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SPORTS

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Pita Taufatofua

carries the flag of Tonga during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Friday, Feb. 9, 2018.

(AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

Cold medal: Shirtless Tongan grabs Olympic attention again

Pita Taufatofua has shown once again he's willing to give the shirt off his back for Tonga in Olympic conditions, whether it be sun, snow or shine.

Less than two years after shooting to international fame when he walked shirtless and oiled-up into the opening ceremony of the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, Taufatofua was bare chested again when he carried the Tongan flag into the opener of the Winter Games in Pyeongchang on Friday.

Taufatofua competed in taekwondo in Rio, and is back competing in cross-country skiing, despite representing a tropical south Pacific island nation where it doesn't snow.

Clearly, he considers himself a well-oiled machine.

"I won't freeze. I am from Tonga. We sailed across the Pacific.

This is nothing," he was quoted as saying by the Olympic news service. "It's a little bit warmer being in Rio than in here ... but anytime you get to represent your country is a good time."

Taufatofua only took up cross-country skiing last year, and left his Olympic qualifying late.

"It's the hardest thing I've ever done," he said. "Taekwondo is intense, someone's trying to kick your head in. Skiing, you have pain for an hour.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

(Courtesy Photos)



Serena Williams loses in doubles, US advances in Fed Cup



USA's Serena Williams watches the action during a match in the first round of Fed Cup tennis competition in Asheville, N.C., Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018. (AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — The first step in Serena Williams' comeback underscored how far she has to go after spending over a year away from the game.

In Williams' first competition since giving birth five months ago, she and sister Venus lost 6-2, 6-3 to Lesley Kerkhove and Demi Schuurs of the Netherlands in a Fed Cup doubles match Sunday. "I honestly feel better than I thought I was going to feel," she said.

The U.S. already had clinched a victory in the best-of-five event thanks to a pair of singles victories by Venus Williams, so this doubles loss merely narrowed the final score to 3-1. The U.S. advanced to a World Cup semifinal April 21-22 at France, which defeated Belgium 3-2 this weekend.

The clincher came Sunday when Venus Williams won the final five games in a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Richel Hogenkamp. The U.S. had taken 2-0 lead Saturday when Venus Williams beat Arantxa Rus 6-1, 6-4 and CoCo Vandeweghe rallied from a set and a break down to defeat Hogenkamp 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-3.

"Obviously this is an important moment, when you're playing not just for yourself but your other team members and your captain and your country," Venus Williams said. "It's definitely a different kind of pressure."

But this event was most notable for the return of Serena Williams, who hadn't played competitive tennis since winning the 2017 Australian

Open while pregnant for her 23rd career Grand Slam singles title, one off Margaret Court's record. Her only match since had come in a Dec. 30 exhibition.

Serena Williams' daughter, Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr., was wearing a headband with red and white stripes plus a blue coat Sunday as her father, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, held her just behind the players' bench.

"I didn't manage my time well, but I was thinking about it in the future how to manage it better," Serena Williams said. "This is literally my first time traveling with the baby and everything. I'm going to try to do better. It was hard. It was the first time for me."

Williams had said Friday that this weekend would represent "the start of a long process" as she tries to work her way back. Her pregnancy had complications that made this comeback particularly challenging.

Williams had told Vogue magazine that she developed several small blood clots in her lungs after her daughter was born Sept. 1. The article said that she was unable to get out of bed for the first six weeks after giving birth.

Her doubles match revealed the effects of her long time away from the game. Williams said she hadn't known what to expect Sunday and acknowledged she needs to improve in all aspects, but she added that "I feel like I'm on the right track."

"I didn't expect to have that much power on my serves, even though they didn't go in," she said. "It's just a start. I feel like that's a very good step in the right direction."

Netherlands captain Paul Haarhuis said a few more matches should help Williams correct the mistakes she made Sunday.

"I think she's going to be fine," Haarhuis said. "She's got the game, you know."

Williams' biggest challenge may be managing expectations as she attempts to work her way back into peak form while balancing tennis and motherhood.

Her goals remain as high as ever.

"I think if I walk out there with low expectations, then I need to stop doing what I do," she said. "So that's never going to happen for me. I'm always going to have the best and highest expectations for myself. I'm OK with that because that's just who I am."

Sunday's scheduled singles match between Vandeweghe and Rus was scrapped because the outcome of this event already has been decided.

After Venus Williams' singles victory Sunday, U.S. captain Kathy Rinaldi said the Williams sisters would be playing doubles together. The schedule originally called for Serena Williams to play alongside Lauren Davis.

In other Fed Cup action this weekend, the Czech Republic beat Switzerland 3-1 and Germany beat Belarus 3-2. Germany will host the Czech Republic in the other semifinal.

Russell leads No. 11 Lady Vols past No. 18 Georgia 62-46

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Mercedes Russell reached a milestone and was on the verge of another as No. 11 Tennessee dominated No. 18 Georgia 62-46 on Sunday.

Russell scored 13 points, leaving her one shy of 1,500 for her career, and grabbed 15 rebounds, making her the six Tennessee player to reach 1,000

boards.

Jaime Nared led the Lady Vols (21-4, 9-3), who have won four straight, with 15 points and Meme Jackson and Rennia Davis added 11 each.

Taja Cole and Mackenzie Ingram had 11 points apiece for the Bulldogs (21-4, 9-3), who have not won in Knoxville since 1996.

Davis closed the first quarter with a 3 for a 17-13 lead and the Lady Vols scored the first 10 points of the second quarter. After two Georgia free throws, Tennessee scored the next nine points and led 36-19 at the break. Georgia missed its first 14 shots of the second quarter.



Battle scores 34, Syracuse holds off Wake Forest 78-70

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Tyus Battle missed a slam dunk early in the second half for Syracuse. He didn't miss much else against Wake Forest.

Battle scored 34 points, Oshae Brissett added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and the Orange held off the Demon Deacons 78-70 on Sunday.

The sophomore guard started the game by scoring Syracuse's first seven points, then after the break scored 24 on 6-for-8 shooting and made all 11 free throws he attempted to help the Orange (17-8, 6-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) to an important victory.

Battle hit two free throws with 27 seconds left and followed that with a fast-break slam 12 seconds later after a block by Paschal Chukwu to secure the win. Wake Forest (9-16, 2-11 ACC) had erased most of a 14-point deficit and pulled within 65-63 on a layup by Bryant Crawford with 4:24 left to set up a tight finish.

"They got really hot, but that says a lot about our team," said Battle, who missed that dunk on the Orange's second possession of the second half.

"We knew they were going to make a run. Just had to keep on playing and weather their storm."

The Demon Deacons have won only twice since Dec. 18, but one of those victories came against Syracuse. Not on this day as the Demon Deacons fell to 0-7 on the road in conference play.

The difference in this one came at the free-throw line. Syracuse was 26 of 39 in an aggressive showing and Wake Forest 12 of 14 as the Demon Deacons were called for 26 fouls to 12 on the Orange. Battle alone attempted 13 free throws.

"We won this game because we got to the foul line 39 times, because we're driving the ball, making them commit fouls," Syracuse coach Jim Boheim said. "If we made our free throws, we would have won by 10 or 12 points."

During Wake Forest's seven-game skid in January, four of the losses were by double-digit margins. The Demon Deacons made this one close but ran out of time.

"I thought in the second half we came out and did a much better job moving the basketball, creating shot opportunities," Wake Forest coach Danny Manning said. "That gave us a chance to get back into the game."

Frank Howard had 12 points and nine assists with one turnover and Chukwu had seven points, 11 rebounds and three blocks for the Orange.

Crawford led Wake Forest with 24 points, Doral Moore had 16 points and 16 rebounds, and Mitchell Wilbekin had 13 points, all in the second half on 4-of-5 shooting from long range.

"I thought we did a better job of sharing the ball and also being aggressive," Wilbekin said. "A lot of times in that zone you get so passive. Wish we could have made a couple more. If we could play both halves like that, we would be OK."

After a miserable first half shooting from behind the arc, the Demon Deacons regrouped and torched the Orange for six 3-pointers in a span of just over three minutes to get back in a game they had trailed by 14 near the midpoint of the second half.

Wilbekin had four of the 3s and was fouled on the last one. His foul shot completed a four-point play and narrowed the Orange lead to 61-55 with 7:35 left.

A baseline runner by Keyshawn Woods, a slam dunk by Moore, and a layup by Crawford narrowed the gap to 65-63 with 4:19 to go.

Two free throws by Battle gave Syracuse a five-point lead with 3:15 left, but the Orange missed five straight free throws to give Wake Forest one more chance before Battle took charge in the final minute.

NUMBERS

Wake Forest entered the game averaging a solid 38.5 percent on 3-pointers. Against the Orange, who ranked fourth in Division I in field-goal percentage defense (38.4 percent), the Demon Deacons experienced an ice-cold first half. They missed their first nine tries from long range, an uncustomary performance for a team that has five players with at least 23 3-pointers. Crawford's 3 at the buzzer was a sign of things to come. Wake Forest hit 9 of 13 from behind the arc in the second half.

BIG PICTURE

WAKE FOREST: Despite its record, Wake Forest has been tied or led in the second half in 18 of 24 games.

The Demon Deacons scored the first basket of this game but never led again.

Their second-half performance from behind the arc bodes well for the stretch run of the season.

SYRACUSE: The Orange still have games against four ranked teams — Miami, North Carolina, Duke and Clemson — to improve their resume for a chance at a berth in the post-season. Syracuse entered Sunday's game with an RPI of 38.

Barcelona stumbles again, held 0-0 at home by Getafe



FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, second right, kicks the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Getafe at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018.

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

MADRID (AP) — Barcelona has hit a bit of a slump, and Atletico Madrid is edging back into the title race.

Barcelona stumbled for the second consecutive weekend in the Spanish league on Sunday, being held 0-0 by Getafe and seeing Atletico move within seven points of the lead.

Atletico cut into Barcelona's lead by defeating bottom side Malaga 1-0 on Saturday, extending its winning streak to three matches.

Diego Simeone's team hasn't been this close to the lead since last year, when the gap was at six points in the 16th round. Barcelona had an 11-point lead two rounds ago.

After needing a late equalizer to avoid defeat against crosstown rival Espanyol in the previous round, Barcelona couldn't find the net against midtable Getafe at Camp Nou Stadium.

Barcelona dominated but wasn't able to create many significant scoring chances, and when it got close it was stopped by Getafe goalkeeper Vicente Guaita.

Lionel Messi and Luis

Suarez, who had a goal disallowed for offside just before halftime, weren't at their best and could not break through the Getafe defense.

"You can't win every match you play and you can't be consistent all the time," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "We will have to work hard to win this league."

It was only the fifth time this season that Barcelona failed to score in all competitions. It hadn't gone without a goal at Camp Nou in the league since a scoreless draw against Malaga in November 2016.

"We played a great match," Getafe coach Jose Bordalas said. "You deserve a lot of credit when you hold Barcelona scoreless."

Getafe, 10th in the standings, has drawn four straight matches, losing only once in its last seven games.

Colombia defender Yerry Mina was in the starting lineup for his Liga debut. He had to play because Gerard Pique was injured and Samuel Umtiti suspended. Central defender Thomas Vermaelen also couldn't play because of injury.

Inconsistent in defense, Mina was a constant threat on set pieces in attack, nearly scoring with a header in the second half.

France forward Ousmane Dembele was back in action for Barcelona after recovering from his most recent injury, entering the match midway through the second half.

Defending champion Real Madrid routed Real Sociedad 5-2 at home on Saturday behind a hat trick by Cristiano Ronaldo, staying one point behind third-placed Valencia. Madrid is 17 points off the lead with a game in hand.

LOSING STREAK OVER

Valencia snapped an uncomfortable six-match losing streak by defeating city rival Levante 3-1.

Santi Mina, Luciano Vietto and Dani Parejo scored for the hosts, which hadn't won since the first leg of the Copa del Rey quarterfinals in January.

"This was important, it had been a long time since our last win," Mina said.

Levante, whose winless streak reached seven matches, complained of a goal disallowed when the score was 1-1.

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Canada helps No. 8 UCLA beat No. 25 Arizona State 71-63

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jordin Canada scored 16 points and Lajahna Drummer added 15 to lead No. 8 UCLA to a 71-63 victory over No. 25 Arizona State on Sunday.

Canada also had 10 assists and scored nine of her points in the fourth quarter to seal the win for the Bruins (21-4, 12-2 Pac-12). Monique Billings had 14 points and Michaela Onyenwere added 12.

Robbi Ryan led the Sun Devils (17-9, 8-6) with 14 points and Kianna Ibis and Courtney Ekmark added 13 points apiece.

UCLA has won 10 consecutive games and 12 of 13 and improved 11-2 at home this season. The Bruins have defeated the Sun Devils five consecutive times and have won 13 of their last 16 against ASU.

After trailing early, UCLA battled back and took a 19-18 at the end of the first quarter following a basket by Billings.

Kelli Hayes drilled back-to-back baskets to lead the Bruins on an 8-0 run to open the second quarter. UCLA upped its advantage to 35-25 following two free throws by Onyenwere at the 2:16 mark of the quarter and extended its lead to 41-29 at the break following a Billings' layup in the final seconds of the half.

The Sun Devils held UCLA to one basket over the final 4:13 of the third quarter and trimmed the lead to 54-49 following a free throw by Ryan with 1:13 left in the quarter. Arizona State got within 56-54 after a basket by Sophia Elenga with 8:21 to play, but the Sun Devils couldn't draw any closer the rest of the way as Canada took over.

BIG PICTURE

ASU: It was a lost weekend for the Sun Devils in Los Angeles. After winning three straight before coming to California, ASU lost to USC on Friday night and fell to UCLA on Sunday (20-4, 11-2 update).

UCLA: The Bruins and Oregon have four regular season games remaining, two at home and two on the road; Stanford has three road games and one home game remaining.

UP NEXT

ASU: The Sun Devils return home and will host Arizona on Friday.

UCLA: The Bruins travel to Oregon State to take on the Beavers on Friday.



Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook (0) drives to the basket as Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, in Oakland, Calif. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

Westbrook, Anthony out for Thunder vs. Grizzlies

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Thunder stars Russell Westbrook and Carmelo Anthony were ruled out of Sunday's game against the Memphis Grizzlies with sprained ankles.

Thunder coach Billy Donovan made the announcements during his pregame media session.

Westbrook has a sprained left ankle. He also missed Oklahoma City's loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday.

The All-Star point guard leads the Thunder with 25.5 points, 10.3 assists and 9.3 rebounds per game.

Anthony sprained his right ankle early in Oklahoma City's win over Golden State on Feb. 6, and he also sat out against the Lakers. The veteran forward ranks third on the team with 17 points per game.

Donovan said both entered the day as questionable and tried to be ready to play.

Jackson, Louis lead LSU over No. 14 Texas A&M women 80-78

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Chloe Jackson scored 27 points and Raigyne Louis added 26 and LSU upended No. 14 Texas A&M 80-78 on Sunday.

The Lady Tigers (16-7, 8-4) shot 53 percent in taking down their third Top 25 team in their past five games and joined the Aggies (19-7, 8-4) in a fifth-place tie in the Southeastern Conference.

Texas A&M got within 79-78 after a 3-pointer by Danni Williams with 17 seconds left. Louis made a free throw and LSU got the ball back after Khayla Pointer created a double team on Khaalia Hillsman and forced a jump ball. But a long inbounds pass went awry and the Aggies got a final chance.

Chennedy Carter drove the floor, hounded by Williams, and missed a hurried 3-pointer.

Hillsman scored 23 points, Williams 21 and Anriel Howard had 13 with 11 rebounds while Carter, the nation's leading freshman (21.5 ppg), scored just eight points.

The Aggies shot 57 percent but were outscored 18-4 off turnovers.



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No. 6 Cincinnati routs short-handed SMU for 16th win in row



Cincinnati forward Kyle Washington (24) attempts to pass the ball as he falls after colliding with SMU forward Akoy Agau (23) of Sudan as guard Elijah Landrum, right, defends in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018, in Dallas. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

DALLAS (AP) — Kyle Washington had 17 points with eight rebounds and No. 6 Cincinnati remained undefeated in American Athletic Conference play, stretching its overall winning streak to 16 games with a 76-51 victory over short-handed SMU on Sunday.

The Bearcats (23-2, 12-0 AAC) missed their first seven shots in the game, but were down only 5-2 when they finally scored just more than 3 minutes in on a dunk by Nysier Brooks. That started a 9-0 run that put them ahead to stay.

Jarron Cumberland had 12 points and Gary Clark 11 for Cincinnati, which finished 44 percent (28 of 63) overall from the field. Washington was 8-of-12 shooting.

Jimmy Whitt and Jahmal McMurray each had 19 points for SMU, which has lost three straight and seven of 10. It was still only the second loss for the Mustangs in 40 home games coached by Tim Jankovich. This was the most-lopsided loss by SMU (15-10, 5-7) in its five seasons as an AAC member. The previous low mark was a 76-56 loss at Cincinnati just a month ago, when the Mustangs still had a full roster.

SMU was down to six available scholarship players for the rematch with preseason AAC player of the year Shake Milton missing his third straight game because of an injured right hand. Freshman forward Ethan Chargois sat out

because of an ankle injury. Jarrey Foster (left knee) and Everett Ray (left foot) were already sidelined by season-ending injuries.

Cincinnati hit 11 of 13 shots during a stretch after halftime stretching its 11-point halftime lead to 62-27 midway through the second half.

BIG PICTURE

Cincinnati: The Bearcats now have their longest winning streak in coach Mick Cronin's 12 seasons. Cincinnati got to SMU last February also with a 22-2 record and a 15-game winning streak. The Mustangs won the matchup of ranked teams 60-51, but Cincinnati still went on a 30-win season.

SMU: Despite three wins over teams ranked 14th or better, the fade in conference play has been dramatic for a team already mathematically eliminated from a chance to defend its AAC title. Getting back to the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row has also become more of a longshot each day.

UP NEXT

Cincinnati plays Thursday at Houston, which 80-70 to the Bearcats on Jan. 31. They have three straight home games after that.

SMU is home against Memphis and looking for its seventh straight win in that series.

Woolfolk's sparks No. 12 Florida St. women past Miami 91-71

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — Imani Wright scored 21 points, Nausia Woolfolk missed a triple-double by a rebound and No. 12 Florida State defeated rival Miami for the sixth straight time on Sunday, 91-71.

Woolfolk finished with 18 points, a career-high 10 assists, nine rebounds and four steals. Shakayla Thomas added 19 points for the Seminoles (21-4, 9-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) and Chatrice White scored 14.

Wright's 3-pointer — she had four to give her 86 this season — in the final minute of the first quarter gave FSU a 28-18 lead. Thomas and White had 3-point plays and five points

in a 14-0 run early in the second quarter that had the lead at 24.

The Seminoles shot 55 percent (34 of 62) and had a 43-29 rebounding advantage.

The Hurricanes (17-8, 7-5), who shot 42 percent (25 of 59), got 21 points and 12 rebounds from Erykah Davenport.

No. 23 NC State downs rival N. Carolina 73-54 behind Konig

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Aislinn Konig scored 18 points and Chelsea Nelson scored 11 with a season-high 16 rebounds and No. 23 North Carolina State beat North Carolina 73-54 on Sunday.

Armani Hawkins added 14 points and Kiara Leslie scored 11 for the Wolfpack (20-6, 9-4 Atlantic Coast Conference).

North Carolina led 15-14 after the first quarter before the Wolfpack broke it open in the second and outscored the Tar Heels, who missed 12 of 15 shots, 20-6. NC State took control with an 11-2 run with Kaila Ealey scoring six.

Jaime Cherry's jumper brought the Tar Heels within 27-21, but NC State closed the half with a 7-0 run when Hawkins made a 3-pointer and a layup and Nelson made two free throws. The Wolfpack kept the pressure on shooting 8-of-15 including 3 of 5 3s in the third period.

Paris Kea led North Carolina (14-11, 4-8) with 21 points, Janelle Bailey added 13 and Cherry 11.

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Truth is: Cavaliers beat Celtics 121-99 on Paul Pierce’s day

BOSTON (AP) — LeBron James quieted a Celtics crowd that came to celebrate Paul Pierce on Sunday, scoring 24 points with 10 assists and eight rebounds to give new-look Cleveland a 121-99 victory over Boston in an individual performance reminiscent of the rivalry’s heyday. And this time, Pierce was sitting courtside in street clothes, unable to do anything about it. James shook off a first-quarter leg injury to score 13 in the second quarter — eight of them during a 13-2 run that turned a one-point deficit into a double-digit lead. The Celtics made it 64-55 on the first basket of the third quarter but never got within 10 again.

As the Cavaliers opened a 27-point lead midway through the fourth, the crowd began chanting “We want Paul Pierce!” But he remained in his baseline seat, awaiting the post-game ceremony that would raise his No. 34 to the TD Garden

rafters — the 23rd person in the history of the NBA’s most-decorated franchise to be so honored. The current Celtics, who have spent much of the season in first place in the East, could have used him.

Terry Rozier scored 21 with nine assists and Kyrie Irving scored 18 against his former team before sitting out the fourth quarter as the game became a blowout. The Celtics have lost three of four to fall behind Toronto in the Eastern Conference playoff race; the Cavaliers, who have won three straight, are 5½ games behind Boston. In their first appearances for Cleveland since being acquired at the trade deadline, Jordan Clarkson scored 17 and George Hill had 12 points.

Pierce watched the game from a baseline seat, under the basket where the Celtics scored 42 points in the fourth quarter of Game 6 of the finals to clinch their 17th NBA championship. On the other side of the basket were former coach Doc Rivers and former teammates Kevin Garnett, Rajon Rondo and Antoine Walker.

Timeouts featured tribute videos from Rivers, Magic Johnson, Kobe Bryant and Pierce’s college coach, Roy Williams.

JAMES INJURY

James banged into Aron Baynes in the lane with about five minutes left in the first quarter and hobbled off the court, favoring his right leg. He came back in with nine minutes left in the half and hit a jumper to tie it 40-all before his outburst that helped the Cavs pull away. He sat out the fourth quarter, losing the chance for an 11th triple-double this season, and third straight.

IT SUPPORT

The trades mooted a mini controversy over whether the Celtics would honor Isaiah Thomas in his return to Boston. A fan favorite during his two-plus seasons in green, Thomas was traded last summer in the deal that brought Irving to the Celtics. Thomas balked at being recognized on his first visit back with the Cavaliers because he was injured. And Pierce balked at sharing the stage with him on Sunday, Cleveland’s only other trip to Boston.

But Thomas was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers at the deadline, meaning he isn’t scheduled to return to TD Garden this year.

SMART UPDATE

Celtics coach Brad Stevens said Marcus Smart continues to recover from a lacerated right hand, which has kept him out since he cut his hand on broken glass at the team hotel on Jan. 24 and needed stitches to close the wound.

“Not going to expect to see him on Wednesday night,” Stevens said. “Hopeful that he will be back and ready to go after the All-Star break. But we’ll see.”

Boston Celtics’ Kyrie Irving drives past Cleveland Cavaliers’ LeBron James (23) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)



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Dedmon powers Hawks past Griffin, Pistons 118-115



Atlanta Hawks guard Dennis Schroder (17) is defended by Detroit Pistons guard Ish Smith (14) in the first half of an NBA basketball game on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018, in Atlanta.
(AP Photo/Todd Kirkland)

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta. Dewayne Dedmon gave Atlanta the lead with a three-point play and then padded the margin with a 3-pointer, lifting the Hawks to a 118-115 win over Blake Griffin and Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

Dedmon matched his career high with 20 points and had 13 rebounds in his matchup with Andre Drummond, who had 25 points and 15 rebounds for Detroit.

Dennis Schroder had 23 points, including six free throws in the final 20 seconds, for

Dedmon's three-point play gave Atlanta a 109-107 lead with 1:34 remaining. Following a missed jumper by Jameer Nelson, Dedmon sank a 3-pointer from the corner to push the lead to five points.

Griffin, who had 23 points, answered with a 3-pointer for Detroit. Schroder made two free throws for a 114-110 lead. Griffin's layup cut the Atlanta lead to two points before Schroder added two more free throws with 9.2 seconds remaining for a 116-112 advantage.

ATTENTION!!

Island-Wide Territorial Spelling Bee will be held on Wed, Mar. 7, 2018



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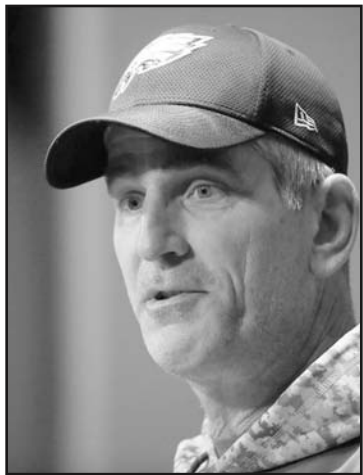
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Colts hire Frank Reich as new head coach



FILE - This Dec. 12, 2017 file photo shows Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Frank Reich speaking with members of the media during a news conference at the team's NFL football training facility in Philadelphia. The Indianapolis Colts have hired Reich as their new head coach. Team officials made the announcement Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018. Reich is expected to be introduced at a news conference Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke, file)

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts' second choice for head coach could turn out to be even better than the first.

And Frank Reich has the Super Bowl championship gear to prove it.

Five days after New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels reneged on a deal to take the Colts' job, Ballard hired Reich, the man who outwitted McDaniels last week and helped lead the Philadelphia Eagles to their first NFL title since 1960.

"Frank is a leader of men who will demand excellence from our players on and off the field," Ballard said in a statement released Sunday. "I look forward to working with Frank to deliver a championship-caliber team to the city of Indianapolis."

Terms of the deal were not immediately available, but Reich is expected to be introduced at a news conference Tuesday.

Colts officials posted a photo of Reich signing the deal on the team's website.

The move ends a search that spanned 41 days, included two coaching announcements and the embarrassment of McDaniels changing his mind Tuesday night just eight hours after telling the Colts he'd take the job. On Wednesday, Ballard answered questions for nearly 20 minutes before finishing with "the rivalry is back on."

By hiring Reich, another touted offensive coordinator

and a potential leading candidate next season, only added another chapter to the long and bitter series. Exactly one week after backup quarterback Nick Foles executed an exquisite game plan to beat Tom Brady and the favored Patriots, the Colts brought back a longtime assistant who spent two seasons working with Peyton Manning.

But this wasn't just about sending a message.

"Frank has all the ingredients of a successful head coach: intelligence, innovation, character, organizational and leadership skills, and a commanding presence," team owner Jim Irsay said. "He also has a stellar reputation, and his myriad of life experiences and the people he has worked with make him the perfect fit for us and our fans. I feel extremely fortunate and could not be more excited for Colts Nation and the future of our franchise."

It sure didn't take long to make the decision.

Ballard interviewed the 56-year-old Reich on Friday, the day after Philadelphia held its victory celebration.

He replaces Chuck Pagano, who was fired hours after finishing the season with a 4-12 record and missing the playoffs for the third consecutive year.

Ted Potter outplays Dustin Johnson and wins Pebble Beach



Ted Potter Jr. holds up his ball after making a birdie putt on the fourth green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Ted Potter Jr. outplayed the world's No. 1 player and held off everyone else to win the AT&T Pebble Beach National for his first victory since a broken ankle nearly ended his career.

Potter holed a chip from behind the green for birdie on the par-3 seventh hole to build a two-shot lead over Dustin Johnson, and he didn't make another mistake the rest of a

breezy afternoon at Pebble Beach.

He closed with a 3-under 69 for a three-shot victory over Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Jason Day and Chez Reavie.

Johnson lost a share of the lead with a tee shot that sailed over the cliff on the par-3 fifth and never caught up. Johnson completes one full year at No. 1 in the world next week.

Valparaiso beats short-handed Valparaiso 74-58

VALPARAISO, Ind. (AP) — Bakari Evelyn scored 22 points with four 3-pointers, Max Joseph had 10 of his 12 points in the second half and Valparaiso beat short-handed Illinois State 74-58 on Sunday.

Valpo had a 51-49 lead before breaking the game open with a 19-5 run for a 70-54 lead with 2:30 to go. Evelyn made three 3-pointers during the spurt and Markus Golder added five points.

Golder finished with 16

points and Tevonn Walker had 14 points, six rebounds five assists and three steals for Valparaiso (14-14, 5-10 Missouri Valley Conference).

William Tinsley led Illinois State (14-13, 8-7) with 13 points. Milik Yarbrough, averaging 16.4, was held to 10 points on 4-of-13 shooting, but he also had 10 rebounds and five assists. Keyshawn Evans, averaging 15.6 points, and Phil Fayne (15.5) were both out with injuries for the Redbirds.



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) RFP-024-2018

Issuance Date: January 16, 2018

Date & Time Due: February 16, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:
"Development of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the American Samoa Government"

Submission

Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **"RFP-024-2018: Development of CEDS for the ASG."** Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), February 16v, 2018:

Office of Procurement
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened or considered and will be determined as being non-responsive.

Document

The RFP Scope of Work outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

Review

Request for Proposal data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement, ASG.

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Government or the public.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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SPACIOUS 4 BDRM HOUSE Available for rent in Alega. Call 258-1032, 258-1745 or 622-7101. [2/16].

2 BDRM APARTMENT Available now a Tumu's Apartment in Tafuna Ottoville also a Studio 1 BDRM also a single room available now. Please call 699-9603, 258-7260 for more information. [2/20].

2 BDRM APARTMENT; Secure, Quiet, Private location behind Tradewinds Hotel. Call 272-0202 or 272-3550. [02/23]

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PRIVATELY-OWNED 3-5 BEDROOM HOME Located in a secluded, away-from-the-main road area preferably gated and in Ilili, Vaitogi, Tafuna or Nu'uuli area. Contacts: 733-9841 04 770-1560. [2/7].

LOST

ELECTRONIC KEY FOR A NISSAN ROGUE; was lost (or mistakenly picked up) around/in the Koko Bean Restaurant on Saturday, Feb 3rd. Pls if found, contact 633-5599 and ask for Evaga. [02/09]

HELP/JOBS

SEAMSTRESS needed. Please call 252-2165 or 7312514. [02/08]



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THE American Samoa LEGAL AID (ASLA) will hold a FREE legal workshop on Small Estates at the ASLA Office in Pago Pago on Tuesday, Feb 13th from 2pm - 3pm. For more information, please call 633-3300-633-3301. [02/13]

FAUTUAGALE TOTOGIA mai le Ofisa e fesoasoani Fa'aletulafono i Pago Pago i le Aso Lua, Febuari 13, 2018 i le 2-3 i le afiafi. Mo nisi faamatalaga, valaau le 633-3300/3301. [02/13]

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICAN SAMOA: Do you have available time on your hands? Do you like to help others? No matter what you're good at or what you are willing to learn, we have place for you. Receive valuable training and make a difference in your community. Join the team and become a mentor, a tutor, an advocate, helping others. Call Mona Uli to register 258-4957.

ARE YOU UNDER 18 AND NEED A PLACE TO STAY? Do you feel unsafe at home? Call 699-4357 (HELP) or message us on Facebook @PasefikaYouthProject. All contacts and information are strictly CONFIDENTIAL. Remember to call 911 if you have an emergency.

MANA COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE is now holding support groups for people who suffer from mental illness or any form of disability. Join me every Friday @ 12Noon @ the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. For more info call Liz Mailo @ 272-3257 or 699-0272.

FEELING ALONE? Come to SURVIVORS TAKING ACTION THROUGH SHARING, a support group for victims of violence (physical or sexual). Join me every Thursday at 12:00 noon @ the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. You don't have to do it alone. For more info, call Liz Mailo @ 272-3257 or 699-0272.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORK. A parent to parent support group for families with children with disabilities. Contat Sandy 731-3959 (English), Ivorie 770-6678 (Samoan).

SAMOAN SAINTS ORGANIZATION Roadside Clean Up on the 21st and 29th of this month until the end of the year. All are welcomed. Meet in front of Lupelele Elementary School, 5:30pm, rain or shine. Do it for our beautiful island. Contact Jay @ 254-0651 for more info.

URGENT HOMES NEEDED FOR ADULT DOGS being trapped at Lyons Park!! Majority of adult dogs trapped are healthy & very friendly but will be humanly euthanized if no one claims them after 48 hours of being held. PLEASE HELP! Call Mona at 258-4116 or 699-9445.

ASOA General Meetings. Will be held each month on the 3rd Friday at 10am at ASOA Center in Tafuna on Tasi St. All seniors welcome. Questions, call 699-1131

WHEELCHAIRS Old, Battered or Banged up. Pls donate, in any condition to ASOA so we may be able to help someone in need. Call Marysita 770-1838 or 699-1131

SCUBA FISHING BAN It is unlawful to possess any spear while using SCUBA. Marine & Wildlife Resources. 633-4458 / 252-0445.

WOMENS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS of all ages to help in the Fale. Support your hospital, donate your free time by calling 633-1222 Ext. 199. All proceeds from Fale sales donated to purchase equipment for LBJ.[till]

HUNTING BAN ON WILD BIRDS & BATS is still in effect - it is unlawful to kill or hunt wild birds & bats. Dept. of Marine & Wildlife 633-4458 / 252-0445

USED MOTOR OIL? Take it to a LUBE CUBE. Drop off used motor oil at a service station near you. Protect the land, protect our drinking water. ASEPA 633-2304.

HURTING? ABUSED? Free peer-to-peer teen counseling at Teen Challenge for peer pressure, suicide prevention, drug & alcohol prevention. TC open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. 699-2635/258-8298 Teen Hope 699-7729(PRAY).



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Sun. (1230 PM 400 PM) 700 P

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy Parker February 12, 2018

ACROSS

- 1 "___ Darn Cat!"
5 Small arguments
10 Unenviable destiny
14 Dingle Bay site
15 Synagogue book
16 "Need anything ___?"
17 From a distance
18 Antitheft device
19 Favoritism or prejudice
20 Loanable Halloween material?
23 Nervous
24 Recant
25 Trophies and such
28 Grounded measure?
30 Indian garment
31 Detest
33 Like slick winter roads
36 Disapprove of nearly everything?
40 A farm abode
41 Dental filling
42 ___ Bator, Mongolia
43 Dog command
44 Nears midnight
46 Love at the Eiffel Tower

- 49 Not frozen or canned
51 Mistaken bits of wood?
57 Yet another time
58 Cracks the books
59 Eye part
60 Sinatra or Turner
61 Star's little turn
62 Drip through cracks
63 "___ does it"
64 Cause of insurance fraud
65 ... candle at both ___

DOWN

- 1 Bluish-green hue
2 Record player
3 Middle East native
4 Places to observe plants
5 Activates
6 "Graph" starters
7 "The Sheik of ___" (song)
8 Edible Tahitian root
9 Oafish sort
10 Make fillets
11 Miscellaneous assortments
12 City of Japan

- 13 Disheveled
21 Connecting word
22 Common pack animal
25 Makes requests
26 Be stalled in a line
27 Highfalutin'
28 Ship-to-shore call?
29 It's corny
31 With skill
32 Squeezing creature
33 Not busy
34 Extended family
35 Strong longings
37 "Glycerine" start
38 Type of lab or fingerprint
39 Old place to go?

- 43 Place of many heroes?
44 Teacher's teaching
45 Thing on your butt?
46 Let up, as rain
47 Frenzy
48 Foretelling signs
49 Gets all frothy
50 Event with clowns
52 Huge sea creature
53 "B.J. and the ___"
54 Bakery mainstay
55 Like a propped ball
56 Gullible victims

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

O	O	P	S	R	A	F	T	S	F	E	L	L
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EUGENIA LAST

Monday, February 12, 2018

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



Happy Birthday: The more discreet you are, the easier it will be to get things done. Refuse to let anyone drag you into his or her dilemma. Concentrate on being your best. Set realistic goals and take precise action to avoid setbacks and frustration. Use your intellect to guide you in a direction that honors hard work, dedication and long-term success. Your numbers are 1, 13, 20, 23, 36, 38, 43.

- ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Make moves for the right reasons. Acting on impulse instead of foresight will lead to a mistake that will be difficult to rectify. An intelligent assessment of the situation you are facing will pay off.***
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Expand your interests to include skills and knowledge that can complement what you already have to offer. Slowly explore options that can be applied to help others. Your input will lead to advancement. Change should begin within.*****
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Easy does it. Only take on what you know you can handle. If you overstep your bounds, someone will let you know. Change will cause controversy. Have a backup plan ready to implement. Learn from your mistakes.***
- CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Stop worrying about what everyone else is doing and start making plans to engage in the activities and events that entice you. Use your imagination and you will come up with a plan that enhances your personal life and relationships.***
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** It's up to you to bring about change. Use your knowledge to overcome excessive behavior or to ensure that you don't let generosity leave you low on funds. Focus on equality when dealing with partnerships of any kind.***
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** It's up to you to bring about change. Do what suits you, not what someone else wants you to do. Following in someone else's footsteps instead of branching out and doing your own thing will be a letdown.*****
- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't count on inside help. You'll meet with opposition if you make changes at home. Get involved in activities or events that allow you to use your intelligence. A short trip or unusual purchase will be enlightening.*
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stay focused on what you can realistically accomplish. Your input will help to temper what's going on around you. Accept change as part of a necessary process. Don't put blame where it doesn't belong.*****
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Ease into your day. Keep past experience in mind so you know what to watch out for when dealing with friends and relatives. Patience and common sense will be necessary. Honesty is encouraged, even if it hurts.***
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Personal achievements are highlighted. Spend more time honing your skills, updating your image or looking for a unique way to make money using your talent, experience and knowledge. Don't follow others -- do your own thing.***
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Walk away from temptation. Know your limits and stick to what works best for you. Change can be good as long as you stick to what you know is doable and say "no" to unrealistic ventures. Know your boundaries.***
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Use your intuitive insight to help those less fortunate. What you offer others will be rewarding, but don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. Know your limitations and don't let anyone deprive you of peace of mind.*****



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

MEDICINAL MARIJUANA USER IS SHUNNED BY HUSBAND'S FAMILY

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law found out I smoke marijuana. I have a medical card and some mental disabilities. Marijuana helps with my anxiety.

Although we live near each other, my in-laws now say they don't want me in their homes. The stress this has put on my husband is unfair. His brother obviously has a problem with me.

I never discuss marijuana with anyone and don't carry it around with me. I use it only in the privacy of my home. How should I expect my husband to handle holidays or even regular get-togethers? I really need help. -- UNFAIR IN NEVADA

DEAR UNFAIR: Medical and recreational marijuana are legal for adults in the state of Nevada. I wish you had mentioned how your brother-in-law learned you are using it. That it is being used as an excuse to isolate you is cruel.

How your husband chooses to handle further contact -- or lack of it -- with his relatives will be his personal decision. Not knowing how close they have been, I can't guess what his next step should be -- except to point out that his first loyalty should be to you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a sophomore in high school, and I need some boy help. I go to a small school, where there are only 60 sophomores, and we're all pretty close.

There's this one guy that I kind of like, but I don't know how to strike up a conversation with him. I know I could ask him for rides to places, since he can drive and I can't yet.

My problem is I have no classes with him this year, so I can't do any of the "can you help me with homework" or "did you understand this concept" flirting. He invites me to his parties, but he does that with almost everyone. I know this is a bit of a random jumble of a letter, but I'm hoping for advice on how to start a conversation, especially because we share no classes. -- SMALL SCHOOL PROBLEM

DEAR SMALL SCHOOL PROBLEM: Discuss current events, pop culture or school activities. Tell him about things you like. Because many high school-age boys are interested in sports, find out which ones he's interested in and ask questions about those. Unless he's sports-averse, I can almost guarantee it'll generate conversation.

DEAR ABBY: Today I received the best news ever. My son and his wife are expecting their first child. I am beyond happy for them.

I was so excited, I couldn't wait to tell my husband. His reaction? "Don't tell me 'Cathy' is pregnant! I hope your son will be able to support it!" "IT" is my future first grandchild -- and my husband's first (step-)grandchild. My son and his wife do very well financially. He has a great job and is up for a promotion. I always feel like no matter what I say, my husband always has to put a negative spin on it. Or am I overreacting? -- HAPPY GRANDMA-TO-BE

DEAR HAPPY: Your husband either has a questionable sense of humor or enjoys putting people down. Surely you knew this before you married him, so rather than dwell on it, choose not to let him rain on your parade.

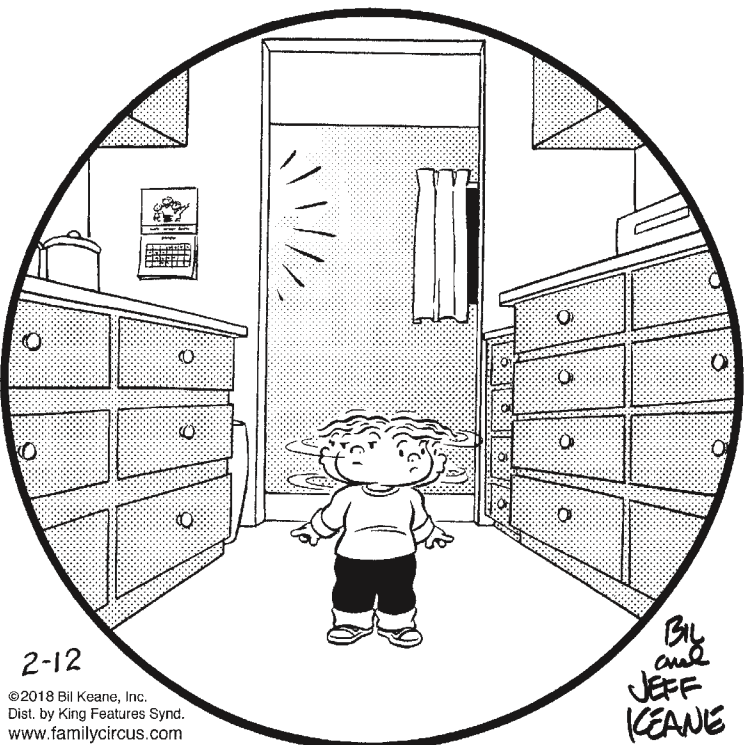
2/12

MY MISTAKE By Timothy E. Parker

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63				64					65			

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Hurry up, Jeffy! It's right there in the middle drawer!"

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Ripley's Believe It or Not!

SIGN HERE!

EMPLOYEE PETS REGISTERED AT BLIZZARD—THE COMPANY BEHIND "WORLD OF WARCRAFT"—MUST SIGN A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT PROMISING NOT TO REVEAL ANY SECRETS.

ARTIST CHRIS BROWN OF TEXAS PAINTS VIBRANT SPORTS PORTRAITS DESPITE BEING COLOR-BLIND.

Submitted By Richard Gibson, Lafayette, LA.

2-12

Distributed by Andrews McMeel for UFS.

Calvin & Hobbes®

by Bill Watterson

LOOK, I'LL TRANSMOGRIFY YOU BACK TO A TIGER IF YOU'LL TRANSMOGRIFY ME BACK TO A KID, OK?

OK.

ZAP

AHH, THAT'S MUCH BETTER.

NOW DO ME.

CLICK...CLICK...CLICK

WHAT'S WRONG?? I'M NOT TRANSMOGRIFYING!

BOY, I'M GLAD WE DID ME FIRST.

PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schultz

2/12

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THAT'S REALLY FUNNY!

I MEAN, YOU NEVER THINK OF THINGS LIKE THAT GOING ON AT WORM SCHOOL..

2-12

HERE COME THE TANKS...

TRUMP PARADE

THE ONE THE GOP IS IN, FOR TRUMP

WHERE TRUMP'S STOCK MARKET WENT

SEPTIC TRUMPETHICS

COULD THAT FIRST ONE STOP MUELLER?

ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION

202018 THE WASHINGTON POST

ZIGGY®

2/12

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RITZO FUNERAL HOME

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU?

Hagar the Horrible®

by Chris Brown

I REFUSE TO WITNESS ANOTHER OF YOUR PATHETIC BATTLEFIELD PERFORMANCES EVER AGAIN! SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT?

THROW YOU A RETIREMENT PARTY?

GARFIELD®

by Jim Davis

WOO-HOO!

2-12

IT'S THE WEEKEND!

FRIDAY IS A STATE OF MIND

Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

2/12 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Saturday's Puzzle Answer 2/10

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

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