

Thursday, October 3, 2019

The San Juan

50¢



Star

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Saturday

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October 3, 2019

The San Juan Daily Star, the only paper with The New York Times News Service in English in Puerto Rico, publishes 7 days a week, with a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday edition, along with a Weekend Edition to cover Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Today's weather



Day High	Night Low
91°F	78°F
Precip 10%	Precip 20%
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

Wind: From ESE 10 mph

Humidity: 82%

UV Index: 10 of 10

Sunrise: 6:14 AM Local Time

Sunset: 6:11 PM Local Time

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FOMB refuses to give additional funds to Education Dept.

By The Star Staff

The Financial Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) rejected a request from the Department of Education which sought an increase in its budget to fund services for special needs students.

The Oversight Board responded to a letter from the Department of Education stating the need to use prior year general fund underspending of \$81 million in fiscal year 2020 in order to fund the Special Education Program.

"Unfortunately, the request that was sent to the Oversight Board included an unacceptable use of previous year General Funds," the Board said.

The Board said it was fully supportive of finding a solution to restore the funding at the Special Education Program and reiterated that the Department of Education's budget reduction as compared to FY19 was never intended to come from the Special Education Program.

"The reduction in the Special Education Program was not foreseen by the Certified Budget for the Department and that action was taken by either or both of the Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)," the letter reads.

From the information provided, the Board looked back at FY19 General Fund spending, which was under budget by approximately \$25 million. "FY19 budget was \$1.467 billion and reported spending was \$1.442 billion. The FY20 certified budget is \$1.347 billion, which is a reduction of \$120 million and a reduction from actual FY19 spending of \$95 million. The reduction in spending per the Certified Fiscal Plan and the Certified Budget was intended to focus on capturing savings primarily from the closure of schools in previous years (\$69 million in reduced administrative staff, and \$13.8 million in utility and other administrative costs no longer to be incurred) and procurement savings via increased efficiency (\$37 million)," the Board said.

The allocations of the available funds made by OMB and the Department of Education allocated increases in spending in the Fiscal Year 20 budget as compared to the latest available actual FY19 spending to Community School Program (\$8.2 million), Administration Program (\$14.5 million), Auxiliary Services and Technical Assistance Program (\$9.7

million), School Security Program (\$8.0 million), Technology Institute Program, and the Adult Program.

That said, the allocations made by OMB and Department of Education decreased spending in the FY20 budget as compared to actual FY19 spending in the Special Education Program (\$75.7 million), Food Services Program (\$12.2 million), Vocational and Technical Education Program (\$8.3 million), School Maintenance Program (\$4.1 million), Printing Services, and Institute of Administrating Training and Counseling to Schools.

"It is hard to understand how administrative-related programs (Administrative Program and Auxiliary Services and Technical Assistance Program), for example, have increased in cost, given the previous school closures which should have reduced overhead and overall administrative costs per the Certified Fiscal Plan and Certified Budget," the letter written by Oversight Board Executive Director Natalie Jaresko read.

The federal entity said it will review the request for a budget reallocation and budget increase if the agency, with the help of OMB, identifies an appropriate source of funds.



The Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico.

JGo introduces bill to add federal judge to PR

By John McPhaul
jmpcphaul@gmail.com

Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González Colón reported Wednesday that she had introduced HR 4522, Puerto Rico Federal Judicial Improvement Act, a measure that would authorize an additional federal judge for the United States District Court in Puerto Rico.

This legislation is consistent with the 2017 and 2019 recommendations made by the non-partisan Judicial Conference of the United States, which is the national policymaking body for federal courts and makes recommendations on judges every two years.

"In the particular case of Puerto Rico, the United States District Court for this District is among the first with the most criminal cases. In 2018, Puerto Rico filed more criminal cases compared to the New



Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González Colón

York and Massachusetts district courts that have more authorized judges. Puerto Rico has seven authorized federal judges, a number that has not changed since 1978," González Colón said in a written statement.

In addition, this measure converts two bankruptcy judges on the island from temporary to permanent, as recommended by the United States Judicial Conference.

González Colón said that the expiration of these two temporary posts was scheduled for May 25, 2017, but Congress passed legislation (PL 115-130) to provide a five-year extension until October 26, 2022. Turning them into permanent positions would bring the total number of permanent bankruptcy judges in Puerto Rico to four.

The Puerto Rico Federal Judicial Improvement Act seeks to ease the workload on the island and improve the efficiency of its federal judicial system, benefiting both judges and residents.

Governor signs law to benefit the elderly

By Joseph Cargill
cargilljournalist@gmail.com

Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced signed Wednesday the Special Law on Expedited Administrative Procedures for Seniors.

The new law, authored by Sen. Miguel Romero, provides for the creation of an agile procedure with relatively short terms for adjudication or complaint

resolution processes when one of the parties is an elderly person.

The law, for example, requires the Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO, for its Spanish acronym) and all other government departments and agencies to temper its adjudicative processes, and amends the Uniform Administrative Procedure Law for the purpose of establishing expedited procedures for the elderly.

Law 147-2019 provides for a complaint presented by a citizen related to health, safety or the welfare of the elderly population to be addressed or initiated within 30 days of the date it is submitted.

Previously, no term existed for this procedure to start. Meanwhile, it is also established that the procedure must be resolved strictly within the 90 days following the date the original complaint was filed, without exceptions.

According to Romero, "our elderly people need our support. In most cases, the claims presented by this population have to do with their health, safety and well-being."

"The passage of Hurricanes Irma and María over our island showed the particular vulnerability of our elderly people; it is fair that when a claim from this population is presented to any government agency, it is handled and resolved quickly and efficiently," Romero added.

Likewise, the senator for the District of San Juan argued that "we have a huge debt to this population and this [is] the least we can do for them. I thank the Governor for the signing of such an important law that definitely makes life easier and makes us more sensitive towards those who gave our society the best of itself."



Sen. Miguel Romero

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Freight companies merger under legislative scrutiny

By JOHN MCPHAUL
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Seeking to protect the rights of Puerto Rican consumers, the House committees on Federal Relations, International and Status, and on Economic Development, Planning, Telecommunications, Public-Private Partnerships and Energy, chaired by Rep. José Aponte Hernández and Rep. Víctor Parés Otero, respectively, began the study ordered by House Resolution 1532, which an investigation of the processes carried out to approve the merger of the sea freight companies Luis Ayala Colón (LAC) and Puerto Rico Terminals (PRT), Tote Maritime.

The measure, authored by representatives Pedro "Pellé" Santiago Guzmán and Aponte Hernández, seeks to evaluate the conditions under which the merger came to be, and the alleged monopoly created between the two shipping companies.

The public hearing was attended by the deputy director of the Puerto Rico Ports Authority (APPR, by its Spanish acronym), José R. Roa Martínez, who supported any investigation by the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) or the Puerto Rico Department of Justice, to address the concern that competition in the market may be reduced as a result of the agreement with Puerto Nuevo Terminals (PNT).

However, he was unable to answer the questions of the committee chairman on whether the APPR issued a communication to the FMC regarding the cooperative agreement, under which other maritime companies have rental agreements regarding the preferential areas of the ports and expiration dates.

Repeatedly, Roa Martínez answered to the questions of the committee with "I have no knowledge," and "I don't have the information here."

Given the little information provided by Roa Martínez, Rep. Aponte Hernández rebuked him saying "you are not prepared to clarify our questions."

"You, as an executive assistant director do not know the area," said Aponte Hernández, after presenting the witness

with aerial photos of the port area and he not being able to indicate the location of the shipping companies.

Then, the chairman announced that he will be summoning the executive director of the Ports Authority, Anthony Maceira, under penalty of contempt for not appearing at the previous public hearings that the Committee has carried out and delegating on Roa Martínez, an official who has been in office for three weeks, the responsibility of answering questions about the merger of shipping companies.

On the other hand, María I. Caraballo, president of Intership, a company dedicated to the storage or loading and unloading of vessels, mentioned that APPR actions "have been not proactive but reactive."

Caraballo acknowledged that the government entity did not comply with its responsibilities or exercised its powers, according to the "Puerto Rico Port Authority Law".

"It is the responsibility of the executive director to promote and defend port facilities and airports and to seek resources so that they are functional and operational, including in case of an emergency, the continuous flow of cargo and passenger movement can be guaranteed... as well as the continuous activity of import and export cargo," said the president and of Intership.

Rep. Santiago Guzmán, in turn, asked Caraballo about the APPR's failures about the agreement, to which he replied, "an entity like Puertos should have worried about the agreement."

On his part, Rep. Luis Vega Ramos said "the government renounced the rights of Puerto Ricans. By admitting that the only governmental management that has been carried out to stop the cooperative agreement has been done by this Committee, the present administration abdicated its duty to protect and ensure the welfare of the Puerto Rican people."

Before adjourning the committee's hearing, Aponte Hernández insisted that the merger of the shipping companies "is a monopoly."



Rep. José Aponte Hernández insisted that the merger of the shipping companies "is a monopoly."

Monoline creditor rejects FOMB's debt adjustment plan

By Star Staff

Assured Guaranty Ltd., a monoline that owns about \$1.5 billion in Puerto Rico debt, rejected Wednesday the debt adjustment plan for the central government unveiled by the Financial Oversight & Management Board (FOMB) last week, arguing, among other things, that it lacks consensus.

"Assured Guaranty does not support the Oversight Board's proposed Plan, which is premised on a number of terms that Assured Guaranty believes violate Puerto Rico law, its constitution and PROMESA. The Plan also ignores the rule of law on which our society and financial systems rely, and constitutional liens and priorities. The Plan was developed in the absence of consensual discussions with the island's long-term and largest creditors and is based at its core on a Plan Support Agreement whose signatories represent only a small fraction of the outstanding debt it purports to restructure," the company said in a statement.

The Oversight Board, it said, has repeatedly produced fiscal plans without appropriate input from the island's

long-term creditors, based on unrealistic and inaccurate financial assumptions and projections. "These actions in Assured Guaranty's view have cost the island hundreds of millions of dollars in litigation fees and time wasted. Assured Guaranty believes by disregarding basic tenets of PROMESA, Puerto Rico law and the U.S. and Puerto Rico constitutions, the Oversight Board has violated the explicit terms of the Commonwealth's general obligation bonds and special revenue bonds and undermined the underpinnings of the U.S. municipal bond market, potentially raising the cost of infrastructure development nationwide," the company said.

Assured Guaranty said it believes solution needs to be driven by consensual resolutions and accurate financial data, and not by attempting a cramdown on investors who have supported the island for decades. Continuing with the Oversight Board's current approach, in Assured Guaranty's view, will not restore capital market access for Puerto Rico or ensure a solid and stable economic future for the island and its residents.

The debt adjustment plan presented by the Oversight Board on Friday would restructure \$35 billion of debt and

other claims against the commonwealth, the Public Buildings Authority (PBA), and the Employees Retirement System (ERS); and more than \$50 billion in pension liabilities. It reduces the commonwealth's \$35 billion of total liabilities—bonds and other claims—by more than 60%, to \$12 billion.



Restaurant Association wants eateries to keep prices down



By John McPhaul
jpmcphaul@gmail.com

The president of the Association of Restaurants of Puerto Rico (ASORE), José Salvatela admitted on Wednesday that while it is not possible to control restaurants increasing prices with the reduction of the sales and use tax (IUV) on prepared foods from 11.5 percent to seven percent, he strongly recommended business owners to keep their prices low.

"We can't control that. They are within their rights. Management is a decision that every business is making and is part of the freedom to do business in Puerto Rico. As an Association we do not recommend that action," Salvatela said in a radio interview.

He explained that it is the same market that regulates itself and that there is no entity that can control prices.

After the beginning of the drop in the rate in the aforementioned tax, citizens disclosed in social networks receipts of purchases from various stores, in which it is observed how the price of a purchase was the same or higher, as shops increased prices of its products, so the tax reduction is not reflected.

"Every consumer must be aware. I would say that those businesses that raised prices in an informal survey we did are very few. For the most part the restaurant industry is so competitive that it is difficult to be able to increase prices at the moment... It is the minority. Mostly the restaurants left the menu intact," Salvatela said.

He urged those businesses that had increased their prices to reevaluate the determination.

"I do not think it is appropriate to raise prices at this time when our consumers expected economic relief," he concluded.

Republicans changing delegate rules to prevent discord at convention

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

President Donald Trump's political advisers have concluded a months-long effort to tighten the rules for choosing delegates to the Republican National Convention, all but ensuring there are no dissenting speeches at the gathering of party officials in Charlotte, North Carolina, next year.

On Tuesday, state Republican parties submitted to the national committee their delegate allocation plans, the methods by which they will choose and bind delegates who attend the convention as their representatives.

In 37 states and territories, there have been changes to the rules that will all but stamp out the possibility of any raucous divide on the convention floor. Those kinds of schisms have plagued party conventions in years when a Republican incumbent went on to lose his reelection bid, Republican officials said. Trump himself confronted an effort to strip him of delegates in 2016.

The new delegate guidelines are the culmination of a 10-month effort by Trump advisers to strengthen the president's grip on the Republican Party before the general election. It means that even if the three candidates challenging Trump in the Republican primary gain vote shares, they almost certainly won't translate into speeches or jeers from supporters of these candidates when the convention is taking place.

The plans also serve as a reminder that even as Trump faces the prospect of an impeachment vote, his campaign is making every effort to assure a smooth path to the nomination and a convention that resembles something of a coronation for the president.

"Looking at history, we kind of came to the realization that this stuff matters for the general election," said Justin Clark, senior counsel to the campaign.

Since the beginning of the year, Trump's advisers have placed a premium on avoiding intraparty conflicts that have plagued previous Republican incumbents and challengers alike.

That included Trump, who faced his own challenge in 2016 after his improbable rise to become the de facto nominee. There was an effort to strip delegates from Trump and give them to Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican from Texas and the last man



President Trump spoke at the Republican National Convention in 2016.

standing against Trump in the primaries.

That challenge failed, but it added to a frisson of drama on the convention floor. And it left a lingering impression on the president and his advisers about what to do differently to avoid a repeat in 2020.

Bill Stepien, a senior political adviser to the president, Clark and other campaign officials have spent most of this year working with state Republican officials either to change rules or to push for party chairs who are favorable to Trump.

Republican parties in states like Massachusetts — a blue state that is nonetheless delegate-rich at party conventions because of its large population — have changed their rules so that any candidate who wins more than 50% of the vote in the primary captures all the delegates.

New York, the president's home state and another with a large population, has a new Republican Party chairman, Nick Langworthy, who is viewed favorably by the national committee and the White

House. There, too, the rules now allow for a winner-take-all delegate award if a candidate clears 50% of the vote.

Republicans are trying to avoid the conflicts that arose at conventions such as the one in 1992, when Patrick J. Buchanan challenged the incumbent Republican president, George H.W. Bush, for the nomination. Buchanan didn't gather significant support in most of the primaries. But he rolled into the party's convention at the Astrodome in Houston with enough support to draw cheers during a thunderous speech about the "culture war" being waged for the soul of the nation.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford faced a nominating challenge from Ronald Reagan. The incumbent found himself wooing delegates to lock them up at the convention, using enticements like offering rides aboard Air Force One.

For both Bush and Ford, the primary challenges helped expose weaknesses that were exploited in the general election.

Despite Trump's high popularity in polls of Republican voters, his campaign is seeking to avoid any signs of discord. That includes a situation like the one Mitt Romney faced in 2012, when he was forced to contend with changes sought by delegates supporting Ron Paul.

There are other measures the Trump team has taken. Five states have canceled their primaries, including South Carolina, in moves that will further prevent his challengers — former congressmen Joe Walsh and Mark Sanford, and former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld — from gaining traction.

But it is the delegate rules and changes to parties at the state level that the campaign has spent most of its energies on this year.

"This campaign has used this as an offensive opportunity for the president," Stepien said. He described 2016 as "a wake-up call for a lot of people in terms of how the delegate process works."

"Good campaigns analyze what they could have done better," he said.

2020 Democrats to discuss guns in Las Vegas, 2 years after mass shooting there



Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Ind., a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, speaks at the 2020 Gun Safety Forum, in Las Vegas.

By MAGGIE ASTOR

Nine of the Democratic candidates for president discussed gun policy Wednesday at a forum in Las Vegas, where the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history happened two years ago this week.

In a major shift from past election cycles, gun violence and gun control have played a prominent role in the Democratic primary so far, and the candidates have united around a number of proposals — like an assault weapons ban — that used to divide the party.

But after dominating political conversations through August and much of September, and taking on a new sense of urgency after back-to-back massacres in

El Paso, Texas, and in Dayton, Ohio, the topic has faded somewhat as President Donald Trump's call with Ukraine and the impeachment inquiry against him have sucked most of the oxygen out of the room.

Advocacy groups Giffords and March for Our Lives, which organized Wednesday's event, are hoping to draw attention back to the issue of gun control, at least within the Democratic primary.

"It is important for us, now more than ever, to focus the national conversation on issues, like gun violence, that still matter," Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, who is leading gun control efforts in the Senate, said Tuesday evening after arriving in Las Vegas for the forum. "Impeachment didn't all of a sudden become the No. 1 issue for families across America."

Former Vice President Joe Biden, one of the few leading Democratic candidates who had not yet released a plan on guns, did so Wednesday morning.

His proposal includes several elements supported by most, if not all, Democrats in the race, including universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, a voluntary buyback program and tens of millions of dollars in funding for gun violence research.

Biden also called for financial incentives to encourage states to enact gun licensing programs but stopped short of endorsing a national licensing requirement, as many of his competitors have.

One unique element of his plan is a call for legislation that would end online sales of firearms and ammunition. This

echoes a plank in former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' gun control proposal, which all the candidates appearing in Wednesday's forum have endorsed, but goes further: Giffords' proposal would restrict and regulate online sales but would not ban them altogether.

March for Our Lives has called for such a ban, and Peter Ambler, executive director of Giffords, said he liked the idea. "Online sales are a fast way for criminals to get guns, especially in states without good background checks, so at first glance it's a smart approach," he said in an interview.

The forum began at 10 a.m. Pacific time, and each candidate was to be onstage for about 25 minutes. It is being livestreamed on MSNBC.com, and parts will air on the network.



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Recession panic may have passed. But the economy is still at risk.

By NEIL IRWIN

For one brief, terrifying moment this summer, the word “recession” was on everyone’s lips — the stuff of television segments, front-page articles and Google searches.

Then, just as abruptly, everything started to look pretty much fine.

The trade war with China went into another of its periodic phases of deescalation, as the Trump administration seemed rattled about the possibility of a faltering economy. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates twice, something of an insurance policy against a recession. Much of the data on the economy, particularly on the job market and the service sector, remained quite solid.

And the proximate cause of many of those August recession warnings, a sharp drop in longer-term interest rates and a so-called yield curve inversion, was partly reversed.

Crisis averted! That, anyway, has been the mood in financial markets in the last few weeks, as stocks have remained near record highs and the fearful tenor of economic commentary has subsided.

But it would be premature to declare a clean bill of health. Public attention may be focused on an impeachment battle in Washington, but the underlying forces that drove recession fears in the summer are still very much here — with some new ones potentially in play.

The latest, starker reminder was a new manufacturing number published Tuesday. It showed the sector was contracting in September at its fastest rate since 2009. That might have been dragged down in part by a strike at General Motors, but the softness in the factory sector is evident in other data that predates the strike.

For example, in the last six months, the manufacturing industry in the United States has added an average of only 3,000 jobs a month, down from 25,000 a month as recently as the spring of 2018. (The Labor Department will release the latest employment numbers Friday.)

A less noticed piece of data on Friday showed that manufacturing wasn’t the only pocket of weakness.

Spending on nonresidential construction fell 0.4% in August, the latest indication that businesses are not investing in new warehouses, factories and office buildings at the rate they were a few months ago.

There is a tendency to think of the economic angst caused by the trade wars as resembling a light switch — something that President Donald Trump can turn on and off. Some even think of it as a “Trump Put,” referring to a financial contract that insures against big losses. That is, there’s an assumption that the administration will ease trade tensions if they start to affect the stock market or the economy too negatively.

As the last few weeks have shown, there’s some truth to that. The spike in recession fears in August seemed to bring a more conciliatory tone from the Trump administration, even if concrete progress in trade negotiations isn’t



The manufacturing sector has been slowing in recent months. A steel mill in LaPlace, La., announced it would close in November.

really in evidence.

But the \$20 trillion U.S. economy is a slow-moving beast, and just as the trade rift between the world’s two largest economies didn’t cause a major disruption overnight, neither do a few conciliatory comments make everything OK.

We are only starting to see the delayed economic impact of a series of trade escalations over the summer and of a slowdown in the global economy. It’s starting to show up in hiring and capital-spending plans, as the latest numbers demonstrate.

For some time, close watchers of federal policy have been urging businesses to think of the trade disruptions not as one-off headlines, but as the continuing cost of doing business globally.

“This kind of goes to the advice we’re giving clients, and we’ve been trying to do this for a while, ‘no head-in-sand behavior here,’” said Scott McCandless, trade policy leader at the accounting firm PwC. “Be cleareyed about this. This will probably be around awhile.”

There is reason to view the seemingly more optimistic signs being flashed by financial markets with skepticism.

The yield on 10-year Treasury bonds fell to 1.45% in early September from 2.07% in late July, an uncommonly sharp drop, before rebounding to 1.64% Tuesday.

The big swings can be chalked up to global capital flows that aren’t necessarily reflective of the economic outlook in the United States.

But that doesn’t mean there is no signal in the noise. Lower long-term rates imply lower growth and inflation in the United States in the years ahead. While the bond markets are becoming more stable, yields are settling at levels consistent with a U.S. economy that is growing more sluggishly than it has in the last few years — albeit not at recession level.

And while the stock market remains strong — the S&P 500 closed Tuesday less than 3% below its record high — the market is often slow to reflect a shifting economic landscape. When the first rumblings of what would become the global financial crisis took place in August 2007, for example, the stock market actually peaked in October; the economy fell into recession that December.

“The lights haven’t gone out on the economic outlook yet, but they are certainly growing very dim,” said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist of MUFG Union Bank, in a research note.

A recession is certainly not a foregone conclusion, and a period of slow growth still looks more likely than an outright contraction. But just because the recession talk is out of the headlines doesn’t mean all is well.

Stocks

Global stocks fall to lowest in month on U.S. growth worries

World equity benchmarks hit their lowest levels in a month on Wednesday as signs of a slowdown in U.S. economic growth and weak earnings in Europe fanned fears that the U.S.-China trade war could push the global economy into a recession.

In the United States, the ADP National Employment report showed private payroll growth was lower than expected in September, adding to concerns about softening economic growth. Global stock benchmarks tumbled Tuesday after a measure of U.S. manufacturing fell to its lowest level in more than 10 years, removing one of few remaining bright spots in the global economy just as Europe is seen as close to falling into recession.

"The weakening conditions in Europe and the slowdown in China, it's all adding up to the same thing essentially: worries that the global economy is slowing and giving investors reason to pause and take profits," said Robert Pavlik, chief investment strategist manager at SlateStone Wealth LLC in New York.

MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe .MIWD00000PUS shed 1.60%, following broad declines in Europe that pushed benchmark indices to their lowest levels in a month. The FTSE 100 index .FTSE slipped 2%, the largest drop across European regions.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI fell 494.42 points, or 1.86%, to 26,078.62, the S&P 500 .SPX lost 52.64 points, or 1.79%, to 2,887.61 and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC dropped 123.44 points, or 1.56%, to 7,785.25.

Selling was triggered after the Institute for Supply Management's (ISM) index of factory activity, one of the most closely watched data on U.S. manufacturing, dropped to the lowest level since June 2009.

Markets had been expecting the index to rise back above the 50.0 mark denoting growth but the index dropped 1.3 points to a reading of 47.8 last month.

Graphic: MSCI All Country World Index Market Cap - here

"Historically, equity returns are worst when the ISM manufacturing drops from levels below the 50 threshold," said Patrik Lang, head of equity research at Julius Baer.

"Uncertainty around the U.S.-China trade war is obviously the main reason for the weakness, with companies exposed to global trade increasingly putting off investment decisions."

Concerns about the global economic outlook pushed investors into the perceived safety of bonds. Benchmark 10-year notes US10YT=RR last rose 13/32 in price to yield 1.5992%, from 1.644% late on Tuesday.

Euro zone bond yields inched up after another speech from outgoing ECB chief Mario Draghi calling for fiscal stimulus to boost the region's sluggish economy.

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Dow Jones Industrial Average	+0.94%	DJI	26,753.17
Starbucks Corporation	+1.05%	NMS	84.69
Morgan Stanley	+0.74%	NYQ	43.46
Banco Santander, S.A.	+0.89%	NYQ	4.5200
The Home Depot, Inc.	+1.59%	NYQ	211.25
McDonald's Corporation	+0.28%	NYQ	205.12
-	-	-	-
DICK'S Sporting Goods, Inc.	+0.30%	NYQ	33.95
Baxter International Inc.	+0.90%	NYQ	82.04
T-Mobile US, Inc.	-0.45%	NMS	77.93
Verizon Communications Inc.	-0.43%	NYQ	25.55
Cisco Systems, Inc.	+2.28%	NMS	57.41
Colgate-Palmolive Company	+0.10%	NYQ	73.60
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company	+1.97%	NYQ	15.00
Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc.	+0.65%	NMS	301.75
The Coca-Cola Company	+1.06%	NYQ	51.66
Intel Corporation	+0.25%	NMS	47.19
eBay Inc.	-0.52%	NMS	39.92
Eli Lilly and Company	+0.29%	NYQ	115.56
Apple Inc.	+0.80%	NMS	199.46
Sirius XM Holdings Inc.	+1.06%	NMS	5.74
Wells Fargo & Company	+0.46%	NYQ	45.86
ClaroCity Corporation	0.00%	VAN	0.0100
SPDR S&P 500 ETF	+0.96%	PCX	295.86
S&P 500	+0.95%	SNP	2,954.18
Forward Industries, Inc.	-1.68%	NCM	1.1700
International Business Machines Corporation	+1.29%	NYQ	138.85
Walmart Inc.	+0.64%	NYQ	110.32

LOCAL MORTGAGE RATES

Bank	FHA 30-YR POINTS	CONV 30-YR POINTS	
BPPR	3.00%	0.00	3.50% 000
Scotia	3.50%	0.00	4.00% 0.00
CooPACA	3.50%	2.00	3.75% 2.00
Money House	3.75%	2.00	3.75% 2.00
First Mort	3.50%	0.00	5.50% 0.00
Oriental	3.50%	0.00	3.75% 5.50

PUERTO RICO STOCKS

Nombre de la empresa	% camb.	Intercambio	Último precio
First BanCorp.	+0.10%	NYQ	10.02
Triple-S Management Corporation	-0.26%	NYQ	23.41
Stryker Corporation	+1.39%	NYQ	203.28
Popular, Inc.	+0.51%	NMS	53.10
OFG Bancorp	-5.25%	NYQ	20.74

COMMODITIES

Nombre de la empresa	% camb.	Intercambio	Último precio
Sugar #11 Jul 19	-0.47%	NYB	12.68
Platinum Jul 19	+0.29%	NYM	807.90
Gold Aug 19	-0.37%	CMX	1,391.70
Silver Jul 19	-0.34%	CMX	15.44
United States Gasoline Fund, LP	+2.48%	PCX	28.87
-	-	-	-

CURRENCY

Nombre de la empresa	% camb.	Intercambio	Último precio
EUR/USD	+0.0239 %	CCY	1.1294
USD/DOP	0.0000%	CCY	50.2500
USD/JPY	+0.0084 %	CCY	107.3090
AUD/USD	+0.0289 %	CCY	0.6924
USD/CAD	-0.022 %	CCY	1.3187
EUR/GBP	+0.0416 %	CCY	0.8889

LOCAL PERSONAL LOAN RATES

Bank	PERS.	CREDIT CARD	AUTO
BPPR	--.--	17.95	4.95
Scotia	4.99	14.99	4.99
CooPACA	6.95	9.95	2.95
Reliable	--.--	--.--	4.40
First Mort	7.99	--.--	--.--
Oriental	4.99	11.95	4.99

Hours after agreeing to resume talks, North Korea launches missile

By CHOE SANG-HUN AND DAVID E. SANGER

North Korea launched at least one ballistic missile toward waters near Japan early Wednesday, just hours after announcing it had agreed to resume long-stalled talks with the United States over its nuclear weapons program.

The missile was launched from waters near Wonsan, a city east of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, the South Korean military said in a statement. It said that the missile, a version of the North's Pukguksong ballistic missile, flew 280 miles to the east while reaching a height of 565 miles.

It was unclear whether the missile that launched on Wednesday was fired from a submarine, a ship, or a platform on or under the water. The North's solid-fuel Pukguksong can be launched from either land or a submarine, although the office of President Moon Jae-in of South Korea said this projectile could have been the submarine-launched version.

North Korea last successfully launched its Pukguksong-1 in August 2016 after several test failures, but there have been indications since then that it was developing a more powerful version. In May 2017, it launched a land-based Pukguksong-2 missile.

Along with its intercontinental ballistic missiles, North Korea's submarine-launched ballistic missile programs pose one of the biggest military threats to the United States and its regional allies because they can extend the range of the North's nuclear missiles. Submarine-launched missiles are also harder to detect in advance.

In July, the North's leader, Kim Jong Un, inspected a newly built submarine that South Korean officials said had three missile-launch tubes, compared with its older Sinpo-class submarine that could fire only one missile.

Japan said North Korea had launched a ballistic missile that flew far enough to fall in its exclusive economic zone. Wednesday's test was the first time a North Korean missile had landed in Japanese waters in nearly two years, evoking memories of a period when the Japanese public was awakened to alarms warning of potential missile landings.

The launch also comes as Japan and South Korea are increasingly at odds, and as the South plans to withdraw from a military-



President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, the North Korean leader, on the North Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone at Panmunjom.

intelligence sharing pact with Japan.

It was the ninth time North Korea had tested ballistic missiles or other projectiles since late July, and was its first weapons test since Sept. 10, when it fired what it called two super-large caliber rockets. After the last weapons test, Kim indicated that his country would conduct more tests of the same system.

In Tokyo, Yoshihide Suga, Japan's chief Cabinet secretary, said that what was initially thought to be two missiles was actually one that split in two. One of the pieces fell inside Japan's economic zone off its Shimane prefecture. Japan said it had no immediate reports of damage to aircraft or ships nearby.

In a series of weapons tests this year, North Korea launched new types of short-range ballistic missiles and more powerful versions of multi-tube rocket launchers. Its new weapons have alarmed South Korea and Japan because they have longer ranges and are believed to be more difficult to intercept by missile defense systems.

North Korea's latest test came a day after the South commemorated Armed Forces

Day, during which it displayed newly acquired F-35 stealth jets. By showcasing the state-of-the-art combat aircraft, South Korea reinforced its commitment to its defense, even as it was trying to engage North Korea in dialogue. The North has accused the South of raising tensions through its purchase of the American jets.

Wednesday's launch marked the first time a projectile fired by North Korea reached the Japanese exclusive economic zone since the North resumed its missile tests this year after a 17-month hiatus. The last North Korean missile that fell into Japan's exclusive economic zone was its Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile, launched in November 2017.

"We are aware of reports of a possible North Korean missile launch," a senior Trump administration official said Tuesday night in Washington. "We are continuing to monitor the situation and consulting closely with our allies in the region."

Just hours before the latest test, officials in North Korea and the United States said they had agreed to resume official talks over

the nuclear weapons program — the first substantive discussions since the two nations' summit meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, in February failed to produce an accord.

Choe Son Hui, first vice foreign minister of North Korea, said her government and Washington had agreed to establish preliminary contact on Friday, to be followed by official, working-level negotiations on Saturday. The State Department confirmed the meeting, which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had recently hinted was coming soon.

The recent history of such meetings has not been promising. President Donald Trump began leader-to-leader meetings with Kim precisely because decades of lower-level meetings had resulted in temporary breakthroughs at best.

But 16 months after Trump and Kim reached a vague agreement to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula — words that mean very different things in Pyongyang and Washington — the North Korean arsenal has steadily expanded, even in the absence of nuclear and intercontinental missile tests.

Duchess of sussex sues British tabloid over publication of letter

By ALAN YUHAS

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has filed a lawsuit against a British tabloid and its parent company over the publication of a private letter, her husband, Prince Harry, said Tuesday, in an unusually public rebuke of the British press by the royal family.

Despite Buckingham Palace's long and sometimes acrimonious relationship with Britain's ravenous tabloids, the royal family has rarely challenged specific publications or articles in public.

But in a statement posted on the duke and duchess' website, Harry said that Meghan had become a victim of "a ruthless campaign" by British tabloids, and that he had been "a silent witness to her private suffering for too long."

The statement does not identify what article prompted the lawsuit, against The Mail on Sunday, but in February the tabloid published a story about a handwritten letter that Meghan had sent to her estranged father, Thomas Markle.

"There is a human cost to this relentless propaganda, specifically when it is knowingly false and malicious," he said, "and though we have continued to put on a brave face — as so many of you can relate to — I cannot begin to describe how painful it has been."

He invoked the history of his mother, Princess Diana, who was followed by paparazzi for years and who died in a 1997 car crash in Paris as her driver tried to get away from photographers.

"My deepest fear is history repeating itself," Harry said. "I've seen what happens when someone I love is commoditized to the point that they are no longer treated or seen as a real person."

A spokesman for The Mail on Sunday said in a statement that it "stands by the story it published and will be defending this case vigorously."

Though the royal family has carefully protected its privacy over the years, Meghan's lawsuit is not the first the family has filed over privacy concerns. In 2012, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge and the wife of Prince William, brought legal action against a French magazine that published photographs of her sunbathing topless at a secluded villa. A French court awarded the couple 100,000 euros in damages five years later.

British tabloid coverage of the royals has long swung between delighted stories about weddings and births, and harsh articles denouncing their habits and indulgences. And the royals have long done what they can to limit newspapers' access to their personal lives.

Harry said that the legal action was "months



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, holding their son Archie, meet with Anglican Archbishop Emeritus, Desmond Tutu in Cape Town, South Africa.

in the making" and was decided upon after "the contents of a private letter were published unlawfully in an intentionally destructive manner to manipulate you, the reader."

He accused the publishers of having "purposely misled you by strategically omitting select paragraphs, specific sentences, and even singular words to mask the lies they had perpetuated for over a year."

The Mail on Sunday disputed that accusation, saying "we categorically deny that the Duchess' letter was edited in any way that changed its meaning."

The newspaper and its parent company were accused of misuse of private information, infringement of copyright and violations of the Data Protection Act of 2018, Harry's statement said. It said the case had been brought by the law firm Schillings in the Chancery Division of the High Court, but did not specify damages.

DMG Media, formerly known as Associated Newspapers, owns The Mail on Sunday, The Daily Mail and several other print and online publications.

The duke and duchess, who was known as Meghan Markle when she worked as an actress, have long had a fraught relationship with the British press, some of it suffused by what their supporters see as outdated, racist attitudes

about their relationship.

In The Mail on Sunday, Rachel Johnson, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's sister, wrote that Meghan would contribute "some rich and exotic DNA" to the Windsor family. In 2016, The Daily Mail headlined an article: "Harry's Girl Is (Almost) Straight Outta Compton."

Meghan — a divorced, biracial American television actress — was by British standards an untraditional member of the royal family. She has also stretched, however gently, the traditional reluctance of royals to express opinions on political matters, speaking for example in March about how self-consciousness around menstruation hurt young women in many developing countries.

The British tabloids have pounced on some parts of her personal life, especially in the runup to the couple's wedding, when they ran a series of unflattering interviews with relatives she did not invite.

But Harry and Meghan have pushed back, drawing the ire of the tabloids. They decided to prevent the press from a traditional photo opportunity with their newborn child, and they allowed only one reporter into St. George's Chapel for their wedding. Both were blows to publications that had been giving frenzied, wall-to-wall coverage of the royal events.

The misgivings about photographers are understood to originate with Harry, who was 12 when his mother was killed.

And the couple's surrogates across the Atlantic have not been shy about saying outright what the couple has not. Five of Meghan's friends defended her against "global bullying" in an interview with People magazine, a move that reportedly sat poorly with some of her traditionalist royal handlers.

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185-65-14	\$50.00	265-70-16	\$109.00	215-40-18	\$89.00
175-60-14	\$50.00	205-45-16	\$65.00	225-40-18	\$89.00
195-65-15	\$55.00	205-55-16	\$65.00	225-45-18	\$89.00
195-50-15	\$55.00	205-60-16	\$69.00	225-35-19	\$109.00
185-65-15	\$55.00	225-65-17	\$85.00	225-45-19	\$109.00
235-75-15	\$79.00	225-60-17	\$85.00	245-35-20	\$109.00
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NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL

Cheers in Beijing can't drown out the protesters in Hong Kong



Images of President Xi Jinping of China on Tuesday on a Hong Kong street following a day of protests.

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

It was hard to imagine a greater contrast. While China's rulers were celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic with an enormous parade of missiles and technological achievements meant to intimidate and impress, Hong Kong witnessed some of the most violent protests in four months of demonstrations against Beijing's encroachment on the enclave's autonomy.

There was no subtlety in either President Xi Jinping's celebration of his country's raw power, or Hong Kong's rejection of the repressive rule behind that power. Something will have to give.

Xi was central to his show. Clad in a Mao suit, he made no mention of his immediate predecessors as he presided over an awesome display of what he calls the "Chinese dream," a broad vision of China's rise as an economic, military and police force to be reckoned with. "No force can shake the status of our great motherland, no force can obstruct the advance of the Chinese people and Chinese nation," he declared.

These were not idle words. Xi has not hesitated to use force in bringing minorities like the Tibetans or the Uighurs to heel, and the showpiece of the parade was the giant DF-41, an intercontinental ballistic missile that can carry 10 nuclear warheads and strike anywhere in the United States.

Hong Kong protesters were manifestly not impressed. On the contrary, they welcomed the opportunity to demonstrate their opposition to indirect communist rule over their theoretically autonomous district by upstaging Beijing's show. The day's demonstrations began peacefully but turned violent in various outlying districts after nightfall as protesters, many dressed in black, set fires and clashed with the police. For the first time since the protests began in June, a demonstrator was wounded with a live bullet by a cornered officer.

There is nothing to suggest that Xi appreciates what is really taking place in Hong Kong. The system that the Chinese Communist Party has shaped over seven decades of repressive rule, like the 70 years in which Soviet communists controlled their empire, brooks no diversity of thought or challenge to authority. Raised in the brutal paternalism of that system, Xi equates greatness with power and dissent with treachery; to him, the 50 years of relative autonomy granted Hong Kong, which ends in 2047, is time to wipe out whatever bad foreign habits its people picked up.

Those habits, acquired under British colonial rule, include a Western political culture of democracy, human rights, free speech and independent thought. And what began in June as mass protests against legislation that would have made it possible to extradite Hong Kong people to mainland China has morphed over succeeding weeks into increasingly violent and explicit protests aga-

inst Chinese control, which is exercised in Hong Kong by an executive hand-picked by Beijing and its local allies.

That some protesters have resorted to violence, including firebombs and bats, can only be condemned, as must be the excessive force of the police. The demonstrations had, and have, far greater power when they are peaceful.

That is one message liberal democracies should send the people of Hong Kong. The far more important message should be that the free world, to resurrect a Cold War term, stands with them in their rejection of what the Chinese Communist Party stands for. And the urgent message to Beijing, as tensions rise to the breaking point, must be that any attempt to crush the protests by forces from the mainland will meet with a strong response.

Unfortunately, President Donald Trump saw fit to send Beijing congratulations on the 70th anniversary, without any mention of Hong Kong. Trump is locked into his own strange love-hate relationship with Xi, which includes personal praise and escalating tariffs, and he probably regards Hong Kong and its aspirations as a regrettable diversion. But that should not preclude Congress, or America's allies, from speaking out.

The San Juan Star

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Gobernadora prohibirá el uso y venta de productos para vapeo

Por CYBERNEWS

El secretario del Departamento de Salud, Rafael Rodríguez Mercado, anunció el miércoles que la gobernadora emitirá una Orden Ejecutiva para prohibir entre 4 a 6 meses la venta y uso de productos de cigarrillos electrónicos, "vaping" o vapeo.

"Se le recomendó a la gobernadora que lo más pronto posible se emita algún tipo de Orden Ejecutiva. Hay unos estados que han puesto un 'hold' de 4 a 6 meses en lo que el CDC (Centro de Control de Enfermedades) y el FDA (Administración federal de Drogas y Alimentos) se expresen sobre el futuro del 'vaping'", dijo el secretario a su salida de la reunión con la gobernadora, Wanda Vázquez Garced.

La prohibición temporal- una vez se firme la Orden Ejecutiva- prohibiría la venta y el uso de estos produc-

tos para todos los ciudadanos.

"Yo creo que eso es mejor que subir la edad (para utilizar los productos) a 21 años", expresó.

Según el secretario, previo a contemplar la Orden Ejecutiva, se hizo una orden administrativa con un formulario, que se distribuyó en todos los hospitales y profesionales de la salud, para montar un registro a ver si hay algún caso registrado por muerte asociada al 'vapeo' en Puerto Rico.

"¿Cómo se va a reportar? Un paciente que tenga una pulmonía se le hace las pruebas para descartar que sea influenza o bacteriano. Si sale negativo, se le hacen las pruebas para detectar es secundario a esto (al vapeo). Si usted hace 'vaping' y va con una pulmonía a un hospital y tiene negativa la prueba de influenza o bacteriológica, pues está (la posibilidad)", sostuvo el secretario.

No obstante, al momento no se ha reportado un



caso que pueda relacionarse al uso del 'vapeo'. En Estados Unidos al menos seis personas han muerto por pulmonía relacionada al uso de estos productos.

Departamento de Educación abandona el proyecto de enseñar mandarín

El secretario del Departamento de Educación (DE), Eligio Hernández Pérez dijo el miércoles que el proyecto piloto para enseñar el idioma mandarín en las escuelas públicas se dejó sin efecto.

"El concepto que se tenía de un contrato de servicios profesionales no ha continuado en este año académico. Desde que finalizó el año fiscal (junio 30) e inició el nuevo (julio primero), hay cero contratos en la oficina del secretario", dijo el secretario a preguntas de la prensa.

"¿Y cuál fue la razón para no continuar?", se le preguntó.

"Todos los fondos disponibles del Departamento de

Educación están siendo recogidos y destinados a asegurar la prestación de servicios en las escuelas, incluyendo educación especial. Así que las contrataciones no esenciales y discretionales del secretario están en cero", expresó el secretario.

El proyecto piloto comenzó cuando Julia Beatrice Keleher era secretaria del DE, a raíz de una idea del secretario del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Comercio, Manuel Laboy Rivera, para que dicho idioma fuera parte del currículo académico del DE.

En mayo de 2018, el DDEC dio a conocer que auspiciaba el inicio del proyecto piloto de enseñanza del idioma mandarín en las escuelas públicas.

El programa, estuvo liderado por la profesora Yifang Chen, quien es residente de Puerto Rico. El curso, se ofreció en línea gracias a una colaboración con la 'Stanford Online High School', los cuales se supone que pagarían la mitad del salario de la profesora y al final serían los encargados de certificar que el estudiante aprendió mandarín básico.

Por su parte, el DDEC, a través del Programa de Desarrollo de la Juventud, aportó \$15 mil en esta primera fase, para la compra de materiales y la mitad del salario de la maestra.

El curso era de 52 horas contacto. Participaron 20 estudiantes.

Estudian proyecto que regulará riesgos y solvencias de las aseguradoras

Por CyberNews

La Comisión de Asuntos del Consumidor, Banca y Seguros, que preside la representante Yashira Lebrón Rodríguez, inició el miércoles las vistas públicas del Proyecto de la Cámara 2083, de su autoría, con el fin de enmendar el Código de Seguros de Puerto Rico, para establecer el marco regulatorio para la administración y evaluación de riesgos propios y solvencia de aseguradores, organizaciones de servicios de salud y grupos de aseguradores, conocido en inglés como Own Risk and Solvency Assessment (ORSA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Tanto el Comisionado de Seguros de Puerto Rico, Javier Rivera Ríos, como la directora ejecutiva de la Asociación de Compañías de Seguros (Acodese), la licenciada Iraelia Pernas, respaldaron la medida. El

Comisionado expresó que la pieza provee una herramienta adicional de complemento a lo que ya existe para poder prevenir que eventos, como los impactos de los huracanes Irma y María en el 2017, lleven a un asegurador a la insolvencia.

"Más allá de aseguradores que tengan que ver con el área de propiedad y contingencia también es inclusivo a todos los aseguradores en el área de salud y vida. De manera, que vamos a poder tener una herramienta de un manejo de riesgo empresarial. Es bien abarcador y vamos a poder tener detalles en la evaluación que hace el regulador año tras año, mediante un informe que nos va a dar una luz mucho más amplia en términos de la capacidad de solvencia de cada asegurador. Me parece que era super necesario una medida como esta y gracias a Dios ya está ante la consideración de la

Cámara", precisó Rivera Ríos en comunicación escrita.

La representante Lebrón Rodríguez amplió que la frágil situación financiera experimentada en el sector de seguros de propiedad, producto de las cuantiosas pérdidas producidas por ambos huracanes, "se puso de manifiesto la necesidad de reforzar y monitorear continuamente la solvencia financiera de las operaciones de negocios de seguros, particularmente en riesgos catastróficos".

Según la legisladora, "la adopción de las disposiciones de este proyecto de ley constituye un requisito mandatorio para mantener la acreditación conferida por la Asociación Nacional de Comisionados de seguros (NIAC, por sus siglas en inglés) y así no poner en peligro la licenciatura y las regulaciones de todas las aseguradoras en Puerto Rico." .

PRIMERA INSTANCIA SALA SUPERIOR DE SAN JUAN
BANCO POPULAR DE PUERTO RICO
 Parte Demandante Vs.
ROBERTO LUIS PAGÁN LÓPEZ Y SU ESPOSA JANNETTE MARIE TORRES ADORNO Y LA SOCIEDAD LEGAL DE BIENES GANANCIAS COMPUESTA POR AMBOS
 Parte Demandada
 Civil Núm.: SJ2019CV07021. Sala: 604. Sobre: COBRO DE DINERO (EJECUCIÓN DE HIPOTECA POR LA VÍA ORDINARIA). EMPLAZAMIENTO POR EDICTO. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA, EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS EEUU., ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE P.R., SS.

A: JANNETTE MARIE TORRES ADORNO Y LA SOCIEDAD LEGAL DE BIENES GANANCIAS COMPUESTA CON ROBERTO LUIS PAGÁN LÓPEZ.
 Queda emplazada y notificada de que en este Tribunal se ha radicado una demanda de cobro de dinero (ejecución de hipoteca por la vía ordinaria) en su contra. Se le notifica que deberá presentar su alegación responsiva a través del Sistema Unificado de Manejo y Administración de Casos (SUMAC), al cual puede acceder utilizando la siguiente dirección electrónica: <https://unired.ramajudicial.pr>, salvo que se represente por derecho propio, en cuyo caso deberá presentar su alegación responsiva en la Secretaría del Tribunal Superior de Puerto Rico, Sala de San Juan y enviando copia a la parte demandante: Lcda. Xana M. Connelly Pagán, PO Box 70212, San Juan, PR 00936-8212, Teléfono: (787) 625-9999, Fax: (787) 705-7387, correo electrónico: xconnelly@lawpr.com. Se le apercibe y notifica que si no contesta la demanda radicada en su contra dentro del término de treinta (30) días de la publicación de este edicto, se le anotará la rebeldía y se dictará sentencia concediendo el remedio solicitado en la demanda, sin más citáseles, ni oírseles. Expedido bajo mi firma y sello del Tribunal, a 10 de septiembre de 2019. GRISELDA RODRÍGUEZ COLLADO, SECRETARIA. LUZ ENID FERNÁNDEZ DEL VALLE, SECRETARIA DE SERVICIOS A SALA.

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 Civil Núm.: SJ2019CV07160. Sala: 604. Sobre: COBRO DE DINERO (EJECUCIÓN DE HIPOTECA POR LA VÍA ORDINARIA). EMPLAZAMIENTO POR EDICTO. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA, EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS EEUU., ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE P.R., SS.

A: WILMA DALMA LACLAUSTRA SÁNCHEZ Y LA SOCIEDAD LEGAL DE BIENES GANANCIAS COMPUESTA CON JOSÉ RAFAEL MORA NAZARIO.
 Queda emplazada y notificada de que en este Tribunal se ha radicado una demanda de cobro de dinero (ejecución de hipoteca por la vía ordinaria) en su contra. Se le notifica que deberá presentar su alegación responsiva a través del Sistema Unificado de Manejo y Administración de Casos (SUMAC), al cual puede acceder utilizando la siguiente dirección electrónica: <https://unired.ramajudicial.pr>, salvo que se represente por derecho propio, en cuyo caso deberá presentar su alegación responsiva en la Secretaría del Tribunal Superior de Puerto Rico, Sala de San Juan y enviando copia a la parte demandante: Lcda. Xana M. Connelly Pagán, PO Box 70212, San Juan, PR 00936-8212, Teléfono: (787) 625-9999, Fax: (787) 705-7387, correo electrónico: xconnelly@lawpr.com. Se le apercibe y notifica que si no contesta la demanda radicada en su contra dentro del término de treinta (30) días de la publicación de este edicto, se le anotará la rebeldía y se dictará sentencia concediendo el remedio solicitado en la demanda, sin más citáseles, ni oírseles. Expedido bajo mi firma y sello del Tribunal, a 10 de septiembre de 2019. GRISELDA RODRÍGUEZ COLLADO, SECRETARIA. LUZ ENID FERNÁNDEZ DEL VALLE, SECRETARIA DE SERVICIOS A SALA.

LEGAL NOTICE
 ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO TRIBUNAL DE PRIMERA INSTANCIA SALA SUPERIOR DE SAN JUAN
MILAGROS MÉNDEZ CALDERÓN
 Parte Peticionaria
EX - PARTE
 Civil Núm.: SJ2019CV09013. Sala: 606. Sobre: EXPEDIENTE DE DOMINIO (AUMENTO DE CABIDA). EDICTO. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA, EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, EL ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO, S.S.

A: TODAS LAS PERSONAS IGNORADAS Y DESCONOCIDAS, HEREDEROS CAUSAHABIENTES EN DERECHO DE LOS ANTERIORES E INMEDIATOS DUEÑOS, ASÍ COMO DE LOS ANTERIORES DUEÑOS QUE HUBIERAN FALLECIDO O SE DESCONOCIESE SU PARADERO A QUIENES PUDIERA PERJUDICAR LA INScripción DEL DOMINIO A FAVOR DE MILAGROS MÉNDEZ CALDERÓN.
 POR LA PRESENTE, se les notifica que comparezcan, si oportuno creyeren, ante este Honorable Tribunal, dentro de veinte (20) días a partir de la última publicación de este edicto, a exponer lo que estimen en el expediente promovido por la peticionaria para requerir el dominio de la siguiente propiedad: URBANA: Solar radicado en la Urbanización Villa Nevares, situada en el Barrio Monacillos de Rio Piedras, que se describe en el plano de inscripción con

el número doce (12) del Bloque "H", con un área superficial de trescientos sesenta y dos metros cuadrados con treinta y ocho centímetros (362.38 mc) de otro; colindando por su frente, o sea por el SUR, en trece metros treinta y ocho centímetros (13.38 m), con carretera Insular número veintiuno (21); por su fondo, o sea el NORTE, con canal de la Quebrada Buena Vista; por su derecha entrando, o sea el ESTE, con canal de la Quebrada Buena Vista y por su izquierda entrando, o sea el OESTE, en treinta y dos metros ochenta y siete centímetros (32.87 m), con solar número once (11) del Bloque "H". Contiene dicho inmueble una casa residencial de concreto reforzado de una sola planta. Consta inscrita al folio 80 del tomo 141 de Monacillos Este y el Cinco, finca número 4,330, Registro de la Propiedad de Puerto Rico, Sección Quinta de San Juan, Catastro Número: 086-040-111-10-802. La finca antes descrita se encuentra libre de cargas y gravámenes. Se le notifica que deberá presentar su alegación responsiva a través del Sistema Unificado de Manejo y Administración de Casos (SUMAC), al cual puede acceder utilizando la siguiente dirección electrónica: <https://unired.ramajudicial.pr>, salvo que se represente por derecho propio, en cuyo caso deberá presentar su alegación responsiva en la Secretaría del Tribunal Superior de Puerto Rico, Sala de San Juan y enviando copia a la parte peticionaria: Lcda. Erika Morales Marengo, Número RUA:18,542, P.O. Box 195337, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00919, teléfono (787) 239-5661, correo electrónico: emarengo@apontecortes.com. La promotora adquirió la antes descrita propiedad por herencia de su madre, Virginia Calderón Otero, mediante la Escritura Número 18, otorgada el día 26 de abril de 2010, ante la notario público Migdalia Molina Rivera e inscrita al folio 94 del tomo 321 de Monacillos Este y el Cinco. Este tribunal ordenó que se publique el edicto tres (3) veces durante el término de veinte (20) días en un periódico de circulación general diaria, para los que tengan algún derecho real sobre el inmueble descrito, las personas ignoradas a quienes pueda perjudicar la inscripción y en general, a todos los que deseen oponerse, puedan efectuarlo dentro del término de veinte (20) días a partir de la última publicación del edicto. Expedido bajo mi firma y sello del Tribunal, hoy día 13 de septiembre de 2019. GRISELDA RODRÍGUEZ COLLADO, SECRETARIA REGIONAL. MARÍA I. RÍOS LÓPEZ, SECRETARIA DE SERVICIOS A SALA.

LEGAL NOTICE
 ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO TRIBUNAL DE PRIMERA INSTANCIA SALA SUPERIOR DE PONCE

A: JUAN JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ JAIME.
 Se le notifica a usted que se ha radicado en esta Secretaría la demanda del epígrafe. Se le emplaza y requiere que radique en esta Secretaría el original de la contestación a la Demanda y que notifique con copia de dicha contestación a la Lcda. María Pagán Hernández, PO BOX 21411, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00928-1411, teléfono 787-282-6734, abogada de la parte demandante, dentro de los treinta días siguientes a la publicación de este Edicto. Si dejare de hacerlo, podrá dictarse contra usted sentencia en rebeldía concediéndole el remedio solicitado en la demanda. EXPEDIDO bajo mi firma y sello de este Tribunal Superior de Puerto Rico, Sala de San Juan, a 12 de septiembre de 2019. SRA. GRISelda RODRÍGUEZ COLLADO, SECRETARIA REGIONAL. LUZ S. ORTIZ LÓPEZ, SECRETARIA DE SERVICIOS A SALA.

LEGAL NOTICE
 ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO TRIBUNAL DE PRIMERA INSTANCIA SALA SUPERIOR DE CAGUAS
WILMADY YURI SÁNCHEZ
 Parte Demandante Vs.
RAMON GARCIA
 Parte Demandada
 Civil Núm.: PO2019CV02513. (804). Sobre: COBRO DE DINERO, EJECUCIÓN DE HIPOTECA POR LA VÍA ORDINARIA. EMPLAZAMIENTO POR EDICTO. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA, EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS EEUU., EL ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO, S.S.

REVERSE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC.
 Demandante Vs.
SUCESION LUIS ENRIQUE BOBE T/C/C
Luis Enrique Sobe Colon Compuesta Por Luis Enrique Bobe Plata, Lourdes Del Carmen Bobe Plata, Rafael Bobe Plata, John Doe Y Jane Doe Como Posibles Herederos Desconocidos;
Sucesion Carmen L. Plata De Bobe T/C/C
Carmen Lourdes Plata Dessus Compuesta Por Luis Enrique Bobe Plata, Lourdes Del Carmen Bobe Plata, Rafael Enrique Bobe Plata, John Doe Y Jane Doe Como Posibles Herederos Desconocidos;
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA; CENTRO DE RECAUDACIONES MUNICIPALES (CRIM)
 Demandados
 Civil Núm.: PO2019CV02605. Sobre: EJECUCIÓN DE HIPOTECA. EMPLAZAMIENTO POR EDICTO. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA, EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, EL ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO, S.S.

A: RAFAEL ENRIQUE BOBE PLATA, JOHN DOE Y JANE DOE, COMO POSIBLES MIEMBROS DE LA SUCESIÓN LUIS ENRIQUE BOBE T/C/C
Luis Enrique Bobe Colon Y Sucesion Carmen L. Plata De Bobe T/C/C Carmen Lourdes Plata Dessus.
 POR LA PRESENTE se le emplaza para que presente al Tribunal su alegación responsiva a la demanda dentro de los treinta (30) días a partir de la publicación de este edicto. Usted deberá presentar su alegación responsiva a través del Sistema Unificado de Manejo y Administración de Casos (SUMAC), al cual puede acceder utilizando la siguiente dirección electrónica: <https://unired.ramajudicial.pr>, salvo que se represente por derecho propio, en cuyo caso deberá presentar su alegación responsiva en la secretaría del Tribunal. Se le advierte que si no contesta la demanda, radicando el original de la contestación en este Tribunal y enviando copia de la contestación a la abogada de la Parte Demandante, Lcda. Belma Alonso García, cuya dirección es: PO Box 3922, Guayanabo, Puerto Rico 00970-3922, Teléfono y Fax: (787) 789-1826, correo electrónico: oficinabelma.alonso@gmail.com, dentro del término de treinta (30) días de la publicación de este edicto, excluyéndose el día de la publicación, se le anotará la rebeldía y se le dictará Sentencia en su contra, concediendo el remedio solicitado sin más citarle ni oírle. EXPEDIDO bajo mi firma y el sello del Tribunal, hoy 10 de septiembre de 2019, en Caguas, Puerto Rico. CARMEN ANA PEREIRA ORTÍZ, SECRETARIA REGIONAL. KAROLYN RIVERA NAVARRO, SECRETARIA AUXILIAR.

LEGAL NOTICE
 ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO TRIBUNAL DE PRIMERA INSTANCIA CENTRO JUDICIAL DE UTUADO SALA SUPERIOR

FIRSTBANK PUERTO RICO
 Parte Demandante Vs.
MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ AVILES; WILFREDO FELIX DE JESUS Y SU ESPOSA NEREIDA RIVERA
PIZARRO, AMBOS POR SÍ Y EN REPRESENTACIÓN DE LA SOCIEDAD LEGAL DE GANANCIAS POR ELLOS CONSTITUIDA; LUIS LOPEZ PEREZ Y SU ESPOSA MARIA PLANAS MUÑIZ, AMBOS POR SÍ Y EN REPRESENTACIÓN DE LA SOCIEDAD LEGAL DE GANANCIAS POR ELLOS CONSTITUIDA
 Parte Demandada
 Caso Civil Núm.: UT2019CV00296. Sobre: EJECUCIÓN DE HIPOTECA POR LA VÍA ORDINARIA Y COBRO DE DINERO. EMPLAZAMIENTO POR EDICTOS. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA, EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS EEUU., EL ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO, S.S.

A: WILFREDO FELIX DE JESUS Y SU ESPOSA NEREIDA RIVERA
PIZARRO, AMBOS POR SÍ Y EN REPRESENTACIÓN DE LA SOCIEDAD LEGAL DE GANANCIAS POR ELLOS CONSTITUIDA:
 POR LA PRESENTE se les emplaza y requiere para que conteste la demanda dentro de los treinta (30) días siguientes a la publicación de este Edicto. Usted deberá presentar su alegación responsiva a través del Sistema Unificado de Manejo y Administración de Casos (SUMAC), al cual puede acceder utilizando la siguiente dirección electrónica: <https://unired.ramajudicial.pr>, salvo que se represente por derecho propio, en cuyo caso deberá presentar su alegación responsiva en la secretaría del Tribunal. Se le advierte que si no contesta la demanda, radicando el original de la contestación en este Tribunal y enviando copia de la contestación a la abogada de la Parte Demandante, Lcda. Belma Alonso García, cuya dirección es: PO Box 3922, Guayanabo, Puerto Rico 00970-3922, Teléfono y Fax: (787) 789-1826, correo electrónico: oficinabelma.alonso@gmail.com, dentro del término de treinta (30) días de la publicación de este edicto, excluyéndose el día de la publicación, se le anotará la rebeldía y se le dictará Sentencia en su contra, concediendo el remedio solicitado sin más citarle ni oírle. EXPEDIDO bajo mi firma y el sello del Tribunal, hoy 10 de septiembre de 2019, en Caguas, Puerto Rico. CARMEN ANA PEREIRA ORTÍZ, SECRETARIA REGIONAL. KAROLYN RIVERA NAVARRO, SECRETARIA AUXILIAR.

LEGAL NOTICE
 ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO TRIBUNAL DE PRIMERA INSTANCIA CENTRO JUDICIAL DE UTUADO SALA SUPERIOR

Joy for Vázquez and Castro

By MARCOS MEJÍAS ORTIZ
Special to The Star

Javier Culson knows what is like to be among the world's best. That's why he can't hide his happiness by seeing the success of his countrymen in the best of athletics.

The former two-time silver medalists at the IAAF World Championship didn't miss the opportunity to see how Wesley Vázquez and Luis Joel Castro joined him as the only Puerto Ricans to qualify to the finals of their respective events at the world stage.

Last Tuesday, Vázquez had a solid race and finished in fifth place in the 800 meters finals in the World Championship that is held in Doha, Qatar. That same day, Castro secured his spot in the finals in High Jump. In his career, Culson went to three finals in the 400 meters hurdles, winning the silver twice (2009 and 2011).

"Those two [Castro and Vázquez] are the future of the island. They are returning the face to athletics," Culson said after seeing Vázquez race at La Casa Olímpica.

Culson also remembered that Puerto Rico had three runners in the 800 meters event. Alongside Vázquez, Andrés Arroyo and Ryan Sánchez also qualified to the World Championship.

"A new facet is expected for Tokyo and the following competitions," said the only "boricua" to win an Olympic medal in athle-

tics [bronze in London 2012].

This happiness was also shared among several leaders of the Puerto Rican Olympism. "We are pleased with what we saw of Wesley in the World Championship. It is a tough race. It is a complicated race. It is a very strategic race, which is not running the same time every time. It depends a lot on what the opponents respond. What we could see is the strategy imposed by his team," Jaime Lamboy, Director of the High Performance Department of the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee (Copur).

One of Vázquez's coaches explained the plan of the runner during the event.

"It was basically what we expected. It was a suicidal strategy. It was going out. The 800-meter race is about running the first lap in 51 seconds. Wesley's strategy was to run faster, 49 or 48 seconds," velocity trainer Luis López said.

Vázquez was in front after one lap and was really close to the podium in the last 250 meters.

"That strategy is to be in contact with the first five positions and finish off. If you have seen Wesley's work, he has improved. He is finishing better to get to the Olympic games," López pointed.

There were also pleased with Castro, who will compete in the high jump final this Friday.

"I am very happy with Luis Joel. After Lima 2019, he was very sorry. He did not



perform like himself and we all expected. He came from an Olympic final. He had a good performance in Barranquilla 2018, although he did not win a medal. I am very happy with him, not only because he made the final, but because he claimed to enter a final among the best in the world and join Culson and Vázquez," said Lamboy, who expects that Castro jumps over the 2.30 meters to secure his spot at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

Meanwhile, López appointed that: "Luis is an extraordinary athlete. He's a very positive person. He's in a good moment. He has showed that in two finals. Each time he appears in a competition of this level, he has responded very well. He was in an

Olympic final and now a World Cup final. We must count on him."

In the "Liga Atlética Interuniversitaria" (LAI- Interuniversity Athletic League) there were very happy that a couple of local athletes reached the top of their events in the World Championship. Vázquez studied at the Ana G. Méndez University, Gurabo campus, and Castro at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras.

"This is what makes the LAI great. We are part of the development of these athletes. We offer opportunities not only sports, but also academic. We expect a lot from them and we will continue supporting them," LAI tournament director Carlos Vázquez said.

Panama will have representation in the Caribbean Series

By the Star Staff

The Caribbean Baseball Confederation (CBPC, by its Spanish acronym) announced that Panama will be invited to the next Caribbean Series that will be held next February in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

This means that winter league of Panama will be to defend the title won by Los Toros de Herrera last edition. Panama City was the host of the Caribbean Series last February, which was supposed to be celebrated in Venezuela.

Juan Francisco Puello Herrera, commissioner of the CBPC, made the annou-

ncement. Puello Herrera also announced that the confederation have the plan to invite the champion of the Professional League of Colombia for the 2021 Caribbean Series that is going to be held in Mazatlán, Mexico.

The leagues that are going to be represented in the next Caribbean Series are Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba and Panama. The champions of those leagues will be playing at the Hiram Bithorn Stadium, in San Juan on February 1-7, 2020.

Meanwhile, Puello Herrera explained that he returned from Puerto Rico where he held several meetings with the mana-

gers of the Professional Baseball League and the members of the Organizing Committee that has been working with the assembly of the next Caribbean Series 2020.

"We were able to feel the progress that the organization of the next Caribbean 2020 Series has been making," the head of the Caribbean Professional Baseball Confederation said.

Rincón leads the way in Youth Double A.

Six teams are still undefeated after four weeks of action in the 2019 Roberto Alomar Double A Youth Baseball League.

Rincón has the best record among the 54 participating teams with an 8-0

mark. During last weekend's action, Rincón beat 5-1 and 4-0 Los Astros from Hormigueros.

Last season runner-up, Los Maratonistas from Coamo has 7-0 record after defeating Los Poetas from Juana Díaz, 3-1. With 6-0 are Los Toritos from Cayey, Cidra 5 and defending champions, Los Potros from Río Piedras. Meanwhile, Los Montañeses from Utuado has 5-0.

Even though they have lost a game, Los Peces Voladores from Salinas had a great weekend. They scored 33 runs in the two games of the weekend. Salinas (7-1), who leads the South 1 section, won 23-3 and 10-2 over Los Piratas from Guayama.

Baseball saw a million more empty seats. Does it matter?

By DANIELLE ALLENTUCK AND KEVIN DRAPER
The New York Times

Andrew Gaare, a 25-year-old “big time” New York Mets fan, spent this season watching games from a perch behind center field. He is an Amazon’ Mets ballpark pass subscriber, so he can go to as many home games as he wants for \$40 a month. There’s just one catch: His ticket is for standing room only with no assigned seat.

“It’s not really that bad,” Gaare said.

Even though Gaare’s pass works out to roughly \$3 per game, for the Mets and other Major League Baseball clubs, Gaare represents the latest hope in baseball’s attempt to reverse a 12-year slide in attendance. He’s young, lives near the stadium and wants to attend more games at a reasonable price, making him the perfect candidate for a ballpark pass at a time when baseball will

try just about anything to sell tickets.

The 2019 season will be remembered as the year of the home run, when baseballs flew out of stadiums at a historic rate. But in front offices across the sport, it will also be remembered as yet another season when attendance continued to dwindle, spurring teams to think up ever-more inventive ways to get hard-core and casual fans alike to attend games.

Total attendance across 2,429 major league games during the regular season dropped by about 1 million fans this season to about 68.5 million, about 14% lower than a high of 79.5 million tickets sold in 2007. The drop for 2019 followed a 2018 season in which total attendance dipped below 70 million for the first time since 2003.

Baseball officials understand their challenges. The games are long. Children — and their parents — can struggle to sit through nine innings. The fan base is aging. Many teams are terrible, with four losing

more than 100 games this season. At the same time, league revenue, which topped \$10 billion in 2018, is up more than 70% from a decade ago, thanks in large part to increasing media rights fees, which reached an all-time high this year.

Those diverging trend lines — fewer fans in the ballpark, but richer media fees and overall revenues — make up an uncomfortable truth about baseball in the 21st century. Ticket sales, long the bread and butter for the sport, are no longer the central driver of the business at a time when the sport’s digital business is ascendant.

“It’s never going to go away,” Noah Garden, MLB executive vice president for business and sales, said of ticket sales. “It isn’t going to die. But it’s going to change. There are going to be a different number of people that want to purchase tickets a different way.”

There already are. Four teams introduced the ballpark pass in 2015, and now

18 of the 30 MLB teams have some type of subscription option, which varies in price from \$30 each month for standing room only to \$125 for a guaranteed seat. While it has not been enough to reverse the downward trend in ticket sales, baseball executives believe it is attractive to younger fans, who are used to paying for subscription services like Netflix and Spotify.

“You’re not going to get rich off the ballpark pass,” said Brooks Boyer, the White Sox’s senior vice president for sales and marketing. “But you’re getting people in the park.”

That is important in part because the energy from full stadiums comes across on telecasts, and because with an aging fan base, baseball is trying to cultivate the next generation of fans. But it is also a delicate dance. If teams lower ticket prices too much, they could devalue their product and drive away those customers who still pay hundreds or thousands of dollars each season for a premium experience.

Nationals advance at last. Now they seek a crowning achievement

By TYLER KEPNER
The New York Times

When Christian Yelich broke his kneecap on a foul ball last month, the Milwaukee Brewers turned to a rookie to replace him. Trent Grisham had gotten five hits the night before, and he impressed his manager, Craig Counsell, with his poise. He is not a superstar like Yelich, but Grisham could hold his own.

“He’s 22 and he’s got the low heart rate,” Counsell said last week, on the bench before a game in Cincinnati. “As the game goes on, he plays very smooth. You’d never know it’s a big game. Sometimes you want him to hurry up. Very relaxed out there; the situation’s not going to get too big for him.”

On Tuesday night, in the National League wild card game at Nationals Park, Grisham came undone in right field at the worst possible time. With two outs, the bases loaded and the Brewers leading by two runs, Grisham let a single by Juan Soto skip past him. The Nationals —

haunted by repeated autumn failures — finally caught a break in the month that has bedeviled them.

The game would almost certainly have been tied even if Grisham had fielded the ball cleanly, and Josh Hader, the Brewers’ overpowering closer, had certainly created the mess with a hit batter, a single and a walk. But the go-ahead run scampered home on Grisham’s error, and the Nationals soon finished off a raucous 4-3 victory to set up a division series date with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

To get there, the Nationals needed eight innings Tuesday from their aces, Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg. Scherzer walked Grisham to lead off the game, and then allowed a two-run homer to Yasmani Grandal. In the second inning, Eric Thames homered off Scherzer.

But the Brewers never scored again, with Strasburg relieving Scherzer to start the top of the sixth. He worked three dominant innings, and Daniel Hudson saved it in the ninth.

This is the first time the Nationals have advanced in the playoffs — though,

technically, they still have not won a postseason series — since Major League Baseball finally returned to Washington for the 2005 season.

When Victor Robles caught the final

out in center field, and fireworks exploded over South Capitol Street, MLB’s vision for the city was illuminated: a perennial winner with a roster of stars in a ballpark that set off a neighborhood building boom.



What Happened in Week 4 of the NFL



It was a loss in the box score, but Micah Hyde and the Buffalo Bills defense proved a lot with the team's efforts to slow down Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

By BENJAMIN HOFFMAN
The New York Times

If you thought Week 4 was going to separate the pretenders and contenders, you were sorely mistaken. The Buffalo Bills and Detroit Lions were terrific in defeat, the Cleveland Browns reminded everyone why they were hyped so much during the offseason and the Los Angeles Rams showed off quite a few flaws in a devastating loss at home.

Week 4's theme was keeping things interesting. Here's what we learned.

— You can lose without being exposed.

The Bills and the Lions came into this week looking to prove that their undefeated starts to the season were not just flukes and they did just that despite losing. Buffalo's outstanding defense made Tom Brady and the New England Patriots' offense look positively pedestrian, and Matthew Stafford and the Detroit offense hung tough in a shootout with Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs. The rest of the league should be on notice that Buffalo and Detroit are teams to worry about.

— The New Orleans Saints are magical at home on Sunday nights. Drew Brees was out, New Orleans was up against an un-

defeated Dallas Cowboys team that in previous weeks had looked far superior on both sides of the ball, and the Saints failed to score a touchdown. They won anyway, 12-10, intercepting Dak Prescott's last-second Hail Mary to secure the victory. New Orleans has not lost a Sunday night game at home in the entire time NBC has hosted the NFL's game of the week, going 12-0 since 2006.

— The AFC North is starting over. Baker Mayfield responded to his many critics by throwing for 342 yards in an easy 40-25 win over Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens. The Browns, who had been all over the place in a 1-2 start, had everything working on Sunday: Nick Chubb rushed for 165 yards and three touchdowns, Jarvis Landry had 167 receiving yards and Cleveland's defense made Jackson look far shakier than he had during a 2-1 start to the season. With Cleveland and Baltimore tied at the top of their division with 2-2 records — and Pittsburgh and Cincinnati seemingly irrelevant with matching 0-3 records before their Monday night showdown — the Browns' rough start is officially washed away.

— The Haskins part of the Haskins-Jones rivalry is off to a bad start. The Washington Redskins apparently liked what they saw when their longtime NFC East rivals, the New York Giants, made the switch to Daniel Jones at quarterback. Washington tried for similar magic by putting its rookie, Dwayne Haskins, under center in place of Case Keenum in a game that was already slipping away. Haskins did throw one touchdown pass, but it went to Jabrill Peppers, a defensive back for the Giants. The Giants won, 24-3.

Coach Jay Gruden did not guarantee Haskins another start, but Gruden is not guaranteed to be Washington's coach next week.

— Sometimes 500 passing yards isn't enough. Los Angeles got off to a terrible start against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, fought back valiantly, and then lost, 55-40. Along the way, Jared Goff threw for an eye-popping 517 yards — tied for the eighth most in NFL regular season history, according to Pro Football Reference. Goff also threw three interceptions and Ndamukong Suh, a former Ram, returned a Goff fumble for a game-sealing touchdown in the final two minutes. Raising eyebrows in the loss: Tampa Bay's defense held Todd Gurley to just 16 rushing yards. Gurley's total has gone down each game since Week 1 (97, 63, 43, 16).

— The NFL still has a safety problem. After Thursday's game resulted in two players being taken off the field in neck braces, the league had a rough Sunday in terms of player health. Buffalo's Josh Allen, Cleveland's Jarvis Landry and Detroit's T.J. Hockenson all sustained concussions and Chicago's Mitchell Trubisky lasted just six plays before being ruled out with a left shoulder injury. Micah Hyde of the Bills was openly critical of the officiating crew for not ejecting Jonathan Jones of the Patriots after a helmet-to-helmet hit on Allen. "If one of us did that to 12, we wouldn't have been in the game anymore," Hyde said, referring to Brady by his jersey number. Jalen Ramsey was held out of Jacksonville's last-second win over Denver with a back injury, though that injury seemed to manifest from a desire to no longer play for the team.

Vontaze Burfict Suspended for the Rest of the NFL Season

By VICTOR MATHER
The New York Times

Vontaze Burfict, the Oakland Raiders linebacker with a history of hard hits that skirt the line of legality, was suspended Monday for the remaining 12 games of the NFL season.

It was the longest suspension ever for on-field actions, NFL.com reported.

Burfict's penalty was for "repeated violations of unnecessary roughness rules," but it was precipitated by a helmet-to-helmet hit on tight end Jack Doyle of the Indianapolis

Colts on Sunday.

"Your contact was unnecessary, flagrant and should have been avoided," Jon Runyan, NFL vice president for football operations, wrote in the ruling.

The hit came in the second quarter of a victory over Indianapolis. Doyle caught a pass at midfield, and Burfict, with head lowered, plowed his helmet into Doyle's. He was whistled for a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the play and ejected from the game.

He blew mock kisses to the fans as he left the field.

The suspension was announced Monday in part because it gives Burfict a day to appeal on his off day, Tuesday. That appeal would be heard by James Thrash or Derrick Brooks, the NFL's appeal officers.

Prior histories are considered when fining and suspending players, and Burfict does have a prior history.

In 2014, when he was with the Cincinnati Bengals, he was fined \$25,000 for twisting the ankles of the Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton and Greg Olsen, both of whom had ankle issues earlier in the year. "Punishment needs to go beyond a fine," Olsen told The

Washington Post at the time. "Guys like that don't learn from that stuff. He's been fined a hundred times for headhunting."

In 2015, his troubles all seemed to involve the Pittsburgh Steelers. He ended the season of running back Le'Veon Bell in November with a tackle, and although it did not seem to be dirty, many Steelers were upset that he seemed to celebrate the injury. After the December rematch, quarterback Ben Roethlisberger accused Burfict of aiming his helmet at Roethlisberger's legs. Several infractions in that game brought Burfict a total of \$69,000 in fines.

Sudoku

How to Play:

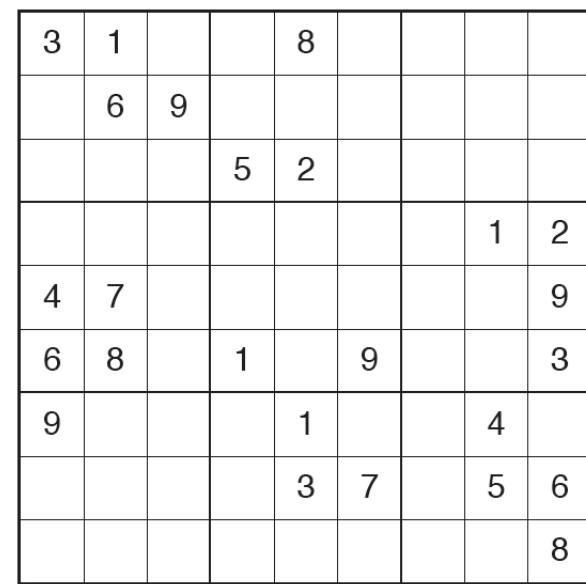
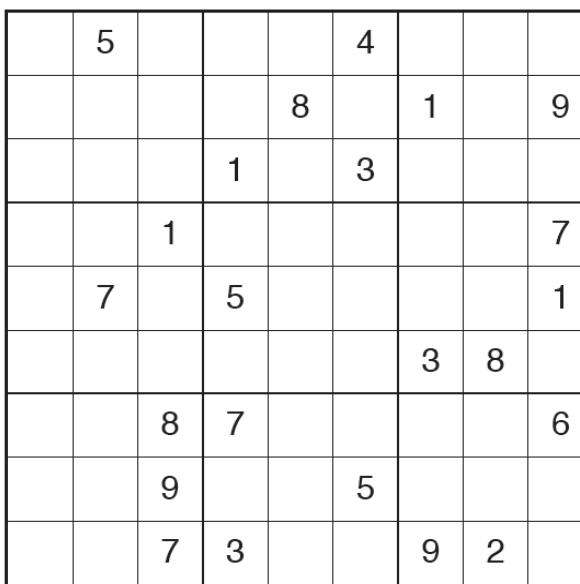
Fill in the empty fields with the numbers from 1 through 9.

Sudoku Rules:

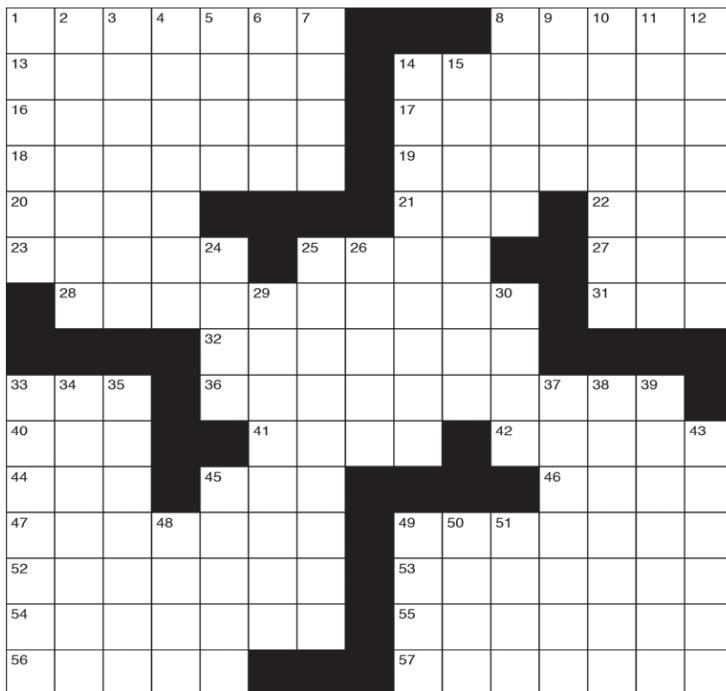
Every row must contain the numbers from 1 through 9

Every column must contain the numbers from 1 through 9

Every 3x3 square must contain the numbers from 1 through 9



Crossword



Across

- 1. The 31st, July-wise
- 8. Foolish month
- 13. Madrid museum
- 14. Reconcile differences
- 16. ____ oneself of (utilized)
- 17. Demonstrates clearly
- 18. Sort of dorky
- 19. Examiners
- 20. Lug
- 21. Abbr. after a Granite State pol.'s name, maybe
- 22. Servicewoman, once
- 23. A Chan portrayer
- 25. H. G. Wells species
- 27. "... one leg ____ time"
- 28. Burials
- 31. Until now
- 32. Make use of a car window
- 33. Classic Benzes
- 36. Not whole
- 40. Pull behind

41. River near Paris

- 42. Starts to receive customers
- 44. Fertilization targets
- 45. ____ sponte (legal term)
- 46. Solemn recital
- 47. Posse pursuit
- 49. Euripidean drama
- 52. Nonappearance
- 53. Hotter
- 54. Goofed off
- 55. Tourist guide
- 56. Funnyman Youngman
- 57. Light hammers

Down

- 1. Simple shack
- 2. Air cells
- 3. Austere
- 4. Neptune's spear
- 5. Surrealist Salvador
- 6. Lime drinks
- 7. Hebrew letter
- 8. Obsolete term for beautiful girl
- 9. Pub order
- 10. Monticello or Saratoga
- 11. Say over
- 12. Dieter's mantra, maybe
- 14. Musician's timekeeper
- 15. Tie the score
- 24. Where to get sliced meat
- 25. Cadaverous
- 26. Talk show host Jay and family
- 29. Disown
- 30. D-Day invasion town
- 33. Tolerate
- 34. Endearing
- 35. Silent-screen superstar
- 37. Extremely significant
- 38. Late afternoon, typically
- 39. Plead
- 43. Goes up a half-tone
- 45. Like some dispositions
- 48. Chopped
- 49. Certain cheese
- 50. Pisa dough?
- 51. Düsseldorf donkey

Wordsearch



Arson	Dozen	Lives	Sings
Barbs	Drunk	Lumpy	Slaves
Bides	Edges	Lutes	Solitary
Buoys	Error	Meant	Thresher
Career	Faction	Mortals	Valley
Chortled	Farmed	Mulls	Verse
Clone	Flush	Needy	Westerns
Coughs	Frisked	Nutty	Wired
Denims	Grand	Oozes	Wrist
Dinner	Impend	Rafeted	
Dirty	Lease	Residual	
Dollar	Lemon	Retrace	

Aries (Mar 21-April 20)

An exercise regime makes you more energetic, not less. It will also increase your physical desire. If you have a romantic partner, you'll have difficulty keeping your hands off each other. A pointless argument will quickly turn into a passionate embrace. Work is important to you. That's why it's so impossible to have an attractive office environment. Invest in a comfortable chair and some inspirational artwork. Some thriving plants and family photos will complete the effect, causing ideas to flow freely.

Taurus (April 21-May 21)

Intense desire for your romantic partner can't be contained. Plan to take yourself off to a private hideaway where you can let your passion run wild. It feels so good to be with someone who shares your sensual needs. Life is beautiful when you're physically satisfied. This is a good time to sign an agreement. You'll be able to negotiate much better terms than you were originally offered. Ask for what you deserve and stick to your guns. You're on the brink of a great victory.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)

Be direct about addressing a family problem. A demanding relative is undermining your progress at work. You can't keep taking time off to come to this troublemaker's rescue. Until they get help for their problems, you must limit contact with them. This is a good time to negotiate a contract. Instead of getting pulled into an emotional argument, you make logical points that cannot be refuted. Once the other side realises you can't be manipulated, they'll give you what you want.

Cancer (June 22-July 23)

If you must take a test, take time out of your busy schedule to study for it. You won't be able to absorb all this information the night before the exam. When you pass with flying colours, you'll have your choice of work assignments. You are drawn to the luxuries in life. Treat yourself to some beautiful clothes, furniture or artwork. Usually, when you get extra money, you spend it on your nearest and dearest. Indulge your desires first for a change.

Leo (July 24-Aug 23)

Going after a lucrative job is strongly advised. You have a deep love of luxury. Having a good income will allow you to indulge your love of beautiful clothes, furniture and artwork. If you want your own business, sell handmade items on an artisanal website. You're very receptive towards others. Listening closely to a relative will improve your relationship. At long last, you'll finally understand their motives. This will be helpful when you want to get them to do your bidding.

Virgo Aug 24-Sep 23

Taking exercise makes your creative juices flow. Don't be surprised when a brilliant idea occurs to you while walking on the treadmill or enjoying a swim. Your mind and body are closely connected. When you're experiencing stagnation with one, try moving the other. Taking a course or attending a lecture series will give you the intellectual stimulation you crave. You're enormously intelligent. That's why it's important to try new things as often as possible. You don't want your intellect to grow stale.

Libra (Sep 24-Oct 23)

Changing your image takes time, energy and effort. It's easy for others to keep you in a pigeonhole. When you venture out of this role, they become upset. Don't let that cause you to backslide. Continue to move in a more rewarding direction. Your powers of concentration are enormous. Use them to acquire a valuable skill. Working with a patient teacher makes all the difference. It's easy to absorb information when you are relaxed and encouraged. This instructor is worth its weight in gold.

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)

Joining an exercise group will be enjoyable. Your energy soars when you're in the company of other active people. Resist the urge to compete. Focus on strengthening your own body. Slowly but surely, you'll see the results you want. Keep up the good work. Your fiery energy is extremely attractive. If you're looking for love, you'll have your choice of admirers. Falling head over heels in love with someone who is outspoken and passionate is a strong possibility.

Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)

A desire for professional prominence is causing you to work harder. Spending lots of time at the office is rewarding. Your efforts make a difference. Best of all, both your colleagues and superiors appreciate your contributions. You'll quickly get a promotion. Having a hidden aspect of your life is empowering. When you are with friends, you are free and open with your opinions. That's why everyone comes to you for advice. A secret hobby makes you feel less accessible. That's a good thing.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)

Working for a political, cultural or religious institution will be stimulating. People appreciate your heartfelt approach to your duties. They know you will go above and beyond the call of duty for important issues. You'll gain a reputation for being a thorough and talented professional. You're not sure if you want to get involved in a serious relationship at this point. Having fun with someone is all you want. It's not time to make a commitment; you're still getting to know each other.

Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)

It's important to fight for your fair share of a joint fund. A manipulative person will try to take all the money for themselves. Not only is this unfair, but it sets a dangerous precedent. It's important to establish yourself as an unmovable force. Fame and acclaim are coming your way. Your employer respects your work ethic. They appreciate how you will stay late until a job is finished. Don't be surprised when you're given a raise, promotion or both.

Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)

Taking responsibilities off your partner's plate will draw you closer together. It's pleasing and satisfying to give practical assistance to your amour, who is usually the one who has their feet on the ground. Anticipating their needs will allow them to attend to a personal matter. Your way with words makes you a popular figure. People adore how you make them laugh, even during the darkest times. Don't be surprised when someone asks you to write a column or record a podcast.

Answers to the Sudoku and Crossword
on page 37

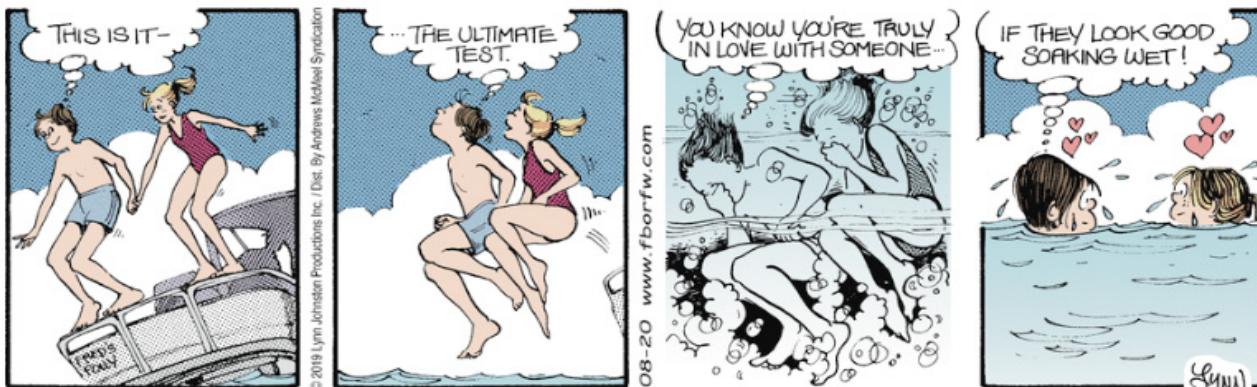
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7	3	4	6	8	2	1	5	9
9	8	6	1	5	3	2	7	4
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8	7	3	5	2	9	6	4	1
6	9	5	4	1	7	3	8	2
5	2	8	7	9	1	4	3	6
3	6	9	2	4	5	7	1	8
4	1	7	3	6	8	9	2	5

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

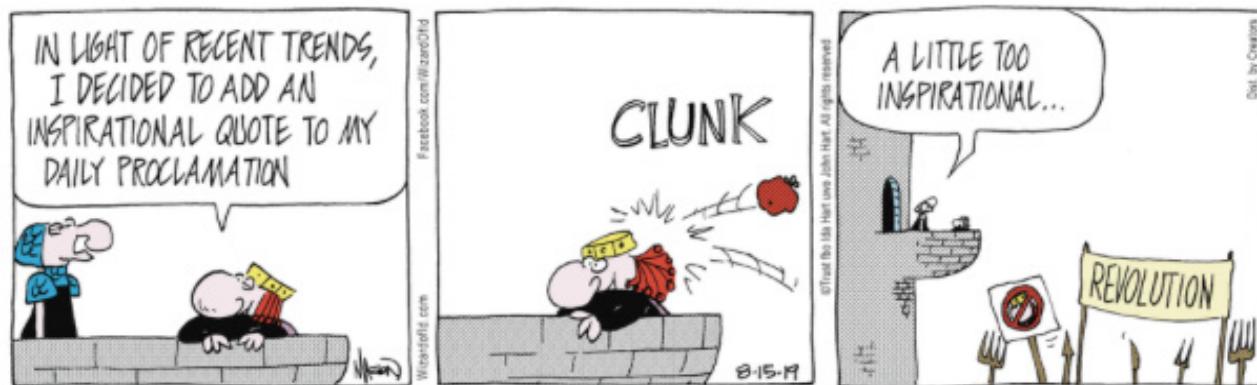


Herman

For Better or for Worse



Wizard of Id



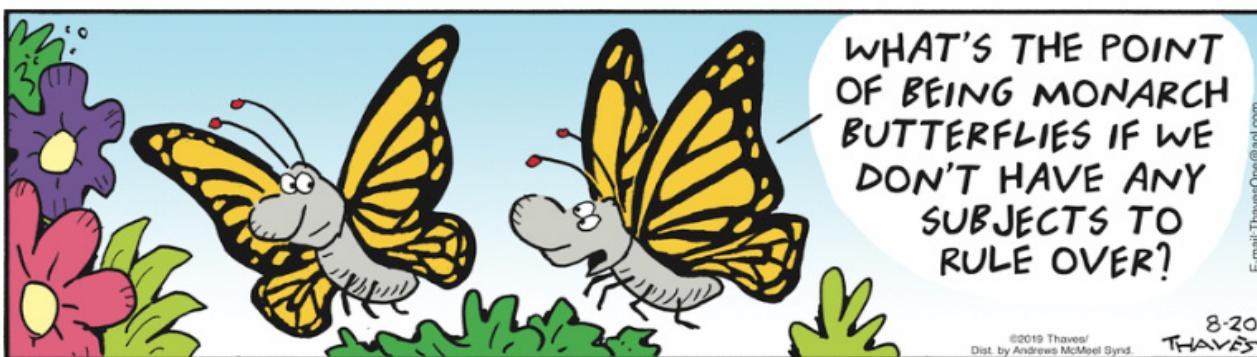
Scary Gary



BC



Frank & Ernest



"Take one capsule tonight, and if there's no improvement by tomorrow morning, take the whole bottle."

Speed Bump



Ziggy



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