

JUNIORS SHINE AT SALEM HILLS

Several more qualify for tournament
SPORTS | B1

BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

City schools' program targets freshmen
LOCAL | A3

KIDMAN 'BEGUILED'

New film puts female spin on Civil War
VALLEY LIFE | C1



The Vindicator

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FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017 ♦ 75¢



City, arena, YSU work to lessen parking hassles

By DAVID SKOLNICK
skolnick@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

With numerous events this weekend downtown and at Youngstown State University – attracting thousands of people with some main roads either closed or restricted to vehicular traffic – finding parking could prove to be a bit challenging.

But event coordinators and city officials are trying to ease the potential parking problems people may find coming to various festivals and other special events.

After 4 p.m. today until 8 a.m. Monday, all on-street parking in the downtown area is free, said Michael McGiffin, the city's director of downtown events and citywide special projects.

Also, city-owned surface lots on Commerce Street and the Water Department lot off West Federal Street will be free during the same time, he said.

Other downtown lots are privately owned with some charging during the weekend and others not.

"Parking may be slightly

See PARKING, A6

FESTIVE WEEKEND

Downtown, YSU events

These events are happening this weekend downtown and at Youngstown State University:

♦ **7 p.m. today**, The Fabulous Flashbacks concert, Central Square.

♦ **11 a.m. to 10 p.m. today and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday**, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Summerfest, 220 N. Walnut St.

♦ **10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday**, Youngstown State University's Summer Festival of the Arts.

♦ **10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday**, All-AmericaCon comic book, toy and art show, Covelli Centre.

♦ **6:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday**, Youngstown Wine and Jazz, Central Square.

♦ **2 to 11 p.m. Sunday**, 2 DE Gospel Fest, Central Square.

CITY WATER FUNDS PROBE HITS HOME



Law-enforcement officials seized items from the Boardman home of Youngstown Finance Director David Bozanich as part of an ongoing investigation into the legality of using more than \$2 million given by the city from its water and wastewater funds to a private developer.

JOE GORMAN | THE VINDICATOR

Residences of city finance director, attorney searched

By DAVID SKOLNICK
skolnick@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

A STATE PROBE INTO THE legality of more than \$2 million given by the city from its water and wastewater funds to a prominent downtown developer led to search warrants being executed Thursday at four locations, including the home of Youngstown Finance Director David Bozanich.



Bozanich

Led by the Ohio Auditor's Office, the search warrants were conducted at:

- ♦ 7842 Walnut St., Unit B, Boardman, Bozanich's residence, where neighbors say his sister lives.
- ♦ 3722 Starr Centre Drive, Suite A, Canfield, the law office of Stephen Garea.
- ♦ 3780 Fawn Drive, Canfield, Garea's residence.
- ♦ 4355 Devonshire Drive, Boardman, the residence of Panzy Eldridge, Bozanich's girlfriend, where it's presumed the finance director lives.

The auditor's office wouldn't comment on the warrants because they deal with an ongoing investigation.

But several sources said the warrants were executed as part of the investigation into the legality of more than \$2 million given by the city from its water and

See PROBE, A6



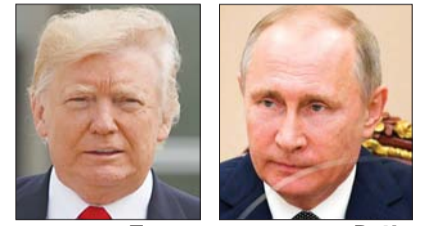
BILLY LUFT | THE VINDICATOR

State investigators also seized records as part of the investigation from the Canfield home of Stephen Garea, a local attorney who represents a prominent downtown development company.

“ ANYTHING THAT IS BEING DONE AS PART OF THIS INVESTIGATION HAS TO PLAY ITSELF OUT BEFORE I'D CONSIDER ANY SORT OF DISCIPLINE. AT THIS POINT, THERE'S NO REASON FOR ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION.”

YOUNGSTOWN MAYOR JOHN McNALLY, about Finance Director David Bozanich who is being investigated over the use of city water funds for development

TRUMP, PUTIN AT G20



Trump

Putin

Anxiety, hope run high for meeting

Associated Press

MOSCOW

For Russian President Vladimir Putin, a meeting with U.S. counterpart Donald Trump on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Germany offers a long-sought opportunity to negotiate a rapprochement with Washington. But controversy over the Trump campaign's ties with Russia will loom over the talks, making any agreements unlikely.

Rarely in recent history has a meeting of two heads of state generated so much excitement, anxiety and hope.

The Kremlin views today's encounter as a watershed moment that could ease Russia-West tensions. Some in the U.S., meanwhile, worry that Trump could make unjustified con-

INSIDE

♦ **President Trump** waffles on Russian meddling. **A2**

See TRUMP, A6

Chief of Mill Creek earns mostly good grades from board

By JORDYN GRZELEWSKI
jgrzelewski@vindy.com

CANFIELD

Mill Creek MetroParks board members gave Executive Director Aaron Young mostly positive evaluations of his job performance in 2016.

Board members Germaine Bennett, Lee Frey and Tom Shipka recently completed evaluations of Young's work last year. Board members Thomas Frost and John Ragan did not submit evaluations; Frost was not on the board in 2016.

The evaluation forms asked reviewers to score Young on his leadership, organizational knowledge, judgment, decision-making, accountability, initiative and creativity, customer service/customer focus, internal



Young

See MILL CREEK, A6

From Vegas to Valley: New manager of Austintown racino is ready to roll



WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR

Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course recently welcomed new general manager, Tony Frabbiele. He is a third-generation gaming industry employee with several years of experience.

By KALEA HALL
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AUSTINTOWN

Anthony "Tony" M. Frabbiele is happy to call the Youngstown area home now.

Frabbiele has officially been at Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course for three weeks as the new general manager of the racino.

The third-generation gaming industry employee made it his goal to become a

HOLLYWOOD Gaming

MANAGING VALLEY RACE COURSE manager of property such as the Austintown racino.

"I was born and raised in Las Vegas," he said. "I started as a valet attendee."

Frabbiele worked his way up in the industry. He received a degree in finance and marketing from Penn State University along

See MANAGER, A6

The Vindicator

INSIDE TODAY

- Advice C2
- Business B5
- Classified B5-6
- Comics C4
- Crossword C3
- Editorial A7
- Legals B5
- Lottery A2
- Newsmakers A2
- Society C2
- Sports B1-4
- Tributes A5
- TV Grid C3
- Weather A2
- Years Ago C3

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METRO digest

Intentional crash kills 19-year-old

JOHNSTON

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Warren Post is investigating what it calls an intentional fatal crash in which a vehicle traveling north on Warner Road at a high rate of speed drove through a stop sign at Bradley-Brownlee Road.

Killed was Tristan T. Thompson, 19. The OSHP report does not include his address.

The crash occurred at about 5:23 p.m. when Thompson drove through the stop sign and went off the left side of the road, striking a ditch and tree and utility pole, overturning his vehicle and ejecting him.

Alcohol does not appear to be a factor.

Thompson was not wearing a seatbelt.

Warner Road will remain closed at Bradley-Brownlee until repairs can be made to the utility pole, the OSHP said.

Vote overturned

YOUNGSTOWN

The Design Review Committee this week overturned its vote from last month approving the location of a bus-shelter sculpture made from a shipping container and steel at the corner of Wick Avenue and West Federal Street.

The decision came after a complaint from the United Veterans Council of Youngstown the sculpture would obscure and overshadow the nearby Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Committee members recommended the bus-shelter sculpture be placed on Mahoning Avenue in front of the Our Community Kitchen building. Those who are designing the sculpture haven't decided where to put it.

It originally was proposed for Market Street in front of the Mahoning County Courthouse, but DRC members said it would take up too much of the sidewalk, possibly making it more congested for pedestrians in that area.

Person identified

YOUNGSTOWN

The Mahoning County Coroner's Office has identified Leon Jamal Hobbs, 28, of Youngstown, as the person who died in a one-vehicle motorcycle accident at about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday in the eastbound lanes of the Himrod Avenue Expressway.

A news release said Hobbs died of multiple blunt force injuries.

The accident is under investigation by city police and the coroner's office. Toxicology results are pending, the release said.

Operations relocated

Most of the operations at Mahoning County Area Court in Austintown will be relocated due to an "unforeseen incident," according to a statement issued Thursday from the court.

The court is undergoing "major renovations," which were not specified in the statement.

Individuals making payments and reporting for probation will still do so at the Austintown court, 6000 Mahoning Ave.

Those attending traffic and criminal arraignments, pretrials and trials must go to Mahoning County Area Court in Canfield, 72 N. Broad St., while individuals involved in civil cases will be relocated to the Boardman court, 8110 Market St.

This is the Austintown court's second shutdown this week. The court also closed Monday due to a sewage backup in the building.

More Digest on A4

Surplus food/clothing

♦ **East Side Crime Watch**, 1001 Oak St., corner of Fruit Street, Youngstown, food and clothing giveaway, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Recipients must bring bags and identification.

Food- and clothing-distribution notices are to be submitted by 3 p.m. the day before they are to be published.

MAHONING COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Officials OK \$350K more for restoration project

By JUSTIN WIER
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YOUNGSTOWN

The Mahoning County commissioners agreed to spend \$350,000 more on the county courthouse restoration project.

The bulk of the new spending will restore two light wells in the courthouse, which extend from the rooftop of the building to the second floor to let in natural light.

Murphy Contracting Co.

of Youngstown will replace wooden-framed windows that have rotted and mortar in the brick walls that line the light wells. The roofing at the bottom of the wells also needs to be replaced.

Jim Fortunato, head of the county's purchasing department, said Thursday the improvements were not initially part of the upper courthouse restoration, but they will ensure no one needs to go onto the roof of the courthouse to do addi-

tional work once the restoration is complete.

"Then, when we go to clean the granite, the courthouse will be done," he said.

The \$350,000 will also replace flood lights that illuminate the newly restored statues and flags with light-emitting diodes - LEDs - atop the courthouse. The current lights are not efficient, Fortunato said.

Also, the commissioners approved a \$305,488 agreement with Gardiner Service

Co. of Solon to replace the lighting at the Martin P. Joyce Juvenile Justice Center on East Scott Street.

The current lighting is original to the building, and manufacturers are phasing out the bulbs that fit the light fixtures. The new LED lighting system will save the county \$50,000 per year in reduced energy costs at the JJC, Fortunato said.

Last month, Gardiner entered into a \$566,607 agreement with the county to re-

place the lighting system at the county jail.

Both purchases were made through the U.S. Communities Cooperative Purchasing Program.

The JJC project piggybacks on the jail project, Fortunato said, which will allow the county to get cheaper rates on LED lighting.

The commissioners' next meeting will be at 10 a.m. next Friday in the commissioners' hearing room in the courthouse basement.

New program aims to provide Chaney, East students with the ...

Tools for success



WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR

Jamal German fills out an application for Bridge to High School to Success Camp while fellow incoming Chaney High School ninth-grader Neveah Williams looks during an orientation meeting at Chaney High School on Wednesday afternoon.

By AMANDA TONOLI
atonoli@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

A new bridge program will send incoming Chaney and East High ninth-graders to Thiel College in Greenville, Pa.

The program, Bridge to High School to Success Camp, aims to give incoming freshmen the skills and tools they need to succeed during their high-school careers.

"It is designed to help ease the transition to high school," said Roshay Huff, school district chief deputy of transformation. "We hope to foster some early relationships with the students. The big thing is building relationship that help minimize a lot of problems down the road."

Eboni Williams, Chaney administrator, said the gap between eighth grade and ninth grade is a big one, where students sometimes get lost

in the mix.

"We want them to come out of the gate running," she said. "This gives us a chance to keep [students] school-minded while giving students an extra level of support. ... We are doing everything we can to ensure success early rather than have to come back and fill in a gap that was missed."

See CAMP, A4

Ohio House delays override of Kasich's Medicaid veto

Staffwire report

COLUMBUS

Republican Gov. John Kasich's veto protecting Medicaid expansion will stand for now after a decision by state lawmakers to delay a threatened override.

Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, a fellow Republican, said Thursday his chamber has decided to let the health care debate in Washington play out before acting.

He said the GOP-controlled chamber had the 60 votes that would have been needed.

"At this juncture, we want to give the federal govern-



Kasich

ment the summer to see if they're going to come to a conclusion in Congress before we take action on moving forward with the freeze waiver and the request," Rosenberger said.

He said the House still has until the end of Ohio's two-year legislative session in December 2018 to act.

Some 700,000 low-income adults are now covered under Ohio's expansion, at a cost of almost \$5 billion - most of which is picked up

by the federal government. The Kasich administration estimated that 500,000 Ohioans could lose coverage under the proposed enrollment freeze within the first 18 months. With House action stalled, the Ohio Senate canceled a session for considering overrides it had scheduled for next week.

The House did vote to override 11 other items Kasich vetoed from the state budget last Friday. They restored a provision giving legislators additional control over future Medicaid spending and revived the Healthy

See MEDICAID, A4

GIRARD

Officials: City taking steps to stop deficit

By SARAH LEHR
slehr@vindy.com

GIRARD

Officials say the city is taking steps to plug its general-fund deficit.

City Auditor Sam Zirafi delivered unwelcome news to city council in April when he told them the city's general-fund deficit would likely grow to much larger than projected.

At that time, Zirafi projected a negative balance of \$400,000 due to a determination by state auditors who released a two-year report



Melfi

on the city's finances this spring. Auditors told city officials the transfer of \$210,000 in 2014 and 2015 from

the municipal court fund to the general fund was improper because that money belonged to restricted funds.

Judge Jeffrey Adler had been transferring about \$100,000 yearly as a way of paying back the general

fund because that fund subsidizes the cost of running his court.

Because the city would no longer be able to make those transfers for 2016 and 2017 (years not included in the state's most-recent audit), Zirafi said in April the general-fund deficit would likely reach about \$400,000.

While the aggregate of all the city's funds added together is in the black, the general fund is crucial because it can be used to bol-

See GIRARD, A4

Man gets 18 months in prison for punch

By JOE GORMAN
jgorman@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

Justin Hall said no one else is to blame for the punch he threw in November that gave a man a brain injury.

Judge R. Scott Krichbaum agreed, sentencing him to 18 months in prison Thursday.

Last week, Hall was to receive six months in the Mahoning County jail, but after Bernie Belfrage, 67, told the judge in common pleas court how much the punch has affected his life, Judge Krichbaum said he could not abide by that sentencing recommen-



Hall

See PUNCH, A4

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WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR

A Mahoning County deputy was outside the home of Youngstown Finance Director David Bozanich's Boardman home Thursday as part of a search warrant to seize records related to a water and wastewater fund investigation.

PROBE

Continued from A1

wastewater funds to three projects by the NYO Property Group, operated by developer Dominic J. Marchionda.

Even Mayor John A. McNally said he "wouldn't be surprised" if the search warrants were connected to the NYO investigation.

Participating in the execution of the warrants were representatives of the state auditor's office, Ohio Attorney General's office, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office.

McNally said he has no plans to take any disciplinary action against Bozanich.

"Anything that is being done as part of this investigation has to play itself out before I'd consider any sort of discipline," he said. "At this point, there's no reason for any disciplinary action."

The finance director is the city's purchasing agent, in charge of maintaining the city's accounting system, and he has the power to investigate all its financial transactions, according to the city charter.

SEARCH WARRANTS

Investigators began their search of Garea's office and residence about 9 a.m. Thursday, spending about three hours at the locations.

County deputies were on hand at both locations to provide security. A mobile crime-scene investigation truck was among the state vehicles parked outside Garea's residence.

Neighbors watched the scene unfold from their lawns and driveways as investigators moved between the residence and their vehicles.

Items were seized from all four locations.

A *Vindicator* reporter saw only a small number of boxes, which were closed, taken from the Walnut Street location.

The search warrants are sealed and not available for public viewing, said Ben Morrison, a spokesman for the state auditor's office, who declined further comment.

Dan Tierney, an attorney general spokesman, deferred comment to the auditor's office.

Bozanich and Garea couldn't be reached Thursday by *The Vindicator* to comment after repeated attempts.

Also, attempts by the newspaper to contact Marchionda and John F. McCaffrey, his attorney, were unsuccessful.

THE INVESTIGATION

On March 16, records were seized at NYO's downtown office and at Marchionda's Poland home by officials from the same agencies that conducted the searches Thursday.

At the time, a source with knowledge of the investigation said city officials were being investigated as part of the probe but declined to disclose their names.

One city official considered to be under investigation, however, was Bozanich. A day later, Bozanich declined to comment to *The Vindicator* about whether he was being investigated.

The investigation focuses on three projects to NYO subsidiaries that received \$2.27 million from the city's water and wastewater funds. Garea served as Marchionda's attorney during the transactions.

The largest project was \$1.2 million to U.S. Campus Suites LLC in November 2009 for the Flats at Wick student-housing project. Then, Marchionda's company paid \$1 million to the city for a fire station property on Madison Avenue for the project, netting the company \$200,000.

At the time, the city was projecting a general-fund deficit for the end of 2009, but the influx of \$1 million in part helped avoid the city's shortfall. Without such a transaction, the city would not have been able to move \$1 million from the water and wastewater funds to the general fund.

FIRE STATION DEAL

U.S. Campus Suites planned to develop more student housing at the fire station location but hasn't to date. It is leasing the station back to the city for \$10 annually, city officials said.

Also, the city originally agreed to sell the fire station for \$10 in May 2009 to Marchionda, according to a city ordinance from that time. That sale price increased in November to \$1 million, according to a board of control contract.

McNally, who wasn't mayor when the fire station deal was made, defended it Thursday.

"If they're looking at the fire station, that transaction was perfectly legal," he said. "We'll have to wait until the conclusion of the investigation" to see if any charges will be filed."

The city has provided documents as part of the investigation, McNally said.

The city has awarded more than \$8.5 million for economic-development projects from the water and wastewater funds since 2009.

Among those projects, the city gave

Erie Terminal Place, an NYO subsidiary, \$350,000 in water and wastewater funds in 2011 for its Erie Terminal Place apartment project, and then \$220,000 two years later for improvement work at that downtown property.

Also, \$500,000 in those funds went to Wick Properties LLC, also an NYO subsidiary, in 2015 for the apartment/extended-stay Wick Tower that opened in November of that year.

In December 2016 – and not part of the investigation – the city agreed to lend \$2,750,000 to Youngstown Stambaugh Hotel LLC, an NYO subsidiary, with \$750,000 of it forgiven and the remainder borrowed without interest under certain conditions for a \$35.4 million, 130-bed DoubleTree by Hilton hotel being built at the vacant Stambaugh Building, 44 E. Federal St.

WATER LAWSUIT

There is a lawsuit from four Youngstown water customers – there was a fifth, but that person has since moved out of state – questioning the legality of using water and wastewater funds for economic development, and seeking to stop the practice.

The lawsuit, with the plaintiffs seeking to make it a class-action suit, filed last year in Mahoning County Common Pleas Court contends Youngstown violates state law and the city charter by using water and wastewater "surplus revenues to issue grants and payments to private parties involving projects unrelated to the purposes and activities necessary for providing the water and sewer utilities to its customers."

City officials have defended the practice, saying it is permissible, and they have legal opinions backing that up.

Garea is a prominent local attorney who has, over the years, served as the lawyer for a number of high-profile clients including former county Prosecutor James Philomena, who admitted to fixing cases and has since died, and former mobster Lenny Strollo.

In January 1997, the FBI searched Garea's law office as part of a federal investigation into how \$4 million was used to resurrect an idled Indian casino in California, according to *Vindicator* files.

The government was investigating whether the casino company was financed by genuine investors or served as a front for money controlled by underworld figures. Garea was never charged with any crime related to the investigation.

YOUNGSTOWN

Company hired to pave 6 city streets

Staff report

YOUNGSTOWN

The city's board of control awarded a \$912,093 contract Thursday to an Austintown company to pave six city streets.

Shelly & Sands beat out two other companies for the work. The city's estimate for the job was about \$940,000.

The resurfacing work will start in two to three weeks and take up to 60 days to complete, said Charles Shasho, the city's deputy director of public works.

"The roads, which are well-traveled, are in poor condition," Shasho said.

The state will cover 69 percent of the cost with the city paying the rest, he said.

The roads are: McCollum Road from Schenley Road to Belle Vista Avenue, and Bears Den Road from Industrial to McCollum roads, both on the West Side; Oak Street Extension from Lamar Avenue to Jacobs Road, and Early Road from Cornwall Street to East High Avenue, both on the East Side; Logan Avenue from Lauderdale to Wick avenues on the North Side; and Gibson Street from Dewey to Palmer avenues on the South Side.

TRUMP

Continued from A1

cessions to Russia.

Amid investigations into possible collusion with Moscow by Trump's campaign, any deal with Putin would expose Trump to more criticism. And if the two fail to get along, that would further exacerbate tensions between Moscow and Washington and put them on a collision course in regions around the world.

"If Putin comes to the conclusion that even if Russia and the U.S. reach agreement, Trump would be unable to implement it for domestic policy reasons, he would lose interest in seeking an agreement," said Dmitri Trenin, the director of the Carnegie Moscow Center.

Putin, a KGB veteran who once described himself as an "expert in personal communications," always focuses closely on trying to establish warm ties with his counterparts. Kremlin-watchers say Putin meticulously prepares for meetings with foreign leaders, studying their track records and personal habits.

"He believes that personalities – not states, armies or companies – determine the course of global events," Trenin said.

Fyodor Lukyanov, the head of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policies, said even if Putin and Trump develop a good rapport, Trump's ability to deliver on his promises will be a key factor for the Russian leader.

"If Putin has a positive

view, as a minimum he will give [Trump] more time to sort things out," he said. "But he could possibly conclude that he [Trump] may not succeed in sorting things out and, moreover, doesn't really want an honest deal. If Putin decides it's not going to work, he will drop all constraints."

The tense environment for the Trump-Putin meeting contrasts with the Kremlin's early expectations.

The Kremlin was very pleased with Trump's presidential victory, since he promised to improve ties with Russia and praised Putin during the campaign. It had hoped for a quick meeting after Trump's inauguration in January, but U.S. congressional and FBI investigations into links between Trump campaign aides and Russia blocked an early encounter.

In the last few months, Moscow's hopes that Trump could act to lift the sanctions imposed on Russia over the Ukrainian crisis have withered. Putin and his lieutenants have also become increasingly impatient about U.S.-Russia ties remaining at a freezing point.

"We realize that the situation is difficult and relations with Russia have become hostage to the U.S. political infighting, but so what?" Putin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said this week. "We have difficulties of our own."

Russia and the U.S. have struggled to even set a specific time for toay's meeting.

MILL CREEK

Continued from A1

communication, integrity, teamwork, planning and organizing, directing and controlling, quality of work, quantity of work, safety, attendance, and development plans.

One of the areas on which Young received top marks is planning, with Bennett noting that he "goes through great lengths in planning" and Shipka writing that Young "sets goals and works efficiently through them."

Bennett, Frey and Shipka all gave Young high scores on his internal communications with staff.

They also rated him highly for his initiative and creativity, with Bennett writing that Young "has perseverance" and "stayed with the park through the changes." For that category, Shipka wrote that Young is "hard-working, self-reliant and efficient."

One area in which they all agreed Young could improve is customer service.

"Needs to better explain decisions to public," wrote Frey. "Needs to work to have the public understand the process he uses to explain those decisions. Needs to get out into the park and introduce himself to people and hear what they have to say."

Bennett noted that

Young "is working on this and needs to get out more often."

An area on which the evaluations differed was accountability. Shipka graded Young a "5" out of nine for accountability, and wrote that he "has been resistant to some changes proposed and adopted" by the board and "needs to accept and support them."

Frey and Bennett, however, gave him high marks for accountability.

In his comments on Young's job performance, Shipka – who gave Young the lowest marks of the three – noted the effects of Young's implementation of a staff restructuring last year.

"The area where his marks are lower and where he can improve is in enlisting the aid and support of the board, the board's seven standing committees, and the general public, including members of the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens and his critics," wrote Shipka. "The reorganization in February 2016 alienated many taxpayers and the traditional MCMP supporters; the executive director needs to work steadily and conscientiously to regain their support of MCMP and their trust in his leadership."

Young did not respond to a *Vindicator* interview request.

PARKING

Continued from A1

difficult to find, but it shouldn't be a deterrent for people to come downtown," McGiffin said. "It's going to be a big weekend for downtown."

There are also road closures and restrictions to deal with.

Starting at 7 a.m. today, Market Street from Boardman to Commerce streets will be closed, and starting at 11 a.m. today, Federal Street from Phelps to Champion streets will be closed, McGiffin said. They will reopen at 2 a.m. Monday.

The events on Central Square include the Fabulous Flashbacks concert at 7 tonight; Youngstown Jazz and Wine with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Saturday; and the 2 DE Gospel Fest with doors opening at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The biggest headache for those going to YSU's Summer Festival of the Arts on Saturday and Sunday will be restrictions on Wick Avenue, where road work con-

tinues.

You can't take that road heading north. If you plan to take it south, you'll need to take a right onto East Wood Street, then a left onto North Champion Street, a right onto East Rayen Avenue and a left onto Walnut Street to access the back entrance to the Wick Avenue parking Deck.

If you want to make your life easier, take Fifth Avenue to the festival and park in any of the university's surface lots.

Also, the parking deck on Lincoln Avenue is closed for upgrades.

Heading to the All American comic, toy and art show this weekend at the Covelli Centre? Good news: Parking at the center is free, said Jaelyn Carpenter, the facility's event director.

"For community-minded events and expos, we do free parking to get as many people here as possible," she said.

There are about 1,000 parking spots at the center, Carpenter said.

Greg Bartholomew, the show's promoter, is anticipating 4,000 to 5,000 people at the two-day event that has been held in various locations in Warren the previous seven years.

MANAGER

Continued from A1

the way.

"I got into the business and fell in love with it," he said. "I knew what I wanted to be before I finished school."

From 2006 to 2015, Frabbiele worked in a variety of roles in the Atlantic City, N.J., market.

Frabbiele most recently served as vice president and general manager for Gaming and Leisure Properties Inc.'s Hollywood Casino Baton Rouge, La., Gaming.

Leisure Properties Inc. is a real-estate investment trust that was spun off Penn National Gaming Inc., the operator of the Austintown racino.

"I think I have a unique skill set from working in large markets," Frabbiele said. "From a gaming perspective, we [the Austintown racino] are humming right along."

The racino's video lottery terminals, or slot machines, brought in \$9.48 million in May with an average of 1,002 machines. That's up from the \$8.44 million brought in with an average of 936 machines in May 2016, according to the Ohio Lottery Commission.

The June VLT revenues will be released today.

Since opening with 850 slot machines in 2014, the racino has added about 200 additional gaming devices through a previous gaming-floor expansion in 2015, as well as a smoking-patio expansion in 2016, which added 73 slot machines. This year, the racino added 50 slot machines, bringing the total number of games on the property to 1,030.

"We have done a great job being known within the area," he said. "I think there's more opportunity to expand our reach."

Hollywood Gaming is the first facility Frabbiele has been at with a 1-mile thoroughbred racetrack.

"I am ready to get actively involved when the racing season comes in October," he said.

Frabbiele is also ready to be involved in the community. "It's really important for us to be as actively as involved as much we can be," he said. "We want to be known as the employer of choice in the area."

Frabbiele succeeds Mike Galle, who was named general manager of Penn National's Hollywood Casino Gulf Coast and Boomtown Biloxi.



McGiffin

Betty H. Brown Jagnow, *President & Publisher*Mark A. Brown, *General Manager**Past Publishers*William F. Maag Sr., *February 28, 1850–April 10, 1924*William F. Maag Jr., *July 26, 1883–February 29, 1968*William J. Brown, *June 14, 1913–August 14, 1981***Our VOICE****North Korea's ICBM launch demands a global response**

NORTH KOREA'S CHILLING Fourth of July surprise this week has heated up the war of words between the dictatorial Asian regime and the United States.

That holiday surprise came via the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's successful test launching Tuesday of an intercontinental ballistic missile, one that Asian and American military analysts alike agree had potential to strike Alaska.

For his part, an exuberant Kim Jong Un, North Korea's quirky and despotic president, hailed the fiery launching as a "gift for the American bastards," adding that his nation plans to "frequently send big and small gift packages to the Yankees."

For his part, President Donald J. Trump told reporters Thursday during his brief trip to Poland, "I have some pretty severe things that we're thinking about" to respond to the North's provocation.

That followed our Commander-in-tweets insult directed at Kim posted in the immediate aftermath of the launch: "Does this guy have anything better to do with his life?"

The jesting nature of that tweet belies the seriousness and severity of the heightened tensions. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called the launch a "new escalation of the threat" to the U.S. and the world.

Nikki Haley, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the long-range missile test "showed that North Korea does not want to be part of a peaceful world. They have cast a dark shadow of conflict on all nations that strive for peace." She added that the U.S. is prepared if necessary to use military might to rein in Kim.

Amid the derisive tweets, taunts, mocks, insults and threats, however, this much is clear: There is no easy solution to defusing the ever-escalating North Korean nuclear missile crisis. By now, it should also be equally clear that any viable option to do so must lie in a united global response.

The military option, however, is one response that must be avoided at all costs.

That would likely only embolden North Korea toward expediting its deluded dream of annihilating its enemies. And no one doubts Kim's forces could quite capably target the 50 million enemy residents of South Korea or the 80,000 enemy Americans stationed in South Korea and nearby Japan.

Another option embraced by the administration of President Barack Obama has outlived its usefulness. That policy of "strategic patience" rested on a foundation that the U.S. could wait for China to begin exerting on its own stronger influence through sanctions and other policies to quash Kim's nuclear ambitions against the U.S. and others.

Unfortunately, it has become increasingly clear that China, which provides impoverished North Koreans with many of their essential survival needs, is not willing to play that game. As Trump tweeted Wednesday, "Trade between China and North Korea grew almost 40% in the first quarter. So much for China working with us – but we had to give it a try!"

MAJOR PLAYERS MUST INVEST IN PEACE

Although American patience may have worn thin, the U.S. and other peace-seeking nations cannot give up on trying to construct a lasting strategy for long-term stability in the region. Clearly any diplomatic plan to stabilize the Korean Peninsula region must involve global involvement, and China, as well as the U.S., South Korea and Japan, must be deeply invested in that response.

Part of that response should include a strong partnership within the U.N. Security Council to denounce and take action. Under the leadership of Haley, that process has begun with emergency meetings on North Korea and discussions of punitive actions, including much stronger sanctions against the rogue nation.

But as former Secretary of Defense William Perry told NPR on Wednesday, sanctions alone likely will not solve the crisis.

"We've demonstrated for many years now that sanctions by themselves are not sufficient. We have to have a more – a bolder program, a more imaginative program than just putting more sanctions on."

President Trump himself can contribute to the buildup of a strong anti-Kim coalition. For example, he can use meetings with leaders of key international players to press for cooperation. Today, he could urge Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, to boldly assert his nation's opposition to North Korea's nuclear antics.

Of course, the path to resolving the North Korean nuclear imbroglio remains muddled and unclear. But given the unacceptable consequences of armed – and potentially nuclear – conflict, the stakes are too high for the United States and the peace-loving world community not to explore and exhaust any and all diplomatic options as fully and as aggressively as possible.

SCRIPTURES

Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness, for they are from of old.

PSALM 25:6 NKJV

The Vindicator

EDITORIAL

FRIDAY
JULY 7, 2017
VINDY.COM | A7

Time to face the truth

By JILL RICHARDSON
OtherWords

Our country is founded on a myth that anyone can succeed so long as they work hard.

That's the story of Alexander Hamilton that has swept Broadway: how a "bastard orphan" can become "a hero and a scholar." According to the lyrics he did it by working harder, being smarter, and being a self-starter.

If that's all you need to do to succeed, then it's your own fault if you're poor.

And White House spokeswoman Kellyanne Conway has no sympathy for you. If you're sad the Republican health care bill is going to take away your Medicaid, she says – and it will – you can go get a job. Because your poverty is your own fault.

The reality isn't as nice. We don't live in a society where anyone can get ahead just by working hard. It might feel that way if you grew up middle class, but that's not the reality millions of Americans live in.

Sociological research confirms this unpleasant truth again and again.

As for the people on Medicaid who should just "get a job," odds are they already have a job. Maybe two jobs.

We as a society want people working in restaurants, cleaning our hotel rooms, checking us out and stocking shelves at stores, and doing any number of low-skilled, generally low-wage jobs. Some people even oppose giving those workers a raise because it would either cut into corporate profits or raise prices.

LOW-WAGE LABOR

Well, we can't have it both ways. We can't benefit from low-wage labor while simultaneously blaming low-wage workers for their own poverty.

And if you're truly callous enough not to care if the working poor have access to affordable health care, consider how their plight affects you.

Suppose for a moment that 22 million Americans lose their health care, which is what the Congressional Budget Office predicts if the Senate passes the Republican health care bill. What happens?

Those 22 million people no longer go for preventative check ups. They don't treat medical problems when they occur, before the problems get worse. They wait until they have no choice, and they go to the emergency room.

If they cannot pay the bills accrued at the emergency room, the hospital eats the cost. But hospitals must balance their budgets somehow, so they raise prices for everyone else.

If you're insured, then you're not paying the hospital directly, so the higher prices go to your insurance company. And they pass it on to you in the form of higher premiums.

Thus, if you aren't moved by the human suffering caused by depriving the working poor of health care, perhaps you'll be moved by your own pocketbook.

Unless emergency rooms start declining treatment to anyone who can't pay, turning cancer patients and gunshot victims onto the streets to die, somebody is going to pay for the care of the uninsured.

The question is whether they'll be able to go for preventative check-ups and treat problems early, or whether they'll go to the emergency room after they can no longer avoid it.

For those who rely on Obamacare for their insurance – myself included – the prospects of losing their health care is terrifying. I have several friends with cancer who are literally afraid they will die if the repeal bill passes. And that's not hyperbole.

It's time we stopped telling ourselves that anyone who's struggling only has themselves to blame.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of "Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It."



Keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people reduces violence

By JONATHAN PERLOE
Special to The Vindicator

In his op-ed, "Gun control is fine, except for not working" (*Vindicator* June 26) Jay Ambrose offers a litany of claims in defense of the gun lobby's relentless crusade to block any legislative measure that addresses the public-health crisis that kills 33,000 Americans every year. He's wrong; common-sense laws keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people and reduce gun violence. There are numerous studies that prove the point.

The "guns everywhere" outlook of Mr. Ambrose defies logic. As Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action, said, "If loose gun laws and more guns made us safer, we'd be the safest country in the world." We aren't, by an order of magnitude. According to the *American Journal of Medicine*, the gun homicide rate in the U.S. is 25 times higher than in other high-income countries. The vast majority of Americans get it; in a just published study by Pew Research, 83 percent of Americans say gun violence is a problem, and strong majorities support reasonable gun laws such as universal background checks, barring suspected terrorists from buying guns and stopping the sale of weapons of war.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. Ambrose notes that most criminals get their guns illegally. That is hardly proof that gun laws don't work. Just the opposite: Brady background checks make it harder for would-be criminals to buy guns legally, forcing them to the black market where it is more expensive and more risky to acquire firearms, reducing their availability and desirability. To date, background checks have stopped more than 3 million gun sales to prohibited purchasers.

There is direct evidence that criminals adjust their behavior in response to gun laws. In a study by the National Institute of Justice, convicted felons who had not carried weapons during the commission of their crimes

were asked why they were unarmed. Fifty-nine percent chose the response "Against the law." Seventy-nine percent wanted to avoid a "stiffer sentence."

In a typical twisting of the facts by gun-rights advocates, Mr. Ambrose cites the 2013 report commissioned by the CDC, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence," to claim there is no evidence that gun laws work. In fact, the study concluded, "the scarcity of research on firearm-related violence limits policy makers' ability to propose evidence-based policies that reduce injuries and deaths." The difficulty in assessing whether gun laws save lives is not that the evidence proves otherwise – it's that the evidence doesn't exist to conclusively prove or disprove the efficacy of some specific gun laws.

FEDERAL FUNDING BLOCKED

Why is there so little research? Because legislators beholden to the gun lobby have blocked federal funding of research and collection of data. The CDC report notes, "Since the 1960s laws and regulations have been enacted that limited data collection relevant to firearm violence prevention research." Starting in 1996 and expanded in 2011, the Republican majority in Congress, with very limited Democratic support, passed outright prohibitions on federally funded gun violence research. The impact on research that could save lives is profound.

A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* compared the level of gun violence research to that of the top 30 causes of death. If funding for firearm death and injury research was proportionate to its impact on public health, an estimated \$1.4 billion would have been spent. The reality is that just \$22 million was identified, less than 2 percent of the expected level, making gun violence the least-researched cause of death in America.

You're as free as you can afford to be

By JIM HIGHTOWER
OtherWords

I think of freedom in positive, aspirational terms – as in FDR's "Four freedoms," or in the uplifting songs of freedom sung by oppressed people everywhere.

But right-wing ideologues have fabricated a negative notion of "freedoms" derived from their twisted concept of individual choice.

You're "free" to be poor, politically powerless, or ill and uncared for, they say – it's all a matter of decisions you freely make, and our government has no business interfering with your free will.

This is what passes as a philosophical framework guiding today's Republican congressional leaders.

For example, they say their plan to eliminate health coverage for millions of Americans and cut such essential benefits as maternity care for millions more is just a matter of good ol' free-market consumerism.

As explained by Jason Chaffetz, a Utah tea party Republican: "Americans have choices. And so maybe, rather than getting that new iPhone that they just love and they want to go spend hundreds of dollars on that, maybe they should invest in their own health care."

Lest you think that Chaffetz must simply be an oddball jerk, here's a similar deep insight from the top House Republican, Speaker Paul Ryan: "Freedom is the ability to buy what you want to fit what you need."

Yes, apparently, you're as free as you can afford to be. As Vice President Mike Pence recently barked at us, Trumpcare's you're-on-your-own philosophy is all about "bringing freedom and individual responsibility back to American health care."

The GOP's austere view is that getting treatment for your spouse's cancer should be like buying a new pair of shoes – a free-market decision by customers who choose their own price point, from Neiman Marcus to Goodwill.

And if you go barefoot, well, that's your choice.

Jonathan Perloe is director of programs and communications for CT Against Gun Violence.

OtherWords columnist Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker. He's also the editor of the populist newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

Virginia execution

RICHMOND, VA.

A Virginia man who killed a hospital security guard and a sheriff's deputy after escaping from custody in 2006 was executed Thursday after an unsuccessful campaign to spare the inmate's life over concerns about his mental health.

William Morva, 35, was pronounced dead at 9:15 p.m. after a lethal injection at the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt. It was the first execution carried out in Virginia under a new protocol that makes more of the lethal injection procedure secret.

In denying a clemency petition, Gov. Terry McAuliffe concluded Morva received a fair trial. The Democratic governor noted that experts who evaluated the man at the time found he didn't suffer from any illness that would have prevented him from understanding the consequences of his crimes and that prison staff who monitored Morva for the past nine years never reported any evidence of a severe mental illness or delusional disorder.

Morva is the third inmate to be executed since McAuliffe took office in 2014. In April, he granted clemency to Ivan Teleguz, saying jurors in the murder-for-hire case were given false information that may have swayed sentencing.

Fox suspends anchor

LOS ANGELES

The Fox Business Network on Thursday said it has suspended "Making Money" anchor Charles Payne pending an investigation, but didn't provide any details.

The Los Angeles Times, citing two anonymous sources, reported Payne had been accused of harassment by a female political analyst who appeared on Fox Business.

In a statement, the network said it has a "zero tolerance policy" for any professional misconduct. It said steps are being taken to resolve the matter in a timely fashion.

An attorney for Payne didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday night on the investigation by parent company 21st Century Fox.

Illinois House passes budget, ends impasse

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The Illinois House voted Thursday to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's vetoes of a budget package, giving the state its first spending blueprint in more than two years and ending the nation's longest fiscal stalemate since at least the Great Depression.

The action eases some financial woes, but it's fueled by a permanent 32 percent increase in the income tax rate, raising \$5 billion more annually, and it reduces spending by more than \$2 billion.

Illinois is starting down a \$6.2 billion annual deficit and \$14.7 billion in past-due bills.

Lawmakers, culminating two straight weeks of a special session that began ahead of the July 1 start of the fiscal year, approved the bill to raise taxes by a 71-42 vote. A plan to spend \$36 billion in the fiscal year that began July 1 was OK'd 74-37. An override requires 71 votes.

Passenger removed

ATLANTA

A disruptive passenger was removed from an Atlanta-to-Chicago flight after she was caught on video yelling at a flight attendant while letting her dog run through the cabin.

Passenger Michael Nash posted video of the altercation that took place before takeoff Wednesday on the American Airlines flight. Nash said the woman had reclined her seat while the plane was taxiing and yelled profanities after being asked to stop. The video shows passengers yelling at her to sit down as she follows a flight attendant to the back of the plane with her dog by her side. The plane returned to the gate, and another video shows a man escorting her off the flight.

An Atlanta airport representative told Chicago's WBBM-TV that the woman wasn't arrested and was rebooked on another flight. The plane arrived in Chicago four hours late. =

Associated Press

Pence: Americans will walk on Mars

Orlando Sentinel (TNS)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. Vice President Mike Pence vowed that the United States will be at the forefront of space exploration in a speech before NASA employees at the Kennedy Space Center on Thursday.

"Today, I come to assure you, the men and women of NASA that under President Donald Trump, America will lead in space once again," Pence said.

His trip came just days after Trump named him to lead the relaunched National Space Council.

The U.S. space program, he

said, "will return to the moon, and we will put American boots on the face of Mars."

Pence's visit, which included a tour of the facility, comes as the Trump administration is beginning to chart its course on space exploration.

Trump late last month signed an executive order reviving the National Space Council and naming Pence to lead it. Trump said his administration is prepared to "lead again like we never led before," while calling space the "next great American frontier."

Pence on Thursday said the council will bring to-

gether government, private sector and academic experts to push the U.S. space program forward.

"We will bring the best of America together once again to lead with Americans in space," he said.

Pence called Kennedy Space Center "the heart and soul of our American space program, where science fiction has become science fact for generations."

Pence's speech, which stressed manned expeditions into space as a priority, comes amid uncertainty about NASA's next manned mission and its priorities

under Trump.

The president has not yet named an administrator for the agency, nor has he appointed a director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Both posts are expected to serve on the space council.

Trump's budgeting for NASA has marked a shift from President Barack Obama. He has called for cuts for 2018 that include funding for the agency's mission to send astronauts to an asteroid and several research programs studying climate change.

Trump did, however, pre-

serve funding to develop the agency's Space Launch System and Orion capsule, the rocket and vehicle intended to carry NASA astronauts into space in the future, including potentially for missions to Mars.

Pence's speech was attended by former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon; Florida Sens. Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio; state Attorney General Pam Bondi; and Adam Putnam, the agriculture commissioner and 2018 candidate for governor.

'Severe things' not likely to include military strike

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

A pre-emptive military strike may be among the "pretty severe things" President Donald Trump says he is considering for North Korea, but it's a step so fraught with risk that it ranks as among the unlikeliest options.

Even a so-called surgical strike aimed at the North's partially hidden nuclear and missile force is unlikely to destroy the arsenal or stop its leader, Kim Jong Un, from swiftly retaliating with long-range artillery that could kill stunning numbers in South Korea within minutes.

An all-out conflict could then ensue. And while Trump's Pentagon chief, Jim Mattis, says the U.S. would prevail, he believes it would be "a catastrophic war."

In Poland on Thursday, Trump said the time has arrived to confront North Korea.

"I don't like to talk about what I have planned, but I have some pretty severe things that we're thinking about," the president said. "That doesn't mean we're going to do them."

Trump didn't mention which "severe" options he is weighing following North Korea's July 4 test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. The administration has been reviewing its overall North Korea policy for months, having declared earlier attempts at "strategic patience" with the North to have failed. The administration has spoken about starving North Korea of cash for its nuclear program and getting other countries to add diplomatic and economic pressure.

But Trump and his aides

have not have ruled out the possibility of war with an adversary that is openly defying U.N. Security Council resolutions and threatening the United States.

"It's a shame that they're behaving this way," Trump said, "but they are behaving in a very, very dangerous manner, and something will have to be done about it."

Trump was referring to North Korea's test-launch Tuesday of an unarmed ballistic missile that for the first time demonstrated the range needed to reach U.S. soil. The ICBM was launched on a lofted trajectory so that it fell short of Japan. U.S. analysts calculated that if it is launched on a standard attack trajectory, the missile could reach Alaska. With further testing, they say, North Korea will achieve even longer ranges.

The missile launch created a new reality for the U.S. and its South Korean and Japanese allies, which already are in range of the North's missiles. With a population of more than 20 million, Seoul is in easy range of North Korea's massive array of artillery guns north of the Demilitarized Zone that forms a buffer between North and South. Japan could also be a target. Beyond the nuclear threat, the North also is believed to have chemical and biological weapons.

The U.S. has about 28,000 troops in South Korea, and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says about 300,000 U.S. citizens are in Seoul alone.

As of Thursday there were no outward signs of U.S. moves to put more air, ground or naval forces in South Korea.

Oregon officials approve measure requiring insurers to cover abortion

Associated Press

SALEM, ORE.

Insurance companies in Oregon would be required to cover abortions and other reproductive services at no cost to the patient regardless of income, citizenship status or gender identity under a measure approved Wednesday by lawmakers.

Oregon already has some of the most liberal abortion laws in the U.S., leaving out otherwise common requirements for waiting periods or spending limits on taxpayer funds.

The measure, which does offer some religious-based exemptions, comes as the federal government and other states are seeking restrictions on abortion services.

President Donald Trump earlier this year signed legislation allowing states to withhold federal family planning funds from Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. In May, the Texas Legislature approved a sweeping package of new abortion limits.

Oregon's legislation has been in the making for years

but was introduced in early March largely in response to Republican congressional leaders' earliest attempts to repeal former President Barack Obama's health care law, which includes minimum coverage requirements for birth control and other reproductive services.

The Democratic-controlled Oregon Senate approved the measure in a 17-13 vote along party lines. It now heads to Democratic Gov. Kate Brown.

In some states such as New York, abortions are cost-free if they're deemed medically necessary. The Oregon bill is unique, however, in that patients would have access to the procedure for virtually any reason, at any time, including sex-selective and late-term abortions.

The bill would also allocate almost \$500,000 over the next two years to expand cost-free reproductive health coverage, including abortions, to immigrants who are otherwise ineligible under the Oregon Health Plan.

Georgia police release names of father, four children killed

Associated Press

LOGANVILLE, GA.

Four young children and their father were found slain in a home outside Atlanta early Thursday, and police say the mother — now charged with their deaths — was the one who called 911 to report the killings.

The five were apparently stabbed to death. A fifth child, a 9-year-old girl, survived and was hospitalized with injuries described as serious, police said.

The woman was detained by police after the bodies were found inside the home in Loganville, Gwinnett County police Cpl. Michele Pihera told reporters at the scene. Police later charged 33-year-old Isabel Martinez with five counts of malice

murder, five counts of murder and six counts of aggravated assault.

"She was quickly taken into custody and right now she's at Gwinnett County Police Headquarters being interviewed," Pihera said. Police have not said whether she was injured but said she was cooperating with investigators, though they were not releasing the motive for the slayings.

Pihera confirmed that the 911 call came from an adult woman who was inside the home. Pihera says police believe the suspect made that call.

Pihera said the caller was speaking Spanish, which initially made it difficult for 911 operators to communicate with her. The county

sheriff's office said Martinez is being held for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement but didn't provide further details.

Early indications are that a knife was used to attack the five, though a medical examiner will make the final determination about the cause of death, Pihera said.

The hospitalized girl, Diana Romero, was in serious but stable condition Thursday evening, police said in a brief update on the case.

The four children killed have been identified as Isabella Martinez, 10p; Dacota Romero, 7; Dillan Romero, 4; and Axel Romero, 2. Their slain father was Martin Romero, 33, Pihera said.

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Jayne Bernard of Youngstown, a student at Cardinal Mooney High School, chips out of the bunker and onto the green on the 16th hole at Salem Hills Golf Course. She was competing in Thursday's Greatest Golfer of the Valley juniors qualifier.

DAVID DERMER
THE VINDICATOR

CLOSE CALL

Vitali edges Graham to qualify for championship

By GREG GULAS
sports@vindy.com

SALEM
EACH OF THIS YEAR'S FIVE Greatest Golfer of the Valley junior qualifying events has been highly competitive. But none have had a down-to-the-wire finish like Thursday's 17U boys showdown at Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Howland's Joey Vitali authored the day's best round (34-38-72), but had to wait for the remainder of the field to finish before officially earning a one-stroke victory over Warren JFK's Jimmy Graham (36-37-73) to advance to the championship round on July 21-22.

Dean Austalosh of Campbell Memorial (35-39-74) and Boardman's Bobby Jonda (38-37-75) were the other top finishers.

Jenna Vivo (38-37-75), a previous qualifier at Tam O'Shanter, won the 17U girls event which meant runner-up Gillian Cerimele (39-40-79) qualified for the finals.

In 14U girls, Jayne Bernard of Cardinal Mooney (44-47-91) was the only competitor. She already had qualified at Tam O'Shanter.

In 14U boys play, Kaiden Sykes (37-39-76) of South Range advanced with a three-stroke victory over Jacob Sylak (40-39-79).

Sylak already punched his finals ticket by winning the Pine Lakes qualifier on May 20.

Opening round of the 17U champion-

See GGOV, B4



John Papa of South Range follows through on his approach shot on the 10th hole at Salem Hills Golf Course. He competed in the 17U division.



See gallery for this story at vindy.com



THURSDAY'S QUALIFIERS

Advancing to the finals of the 2017 Juniors Greatest Golfer of the Valley tournament after Thursday's qualifier at Salem Hills are:

BOYS 17-U



Vitali

BOYS 14-U



Sykes

GIRLS 17-U



Cerimele



NIKOS FRAZIER | THE VINDICATOR

Scrapers starter Francisco Perez throws in the second inning of West Virginia's 5-0 victory on Thursday at Eastwood Field in Niles. Perez surrendered three runs in the first inning.

Scrapers blanked in NYPL showdown

By CHARLES GROVE
cgrove@vindy.com

NILES
Thursday's game between the top-two teams in the New York-Penn League didn't look that way as the West Virginia Black Bears shut out the Mahoning Valley Scrapers 5-0 at Eastwood Field.

West Virginia starter Ike Schlabach went six strong innings, allowing just two hits and one walk. He struck out four for the victory.

The Scrapers managed just three hits and struck out 11 times as opposed to two walks.

"Obviously we didn't swing the bats the way we wanted to," Scrapers manager Luke Carlin said. "I don't think we should accept the lack of bats today but overall this is the first game we've seen where we didn't have something going to be in the ballgame and we were a little bit out of it."

On the opposite end, Mahoning Valley starter Francisco Perez's pitching line didn't look great. He allowed five runs (four of them earned), six hits and two home runs in five innings.

See SCRAPERS, B4



See gallery for this story at vindy.com

W. VIRGINIA SCRAPERS 5
0

Next: Scrapers at Williamsport, today, 7:05 p.m.

Still minus Francona, Indians' bats roar

Associated Press

CLEVELAND
Edwin Encarnacion homered and matched a career high with four hits, All-Star Jose Ramirez hit a home run and had three RBIs, and the Cleveland Indians, playing their third straight game without manager Terry Francona, defeated the San Diego Padres 11-2 on Thursday night.

Francona remains hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic, where he has been undergoing tests to resolve the causes of him becoming light-headed over the past month.

The 58-year-old was hospitalized twice last month and doctors admitted him Tuesday, about one week after he began wearing a heart monitor.

Bench coach Brad Mills filled in again for Francona.

Josh Tomlin (5-9) allowed two runs in seven-plus innings. The right-hander retired the first 12 hitters before San Diego scored

See INDIANS, B3

WIMBLEDON

Mattek-Sands collapses with damaged knee

Associated Press

LONDON

The screams were startling.

Bethanie Mattek-Sands, a 32-year-old American who came to Wimbledon eyeing a fourth consecutive Grand Slam doubles title, fell to the grass when her right knee buckled as she moved toward the net in a second-round singles match Thursday.

She immediately clutched her knee and, down on the turf, wailed loudly, imploring for someone to "Help me! Help me!"

Her opponent, Sorana Cirstea, immediately climbed over the net to check on Mattek-Sands, who after about 20 minutes was removed from Court 17 on a stretcher and taken to a hospital.

"Her knee was in a very weird position. I've never seen anything like this, probably, except in the movies. And, yeah, I panicked a little bit, as well," Cirstea said. "Then I called for help, but no one was coming. Then tried to comfort her as much as I could. But, I mean, you could feel the pain."

The extent of Mattek-Sands' injury, which came in the third set's opening game, was not immediately known. But word quickly spread around the grounds, generating concern among players.

She's popular on tour, known for her gregarious personality, loud laugh and original fashion choices, including the stars-and-stripes knee-high socks she

See TENNIS, B4



Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States returns to Romania's Sorana Cirstea during their Women's Singles Match on day four at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on Thursday. Mattek-Sands, a 32-year-old American who came to Wimbledon eyeing a fourth consecutive Grand Slam doubles title, fell to the grass after suffering a knee injury and was taken to a hospital.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPORTS digest

SPORTS BY THE NUMBERS

4.5

Source: National League

GOLF

PGA TOUR THURSDAY'S SCORES AT THE OLD WHITE TPC White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. Purse: \$7.1 million Yardage: 7,286; Par 70 (34-36) First Round

WARREN Metro Ice grabbed an early lead on its way to Wednesday's 14-3 victory over Yellow Jackets.

Nick Capogreco and Nick Charans each had an RBI single in the first two innings.

Metro Ice scored five runs in the seventh inning as Cameron Carson, Matt Schultz and Vitto Petrillo delivered hits

DJ Morvay earned the win for Metro Ice.

Yellow Jackets had 11 hits. Dylan Duchek and John Stanko each collected multiple hits.

Junior Par-3 tourney set at Wick course

The Mill Creek MetroParks Par-3 Course at the James L. Wick Recreation Area will host the Second annual Junior Golf Tournament for ages of 5-13 on Thursday.

The 18 hole stroke play tournament will consist of three age divisions: 5-7, 8-10 and 11-13 for boys and girls. Tee times begin at 9 a.m.

Entry fee is \$10 and includes 18 hole greens fees, prizes for the winners and snack after the round. To register, contact the Mill Creek Wick Par-3 Course Golf Shop at 330-740-7114.

For more information, visit the website www.millcreek-metroparks.org.

South Range plans stadium open house

South Range High School will host a meet the team event and stadium open house on Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Lou Blaney Memorial scheduled for Saturday

Sharon Speedway will host the Ninth annual Lou Blaney Memorial on Saturday.

Featured will be Tony Stewart's Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions Sprint Cars and the Hovis Auto & Truck Supply Big-Block Modifieds.

Pit passes will go on sale at 3 p.m. A drivers meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. with Sprint engine starts at 6:15 and warm-ups at 6:30 with qualifying and racing to follow.

Adult tickets cost \$25. Advanced and reserved tickets are on sale by visiting SharonSpeedway.com. Pit passes cost \$35.

Sharon Speedway is owned by the Blaney, Weller, and Kirila families and is located on Custer-Orangeville Road ear the intersection of state Routes 7 and 305. For more information, visit the website at www.sharon-speedway.com or call 330-772-5481.

Clarett will speak at MEDCAMP event

Maurice Clarett will speak to MEDCAMP Health-a-Thon students on July 14 at 11:45 a.m. in Cook Alumni Hall on the NEOMED campus.

Brewers' lead on World Champion Cubs in the NL Central

Table with 4 columns: Player Name, Team, Points, and Goals. Includes players like Madeleine L. Sheils, Min-G Kim, Caroline Hedwall, Rachel Rohanna, Bronte Lae, Karine Icher, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Player Name, Team, Points, and Goals. Includes players like Lanto Griffin, Blake Adams, Bryan Bigley, Nick Rousey, Jamie Arnold, etc.

Lonnie Chisenhall, Indians outfielder, on the absence of manager Terry Francona:

"He interacts with the guys so much. It is a little different. It's a little quieter. There's a lot less cards to be played and things like that. That means a lot to guys, having that routine and being able to communicate with your manager. We're missing that."

TV & Radio

7 a.m. (GC) Golf: European Tour Irish Open.

7 a.m. (NBCSN) Tennis: Wimbledon.

8 a.m. (NBCSN) Cycling: Tour de France; Stage 7.

Noni (ESPN) Tennis: Wimbledon.

1:30 p.m. (GC) Golf: Web.com Tour LECOM Health Challenge.

1:30 p.m. (NBCSN) Auto racing: NASCAR Monster Energy Cup practice.

2 p.m. (MLBN) (Root) (WNIO-AM 1390) (WLLF-FM 96.7) MLB: Pirates at Cubs.

3 p.m. (GC) Golf: PGA Tour Greenbriar Classic.

4 p.m. (UHD) Volleyball: FIVB World League.

4:30 p.m. (NBCSN) Auto racing: NASCAR Xfinity qualifying.

5:30 p.m. (Root) MLB: "Inside Pirates Baseball."

6 p.m. (GC) Women's golf: LPGA Tour Thornberry Creek Classic.

6 p.m. (NBCSN) Auto racing: NASCAR Monster Energy Cup qualifying.

6:30 p.m. (ESPN2) NBA Summer League: Cavaliers vs. Bucks.

7 p.m. (FS1) Ultimate Fighter: Johnson vs. Gaethje.

7 p.m. (MLBN) MLB: Brewers at Yankees.

7 p.m. (SECN) Women's soccer. 7 p.m. (STO) (WKBN-AM 570) MLB: Tigers at Indians.

7 p.m. (WBBW-AM 1240) Baseball: Scrappers at Crosscutters.

8 p.m. (NBCSN) Auto racing: NASCAR Xfinity Series Alsco 300.

8:30 p.m. (ESPN) NBA Summer League: Clippers vs. Lakers.

8:30 p.m. (ESPN2) Softball.

9 p.m. (GC) Golf: PGA Tour Greenbriar Classic (recorded).

10:30 p.m. (ESPN2) NBA Summer League: Suns vs. Kings.

7:30 a.m. (GC) Golf: European Tour Irish Open.

8 a.m. (21) Cycling: Tour de France; Stage 8.

8 a.m. (ESPN) Tennis: Wimbledon.

8 a.m. (NBCSN) Auto racing: Formula One Austrian Grand Prix qualifying.

Noon (ESPN) Tennis: Wimbledon.

1 p.m. (GC) Golf: PGA Tour

Greenbriar Classic. 1 p.m. (Mav) Motocross.

1 p.m. (MLBN) MLB: Brewers at Yankees at Astros at Blue Jays.

3 p.m. (21) Track and field: IAAF Diamond League (recorded).

3 p.m. (27) Golf: PGA Tour Greenbriar Classic.

3 p.m. (GC) Golf: Web.com Tour LECOM Health Challenge.

3 p.m. (NBCSN) Auto racing: IndyCar qualifying.

3:30 p.m. (21) Motocross: AMA. 3:30 p.m. (Lif) Women's soccer: North Carolina vs. Seattle.

4 p.m. (ESPN) NBA Summer League: Wizards vs. Grizzlies.

4 p.m. (MLBN) MLB: Mets at Cardinals or Braves at Nationals.

4:30 p.m. (19) Soccer: USA vs. Panama. CONCACAF Gold Cup.

4:30 p.m. (21) Motocross: AMA. 5 p.m. (FS1) Drag racing: NHRA Chicago qualifying.

5:30 p.m. (GC) Women's golf: LPGA Tour Thornberry Creek Classic.

6 p.m. (ESPN) NBA Summer League: Trail Blazers vs. Jazz.

7 p.m. (19) (WNIO-AM 1390) (WLLF-FM 96.7) MLB: Pirates at Cubs.

7 p.m. (CBSSN) Arena football: Philadelphia at Baltimore.

7 p.m. (FS1) UFC.

7 p.m. (UHD) Volleyball: FIVB World League.

7 p.m. (WBBW-AM 1240) Baseball: Scrappers at Crosscutters.

7:30 p.m. (NBCSN) (WBBG-FM 106.1) Auto racing: NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Quaker State 400.

8 p.m. (ESPN2) Softball.

8 p.m. (ESPN) NBA Summer League: Heat vs. Spurs.

8 p.m. (FS1) UFC.

8:30 p.m. (ESPN) NBA Summer League: Celtics vs. Lakers.

9:30 p.m. (GC) Golf: PGA Tour Greenbriar Classic (recorded).

10 p.m. (CBSSN) L'Acrosse: MLL All-Star Game.

10 p.m. (ESPN2) CFL: Hamilton at Saskatchewan.

10 p.m. (ESPN) NBA Summer League: Rockets vs. Cavaliers.

10 p.m. (FS1) MLB: Reds at Diamondbacks.

10 p.m. (UHD) Volleyball: FIVB World League.

10:30 p.m. (ESPN) NBA Summer League: 76ers vs. Warriors.

Phoenix MMA SAN ANTONIO Ultimate Fighter 25 Finale: Johnson vs. Gaethje T-Mobile Arena-Las Vegas

LATEST LINE

Table with 4 columns: MLB National League, Odds, Underdog, and Points. Includes teams like Chicago Cubs, Philadelphia Phillies, Washington, etc.

Favorite Points 4 Underdog WINNIPIEG

OTTAWA Saturday Toronto SASKATCHEWAN 1 1/2 Hamilton

Favorite Points 2 Underdog Atlanta Indians

UPDATE

the rights to G Sterling Brown from Philadelphia for cash considerations. Signed D.J. Wilson, G Bronson Koenig and F Jed Lowrie.

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER - Acquired F Paul George from Indiana for G Victor Oladipo and F Domantas Sabonis.

PHOENIX SUNS - Signed G Davon Reed. SRAMENTO KINGS - Named Phil Ricci assistant player development coach.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS - Signed Derrick White.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL League KANSAS CITY CHIEFS - Signed LB Josh Mauga and S Steven Terrell.

HOCKEY NATIONAL HOCKEY League DALLAS STARS - Re-signed RW Brett Ritchie to a two-year contract.

DETROIT RED WINGS - Announced a five-year extension of their affiliation agreement with Grand Rapids (AHL) through at the 2021-22 season.

LOS ANGELES KINGS - Re-signed F Nick Shore to a one-year contract.

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS - Signed F Teemu Pulkkinen to a one-year contract.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS - Agreed to terms with G Philipp Grubauer to a one-year contract.

COLLEGE AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE - Promoted Patrick Colbert to senior director of sport administration and championships.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL Association CHICAGO BULLS - Re-signed F/C Leandro Felicio.

DENVER NUGGETS - Agreed to terms with F Tyler Lydon on a multi-year contract.

DETROIT PISTONS - Signed G Langston Galloway and C Eric Moreland.

INDIANA PACERS - Waived G Monta Ellis.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS - Acquired the rights to G Jawun Evans from Philadelphia for cash considerations.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS - Acquired head coach Joe Bornemiss at 330-531-2461 or send resume to joebornemiss@yahoo.com.

Valley Christian School - is seeking a junior high girls head volleyball coach. Those interested should send a resume to dcarroll@valleychristian.org.

South Range High School - is seeking high school and middle school wrestling coaches. Send cover letters and resumes to Don Ferren, South Range High School, 11300 Columbiana Canfield Road, Canfield, Ohio 44406.

Penn-Ohio Club Blue Storm - is looking for boys and girls AAU Basketball head coach and assistant coaches. For details, contact Justin Magestro at 724-813-7210.

14th annual Ursuline Football Youth Camp - will be Monday and Tuesday at the Tom Carey practice field. Cost is \$65 and each camper will receive an Under Armour sackpack, camp t-shirt and pizza on the last day. For more information, contact Coach Larry Kempe at 330-744-4563.

Mount Calvary Sons of Thunder - is accepting registrations for players and cheerleaders ages 5-13. Practice is held at Wilson Middle School, 1500 Gibson Street. For more information, call Ed Bolling at 330-747-4445.

Mahoning Valley Soccer Officials Association - is looking for people interested in becoming high school soccer referees. Those interested should contact Thom Sutcliffe at thute@aol.com.

Tod Park in Girard - will be where tournaments for 8U coach pitch, 10U and 12U all-star teams from Tuesday-July 16. Cost is \$25 per team with a three-game minimum. No travel teams. For more information, contact Rick Plant at 330-219-1610 or Bill Durkin at 330-307-5813.

Lady Spartans 14U travel team - will have tryouts on July 19 at 6 p.m. at Boardman High School. For more information, contact Marco Marinucci at 330-550-4492.

Maplewood High School - needs boys basketball coaches for seventh, eighth, ninth, junior varsity and assistant varsity. For more information, contact varsity

BASEBALL

Mahoning Valley at Williamsport, 7:05 p.m.

MINOR LEAGUES CLASS A

NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE

McNamara Division

West Virginia (Pirates) 11 6 .647

West Virginia (Pirates) 11 6 .647

West Virginia (Pirates) 11 6 .647

West Virginia (Pirates) 11 6 .647

THURSDAY'S BOXSCORE BLACK BEARS 5, SCRAPPERS 0

Table with 4 columns: Scrapper, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO

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Erie (Tigers) 40 44 .476

Richmond (Giants) 35 49 .417

Harrisburg (Nationals) 35 50 .412

Thursday's Games Richmond 6, Erie 5

At Fields of Dreams, Boardman

THURSDAY'S SCORES

BOYS

Girls

THE 5

Today's entertainment
picks:

1 St. Nicholas Greek Summer Fest, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.: Come for the Greek food specialties and stick around for musical entertainment by Mihalis Konitopoulos and Ta Filarakia at 6 p.m. The church grounds are at 220 N. Walnut St., near Choffin School, in Youngstown.

2 Slovenefest, noon to 11 p.m.: This very popular weekend features nonstop Slovenian polka music and much more at SNPJ Recreation Center, 270 Martin Road, just over the state line in Pennsylvania.

3 Fabulous Flashbacks, 7 p.m.: Rock cover band that was quite popular in Youngstown in the 1980s and '90s will reunite for a concert on Central Square, downtown. Admission is \$10.

4 Spider-Man: Homecoming: The web-slinging Marvel Comics superhero gets another go-round in movie theaters, and the reviews are glowing.

5 Dominic Tocco and Brotherhood, 8 p.m.: Local oldies dance band will keep it classy while you try your luck at Hollywood Gaming's Mahoning Valley Casino in Austintown.

BEST BETS ON TV

♦ **"THE GREAT BRITISH BAKING SHOW" (9 P.M., WQED-PBS):** It's all about delectable pastries and tarts on tonight's edition of "The Great British Baking Show." Please resist the urge to lick your TV screen.

♦ **TV LISTINGS, C3**

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

'Mary Wick' book author at SFA
NEW YORK
Lillian Reynolds Reeher, author of "Her Name Was Mary Wick," will be at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society's booth at the Summer Festival of the Arts on Youngstown State University's campus Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. for a book signing. The Historical Society will have copies of the book for sale. The MVHS booth is next to the Festival of Nations, near Maag Library.

Reeher published the book from a collection of Mary Wick's scrapbooks, which follow her life as a part of a prominent Youngstown family, including her time at Mount Holyoke College, the Chicago Institute of Art, Johns Hopkins University and back to Youngstown Hospital Association, where she became a medical illustrator.

For information, contact the Historical Society at 330-743-2589.

Kesha drops single from coming album

LOS ANGELES
Kesha has released her first new music in four years and announced a forthcoming album, her first since a high-profile legal battle with Dr. Luke over a lawsuit accusing the music producer of sexual assault and harassment.

Kesha has debuted "Praying," the lead single from "Rainbow," her first album since 2012's "Warrior." Co-written by Ryan Lewis, "Praying" features lyrics about overcoming adversity. In an essay for Lenny Letter, Kesha writes that the song is about "coming to feel empathy for someone else even if they hurt you or scare you."

Dr. Luke, whose real name is Lukasz Gottwald, has denied Kesha's allegations.

"Rainbow" is due out Aug. 11 and features appearances by Dolly Parton, Eagles of Death Metal and the Dap-Kings.

'The Beguiled' views the Civil War through female eyes



This image released by Focus Features shows Nicole Kidman, left, and Colin Farrell in a scene from "The Beguiled."

FOCUS FEATURES

Kidman and Coppola

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES

The intersection of Sofia Coppola and Nicole Kidman didn't start with "The Beguiled."

They'd met at parties in passing and had even tried to work together once on a project that fell apart. Coppola loved Kidman's wicked humor and Kidman loved Coppola's cinematic style and vision. So Kidman didn't hesitate to say yes when Coppola asked her to play the part of Miss Martha, the headmistress of a girls' school in the Civil War-era South that's thrown into disarray when they decide to take in



Coppola

a wounded Union soldier, in her retelling of "The Beguiled."

In fact, the two share more than might meet the eye — both are married to touring musicians, both have daughters around the same age and both have been having an incredible year professionally. Coppola became the first woman in 56 years to win best director at the Cannes Film Festival, and Kidman is enjoying widespread praise of both her film and television work.

The two women gathered recently in Los Angeles to discuss their film, which opens today at Shenango Valley Cinema in Hermitage, Pa., the awkwardness of directing a sponge

bath, and the reinvigorated support of women in Hollywood.

The remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

Q Is it a good time for women in Hollywood?

COPPOLA: I think right now I feel like there's a lot of talk about it with "Wonder Woman" being a big success, that's really exciting, and with our movie getting attention — it's a female cast, a female story.

KIDMAN: And that it's seen from the female perspective. I mean, this is very much from the vision of Sof, so that you see the film in terms how the women view it — the female gaze and not some ... It is important, and there's a shift and there's definitely some change happening. Is it enough? No. But you know we're all doing what we can, and we're fortunate to have the opportunities.

Q Miss Martha's sponge bath of Colin Farrell's character could have easily taken a different tone with a different director.

KIDMAN: I love how demure it is. Well, it's like it could have been much more. I just like how it's very real.

COPPOLA: It could have gotten really over the top. But I love that we really focus in on you taking in his body. She hasn't been around a man in so long. I think I was the most embarrassed shooting that scene. I'm sitting off camera and I was like, "Nicole, now can you wash his inner thigh?"

KIDMAN: And I'm staying completely in character. Colin is out, but not really.

Q There seems to be symmetry between this film and "Big Little Lies."

COPPOLA: When I saw the ending of "Big Little Lies" I thought there was a similar solidarity ... I think that is sweet how the women protect each other. And I think that is something about women. Don't you find that with your friends?

KIDMAN: Definitely. They always say there's a men's club but there is definitely a woman's club in terms of the secrets that are held and the way in which we interact. Particularly when you get older, I think your female friends become more and more — I mean, obviously we live longer!

Q Do you feel like there's a culture-wide re-evaluation and newfound appreciation of women like you who have been doing incredible work in Hollywood for years?

KIDMAN: I feel a warmth. I don't know if that's the time we're in or a need for it, but there's definitely, instead of tearing you down there's more encouragement and support. I don't know if that's real or if I'm just sensing it, but it's a lovely thing to be a recipient of and to be able to offer it as well.

COPPOLA: There's more openness to our stories.

At 70, Prine is still a songwriting hero

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, TENN.

John Prine is 70 years old but he is the hippest songwriter in Nashville and is still in demand. Prine has become an affable songwriting guru for many of Nashville's talented young artists, including country rebel Sturgill Simpson, Americana darlings Jason Isbell and his wife, Amanda Shires, and rocker Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys.

All those artists have lined up to open for Prine, when they are easily selling out their own venues as headliners.

"I have met some really great people in the last five years that it's easy to see that music in general is in good hands," Prine said in an interview from his office, which is decorated year round with Christmas lights and a white Christmas tree.

Prine published his first book in April, a songbook called "Beyond Words," which features guitar chords, family photos, handwritten or typed lyrics with his editing marks and witty musings alongside some of his most well-known songs, from "Sam Stone," "Angel from Montgomery," "Para-

dise," and "Hello in There." Prine's reinvigorated career came after neck cancer in the late '90s left him with a much lower and grittier voice. After his recovery, he just moved his songs to lower key.

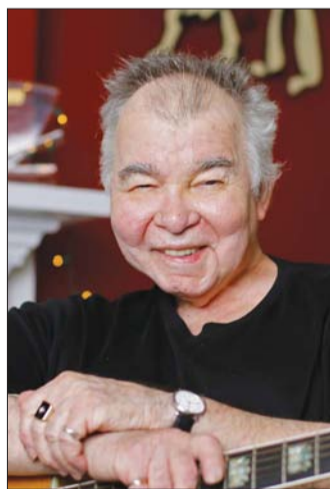
"Some of my oldest songs that I used to perform every night became brand spanning new just because I changed the key," Prine said.

He started his own record label Oh Boy in Nashville in the early '80s, which sold his CDs by direct mail to fans. He enjoys his independence from major labels, even if it has meant fewer sales. He says his only advice to young songwriters is don't give up their publishing rights in a record deal.

"I am not a big one for advice," Prine said. "I will tell them stories about things I have failed at or places I have stumbled and hope they take it as a parable. And maybe apply it to themselves and maybe not."

Auerbach and Prine wrote several songs together, including the title track for Auerbach's new solo album, "Waiting On a Song."

"It was like having a conversation really," the 38-year-old singer said.



John Prine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Belleria
NEW MIDDLETOWN

THURS: Queen of Hearts & Karaoke

FRI: Fish Dinner Special

SAT: Live Entertainment

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330-623-6200

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220 N. Walnut St. Youngstown, Oh (Across From The Choffin Career Center)

JULY 6TH, 7TH, 8TH, 9TH

THURS 11AM - 7PM FRI & SAT: 11AM - 10PM SUN: NOON - 6PM

Best Tasting Greek Food & Pastries In The Valley

MUSIC: FRI, SAT, & SUN

Direct From Greece!

Mihalis Konitopoulos

Singer & Violinist & Ta Filarakia

FRI & SAT 6-10PM

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Lunch Carryouts - 11:00-2:00

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SILENT AUCTION IN HALL



SAT 10-6
SUN 11-5
JULY 8TH
& 9TH

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PEANUTS



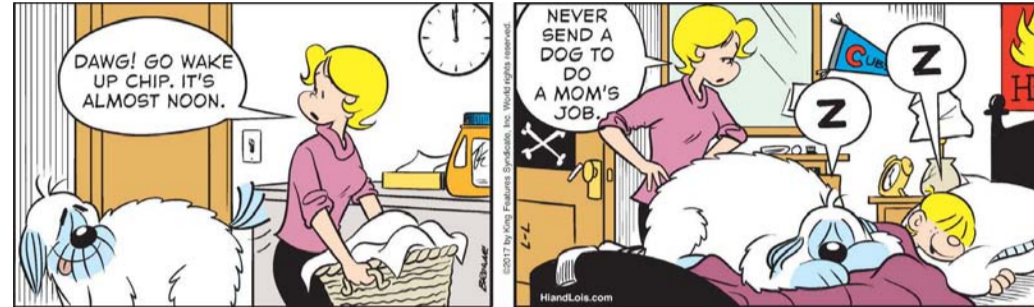
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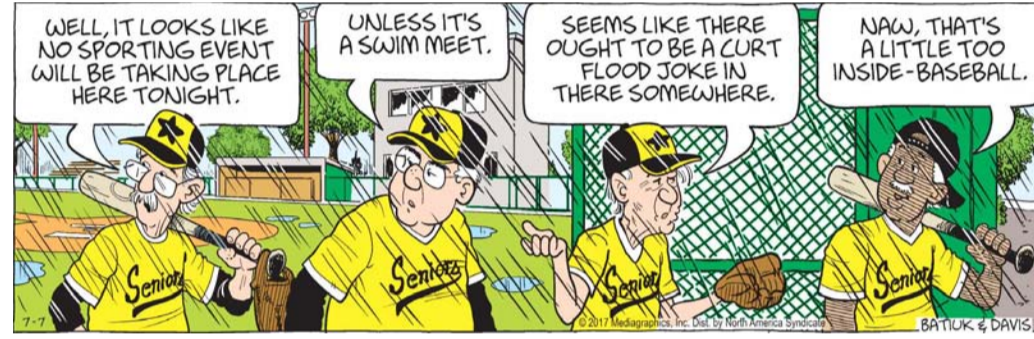
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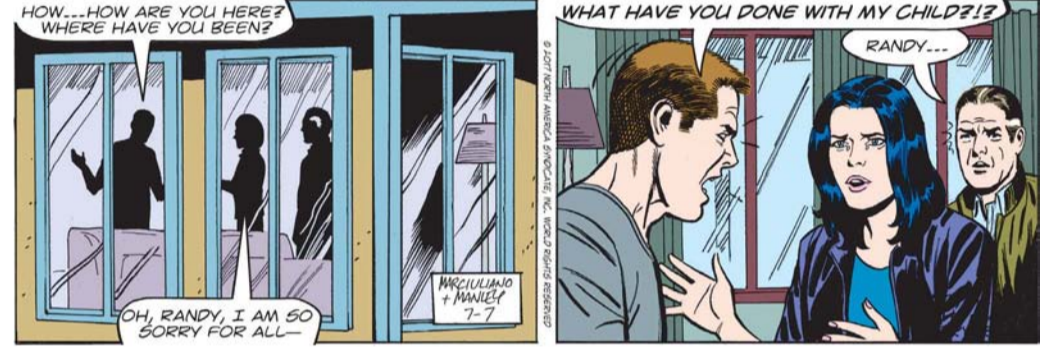
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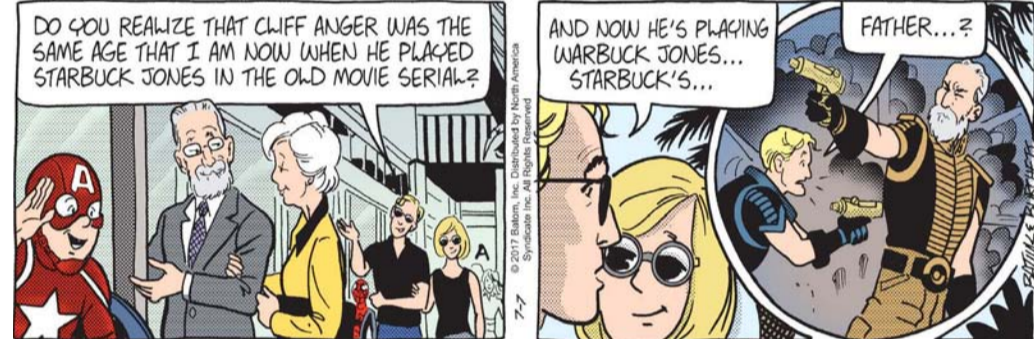
CRANKSHAFT



JUDGE PARKER



FUNKY WINKERBEAN



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THE MIDDLETONS



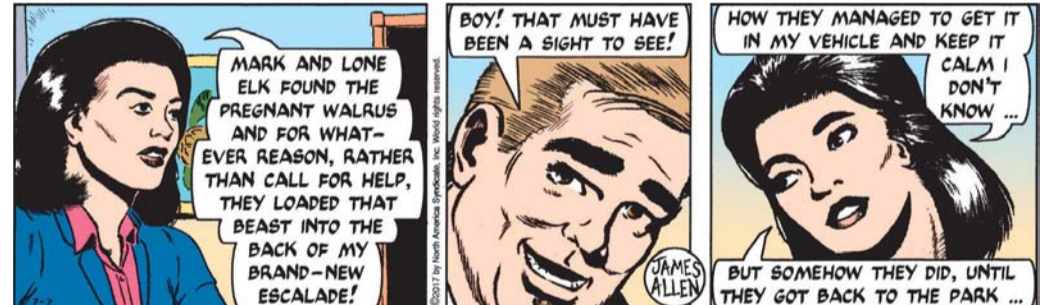
REX MORGAN, M.D.



GARFIELD



MARK TRAIL



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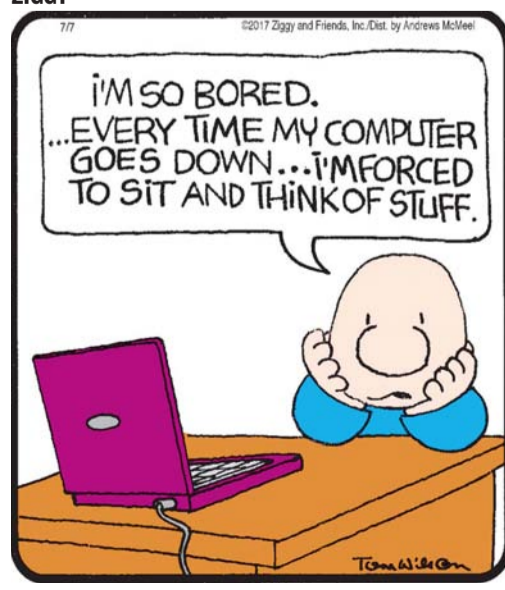
MARY WORTH



FAMILY CIRCUS



ZIGGY



DENNIS THE MENACE



MARMADUKE

