first and invests in its youths. Santiago, who grew up boxing in many of New York's renowned boxing gyms, has opened his own boxing gym in Cleveland, using it to reinforce the principles that he believes young people need in life. "Boxing teaches respect, self-control and self-defense," said Santiago, who is working with the Court Appointed Special Advocates for abused and neglected children. Left two photos show Santiago training youths in his boxing new gym, 5.B Gym.

Christian rap. Introduced by mutual friends, the two soon became inseparable. After graduating college, Santiago took a job with the New York Board of Education and partnered with one of his boxing mentors to

start the DAS Boxing Center, located in downtown Manhattan. He waited two years for Rose to graduate before they married. Soon they started their family, had two children and realized that everything was coming

together exactly as both had planned.

After several successful years, however, the building Santiago rented for his boxing gym was

See BOXING Page 20

'Ghost Tales of the State Line Mob,' a haunting historical thriller



Contributed photo
AUTHOR ROBERT BROUGHTON is shown with Bill Wagoner, left, and Jack Coffman, right, personal friends of Buford Pusser, who knew personally the Hathcocks, Timlakes and others in "Ghost Tales of the State Line Mob." They endorsed the book as one of the most accurate accounts of the State Line Mob.

By **BETTIE MARLOWE**
Banner Staff Writer

Before there are ghosts, there have to be real, live people. And "Ghost Tales of the State Line Mob" by Robert D. Broughton has more than its share — bootleggers, gamblers, gangsters, killers, law men and outlaws, as well as the innocent and the victims who got caught in the lawless mayhem that spanned more than four decades in McNairy and Alcorn counties in Tennessee and Mississippi. But the writer takes you back to the turn of the century — back to how it all began.

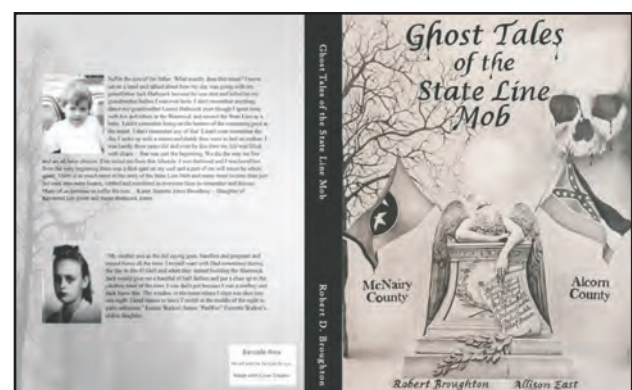
Although written in novel form, the 573-page book is based on some 40,000 court records, documents, newspaper articles, police records and interviews, which give a factual history of the "Ghost Tales." It took several years with miles of travel, hundreds of interviews and untold hours of research to write this thriller. The pages overflow with history, actual photos, authentic copies of documents and details of murder and crime.

In the midst of all the state line happenings, McNairy County Sheriff Buford Pusser (his first day as sheriff was Sept. 1, 1964) strode into the picture after the death of Sheriff James Dickey. Earlier, he had been working on a pipeline in Oklahoma before moving to the area a few years before.

According to Broughton, with Pusser, "thus began the decline and fall of the empire that

bootleg whiskey had created along the state line."

Right away, he went up against the queen of the state line, Louise Hathcock, the wife of Jack Hathcock, whom she had someone to kill so she could take over the whole operation, including the night spots. They had a daughter, Susan, who tried to get away from the mess, but she and her husband, Raymond Jones, were killed, leaving a little 3-year-old daughter, Karen Jeanette. (Louise was ultimately killed by Pusser when she tried to shoot him.)



Broughton in the introduction of "Ghost Tales," writes: "By age 12, Jack Hathcock had dynamited an outhouse with a kid inside; spent eight months in reform school for stealing a Bowie knife and knew every moonshiner by name when they came to carry his father's casket

at the funeral, shot dead in a street duel."

In a blurb on the book's back cover, Karen says, "Suffer the sins of the father. What exactly does that mean? I never sat on a stool and talked about how my day was going with my grandfather Jack Hathcock because he was shot and killed by my grandmother before I was ever born. I don't remember anything about my grandmother Louise Hathcock even though I spent time with her and others at the Shamrock and around the State Line as a baby ... I don't even remember the day I woke up with a mama

See MOB Page 20



AP Photo/Martin Mejia

THE PASTORURI GLACIER is reflected in a lagoon in the Huascarán National Park in Huaraz, Peru. Glacial lakes are often pretty fragile structures, created when rocks and rubble carried by a glacier form a moraine that dams up its water outflow. The dam can also be created by chunks of a glacier's own ice. These inherently unstable structures can collapse quickly, especially in places like Peru that are prone to frequent, violent earthquakes.



AP Photo/Martin Mejia

A BLOCK OF ICE of Pastoruri glacier is melting. Tourists visit this glacier in a tour called "Route of climate change" in Huaraz, Peru. "As glaciers disappear around the world, there is less water available for use for hydroelectric power, as a renewable resource for agriculture for human consumption," said Benjamin Orlove, a professor of international and public affairs at Colombia University in New York. "The glacier retreat also brings many disasters. Entire slopes are destabilized, creating landslides that travel many miles and have destroyed entire towns."

Melting glaciers pose threat beyond water scarcity: floods

PASTORURI GLACIER, Peru (AP) — The tropical glaciers of South America are dying from soot and rising temperatures, threatening water supplies to communities that have depended on them for centuries. But experts say that the slow process measured in inches of glacial retreat per year also can lead to a sudden, dramatic tragedy.

The melting of glaciers like Peru's Pastoruri has put cities like Huaraz, located downslope from the glacier about 35 miles (55 kilometers) away, at risk from what scientists call a "glof" — glacial lake outburst flood.

A glof occurs when the weak walls of a mountain valley collapse under the weight of meltwater from a glacier. Recent examples include the rapid draining in 2013 of a lake at Chile's Ventisquero glacier in the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, six years after another, nearby lake essentially disappeared there.

Those sites are in remote, sparsely populated Patagonia. But if the glacial Palcacocha lake collapsed, it could cause a damaging flood, say experts in Peru, sort of like a smaller, modern cousin of the ancient glof that is thought to have carved the English Channel.

"As glaciers disappear around the world, there is less water available for use for hydroelectric power, as a renewable resource for agriculture, for human consumption," said Benjamin Orlove, a professor of international and public affairs at Colombia University in New York. "The glacier retreat also brings many disasters. Entire slopes are destabilized, creating landslides that travel many miles and have destroyed entire towns."

Benjamin Morales Arnao, the head of Peru's National Institute for Glacier Research, said that while the country's glaciers "are a source of life, due to their water resources and biodiversity ... these glaciers are also a source of glacial catastrophes."

The problem is that glacial lakes are often fragile structures, created when rocks and rubble carried by a glacier form a moraine that dams up its water outflow. The dam can also be created by chunks of a glacier's own ice. These inherently unstable structures can collapse quickly, especially in a place like Peru that is prone to frequent, violent earthquakes.

At a conference last week on the glacier retreat in Peru, Morales Arnao said that Huaraz, a city of about 100,000 people, is particularly at risk from Palcacocha lake, just 12 miles (20 kilometers) up the mountain above the city, and called for resources to mitigate the risk. Dams, spillways and other waterworks have helped in other places.

Massive glofs have occurred regularly in sparsely populated parts of Iceland and other nations.



Photo/Martin Mejia

A GROUP OF TOURISTS walk backdropped by the Tuco" glacier in the Huascarán National Park, in a tour called "Route of climate change" in Huaraz, Peru. The tropical glaciers of South America are dying from soot and rising temperatures, threatening water supplies to communities that have depended on them for centuries.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, a regional intergovernmental research center that serves the eight countries of the Himalayas, said that in Nepal — whose proximity to the highest and largest meltwater sources in the world makes it particularly vulnerable — "little attention was paid to the phenomenon until the sudden outburst of the Dig Tsho," a relatively small meltwater lake in the Mount Everest National Park.

On Aug. 4, 1985, the lake's moraine dam collapsed, and all its water drained into a downstream valley in four hours, causing losses as far as 30 to 35 miles (50 to 60 kilometers) down-

stream.

A large ice and rock avalanche had cascaded into the lake, creating a wave that spilled over the moraine and caused it to collapse, the center's report said. "It discharged an estimated 6 to 10 million cubic meters (as much as 2.6 billion gallons) of water into the valley below."

Digging stone- or cement-lined channels through glacial dams is one solution to the threat. Many moraine dams collapse because meltwater erodes them by seepage or over-topping them. Stopping global warming that is increasingly causing glaciers to melt is another.

Experts at the International Forum on Glaciers

and Mountain Ecosystems held in Huaraz last week concluded that the world is going to have to plan on melting glaciers, at least for the time being.

"The processes of climate change and glacial melting are irreversible," the forum said in its conclusions. "We have to carry out actions to adapt, and mitigate the risks."

"The long-term solution is for the world to shift to different energy sources, sources that are renewable, sources that do not emit gases that cause climate change," Orlove said. "In the short term we have to find adaptations, like installing early warning systems for disasters in the most sensitive areas."

Search resumes for Nazi gold train that might not even exist



AP Photo/Dariusz Gdesz

HEAVY MACHINERY begins the search, the work of explorers hoping to find a legendary Nazi train laden with treasure and armaments in Walbrzych, Poland, on Tuesday. The search attests to the power of a local legend claiming a Nazi "gold" train disappeared in a mountain tunnel as the Germans escaped the advancing Soviet army at the end of World War II.

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Explorers in Poland began digging Tuesday for a legendary Nazi train said to be laden with treasure and armaments.

They're not dissuaded by decades of fruitless searches, a scientific determination that no train is there and warnings by historians that such a train might have never even existed.

The search in southwestern Poland attests to the power of a local legend claiming a Nazi "gold train" disappeared in a mountain tunnel as the Germans escaped the advancing Soviet army at the end of World War II.

As the dig got underway, a yellow excavator moved earth along railroad tracks above the spot where two explorers believe the train is buried. The work is expected to last several days.

The two men claimed last year to have located the elusive train with radar equipment deep in the bowels of the earth in the city of Walbrzych, sparking a gold rush in that area.

A government official initially said he was "99 percent sure" the train was there, helping to feed the frenzy. The arrival of treasure hunters and curiosity seekers from across Europe gave a welcome financial boost to the surrounding coal mining region of Silesia, which has struggled since unprofitable mines in the area were closed after the fall of

communism.

Late last year, geological experts using magnetic equipment found no train on the spot, and the matter seemed to have been settled quietly.

But the explorers refused to give up.

Andrzej Galik, a spokesman for the search team, said six independent companies using various radar devices have detected anomalies indicating the shape of a tunnel underground.

"The results of the ground-penetrating radar examinations are very promising," Galik said. "It's so exciting and we count on success."

Historians say the existence of the train, which is said to have gone missing in May 1945, never has been conclusively proven. Polish authorities nonetheless have seemed eager to pursue any chance of recovering treasures that have sparked the imaginations of local people for decades.

At the height of the frenzy last year, the World Jewish Congress reminded Poland's authorities in the case of a discovery of a treasure-laden train, any valuables belonging to Jews killed in the Holocaust must be returned to their rightful owners or their heirs.

Legend holds the train was armed and loaded with treasure and disappeared after entering a

complex of tunnels under the Owl Mountains, a secret project known as "Riese" — or Giant — which the Nazis never finished.

The area belonged to Germany at the time, but has been part of Poland since the borders were moved in the postwar settlement.

Parasite closes popular Alabama water park

BLOUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — The Health Department has recommended a popular Alabama water park close due to the presence of a parasite.

AL.com reports that park officials say Spring Valley Beach in Blountsville was closed Sunday due to the presence of the parasite cryptosporidium, known as "crypto."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, crypto is highly contagious and is typically spread in swimming pools or other water sources that contain fecal matter from an infected person. Crypto can cause watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, dehydration, nausea, vomiting and fever, particularly in those with a weakened immune system.

Chlorine can kill crypto, the CDC says, but it can still survive in properly treated water for as long as 10 days.

The park was scheduled to be closed during the week. It will reopen Saturday.

Fayetteville man builds miniature WWII battlefield

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — The World War II Battle of Kasserine Pass takes up so much of the space in Oliver Johnson's spare bedroom that his Star Trek figurines must remain packed neatly away in boxes.

If Capt. Kirk and Mr. Spock and the gang are ever going to go where no man has gone before, someone is going to have to push aside the forces of Gen. George Patton and Erwin "The Desert Fox" Rommel.

And that's not likely to happen. This took too much work. "Eighteen months," Johnson said. "I built every bit of it by hand."

Here in meticulously painted detail, sometimes using a brush the size of a straight pin, Johnson has recreated miniature slices of history. It's a hobby that began some 40 years ago when he purchased a miniature German airplane from The Hobbit Hobby Shop on Yadkin Road.

He's added armies of figurines since, stopping by the shop so regularly that he's become as much a friend as a customer.

"It's amazing," said Feliet Bahoric, who owns the shop with her husband, Al. "I've never known anyone who had painted so many."

Johnson, originally from Washington, D.C., came to Fort Bragg as a field artillery member of the 82nd Airborne Division. When his unit went to West Point, New York, in the 1970s, he was taken with the battle scenes depicted in the museum there.

"I can do this," he told himself. "But mine will be better."

The result is that if you don't step carefully, you might think you're under attack as soon as you set foot in the kitchen. That's where armies of tiny hand-painted Roman soldiers and barbarians are going at it on the dining table.

But not to worry.

"They're glued down," he said, lifting an entire board full of centurions without losing so much as a single standard bearer.

But the most impressive fight is going on in that spare bedroom. One table bears castles brimming with medieval knights. One features the first Gulf War. And then there's Patton and Rommel going at each other.

You have to look closely when Johnson shines a small flashlight onto the display, but Patton is even accompanied by his beloved bull terrier, Willie.

Most of the figurines are made of plastic, though a few are metal. Many are less than a couple inches tall. They all start off looking rather nondescript until Johnson begins wielding his brush and water-based paint. He even adds facial features, including a variety of eye colors. Much of the work requires a magnifying glass, and each figurine represents hours of work.

This is a room teeming with soldiers. They are on top of his handmade tables. They are packed away in boxes. About 2,000 are Germans, 300 are knights on horseback. Thousands in all.

"I did count them at one time," he said. "But now I've lost count."

He is proud of his ability to improvise, honed over a lifetime.

"You know what I use for smoke?" he asks, pointing out the soft gray puffs on the table.

Cotton? Steel wool?

Nope.

"Dryer lint," he pronounces. He also points out that he recycles plastic bags for foliage.

"When you spray paint it green, it shines," he said. "Like if the sun were shining on it."

It's not a hobby for everyone.

"If you're not patient, you can't do this," he said. "I'm a home person. I'm not a party person."

But these are not toys. A fountain of historic tidbits who once considered teaching school, Johnson insists there is much to learn from the lessons of the past.

And history worth replicating is worth replicating correctly.

"I'm a perfectionist," he said. "You might not be able to see it, but I can see it. I want it done right."

World Trade Center mall re-opens, shows some progress since 9/11

NEW YORK (AP) — The re-opening of the World Trade Center mall Tuesday, is expected to help transform downtown Manhattan shopping and illustrate how much progress has been made in rebuilding and revitalizing the area since the 9/11 attacks.

Shops from Apple to Forever 21 to H&M to John Varvatos will serve an increasingly diverse group of area residents and workers beyond Wall Street bankers that now includes a slew of advertising and media employees. But they'll also be catering to tourists who come to visit the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, which requires a delicate touch.

The new spaces let customers tap into technology, as some retailers use the space for their latest ideas. Ford Motor Co. is set to open this fall the first FordHub, a showroom for innovations that's not a dealership. Shoe purveyor Aldo Group Inc. is using the opening to launch an app feature for this store, which will be rolled out to other stores. Digital billboards in the mall include a 280-foot-long one.

"We truly believe this will be the center of commerce and culture for lower Manhattan," says Bill Hecht, chief operating officer of Westfield Corp.'s U.S. division. Westfield manages the retail properties, while the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey owns the real estate.

Hecht describes the location as a "symbol of hope, opportunity, progress and perseverance."

The 365,000-square-foot center will have more than 100 stores, with about 60 opening Tuesday and the rest by the winter holiday

season. Eateries include Eataly's second Manhattan location, which features foods from Italy and coffee and gelato bars.

It stretches along a four-block underground network that spans the bases of three office towers. While mostly below street level, light beams in through the windows of the winged Oculus, designed by Santiago Calatrava, that top the transportation hub of 13 subway trains and river ferries. More than 300,000 commuters use it on a daily basis.

Westfield says 15 million travelers are expected to visit the areas from the U.S. and around the world next year to see the memorial and nearby places of interest.

"We have huge respect for this site," Hecht. There is no signage on the side of the mall that faces the 9/11 memorial. Every year on the anniversary of the attacks, the skylight of the Oculus — meant to symbolize the image of a dove released from a child's hand — will open to bring a slice of the open New York sky into the building.

Westfield said ensuring safety and security at the mall is the highest priority for it and the Port Authority. Uniformed police and private security will be present at the mall, Port Authority spokesman Joe Pentangelo said, but declined to give specifics about any other measures.

"As with any high-profile public location and transit center, there are extensive security measures that have been put in place with law enforcement and others," Westfield said.

More than 60,000 residents live within blocks of the World Trade Center area, about three times

the number from right before 9/11. The former shopping mall in the World Trade Center was one of the most successful properties in the world, but catered to daytime weekday shopping, said Robin Abrams, vice chairman of The Lansco Corp., a real estate advisory firm. The new mall is expected to have a vibrant night and weekend atmosphere, and Hecht noted a deliberate move to include shops with necessities like drugstore Duane Reade.

Real estate experts believe the mall will complement the nearby Brookfield Place, which opened in 2015 and features high-end shops like Gucci and Hermes. It will also be different from the Seaport Mall, which is being reopened next year and is focusing on catering to local residents. In addition to retail, a Beekman Hotel and Four Seasons Hotel as well as a performing arts center are coming, part of the \$30 billion poured into the downtown area from public and private investment since 9/11.

The lower downtown area has about \$6.5 billion in annual buying potential, said Jessica Lappin, head of the Downtown Alliance, which manages the downtown-lower Manhattan business improvement district. Hecht expects the mall will eventually generate about \$1 billion in retail sales annually, making it one of the most productive of the company's sites.

Smythson of Bond Street, a British maker of luxury stationery and leather goods, has a store in midtown Manhattan but is "really excited to be downtown," said Ruby Victor, the head of market-

'Parent portals':

Pros and cons of timely online updates

The Associated Press

Once upon a time, finding out how your child was doing in school could require weeks of patience. You waited for the parent-teacher conference, for a return phone call from school if you were concerned and, eventually, for a report card to land in the mailbox.

Now, a growing number of families can get instant access to grades and other school information through online "parent portals."

But just because a grade can be posted hours after a test, does that mean parents should rush to the portal and discuss the B minus with their child that evening?

How often should they check on grades, and what's the best way to handle the real-time academic updates?

"My suggestion is for parents to not make themselves crazy checking every day," said Nancy Hill, a developmental psychologist and education professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

"Too much information can make a parent overbearing rather than facilitating their student's sense of autonomy" and planning, she added. "It's how parents use the information that becomes essential."

Parents should start by checking the portals once a week (more if a child is struggling) and see how it goes, advises Hill, who studies parental involvement in education during adolescence.

"But not on Friday," she said. You don't want "to brood over it over the weekend."

Parent portals, which let schools securely post information on attendance, class schedules, report cards and even lunch menus, along with grades, have gone into use in school systems around the country over the last decade, experts say.

Hill says the portals can be empowering, especially for parents of adolescents. Parents can monitor kids' progress behind the scenes, and not always have to ask to see the graded papers and tests.

"They can see it and know how their children are doing and give space for independence and autonomy that the middle schoolers really crave," she said.

Some parents check the portals every day; others never sign up at all.

Neil Shapiro, a father of two from Marlboro, New Jersey, describes himself as "a very vigilant checker," who logged on at least once a day last school year when his son was a high school senior and his daughter in



AP Photo/Seth Periman, File

IN THIS JAN. 7, 2015 FILE PHOTO, public school buses are parked in Springfield, Ill. Once upon a time, finding out how your child was doing in school could require weeks of patience. You waited for the parent-teacher conference, for a return phone call from school if you were concerned and, eventually, for a report card to land in the mailbox. Now, a growing number of families can get instant access to grades and other school information through online parent portals.

eighth grade.

"They think it's ridiculous," he said of his children, both high-achievers. "They think I'm nuts."

But using the portals meant that he and his wife could provide support when they felt their kids needed it, and before it was too late.

"You can nip things in the bud," Shapiro said. "I don't want to find out my son or daughter missed three homework assignments at the end of the marking period. I want to find out why they missed the homework now" and what to do about it.

He believes his kids were motivated to do well because they knew he was checking, but he tried to avoid using the information to stress them out.

"It's definitely a balance," he said, adding that "you have to pick and choose how and when you confront your children about it."

Juliet Babros of Los Angeles logs into the portals much less frequently to check on her

daughters, who enter ninth and 11th grade this fall. She encourages them to try to improve their grades by, for example, asking to retake a test if they didn't score well.

"I consider my approach balanced because I'm not constantly checking daily or even weekly, but more sporadically or when I suspect there might be an issue, or if they don't seem to be managing their time well," said Babros.

"As my kids have gotten older, they don't always want to talk about assignments and test grades," she said. "The parent portal gives me a glimpse into what's going on in school without me having to bug them."

Hill advises parents to do nothing if they see their child is doing fine. The portals, she said, allow for both celebrations and course corrections.

"If the child did better than expected, say, 'Hey I think you did really well. You worked hard. Tell me more about what

worked for you,'" she said.

"If they're not doing well or had a poor grade, I wouldn't blow it out of proportion or change your weekend plans," Hill said. "I would ask them what happened and give them space to explain themselves, and then ask them what their plan is and if they need help."

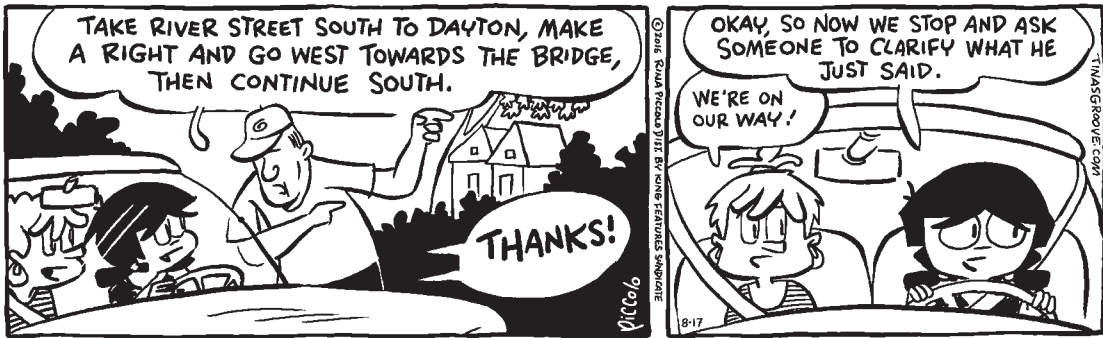
Don't take every grade too seriously.

"Understand that a poor grade early on doesn't define them," Hill said. "It gives them an opportunity to see how they can improve."

Cory Notestine, a school counseling facilitator in Colorado Springs, Colorado, also suggests that parents check on grades about once a week, noting that frequent checking and negative comments could strain the parent-child relationship.

"Over time," he said, "what we want for children to do is take ownership of their education, with support from parents."

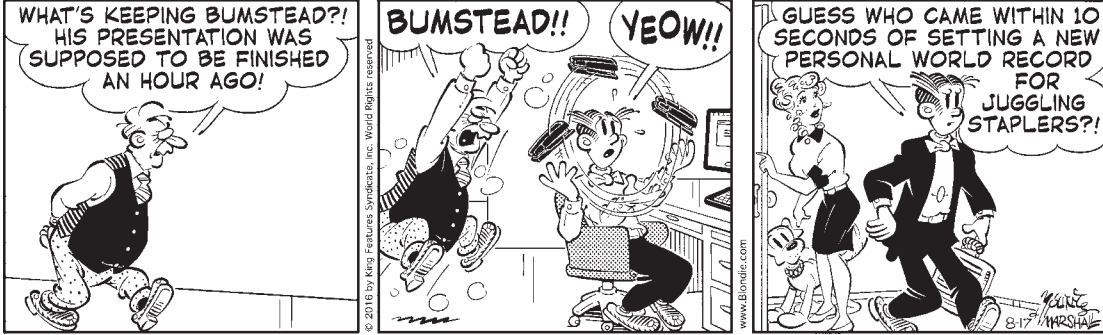
Tina's Groove



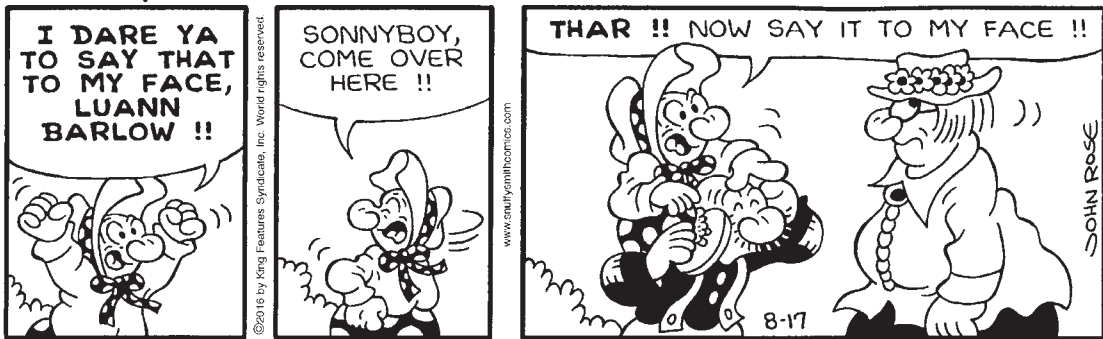
Baby Blues



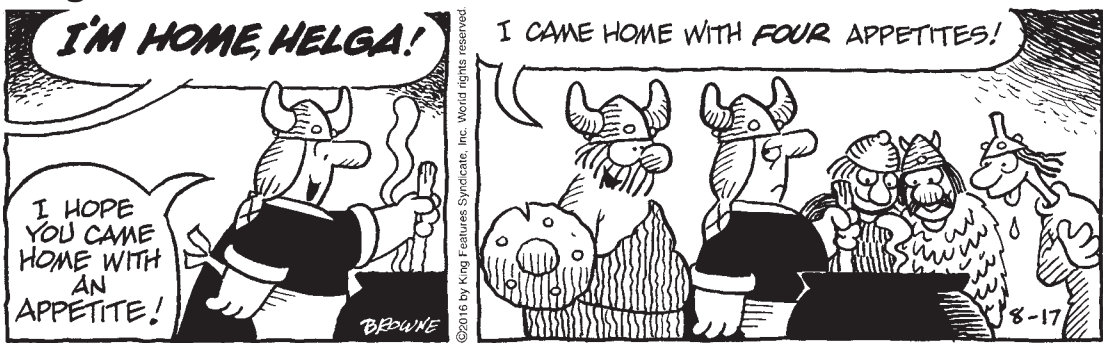
Blondie



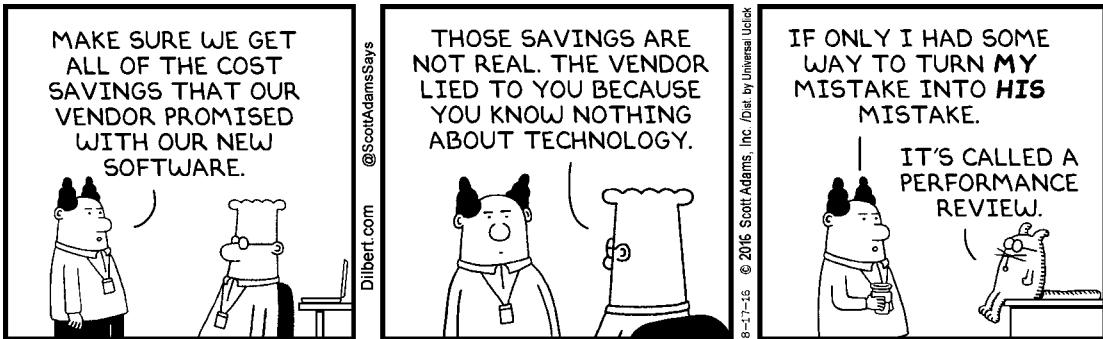
Snuffy Smith



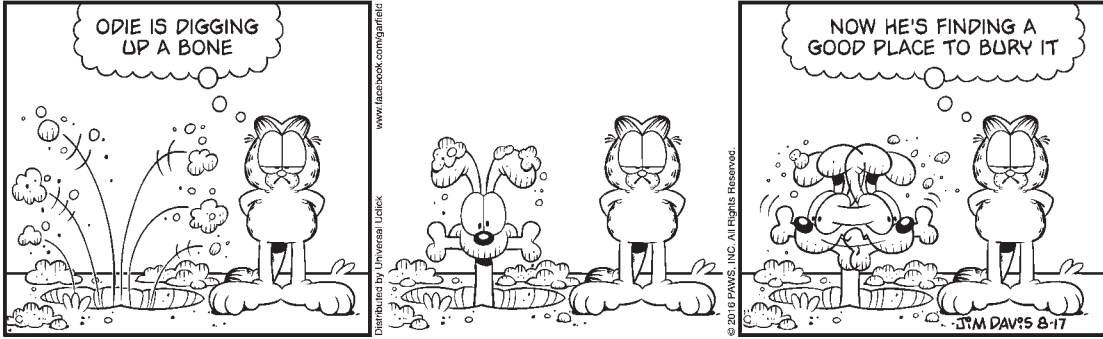
Hagar the Horrible



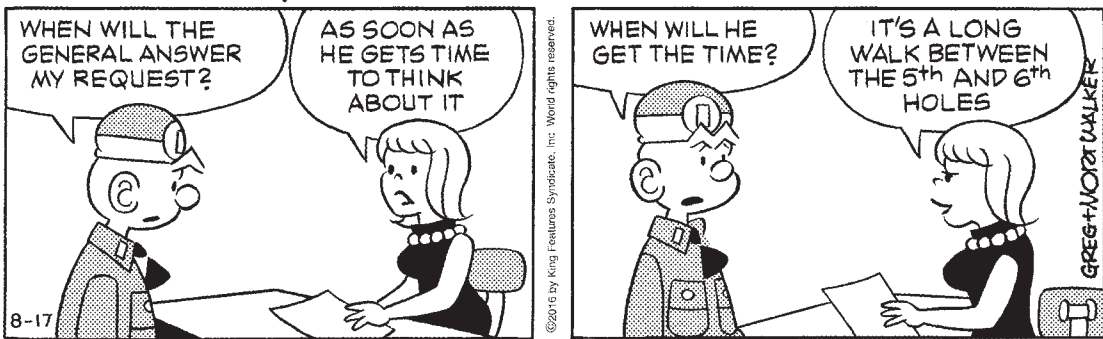
Dilbert



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Dennis the Menace



By Ned Classics



CROSSWORD

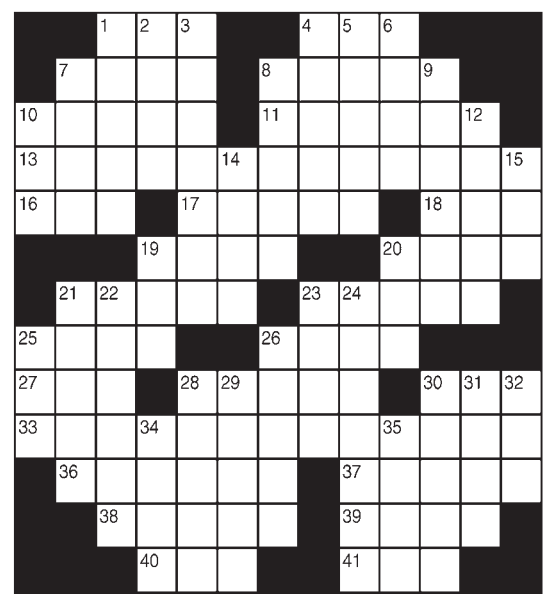
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Corn core
 - 4 Score units (Abbr.)
 - 7 Holly-wood's "Elephant Boy"
 - 8 Winning
 - 10 Earth Day month
 - 11 Italian sandwich
 - 13 Docile
 - 16 Have bills
 - 17 Com-poser Ned
 - 18 Non-clerical
 - 19 Pop's sister
 - 20 Up for it
 - 21 Big smiles
 - 23 Minnows' relatives
 - 25 Russian river
 - 26 Sheepish remarks
 - 27 Wahine's gift
- DOWN**
- 1 Chili con —
 - 2 Final life story
 - 3 Civil War battle site
 - 4 Stage
 - 5 Coffee-break hr.
 - 6 Go yachting
 - 7 Gush
 - 8 Sepa-rated
 - 9 "CSI" work-place
 - 10 In the past
 - 12 Mosque VIPs
- 14** Billions of years
- 15** "See ya!"
- 19** Be sick
- 20** Gloomy guy
- 21** From Athens
- 22** Poured
- 23** "— nome" ("Rigo-letto" aria)
- 24** Hallow-teen outing
- 25** Einstein's birthplace
- 26** Risque
- 28** Charlie Brown's sister
- 29** Pristine
- 30** Freak out
- 31** Chignons
- 32** Sault — Marie
- 34** Casual tops
- 35** Make a sweater

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-17



EDJ ZCOAQMCFJ FPSNMCR ZO
AOZCV M FAEJ BUZCJ BPQ
ZEO UPVP. EDJR'QJ CMSZCV
ZE EDJ FPNMR - FME.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU MAY KINDLY CHOOSE BETWEEN THE SMALL WALLET PHOTO OR THE BIGGER ONE INSTEAD. TAKE YOUR PIC.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals I

ASTROLOGY

by Eugenia Last

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2016
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Edward Norton, 47; Andy Samberg, 38; Denis Leary, 59; Robert Redford, 80.
Happy Birthday: Change things up this year. The more you socialize and participate in events and activi-

Contract Bridge

by Steve Becker

The old misdirection play

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ —
- ♥ J 8 5
- ♦ Q 10 9 7 3 2
- ♣ Q 10 7 6

WEST

- ♠ J 9 7 6 4 3
- ♥ 10 7 2
- ♦ 6
- ♣ A J 5

EAST

- ♠ Q 10 8 5 2
- ♥ 9 6 4
- ♦ A
- ♣ K 9 4 3

SOUTH

- ♠ A K
- ♥ A K Q 3
- ♦ K J 8 5 4
- ♣ 8 2

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♦ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♦ | Pass |
| 5♦ | | | |

Opening lead — six of spades.

There are times when declarer's best chance lies in attempting to deceive the opponents. Usually, this takes the form of trying to camouflage the strengths and weaknesses of particular holdings. When the ruse works, it can turn a seemingly certain defeat into an unexpected victory.

Consider this deal where South, who at one point entertained thoughts of slam, arrived at five diamonds and was shocked to find himself saddled with three apparently unavoidable losers — a diamond and two clubs. While West's opening spade lead provided a momentary respite, there still didn't seem to be any way to get around the loss of two clubs, since discarding two clubs from dummy on the A-K of spades wouldn't alter the situation.

There was, however, the possibility of diverting the opponents' attention from the winning defense. And so, at trick one, declarer slyly discarded a heart from dummy instead of a club!

After taking East's queen with the ace, South next led a diamond to East's ace, and East then had to decide whether to return a club or a heart. Reluctant to make the risky-looking lead of a club away from the king, and with declarer's heart discard at trick one firmly implanted in his mind, he chose the heart return.

There was not much to the play after that. Four heart winners and the king of spades quickly followed, with three of dummy's clubs being discarded in the process. A club trick was conceded, and that was that.

Whether East should have shifted to a club at trick three, or whether he would have found the winning return had declarer adopted a less deceptive approach, is not really the issue here. What matters is that South, by focusing the opponents' attention on an apparent weak spot in hearts, enhanced his chances of inducing a defensive misplay, and he succeeded.

Tomorrow: The first step tells the tale.
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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!

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

ANSWER:



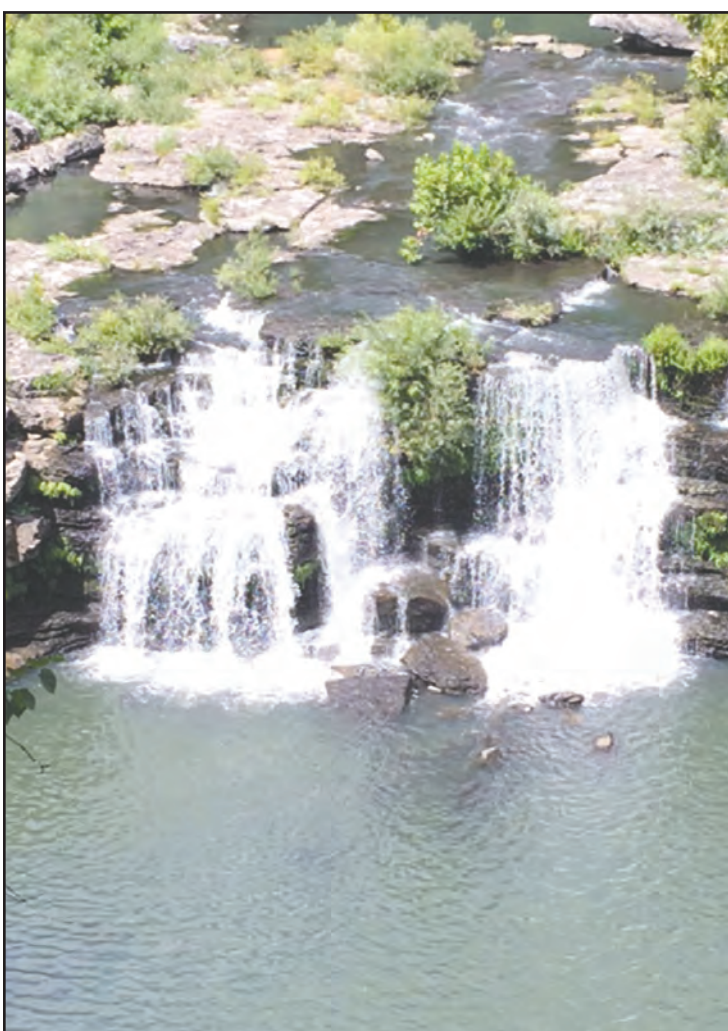
Your Best Shot

Recent photos — within the last year — may be submitted for Your Best Shot by emailing gwen.swiger@clevelandbanner.com, mailing good quality photos to Your Best Shot, P.O. Box 3600, Cleveland, TN 37320-3600 or dropping them off at 1505 25th St.

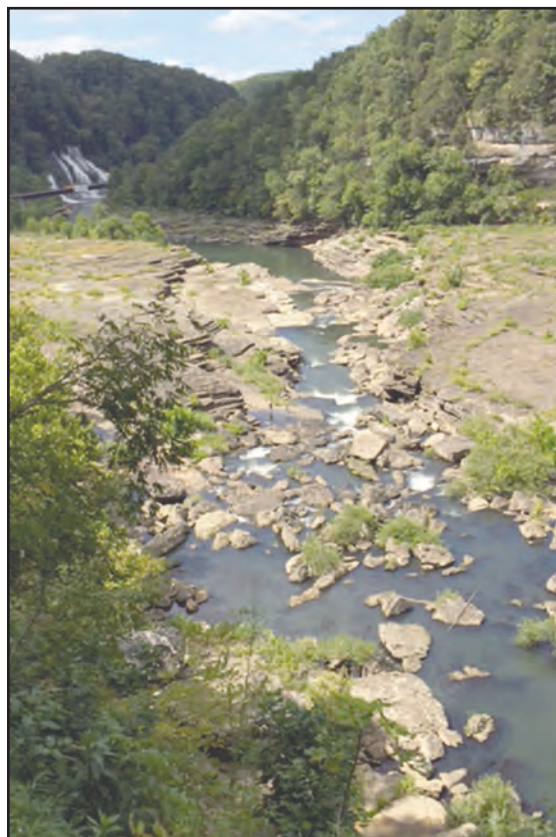
KEISHA BAKER shared this photo of Bald River Falls.



JENNIFER HARDISON shared this photo of a hummingbird as it hovers over a plant.



LOIS MEYER took these photos, above, below and at right, during a trip with the McDonald Boomers to Rock Island Falls in McMinnville.



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Hearing Loss is the third most common health problem in the United States

Summer can bring a host of personal safety issues. Sun, heat, and insect bites are just to name a few but how many people consider the noise they are exposed to a hazard during summer activities? The fact is that many activities we enjoy in the summer months endanger our hearing. With that in mind here are a few activities to watch out for.

1) Concerts – Summer is an ideal time to enjoy an outdoor concert or festival. Most people are unlikely to consider their hearing while enjoying the show. Outdoor conditions cause sound to disperse which in turn makes the band turn the music up louder. Concert levels are often in excess of 100 dB, well above the recommended 85 dB limit which is considered potentially harmful to hearing. Be careful of seating next to speakers and wear a pair of earplugs while enjoying the music.

2) Motorcycles, boats and convertibles– Despite what you might think, its not the engine noise that can cause hearing problems but the wind noise. Riding a motorcycle at 65 mph without a helmet can produce wind noise levels in excess of 103 dB. That is louder than a typical chainsaw! If the sound exceeds 115 dB, just 15 minutes of exposure can result in permanent hearing damage. Custom earplugs that enable cyclists to hear road noise, sirens and honking horns are very beneficial.

3) Target shooting -It is estimated that 40 million Americans participate in target shooting each year. Almost all firearms create noise that is above 140 dB, enough to cause immediate hearing damage. Smaller caliber firearms that some people consider safe are above 120 dB. Always wear earplugs when shooting and if possible double up with earmuffs and earplugs.

4) Fireworks - Most fireworks have sounds above 125 dB which can cause permanent damage. In addition to protecting your hearing always protect children's hearing by wearing earplugs. This level of noise is unsafe for babies and toddlers. Foam filled ear cups or Baby Banz are appropriate for smaller kids and earplugs are fine for older children.

5) Ball Games Car races and Parades – In addition to crowd noise these particular activities involve speakers, music and fireworks. It is estimated that many ballgames can reach levels of 114 dB and average in around 94 dB. At 94 dB anything more than 30 minutes puts you at risk. Car races average between 90 to 130 dB depending on the cars and acoustics of the track. Make sure each family member is wearing hearing protection during these activities.

6) Yard Work – Most yard equipment measures in between 80 dB and 105 dB. Proper precautions can help protect your hearing while maintaining your yard work this summer. Always wear hearing protection while mowing, hedge trimming or leaf blowing.

Take advantage of all that summer has to offer, but protect your hearing at the same time. If you are experiencing hearing loss, fullness or ringing after noise exposure it is imperative that you have your hearing checked as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding safe noise levels or if you would like to schedule an appointment, please call our office at (423) 641-0956.

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