

Friday
July 21, 2017



89 / 74
Today
Chance of storms



89 / 74
Saturday
Chance of storms



88 / 75
Sunday
Chance of storms

STORMCENTER 7

**Full forecast by
Eric Elwell, C4**



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GO!

GET ACTIVE

Experts share tips for staying safe during outdoor activities

By Debbie Juniewicz
Contributing Writer

When it comes to keeping cool in the summer heat, Dayton Hikers founder Andy Niekamp walks the walk.

Niekamp is hiking the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina with 90-plus temperatures almost daily.

“The temperature today in Hot Springs, N.C., ‘feels like’ 96,” Niekamp said. “I did an 18-mile day in the mountains with a backpack on in this heat and humidity. I’m 280 miles into a 540-mile hike from Georgia to Virginia. I’m out for six weeks including all of July.”

When Niekamp offers advice to outdoor enthusiasts about summer safety, he speaks from experience. The four-time Appalachian Trail hiker has dealt with dehydration, heat exhaustion and hyponatremia – a condition that occurs when the level of sodium in your blood is abnormally low – over the years.

“I’ve had all three at various times while on the Appalachian Trail,” he said. “It takes up to 10 days for your body to fully acclimate to the heat and humidity.”

Want to stay safe this summer without curtailing your active lifestyle? Local experts offer some tips.

HIKING

Andy Niekamp, Outdoor Adventure Connection

■ **Clothing – choose light colors** that won’t absorb the sun’s rays and loose-fitting synthetic fabrics.

■ **Drink plenty of water.** I drink at least two gallons per day hiking in this hot weather. Water is necessary to cool your body with



Consider paddling for exercise so you can enjoy a quick splash to cool yourself off in the summer heat. Be aware that there is additional exposure to the sun due to reflection, so protect your eyes and skin. CONTRIBUTED BY FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

sweating.

■ **Wear sunscreen** and wear a wide-brimmed hat.

■ **Use electrolyte replacement drinks** or powder. You need to replace the sodium and potassium your body sweats out. Sports drinks are fine, but my favorite is Pedialyte powder.

■ **Exert yourself in moderation.** Take frequent rest breaks in the shade. Don’t let your body overheat.

■ **Exercise in the morning and evening** when it’s cooler. Avoid the hottest parts of the day. When I’m backpacking I’ll get up early and be on the trail shortly after sunrise and hike until noon. I’ll take a several-hour siesta during the hottest part of the day and rest in the shade and rehydrate. I’ll resume hiking later in the afternoon and evening when it cools down.

CYCLING

Randy Ryberg, Five Rivers MetroParks outdoor recreation coordinator

■ **Stay hydrated.** This may be obvious but, nonetheless, it’s important to mention. The key is to drink before you’re thirsty. If you wait until you get thirsty, it’s difficult to replenish and you may already be on the brink of dehydration. On longer rides, consider adding electrolyte tablets or powder to replenish important salts and nutrients lost in sweat.

■ **Stay well fed.** Sometimes you may not be as hungry in higher temperatures, but it’s still important to eat. Foods higher in carbs tend to be better. My favorite snack for longer rides is a flour tortilla with peanut butter and honey. Sometimes I’ll throw on some raisins or dried cranberries, too.

■ **Avoid the hottest part**

of the day. Not only is it cooler early in the morning or later in the evening but, sometimes, traffic is lighter. And you are more likely to encounter some great wildlife because they too avoid the hottest part of the day. Just be sure to remember your lights and bright clothing.

OUTDOOR FITNESS

Angie Sheldon, Five Rivers MetroParks outdoor recreation coordinator

■ **Cotton is rotten** – wearing synthetic fibers will help keep you cool while exercising in the summer heat by wicking the moisture away from your skin.

■ **If you are going to be out** in the middle of the day, choose a trail for running, hiking or biking that has more tree coverage, so you can stay a little cooler in the shade.

■ **Consider paddling** for

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS: KNOW THE SIGNS

HEAT CRAMPS

What to look for: Heavy sweating during intense exercise; muscle pain or spasms.

What to do: Stop physical activity and move to a cool place; drink water or a sports drink; wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity.

Get medical help right away if: Cramps last longer than an hour; you’re on a low-sodium diet; you have heart problems.

muscle cramps; feeling tired or weak; feeling dizzy; headache; fainting.

What to do: Move to a cool place; loosen your clothes; put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath; sip water.

Get medical help right away if: You are throwing up; your symptoms get worse; your symptoms last longer than an hour.

SUNBURN

What to look for: Painful, red and warm skin; blisters on the skin

What to do: Stay out of the sun until your sunburn heals; put cool cloths on your sunburned areas or take a cool bath; put on moisturizing lotion on sunburned areas; do NOT break blisters.

HEAT RASH

What to look for: Red clusters of small blisters that look like pimples on the skin – usually on the neck, chest, groin or in elbow creases.

What to do: Stay in a cool, dry place; keep the rash dry; use powder to soothe the rash.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and prevention

HEAT EXHAUSTION

What to look for: Heavy sweating; cold, pale and clammy skin; fast, weak pulse; nausea or vomiting;

exercise so you can enjoy a quick splash to cool yourself off in the summer heat. Be aware that there is additional exposure to the sun due to reflection, so you’re getting it from above and below. So sunglasses are a must – ideally polarized lenses that filter those UV rays to really protect your eyes.

■ **Consider using a hydration pack** on your back to encourage yourself to drink more frequently without stopping your activity. These work great for hiking, biking or trail running.

Contact this contributing writer at djuniewicz@gmail.com.

GO!

MUSIC

Tedeschi Trucks Band presents the Wheels of Soul Tour

'Live from the Fox Oakland' debuted at No. 1 on blues chart.

By Don Thrasher
Contributing Writer

As the parents of two teen-age children, Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks live hectic lives.

However, each summer, the couple finds time to get on the road with the kids and some special guests for the Wheels of Soul Tour. The Tedeschi Trucks Band performs with the Wood Brothers and Hot Tuna at Rose Music Center in Huber Heights on Saturday, July 22.

The Grammy-Award winning group released three studio albums: "Revelator" (2011), "Made Up Mind" (2013) and "Let Me Get By" (2016).

The group, known for its blazing stage show, released "Live: Everybody's Talkin'" (2012).

The latest in-concert

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Tedeschi Trucks Band's Wheels of Soul Tour with the Wood Brothers and Hot Tuna

WHERE: Rose Music Center, 6800 Executive Blvd., Huber Heights
WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday, July 22

COST: \$51-\$78

MORE INFO: 937-228-2323 or www.ticketmaster.com

ARTIST INFO: www.tedeschitrucksband.com

album, "Live from the Fox Oakland," debuted at No. 1 on the blues chart upon its release in March.

Tedeschi recently answered some questions during a brief phone interview.

What are you looking forward to most about the

Tour continued on 5



Susan Tedeschi (standing, front) of the 12-piece Tedeschi Trucks Band brings the Wheels of Soul Tour to Rose Music Center in Huber Heights on Saturday, July 22. CONTRIBUTED

MUSIC

How you can see Dayton's own Breeders for \$25

By Amelia Robinson
Staff Writer

One of the biggest modern-rock bands to come out of Dayton is going on tour and you can see them.

None of The Breeders' U.S. dates are in Ohio — not even hometown Dayton, alas. But don't despair! The band does come within driving distance of the Gem City.

It plays a show at the 550-seat Magic Stick in

Detroit at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Tickets are now on sale for the show at the music venue located at 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$25 each general admission at ticketweb.com. Detroit is about three hours north of Dayton.

The Breeders' other tour stops are considerably farther away.

Led by Dayton twins Kelley and Kim Deal, The Breeders just announced

2017 U.S. tour dates in November after a show supporting Arcade Fire on Oct. 29 in St. Paul, Minn.

The band will headline tours in four European cities — Glasgow, Scotland; Dublin, Ireland; and Manchester and London in England — earlier in October.

After the Detroit show, The Breeders will headline shows Nov. 3 in Boston; Nov. 4 in Washington, D.C.; Nov. 5 in New York; Nov. 6 in Philadelphia; Nov.

8 in Portland, Ore.; Nov. 9 in Seattle; Nov. 12 in San Francisco and Nov. 13 in Los Angeles.

The band is best known for hits "Cannonball," "Divine Hammer," "Full on Idle" and "Bang On."

The Breeders last toured in 2014. The band's last studio album was 2008's "Mountain Battles."

Contact this reporter at 937-225-2384 or email Amelia.Robinson@coxinc.com.



The Breeders — (from left) Jim Macpherson, Kelley Deal, Josephine Wiggs and Kim Deal — currently features the same lineup that made the smash 1993 album "Last Splash." CONTRIBUTED

GO!

MUSIC

Come sail away: Former frontman takes Styx fans back in time

By Don Thrasher
Contributing Writer

Although Dennis DeYoung officially left Styx in 1984, he can't get away from the music he created with the band.

The Chicago native, performing at Frazee Pavilion in Kettering on Friday, July 21, is on tour playing the best-known songs from the band's '70s and '80s heyday.

"I was fortunate enough to be a musician at the greatest time in the history of mankind," DeYoung said.

"There was that sweet spot – from the late '60s to the late '80s, where young people were focused heavily on music. They didn't have all the distractions they have today. Most people had three or four TV channels, so young people turned to musicians and we were standing there."

That period was also

WANT TO GO?

WHO: Dennis

DeYoung's Music of Styx with Blue Oyster Cult

WHERE: Frazee Pavilion, 695 Lincoln Park Blvd., Kettering

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 21

COST: \$25-\$35 in advance, \$30-\$40 at the door

MORE INFO: 937-296-3300 or www.frazee.com

ARTIST INFO: www.dennisdeyoung.com

when groups like Styx toured relentlessly and were still expected to record a new album each year.

The band maintained that schedule for years, releasing 12 albums between 1972 and 1984.

The most successful releases were the triple-platinum sellers "The

Grand Illusion" (1977) and its follow-up, "Pieces of Eight" (1978).

"We released all those albums and we did 100-plus shows a year," DeYoung said.

"That's quite a rigorous schedule. I'm most proud of the fact the band made me a lot of money. No, I'm just kidding. I'm most proud we somehow, with that hectic schedule, were able to have a series of albums I can look back and be proud of in terms of songwriting. It was good."

Hits like "Lady," "Come Sail Away," "Babe" and "Mr. Roboto" have stood the test of time. Fans still come out to hear the songs in concert.

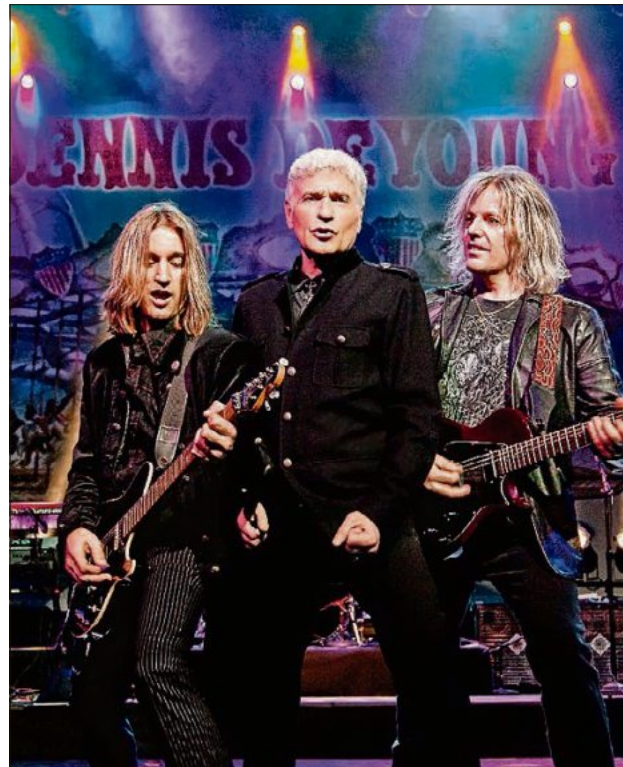
A version of Styx still tours with James Young and Tommy Shaw. DeYoung, who wrote all but one of the group's eight Top 10 hits, is touring with his own band playing material from the Styx catalog.

"The idea of this band was to recreate the sound of those albums and the spirit of those Styx concerts and, doggone it, mission accomplished," he said. "All you have to do is go to my Facebook page, Ticketmaster or anywhere else and see what people say about it. You'll see how much they think this music really reminds them of the glory days."

"When I play those songs, I'm recreating for people, what they believe are the best of times in their lives," DeYoung said.

"When they hear that music, they're no longer their current age, with their current problems – they're young, innocent and the whole world lies ahead of them. I provide them with the ability to connect with those ideas."

Contact this contributing writer at donaldthrasher8@aol.com.



Dennis DeYoung (center), on tour playing the best-known songs from the '70s and '80s heyday of his former band, Styx, performs at Frazee Pavilion in Kettering on July 21.

CONTRIBUTED

Tour

continued from 4

Wheels of Soul Tour?

"We're excited to be going out with the Wood Brothers and Jorma (Kaukonen) and Jack (Casady) of Hot Tuna. The Wood Brothers is literally one of my favorite bands. People should definitely come out early and check out the Wood Brothers and Hot Tuna. You don't want to miss them. It's two 45-minute sets and then an hour-and-a-half from us. It's really short sets but enough that you can get a good taste of everybody. We'll definitely mix it up and do some sit-ins. You

never know what will happen, which adds a lot of excitement."

The latest live album has done well for you. How do you feel about it?

"That's a really cool record. One of the things I like about it is you get a DVD with it. You get to really see what the band is like live. You can see all these different subgroups within the band because it's a 12-piece band with a three-piece horn section, three singers, two drummers and the rest of us. There are a lot of people to look at and that gives you more insight into the band."

"What's the status of the next studio album?"

"We're writing for it now and we've written a good chunk of tunes. I'd say we have about eight songs that are really great. We have a barn studio in our backyard so when we write with the band here we kind of record. Sometimes we start all over and re-record them but you never know, we could use some of those roughs and build from there. We'll get back to at the end of August after this tour ends."

Contact this contributing writer at donaldthrasher8@aol.com.



Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks of the Tedeschi Trucks Band will bring their Wheels of Soul Tour to Rose Music Center in Huber Heights on July 22. CONTRIBUTED

GO!

The Typical Johnsons get to next level with new album



Don Thrasher
Rock Insider

The Typical Johnsons was founded by husband and wife duo Jeremy and Lynne Siegrist, who played as an acoustic act before adding other players. Today, the roots-rock group features Dave Gregory (drums) and brothers Andy Brogan (guitar) and Jeff Brogan (bass).

The Siegrist's debut, "Drawing Blood" (2015), was released as Jeremy & Lynne and the follow-up, "The Sailor & the Siren" (2016), was credited to Jeremy & Lynne with the Typical Johnsons. The smoking-hot new album, "Rust Belt Renaissance," simply reads the Typical Johnsons, which is fitting for a truly full-band effort.

The musicians recently discussed the new material, which was recorded by Chuck Alkazian at Pearl Sound Studio outside Detroit.

Jeremy: "Everyone had a solid part in writing every single song on the album and that was by intent this time. Before, we were bringing in everybody after the fact – but we're moving forward as a band. We wanted to go above and beyond this time. Chris Stewart out of Versailles, who was in Able Danger, does some promoting and advisory work and he recommended Chuck."

Jeff: "He's a for-real producer. He's worked

with groups like Pop Evil and Sponge."

Lynne: "We had no idea what to expect when we went up there. We had done everything ourselves before, so there was some pushback when he started picking these songs apart and changing little things where we didn't want to change them. It was push-and-pull for a while."

Andy: "We went there with how we think the songs should be and then got his advice on them. Then we spent the time recording them on quality gear. It felt like a next-level thing getting in with a professional producer. We worked sunrise to sundown, so it was a good learning experience for everybody."

Jeff: "It was exhausting. I slept on that couch in the studio multiple times. Then you hear stories that it was the same couch where George Clinton was passed out."

Jeremy: "It was pretty intimidating to record there. It was pretty intense but we made it through. Chuck guided us through and let us know when we were on the right track. More than anything, that was his greatest benefit to us as a band."



Local roots rock band the Typical Johnsons — Dave Gregory, Jeff Brogan, Jeremy Siegrist, Lynne Siegrist and Andy Brogan — recently released their new album, "Rust Belt Renaissance." CONTRIBUTED

Lynne: "It's hard to be objective about your own music, but this is the first of the three I can actually listen to. I don't really critique it like I critique the other ones. I don't cringe when I listen to it. Overall, I'm very satisfied with this record and very proud of it."

Artist info: www.thetypicaljohnsons.com

Contact this contributing writer at donaldthrasher8@aol.com.



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GO!

FOOD



The Cubana Super Torta at La Michoacana #5 Mexican Market is a sandwich you'll want to try. AMELIA ROBINSON/STAFF

This restaurant's ginormous sandwich will blow your mind

By Amelia Robinson
Staff Writer

When one of Dayton's most creative chefs calls out the deliciousness of a sandwich that is bigger than your head, you can bet we're going to give it a try.

After Mariah McNally of Wheat Penny Oven and Bar mentioned it on Facebook, we hightailed it to the restaurant inside of La Michoacana #5 Mexican Market, at 748 Troy St., to find the Cubana Super Torta sandwich.

After a slight snuff with our order, the Cubana and all of its meaty, buttery, eggy goodness was ours to munch on.

And by "ours," I mean all of ours.

There was more than enough of this beast to go around the newsroom, and around again. Fact is, you'd have to be a lot more than super-hungry to eat the sand-

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Michoacana #5 Mexican Market

WHERE: 748 Troy St., Dayton

HOURS: Open daily 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

INFO: <https://www.facebook.com/LaMichoacanaDayton/>
937-220-9600

wich on your own.

Mariah said she and her boyfriend, Andy Dedomnici, take the \$12.99 Cubana down in tandem.

"I love Michoacana," Mariah said in a Facebook message following her post. "They have the friendliest staff and everything is fresh from their in-house butcher shop. Andy and I can split a (Cubana) and be full for most of the day. It's the per-

fect combination of all the meats, cheese, really fresh vegetables, and a fried egg for good measure. So satisfying."

The sandwich – layers of Mexican and American cheese, avocado, pork, sliced ham, hot dogs, fried eggs, chicken, chorizo, beef, lettuce, tomato and melt-in-your-mouth avocado – weighed in at 2.5 pounds.

We know because we weighed and measured it.

The fresh bread, soaked in the grease from the slightly spicy chorizo, maintained its crunch and the avocado melts in your mouth. Just to keep the whole thing together, we suggest eating it right from the wrapper – oh yeah, and savoring every bite.

Contact this reporter at 937-225-2384 or email Amelia.Robinson@coxinc.com.

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GO!

FOOD

Get a three-course meal starting at \$20 during Restaurant Week

By Amelia Robinson

Staff Writer

Get your forks ready.

The Summer Restaurant Week promotion runs July 23-30 offering meals from nearly 50 restaurants across the Dayton area ranging in price from \$20.17-\$30.17.

ABOUT UPCOMING RESTAURANT WEEK

ACB

The restaurant week promotion was established more than a decade ago as a way to generate interest traffic to local restaurants and help give diners a chance to explore the menu at a more affordable price point.

"It gives people the opportunity to try new restaurants and new menus that the chefs come up with for restaurant week," said Amy Zahora, executive director of the Miami Valley Restaurant Association. "With the majority of our restaurants that participate being independents it's a wonderful way to really support the restaurant community."

It's also a wonderful way to support several non-profits. Last year's summer restaurant week raised more than \$8,000 for local non-profits.

This year Zahora says March of Dimes and the MVRA Scholarship Fund will receive funds raised. Zahora suggests to make reservations in advance.

Zahora just announced that the association will add a brand new fall restaurant week Oct. 22-29.

"A few of the restaurants suggested it," Zahora said. "People love restaurant week."

The MVRA also has a winter restaurant week.

2017 SUMMER RESTAURANT WEEK PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Please note – this list of participating restaurants is subject to change and reservations may be required from some participating locations. Calling ahead is recommended, for details, hours and reservations. For the most up-to-date list and information visit <http://din-eoutdayton.com>.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

DAYTON

Amber Rose, 1400 Valley St., Dayton, (937) 228-2511

Basil's on Market, 312, N. Patterson Blvd, Dayton, (937) 818-4390

Coco's Bistro, 250 Warren St., Dayton, (937) 228-2626

Dublin Pub, 300 Wayne Ave., Dayton, (937) 224-7822

Franco's Ristorante Italiano, 824 E. Fifth St., Dayton, (937) 222-0204

Jay's Seafood Restaurant, 225 E. Sixth St., Dayton, (937) 222-2892

Lily's Bistro, 329 E. Fifth St., Dayton, (937) 723-7637

Roost Modern Italian, 524 E. 5th St., Dayton, (937) 222-3100

Salar Restaurant and Lounge, 400-410 E. Fifth St., Dayton, (937) 203-3999

Wheat Penny, 515 Wayne Ave, Dayton, (937) 496-5268

BUTLER TWP.

Buckhorn Tavern, 8800 Meeker Road, Butler Twp., (937) 890-3261

KETTERING

Christopher's Restaurant, 2318 E. Dorothy Lane, Kettering, (937) 299-0089

Figlio, 424 E. Stroop Road in the Town & Country shopping center, Kettering, (937) 534-0494

McGillicutty's Pub, 1980 E. Whipp Road, Kettering,



There's no better time to try somewhere new than during Restaurant Week. Restaurants throughout the Dayton area will offer special menus at special prices during this weeklong promotion.

(937) 436-0057

Roost American, 580 Lincoln Park Blvd., Kettering, (937) 949-3048

CENTERVILLE

Carvers Steaks & Chops, 1535 Miamisburg-Centerville Road, Centerville, (937) 433-7099

Chappy's Social House, 7880 Washington Village Dr, Centerville, (937) 439-9200

Kabuki, 848 S. Main St., Centerville, (937) 435-9500

Nelly's, 79 S. Main St., Centerville, (937) 859-5555

Station House, at St. Leonard Franciscan, 8200 Provincial Way, Centerville, (937) 439-7154

Sweeney's Seafood Bar and Grill, 28 W. Franklin St., Centerville, (937) 291-3474

WASHINGTON TWP.

Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern, 2812 Miamis-

burg-Centerville Road, Centerville, (937) 436-2426

The Chop House, 7727 Washington Village Drive, Washington Twp., (937) 291-1661

Meadowlark, 5531 Far Hills Ave., Washington Twp., (937) 434-4750

The Melting Pot, 453 Miamisburg-Centerville Road, Washington Twp., (937) 567-8888

MIAMISBURG

ele Bistro and Wine Bar, 3680 Rigby Rd., Miamisburg, (937) 384-2253

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, 3500 Rigby Rd., Miamisburg, (937) 865-9355

Nibbles Restaurant/Watermark, 105 S. 2nd St., Miamisburg, (937) 802-0891

MORaine

Chappy's Tap Room & Grille, 2733 W. Alex-Bell

Road, Moraine, (937) 299-7427

WEST CARROLLTON

El Meson, 903 E. Dixie Drive, West Carrollton, (937) 859-8229

VANDALIA

Bunker's Sports Bar & Grill, 893 E. National Road, Vandalia, (937) 890-8899

MIAMI COUNTY

TROY

Basils on Market, 18 N. Market St., Troy (937) 875-2068

The Caroline, 5 S. Market St., Troy, (937) 552-7676

La Piazza, 2 N. Market St., Troy, (937) 339-5553

Smith's Boathouse Restaurant, 439 N. Elm St., Troy, (937) 335-3837

TIPP CITY

Hickory River Smoke-

house, 135 S. Garber Drive, Tipp City, (937) 669-2271

GREENE COUNTY

BEAVERCREEK

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, 4432 Walnut St., Beavercreek (937) 320-9548

McCormick & Schmick's, 4429 Cedar Park Drive at The Greene, Beavercreek, (937) 431-9200

Pasha Grill, 72 Plum St., The Greene, Beavercreek, (937) 429-9000

The Wandering Griffin, 3725 Presidential Dr., Beavercreek, (937) 956-5216

Wellington Grille, 2450 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beavercreek, (937) 426-4600

FAIRBORN

Packy's Sports Bar and Grill, 10823 Chidlaw Rd., Fairborn, (937) 879-2696

Week continued on 9

GO!

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Summer Restaurant Week**WHEN:** July 23-30**WHERE:** Various locations**COST:** Meals are priced from \$20.17-\$30.17**MORE INFO AND COMPLETE LIST OF RESTAURANTS:** 937-461-MVRA or www.dineoutdayton.com**SAMPLE MENUS**

Here are just a few menu samples to tempt your tastebuds. Find complete menus as available at www.dineoutdayton.com:

Coco's Bistro, 250 Warren St., Dayton, 937-228-2626**Special:** Hummus - herbed honey, feta, pita \$7**Dinner cost:** \$25.17**Starters:** Spinach Salad — baby spinach, pickled strawberries, gorgonzola, jalapeno cornbread croutons, champagne vinaigrette or House Salad — field greens, cucumber, carrots, fresh radish choice of the following homemade dressings:

Honey Balsamic, Bleu Cheese, French, Buttermilk Ranch, Italian Vinaigrette

Entree choice: Steak Salad — baby bibb lettuce, beef tenderloin, pork belly lardons, fresh radish, chopped egg, rye croutons, horseradish gorgonzola vinaigrette, toasted horseradish, served with a cup of our creamy tomato bisque (pair with a glass of Conquista Malbec \$5); Blackened Ahi — roasted poblano mash, sweet onion jam, scallion garnish (pair with a glass of Bellechasse Sauvignon Blanc \$5); Roasted Chicken — tarragon mustard, creamy potato purée, spicy apricot glaze (pair with a glass of Conquista Malbec \$5); Bucatini — lemon garlic cream, asparagus, sliced almonds (pair with a glass of Bellechasse Sauvignon Blanc \$5).**Dessert choice:** Mini vanilla crème brulee or individual chocolate cake with hot fudge and vanilla whip**Giovanni's****Cost:** \$20.17

Any large pizza and two salads and two cannolis or two orders of lasagna with either a crab cake appetizer or 2 cannolis for dessert

Meadowlark**First course:** Fried Deviled Egg**Second course:** Watermelon with Mom's Taco Meat, Lime and Cilantro; Corn on the Cob with Old Bay-Spiced Butter and Shrimp on a soft Yeast Roll or House Hot-smoked Salmon with Corn Crema and Hushpuppies**Main course:** Batter-fried Haddock with Charred Scallion Mayo and Grilled Potato Salad; Grilled Chicken with Alabama White BBQ Sauce and Summer Squash-Cracker Crumb Casserole; Broken Lasagna with Summer Vegetables and Herbs or Pork Mixed Grill (Tenderloin, Sausage, Smoked Pork Belly) with White Baked Beans and local Apricot Chutney**Dessert choice:** Oatmeal Cookie and house-made Rhubarb Ice Cream Sandwich; Ohio Cherry and Triple Crème Cheese Toast or S'mores in a Glass with torched house-made Marshmallow Fluff**Nibbles Restaurant/Watermark**

Rose \$6/glass

Starter: Smoked Red Pepper Bisque — fire-roasted red peppers, smoked paprika, cream, topped with crème fraîche; Summer Greens Salad — buttercrunch lettuce tossed in fresh herbed buttermilk dressing topped with house-made croutons (can be served gluten-free)**Entree choice for \$25.17:** Summer Vegetable Spirals — grilled fresh zucchini, eggplant, and roasted red pepper rolled and stuffed with mozzarella in marinara sauce, with shaved parmesan, herbs, served with grilled bread (can be served gluten-free)**Entree choice for \$30.17:** Southern Shrimp & Grits — succulent shrimp, simmered in a mild Creole sauce and served over creamy grits or Grilled Flatiron Steak — grilled Angus Reserve 30-day aged steak served with summer green beans and topped with beer-battered onion rings**Dessert choices:** Coca-Cola Cake — rich chocolate cake with house-made fudge frosting or

Watermelon-Lemonade Sorbet — light and summery, made with fresh watermelon

FESTIVAL



Crush, a Bon Jovi tribute band out of Canada, will headline the Buckeye Craft Beer & BBQ Festival at the Renaissance Grounds on Saturday, July 22. CONTRIBUTED

Craft Beer & BBQ Festival undergoes a Renaissance

Annual Warren County event gets another makeover.

By Aaron Epple

Contributing Writer

This is the third year that the Warren County Historical Museum has thrown a summer festival, and for the third straight year there will be some significant changes.

The Buckeye Craft Beer & BBQ Festival is Saturday.

"It will be at the Renaissance grounds this year, and it will be our permanent home," said Victoria Van Harlingen, executive director of the museum. "We started at Armco Park, but their facilities weren't quite what we needed. Then we were at Miami Valley Gaming last year, but it was too small. The Renaissance grounds are huge, and we're only using a portion of it, and because they do such a good job with their events, peo-

HOW TO GO**What:** Buckeye Craft Beer & BBQ Festival**Where:** Renaissance Park, 10542 E. Ohio 73, Waynesville**When:** Noon-11 p.m. Saturday, July 22**Cost:** \$5 admission**More info:** 513-932-1817 or www.wchsmuseum.org

ple are already predisposed to go there."

Another major change is the type of libations that will be flowing.

"Last year, we added bourbon, but this year we're deleting the bourbon," Van Harlingen said. "It was just too difficult for a nonprofit to navigate Ohio's liquor laws. We had craft beer last year, but this year, we'll have over 60 craft beers."

The festival began originally as a means for the museum to raise money to keep their historical properties open and running. Live music has been a signature part of it every year so far, and this year the headliner will be Crush, a Bon Jovi tribute band out of Canada.

"Lebanon already has a blues and a country festival, so we decided to be the rock festival," Van Harlingen said. "We wanted a band that had a broad appeal, not too young, not too old, but one that runs the gamut."

As far as food, the emphasis is BBQ, represented by regional establishments such as Dickey's Barbecue Pit and Double D's BBQ.

"For me, the fun part is the wood-fired smokers and the different kind of woods they use," Van Harlingen said. "There's hickory, cherry, apple, oak. You can go through and taste all these different, smoked meats."

Week

continued from 8

YELLOW SPRINGS
Mills Park Hotel, 321 Xenia Ave., Yellow Springs, (937) 319-0400

Sunrise Cafe, 259 Xenia Ave., Yellow Springs, (937) 767-7211

The Winds Cafe and Bakery, 215 Xenia Ave., Yellow Springs, (937) 767-1144

XENIA
Nick's Restaurant, 1443 North Detroit Street, Xenia, (937) 372-3202

CLARK COUNTY
ENON

The Dock, 250 W. Main St., Enon, (937) 864-5011

SPRINGFIELD
Season's Bistro & Grille, 28 S. Limestone St., Springfield, (937) 521-1200

Contact this reporter at 937-225-2384 or email Amelia.Robinson@coxinc.com.

GO!

FOOD

Our first taste of downtown's newest restaurant

By Amelia Robinson

Staff Writer

You are going to want to sink your teeth into Dayton's newest restaurant.

Trust us.

The restaurant located at 135 E. Second St. will open at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 22 to the general public with its regular hours but has been hosting several sneak peek and private events to prepare for the official grand opening.

We stopped by yesterday during the first of two friend and family events.

If the dress rehearsal is any indication, Dayton area diners are in for a treat.

You wouldn't know this space last held Club Aquarius.

Mudlick maintains the unpretentious, but cool atmosphere diners found at its original location in Germantown but also kicks up the class with a digital beer menu screen, the vintage Dayton Daily News basket/tray liners some dishes are served on as well as decor that pays tribute to the building's start as a Ford Model T dealership.

Most importantly, Mudlick's food is baller as is its craft drink menu (try "The Larsen" named after our food writer, Alexis Larsen).

Mudlick Tap House co-founder Jennifer Dean said much detail and attention was put into finding the right food.

That care was evident from the homestyle Meatloaf Sammy (\$10) to the delicious and tender Mudlick Medallions (\$22).

Our party of four tried the medallions, seriously tender and delicious pork tenderloin in sweet grape compote with charred broccolini and potatoes, and meatloaf after diving into the pork belly



New restaurant Mudlick Tap House, 135 E. Second St., is preparing for its grand opening. Pictured above is the eatery's homestyle Meatloaf Sammy (\$10). PHOTOS BY AMELIA

ROBINSON/STAFF



Mudlick's craft cocktails include one named "The Larsen" after one of our own food writers, Alexis Larsen.



This seriously tender and delicious pork tenderloin in sweet grape compote with charred broccolini and potatoes can be found at Mudlick Tap House.

meat so irresistible.

We also tried the Catfish Po'Boy and The Cuban sandwich.

The cubes of fish in the po'boy had a good kick that reminded us of the Big Easy.

The Cuban – layers of roasted garlic stuffed pork shoulder, in-house made pickles, ham, swiss cheese and dijon mustard on a perfectly grilled hoagie roll – was a scene stealer with fresh cut fries and a side of aioli.

So good.

Following its official opening, Mudlick will be open daily at 11 a.m. The kitchen will close at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday with the bar remaining open until 11 p.m.

The kitchen will close at 11 p.m. Saturday with the bar remaining open until midnight.

Mudlick will close at 4 p.m. Sundays.

Contact this reporter at 937-225-2384 or email Amelia.Robinson@coxinc.com.

FOOD



Voltzy's Hamburger & Root Beer Stand has been naming foods for the famous and infamous for nearly 30 years.

JIM INGRAM/STAFF

Voltzy's has a Trump burger – here's what's on it

By Jim Ingram

Staff Writer

What's on a Trump burger?

Voltzy's Hamburger & Root Beer Stand in Moraine has been a Dayton-area institution for nearly 30 years, and during that time, owner and cook Rick Volz has commemorated celebrities and public figures in his own special way with a burger dedicated to them.

From the mammoth, 14-pound Bill Clinton Divorce Finale Burger, with a half-pound of onions and 20 slices of cheese on a one-pound bun for \$100 (if you eat it in an hour or less, it's free), to the Yuna Lee Burger – named for the former WHIO-TV reporter, Volz keeps his eye and spatula on current events.

His latest creation is the Donald Trump Burger, which is a six-ounce patty with bacon in the grinder

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Voltzy's

Rootbeer Stand

WHERE: 4668 N.

Springboro Pike,
Moraine

INFO: www.facebook.
com/Voltzys-
Rootbeer-Stand-111715
192199642/

placed atop a bed of deep-fried onions, sweet mustard and horseradish sauce and topped with American cheese.

The sweet and spicy sauce compliment the beef and bacon mixture, with the onions giving it just a little extra sweetness. The cheese brings it all together.

Know of any must-try dishes we should know about? Drop us a line at contact@dayton.com.

GO!

SMITH PARK/MIDDLETOWN REGIONAL AIRPORT

7 things that will wow you at hot air balloon festival

More than 30 will take flight at this weekend's event.

By Ginny McCabe
Contributing Writer

Prepare to be wowed.

A giant crab and a giant gator will be among the more than 30 balloons that are set to take flight during The Ohio Challenge Balloon Festival and Team Fastrax Warrior Weekend to Remember. The annual event will return to Middletown's Smith Park/Middletown Regional Airport this weekend.

"This is a good, positive event for the city. Everyone loves to see the balloons. There's always that 'Wow' factor. Spectators often wonder 'How did they get up there?' 'How do they stay up there?' and they follow them. It's so cool," said Kathy Stites, event manager, The Ohio Challenge.

Presented by Selection.com, the event runs Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22 from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. for the full festival including balloon competitions and balloon glows, fireworks, skydiving demonstrations, a laser light show, tethered balloon rides and live entertainment. There will also be carnival rides for children from Murray Brothers Amusements, Inc., expanded food booth offerings as well as 25 arts and crafts vendors on site.

Balloon activity only will continue the morning of Sunday, July 23 (no festival activity).

This is the 15th year for the festival, which has grown into one of the area's largest, signature summer events. More than 300 volunteers come together to support the festivities. Organizers said about



Claw D the Crazy Crab, piloted by Zach Burgess of Monroe, will be one of the special balloons featured at this year's Ohio Challenge. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

55,000 guests attended the festival last year.

Here are 7 things to do, see and experience at The Ohio Challenge:

1. Hot air balloon rides, launches and competition

Check out launches of colorful balloons of all shapes and sizes.

Mass balloon launches and special shapes will take to the skies on Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Beyond the visual spectacle of bright colorful balloons in the sky, The Ohio Challenge is a sanctioned hot air balloon competition. This year 30 participants will compete for the Ohio Chal-

lenge Trophy and to qualify for a national tournament.

Experience the fun yourself with tethered hot air balloon rides for \$10 and \$15 or try out the Fluff & Puff balloon walk-through as well.

Call 513-932-3552 to arrange full paid rides.

All balloon activity is wind and weather permitting. Admission to the park is free during morning hours for those that would like to see the Saturday and Sunday morning balloon flights.

2. Night balloon glow

Balloons can look even more amazing at night. This year's balloon glows will take place Friday and Saturday from 9:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.



The Gator is one of the special balloons that will be featured at the Ohio Challenge hot air balloon festival this weekend in Middletown.

3. Fireworks

A fireworks display sponsored by Start Skydiving will start around 10 p.m. Saturday. There will also be fireworks and a laser light show Friday night.

4. Skydiving

Team Fastrax skydiving performances will take place at 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. Friday and again at 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 8:15 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday.

5. Festival fun

Beyond the balloons, you'll find plenty of family fun all weekend long.

The event will include outdoor concerts, arts and crafts, festival foods and carnival rides.

"There's so much to do. There's a little something for everybody. It's a good family-oriented festival in the park. There's a lot of good food, and a lot of great vendors. It's a good place to be," said Sean Askren, a Middletown resident, pilot committee member and FAA liaison.

There will be live music

on Friday night with The Good Hooks and on Saturday evening featuring The Slyband from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Main Stage activities, including opening remarks and the National Anthem, will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. A Wounded Warrior Honoring Ceremony, recognizing Purple Hearts and Gold Stars will be held on Saturday from 7-8 p.m.

For a complete list of events and activities, go to www.ohiochallenge.com.

6. Car show

A car show to benefit charity, with 125 to 150 cars on display, will be held on Saturday from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Registration for the car show is 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Cost to register is \$15. Awards will be presented.

7. 'Ready Teddy' drop

One new feature of the festival this year is Middletown Community Foundation's "Ready Teddy" drop.

T. Duane Gordon, executive director, Middletown Community Foundation, a secondary sponsor of the event since its inception, said the "Ready Teddy" drop will support the organization's "Ready" initiative, which raises money for education in the community.

"One of the ways we're raising money is selling little teddy bears of Ready Teddy, and every person who buys a bear is entered into a contest to win several prizes, including some vacations that have been donated to the Foundation by Pierson Automotive. We will be putting every entrant's ID number onto little plastic bears, and around 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, if the winds cooperate, Ready Teddy himself

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: The Ohio Challenge Balloon and Festival Team Fastrax Warrior Weekend to Remember

WHEN: Friday, July 21 through Sunday, July 23. The festival is open 4-10:30 p.m. Friday and 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday and 4-10:30 p.m. Saturday. Balloon activity only from 7-9:30 a.m. Sunday.

WHERE: Smith Park, 500 Tytus Ave and Verity Parkway in Middletown

ADMISSION: During regular evening festival hours, walk-in admission is \$4 per adult (children ages 12 and under are free), \$10 per vehicle to park and ride a shuttle or \$20 per vehicle to park on site. Handicapped parking is available for \$10 inside Smith Park with a valid permit (see parking attendant). Vehicles should enter the festival grounds via Middletown Regional Airport, 1800 Germantown Road.
MORE INFO: www.ohiochallenge.com | www.warriorwtr.com

(the full-sized Ready Teddy) will be going up in a balloon with the little plastic bears to drop them toward a target. So, everyone will get to see them fall from the sky. The 10 bears that are closest to the target will win the 10 prizes we are giving away," Gordon said.

Contact this contributing writer at gmwriteon@aol.com.

Today’s movie times

AMC CLASSIC HAMILTON 8
Spider-Man: Homecoming
(PG-13) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 1:00, 6:45, 9:30. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 10:00, 3:30. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 11:15, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets** (PG-13) 1:15, 7:15. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 10:15, 4:15, 10:15. **Baby Driver** (R) 11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. **Girls Trip** (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 10:30, 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00.

AMC WEST CHESTER 18
Spider-Man: Homecoming (PG-13) 11:45, 1:45, 2:45, 5:45, 7:45, 8:45. **Spider-Man: Homecoming 3D** (PG-13) 10:45, 4:45, 10:45. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 10:40, 1:10, 1:50, 5:00, 7:40, 8:20. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 10:00, 11:20, 2:30, 4:20, 5:40, 9:00, 10:50. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 10:20, 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 10:05, 1:15, 4:30, 7:40, 10:45. **Jagga Jasoos** (NR) 10:05, 1:40. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets** (PG-13) 10:15, 4:25, 10:40. ; 11:15, 2:25, 5:35, 8:45. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 1:20, 7:30. **Baby Driver** (R) 10:35, 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:45. **Dunkirk: The IMAX 2D Experience** (PG-13) 10:25, 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:40. **Cars 3** (G) 11:00, 1:35. **The House** (R) 3:30, 5:50, 8:10. **Transformers: The Last Knight** (PG-13) 5:10, 8:30. **Girls Trip** (R) 10:30, 11:10, 1:20, 2:05, 4:10, 4:55, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:35. **47 Meters Down** (PG-13) 10:50, 1:10, 10:30. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 4:15, 6:35, 9:05. **The Big Sick** (R) 10:10, 1:00, 3:55, 6:45, 9:45.

COLONY SQUARE CINEMAS
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30.

Wish Upon (PG-13) 1:00, 7:00. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15. **Baby Driver** (R) 4:00, 9:00.

DANBARRY CINEMAS MIDDLE-TOWN
47 Meters Down (PG-13) 5:35, 7:35, 9:35. **Baby Driver** (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55. **Cars 3** (G) 12:30, 2:50. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:35. **Girls Trip** (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 9:55. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50.; 10:00. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40.

BY-JO THEATRE
Call theater for showtimes

DANBARRY DOLLAR SAVER SOUTH DAYTON
Call theater for showtimes

LITTLE ART THEATRE
Wonder Woman (PG-13) 4:00, 7:30.

NEON MOVIES
The Big Sick (R) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55. **The Hero** (R) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30.

DANBARRY DOLLAR SAVER HUBER HGTS.
It Comes at Night (R) 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00. **The House** (R) 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00. **The Beguiled** (R) 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20. **47 Meters Down** (PG-13) 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50. **The Book of Henry** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00. **The Mummy** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:10, 9:25. **Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie** (PG) 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05. **Baywatch** (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul** (PG) 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:35. **Everything, Everything** (PG-13) 1:05, 3:15,

5:25, 7:35, 9:45. **Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2** (PG-13) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:00. **The Boss Baby** (PG) 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20.

REGAL FAIRFIELD COMMONS STADIUM 20 & RPX
Dunkirk (PG-13) 11:30, 12:10, 2:20, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 10:30. ; 11:00, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00. **Girls Trip** (R) 11:20, 12:00, 2:40, 3:20, 6:10, 7:15, 7:20, 9:20, 10:20, 10:35. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 11:40, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets** (PG-13) 11:05, 2:15, 7:05, 10:25. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 11:10, 11:50, 12:20, 2:30, 3:10, 3:40, 6:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:10, 10:10, 10:40. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 11:55, 2:25, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:55, 3:25, 6:05, 9:15, 10:05. **Spider-Man: Homecoming 3D** (PG-13) 12:15, 6:45. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 11:15, 1:55, 4:15, 6:55, 10:15. **The House** (R) 3:35, 9:00. **Baby Driver** (R) 11:35, 3:15, 6:50, 9:35. **The Big Sick** (R) 11:25, 2:25, 6:35, 9:30. **Transformers: The Last Knight** (PG-13) 11:25, 2:45, 6:25, 9:45. **Cars 3** (G) 11:05, 1:45, 4:25. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 11:15, 2:50, 6:40, 9:50. **Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales** (PG-13) 11:35, 2:35, 6:15, 9:25.

DAYTON SOUTH 16 AND XD
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13) 3:45, 7:00. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 12:30, 10:10. **Baby Driver** (R) 10:25, 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:25. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 12:05, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25. **Cars 3** (G) 9:55, 12:35, 3:20, 6:15. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 11:30, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:15. **The Big Sick** (R) 10:10, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:35. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 9:50, 10:55, 1:00, 4:05, 5:05, 7:10, 8:10, 10:15. **Spider-Man: Homecoming 3D** (PG-13) 2:00, 11:15. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 10:15, 11:15, 1:30, 2:30, 4:40, 6:00, 7:50, 9:10, 11:00. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 10:15, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15. ; 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. **Girls**

Trip (R) 10:45, 12:50, 1:45, 3:50, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:35. **Fidaa** (NR) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30.

HUBER HEIGHTS 16
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13) 10:30, 12:40, 7:00. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 3:50, 10:15. **Baby Driver** (R) 11:35, 2:20, 5:05, 8:00, 10:45. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 12:15, 3:55, 7:15, 10:30. **Transformers: The Last Knight** (PG-13) 10:10. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 11:05, 12:25, 1:35, 2:50, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:45, 9:00. **The Big Sick** (R) 10:50, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:25. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 11:30, 1:40, 2:35, 3:50, 4:45, 5:40, 7:50, 8:45, 10:00, 10:55. **Spider-Man: Homecoming 3D** (PG-13) 12:45, 6:55. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 12:10, 1:10, 3:30, 4:30, 6:40, 7:40, 9:50, 10:50. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 11:00, 2:10, 5:25, 8:40. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 10:40, 1:05, 3:25, 5:50, 8:10, 10:35. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40. **Girls Trip** (R) 10:35, 12:05, 1:30, 3:00, 4:25, 5:55, 7:20, 8:50, 10:15.

ELDER THEATRE
Wonder Woman (PG-13) 7:00.

THE GREENE 14 + IMAX
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13) 12:30, 7:10. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 3:55, 10:40. **Baby Driver** (R) 10:30, 1:35, 4:35, 7:50, 10:50. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 11:40, 3:20, 7:15, 10:40. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 10:05, 12:35, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:50. **The Big Sick** (R) 10:00, 1:10, 4:25, 7:40, 10:45. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 10:05, 10:35, 11:05, 1:20, 2:20, 4:30, 5:05, 5:35, 7:45, 9:00, 10:55. **Spider-Man: Homecoming 3D** (PG-13) 1:50, 8:15. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 11:30, 3:00, 7:05, 10:35. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 10:10, 1:30, 5:00, 8:30. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:25, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 10:15, 12:55, 3:45, 6:30, 9:30. **Dunkirk: The IMAX 2D Experience**

(PG-13) 11:15, 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:30. **Girls Trip** (R) 11:30, 2:45, 7:00, 10:15.

THE PLAZA THEATRE
Dirty Dancing (PG-13) 8:00.

CINEMARK MIAMI VALLEY
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13) 10:10, 4:30, 11:00. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 1:20, 7:40. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 10:15, 4:50, 11:20. **Wonder Woman 3D** (PG-13) 1:35, 8:05. **Cars 3** (G) 10:20, 1:00, 3:45. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 9:45, 12:10, 2:40, 5:35, 6:35, 9:05. **The Big Sick** (R) 8:00, 11:10. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 9:40, 3:55, 10:20. **Spider-Man: Homecoming 3D** (PG-13) 12:50, 7:05. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 10:00, 4:40, 11:15. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 1:15, 7:55. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 10:05, 12:45, 3:25, 6:05, 8:50, 11:30. **Girls Trip** (R) 10:30, 1:25, 4:20, 7:20, 10:40.

BOONSHOFT MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY
One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure (NR) 11:00. **The Sky Tonight** (NR) 2:00. **Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs?** (NR) 4:00. **The Farthest** (NR) 7:00.

CHAKERES CINEMA 10
Dunkirk (PG-13) 2:00, 4:45, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets** (PG-13) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 10:00. **Girls Trip** (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 5:00. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00. **The Big Sick** (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45. **Baby Driver** (R) 8:00.

BELLEFONTAINE 8 CINEMA
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13) 1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 6:30, 7:00,

Fri, Jul 21 9:15. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 4:00. **Girls Trip** (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 7:15, 9:30. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 1:45, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00. **Baby Driver** (R) 1:45, 10:00. **Cars 3** (G) 1:30, 4:30.

REGAL DEERFIELD TOWNE CENTER STADIUM 16
Dunkirk (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40. **Girls Trip** (R) 11:10, 12:30, 2:10, 3:30, 5:10, 6:40, 8:10, 9:40, 11:05. **Dunkirk** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets** (PG-13) 11:30, 12:20, 3:00, 3:50, 7:00, 7:30, 10:50. **Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets 3D** (PG-13) 10:15. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 11:20, 12:40, 2:50, 4:15, 6:15, 6:50, 7:40, 9:30, 11:00. **War for the Planet of the Apes 3D** (PG-13) 12:00, 3:20, 10:10. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 7:45, 10:35. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 12:10, 3:10, 4:00, 6:30, 7:20, 10:30. **Spider-Man: Homecoming 3D** (PG-13) 11:40, 10:00. **Despicable Me 3** (PG) 11:05, 1:35, 4:40, 7:35, 10:05. **Baby Driver** (R) 11:55, 3:40, 7:05, 10:20. **The Big Sick** (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:55. **Cars 3** (G) 11:35, 2:20, 5:00. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 11:25, 2:40, 6:45, 10:25.

DRIVE-INS
DIXIE TWIN DRIVE-IN
Girls Trip (R) 9:40. **Wish Upon** (PG-13) 11:55. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 9:30. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 12:05.

CHAKERES MELODY 49 DRIVE-IN
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG-13) 9:15. **Spider-Man: Homecoming** (PG-13) 12:00. **War for the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) 9:15. **Wonder Woman** (PG-13) 12:00.

HOLIDAY AUTO THEATRE
Transformers: The Last Knight (PG-13) 9:00. **Baby Driver** (R) 11:45.

GO!

FILM REVIEW

'Girls Trip' is raunchy yet refreshingly fun

By Katie Walsh

Tribune News Service

Perfecting the raunchy, randy, female-driven comedy can be a tall order. "Bridesmaids" showed it could be done, though such successes can be few and far between. "Girls Trip" proves to be the heir apparent to "Bridesmaids," a film about female friendship that nails the comedy, the boldness and the heart. There's no need for high concepts or outlandish premises here; all that's necessary is four longtime best friends and a city built for sin.

"The Best Man" and "The Best Man Holiday" director Malcolm D. Lee directs "Girls Trip," and he's clearly a man comfortable navigating an ensemble project. "Black-

ish" writer Kenya Barris co-wrote the script alongside three female writers, Karen McCullah, Tracy Oliver and Erica Rivinoja. That feminine voice and influence comes through loud and clear in the banter among the friend group known as the "Flossy Posse" (they even have matching necklaces).

Author and Oprah-in-training Ryan (Regina Hall) has invited her girl crew along for a trip to Essence Fest in New Orleans, where she's giving a keynote speech and taking meetings to launch her brand with her husband and business partner, Stewart (Mike Colter). Making up the Flossy Posse are Jada Pinkett Smith as worrywart mom Lisa, Queen Latifah as gossip blogger Sasha (yes, there is a

great "Set It Off" reference), and rounding out the crew is lesser-known comedian and actress Tiffany Haddish, who runs away with "Girls Trip" in a breakout performance as the wildly funny, completely uncensored and often unhinged Dina.

In the party atmosphere of New Orleans, Ryan's perfectly maintained image and composure starts to come loose at the seams, especially when the posse discovers photos of Stewart stepping out on her with a sultry Instagram model (Deborah Ayorinde). It's not just the infidelity, but the threat to her business ventures that causes Ryan to sweep it under the rug. Meanwhile, Lisa's trying to get her groove back with a college kid (Kofi Siriboe),

Sasha's finances are in shambles, and Dina's just trying to avoid any more run-ins with hotel security.

All the women turn in funny performances – it's great to see Pinkett Smith cut loose, and the charming and radiant Hall displays a faculty for physical comedy – but this is Haddish's movie, and will make her a star. It's clear from the moment she hits the screen, gleefully sharing her tips for smuggling contraband onto a plane, and the epic dance battle where she owns the floor clad in a skintight tie-dyed jumpsuit and purple wig cements the fact.

The hijinks of "Girls Trip" are of the brash, bawdy and boozy variety, replete with X-rated discussions about sex and anatomy. These are

women who like to have fun with their sexuality, don't take it too seriously, own it, and are unashamed about their desires.

"Girls Night" acknowledges that women contain multitudes and reflects that in its ability to balance potty humor with heartfelt female empowerment. These elements never clash because the characters are fully formed individuals, real people with real relationships and real problems. It's a refreshing representation, but it doesn't sacrifice the laughs or the genuine love they have for their gal pals. The girls of "Girls Trip" prove that women can be many things: powerful,

naughty, gross, hilarious and sexy, while still lifting each other up.

'GIRLS TRIP'

Grade: B

Starring: Regina Hall, Jada Pinkett Smith, Tiffany Haddish, Queen Latifah, Mike Colter
Director: Malcolm D. Lee

Running time: 2 hours, 2 minutes

Rating: R for crude and sexual content throughout, pervasive language, brief graphic nudity, and drug material



Regina Hall, Jada Pinkett Smith, Tiffany Haddish and Queen Latifah star in "Girls Trip." CONTRIBUTED



Chakeres Featuring Digital Projection		MELODY 49 Drive-In I-70 & Route 49 N. (937) 833-5015
Screen 1 Valerian & The City Of A Thousand Planets (PG13) @ 9:15 Spiderman: Homecoming (PG13) @ 12:00	Screen 2 War For The Planet Of The Apes (PG13) @ 9:15 Wonder Woman (PG13) @ 12:00	
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GO!

FILM REVIEW

Nolan's 'Dunkirk' is an instant war classic

By Katie Walsh

Tribune News Service

Not much can prepare you for the heart-stopping immersion of Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk," his tribute to the World War II battle that looms large in the history and heart of England.

The 1940 evacuation of more than 300,000 British soldiers from a French beach, under heavy fire from German soldiers and planes, was aided by a flotilla of small boats captained by civilians from across the English Channel.

That show of bravery and solidarity is still spoken of today as "the Dunkirk spirit," which Nolan presents beautifully in this simply astonishing cinematic achievement.

On a towering IMAX screen the film swallows you whole, and puts you in the middle of the action — on land, on sea and in the air.

Nolan puts you on the beach with these young men, as bombs and sand shower down, and gives us a bird's-eye view from the cockpit of Spitfires dog-fighting in the sky.

We're planted on a deserted village street with a group of British soldiers tip-toeing amongst a snow-fall of Nazi propaganda fliers. The booming gunshots reverberate through your bones.

Nolan and cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema have crafted a film that places us in this heightened reality, shooting with IMAX cameras on large format film stock.

Everything about "Dunkirk" is bigger, realer, in images that are equally



Harry Styles, from left, Aneurin Barnard and Fionn Whitehead are shown in a scene from "Dunkirk." PHOTOS BY WARNER BROS PICTURES VIA AP

brehtaking in their beauty and in their terror. Nolan eschewed computer special effects for the most part, striving for as authentic a representation as possible, even strapping IMAX cameras to vintage planes to capture those soaring, vertiginous shots over the open sea.

There are three storylines, named "1. The Mole: One Week," which takes place on the beach in Dunkirk, "2. The Sea: One Day," following the small boats from England, and "3. The Air: One Hour," the story of a pair of Royal Air Force pilots. Nolan intercuts between



James D'Arcy, left, and Kenneth Branagh appear in a scene from "Dunkirk."

these events until they all become inextricably intertwined together. In the script, Nolan has

done away with exposition. The story is all that happens there, and we become emotionally bonded to these characters in just witnessing their fight for survival. On the beach, we follow a young soldier, played by Fionn Whitehead in his first feature film, in a nearly wordless performance, through an unspeakably harrowing survival tale, from the streets of Dunkirk, to the belly of a destroyer, through the oil-soaked, fiery sea.

The dramatic scope never wavers from the individual, interpersonal level, though the enormity of the task at hand is never

'DUNKIRK'

Grade: A

Starring: Fionn Whitehead, Damien Bonnard, Aneurin Barnard and Lee Armstrong

Director: Christopher Nolan

Running time: 1 hour, 47 minutes

Rating: PG-13 for intense war experience and some language

far from mind.

Aboard a pleasure yacht en route to Dunkirk, a civilian (Mark Rylance) and his son (Tom Glynn-Carney) and friend (Barry Keoghan) spar with a shell-shocked soldier (Cillian Murphy) they've fished out of the sea, who refuses to return to France.

On the mole, Navy Commander Bolton (Kenneth Branagh) quietly makes the toughest decisions. In the sky, RAF pilots Farrier (Tom Hardy) and Collins (Jack Lowden) are all that stands between the defenseless soldiers on the beach and German bombs.

Hans Zimmer has composed a score that whines and vibrates with high anxiety.

A constant "tick-tick-tick" reminds us of the imminent threat that grows with each passing moment, each bomb and torpedo and bullet, but it's almost scarier when that ticking clock stops.

Nolan almost never lets up the intensity in the remarkable "Dunkirk," an instant war classic that finds its power in individual tales of heroism and renders them larger than life.

GO!

GO LISTINGS

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

EXHIBITION: NICHOLAUS ARNOLD AND FRANK TRAVERS: July 21, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at Rosewood Art Gallery, 2655 Olson Dr., Kettering. Dayton artist, educator and “Blue House” gallerist Nicholas Arnold’s installation exhibition, “No One Was Having A Very Good Time,” features found objects with prints and photography. Also exhibiting is fellow artist and educator Frank Travers with “What Remains” in his exhibition that features woodcut/intaglio prints as well as watercolor, print, and ink drawings. Admission is free and open to the public.

UBUHLE WOMEN: BEADWORK AND THE ART OF INDEPENDENCE: July 21, 11 a.m. at The Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton. Summer special exhibition, Ubuhe Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence, showcases a new form of bead art, called the ndwango (“cloth”), developed by a community of women living and working together in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The exhibition is on view through Sept. 10, 2017. The Dayton Art Institute is the first venue for this new tour.

RED: ENDLESS ATTRACTION: July 21, 11 a.m. at The Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton. Endlessly attractive and evocative of the most powerful emotions, the color red can create a range of responses. How does this one color have such a range of social and psychological associations? What are the natural materials artists have used to make objects with this lively color?

2017 YECK COLLEGE ARTIST FELLOW EXHIBITION: July 21, 11 a.m. at The Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton. Featuring 12 Yeck High School Scholarship students who have created artwork using clay, wire, collage materials, and oil paint, while learning a variety of new techniques from their Yeck College Artist Fellows.

BLUE STAR MUSEUMS: July 21,

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE EVENTS

Events must be entered online at DaytonDailyNews.com/submitevents. Please note that the deadline for possible inclusion in most of our print products is two weeks before the publication date. We try to include every item in print, but volume means publication isn’t guaranteed for any event. Contact the Events Desk at 937-225-0622 with questions or concerns.

11 a.m. at The Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton. The 2016 Blue Star Museums program is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America, to offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

SPARKLEMOJI: July 21, 6 p.m. at The Blue House Gallery and Studios, 3325 Catalpa Dr., Dayton. Sydney Joslin-Knapp is a 22-year-old native Daytonian who uses many materials from her childhood — cardboard, construction paper, printer paper, washable markers, and acrylic paint. This return to childhood media is an effort to draw on shared experience, since most people have worked with these materials at some point in their lives. Exhibit will run through July 31st.

ARTVENTURES: CREATIVE CLAY VESSELS: July 22, 1 p.m. at The Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton. Take your family on an ART-venture at the museum on the second and fourth Saturday of every month (unless otherwise noted) for art-making experiences. Drop in between 1 & 3 p.m. to learn new art-making techniques and create artwork and memories. This program is perfect for all ages and all levels of artistic ability. All materials are provided. Cost: \$10/family of four for members; \$15/family of four for non-members; \$2/each additional child.

MALAWI MUSIC FEST 2017: July 22, 4 p.m. at The Old Yellow Cab

building, 700 E. 4th St., Dayton. Join in for an evening of art and music that celebrates the Dayton community joining together to benefit Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa. This 3rd annual Malawi Music Fest will raise funds for Determined to Develop. Doors open at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door, or \$7 pre-sale. For more info, Email: MalawiMusicFest@gmail.com.

COMEDY

ROBERT POWELL: July 21, 7:30-9 p.m. at Dayton Funny Bone, 88 Plum St #200, Beavercreek. Powell is a stand-up comedian and political satirist. Additional performances: July 22, 7:30-9 p.m., July 23, 7:30-9 p.m. and July 27, 7:30-9 p.m. You must be 21 or over for all shows, except the Wednesday 7:30 p.m., and Thursday 7:30 p.m., and the Friday 10 p.m. shows are 18 & over shows. All shows are smoke-free. You must bring a valid Picture ID to be admitted. All ticket sales are final; no credits, refunds, or exchanges once purchased. Box Office: 937-429-5233.

GARY OWEN: July 27, 7:30-9 p.m. at Dayton Funny Bone, 88 Plum St #200, Beavercreek. Owen has been entertaining America for more than a decade and has produced two stand-up comedy DVDs - “Breakin’ Out The Park” and “Urban Legend.” You must be 21 or over for all shows, except the Wednesday 7:30 p.m., and Thursday 7:30 p.m., and the Friday 10 p.m. shows are 18 & over shows. All shows are smoke-free. You must bring a valid Picture ID to be admitted. All ticket sales are final; no credits, refunds, or exchanges once purchased. Box Office: 937-429-5233.

CONCERTS

VELVET CRUSH: July 21, 7 p.m. at The Wandering Griffin, 3725 Presidential Dr., Beavercreek.

DENNIS DEYOUNG: July 21, 7:30 p.m. at Frazee Pavilion, 695 Lincoln Park Blvd., Kettering. Performing the music of Styx & Blue Oyster Cult. Tickets: \$35 - Plaza & Orchestra; \$25 - Lawn & Terrace. All ticket prices increase \$5 day of show. For more details: www.fraze.com/dennis-deyoung-blue-oyster-cult/.

RACHEL BROWN AND THE BEATNIK PLAYBOYS: July 21, 7:30-9 p.m. at Downtown Troy Summer Music Series Prouty Plaza, Prouty Plaza, 1 W. Main St., Troy. The group embraces classic Americana and country favorites as well as their own original pieces, weaving country with the blues and classic pop. Free; bring your lawn chair. Presented by Troy-Hayner Cultural Center.

HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS: July 21, 8 p.m. at The Rose Music Center at The Heights, 6800 Executive Blvd., Huber Heights. Rock & Roll. Get tickets at Ticketmaster.com, RoseMusicCenter.com, and the Rose Music Center box office. Charge by phone at 800-745-3000.

MY SISTER SARAH: July 21, 8:30 p.m. at JD Legends Entertainment Complex, 65 Millard Dr., Franklin. Cincinnati’s premier show band.

UNOFFICIAL SHANE SMITH: July 21, 8:30 p.m. at JD Legends, 65 Millard Dr., Franklin.

SHADOWLIFE: July 21, 8:30 p.m. at JD Legends, 65 Millard Dr., Franklin.

THE TERMITES: July 21, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at Phone Booth Lounge, 1554 E. Stroop Rd., Kettering.

JOSH HINDMARSH TRIO: July 22, 11 a.m. at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway, 777 Hollywood Blvd., Dayton. Join in for a Jazz Brunch in the Skybox Sports Bar. Cost: \$17.99.

SWAMP ROMP 2017: July 22, 4 p.m. at Frazee, 695 Lincoln Park Blvd., Kettering. Featuring Zydeco Sounds & A Taste of Louisiana at 4 p.m., The Hot Magnolias at 6 p.m., and Robin Lacy & DeZydeco at 8 p.m. Free. For more details: www.fraze.com/swamp-romp-2017/.

SARA DELL: July 22, 5 p.m. at JD Legends, 65 Millard Dr., Franklin.

Canadian born Nashville recording artist headlines the pre-party prior to the rock tribute show.

SMELLS LIKE NIRVANA/STP2/GUNS N ROSES TRIBUTE: July 22, 6:30 p.m. at JD Legends, 65 Millard Dr., Franklin. A Tribute to Kurt Cobain, Stone Temple Pilots and Guns n Roses.

TEXAS HIPPIE COALITION: July 22, 7:30 p.m. at Oddbody’s, 5418 Burkhardt Rd., Dayton.

ETHAN AND JOEY: July 23, 5 p.m. at JD Legends, 65 Millard Dr., Franklin.

CORKY SIEGEL: July 25, 7:30 p.m. at Troy-Hayner Cultural Center, 301 W. Main St., Troy. Blues. Lucky Lemonade Concert that includes a tall glass of homemade lemonade. Free and open to the public; chairs are provided. In case of rain the concert will be moved to the ballroom.

LT. DAN’S NEW LEGS: July 25, 8 p.m. at Frazee, 695 Lincoln Park Blvd., Kettering. All tickets \$2 general admission. Details: www.fraze.com/lt-dans-new-legs-3/.

OPEN MIC: July 25, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at Jimmie’s Ladder 11, 936 Brown St., Dayton. Take the stage for Open Mic Tuesday’s starting at 9:30 p.m. hosted by Mikey Dread. If you are interested in scheduling stage time at Open Mic please feel free to Private Message Nick Brandell on Facebook or just show up and sign up at the stage.

MIAMI VALLEY YOUTH & TEEN TALENT SHOW: July 26, 7 p.m. at Frazee, 695 Lincoln Park Blvd., Kettering. Free and open to the public. See tomorrow’s stars compete in this annual showcase featuring youth from every community around the Miami Valley competing in preliminary tryouts for a spot in the finals. Show features a variety of acts ranging from dancers, singers and musicians. For details: www.fraze.com/youth-and-teen-talent-show/.

CHRIS TURNER: July 27, 6 p.m. at Rip Rap Roadhouse, 6024 Rip Rap Rd., Dayton. Country music night. Weather dependent event. Check www.Facebook.com/RipRapRoadhouse/ for updates.

RICK SYLVESTER: July 27, 7 p.m. at Wings Sports Bar and Grille, 7902 N. Dixie Dr., Dayton. One-man

Acoustic act.

THE PULL OUTS: July 27, 7:30 p.m. at JD Legends, 65 Millard Dr., Franklin. Jazz.

FULL MOON FEVER: July 27, 8 p.m. at Frazee Pavilion, 695 Lincoln Park Blvd., Kettering. MVRPC presents a Throwback Thursday Concert featuring “America’s Premier Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers Tribute Band”. Tickets: \$10 - All seats general admission; all tickets increase \$5 day of show. For more details: www.fraze.com/full-moon-fever/.

OPEN MIC NIGHT WITH BRANDON: July 27, 9:30 p.m. at Blind Bob’s, 430 5th St., Dayton.

FOOD & WINE

FOOD TRUCK RALLY: July 21, 5 p.m. at The Old Yellow Cab building, 700 E. 4th St., Dayton. Featuring an eclectic mix of gourmet food trucks, free live music and local craft beers. Free entry. The Yellow Cab Food Truck Rallies happen on the third Friday of every month through October. For more details check out yellowcabfoodtrucks.com/.

PINT NIGHT/MEET THE BREWER BEER TASTING: July 27, 5 p.m. at TJ Chumps, 12 E. Linden Ave., Miamisburg. Free beer tastings and discounted pints.

THEMED DINNER: CLASSIC CLAMBAKE: July 27, 6:30 p.m. at The Dayton Art Institute, 456 Belmonte Park North, Dayton. Leo Bistro will host a new series of themed dinners on select Thursdays. First up is a classic clambake in the Hale Cloister with all the trimmings - clams, mussels, lobster, sausage, corn, and potatoes, seasoned with Old Bay and fresh lemons. The clambake begins at 6:30 p.m., and festival seating is limited to 20 guests. Advance reservations are required by calling Leo Bistro at 937-512-0146. Cost: \$55.95/person (tax & gratuity included).

FUNDRAISING & CHARITY

HUNKS & LADDERS FIRE-FIGHTERS COMBAT CHALLENGE: July 22, 2 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Greene Town Center, 4450

Listings continued on 16

GO!

FILM REVIEW

‘Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets’ is a weird ride

By Katie Walsh

Tribune News Service

At the age of 10, visionary French film director Luc Besson fell in love with the French-Belgian space opera comic “Valerian and Laureline” by writer Pierre Christin and artist Jean-Claude Mezieres. Chronicling the wild adventures of two sassy space cops, “Valerian and Laureline” is said to have influenced “Star Wars” and, of course, Besson’s 1997 sci-fi classic “The Fifth Element.” Now, Besson’s cinematic adaptation of his beloved childhood comic, “Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets,” hits theaters in all of its glorious spectacle.

Besson has created an intoxicating, visually enchanting world in “Valerian” — one that is richly, imaginatively rendered, deeply textured and almost overwhelming. This film drops you into an outer space world that knows no lim-



This image shows Dane DeHaan, left, and Cara Delevingne in a scene from “Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets.” VIKRAM GOUNASSEGARIN/STX ENTERTAINMENT VIA AP

its on space, time and dimensionality, and asks the viewer to go along for this deeply weird roller coaster ride.

Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne star as Valerian and Laureline, a couple of federal space agents, a combination of FBI, undercover cops

and Secret Service. They’re tasked with securing a rare converter being sold on the black market, but the seemingly simple mission leads to a governmental conspiracy to cover up the genocide of the peaceful Mul people 30 years ago.

‘VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS’

Grade: C+

Starring: Dane DeHaan, Cara Delevingne, Clive Owen, Rihanna, Ethan Hawke, Kris Wu

Director: Luc Besson

Running time: 2 hours, 17 minutes

Rating: PG-13 for sci-fi violence and action, suggestive material and brief language.

The surviving Mul people, staging their own small resistance, are like the Na’vi from “Avatar,” not only in bearing — the Mul look like tall, thin pearlescent Masai warriors — but in the way they coexist in peaceful equality with their environment. Fighting for their existence is the noblest of causes.

While the duo chase down leads, and escape from tricky pickles, Valerian makes an attempt to woo Laureline, asking her to marry him over and over again. This is the 28th century in space. People do their shopping in another dimension. Jellyfish have psychic innards. In a world that seems so rife with possibilities, why force their romance into a tradition that seems rather meaningless in this environment?

Perhaps the proposal thing feels so forced and awkward between Valerian and Laureline because there’s not much tangible chemistry between DeHaan and Delevingne. They’re both slight and wispy, not quite filling the suits of these powerful space heroes — at times they look like little kids next to their foes. DeHaan feels miscast, not the rakish playboy charmer as this film tries to present him. He fades back over the course of the film, while Delevingne comes

to the forefront, with a magnetic screen presence established through the sheer force of her eyes. It’s a shame that her character’s name isn’t also in the film’s title, like the comic, as Laureline is every inch the hero as Valerian.

The message of “Valerian” is a deeply hopeful and humane one, about the power of love and trust and setting aside procedure and protocol to do the right thing. It’s a movie about dissolving the limits of space and dimensionality in order to create a harmonious existence for all living creatures, and that extends to hierarchical power structures as well.

Despite Valerian and Laureline’s hollow romantic relationship, and moments where the film loses the story thread and sense of geography altogether, it’s almost impossible to not be swept away by Besson’s stunning world, and his beating heart that drives the moral of the story home.

Listings

continued from 15

Buckeye Ln., Beavercreek. Join in to vote on the toughest firefighter in Ohio! This event will benefit A Special Wish Foundation, Pink Ribbon Driven, and the Miami Valley Firefighter/EMS Memorial. Watch as the guys battle it out in the Firemen’s Combat Challenge by putting their firefighting skills to the test. Winners will be featured in the 2018 Hunks and Ladders Calendar. Following the Combat Challenge, the festivities continue with live music from “Stranger” at 6 p.m. At 10 p.m. guests can head over to Bar Louie’s at the Greene for the after party with music from “Full Frontal!” It’s the 30th Anniversary of the Combat Challenge; this

year’s event is dedicated to Xenia Firefighter Dan Smith’s brother Caleb, who’s in his own combat with brain cancer.

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS

FRANCIS GARY POWERS, JR.: July 21, 3 p.m. at National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, 1100 Spaatz St., Dayton. Francis Gary Powers, Jr., son of former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, Sr., will present a lecture titled “The U-2 Incident: A Son’s Search for the Truth.” For more info: www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/Press-Room/News/Article-Display/Article/1237461/francis-gary-powers-jr-to-speak-about-u-2-on-july-21-at-national-museum-usaf/.

PERFORMING ARTS

COOL FILMS: KELLY’S HEROES:

July 21, 7 p.m. at Victoria Theatre Association, 138 N. Main St., Dayton. 10-Ticket Series Passbook available for \$35. Call Ticket Center Stage at 937-228-3630 or buy online at Ticket Center Stage. Individual tickets are available at the Victoria Theatre Box Office one hour prior to showtime for \$6. Showtimes: Friday & Saturday - 7 p.m.; Sunday - 3 p.m. Enjoy free popcorn and soda in the lobby prior to regular Cool Films showings, starting one hour prior to showtime. Come early for a theatre organ concert on the Mighty Wurlitzer before each regular Cool Films movie. Join in for a classic cartoon before each regular Cool Film movie.

FUTUREFEST: July 22, 10 a.m. at Dayton Playhouse, 1301 E. Sieben-thaler Ave., Dayton. Dayton’s 27th annual new play festival - July

21-23. Six previously unproduced plays will be performed (3 fully staged, 3 staged readings) by local performers. Events begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The playwrights from across the country will be in attendance, as well as five professional adjudicators from NY, Chicago and other major Arts communities. Weekend passes, available for \$100, include all shows, adjudications and some social events. Visit www.dayton-playhouse.com, or call 937-424-8477 for information or tickets.

REEL LATE: LED ZEPPELIN - THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME: July 22, 10:30 p.m. at Victoria Theatre Association, 138 N Main St, Dayton. 10-Ticket Series Passbook available for \$35. Call Ticket Center Stage at 937-228-3630 or buy online at Ticket Center Stage.

Individual tickets are available at the Victoria Theatre Box Office one hour prior to showtime for \$6. Join in at 10 p.m. for music from C. Wright’s Parlour Tricks before each Reel Late at the Vic film this summer. Playing a fiery brand of instrumental guitar. Enjoy free popcorn and a cash bar before all Reel Late at the Vic movies. Starring John Bonham, John Paul Jones, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant (1976). An over-the-top tribute to the always excessive Led Zeppelin of the 1970s. Rating: PG.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR: July 23, 2:30 p.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 6430 Far Hills Ave., Centerville. The Epiphany Players Drama Ministry will present its 27th summer musical, Jesus Christ Superstar, July 20-22 at 7:30 p.m., and July 23 at 2:30 p.m. To buy tickets or to learn more about

the production, visit Epiphany’s website at www.epiphanydayton.org. Featuring the talents of more than 60 local student and adult actors, the Epiphany production re-imagines the legendary rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice for our modern times. Set in New York City in 2017 against the backdrop of social, political and spiritual upheaval, a prophet emerges to lead the way, but his methods and message are nothing like they expected.

FAMILY FILMS: FLIPPER: July 27, 10 a.m. at Victoria Theatre Association, 138 N Main St, Dayton. 10-Ticket Series Passbook available for \$35. Call Ticket Center Stage at 937-228-3630 or buy online at Ticket Center Stage. Individual tickets are available at the Victoria Theatre Box Office one hour prior to showtime for \$3.

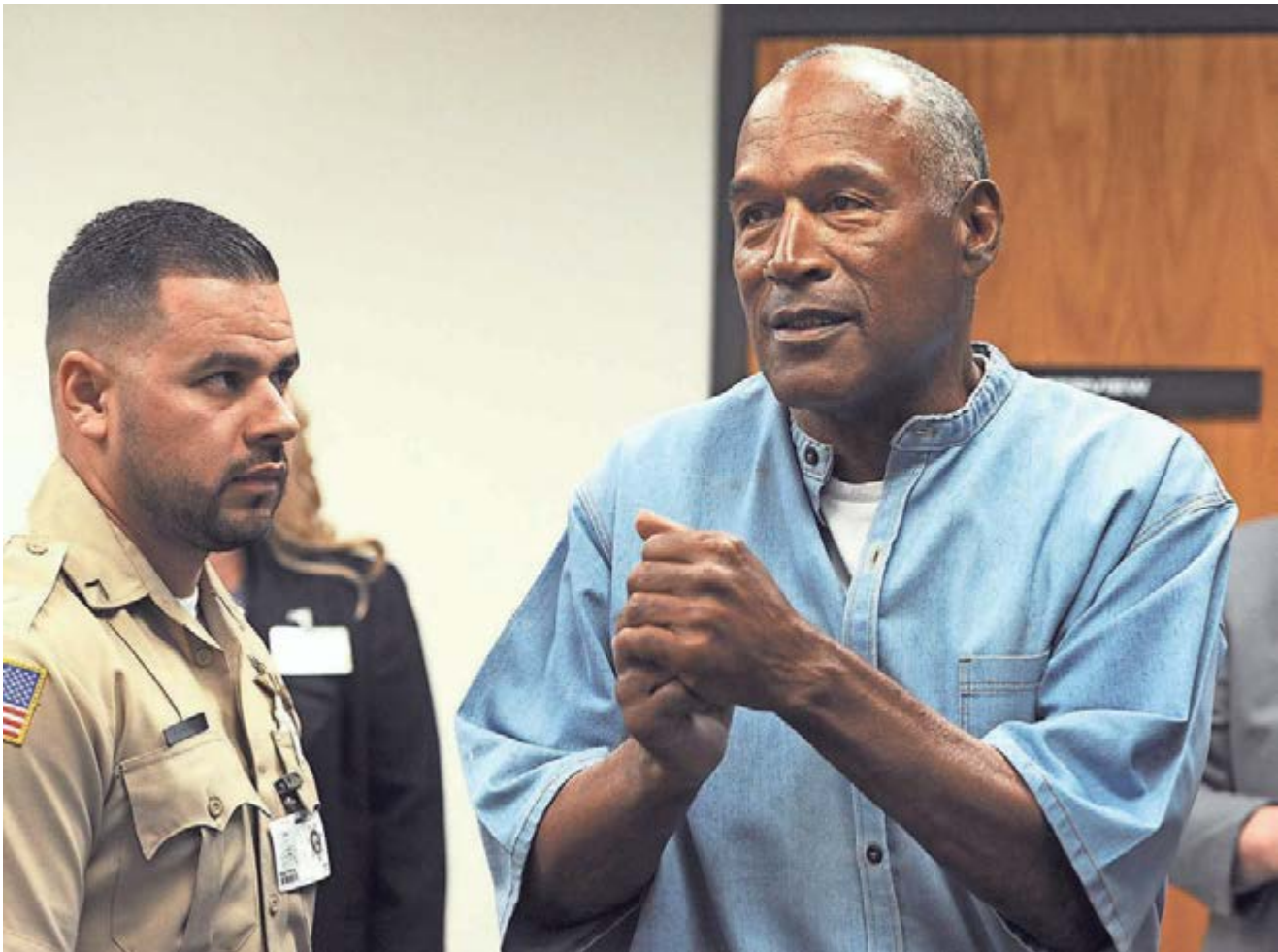


“I haven’t made any excuses in the nine years I’ve been here, and I’m not making any now.”

O.J. Simpson, to the Nevada Board of Parole Commissioners on Thursday

O.J. still makes us watch and wonder

Simpson gets parole, but jury’s still out on his character



PHOTOS BY JASON BEAN, RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

O.J. Simpson reacts Thursday after learning he was granted parole in Nevada. He is due to be released Oct. 1.

USA TODAY

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For the latest national sports coverage, go to sports.usatoday.com

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Renters lack affordable housing



SOURCE Public and Affordable Housing Research Corp.
MICHAEL B. SMITH AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY

Josh Peter
@joshlpeter11
USA TODAY Sports

CARSON CITY, NEV. O.J. Simpson was granted parole Thursday by a 4-0 vote from the Nevada Board of Parole Commissioners, but the public jury is still out on the former NFL star and actor. Understandably. It was just like old times, with a fleet of satellite TV trucks, an army of reporters and speculation about the fate of “The Juice.” But with the white Ford Bronco nowhere in sight, there proved to be far less suspense about whether Simpson would get parole after nine years in prison but plenty of reason to debate whether he should be a free man. Surely his critics rolled their eyes when he acknowledged to the four-person board that he had failed to take an Alcoholics Anonymous course even though he said he would do so in 2013



From left, Simpson's daughter Arnelle, sister Shirley Baker and friend Tom Scotto react during the hearing.

when he said alcohol contributed to the 2007 armed robbery that resulted in his conviction. The critics must have shaken their heads when Simpson was asked about the holdup and he rambled in what seemed like an attempt to shift the blame to others. And the critics must have groaned one last time when he struck a jocular tone while stating he would like to return to Florida and added, “I could easily stay in Nevada, but I don’t

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

Trump doesn’t spare loyalists

Defying political norms got him to the White House, but his brash methods haven’t helped him lately

Susan Page
@susanpage
USA TODAY

To get anything done in office, President Trump needs friends.

NEWS ANALYSIS WASHINGTON President Trump’s greatest political asset is also turning out to be his most damaging governing liability: After six months on the job, he hasn’t changed. Trump is still the disruptor who defied the Republican establishment and the chattering class by winning the GOP nomination, then the White House against all odds. Having few traditional allies to rely on, candidate Trump won by waging unapologetic attacks on political norms and niceties. But to get anything done in office, President Trump needs friends. Now he has lashed out at one of his few original loyalists, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the first senator to endorse his presidential bid and a regular surrogate on the campaign trail last year. Trump blasted Sessions on Wednesday for his decision to recuse himself from the investigation into possible Russian interference in the presidential election, a step that enabled and contributed to the decision by Sessions’ deputy to appoint a special counsel in the case. “Well, Sessions should have never recused himself, and if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before he took the job,” Trump complained in a free-wheeling interview with *The New York Times*. “And I would have picked somebody else.” The president also castigated Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein — “who is from Baltimore; there are very few Republicans in Baltimore, if any” — and special counsel Robert Mueller, a former director of the FBI. The president warned Mueller not to expand his in-

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

Canada governor breaches protocol by helping queen

Kim Hjelmgaard
@khjelmgaard
USA TODAY

LONDON You don’t, as a general rule, touch the queen. Canada’s governor general did just that Wednesday when he decided to breach royal protocol for members of the public and gently grab hold of Queen Elizabeth II’s elbow to ensure she didn’t stumble during an official engagement in London. “It’s a little bit awkward, that descent from Canada House to

Trafalgar Square, and there was a carpet that was a little slippery, and so I thought perhaps it was appropriate,” David Johnston told CBC after he met with the 91-year-old monarch to mark Canada’s 150th birthday. Johnston, who is the queen’s representative in Canada, lightly guided the queen’s elbow as she ascended steps at London’s Canada House. He did the same thing as she left the building. Canada is part of the Commonwealth of Nations, a group of 53 countries, many of which were once part of the British Empire. Wednesday’s flouting of royal

etiquette made a few headlines in Britain. It didn’t appear to ruffle any feathers in Buckingham Palace, which did not comment on the episode. We’ve been here before. In 2009, first lady Michelle Obama threw the royal rule book completely out the window and gave the queen a hug during a reception at the palace. Royal watchers described it as a mutual display of affection. The gesture nevertheless broke centuries of protocol: It was the first time the queen had put her arm around another woman in public.

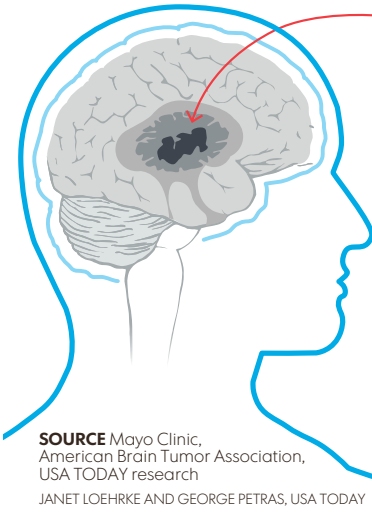


WILL OLIVER, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

British Queen Elizabeth II, center, leaves Canada House with David Johnston, governor general of Canada, right, and Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Janice Charette in London on Wednesday.

GLIOBLASTOMA

WHAT IT IS: An aggressive type of brain cancer that starts in the glial cells of the brain and spreads rapidly throughout the brain.



SYMPTOMS: Headache, nausea, drowsiness, impaired vision

TREATMENT: Chemotherapy, radiation and surgery

HOW COMMON IS IT?
About 12,390 cases projected in 2017

MEDIAN SURVIVAL RATE:
14-15 months

NOTE Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Beau Biden, son of former vice president Joe Biden, died of glioblastoma.

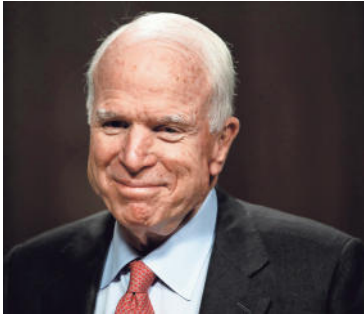
SOURCE Mayo Clinic, American Brain Tumor Association, USA TODAY research
JANET LOEHRKE AND GEORGE PETRAS, USA TODAY

Sen. John McCain: ‘I’ll be back soon’

Bush says he was the one encouraged by his call to the senator

Jessica Estepa
@jmestepa
USA TODAY

The day after doctors announced he had aggressive brain cancer, Sen. John McCain said he planned to be back to work soon. “I greatly appreciate the outpouring of support — unfortunately for my sparring partners in Congress, I’ll be back soon, so stand-by!” the Arizona Republican wrote on Twitter. One of the many people calling McCain with their support: Former President George W. Bush. Bush said he called the senator this morning to wish him well and to encourage him to fight. “Instead, he encouraged me,”



JACQUELYN MARTIN, AP

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has been diagnosed with a brain tumor after a blood clot was removed last week.

Bush said in a statement. “I was impressed by his spirit and determination. He has devoted his life to this country. Thankfully, he is committed to continuing that service.” McCain has been diagnosed with glioblastoma, a type of brain tumor that is difficult to treat, experts say.

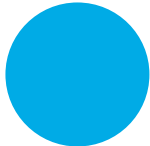
Corrections & Clarifications

A front-page story Thursday that provided updates on figures prominent in the 1995 O.J. Simpson murder trial incorrectly identified the sister of Nicole Brown Simpson. She is Denise Brown.

A story in some editions Thursday about the Senate’s Obamacare repeal plan misstated the day the Congressional Budget Office released its report. It was Wednesday.



USA TODAY is committed to accuracy. To reach us, contact Standards Editor Brent Jones at 800-872-7073 or e-mail accuracy@usatoday.com. Please indicate whether you’re responding to content online or in the newspaper.



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Backers feel Trump’s bite

▶ CONTINUED FROM 1B

quiry into Trump family finances unrelated to Russia. “That’s a violation,” he said, refusing to answer when asked whether he might fire Mueller if the counsel did extend the inquiry. Sessions and Rosenstein declined to defend themselves — or Charm City, for that matter — in measured responses. They appeared at a Justice Department news conference Thursday that was called to announce the takedown of an Internet marketplace for drugs, weapons and other illicit items. Trump’s overnight remarks dominated the session instead. “I have the honor of serving as attorney general,” Sessions said. “We love this job. We love this department. And I plan to continue to do so as long as that is appropriate.” “We’re working here every day to advance the priorities of the Department of Justice,” Rosenstein said. “I was proud to be here yesterday; I’m proud to be here today, and I’ll be proud to be here tomorrow.”

FIRING BACKFIRE

Though the president has the legal authority to fire the officials he appoints, it’s hard to overstate the political conflagration that would erupt if he ousted Sessions or Rosenstein, or if he ordered the Justice Department to oust Mueller. His decision to fire FBI Director James Comey created a firestorm of its own and fueled allegations of obstruction of justice. His willingness to denigrate one of his staunchest supporters — someone who as an Alabama senator stood up for Trump when none of his colleagues was willing to do so — could have repercussions on his efforts to persuade members of Congress to support his proposals to pass a budget, overhaul health care, cut taxes, invest in infrastructure and more. That’s a point Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer was quick to make on Twitter. “Two words to @SenateGOP when @realDonaldTrump says ‘I’ll have your back’ when you vote to repeal health care,” Schumer posted. “Jeff Sessions.” The president didn’t mention Sessions’ efforts to pursue other



ANDREW HARNIK, AP

President Trump has blistered Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, left, and Attorney General Jeff Sessions over their handling of the Russia investigation.

administration priorities, from cracking down on so-called sanctuary cities that shelter undocumented immigrants to defending the Trump immigration ban in the courts. The Justice Department unveiled major indictments against health care fraud last week and progress against the Dark Web on Thursday, an announcement that might have garnered attention on another day. Instead, the president cast Sessions’ job performance entirely in terms of his loyalty to Trump, and every question at the news conference centered on that. At the midpoint of his first year in office, Trump bragged about his achievements. “I think I’ve done more than anyone else,” he said, referring to the record of his predecessors during their first six months. “So the bottom line is this: The country’s doing well. ... We are moving forward with a lot of good things. The unemployment is the lowest it’s been in 16 years. The stock market is the highest it’s ever been. It’s up almost 20% since I took office. And we’re working hard on health care.” Trump is also enmeshed in Russia investigations by the Justice Department and five congressional committees that have created a darkening cloud over

his White House, and he has yet to pass a single major legislative initiative. He has run headlong into the separation of powers that gives Congress and the courts the ability to thwart his plans.

SET IN HIS WAYS
His approval-disapproval rating Thursday in the rolling three-day Gallup Poll was 36%-59%. That’s by far the worst of any modern president at six months. But the voters who elected him have mostly stuck with him. Nearly nine of 10 Trump voters said in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released Thursday that they would vote for him again. What he hasn’t done is win over the voters who didn’t support him or reassure them that he has the temperament and character a president needs. “I think it’s clear that Trump’s unconventional style, willingness to defy convention and to say things normal politicians don’t say helped convince voters in last year’s campaign to vote for him,” Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of the Gallup Poll, wrote in an analysis of Trump’s comparative standing. “Many may have thought he would change his ways once he entered the Oval Office.” For better or worse, he hasn’t.

Simpson: Is he truly humbled?

▶ CONTINUED FROM 1B

think you want me here.” Undoubtedly, many Americans want Simpson in Nevada and behind bars, but he gave his supporters reason to believe he’s ready to be released. Simpson bluntly referred to himself as a “convict.” “I haven’t made any excuses in the nine years I’ve been here, and I’m not making any now,” he said. For whatever impact Simpson’s testimony had on the parole board Thursday, it’s clear his time in prison was more relevant. He has not had a single write-up for disciplinary reasons. He has been active at Lovelock Correctional Center, with regular duties disinfecting gym equipment, mopping floors, coaching athletic teams and, more recently, starting a Baptist service. Simpson was fortunate in that, unlike his 2013 parole hearing, he did not appear alone. His oldest daughter, Arnelle Simpson, spoke poignantly on behalf of her father. She said he is not a perfect man but that he is always positive and she and her three siblings are eager to have him back. “No one really knows what we’ve been through with this ordeal,” she said. “I know in my heart he’s humbled by this situation. I know that he is so remorseful.” That was less clear through Simpson’s tone and remarks to the board, but there was another powerful speaker, Bruce Fromong, a sports memorabilia dealer and one of the two victims in the 2007 crime.

He spoke forcefully in favor of parole. He said he had accepted Simpson’s apology several years ago and that if Simpson called him to say he was being released from prison tomorrow ... And with that Fromong turned his head toward Simpson in the hearing room and said, “Juice, I’ll be here tomorrow. I mean that, buddy.” So Simpson is expected to need a ride when he is eligible for release Oct. 1. It’s uncertain who will pick him up and who believed him Thursday when at the hearing he spoke his final words before the



JASON BEAN, RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL, VIA USA TODAY NETWORK

“I know in my heart he’s humbled by this situation.”

Arnelle Simpson, on her father O.J. Simpson

board voted. “I’m sorry,” he said. Moments later he bowed his head when the board announced it was granting him parole. As he left the room and headed back inside the prison, with only about 10 weeks left there now, a steel door closed behind him and Simpson clenched his hands and exclaimed: “Oh! God! Oh!” The feelings will be mixed when Simpson makes his next move, likely back to Florida to his two youngest children, Sydney and Justin. “I’d just like to get back to my family and friends,” he told the parole board members. “Believe it or not, I do have some real friends.” He’s also motivated to move back to Florida so he can better

protect his assets thanks to the homestead law. He has captivated and polarized America again and is expected to head back to the golf course with his close friend Tom Scotto, who recently relayed an anecdote to USA TODAY Sports. “We played every day in Miami, even if it was 100 degrees,” Scotto said of Simpson before he was incarcerated. “I’ll tell you something really funny. You know you wear a (golf) glove on the course. And all of his friends, anytime he drops the glove, they say, ‘Oops, you did it again.’ ” Did he do it? Did he deserve parole? The jury is still out.

O.J. Simpson walks in to his parole hearing at Lovelock (Nev.) Correctional Center, where he spoke to parole commissioners via teleconference.

White House: President has confidence in Sessions

Attorney general still on the job after president's attacks

David Jackson
@djusatoday
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON President Trump has no plans to fire Jeff Sessions, his spokesperson said Thursday, even after his extraordinary attacks cast doubt on the fate of the attorney general and Robert Mueller, the special counsel leading the Russia investigation.

While Trump still disagrees with Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigation, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "clearly, he has confidence in him, or he would not be attorney general."

Sessions said he plans to continue serving "as long as that is appropriate." He told reporters Thursday: "We love this job. We love this department."

Trump told *The New York Times* Wednesday that he would not have nominated him for attorney general had he known Sessions would recuse himself from the investigation into Russia's interference in the presidential election. "He should have told me before he took the job and I would have picked somebody else," Trump said.

The president's comments about a sitting attorney general caught even senior aides by surprise, and forced some to scramble to explain them.

In the interview, Trump also criticized Mueller for having unspecified conflicts of interest. While Trump cannot technically fire the special counsel, Sanders said the president also "has no intention" to call for Mueller's removal "at this time."

As the White House insisted everything was copacetic, members of Congress and legal analysts saw it differently.

Trump "effectively asked Sessions for his resignation. Will he



SAUL LOEB, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Trump "effectively asked Sessions for his resignation. Will he resign or insist on being fired?"

Preet Bharara, former U.S. Attorney

resign or insist on being fired?" tweeted Preet Bharara, the former New York-based U.S. attorney removed by the Trump administration.

Trump himself, meanwhile, declined to respond to reporters' questions about Sessions after an event in which a group of CEOs announced plans to expand pharmaceutical glass manufacturing plants in the United States.

Sessions said in March he would remove himself from the investigation because he had meetings with Russians officials during the campaign period.

After Trump fired his FBI director, James Comey, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Mueller to oversee the investigation into Russian efforts to interfere in last year's election, and possible collusion between Trump associates and Russia.

Trump claimed Mueller's office has its own conflicts of interest.

He did not elaborate, though Trump and aides have questioned the fact that Mueller's staff includes supporters of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

Trump also complained that Mueller interviewed for the job of FBI director and therefore should not have accepted the post of special counsel, and that he should not be investigating anything related to the president's finances. "I have done nothing wrong," Trump said. "A special counsel should never have been appointed in this case."

Yet Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said Trump is trying to intimidate law enforcement officers who are involved in an investigation of him.

Mueller, Schiff added, "has authority to investigate any ties Trump family has to Russia, including financial, and anything that arises. That is his duty."

Over at the White House, Sanders repeated Trump's longstanding claims that he has no financial dealings with Russia.

Still, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said the president's comments about the special counsel's probe could amount to an obstruction of justice.

Contributing: Kevin Johnson

Trump ends anti-Assad rebel support in Syria

The move marks a victory for Syrian dictator and his allies Russia and Iran

Oren Dorell
@orendorell
USA TODAY

NEWS ANALYSIS

President Trump's decision to cut off aid to anti-government rebels in Syria marks a victory for President Bashar Assad in his six-year civil war — as well as allies Russia and Iran — and a defeat for U.S. efforts to remove the Syrian dictator.

Trump decided to end a covert CIA program under former president Barack Obama to train moderate rebels to fight Assad, *The Washington Post* reported Wednesday.

The report comes two weeks after Trump met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Germany and after the United States and Russia announced a limited cease-fire in southeastern Syria that promised to end Syrian airstrikes on rebel-held areas there.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said at the time that while the U.S. hopes to extend the truce to other parts of the country, U.S. policy remains that Assad and his family have "no long-term role" as rulers in Syria.

The CIA training program was approved by Obama, who called for Assad to step down because of brutal oppression by his regime.

The U.S. government has accused Assad of bombing civilians and using banned chemical weapons. Trump ordered airstrikes against a Syrian military airfield in April following reports that Assad used chemical weapons against a rebel-held area that killed women and children.

The program was never big

enough to accomplish the goal of Assad's ouster, said Frederic Hof, Obama's special Syria adviser, now at the Atlantic Council think tank in Washington, D.C.

"If we're going to give this up, we should get something in return because it is something of value," he said. "It did some substantial good with specific (rebel) units and specific individuals, people we were trying to promote in terms of being non-sectarian alternatives to Assad."

Iran provided troops and Russia, Assad's other chief ally, provided the air force to support the Syrian government in September 2015, after U.S.-supplied rebels had scored a string of victories and threatened to overrun the Syrian capital, Damascus. Since then, Assad and forces supporting him have regained territory and vanquished rebel strongholds in Aleppo and Homs, two of the country's largest cities.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., wrote Wednesday on Twitter that Trump's move to end the CIA program, if true, "would be a complete capitulation to Assad, Russia, and Iran." It would be a loss for Syrians who have been relentlessly attacked by Assad, the U.S.' Arab partners who've supported anti-Assad forces in Syria and U.S. standing in the Middle East, Graham wrote. "I fear this policy will lead to giving yet another Arab capital — Damascus — to the Iranians."

Putin launched his air war in Syria saying he would attack "terrorists," but while the Islamic State committed atrocities and Assad dropped barrel bombs on civilian targets, according to human rights groups, Russian airstrikes focused on rebels fighting Assad.

IN BRIEF

PROTEST TURNS VIOLENT IN VENEZUELA



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

VIDEO ALLEGEDLY SHOWS COP PLANTING DRUGS

A Baltimore police officer has been suspended and two other cops placed on administrative duty amid an investigation triggered by body camera footage the public defender's office says shows an officer allegedly planting drugs at a crime scene and then "discovering" the evidence moments later.

While police said they have not reached any conclusions regarding the allegations, the video, released Wednesday by the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, shows officer Richard Pinheiro during a drug arrest in January placing a soup can, which holds a plastic bag, into a lot strewn with trash.

Two other officers accompany Pinheiro as he hides the drugs.

AFRICAN ROBOTICS TEAM MISSING AFTER COMPETITION

Two of six teenage members of a robotics team from Burundi who disappeared after an international competition in Washington were seen crossing into Canada, police said Thursday.

"We don't have an update on the whereabouts (of the others), but we have no indication that there was foul play," police spokeswoman Margarita Mikhaylova told USA TODAY.

The teenagers were competing

The Bolivarian National Guard face a group of opposition protesters in Caracas, Venezuela, on Thursday. A nationwide strike against plans to re-write the constitution shut down much of Venezuela's capital before erupting into sporadic violence when protesters clashed with riot police and burned a post office near the headquarters of the main state-run broadcaster.

in the FIRST Global Challenge robotics competition and were reported missing Wednesday, according to police documents.

YOSEMITE-AREA FIRE, DESTRUCTION EXPANDS

A wildfire that started about 10 miles outside the borders of Yosemite National Park grew Thursday to more than 100 square miles and destroyed 45 structures, fire officials said.

More than 3,100 firefighters are on hand to continue to try to contain it, looking to protect the historic foothills town of Mariposa, Calif., and keep one of the nation's most popular national parks open to its estimated 20,000 daily visitors.

Cal Fire officials said 1,500 structures near what they are calling the Detwiler Fire still are threatened, and six have been damaged in addition to those destroyed.

ALSO...

► The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 20-0 Thursday to recommend the confirmation of Christopher Wray to be the next FBI director. The vote paves the way for what is expected to be overwhelming bipartisan approval by the full Senate.

Staff and wire reports

Republicans move to boost CBO budget amid controversy

Paul Singer
@singernews
USA TODAY

Republicans want to give the CBO a raise.

You read that right. The Congressional Budget Office, accused of being incompetent in recent weeks by basically every senior Republican including President Trump, has been offered a \$2 million budget increase by House Republicans, its biggest boost in years. And that is in fact less than the \$3.4 million budget increase Trump requested for the office.

The CBO has taken center stage in the battle over health care still gripping the Republican-led Congress. The non-partisan budget office — responsible for providing cost and impact analysis of major legislation — has offered reports concluding that Republican bills to repeal and replace Obamacare would reduce the number of Americans with health insurance by more than 20 million over the next decade.

Republicans have responded that CBO estimates are wrong, noting the office significantly overestimated the number of people who would get coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Last week, the White House tweeted a slick video arguing that "CBO inaccurately estimates health coverage."

White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said, "At some point, you've got to ask yourself, has the day of the CBO come and gone?" in a May interview with the *Washington Examiner*.

After CBO estimated Wednesday evening that the Senate plan to repeal Obamacare could expand the ranks of uninsured Americans by 32 million people, the White House again dismissed it. "We continue to believe that CBO's methodology is flawed, and this score fails to take into account the President's full plan, which includes a replacement for Obamacare and administrative actions to reduce

Frequent target in health-care debate would get \$2M increase

costs and expand access to quality, affordable care," said the White House statement.

But the House Appropriations Committee at the end of June approved a spending bill that would boost the CBO budget from \$46.5 million to \$48.5 million, the agency's biggest raise in years. CBO's annual budget has hovered a little over or a little under \$46 million since 2014, and it was significantly less in 2013 only because of government-wide cuts known as "sequestration."



JIM LO SCALZO, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has come under fire from the White House and Republican lawmakers.

"Both sides of the aisle have their occasional differences in opinion with CBO estimates and how they arrive at their conclusions, but at the end of the day it serves an important purpose and needs the appropriate resources to do its job," said CJ Grover, spokesman for Rep. Kevin Yoder, R-Kan., the chairman of the subcommittee that drafted the spending bill.

CBO Director Keith Hall told lawmakers in June that the funding boost is needed in part to hire more analysts to score the glut of health care proposals Congress is cranking out because "congressional interest remains high in modifying or replacing the Affordable Care Act and changing Medicare or Medicaid." CBO is also "anticipating a larger workload associated with (pending bills) and is aiming to respond to requests for information more quickly," Hall said. The office also faces a one-time outlay of more than \$1 million to move its data center out of its current location.

STATE-BY-STATE

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Samson: Wade Seago says he’s never seen anything like the 820-pound wild hog he shot and killed in his front yard. Seago tells al.com that it took three shots from his .38-caliber handgun to drop the hog.

ALASKA Fairbanks: A group of 18 Alaskans have volunteered to clean the overrun outhouses at five Delta Junction state parks, *The Daily News-Miner* reports. The parks no longer have the money to pay for outhouse cleaning.



ARIZONA Phoenix: An Arizona grand jury indicted a maintenance man for allegedly stealing jewelry from residents at the Fellowship Square Senior Living Facility in Mesa.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: The superintendent at one of Arkansas’ largest school districts was fired just weeks before the 2017-18 school year starts, *The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reports. The Pulaski County district’s board cited “backroom” and “side” deals that it didn’t know about.

CALIFORNIA Rancho Cucamonga: Nearly 5,000 weapons seized or collected by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department have been destroyed in the agency’s annual gun melt. The handguns, rifles and semi-automatic weapons were dumped into a steel mill furnace.

COLORADO Longmont: Officials say it’s not in the public’s interest to release a 40-page investigation into warrantless searches at a subsidized housing complex, *The Longmont Times-Call* reports. City officials instead released a summary concluding that using police dogs in no-warrant drug searches deviates from police standards.

CONNECTICUT Greenwich: Hedge fund manager Paul Tudor Jones says his Tudor Investment firm plans to relocate and sell its 43-acre Greenwich property to the private Brunswick School across the street.

DELAWARE Wilmington: Police data shows that most firearm seizures in Wilmington were from carriers barred from possession, *The News Journal* reports. The No. 2 reason: it was used to commit a felony.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Police say 11 people were hit with paintballs in drive-by shootings at six Washington locations. Two victims went to local hospitals for treatment, but most declined medical attention.

FLORIDA Fort Walton Beach: It was an unusual 911 call. Okaloosa sheriff’s officials say David Blackmon called last weekend to report a bag of cocaine was stolen from his car, along with \$50. The responding deputy spotted some of the drug and a crack rock on the console, and Blackmon was arrested.

GEORGIA Johns Creek: A Georgia man is charged with aiming a laser pointer at a police helicopter. Authorities say Marius Lizunas told officers he wanted to “check the range” of his device when he saw the Gwinnett County police helicopter on July 5.

HAWAII Honolulu: A human rights complaint is seeking an investigation of working conditions faced by foreign fishermen in Hawaii’s commercial fishing industry. A report last year said hundreds of men are confined to Hawaii boats and lack basic labor protections.

HIGHLIGHT: TEXAS

Dallas picks first female police chief

Rebecca Lopez and Marjorie Owens
WFAA-TV, Dallas-Fort Worth

DALLAS The Dallas Police Department has a new police chief who will be the first female to serve as police chief in the city. Detroit Deputy Chief Ulysha Renee Hall will take the helm of the city’s police department in September, Dallas City Manager T.C. Broadnax said Wednesday.

In her new leadership role with Dallas police, Hall said she hopes to continue her work building a bridge between the community and police.

“The most important thing that we need to know is that it takes the entire city to police any city,” she said during a news conference out of Detroit.

During her time with the Detroit Police Department, Hall established and oversaw a neighborhood policing program that worked to create a relationship between minority communities and officers. According to a city of Dallas statement, Detroit saw a 40-year low in homicides and “double-digit reductions in violent crime for three consecutive years” during her tenure.

Hall’s father, Officer Ulysses Brown, was killed in the line of duty Aug. 20, 1971, in Detroit.



ROBIN BUCKSON, AP

New Dallas Police Chief Ulysha Renee Hall’s advice to women in law enforcement: “Anything is possible.”

She was just 6-months-old at the time, according to Detroit’s ABC station, WXYZ-TV.

Almost 46 years later, her father’s murder remains one of Detroit’s oldest unsolved cases.

At the age of 29 in 1999, she began her service with the Detroit Police Department.

When asked about advice for other women in law enforcement, Hall said “anything is possible.

“What I need women to know is we kind of do it a little different, a little better, a little more nurturing by nature,” she said. “We add that little something special to law enforcement that truly, truly calms the savage beast. ... Any young lady

IDAHO Rexburg: A former Brigham Young University-Idaho political science professor says she was fired after posting a critical view of Mormon church policies against same-sex couples. Ruthie Robertson posted the Facebook item in June in favor of equal rights for LGBTs.

ILLINOIS Springfield: The Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation is looking to sell the naming rights of state fairground buildings to help pay a backlog of maintenance repairs. The repair estimate is \$180 million, the *State Journal-Register* reports.

INDIANA South Bend: A park will be dedicated next week in honor of former Indiana Gov. Joe Kernan, who was elected three times as South Bend mayor, WNDU-TV and WSBT-TV report.

IOWA Cedar Falls: A proposal to turn the Cedar Falls mayor’s job into a part-time position has run into opposition but remains alive. Supporters say there’s duplication in the jobs of mayor and city administrator, *The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* reports.

KANSAS Kansas City: Authorities say a woman suspected of stealing a car from a gas station as a 3-year-old girl slept in the back seat has surrendered. Authorities say Karri Reich and an alleged accomplice face kidnapping and other charges.

KENTUCKY Louisville: The University of Louisville’s foundation fired Jason Tomlinson, its chief financial officer, this week. Last week, the Kentucky attorney general’s office said it’s launching a probe of the foundation, whose president resigned last September and secretary was terminated last month.

LOUISIANA Baton Rouge: Louisiana is spending \$277 million in federal money received after last year’s floods to fortify communities against future disasters. Plans include buyouts of flood-prone properties, improved drainage and home elevations.

MAINE South Portland: Construction started this week on what’s expected to be Maine’s largest municipally owned solar array, *The Portland Press Herald* reports. The array is expected to be completed by September.

MARYLAND Baltimore: Some Maryland school board members see a possible loophole in Gov. Larry Hogan’s order to start schools after Labor Day. The order allows a waiver for “at risk” schools. *The Baltimore Sun* reports uncertainty as to whether

what is “at risk” has ever been established.

MASSACHUSETTS Salem: Five women hanged during the Salem witch trials were remembered on Wednesday, the 325th anniversary of their deaths. Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Rebecca Nurse and Sarah Wildes were hanged as witches on July 19, 1692.

MICHIGAN Lansing: Officials say an invasive crayfish native to the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast has made its way to Michigan. The state Department of Natural Resources says red swamp crayfish turned up recently in a retention pond and in Sunset Lake in the Kalamazoo County town of Vicksburg.

MINNESOTA Duluth: The City Council has created a task force to research paid sick leave for workers, Minnesota Public Radio reports. Minneapolis and St. Paul recently adopted ordinances that require paid sick leave.

MISSISSIPPI Corinth: A former Alcorn County volunteer fire department treasurer has pleaded guilty to embezzlement, *The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* reports. Barbara Ellen Fair received a suspended 20-year sentence, was placed on supervised probation for five years and must pay \$21,000 in restitution.

MISSOURI St. Louis: A federal agency is conducting three Title IX investigations at Washington University in St. Louis. Two probes are related to allegations of sexual assault and the third is a complaint about sexual harassment.

MONTANA Helena: Another grizzly bear has turned up in a part of Montana that hasn’t seen grizzlies in as long as a century. Wildlife officials say a trail camera captured a picture last month of a 3½-year-old grizzly in the Big Belt Mountains west of White Sulphur Springs.

NEBRASKA Omaha: The Omaha City Council has approved a special occupation tax for the under-construction Capitol District, *The Omaha World-Herald* reports. The tax will take effect in August.

NEVADA Las Vegas: Las Vegas is getting a minor league soccer team. City officials have approved a 15-year lease agreement that

allows a United Soccer League expansion team to use Cashman Field starting next year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Manchester: The Manchester VA Medical Center has flooding and severe water damage on five floors from a pipe failure. Health care services on the first and second floors weren’t affected.

NEW JERSEY Florham Park: New Jersey officials have approved the New York Jets’ request for a helipad at their suburban training facility. The team has been seeking a landing zone since 2013, but Florham Park residents oppose it NJ.com reports.

NEW MEXICO Las Cruces: A boy’s misstep on a family hike has given the world a prehistoric wonder. Jude Sparks, 10, tripped over what turned out to be the fossilized tusk of a 1.2 million-year-old stegomastodon. A team from New Mexico State University dug up the skull, which eventually will go on display.

NEW YORK Beekmantown: More than 100 dairy cows and calves died in a large barn fire on a New York farm near the Canadian border. Clinton County officials say a few dozen cows set loose in a nearby field survived.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: A state trooper resigned after a video showed him driving the wrong way on a highway while responding to reports of street racing. Meantime, seven people were charged in connection with the racing on U.S. 321 in Catawba County.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: A North Dakota commission has chosen consultants to review a 1950s federal survey in an effort to clarify mineral ownership under the Missouri River, *The Bismarck Tribune* reports.

OHIO South Euclid: Police in suburban Cleveland say a Steak ‘n’ Shake customer who was angry about the way his sandwich tasted and looked threatened to shoot somebody over it. The man, taken into custody on an aggravated menacing charge, didn’t have a gun.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: Authorities say an inmate died Tuesday after a fight involving several inmates in the Oklahoma County jail. The cause of death will be determined by the state medical examiner’s office.

OREGON Portland: Oregon’s

labor agency has proposed a \$1 million award to a woman who worked as a dancer at the Stars Cabaret strip club in Beaverton when she was 15. The club recently agreed to pay \$1.25 million to another dancer the club employed when she was 13.

PENNSYLVANIA Bethlehem: Lehigh University officials suspended a fraternity following several alcohol-related code of conduct violations. Police cited more than 40 students for underage drinking at an event hosted by Kappa Sigma in April.

RHODE ISLAND Warwick: State police issued what’s thought to be the biggest fine ever for a motor vehicle violation in Rhode Island: \$57,000 for transporting a 560,000-pound load without a permit. The load was ruled too heavy for state bridges.

SOUTH CAROLINA Greenville: Authorities say a woman and her mother were arrested after a newborn baby fell out of a trash bag being taken from the South Carolina restaurant where they worked. Police say the younger woman gave birth in the restaurant’s bathroom.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: Officials are establishing a fund to speed up mental-health screenings for South Dakota criminal defendants, *The Argus Leader* reports.

TENNESSEE Nashville: A former Wilson County Trustee’s Office clerk faces charges of stealing more than \$14,000 from property tax payments. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation says Shannon Marie Hodgins also doctored government records to hide the thefts.

TEXAS Dallas: A third man has pleaded guilty to what federal prosecutors call a more than \$6 million diamond investment scam. Craig Allen Otteson, like the two prior defendants, faces up to 20 years in prison.

UTAH Salt Lake City: EPA head Scott Pruitt says the agency will reconsider a 2016 plan requiring pollution controls at two of Utah’s oldest coal-fired power plants. Environmentalists say the controls are needed to cut emissions.

VERMONT Brattleboro: The New England Center for Circus Arts has resumed summer camp classes after a brief strike by instructors over the firing of its founders, *The Brattleboro Reformer* reports. Instructors demanded the return of founder-sisters Serenity Smith Forchion and Elsie Smith.

VIRGINIA Roanoke: Amtrak is coming to Roanoke this fall. Daily passenger service will start Oct. 31 between Lynchburg and Roanoke. It’s the first time Roanoke will have intercity passenger rail service in four decades.

WASHINGTON Spokane: Student leaders at Washington State University want the school to adopt a policy that prevents recruiting any athlete who’s been convicted of a sex-related crime.

WEST VIRGINIA Red House: Two brothers, ages 5 and 2, wanted to visit their grandfather. So they took their mother’s car for a three-mile ride on a winding West Virginia road before crashing. They weren’t hurt.

WISCONSIN Madison: Students in the Madison Metropolitan School District are calling on administrators to hire more teachers of color, *The Capital Times* reports. According to state data, nearly half of Madison West High School students are non-white. But less than 10% of teachers are people of color.

WYOMING Cody: A psychiatrist is being held on bond after authorities say he violated court orders by drinking alcohol. Cody police say they arrested an intoxicated Matthew Hopkins on June 30, two days after he was placed on probation for backing into a parked car, *The Powell Tribune* reports.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

As ‘sleepy’ markets doze, bull tiptoes along

U.S. stocks haven’t suffered a pullback for more than a year

Adam Shell
@adamshell
USA TODAY

Stocks keep hitting new highs in an unusually calm market that hasn’t flashed a fasten-your-seat-belt warning in more than a year. The U.S. market hasn’t suffered a 5% drop — the common definition of a “pullback” — since the Brexit vote shocked investors in late June 2016. And that was 268 trading days ago. The broader stock market

hasn’t gone that long without a scare since the mid-1990s, when the Standard & Poor’s 500 stock index ended a pullback-free streak of 394 days in July 1996, according to data from Boston-based LPL Financial. It’s only the sixth time since 1950 the large-company stock gauge has made it at least a year without a 5% drop, says Ryan Detrick, senior market strategist at LPL. “This is one of the most sleepy markets in history,” he says. The S&P 500, which closed fractionally lower Thursday at 2473.45, has gained 21.5% since its Brexit low. That big return means a Main Street investor with \$100,000 invested in the index on June 28, 2016, would now

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVG.



THURSDAY MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Nasdaq composite	6390.00	▲ 4.96
S&P 500	2473.45	▼ 0.38
T-note, 10-year yield	2.26%	▼ 0.01
Oil, light sweet crude	\$46.79	▼ 0.33
Gold, oz. Comex	\$1243.30	▲ 1.30
Euro (dollars per euro)	\$1.1626	▲ 0.0109
Yen per dollar	111.99	▲ 0.21

SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, MARKETWATCH.COM

have an account balance of \$121,500. Turbulence in the stock market, history shows, has been a fairly regular occurrence. Since 1950, the average intra-year decline has been 13.6%. And in more than 90% of those years the market slid at least 5%. The long pause between spooky declines is one reason why Detrick says the market could be susceptible to a fall of 5% to 7% at any time. Hank Smith, co-chief investment officer at Radnor, Pa.-based Haverford Trust, says investors should always be on the lookout for a bout of turbulence. “You know volatility is going to come back, you just don’t know when or what will cause it,”

Smith says. Investment pros such as Detrick attribute the market calm to a number of factors. Market stability, they say, has been underpinned by a world of low interest rates, tame inflation and improving economies around the globe. Those favorable business conditions and low odds of a U.S. recession, analysts such as Smith say, have been a boon for corporate profitability, the main driver of stock prices. The collective earnings growth for companies in the S&P 500 in the first three months of the year was 15.3%, which is its most robust pace since 2011, according to earnings-tracker Thomson Reuters.

MONEYLINE



WIN MCNAMEE, GETTY IMAGES
Rex Tillerson

EXXON FINED \$2M FOR VIOLATING SANCTIONS

The Treasury Department fined oil giant Exxon Mobil \$2 million on Thursday for alleged violations of Russian sanctions while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was serving as the company’s CEO. The fine reflects another development for the Trump administration as it seeks to downplay its relations with Russia, which is accused of using a hacking campaign to help the president get elected.

CHIPOTLE GIVING OUT A RARE BOGO OFFER

Chipotle is giving out more than 4 million buy-one, get-one-free coupons. This rare offer, which can be used on burritos, burrito bowls, salads and orders of tacos up to \$10, will be on the restaurant’s new SAVOR.WAVS website. Chipotle announced the website and promotion days after it closed a location in Sterling, Va., after “a small number of reported illnesses” attributed to norovirus. The location was sanitized and reopened Wednesday.

FECAL BACTERIA FOUND IN U.K. FAST-FOOD DRINKS

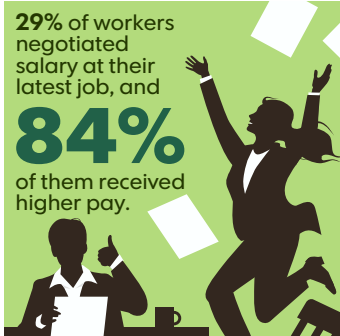
Traces of fecal bacteria have been found in drinks at three of the world’s biggest fast-food chains in the United Kingdom. An investigation found that McDonald’s, Burger King and KFC served ice contaminated by fecal matter. Investigators tested 10 samples at each of the chains and tested for traces of “fecal coliform,” which carry a number of diseases.

COFFEE WITH VIAGRA-LIKE SUBSTANCE GETS RECALLED

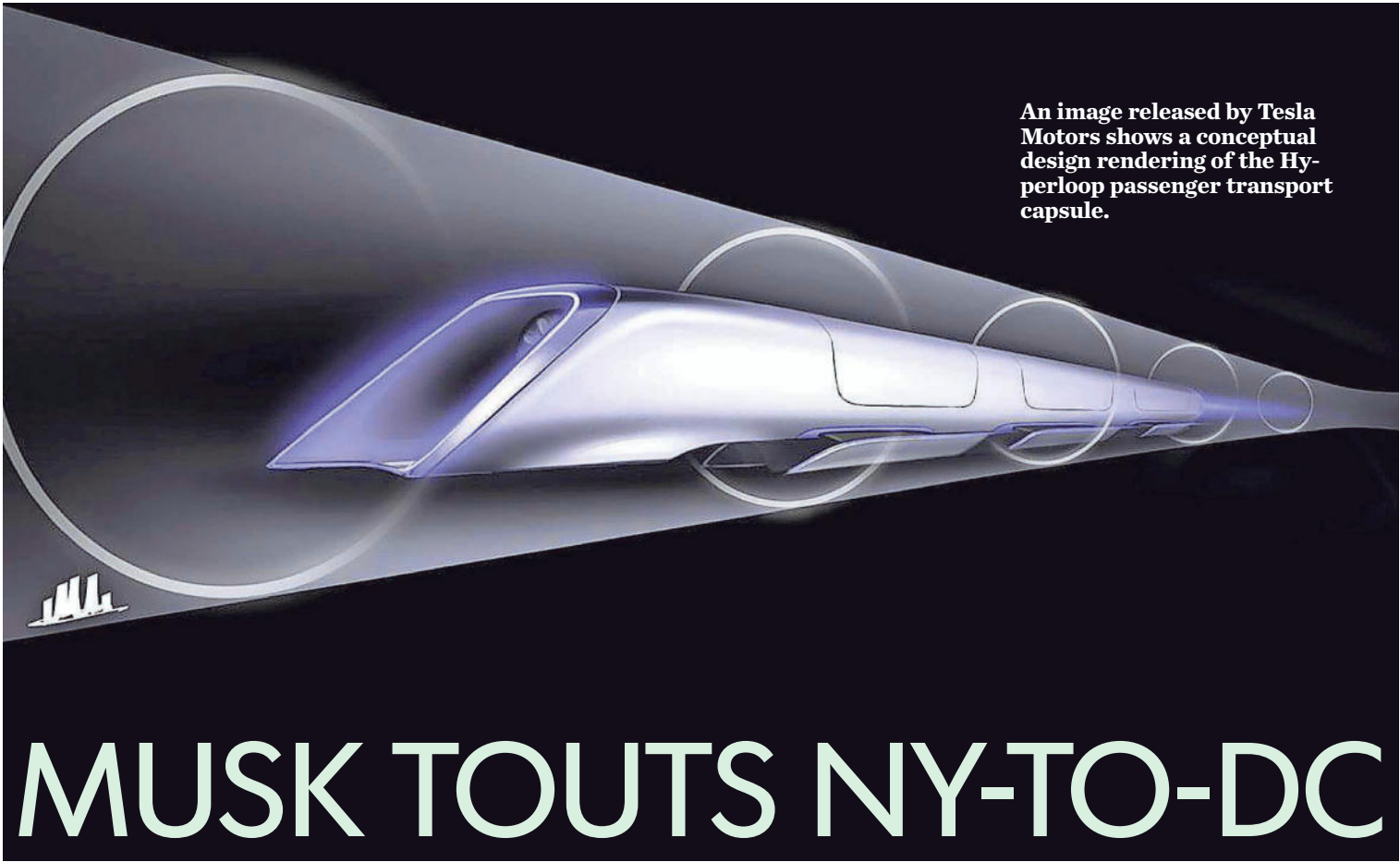
A Texas coffee company is recalling one of its roasts because it was making some men a bit too excited. Bestherbs Coffee LLC issued the voluntary recall for its New of Kopi Jantan Traditional Natural Herbs Coffee after the Food and Drug Administration found it contains desmethyl carbodenafil, which is similar to sildenafil in the erectile dysfunction drug Viagra.

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Salary negotiation



SOURCE: Jobvite survey of 2,287 U.S. adults
JAE YANG AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY



An image released by Tesla Motors shows a conceptual design rendering of the Hyperloop passenger transport capsule.

MUSK TOUTS NY-TO-DC HYPERLOOP PROJECT

Nathan Bomey
@NathanBomey
USA TODAY

Billionaire innovator Elon Musk said Thursday he has “verbal” government approval to build an ultra-high-speed underground rail system in the Northeast, offering hope to travelers overwhelmed by mass-transit failures despite skepticism about such an ambitious project. In a series of mysterious tweets that might not be taken seriously if they came from any other corporate executive, Musk flummoxed the transportation industry with claims that he is pursuing a network that would whisk passengers from New York City to Washington, D.C., in 29 minutes.

Transit experts say that gargantuan costs and prodigious bureaucratic hurdles would make such a plan extremely difficult to pull off. Still, Musk has a track record of building groundbreaking companies from scratch — including electric-car maker Tesla and space travel firm SpaceX. Moreover, he plunged his own money into those ventures, a history that might hearten travelers stuck in New Jersey Turnpike traffic jams or delays along Amtrak’s Northeast rail passenger corridor. Musk’s bold statements come a few months after he formed a venture called The Boring Co. to manufacture faster and more efficient tunnel-boring machines.

“Just received verbal govt approval for The Boring Company to build an underground NY-Phil-Balt-DC Hyperloop,” Musk tweeted. He added that the system would ferry passengers from “city center to city center in each case, with up to a dozen or more entry/exit elevators in each city.”

Innovator says he has ‘verbal’ government approval to build underground system that would carry passengers between the cities in 29 minutes

“It’s quite easy to draw up enthusiasm for a project in 140 characters when you have 10 million followers on Twitter.”

Madeline Brozen, associate director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UCLA

And he urged Americans to lobby federal and state officials “if you want this to happen fast.” Madeline Brozen, associate director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UCLA, said the potential costs are “incomprehensible.” A 120-mile above-ground stretch of the most comparable U.S. project, a high-speed rail project in California, will cost an estimated \$7 billion to \$10 billion, she said. But underground projects are more expensive, the hyperloop proposed by Musk is unproven technology and the innovator’s system theoretically would travel five times faster than California’s. Similarly, the phase one expansion of New York City’s Second Avenue Subway opened for riders Jan. 1 — nearly a century after the project was proposed. Built at an estimated cost of \$4.45 billion, the expansion included three new subway stations along an underground route of no more than 2 miles.

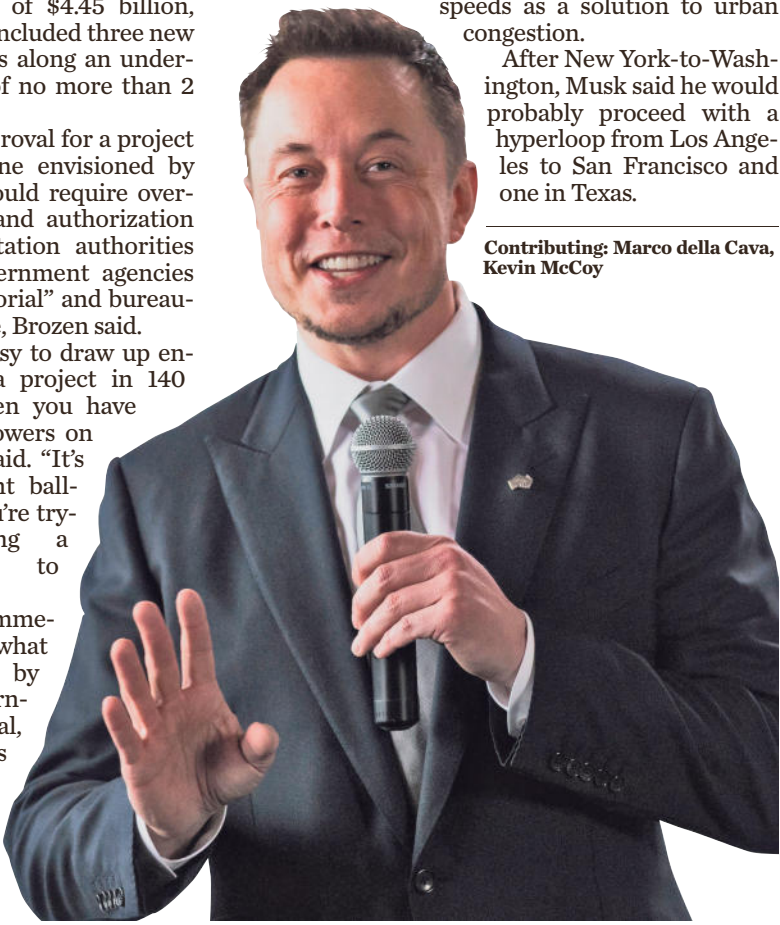
Winning approval for a project such as the one envisioned by Musk likely would require oversight reviews and authorization from transportation authorities and other government agencies that are “territorial” and bureaucratic by nature, Brozen said. “It’s quite easy to draw up enthusiasm for a project in 140 characters when you have 10 million followers on Twitter,” she said. “It’s a very different ballgame when you’re trying to bring a megaproject to fruition.” It was not immediately clear what Musk meant by “verbal” government approval, which carries little weight in a world in

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk urged Americans to lobby federal and state officials “if you want this (hyperloop) to happen fast.”

which tunneling can require navigating a byzantine thicket of regulations. However, a White House spokesman said the Trump administration has had “promising conversations” with Musk and the Boring Co. and is “committed to transformative infrastructure projects” under the premise that “our greatest solutions have often come from the ingenuity and drive of the private sector.” The U.S. Department of Transportation referred questions to the White House. Having lost his patience with legendary California traffic, Musk recently vowed to build a short tunnel from his office to the Los Angeles airport before building a network of tunnels throughout the city. He has described a network of underground tunnels ferrying self-driving cars at high speeds as a solution to urban congestion. After New York-to-Washington, Musk said he would probably proceed with a hyperloop from Los Angeles to San Francisco and one in Texas.

Contributing: Marco della Cava, Kevin McCoy

BEN MACMAHON, AP



AMERICA'S MARKETS

ALL THE MARKET ACTION IN REAL TIME.
MARKETS.USATODAY.COM

What to watch

Key earnings reports to watch next week

Adam Shell
@adamshell
USA TODAY

The stock market continues to reach new highs, thanks in large part to strong earnings results from U.S. companies. And next week, key reports from tech titans such as Google parent Alphabet, social media powerhouse Facebook and online retail leader Amazon could determine if the rally can continue on Wall Street.

So far, the second-quarter earnings season is off to a good start. The companies in the S&P 500 stock index are collectively on track to post earnings growth of 8.6%, above the 8% analysts expected July 1. And while it's a slower pace than the 15.3% growth in the first three months of the year, there's a strong

chance enough companies will deliver better-than-expected results to propel earnings growth above 10% for the second consecutive quarter.

"The earnings backdrop is improving," says Ryan Detrick, senior market strategist at LPL Financial. "And two straight quarters of double-digit profit growth is a nice backdrop for stocks."

Nearly 200 companies in the S&P 500 are slated to report earnings next week, providing a fresh look at the financial health of Corporate America and the domestic and global economy. Other companies reporting results include big machinery maker Caterpillar, home builder Pulte Group, defense contractor Boeing, automaker Ford and consumer-focused stocks, including fast-food giant McDonald's and soft drink maker Coca-Cola.

STORY STOCKS

SEARS HOLDINGS

Change
\$0.92
% chg
10.6%



Change
-\$0.58
% chg
-0.7%



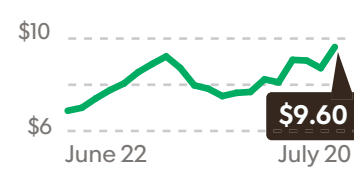
Change
-\$1.70
% chg
-1.4%

Price: **\$9.60** Day's high: **\$10.76** Low: **\$9.45**

Sears Holdings

The retailer's owner agreed to team with Amazon. It will begin selling Kenmore appliances and integrate its smart appliances with Alexa, Amazon's speech-activated assistant. Investors cheered the announcement, and shares rallied.

4-WEEK TREND

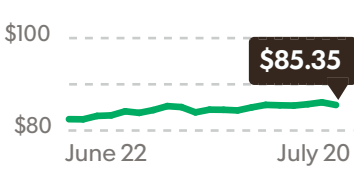


Price: **\$85.35** Day's high: **\$85.45** Low: **\$84.53**

American Express

The financial services company saw its shares tumble despite forecasting higher revenue growth and a lower tax rate. It kept its earnings outlook, and investors remained cautious about its splurge on customer rewards and intense competition.

4-WEEK TREND

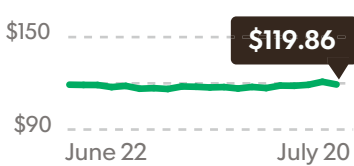


Price: **\$119.86** Day's high: **\$121.16** Low: **\$117.55**

Philip Morris International

Even with higher prices on cigarettes and solid new products, the Marlboro maker missed its profit estimates as cigarette volume continued to decline. Tobacco sales still make up the majority of the company's revenue.

4-WEEK TREND



MAJOR INDEXES

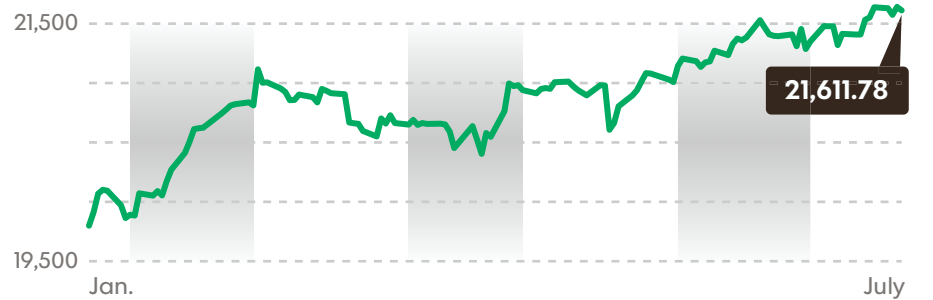
DJIA -28.97	DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE	SPX -.38	S&P 500 STANDARD & POOR'S
CHANGE: -.1%	CLOSE: 21,611.78	CHANGE: unch.	CLOSE: 2,473.45
YTD: +1,849.18	PREV. CLOSE: 21,640.75	YTD: +234.62	PREV. CLOSE: 2,473.83
YTD % CHG: +9.4%	RANGE: 21,576.96-21,661.91	YTD % CHG: +10.5%	RANGE: 2,468.54-2,477.62
COMP +4.96	NASDAQ COMPOSITE	RUT +58	RUSSELL RUSSELL 2000 INDEX
CHANGE: +1%	CLOSE: 6,390.00	CHANGE: unch.	CLOSE: 1,442.35
YTD: +1,006.88	PREV. CLOSE: 6,385.04	YTD: +85.22	PREV. CLOSE: 1,441.77
YTD % CHG: +18.7%	RANGE: 6,365.68-6,398.26	YTD % CHG: +6.3%	RANGE: 1,438.96-1,445.06

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS/LOSERS

GAINERS	Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	Kinder Morgan (KMI) Lays out dividend hikes and buyback plans.	20.56	+.89	+4.5	-7
	Mallinckrodt (MNK) FDA designates its product as RMAT.	46.71	+1.84	+4.1	-6.2
	Perrigo (PRGO) Generic version of DermOtic Oil Ear Drops approved.	75.51	+2.86	+3.9	-9.3
	BB&T (BBT) Second-quarter earnings beat estimates.	46.26	+1.50	+3.4	-1.6
	L-3 Technologies (LLL) Analysts praise choice of next CEO.	177.72	+5.76	+3.3	+16.8
	United Rentals (URI) Equipment being rented, shares climb.	122.54	+3.84	+3.2	+16.1
	Mylan (MYL) Positive product note, shares up.	39.49	+1.15	+3.0	+3.5
	Abbott Laboratories (ABT) Boosts full year forecast, shares move higher.	50.85	+1.42	+2.9	+32.4
	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals (REGN) Positive company note, estimates rise.	521.13	+14.34	+2.8	+42.0
	Scripps Networks (SNI) Rises again on Discovery Communications deal.	79.01	+2.12	+2.8	+10.7
LOSERS	Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	Alliance Data Systems (ADS) Shares fall on second-quarter results.	238.62	-24.91	-9.5	+4.4
	PPG Industries (PPG) Dips on weak consumer demand.	106.72	-6.88	-6.1	+12.6
	Lowe's Companies (LOW) Amazon appliance threat surfaces.	72.56	-4.27	-5.6	+2.0
	C.H. Robinson Worldwide (CHRW) Reports smaller profit than expected.	65.01	-3.68	-5.4	-11.3
	Qualcomm (QCOM) Falls most in six months after weak earnings forecast.	53.97	-2.81	-4.9	-17.2
	Snap-on (SNA) Second-quarter sales miss estimates.	150.34	-7.37	-4.7	-12.2
	Chipotle Mexican Grill (CMG) Falls again on increasing norovirus cases.	356.05	-16.78	-4.5	-5.6
	Whirlpool (WHR) Sears-Amazon deal seen as negative.	189.74	-8.60	-4.3	+4.4
	TripAdvisor (TRIP) Reverses gain on rating upgrade.	37.89	-1.71	-4.3	-18.3
	Range Resources (RRC) Dips in negative environment as sector loses.	21.64	-.94	-4.2	-37.0

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

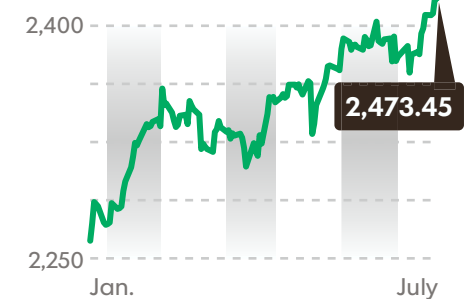
DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS



NASDAQ COMPOSITE



STANDARD & POOR'S 500



AP

TOP 10 MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund, ranked by size	NAV	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	228.60	-0.02	+1.6%	+11.7%
Vanguard TtSMldxAdmrl	61.84	-0.01	+1.8%	+11.3%
Vanguard Inslldxlns	225.57	-0.02	+1.6%	+11.7%
Vanguard TtSMldxlnv	61.82	-0.01	+1.7%	+11.2%
Vanguard TtlnSlldxlnv	17.20	+0.05	+3.7%	+18.4%
Vanguard InslldxlnsPlus	225.59	-0.02	+1.6%	+11.7%
Vanguard TtSMldxlns	61.86	unch.	+1.8%	+11.3%
Fidelity Contrafund	118.68	+0.01	+3.0%	+21.3%
Vanguard WngtnAdmrl	71.49	+0.05	+0.8%	+7.4%
Vanguard TtlnSlldxlnsPlus	115.04	+0.30	+3.7%	+18.4%

1 - CAPITAL GAINS AND DIVIDENDS REINVESTED

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg	%YTD
Barric Path Vix ST	VXX	11.34	-0.10	-0.9%	-55.5%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	247.10	+0.11	unch.	+10.5%
SPDR Financial	XLF	24.80	-0.01	unch.	+6.7%
iShs Emerg Mkts	EEM	43.66	-0.05	-0.1%	+24.7%
PowerShs QQQ Trust	QQQ	144.17	+0.19	+0.1%	+21.7%
Vant Vect Glid Miners	GDX	22.32	+0.14	+0.6%	+6.7%
SPDR S&P O&G ExpPdtn	XOP	32.04	-0.62	-1.9%	-22.6%
US Oil Fund LP	USO	9.61	-0.08	-0.8%	-18.0%
ProShs Ultra VIX ST	UVXY	30.42	-0.48	-1.6%	unch.
SPDR Energy	XLE	65.76	-0.20	-0.3%	-12.7%

SOURCE: BANKRATE.COM

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.16	1.17	-0.01	-1.2%	-2.6%
Corn (bushel)	3.91	3.83	+0.08	+2.2%	+11.1%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,244.80	1,241.20	+3.60	+0.3%	+8.2%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.81	.83	-0.02	-1.8%	+22.6%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	3.04	3.07	-0.03	-0.8%	-18.3%
Oil, heating (gal.)	1.54	1.55	-0.01	-0.5%	-9.4%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	46.79	47.12	-0.33	-0.7%	-12.9%
Silver (troy oz.)	16.30	16.25	+0.05	+0.3%	+2.3%
Soybeans (bushel)	10.13	10.00	+0.13	+1.4%	+1.7%
Wheat (bushel)	5.06	5.03	+0.03	+0.6%	+24.0%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	7707	7678	8079	7607
Canadian dollar	1.2583	1.2594	1.3312	1.3061
Chinese yuan	6.7684	6.7555	6.8755	6.6765
Euro	.8602	.8682	.9339	.9087
Japanese yen	111.99	111.78	114.31	106.87
Mexican peso	17.5354	17.5164	21.6258	18.6199

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	%Chg.	YTD %
Frankfurt	12,447.25	12,452.05	-4.80	unch.	+8.4%
Hong Kong	26,740.21	26,672.16	+68.05	+0.3%	+21.5%
Japan (Nikkei)	20,144.59	20,020.86	+123.73	+0.6%	+5.4%
London	7,487.87	7,430.91	+56.96	+0.8%	+4.8%
Mexico City	51,144.14	51,086.93	+57.21	+0.1%	+12.1%

SOURCES: MORNINGSTAR, DOW JONES INDEXES, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

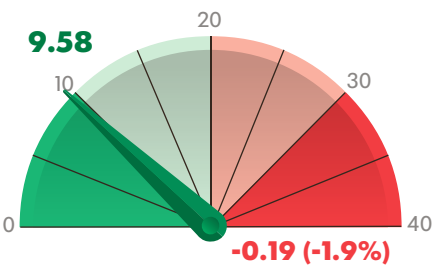
IN-DEPTH MARKETS COVERAGE
USATODAY.COM/MONEY

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR

SECTOR	PERFORMANCE DAILY	YTD
Technology	0.2%	19.0%
Health care	0.7%	17.6%
Consumer discret.	-0.2%	11.9%
Materials	-0.7%	11.2%
Industrials	-0.6%	10.8%
Utilities	0.7%	8.9%
Financials	unch.	6.7%
Consumer staples	unch.	6.3%
Telecom	0.6%	0.9%
Energy	-0.3%	-12.7%

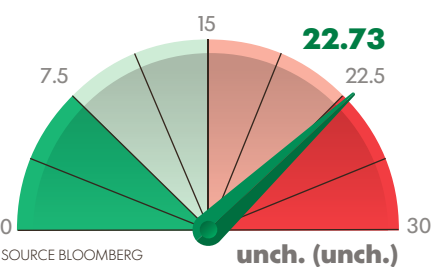
CBOE VOLATILITY INDEX

Measures expected market volatility based on S&P 500 index options pricing:



S&P 500 P/E RATIO

The price-to-earnings ratio, based on trailing 12-month "operating" earnings:



'Sesame Street' gang to star in Chrysler Pacifica ads

Eric D. Lawrence
Detroit Free Press

Big Bird, the Count and Cookie Monster have a new gig.

They'll be starring in online commercials for the Chrysler Pacifica and Pacifica Hybrid minivans as part of a deal announced this week with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, which will be sponsoring *Sesame Street* on PBS. The terms of the year-long deal were

not announced.

Steve Youngwood, chief operating officer of Sesame Workshop, the non-profit supporting *Sesame Street*, said the arrangement is a win for the iconic TV show.

"Partnering with Chrysler will help us extend our reach in new and creative ways and support Sesame Workshop's non-profit mission to help kids grow smarter, stronger and kinder," Youngwood said. "We're thrilled to work with a brand that stands for a deep commitment to families

and children."

The partnership with Fiat Chrysler is the first arrangement with an automaker since *Sesame Street* paired with Ford in 1998 to promote seat belt use, Youngwood said.

Youngwood said Sesame Workshop is "very selective" in deciding on the brands with which it works. *Sesame Street* is also sponsored by Beaches Resorts and United Healthcare.



FIAT CHRYSLER
Big Bird

"This is about aligning with a brand that ... has put families first, enabled us to continue to support the work that otherwise wouldn't be possible and allows us to connect with our audience in different ways," Youngwood said.

In the announcement, the companies said *Sesame Street* characters will appear in 10 co-branded videos launching Thursday on Chrysler's digital

and social media channels.

"The first four videos, which can be viewed now on Chrysler's YouTube channel, take viewers on an unexpected ride as the Muppets play 'Listen, Drive, Surprise!,' a new game show hosted by Guy Smiley," a statement said.

Those spots will only be shown on Chrysler's channels and not in connection with the *Sesame Street* show. Youngwood said those channels and the products they promote are geared toward adults rather than children.

MOVIES

In theaters this weekend

Compiled from reviews by USA TODAY film critics

The Beguiled

☆☆☆☆ 1 hour, 34 minutes

Plot: An injured Union soldier disrupts the calm of a Southern girls' school during the Civil War.
Director: Sofia Coppola



FOCUS FEATURES

Rating: R
Upside: Coppola's filmmaking is on point, with ace cinematography and a moody score.
Downside: It's essentially a sudsy made-for-TV movie seen through an overly pretentious lens.

The Big Sick

☆☆☆☆ 2 hours, 4 minutes

Plot: A stand-up comedian (Kumail Nanjiani) falls for a grad student (Zoe Kazan) but doesn't realize his true feelings for her until she develops a serious illness.
Director: Michael Showalter



LIONSGATE

Rating: R
Upside: Nanjiani cements himself as a comedy star on the rise in a clever and emotional love story.
Downside: It's about 20 minutes too long and the momentum suffers from heartfelt filler.

Cars 3

☆☆☆☆ 1 hour, 49 minutes

Plot: After a losing streak, racer Lightning McQueen (voiced by Owen Wilson) goes to great lengths to get back up to speed.
Director: Brian Fee



DISNEY/PIXAR

Rating: G
Upside: It's a surprisingly deep chapter that finally gets the Pixar franchise in gear.
Downside: Prepare for painfully punny lines, a predictable plot and one scary car crash.

Despicable Me 3

☆☆☆☆ 1 hour, 30 minutes

Plot: Gru (voiced by Steve Carell) reunites with his long-lost twin, Dru (also Carell), and chases down a dastardly diamond thief (Trey Parker).
Directors: Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin and Eric Guillon



ILLUMINATION/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Rating: PG
Upside: It boasts eye-popping animation and a killer '80s soundtrack.
Downside: The unengaging family story has few laughs and too many Minions.

Dunkirk

☆☆☆☆ 1 hour, 47 minutes

Plot: Three stories of heroism converge around the evacuation of 400,000 Allied soldiers during World War II.
Director: Christopher Nolan



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Rating: PG-13
Upside: The filmmaker excellently puts the audience in the thick of war on land, sea and air.
Downside: The ambitious nonlinear story structure can be jarring in the early going.

Girls Trip

☆☆☆☆ 2 hours, 2 minutes

Plot: Four college friends get together for an overdue reunion in New Orleans that has them partying, meeting men, fighting and learning lessons in empowerment.
Director: Malcolm D. Lee



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Rating: R
Upside: Tiffany Haddish is a breakout as potty-mouthed Dina, who delivers laugh-out-loud one-liners.
Downside: The raunchy comedy tries to also be a story of sisterhood, but it doesn't totally succeed.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

☆☆☆☆ 2 hours, 18 minutes

Plot: Star-Lord (Chris Pratt) gathers his misfit crew to save the cosmos again, while meeting his dad (Kurt Russell).
Director: James Gunn



DISNEY/MARVEL

Rating: PG-13
Upside: Gunn puts together a hysterical and surprisingly touching next chapter.
Downside: The sequel is missing some of the original film's underdog charm.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales

☆☆☆☆ 2 hours, 9 minutes

Plot: Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) sets sail yet again to find the legendary Trident of Poseidon.
Directors: Joachim Rønning and Espen Sandberg



DISNEY

Rating: PG-13
Upside: Javier Bardem brings venom and vengeance as the new anti-pirate villain Salazar.
Downside: The middle act drowns needed character development in a whirlpool of personalities.

Spider-Man: Homecoming

☆☆☆☆ 2 hours, 13 minutes

Plot: Peter Parker (Tom Holland) struggles to balance his school life with being a web-slinging superhero.
Director: Jon Watts



COLUMBIA PICTURES

Rating: PG-13
Upside: Holland brings a vulnerability and jocularly missing from past movie Spider-Men.
Downside: The beginning is a little sluggish setting up the villain and catching up with Spidey's previous mission.

Transformers: The Last Knight

☆☆☆☆

2 hours, 30 minutes

Plot: The Autobots have to band together to keep their home of Cybertron from crashing into Earth.
Director: Michael Bay



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/BAY FILMS

Rating: PG-13
Upside: The movie explores a mythology where Transformers have been part of Earth history since the Dark Ages.
Downside: The fifth installment is an exhausting marathon of complete nonsense.

War for the Planet of the Apes

☆☆☆☆

2 hours, 22 minutes

Plot: Caesar (Andy Serkis) tries to keep apekind safe from a villainous human military man (Woody Harrelson).
Director: Matt Reeves



20TH CENTURY FOX

Rating: PG-13
Upside: Serkis is more Oscar-worthy than ever, bringing powerful gravitas to Caesar.
Downside: Comic relief Bad Ape (Steve Zahn) at times derails the movie's emotional stakes.

Wonder Woman

☆☆☆☆

2 hours, 21 minutes

Plot: Amazon warrior Diana (Gal Gadot) leaves her paradise home to help fight in World War I.
Director: Patty Jenkins



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Rating: PG-13
Upside: Gadot is electric as the iconic hero in a fresh take on the comic-book movie formula.
Downside: The final battle gets lost in CGI, outshone by the earlier action sequences.

LIFELINE

STYLE STAR

Day 3 of the Cambridge royal tour of Poland and Germany ended with a sartorial surprise from Duchess Kate: She embraced the off-the-shoulders trend. The tomato-red peasant maxi-dress she wore to a garden party in Berlin on Wednesday evening was entirely appropriate and entirely on trend. Designed by one of her favorites, Alexander McQueen, it's also not cheap even at a sale price of nearly \$2,000.



CHRIS JACKSON, GETTY IMAGES

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

GOOD DAY
RYAN SEACREST

Seacrest, in. ABC Thursday confirmed the host will return as the face of 'American Idol' when the reality-competition series returns next year on ABC. The onetime smash hit, which Seacrest hosted for its entire Fox run from 2002 to 2016, made him a household name.



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

THEY SAID WHAT?
THE STARS' BEST QUOTES

"In my mind, my mentoring with Jim (Henson) tells me that the minute the Muppets are reduced to being roles that are auditioned for and cast, it takes all the individuality out of them. Their longevity is based on consistency and that's just super important. Otherwise, it's not Kermit or any other Muppets at all." — actor Steve Whitmire, the ousted voice of Kermit the Frog, on the 'Today' show Thursday.



TONYA WISE, INVISION/AP

Chester Bennington, Linkin Park were nu-metal pioneers

He laughed off fan criticism last week

Maeve McDermott

@maeve_mcdermott
USA TODAY

Two months ago, Chris Cornell's suicide devastated fans who grew up in the grunge era. Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington sang *Hallelujah* at the ceremony to help lay his friend to rest.

Tragically, Bennington died Thursday at age 41, and the Los Angeles County coroner said authorities are investigating the death as an apparent suicide.

With Bennington's passing, another generation of music fans has lost a frontman who represented the seminal rock music of their youth. For listeners who came of age post-grunge, just after Cornell's heyday, genres like rap-rock and nu-metal provided a musical education.

Linkin Park's 2000 debut album, *Hybrid Theory*, arrived alongside albums from soundalikes Limp Bizkit and Korn, but also shared its DNA with other turn-of-the-century releases like Kid Rock's *Devil Without a Cause* and Eminem's *The Marshall Mathers LP*, aggressive and testosterone-fueled releases with distinctly blue-collar faces.

Music critics have long cracked jokes at nu-metal's expense, yet in 2017, when Kid Rock is prepping a Senate campaign and working-class anxi-



MICHAEL TRAN

Chester Bennington, 41, was found dead Thursday in L.A.

eties are rising, nu-metal has never seemed more prescient.

Beyond that, while Linkin Park's *Collision Course* mash-up EP with Jay-Z, and Limp Bizkit's many rap collaborations may not have registered as groundbreaking at the time, fast forward to the present, when hip-hop is obsessed with heavy metal and genre boundaries have all but melted.

Bennington's band also evolved with the times, collaborating with Steve Aoki and toying with EDM on their 2012 *Living Things* album, scoring the *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* soundtrack with Hans Zimmer and releasing the closest thing they've ever made to a pop album earlier this year with *One More Light*, rebuking some listeners that just wanted more of the hard-rock same.

In fact, the last time Bennington made headlines was when an

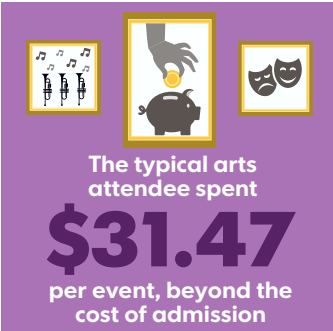
angry audience member threw a jug at him onstage at France's Hellfest festival as the band played new single *Heavy* — a shame considering the pop banger is one of the band's best recent singles.

Bennington took the incident in stride, laughing it off on Twitter. "Hellfest was fun. Had a blast watching people mosh to *In the End* and then flip me off when we played *Heavy*. I blew them kisses," he wrote afterward, referencing another of the band's most enduring hits. "Don't worry. They'll be moshing to *Heavy* in 15 years too."

For all the sorrow among Linkin Park fans this week, let this be a suitable way to remember Bennington, unapologetic for Linkin Park's musical risks, ever-appreciative of his longtime listeners, and even, for just that moment, hopeful for the future.

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Arts impact



SOURCE Americans for the Arts survey of 212,691 attendees in 2016
MICHAEL B. SMITH AND CARLEIGH GRAY, USA TODAY

TELEVISION

Bateman heads for the hills in ‘Ozark’

If you liked ‘Breaking Bad,’ this may be the show for you

Patrick Ryan
USA TODAY

NEW YORK An average Joe adopts an illegal side-hustle to pay the bills, and draws the ire of a Mexican drug cartel.

That may sound a lot like AMC’s *Breaking Bad*, but it’s also an apt description of new Netflix drama *Ozark* (streaming Friday), which stars Jason Bateman as a money-laundering everyman who becomes the target of a ruthless kingpin (Esai Morales) when his business partner (Josh Randall) steals millions. Bateman understands why many critics are drawing parallels between his character, Marty Byrde, and *Bad*’s cancer-stricken, meth-cooking Walter White.

“There’s certainly a lot of elements that one could say are similar,” he says. “I’m really glad I’m not hearing a terrible show that we’re compared to. But I think there are a few other shows we’re certainly inspired by, and who knows, if we’re given another (season), what the show will morph into.”

Among the differences: *Bad* was set in New Mexico, while *Ozark* takes place in rural Missouri, where Marty abruptly relocates his wife (Laura Linney) and two kids (Sofia Hublitz and Skylar Gaertner) from Chicago to recoup his cartel debt on the cash-rich tourist haven Lake of the Ozarks. He poses as an investor and descends on small businesses through which he can filter cash. But he faces resistance from dubious locals and a crafty redneck clan, led by the callous Ruth Langmore (Julia Garner).

Bateman, 48, is known for the *Horrible Bosses* movies and zany sitcom *Arrested Development*, but he’s warmed to behind-the-scenes roles, directing films *Bad Words* and *The Family Fang*. After reading *The Accountant* screenwriter Bill Dubuque’s first two scripts for *Ozark*, he agreed to star, executive-produce and direct four of the season’s 10 epi-



PHOTOS BY JACKSON DAVIS, NETFLIX



Marty, left, butts heads with the locals in his new home.

sodes, including the first.

He was intrigued by Marty, a smart but supercilious anti-hero, “because he probably thinks what he’s done is not that bad, but only in relation to what (his partner) has done,” Bateman says. “He’s smart enough to create these mental safe harbors for himself and justify these weird decisions.

If you’re put in a challenging situation, you can get pushed just that little bit and trip over into making some choices that might not be as well-serving for yourself or your family as you think they are.”

Linney, 53, whose last TV series role was a cancer patient in Showtime’s *The Big C*, relished

the opportunity to play the similarly messy Wendy, who is revealed in the first episode to have cheated on Marty. Although they swear to stay together for their children, she eventually becomes entangled in his shady dealings.

“She could be labeled just a total witch, and she’s not,” Linney says. “As the show progresses, more is revealed about all of them, the core of who these people really are and how they function. With Wendy, you see what sides of that she embraces and the sides she tries to submerge.”

Asked where they might go if they were trying to fall off the map, the *Ozark* duo says it would depend how much money’s at stake and who they’re hiding from.

“There’s a primal thing that makes people flee that I don’t think has anything to do with wishes or desires,” Linney says. “It’s just instinct and survival. I don’t think anybody knows how they would be until they’re there.”

Wendy (Laura Linney) and Marty (Jason Bateman) move their family to rural Missouri after Marty’s business partner is murdered.

MOVIES

COMIC-CON’S FIRST NIGHT IS A REAL HORROR SHOW FOR FANS OF ‘WALKING DEAD’ AND ‘IT’



BROOKE PALMER

Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård) lurks in the sewers of Derry and returns to haunt the town every 30 years in the horror movie *It*.

Brian Truitt
@briantruitt
USA TODAY

SAN DIEGO More than 125,000 people have descended on Comic-Con, and if that wasn’t scary enough for the nerd crowd, a few horror movies plus a terrifying TV show were on display during the event’s annual preview night.

DON’T PET THE WALKING DEAD’S UNDEAD. The San Diego Convention Center’s floor is packed with booths for all sorts of movie studios, TV networks and comic-book companies, with big properties such as *Star Wars* and *Justice League*. AMC always puts out a nice spread featuring *The Walking Dead*, and this year’s presentation is no slouch: Next to the massive

fort-like structure is a fenced area where zombies hiss and snarl at onlookers. If that’s too frightening, there also is a chair where visitors can pose like King Ezekiel next to a lifelike tiger Shiva.

THERE’S NO CLOWNING AROUND WITH IT. At a New Line presentation at a nearby theater, director Andy Muschietti introduced never-seen footage from his upcoming Stephen King adaptation *It* (in theaters Sept. 8). The audience got to see the young members of Derry’s Losers Club (played by Wyatt Oleff, Finn Wolfhard, Chosen Jacobs, Jaeden Lieberher, Sophia Lillis and Jeremy Ray Taylor) in a couple of scenes that bring the group together — from diving off a cliff in their underwear to a rock fight with local bullies — and gave a quick glimpse at the evil clown Penny-



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The demon nun from *The Conjuring 2* gets her own movie.

wise (Bill Skarsgård) waving a disembodied arm. Executive producer Seth Grahame-Smith compared the kid characters’ vibe to the friends in *Stand by Me*: “We believe they have that same kind of relationship.”



WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT

Lulu Wilson, 11, stars in *Annabelle: Creation*.

ANNABELLE IS KOOKIER THAN EVER IN CREATION PREQUEL. Keeping the “children in peril” theme, director David F. Sandberg presented an early screening of *Annabelle: Creation*, which digs into the 1950s origin of the super-creepy doll from *The Conjuring* and pits her against a pack of orphaned girls.

It marks the third horror film for 11-year-old Lulu Wilson. The actress, who also appeared in 2014’s *Deliver Us From Evil* and 2016’s *Ouija: Origin of Evil*, says there’s “a great range” in fright fests, especially for a child actor: “You can experience things from great joy to obviously great fear and great sadness, and it’s a lot of fun because you get to use parts of your imagination that I don’t know you would ever use before. It’s awesome.”

THE NUN SHALL PASS. The audience also was the first to see a sneak peek of the next *Conjuring* spinoff, *The Nun* (out July 13, 2018). Director Corin Hardy’s movie featuring the demon nun (Bonnie Aarons) from *The Conjuring 2* recently finished filming in Bucharest in June, and the scene showed Taissa Farmiga’s character entering a chapel in the middle of the night surrounded by black-hooded figures and a large mirror, where she gets a glimpse of the seriously sinister sister.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“OBVIOUSLY, I KNEW IT WAS PROBABLY GOING TO GET A LOT OF PUBLICITY AND BE OUT THERE, BUT I DIDN’T COME HERE TO DRESS WELL.”

World No. 13 golfer **Justin Thomas**, who shot 3-under-par 67 while wearing a navy tie in the first round of the British Open. Thomas trailed the leaders by two shots.



THOMAS J. RUSSO, USA TODAY SPORTS

SPORTSLINE

FIRST WORD
IT’S A MINI-USC. BOCA IS LIKE HOLLYWOOD. AND WE’VE GOT A BEACH, TOO.”
Florida Atlantic football coach Lane Kiffin, at the Conference USA media days Thursday on part of his recruiting pitch for the school in Boca Raton, Fla.



GARY A. VASQUEZ, USA TODAY SPORTS

TWEET OF THE DAY
@FSKPart3
Linkin Park is one of my favorite bands ever. Grew up listening to them. And the sun will set for you... #RIP-ChesterBennington
Hornets player Frank Kaminsky, on the death Thursday of Linkin Park lead singer Chester Bennington.

ALMOST LAST WORD
“OBVIOUSLY HIS AFRO HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM BEING SIGNED, AND I WASN’T TRYING TO RELAY THAT MESSAGE. IT WAS MORE SO ABOUT HELPING HIM AT THE END OF THE DAY. IN ALL MY INTERVIEWS, ALL I HAVE EVER TRIED TO DO IS HELP HIM AND TALK POSITIVE.”
Former quarterback Michael Vick, on “The Dan Patrick Show” clarifying an earlier comment he made about Colin Kaepernick, who he said should cut his hair if he wants to be signed by an NFL team.



BIRD (6) BY RVR PHOTOS-USA TODAY SPORTS

LAST WORD
“I’M GAY. (USWNT SOCCER PLAYER) MEGAN (RAPI-NOE)’S MY GIRLFRIEND. ... THESE AREN’T SECRETS TO PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME. I DON’T FEEL LIKE I’VE NOT LIVED MY LIFE. I THINK PEOPLE HAVE THIS ASSUMPTION THAT IF YOU’RE NOT TALKING ABOUT IT, YOU MUST BE HIDING IT, LIKE IT’S THIS SECRET. THAT WAS NEVER THE CASE FOR ME.”
Storm guard Sue Bird, to “ESPN the Magazine,” saying for the first time she’s gay.

Edited by USA TODAY Sports

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Fan favorite

10

WNBA All-Star Game selections for Seattle Storm guard Sue Bird, tying the all-time record set by Tamika Catchings, who retired last year

SOURCE WNBA
ELLEN J. HOLLOW AND KARL GELLES, USA TODAY

CLEAR SKIES AND 65S

Trio share lead at 5 under in British Open

Steve DiMeglio
@Steve_DiMeglio
USA TODAY Sports

SOUTHPORT, ENGLAND Once the sun showed up for Thursday’s first round of the British Open at Royal Birkdale, the giant yellow scoreboards that loom over this ancient land started turning red. While the 146th edition of this championship broke nasty with cool temperatures, howling winds and unrelenting rain, by noon all the dark clouds had floated away and sunshine bathed the grounds well into the evening. Just like that, the going was good and many of the players got going. Two-time major winner Jordan Spieth, reigning U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka and Matt Kuchar all came home at 5-under-par 65 to share the lead after the first round of the 146th edition of the oldest championship in golf.

Resting right below the top trio were Paul Casey and 2011 Masters champ Charl Schwartzel at 66. Six players were at 67, including Ryder Cup lion Ian Poulter and Justin Thomas. Among the 14 players at 68 were four-time major winner Ernie Els, two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and Hideki Matsuyama. Defending champion Henrik Stenson was joined by other major champions Adam Scott and Jason Day in a large group at 69. Slumping Rory McIlroy might have found a spark with four birdies in his last eight holes to shoot 71, joined there by world No. 1 Dustin Johnson. Phil Mickelson, whose last win came in the 2013 Open, didn’t make a birdie and shot 73, the same score recorded by reigning Masters champion Sergio Garcia. “It didn’t seem to be particularly nice if you arrived in the first couple of hours,” Stenson said. “And we got a fairly good ride. It’s



IAN RUTHERFORD, USA TODAY SPORTS

Brooks Koepka, putting on No. 10, is tied for the lead with Jordan Spieth and Matt Kuchar.

windy, it’s not easy out there, but it’s still nice. Nice Open conditions. This is kind of the way you want it. It’s enough to keep you honest. So it’s nice conditions as of now.” Emphasis being now, because now the going gets rough. The forecast for the second round is as dire as the first round’s weather was delightful. Strong, steady winds reaching 30 mph will emerge from the Irish Sea, heavy rain will fall and temperatures will dip into the 50s. And the forecast for the final two rounds, while not as dreadful, isn’t pleasant. In other words, survival mode will become the 15th club in the bag. “I definitely know that we got away with a bit of a break in the weather. This morning it didn’t sound good when I was lying in my bed, the wind and the rain. So the guys must have had it really

tough. It started clearing up when we got to the first tee,” said Els, a winner of this championship in 2002 and 2012. “This morning I didn’t even want to look out of the window. It sounded horrific. If it’s like that tomorrow, obviously it’s going to be tough. Whatever nature gives you, you’ve got to obviously try to respond with a golf shot.” Spieth and Koepka were well rested and confident when they set up shop in this charming seaside village. Spieth took a three-week break after his win in the Travelers Championship; Koepka took a month off after winning the U.S. Open. Neither, however, needed to shake off any rust. “I couldn’t have done much better today,” said Spieth, who is seeking the third leg of a career Grand Slam. “I thought today’s round was extremely important, as they all are, but given the forecast coming in, I thought you

really needed to be in the red today. ... I think experience plays a big role in dealing with conditions at an Open Championship. And I feel like I’ve got a lot of experience for having played four. Had a chance to win. I’ve been on good ends of the draw, bad ends of the draw. I’m kind of prepared for the worst, having experienced it before.” Koepka needed only 21 putts in shooting his seventh consecutive under-par round in a major championship. He wasn’t concerned about his form after his layoff. Instead, he said he was “champing at the bit” to get back and welcomed being mentally recharged. He’s not too concerned about the impending foul weather, either. “I don’t mind bad weather. It doesn’t faze me,” he said. “I don’t really care that much. Just go play golf and shoot the lowest you can.”

Hendrick smart to pick Bowman

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Alex Bowman earned the No. 88 Chevrolet last season. He gets to have it for himself beginning next season. Hendrick Motorsports announced Thursday that the 24-year-old, in-house prospect — a 10-race replacement when Dale Earnhardt Jr. missed the second half of the 2016 season because of lingering concussion symptoms — will become the full-time driver of the car next season upon the veteran’s retirement. The No. 88 job figured to be the first and most important lever of the annual unofficial speculation fest that is the NASCAR free agency period. The appointment of Bowman, who has made 81 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series starts, abruptly gums up the works of several rumored machinations. The move also ends one avenue for veteran Matt Kenseth, as he predicted, after he was displaced at Joe Gibbs Racing by Furniture Row Racing rookie Erik Jones, beginning next season. Importantly for Hendrick, 19-year-old William Byron, who has two wins and is second in points in the second-tier developmental



ADAM GLANZMAN, GETTY IMAGES

Alex Bowman, above, had three top-10 finishes in 10 races last season while filling in for Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Xfinity Series, has another season to marinate, unless team owner Rick Hendrick divests himself of the final season of Kasey Kahne’s contract to drive the No. 5 Chevrolet. And Bowman, who proved his worth as a simulator specialist, a test driver and as an understudy, becomes the embodiment of the team-player mentality seven-time and defending series champion Jimmie Johnson described last week in declaring Bowman a top choice. Bowman’s first two Cup opportunities, with BK Racing and Tommy Baldwin Racing, produced the type of unremarkable results than can squelch a young career. But his eventual path to

the job of his life came when Earnhardt signed him to contest two Xfinity races for JR Motorsports in 2014 and then lined him up to run nine more races for his Xfinity team in 2016. While asserting he’d offer an opinion on his replacement if asked by Hendrick and sponsors, Earnhardt often openly lobbied for Bowman, who stayed with Hendrick when he couldn’t secure funding for a ride this year. Initial support has been effusive. Retired four-time series champion Jeff Gordon, who spent his entire career at HMS, deemed Bowman ready. Earnhardt’s loyal battalion of fans were overwhelmingly in support

on SiriusXM radio Thursday, many citing his three top-10s in 10 races in the No. 88 Chevrolet last year. In the penultimate race of last season, Bowman won the pole at Phoenix Raceway, led a race-high 194 laps and finished sixth. As a pole-winner, he earned a spot into the 2017 season-opening Clash exhibition, finishing third in the No. 88 Chevrolet. In multiple ways, it seems as if Hendrick got this one right. Whereas Kenseth would have brought experience and ability — he won 14 races with JGR since 2013 — he would have been a comparatively short-term solution — assuming Bowman is ready. That Nationwide extended its sponsorship another season to cover 19 races and Axalta added two to increase its total to 15 suggested a comfort and made for a logical decision for Hendrick. “Alex impressed the heck out of us last year with his talent, poise and professionalism,” Hendrick said. “He stepped up in a very demanding situation and showed that he can run with the best and compete for wins. His ability to stay focused through it all, and the way he’s handled himself since then, has shown a lot of character.” Bowman will have to continue showing it. Because earning this job is only the beginning.

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Elliott carries Cowboys' No. 1 run game

Nate Davis

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NFL rosters are essentially set until training camps. In the meantime, USA TODAY Sports has analyzed each team's depth chart and is ranking units before providing an overall hierarchy of talent. Today's positional group: **Running backs.**

1. Dallas Cowboys: Ezekiel Elliott rumbled to 1,631 yards and the rushing crown as a rookie even while taking a seat in Week 17. With a year's experience operating behind the NFL's premier line and continued improvement from quarterback Dak Prescott, Elliott should get better — and 2,000 yards isn't out of the question. However, if he's forced to miss time amid a league investigation into his behavior or because of injury, Dallas has capable veterans — Darren McFadden and Alfred Morris — in reserve.

2. Pittsburgh Steelers: There's no better all-around back than Le'Veon Bell, who last year became the first player to average 100 yards rushing and 50 receiving per game in the same season. With his patient running style and exquisite route running, Bell is capable of being the second player to rack up 2,500 yards from scrimmage and could challenge Chris Johnson's record (2,509). But the Steelers are toast if Bell goes down again. Rookie James Conner could start his career as a nice goal-line banger.

3. Arizona Cardinals: Only a Week 17 injury prevented David Johnson from becoming the first player to have 100 yards from scrimmage in all 16 regular-season games. Now he's set his sights on becoming the third player to have 1,000 yards rushing and receiving in the same year. Don't bet against him ... but don't bet on the Cardinals if he gets hurt.

4. Atlanta Falcons: Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman parlayed their Mr. Inside-Mr. Outside roles into nearly 2,500 combined yards and 5.8 yards per touch last season. Good luck finding a better complementary duo.

5. Tennessee Titans: DeMarco Murray and rookie Derrick Henry were a thunder-and-thunder duo, combining for nearly 2,300 yards from scrimmage for the NFL's third-ranked rushing offense. Behind an elite offensive line and ever-improving quarterback Marcus Mariota, don't expect any drop-off.

6. Oakland Raiders: They have a road-grading line and a balanced attack. As rookies, Jalen Richard and DeAndre Washington combined for nearly 1,000 yards by averaging 5.6 yards per carry. But the excitement is all about Marshawn Lynch's homecoming. Though his offseason buzz has been superb, he must show he is refreshed and hasn't collected rust after a year off.



USA TODAY SPORTS

Clockwise from top left, the Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott, Cardinals' David Johnson, Falcons' Devonta Freeman and Steelers' Le'Veon Bell are among the NFL's top running backs.

7. New Orleans Saints: This could be fun to watch. Defenses will surely be reluctant to load the box against QB Drew Brees. If they don't, a steady diet of rejuvenated Adrian Peterson, hungry Mark Ingram and versatile rookie Alvin Kamara awaits. Peterson might go off in a bid to disprove the naysayers and ageists.

8. Miami Dolphins: Jay Ajayi burst onto the scene in 2016 with three 200-yard efforts. His next challenge will be consistency, given he was held below 100 in 11 of his 12 other appearances last season. After averaging 5.4 yards per carry as a rookie, Kenyan Drake might deserve more touches.

9. Buffalo Bills: No team rushed for more yards in 2016, though more than 1,100 came courtesy of quarterback Tyrod Taylor and since-departed running back Mike Gillislee. Expect Buffalo to remain committed to the run ... as long as LeSean McCoy, 29, can keep it going.

10. Chicago Bears: No one will sleep on Jordan Howard in 2017 after he finished second in the league with 1,313 rushing yards as a rookie.

11. Los Angeles Chargers: Melvin Gordon put his rookie struggles way behind him. Only hip and knee problems at the end of the year prevented him from his first 1,000-yard effort. More important to the Bolts, he scored 12 times in 13 games.

12. Seattle Seahawks: Eddie Lacy, Thomas Rawls and C.J. Proise, initially a wideout at Notre Dame, all bring something to the table. That's why this figures to be a committee as long as they remain relatively healthy, which could be an issue if the O-line

continues to hinder their efforts.

13. Jacksonville Jaguars: They're hoping for an Ezekiel Elliott-like impact from rookie Leonard Fournette, who enters the league saddled with unfair comparisons to Adrian Peterson. But the Jags hope to parlay Fournette's punishing running style into a more physical and balanced offense designed to be less reliant on struggling quarterback Blake Bortles.

14. Los Angeles Rams: Todd Gurley's demise was one of the shocking subplots of 2016. He seems confident new coach Sean McVay's offense can again unleash his talent, but Gurley also needs quarterback Jared Goff to perform far better if he's going to get out of neutral.

15. Philadelphia Eagles: After running for a league-best 18 touchdowns for the New England Patriots last year, LeGarrette Blount projects as the new workhorse here. But he's never caught more than 15 balls in a season, so Darren Sproles and wispy rookie Donnel Pumphrey figure to get the nod on passing downs.

16. Carolina Panthers: Jonathan Stewart is a punishing runner, but his physical style seems to backfire from a durability perspective. With his Velcro hands and quicksilver feet, rookie Christian McCaffrey should create major headaches as a receiver. But he also ran quite well between the tackles at Stanford.

17. Cincinnati Bengals: With Jeremy Hill's contract expiring after the season and Giovani Bernard coming off knee reconstruction, it seems only a matter of time before controversial but talented second-rounder Joe Mixon

is the leading man. He could be a significant upgrade provided his red flags don't resurface.

18. Baltimore Ravens: If Terrace West is in the game, Baltimore likely will be running. When Danny Woodhead enters, the Ravens likely will throw — and he could snare 75 balls. Kenneth Dixon will join the fray after serving a four-game suspension at the start of the season.

19. Minnesota Vikings: With Adrian Peterson injured and the line in shambles, they ranked dead last running the ball last year. There are new faces up front, and Peterson has been replaced by veteran Latavius Murray and highly regarded rookie Dalvin Cook, who seems likely to inherit the bulk of the work.

20. Kansas City Chiefs: Rookie Kareem Hunt will take touches away from Spencer Ware and Charcandrick West. All told, expect a productive, if not dynamic, approach that keeps the chains moving.

21. New York Jets: As bad as the team was in 2016 and projects to be, it has highly capable backs in Matt Forte and Bilal Powell. Both eclipsed 1,000 yards from scrimmage last year despite the issues and injuries around them.

22. Washington Redskins: They plan to go with the hot hand after ranking 21st in 2016. Rob Kelley likely will see most of the touches on early downs with Chris Thompson subbing on passing downs. But don't sleep on rookie Samaje Perine, a physical runner who could make a big impression.

23. Houston Texans: Lamar Miller wasn't the game-breaker Houston was hoping for, but he

kept an offense that struggled to pass moving en route to a division title. With better balance, he's capable of more quick-strike plays.

24. New England Patriots: It must be assumed Bill Belichick knows what he's doing. He definitely has a fresh challenge after letting LeGarrette Blount, who produced 62% of the team's rushing output in 2016, move on. This year's committee includes Dion Lewis, newcomers Mike Gillislee and Rex Burkhead and Super Bowl hero James White. But don't be surprised if quarterback Tom Brady spends a lot more time chucking the ball than handing it off.

25. Green Bay Packers: They're confident converted wideout Ty Montgomery is the answer after he averaged nearly 6 yards per rush in limited duty last year. If he falters, rookie Jamaal Williams could get his shot.

26. Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Doug Martin let the Bucs down on and off the field and will begin the season with a three-game suspension. Charles Sims, Jacquizz Rodgers and rookie Jeremy McNichols should have opportunities to shine in September against defenses stressed by the Tampa Bay air game.

27. Denver Broncos: With offensive coordinator Mike McCoy back and the offensive line apparently better, the ground game should get back on track. And it needs to for the sake of whichever young quarterback wins the starting job. C.J. Anderson and Jamaal Charles hope their knee issues are behind them, while Devontae Booker hopes his rookie year is behind him.

28. Cleveland Browns: Despite offensive shortcomings, the Browns managed 4.9 yards per rush in 2016, second in the league. Now they've upgraded the offensive line. Isaiah Crowell and Duke Johnson could be fantasy sleepers.

29. San Francisco 49ers: Carlos Hyde could use good health and a robust stat line as he plays for a new contract. But he might have to stave off a challenge from rookie Joe Williams while learning an entirely new playbook.

30. Detroit Lions: None of their backs reached 400 yards last year. But the Lions hope improved blocking and a healthy Ameer Abdullah change their fortunes.

31. Indianapolis Colts: Frank Gore methodically strung together a 1,000-yard season, at 3.9 yards per pop, at 33. At 34, he'd probably welcome more help from Robert Turbin, who has impressed this offseason.

32. New York Giants: Not getting the job done. Still, The Giants haven't had a 1,000-yard rusher since 2012. Paul Perkins is the latest candidate hoping to change that for a team that produced 3.5 yards per rush in 2016 and a league-low six rushing TDs.

OLYMPIC SPORTS

Young stars set to make waves

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Even the most casual of sports fan is aware that Michael Phelps (sort of) swam against a shark, and even the most casual consumer of celebrity news knows Ryan Lochte is now the proud father of a baby boy.

Phelps and Lochte — the two most-decorated U.S. male Olympians ever — have for more than a decade been synonymous with the sport of swimming. They've transcended it, becoming household names as their medal counts and endorsement deals soared even when they ended up in headlines for the wrong reasons outside of the pool.

It's hard to argue that the two figures — Phelps and his 23 gold medals in particular — have towered above the rest of the American male swimmers.

"There's no question — they definitely kept a whole generation of swimmers from winning a whole lot of gold medals or getting on (national) teams," said Bob Bowman, Phelps' longtime

coach and the 2016 U.S. Olympic men's coach.

Now, with Phelps retired (again) and Lochte ineligible to compete at the 2017 FINA world championships that begin this weekend in Budapest, Hungary, there's a noticeable lack of stardom on the men's side.

Brilliant and ruthlessly efficient Katie Ledecky undoubtedly will be the face of American women's swimming for the foreseeable future. But as this week's world championship meet highlights, the face of U.S. men's swimming is far less certain.

Without Phelps and Lochte, both 32, this world championship meet might serve as a preview of sorts of American swimming that will stretch beyond both. That future seemingly can go one of two ways: The first being the emergence and sustained stardom of Caeleb Dressel, 20, who will compete in an array of individual events; or it might simply solidify the popular idea that the task of filling the void left by Phelps and Lochte will fall to multiple swimmers in multiple events.

"We've been blessed to have Michael and Ryan be those consistent faces for so long that I

think some people forget how fickle the sport can be," five-time Olympic gold medalist Nathan Adrian told USA TODAY Sports. "They were kind of these Swiss army knives. ... Now, the world just keeps getting faster and people have to specialize."

Part of what made Phelps and Lochte ever-present was their versatility. Both swam the 200 and 400 individual medleys and won gold in multiple other individual events as well as relays. Now, as evidenced by the results of the Rio Games and this year's national championships, more elite American male swimmers are focusing on — and finding success in — individual events.

Adrian, 28, has always been a sprinter and remains the bridge between the old guard and the new in men's swimming. That new guard starts with Ryan Murphy, who won gold medals in the 100 and 200 backstrokes in Rio. Kevin Cordes could become Murphy's equivalent in the breaststroke, and Chase Kalisz in both IMs, depending on their results next week at worlds. The butterfly field is deeper now than it was when Phelps dominated it; Dressel, Tim Phillips, Jack Conger and



STAN SZETO, USA TODAY SPORTS

Caeleb Dressel will compete in butterfly events at the world championships in Hungary.

Pace Clark will all compete in fly events in Budapest. Dressel also qualified in the 50 and 100 freestyles. With the exception of Phillips, all are 23 or younger.

"This is a really exciting time; hopefully people pay attention," Adrian said. "This is the beginning. This is the beginning of the quad, the beginning of that story of how it rights itself without Michael and Ryan, currently.

"It's next man up. We're getting it done a lot better than I think anybody could have anticipated

this, especially looking at 2014, 2015, when they were just dominating everything. ...

"I try to come up with explanations. Like, is it a sense of ownership? That people know they're required to step up, or people had become complacent because they know that Ryan and Michael would get the job done for the next team? I don't know. But it kind of seems like that may have happened. But it's cool to see the younger guys now. They're ready, and they're certainly hungry."

Francona: Baseball is my life

Indians manager:
‘Game means everything to me’

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SAN FRANCISCO Terry Francona's legs are rapidly rocking back and forth. He reaches for a pencil on his desk and starts softly jabbing his right leg, over and over, as if a little pain will make the twitch stop.

Francona, his eyes darting back and forth, looks at his laptop one moment, the TV above on the wall the next, while greeting the players strolling by his office. His desk has three pieces of bubble gum in front of him, a pouch of Lancaster chewing tobacco and a pack of playing cards on one side and a fresh cup of coffee with an incomplete crossword puzzle on the other side.

This is Francona's refuge. The baseball clubhouse.

He arrived at 11:15 in the morning, eight full hours before the first pitch of the Cleveland Indians game against the San Francisco Giants this week. He swam for an hour. Talked candidly for 30 minutes with Giants manager Bruce Bochy about heart problems. Played cribbage with pitchers Josh Tomlin and Bryan Shaw. Chatted with Giants broadcaster Duane Kuiper, a former Indians infielder. Had meetings about potential trade acquisitions with Cleveland general manager Chris Antonetti. Kept dropping in and out of the coaches room next door.

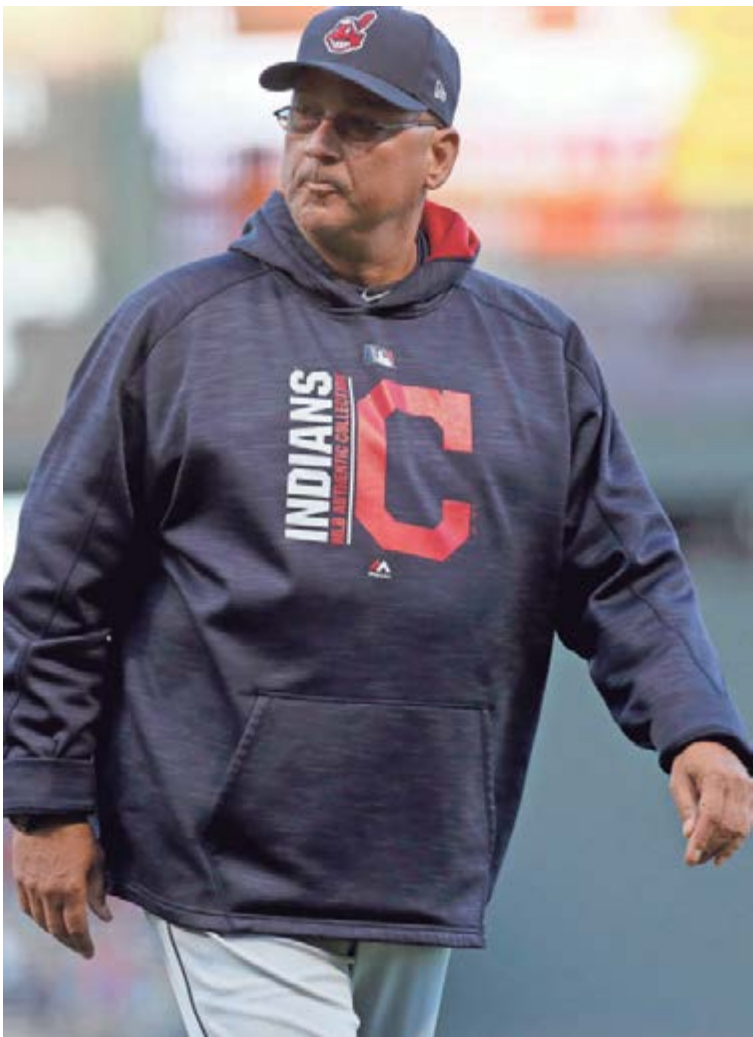
"This is where I belong," says Francona, in his fifth year managing the Indians after winning two World Series titles with the Boston Red Sox. "The clubhouse. This is all I know. Really, this is all I've ever done since I was 3."

Francona, whose father, Tito, played 15 years in the majors, has a picture in the Indians media guide of him sitting in front of his father at the 1963 Indians' father-son game. He played 11 years himself, managed 20 years and handled clubhouses with personalities ranging from David Ortiz to Michael Jordan to Curt Schilling.

Baseball, except for a few months of real estate training when he quit halfway through the class, is really all he knows.

"That's why it almost killed me when it was taken away," Francona says. "This game means everything to me."

It's why Friday's game against the Toronto Blue Jays could be the most emotional game in



LANCE IVERSEN, USA TODAY SPORTS

Terry Francona was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat this month, took time off from managing the Indians and had a catheter ablation procedure to correct the issue.

Cleveland since Game 7 of last year's World Series. Francona, 58, will be managing his first game at Progressive Field in 17 days.

He was last seen in Cleveland leaving the dugout in the fifth inning July 4 against the San Diego Padres. His heart was pounding at the rate of 200 beats a minute, and he was so lightheaded he thought he was going to pass out.

He was rushed to the Cleveland Clinic for tests and was hospitalized for three days until doctors diagnosed the problem that caused had him to leave the dugout with chest pains four times since August. He was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat and had a 10-hour surgery July 7 in a catheter ablation procedure.

"We were all so scared," catcher Yan Gomes said. "It's like he just tripped and hurt himself. I'm no doctor, but when you talk about heart, you never know what may happen. You start realizing that there's more to life than just this game, especially when you see one of the leaders of this organization gone from us. ... We want to make it easy on him so he doesn't have another heart attack."

Francona, as is his custom, has leaned on self-deprecation to ease his players' minds. Even when he was first admitted to the hospital and saw how young his doctor looked, Francona quizzed

him before he could even bring out the stethoscope.

"Hey," Francona asked, "you did graduate from medical school, right?"

"I was frustrated, like, 'Man, what the hell is going on here?'" Francona told USA TODAY Sports. "It was a relief once they found out what it was, but I was mad that I wasn't around. I hate missing games. They're almost sacred."

"Even once they found out what it was, I was like, 'Let's do it and get it over with. I'm not sitting around here. So you're either doing it tomorrow or I'm going back to work.'"

The heart, Francona said, could wait.

The Indians have another pennant to win, and Francona wasn't about to walk out on his team.

"People always talk about me retiring," Francona says, "but I'm not in any rush to retire, because I love what I'm doing. Some day if I can't do this job correctly, whether it's health or whatever, I could stay in the game and help younger kids or something. But I'm not there yet."

"I still have that fire. Even though the game can keep you up at night and talking to yourself, I love it so much. It wears you out because you care so much, but to do this right, you've got to care. As you get older, you know how

to manage your time better, but I don't think you ever learn how to deal with losses better. When you're not winning, it just beats you up."

There are 29 other managers in the game who can relate, particularly Bochy, who has had health scares himself, including a heart attack, and three months ago had the same procedure as Francona.

"I think we all realize what we go through, and I talked to another manager who went through the same thing," Bochy says. "The way we take some of these tough losses, it goes with the territory. There for a while, I was having an incident almost every day. It's a tough lifestyle, but when you love this game like we do, it's almost part of the job."

"People ask me about retiring, too, but what am I going to do? This is what I love doing."

Francona, who remained in Cleveland while bench coach Brad Mills and his staff managed the American League in the All-Star Game in Miami, says he felt strong enough to attend the game. He was out of the hospital and even poked his head into the Indians clubhouse the last day before the All-Star break, joking to his players that, sorry, they couldn't kill him off that easily.

"I didn't go to the All-Star Game because I thought it sent the wrong message," Francona says. "Here I am missing games from the Indians, and then I'm going to trot myself down there to Miami? That's not right. My responsibility is here."

So he stayed in his downtown Cleveland apartment listening to Mills address the AL All-Stars before the game on a speaker phone. He offered a few words himself after Mills and Kevin Cash of the Tampa Bay Rays brought out a cardboard cutout of Francona. Then he laughed so hard he almost passed out when Mills was interviewed during the game with a wad of bubble gum on his cap.

"Oh, my God," Francona says, "I was sitting on the edge of the bed in my underwear, just cracking up. If somebody had a camera, they would have had to put me into an institution, I was laughing so hard."

Francona, whose father also has endured heart problems, has agreed to make health concessions. He stays away off the field during batting practice, instead watching from the dugout. He carefully watches what he eats. He just began swimming an hour each day again. He is even going to try using an apparatus for sleep apnea.

"I know I have to get off my feet, and it'll take some time until I get my strength back," Francona says, "but it doesn't mean I still can't get mad and frustrated. I can't imagine doing anything different. I'd sure like to win more,

but I still love it."

Indians players say they want to ease Francona's stress level by opening a nice lead in the second half, but it's been everything but calming. The Indians, with regulars Lonnie Chisenhall and Jason Kipnis on the disabled list, dropped five of six games to the woeful San Francisco Giants and Oakland Athletics on their Bay Area trip.

They lead the Minnesota Twins by a half game in the AL Central, with two other teams within five games, and at 48-45 have shown an inability to break from the pack all season.

"This team is too good, with too many players in this clubhouse with postseason experience, to be playing like this," Indians closer Cody Allen says. "It stinks. We're supposed to make it easier on Tito, not harder. You hear people talk about playoff hangover, but if that happens, shame on us. To get to October, you have to earn that. It's not a given. We have to earn a right to play on that stage."

It's a reflection of Francona, who instilled an excuse-free atmosphere upon his arrival five years ago.

The Indians have been in the playoff hunt every year since, winning one American League pennant and a wild-card berth, and the window remains open for the ultimate achievement.

"It would be hard to overstate the impact that Tito has had on our organization," Indians President Chris Antonetti says. "It's incredible what he's done."

Francona was the manager who ended the Red Sox's 86-year World Series title drought and last year had the Indians one run from their first World Series championship since 1948.

Now, if he can only take the Indians that last step, maybe he can finally relax.

"It's hard, because you care," Francona says, "and when it starts to not bother you, it's time to do something else. The hard thing is not to let it define you, ruin your self-esteem and things like that."

"But I've got a responsibility here. I've got an obligation. And I'm going to live up to that. So I don't want anyone to worry about me, because I'm not, I'm worrying about my team. They mean everything to me."

The feeling, as Indians players emotionally expressed, is quite mutual.

"He taught us what it takes to win," Tomlin says. "You've seen the difference he's made to this organization since he got here. So when you think about it, we need him more than he needs us. It's up to us to keep him healthy."

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NASCAR

BUSCH COULD REWRITE STORY AT INDY

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Kyle Busch has one of those annoying mileposts ahead, like a big round-number birthday that no one is going to let go, even if you're not so much into talking about it.

Kyle Busch would certainly rather return to Indianapolis Motor Speedway this weekend being talked about as the two-time defending race winner instead of as a perennial series contender who somehow hasn't won a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race since his visit to the storied track last July.

But that's where the Joe Gibbs Racing driver finds himself right now, after another weekend of unfulfilled promise in a season full of them.

Busch led 95 of 301 laps Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and paced the field on a pit stop with 63 laps left, but he was undone by two speeding penalties and finished 12th. Busch, the 2015 series champion, can't



JASEN VINLOVE, USA TODAY SPORTS

Kyle Busch, who has won the last two races at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, is still seeking his first victory in 2017.

even use the cover of the JGR organization being shut out because teammate Denny Hamlin broke through at New Hampshire for his first win of the season and qualified for the playoffs.

Focusing on the positive aspects of the notable weekend ahead, Busch could become the first to win the Brickyard 400 three consecutive times, a feat he said would be "special." But he's curious how this iteration of NASCAR's aerodynamic package

affects what he has learned as a driver and how crew chief Adam Stevens has applied that to his No. 18 Toyota.

Busch's prospects for qualifying for the playoff remain solid. He'd make it unless four drivers earn their first wins this year in the final seven races of the regular season — or if there are three first-time winners and Joey Logano, whose victory at Richmond Raceway was encumbered because of a penalty, wins again.

Neither of those scenarios seems likely. Busch is third in points and seems a certain playoff qualifier, but his lack of playoff points (five) because of a dearth of wins would immediately endanger him in the postseason.

Of course, he could advance through the three rounds of playoff racing with victories, but if he were able to flick a switch, he would have done it by now. He has led races with fewer than 10 laps left three times this year. He had led at least one lap in all but five races. He has led at least 100 laps four times. But he hasn't been able to pull off a victory.

Certainly, Busch's overall performance — those laps-led numbers show he actually has been quite successful — suggests that he could win at any time. After all, he did win three in a row in 2015 (culminating at Indianapolis) to overcome missing the first 11 races with a broken right leg and left foot to qualify for the postseason and win the championship.

But the number that must haunt Busch currently is 35, the number of races in his career-worst winless streak. And unlike 2015, he doesn't have the freedom of a dogged pursuit of a goal that should not have been realistic after he crashed into a concrete

wall in the season-opening Xfinity Series race at Daytona International Speedway.

There is just the knowledge that after winning four times last season — for an organization that won 12 collectively — and finishing third in the standings, Busch is expected to have collected some of those upwards of eight victories owner Joe Gibbs thinks could have been his this season. Busch has 38 career Cup victories and has never finished a season winless, beginning with his first full campaign in 2005.

The evolution of the "new" Kyle Busch has been heavily documented through his marriage and then fatherhood. Notwithstanding the occasional unsuccessful accosting of Logano, mic drop or standard driver-issue barb, he has seemed better equipped to process and proceed from these types of moments. But going 12 months without a win must be especially frustrating.

And just like those big round-number birthdays or stressful anniversaries, emotion is likely to be close to the surface. There isn't even a Hallmark card for it.

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