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Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady"

wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration — and doing it based on astrology to boot.

All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory. After his death in June 2004 she dedicated herself to tending his legacy, especially at his presidential library in California, where he had served as governor.

She also championed Alzheimer's patients, raising millions of dollars for research and breaking with fellow conservative Republicans to advocate for stem cell studies. Her dignity and perseverance in these post-White House roles helped smooth over the public's fickle perceptions of the former first lady.

The Reagans' mutual devotion over 52 years

"She became a voice on behalf of millions of families going through the depleting, aching reality of Alzheimer's,"

Barack Obama
President of the United States



(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

Flowers sit atop the sign at the entrance to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Sunday, March 6, 2016, in Simi Valley, Calif. Former first lady Nancy Reagan died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure

of marriage was legendary. They were forever holding hands. She watched his political speeches with a look of such steady adoration it was dubbed "the gaze." He called her

"Mommy," and penned a lifetime of gushing love notes. She saved these letters, published

See Reagan, page A4

SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

Sayre falls in final qualifying round

By JOHNNY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

SAYRE — The team from the Sayre High School illustrated the meaning of the Scholarship Challenge's motto of "the power of thought ... the magic of the mind" during their second match of the final rounds of the competition's qualifiers on Saturday, as the team scored one of the highest totals of the year by reaching 200 points in one match.

However, Sayre High will have to wait another year for its shot to win its first Kwasnoski Cup, as it fell to Newark Valley High School in the final match of the final qualifying round.

But the Valley will still be well-represented, as Newark Valley joins the high schools of Athens, Waverly and Notre Dame in the finals of the 36th Annual Scholarship Challenge, which will be held March 19 in the Patterson

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Johnny Williams / Morning Times

The Sayre High School team fell just short of making it to the finals of the 36th annual Scholarship Challenge.

SAYRE

Library presents Seuss-tacular



Johnny Williams / Morning Times

The Cat-in-the-Hat joined Thing 1 and Thing 2 at the Seuss-tacular held at the Sayre Public Library on Saturday.

By JOHNNY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

SAYRE — "This is one of the few days you're allowed to be loud in the library," Seuss-tacular organizer Megan Gilson said.

That might be because it's virtually impossible to be quiet when one has

the Cat-in-the-Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2 bolting to and fro throughout the Sayre Public Library. Add them to the mix of crafts and games available to the kids that attended the event honoring the famed children's author known as Dr. Seuss, and one

See Seuss-tacular, page A4

Athens United Methodist Church raises money and fellowship

By JOHNNY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

ATHENS — Amidst the rushed shuffling of church members and the clanging of kitchenware, one could still hear the laughs coming from both the kitchen and dining area, as members of the United Methodist Church in Athens held their chicken and biscuit dinner fundraising event on Saturday.

But food was not the only thing being offered at the church, as patrons could participate in a silent auction as well, which featured quilts, a painting and baskets with themes ranging from Easter to baby items.

"All of the food is homemade," church member Joyce Roof said. "We have chicken, biscuits, gravy, corn, peas, and all of it is prepared here at the church."

For \$10 per adult and \$5 per

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Johnny Williams / Morning Times

Members of the Athens United Methodist Church have fun while cooking during the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner on Saturday.

LITCHFIELD

Satterlee Creek Environmental Center holds annual Open Forest

By JOHNNY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

LITCHFIELD — Under the pavilion at the Satterlee Creek Environmental Center, the scent of hot chili from the chili contest filled the air — a tasty means to fight off the cold that hung in the air Saturday in Litchfield.

Under a nearby shed, the sweet aroma coming from a maple syrup demonstration picked at the chilled nostrils of passersby. As the churning engine of an antique tractor pulled away a carriage full of people for a wagon ride, the yipping cries of the Sled Dogs of Smokey Hill pierced the air as they clamored to do what they were trained to do. And all of that is only part of what was offered at the 17th Annual Open Forest,

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Johnny Williams / Morning Times

The Bradford County Conservation District brought a variety of animal bones and furs for educational purposes during the Open Forest event.

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