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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017



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County road projects reaching final phases

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

Residents around town may soon get to see some of the road construction end as the county begins to wrap up what's left of a road grant project, according to the county road and bridge administrator.

Many residents have come across a road a detour, or a road block during their daily commutes the past couple months. Several of those projects are beginning to reach

the final phases of completion and according to Brian Klinksiek, county road and bridge administrator, could be finished as early as September.

"They have completed the first section, along north Midway," said Klinksiek. "So in the next month we should see the project probably finish."

Klinksiek also brought seven road boring permits to the court for approval with three in Precinct 1, one in Precinct 2, and five in Precinct 4. The

permit in Precinct 2 was in conjunction with another proposal for a pipeline access on the south side of Midway road.

"Starting just in the vicinity of Denton and running west," said Klinksiek. "It is in a residential neighborhood, and I have received assurances that they would make sure that they would cross under driveways and not disrupt residents as much as possible."

Another permit regarded

a septic line protruding into a driveway about three feet, according to Klinksiek, and the request was more or less a precautionary measure and would be something on the record for future reference. Klinksiek stated the line shouldn't pose an issue when performing normal road work or maintenance in the area.

In other news covered at the meeting, Sheriff Stan Parker requested permission from the commissioners court to

seek out bids for a new radio communications system for city and county entities.

"We had tabled a request before on the radio system until we had a chance to meet," said Parker. "I would just like to bring that back up and see if we can press forward with that."

The motion was approved for the department to go forth and seek out proposals on the new radio system.

See **COURT**, Page 3

Little Joe to return for benefit



File photo

Little Joe y La Familia will perform at a concert benefitting Victim Services in Big Spring July 15 at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Fair Barn. Victim Services serves Borden, Glasscock, Scurry, Dawson, Howard, Martin, and Mitchell counties. In this file photo, Little Joe performs for the audience along with La Familia bassist Mike Torres III on April 1, 2017, at the Municipal Auditorium.

Business After Hours to welcome VIP Sports Getaway

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Local business owners have a chance Thursday to learn about the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, get introduced to a new Chamber member, and network.

"We're bringing back our 'Business After Hours,'" said Chamber director Debbye ValVerde. "We had not been doing it for a while, and we're hoping that bringing it back will get our businesses to come out and get to know each other and network more."

ValVerde said Thursday's meeting will introduce Chamber members and local business owners to Abilene-based VIP Sports Getaway, who recently joined the Big Spring Chamber to gauge local interest in their service.

"What they do is, they provide chartered buses for whatever need is out there. Right now, what we know them real well on is party buses that they take to the Dallas Cowboys games and Texas Ranger games," ValVerde said. "You can purchase a seat on the bus and it takes you to and from the game safely. There's tailgating done, you get tickets to whatever game it is, whether it's Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, or whatever. They've joined the Big Spring Chamber because they'd like to see if Big Spring would be interested in doing something like that."

In addition to their party bus services, VIP provides chartered buses for more traditional activities, Valverde said.

"They also provide chartered buses for churches or schools that are in need to get their kiddoes to and from an event," she said. "They provide chartered buses for that, so it's not just all parties."

This week's Business After Hours will be Thursday from 4:30 to 7 p.m., and will be hosted by a local Chamber member.

"It's going to be held at the Train Car Cigar Bar downtown," ValVerde said. "(Owner Brent Strande) has graciously said he will host us. He's located at 100 S. Main, and this event is going to take place from 4:30 to 7 p.m."

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3

Senate GOP leaders hope for health care vote next week

By **ALAN FRAM and ERICA WERNER**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders are hoping to stage a climactic vote on their health care bill next week, though internal rifts over divisive issues like coverage requirements and Medicaid cuts leave the timing and even the measure's fate in question.

"We need to start voting" on the GOP bill scuttling much of President Barack Obama's health care law, No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas told reporters Monday. Some Republicans said a revised version of the bill could be introduced Thursday, and Cornyn said the "goal" was for a vote next week.

Cornyn cited seven years of unresolved Republican debate over how to replace the 2010 statute during which "we gain a vote, we lose a vote." That underscored

a sense among top Republicans that they had little to gain by letting their disputes drag on much further.

Consensus on a replacement seemed more remote than ever as senators returned to the Capitol from a Fourth of July recess. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who crafted the bill largely in secret, postponed a vote last month in the face of certain defeat.

Republicans were hearing divergent messages from the White House Monday. President Donald Trump

pressured GOP senators to pass the measure quickly, while Vice President Mike Pence suggested they might have to revert to a straightforward "Obamacare" repeal if they can't agree on an alternative.

McConnell has little room for error as he tries to pass a bill with 50 GOP votes, and Pence as the tie-breaker, in a Senate Republican control by 52-48. All Democrats are opposed.

With at least a dozen

See **BILL**, Page 3



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Obituaries

CD Downing



CD Downing, 79, Colorado City, passed away at the Mitchell County Nursing and Rehab Center in Colorado City on Thursday, July 6, 2017 with his loving family by his side.

CD was born on March 6, 1938 in Corpus Christi Texas the son of Clyde Derek and Lillian Downing.

CD was a man that was dedicated to his God and his Country. While still in high school he joined the United States Marine Corp Reserves. Upon graduating, CD went to work in the oil fields where he enjoyed a life-long career path, until moving to Big Spring and working for the electric company. He was an avid golfer, spending many days both playing and working at the Wolfcreek Golf Course of Colorado City. CD was a member of St. Paul's

Lutheran Church in Big Spring, where he attended faithfully with his family for many years.

CD is survived by his loving wife Doris of Colorado City, whom he married on Aug. 2, 1958 at the Lutheran church in Big Spring; by his sons, Robert Downing and wife, Donna, of Big Spring and Bill Downing of Colorado City; and by his grand-children Scott Downing, Charlie Downing, and Robbie Jean Downing. Also surviving are his sisters, Janice Bibb of Burbank, Calif., and Rena Kriner and husband, Denis of Ada, Okla.

A memorial service for CD will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Big Spring on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 10 a.m. A graveside service will follow around noon in the Westbrook Cemetery. The family will be present for a visitation on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, from 6-8 p.m. at the Kiker Seale Funeral Home.

Those wishing may leave online condolences by visiting www.kikerseale.com.

Paid obituary

Loyce Virginia Kinman Looney



Loyce Virginia Kinman Looney slipped Earth's bonds on July 8, 2017 to join her husband, Bob, and her parents Lloyd and Mamie Kinman, as well as her two sisters, Betty Dixon and LaVerne Kimzey on the eternal walk with her Christ.

Born on March 25, 1925, in Brownwood, Texas, to Lloyd B. Kinman and Mamie Elizabeth Underwood Kinman, Loyce lived in Big Spring, Texas from the age of seven until graduating from Big Spring High School, Class of '42. Working as a bookkeeper at State Bank and then at Meads Fine Bread in Big Spring, she met and married the love of her life, Robert Melton Looney on Dec. 18, 1948.

A wife, a mother, and a homemaker was her calling as well as serving in many capacities in her church. Prior to 2013, she taught the older ladies class at Southside Baptist Church for 25 plus years. She is survived by her daughters Karen Kinds-

father (Coy) of Fort Worth, Robin Poteet, Sherry Cook (Ron) and her son, Robert Looney (Sonya), all of Granbury. Her grandchildren include: Jennifer Poteet Bravo of Bakersfield, Calif., Adam Poteet of Granbury, Vance and Krista Poteet of Lima, Ohio; Stacey and Chester Keeley of Granbury, Erin and Shane Nadeau of Fort Worth, Toni and Orlando Martinez of Granbury; Stephanie and Cameron Gossett of Fort Worth, and Sheila and Lyle Rupert of Conway, Ark. She had 10 great-grandsons, six great-granddaughters, three great-great-grandsons, and one great-great-granddaughter. Also included is Loyce's bonus daughter, Jeanette Armstrong, who has lovingly tended to her these last three years throughout her ordeals.

She is also survived by her sister Jeanette Place of Godley, brother James Kinman and wife, Katie, of Lubbock, and sister Meldean Kraus of Big Spring, and sister-in-law Clenna Spencer and husband, Kenneth of Benbrook, and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday the July 11, at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury with services at Southside Baptist Church on Paluxy Highway at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 12.

Paid obituary

Josephine Lopez Saiz



Josephine Lopez Saiz, 74, of Big Spring, died Monday July 10, 2017. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017 at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

A rosary service will be held Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Josephine was born Aug. 2, 1942 in Big Spring, Texas. She married Ernesto Saiz in 1956. He preceded her in death Dec. 6, 2006.

She is survived by two daughters, Precilla Domingo and husband, Mike, Mary Martinez and husband, David Rivera, all of Big Spring; four sons, Jesse Saiz and wife, Martha of Lubbock, Ernest Saiz, Ricky Saiz, and Robert Saiz, all of Big Spring; Tina, wife of the late Felipe Saiz of Big Spring; 18 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; one brother, Gilbert Lopez and one sister, Flora Vega, both of Big Spring as well.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by three sons, Frankie Saiz, Joey Saiz, and Felipe Saiz; and her parents Joe and Maria Lopez.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will start Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring.

Police, Sheriff, Fire & EMS reports

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **DENNY RAY WAN- NER**, 41, of 617 Caylor Drive, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• **AVEL ABREO RAMIREZ**, 70, of 1401 Mesquite Street, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespassing.

• **KAITLIN RENEE HIN- TON**, 29, of 4207 Muir Street, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• **MERVIN KALANIKOA SIMMONS**, 59, of 1201 E 17th Street, was arrested on a warrant for terroristic threat that places public in fear of serious bodily injury.

• **JIMMY DALE VEGA**, 34, of 15501 N County Road 39, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **TAMMY KAY LOCK-**

HART, 40, of 1311 Madison Street, was arrested on a charge of assault by family violence, threat, or offensive touch.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1400 block of Mesquite, the 4500 block of S. Highway 87, the 3000 block of W. Highway 80, and the 4200 block of Old Colorado City Highway.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 4200 block of Muir Street and the 1300 block of Madison Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A VE- HICLE** was reported near the intersection of Fm 700 and S. Anderson Road.

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 84 inmates at the time of this report.

• **TAMMY LOCKHART**

COKER, 40, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of assault by family violence.

• **OLIN MITCHELL HAYNES**, 44, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of assault by contact.

• **KAITLIN RENEE HIN- TON**, 29, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for driving while license invalid.

• **MARISSA YVETTE PHILLIPS**, 23, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **AVEL ABREO RAMIREZ**, 70, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespassing.

• **MERVIN KALANIKOA SIMMONS**, 59, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for terroristic threat.

• **JIMMY DALE VEGA**, 34, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid

with previous

conviction or suspension.

• **DENNY RAY WAN- NER**, 41, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for theft of material (aluminum, bronze, copper).

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of East 4th. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 600 block of Hobert.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of East 17th. One person was transported to the Scenic

Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of West FM 700.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of East 3rd. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Kinsey Road. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1500 block of Wood Street.

• **OUTSIDE RUBBISH FIRE** was reported in the 1000 block of Brown.

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COURT

Continued from Page 1

A purchase request was also presented by Tommy Sullivan, chief of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, to send some of his firefighters to gain some additional training and experience.

"This is for six firefighters at \$905 a piece that's \$5,430 and I have \$6,500 in the budget," said Sullivan.

The motion was approved by the court. Judge Kathryn Wise-

man also presented an award to Shannon Adams, Howard County treasurer's assistant, for her work with the Health and Wellness Program.

"We received a letter from the Permian Basin Public Workers Compensation Program," said Judge Wiseman.

According to Wiseman the letter recognized Adams for helping promote a healthy workplace and presented her and Howard County with the "PWCP Annual Wellness Member of the Year Award."

Other topics covered at the meeting included:

- Klinksiek announced he received an invitation to an Infrastructure Conference at Texas Tech University and needed to know if any commissioners wish to attend as well.
- Invoices, purchase requests, and budget amendments were all approved by the commissioners court.
- A motion was also approved to allow an outside CPA firm to conduct the county's annual audit.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

At 5:30 p.m., a symbolic ribbon-cutting will take place to welcome VIP Sports Getaway to Big Spring, she said.

"We want businesses to come and not only meet our new member and the Train Car, but get to know the Chamber," ValVerde said. "Business After Hours is just one of the events. I believe that as businesses, we need to support each other. That's what it's all about, when you're in a small town like ours, that we all support each other and get to know each other."

ValVerde encouraged those attending to bring business cards for door

prize drawings throughout the evening.

"We need everyone to bring their business cards," she said. "Those who bring their business cards have a chance to win a VIP package for two to go see Clay Walker. And there's going to be other giveaways as well. This is just one way that the Chamber helps promote our members, and we want everyone to come on out and get to know us as well."

For more information, contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

BILL

Continued from Page 1

Republicans opposing or challenging parts of McConnell's bill, the leader has been working on revisions aimed at bringing more GOP senators on board. Final decisions remain to be made on how tightly to curb the growth of Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor; whether to let insurers sell low-cost policies with very limited coverage; and how much money to devote to making health care tax credits more generous, said No. 3 Senate Republican John Thune of South Dakota.

Congress is beginning a three-week sprint toward its traditional five-week August recess, and GOP leaders want to finish work on the measure by then. Some lawmakers have suggested the break should be shortened or canceled if they can't get health care done first, though that's unlikely to happen.

"I cannot imagine that Congress would dare to leave Washington without a beautiful new HealthCare bill fully approved and ready to go!" Trump tweeted early Monday.

Hours later, Pence emphasized another approach Trump has at times suggested.

"We believe if they can't pass this carefully crafted repeal and replace bill, do those two things simultaneously, we ought to just repeal only," and then turn to replacement legislation later on, Pence told conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh.

Too many Republicans oppose repealing Obama's law without also enacting an alternative to give that tactic much chance of succeeding. To succeed, the new legislation will have to address the concerns of conser-

vatives like Mike Lee of Utah and Ted Cruz of Texas, who want a more full-blown repeal, and moderates like Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who want essentially the opposite, a more generous bill.

McConnell himself has acknowledged that if he can't get the job done with Republicans alone, he'll have to turn to Democrats to shore up the market for individual insurance buyers.

The House managed to pass health care legislation in May after plentiful struggles of its own to reach agreement. Both the House and Senate bills eliminate Obamacare's mandates for people to buy insurance and individuals to provide it, gradually undo an expansion of Medicaid and reduce the size of the federal-state health care program for the poor and disabled. The measures would cut taxes for the wealthy.

Both bills would result in more than 20 million people kicked off insurance rolls over the next decade, numbers that have spooked lawmakers eyeing reelection.

Around 80 demonstrators opposed to the legislation were arrested around the Capitol complex Monday, according to U.S. Capitol Police.

Cruz has proposed letting insurers sell any policies they'd like, as long as they also sell one that covers a list of services like maternity care that Obama's law requires. The Cruz amendment was alienating senators like Collins amid concerns it would lead to unaffordable prices for people with pre-existing medical conditions because younger, healthier customers wouldn't be sharing their costs.

Pence endorsed Cruz's plan on Limbaugh's show, saying: "Rush, that's what freedom looks like, isn't it?"

Russian lawyer describes being summoned to Trump Tower

By **CHAD DAY and NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — A Russian lawyer said she was summoned to Trump Tower during last year's presidential campaign to meet with Donald Trump Jr. and asked if she had damaging information on Hillary Clinton, according to an interview aired Tuesday by NBC's "Today" show.

The lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, told NBC she received a phone call from a man she didn't know and was told to meet with Trump Jr. She says she didn't have information on the Clinton campaign and has never worked for the Russian government.

"All I knew was that Donald Trump Jr. was willing to meet with me," she said through a translator.

On Clinton, she said: "It's quite possible that maybe they were looking for information. They wanted it so badly."

The interview is Veselnitskaya's first public comment since Donald Trump Jr. acknowledged that he made time for the meeting hoping to get information on Clinton, his father's Democratic presidential opponent. The president's son has said the meeting was arranged by an acquaintance he knew through the 2013 Miss Universe pageant Trump held in Moscow.

On Monday, Trump Jr. tweeted sarcastically, "Obviously I'm the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent ... went nowhere but had to listen."

According to the NBC interview, Veselnitskaya suggested she didn't

initiate the meeting; she says she was lobbying against U.S. sanctions affecting Moscow but wasn't acting on behalf of the Kremlin.

She said Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law, also attended the meeting but left after a few minutes. Paul Manafort, then Trump's campaign chairman, was there too but never participated and spent much of the meeting on his phone, she said. It wasn't clear from the NBC report who in the meeting asked her for information on Clinton.

The circumstances surrounding the meeting, and a report by The New York Times late Monday that Trump Jr. was told ahead of time that the Russian government was the source of damaging information on Clinton, have fueled new questions about the Trump campaign's possible ties to Moscow, which are being scrutinized by federal and congressional investigators.

The Times reported that Trump Jr., who was a key campaign adviser to his father, was told the Russian government was behind the information on Clinton in an email from music publicist Rob Goldstone. The Times cited three unnamed people with knowledge of the email.

Goldstone spoke to The Associated Press earlier Monday to confirm he had set up the meeting on behalf of his client, Emin Ag-

alarov, but he did not disclose the contents of the email described by The Times. Goldstone did not immediately respond to attempts to contact him Monday night.

In a statement, Trump Jr.'s New York-based attorney Alan Futerfas called the Times report "much ado about nothing," though he acknowledged his client had received an email from Goldstone to set up a meeting with the purpose of passing along damaging information on Clinton. His statement did not dispute the Times report on the email.

Futerfas said Trump Jr. was not told the specifics of the information and nothing came of the meeting. "The bottom line is that Don, Jr. did nothing wrong," Futerfas said in the statement, noting that the younger Trump hasn't been contacted by any congressional panel or Special Counsel Robert Mueller's office.

The White House referred questions to the president's son. Mark Corallo, a spokesman for President Donald Trump's outside legal team, would not com-

ment on the Times story, reiterating only that Trump "was not aware of and did not attend the meeting."

Trump Jr. also said on Twitter he was willing to work with the Senate intelligence committee, one of the panels probing possible campaign collusion, "to pass on what I know."

Lawmakers on the committee from both parties said they indeed wanted to talk with the president's son. Rep. Adam Schiff told CNN the report, if true, represents "an offer by the Russian government to help interfere in the American election on behalf of one of the candidates" and the first time "the inner circle of the Trump family...have direct contact with the Russians promising" information on Clinton.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said the panel "needs to interview him and others who attended the meeting."

The sequence of events that led to the June 2016 meeting highlighted the tangled web of relationships that investigators now are sorting through.

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Texas prisons dealing with smuggled synthetic marijuana, K2

By MIKE WARD

Houston Chronicle

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — It's the zombies that freak everybody out.

The Houston Chronicle reports months ago at the Ferguson Unit, a state prison north of Huntsville long known as one of Texas' tougher lockups, a convict doing 30 years for drug trafficking "flipped out" and started yelling and swinging wildly at correctional officers and other convicts.

"His eyes was as big as my fist," said one veteran correctional officer, who quickly summoned backup to the cellblock disturbance. "I knew it was '2,'" prison lingo for K2, a synthetic marijuana that now reigns as fastest-growing drug contraband in Texas' massive prison system.

"The 2 makes them crazy and crazy strong," the officer said, speaking anonymously because prison policies prevent him from speaking publicly. "It took a bunch of us to take him down. He was like a zombie. It was scary."

More and more, other prison officials confirm, that scene has become routine in Lone Star lockups as front-line corrections officers battle what they say seems like a rising tide of K2 use. It's a trend being played out nationally, as well, that officials say endangers the safety of convicts and prison staff.

So far, no prison deaths have been attributed to K2 in Texas, authorities said.

In recent letters to the Houston Chronicle, convicts report that a growing number of prisoners are overdosing from the drug - though prison statistics do not confirm that, perhaps due to the difficulty in validating its presence through standard drug tests.

"K2 is the new drug of choice, inside and outside of prison," said Bruce Toney, inspector general for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the detective force that busts illegal activity inside Texas' 110 state prisons - the nation's largest state-run system.

"It used to be marijuana or something else. Now it's K2."

Of the 950 contraband busts inside Texas prisons between January and mid-June, 477 involved illegal drugs — and 268 of those, more than half, were for possessing K2, according to state statistics.

Last year, 560 of the 1,015 drug-contraband cases — slightly less than half — involved K2.

State investigators both inside the prison system and out blame the growing problem with K2 on its cheap price and the fact that routine drug screens fail to detect its presence. Its

chemical makeup is routinely changed by overseas manufacturers to avoid detection, according to authorities. Its multitude of names rivals the variety of ingredients. One of its more common product names is Kush.

Texas' prison system conducts random drug tests on convicts and staff at a cost of about \$10 each. More extensive screening tests that detect K2 can cost over six times that amount, officials said.

The Legislature made K2 illegal in September 2015. Before that, authorities said it was even harder to bust anyone - even convicts - for possessing it.

But in the past two years, prison officials say they have launched a continuing series of targeted crackdowns on visitors and guards who are smuggling it to convicts and on inmates who pay up to \$500 an ounce to have it smuggled in to them.

Its cost on the street: about \$20 an ounce.

Generally, K2 is a mixture of spices, herbs and shredded plant material that is sprayed with a synthetic compound similar to the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

It is also available in clear liquid form that, in prison, can cost from \$800 to \$1,000 an ounce — perhaps even more in some units. On the street, the same liquid in many areas sells for \$100 or more an ounce, officials said.

By contrast, cellphones - which not so many years ago were the hottest prison contraband — sell inside Texas' state lockups for \$350 to \$1,000.

Officials say the prisons in the Huntsville area have been the source for the majority of the K2 busts in the past two years, though it is turning up elsewhere. They attribute the high bust rates to the targeted crackdowns, sometimes based on snitches. Investigators believe that large amounts of K2 come from the Houston area because it is an overseas importation point.

For their part, four correctional officers at units in Huntsville, Gatesville and Abilene acknowledged the rising prevalence of K2. They blamed much of the problem on relatives and friends of convicts because they smuggle it in on visitation days. The officers concede that some of

their fellow guards are probably sneaking it in, as well, to make extra money on the side.

In recent months, prison investigators said they have conducted searches and busts on visitation days at several prisons as well as by searching prison employees' vehicles in random parking lot sweeps.

Prison police say they have also recently busted wives, cousins and children of convicts — even a grandmother — for trying to smuggle K2 into East Texas prisons. Once, prison screeners found K2 concealed in a baby's diapers on a visitation day.

Toney said authorities are serious about cutting off the supply inside prisons: "If you're trying to bring it in, if you throw it out on the grounds for someone else to bring it in, we're gonna catch you and you're gonna be wearing matching uniforms with the person you came to see."

The problem goes way beyond Texas.

In recent months, numerous state and federal prison officials across the United States have acknowledged growing problem in their systems with K2, as have prison officials overseas in England and other countries.

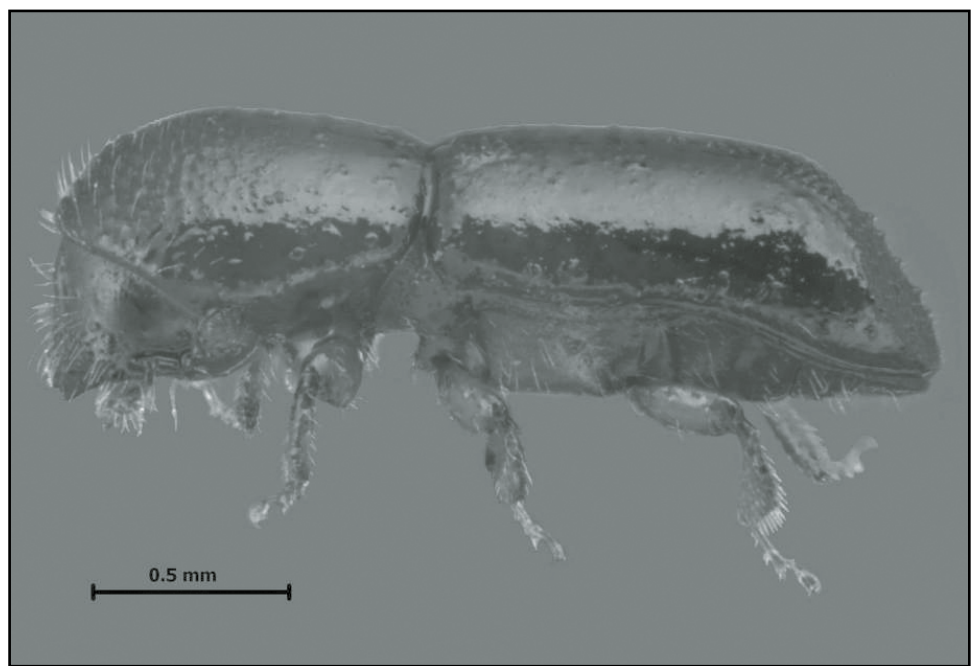
State drug and prison investigators said the K2 epidemic first began about five years ago, as local police began addressing overdoses on so-called synthetic marijuana that was available for sale in convenience stores and head shops.

State poison control centers in Texas and other states soon reported a spike in overdoses, serious illnesses and deaths from K2 and related substances. Texas lawmakers outlawed it in 2015.

But police across Texas have continued to report continuing issues with K2 overdoses, including among homeless people. Lance Lowry, president of a Huntsville union that represents correctional officers, recalled one shift a few years ago when he was working in an Huntsville-area prison.

"Three guys went off about the same time and overdosed after smoking K2," he said. "One guy was on the floor in a medical emergency. One was spaced out of his mind. The other one was fighting us and everyone else. It took eight or nine officers to get him under control." "It's crazy. And it's scary."

Beetle may have brought lethal tree disease now across SE



AP photo

This undated photo provided by the Mississippi Entomological Museum shows the tiny redbay ambrosia beetle, which was first found in the U.S. in 2002. It carries a fungus that is devastating to any tree or shrub species in the laurel family. Researchers from Mississippi and Florida say one female fungus-farming beetle inadvertently imported to Georgia may have been the source of the disease that has killed some 300 million redbay trees and threatens Florida's avocado groves.

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A lone female fungus-farming beetle inadvertently imported to Georgia may have been the source of a disease that has killed some 300 million redbay trees and threatens Florida's avocado groves, researchers from Mississippi and Florida say.

Clones of the beetle and her fungus have spread west into Texas and north to North Carolina over the past 15 years, said researcher John Riggins of the Mississippi State University Extension Service. He said they could spread nearly to Canada on sassafras, the source of the powder used to thicken filé (FEE-lay) gumbo.

"Filé and guacamole could definitely be endangered," Riggins said Wednesday.

Bay leaves used for cooking could also face problems if this species gets into the Mediterranean areas where bay laurels are cultivated and grow wild, say Jason Smith and other University of Florida researchers.

The U.S. infections all apparently come from one itty bitty beetle and her clones. Females of this species are about 2 millimeters long — about as long as a nickel is thick — and males are much smaller.

If there's no male around, females lay eggs that mostly hatch into males, with which they and their few daughters mate. From those matings come eggs of both sexes. Because the original beetle didn't mate with a male, all of those descendants have only her DNA, making them genetically identical, and therefore clones.

Ambrosia beetles aren't the only insects that don't need sex to reproduce. Stick insects, aphids, and some ants and wasps also reproduce asexually.

Smith, Riggins and others published research earlier this year in "Biological Invasions," reporting that both beetles and fungus from across the insect's U.S. range were geneti-

cally identical.

"These beetles are very inbred," said Robert Rabaglia, a U.S. Forest Service entomologist. "So yeah. It could be one beetle, it could be a couple of beetles all related to each other."

The insects are among 3,500 species of ambrosia beetles, a family named not for genetic kinship but because they all carry around one sort of fungus or another and plant it in trees to grow as their food.

There's no telling what cargo brought this species, called Xyleborus glabratus or the redbay ambrosia beetle, to the port of Savannah. It might have been plants, but the original beetle probably had burrowed into a cargo pallet or bracing wood used inside a cargo container, Riggins said.

Ambrosia beetles generally bore into dead or sickly trees. So scientists weren't worried when a few turned up in 2002, in survey traps near the port.

"For about two years it literally flew under the radar," Riggins said. "It wasn't until trees started to die around Jekyll Island that they started to investigate."

Redbays don't lose their glossy, 6-inch (15-centimeter) long leaves in winter. So when they turned brown and died, it was clear something was very wrong.

It was the beetle's fungus. Because it kills members of the laurel family, the disease was named laurel wilt or laurel rot. Related and affected trees include avocado, sassafras, northern spicebush and at least two endangered plants: pondberry and pond spice, Riggins said.

He said he's visited some Florida avocado groves "where it looks like a biological bomb exploded. If it's not treated, the entire grove turns brown and wilts."



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Commuter complaints few as Penn Station repairs begin

By DAVID PORTER and LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of commuters heading into New York on Monday faced adjustments — some annoying, some time consuming — on the first day of two months of repairs at the country's busiest train station, which Gov. Andrew Cuomo had predicted will make for a "summer of hell."

But no apparent major problems were reported during the morning rush.

As the crowd of rail commuters heading into Penn Station grew so did the confusion. Some seemed bewildered by a new routine devised to accommodate the extensive repairs to tracks and signals at the station.

"A lot of confusion and too many people gathered in one space," Lex Marshall, 35, of Morristown, New Jersey, said at New Jersey Transit's Hoboken Terminal. "Everybody's just bumping into each other, pushing each other, to get to their destination."

Jesse Krakow, of South Orange, New Jersey, who transferred through Hoboken, described being packed "like sardines" on a Port Authority Trans-Hudson train that stopped several times between stations as it waited for other trains up ahead.

He said his trip took about 45 minutes longer than normal.

The work was initially scheduled for nights and weekends over a few years, but two recent derailments and other problems that spotlighted the station's aging infrastructure convinced Amtrak to accelerate the work schedule.

For several hundred thousand commuters on the Long Island Rail Road and New Jersey Transit — as well as Amtrak passengers who ride between Boston and Washington, D.C. — the Penn Station work means fewer trains

during peak periods, the result of track closures to accommodate the repairs.

"So far, so good," said David Peter Alan, with the transit advocacy group the Lackawanna Coalition, said in Hoboken. "So far more smoothly than I expected. I expected a chaotic scene."

He said that he was pleasantly surprised, but that the changes that diverted all of the trains on NJ Transit's Morris and Essex Line were stretching Hoboken's capacity to the limit. Passengers can switch at Hoboken to trains operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, or to ferries.

Penn Station, which Amtrak took over in the 1970s, handles twice as many daily train movements, about 1,300, as it did then.

Roughly 600,000 people pass through each day on trains and New York City subways.

New Jersey Transit spokesman Charles Ingoglia declared the morning commute a success but said there was room for improvement.

He pointed to one overcrowded train into Hoboken where up to 16,000 commuters are added to the 23,000 people who usually flow through the station each day, and said that nearly all of the people getting off trains were flooding into the same PATH entrance, leaving a second one much less crowded.

He said some of the 150 volunteers directing commuters around will work harder in the future to steer people down both entrances.

"We're pleased with what we saw," he said. "Our customers seem to have done their homework."

Several commuters arriving at Penn Station said their ride was more crowded than



AP photo

MTA personnel direct Long Island Rail Road commuters to subway options at Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn N.Y., as Amtrak begins emergency repair work at Penn Station, Monday July 10, 2017.

usual but mostly on time.

"It's hard to imagine Amtrak, the Long Island Rail Road and New Jersey Transit doing a good job, but from my limited vantage point things seem to be running relatively smoothly," said Howard Bernstein, of Long Beach on Long Island.

Rhonda Freeman of Brentwood, also on Long Island, said she left earlier than normal to get to work and was able to get a seat.

"It was crowded," she said. "I felt bad for the regular people who had to stand."

Service was stepped up by trains, buses and ferries in anticipation of the busier commute. PATH trains were running every five minutes out of Hoboken rather than the usual seven-minute interval and additional NJ Transit buses were running from Hoboken to Manhattan as well.

The work is scheduled to last through the end of August.

When this summer's work is completed, rail riders will benefit from increased reliability from having up-to-date equipment in and around the station, but will still fall prey to other problems such as electrical wire failures in the tunnel between New York and New Jersey, and signal and track problems in northern New Jersey east of Newark. Those problems will have to wait for the completion of the Gateway project, which plans to build a second rail tunnel under the Hudson River, repair damage in the existing tunnel from 2012's Superstorm Sandy and make substantial improvements on the New Jersey side and in Penn Station.

That is expected to take at least another decade to complete, although federal fund-

ing for the project is in question after President Donald Trump proposed changing a federal grant program that was supposed to be used for it.

Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer and Cory Booker called on the Trump administration to honor that commitment at a news conference near the spot on Manhattan's west side Monday where preliminary work has already begun.

Booker said it's time for Trump to "put up or shut up."

While Monday's commute had gone about as well as it could for most, the real test for the "new normal" won't come until the weather, equipment problems or police activity somewhere along the train line interrupts service.

"The measure is how good are you when things are bad," Ingoglia said.

Inmates take 2 guards hostage in Oklahoma prison riot

By JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Hundreds of inmates — some armed with baseball bats and iron pipes — rioted at an Oklahoma federal prison for about eight hours, taking two guards hostage and refusing to return to their cells before they were finally corralled by law enforcement officers, authorities said Monday. The riot started late Sunday at the Great Plains Correctional Facility in Hinton after a fight broke out in the prison yard, and rapidly escalated from there, said Caddo County Sheriff Lennis Miller. Miller said the inmates refused to return to their cells and at one point occupied one building in the complex located about 55 miles (90 kilometers) west of Oklahoma City.

"It was a full-fledged riot," Miller said.

Miller said about 150 inmates

were involved, but The GEO Group, Inc., the Florida-based operator of the private prison, estimated Monday that about 400 inmates caused the disturbance in two recreation yards. Miller said prisoners, some toting bats and pipes, took two guards hostage at the outset of the riot, but that both were freed and uninjured. It wasn't immediately clear how the inmates got the weapons, how they were able to get inside one of the buildings or what prompted the riot.

Miller said authorities used pepper spray and stun grenades to

corral inmates into a soccer field and an exercise yard. The riot ended early Monday after roughly eight hours, authorities said.

Pablo Paez, a spokesman for The GEO Group, said in a statement that the prison was secured without serious injury to staff, inmates or law officers.



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All rise as Judge smashes his way to Home Run Derby title

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Aaron Judge hit the glass behind left field that supports the retractable roof at Marlins Park. He drove balls over the Red Grooms home run sculpture in left-center, over the batter's eye in center and — unusually for a Home Run Derby, to the opposite field, too.

He even hit the roof. The larger-than-life New York Yankees slugger dominated the All-Star Home Run Derby in the same manner he has smashed his way through his rookie season, beating Minnesota's Miguel Sano 11-10 with two minutes to spare in the final on Monday night.

"It was a blast. I enjoyed every minute of it — watching the other guys swing, coming

here early and talking to the media," Judge said. "Everything about today was fantastic."

Five years ago, Judge won the college home run derby in Omaha, Nebraska. This time, he outslugged some of baseball's top stars, including local favorites Giancarlo Stanton and Justin Bour of the Miami Marlins.

"A lot more fans," Judge said. "Your adrenaline is pumping, you're nervous, you're excited. But this was an incredible experience."

Judge, 6-foot-7 and 282 pounds, hit 47 home runs in the derby that totaled 3.9 miles. His longest drive of the night went 513 feet, and he topped 500 four times.

"I thought I had seen it all before. He didn't even look like he was

See **DERBY**, Page 12



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge smiles after his last at bat after winning the MLB baseball All-Star Home Run Derby, Monday, July 10, 2017, in Miami. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

AP photo

Ball won't face Fox as Summer League loses marquee matchup



AP photo

Sacramento Kings' De'Aaron Fox, left, guards Los Angeles Lakers' Gabe York during the first half of an NBA summer league basketball game, Monday, July 10, 2017, in Las Vegas.

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

Lonzo Ball will have to wait for another shot at De'Aaron Fox. Their summer showdown Monday was canceled.

The Lakers rested their prized pick because of a groin injury, prizing him out of their NBA Summer League victory in Las Vegas over Sacramento and fellow rookie point guard Fox.

Fox dominated when Kentucky blew by UCLA in the NCAA Tournament, scoring 39 points to Ball's 10. LaVar Ball, Lonzo's outspoken father, would later say his son was playing with an injured hamstring.

If true, the No. 2 pick already knows there's no use trying to stay with the faster Fox at less than 100 percent. The Lakers said Ball, who struggled in his first game but responded with a triple-double in his second, had a sore right groin.

The Lakers got their first victory of the summer without him, blowing a 28-point lead but recovering for a 95-92 victory. Fox scored 12 points but played just 20 minutes, watching the Kings' comeback from the bench with his foot wrapped.

The matchup of California point guards was expected to headline an eight-game day that included a matchup between Golden State and Cleveland, who met in the last three NBA Finals. A look at the games:

LAKERS 95, KINGS 92

Vander Blue led the Lakers (1-2) with 21 points. Alex Caruso, who started for Ball, finished with 18 points and nine assists.

College player of the year Frank Mason scored 24 points for the Kings (0-3) and Buddy Hield had 22. Rookie Justin Jackson added 16.

CAVALIERS 91, WARRIORS 74

Cleveland improved to 3-0, leading by as many as 27 points against the team from the NBA champions.

Brandon Paul scored 21 points and

backup point guard Kay Felder had 12 points and six rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Patrick McCaw, a key member of the Golden State's rotation late in the season, was 3 for 15 for nine points. Alex Hamilton scored 11 points for the Warriors (0-2), who got eight rebounds in 15 minutes from second-round pick Jordan Bell.

HAWKS 75, BULLS 55

DeAndre Bembry scored 17 points and 11 rebounds as Atlanta improved to 2-1. Diamond Stone, acquired from the Clippers in a three-team trade with Denver, had 12 points and six rebounds in 19 minutes.

The Bulls shot 22 percent from the field and were 4 for 35 (11.4 percent) in their pathetic performance. Lauri Markkanen, the No. 7 pick from Arizona, missed all 10 3-point attempts and went 1 for 13 overall. Second-year guard Denzel Valentine, who led the Bulls to the Summer League championship last year, was 1 for 12 and missed all eight behind the arc.

Cameron Payne scored 12 points for the Bulls (0-2).

HEAT 91, WIZARDS 87

Matt Williams scored 17 points and made five 3-pointers as the Heat moved to 2-0. Rookie Bam Adebayo had 16 points and seven rebounds, while Trey McKinney-Jones added 15 points and Okaro White scored 14.

Sheldon McClellan had 18 points and Jared Cunningham 16 for the winless Wizards (0-2).

NETS 95, PELICANS 66

Archie Goodwin had 18 points and eight assists as the Nets led by as many as 36 points and cruised to a 2-1 start.

Caris LeVert added 17 points, while Rondae Hollis-Jefferson and Isaiah Whitehead each had 11. All were part of the rotation last season on a Nets team that finished with the NBA's

See **NBA**, Page 12

LA, Paris present Olympic plans ahead of 2024-2028 decision



AP photo

Eric Garcetti Mayor of Los Angeles, left, and Casey Wasserman chairman of Los Angeles 2024, right, high fived during a press conference after the presentation of Los Angeles 2024 Candidate City Briefing for International Olympic Committee (IOC) Members, at the SwissTech Convention Centre, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — After Los Angeles and Paris laid out their Olympic hosting plans Tuesday, their mayors said they could work together on a deal to ensure both cities host a Summer Games soon.

Both cities used 45 minutes of videos and speeches, including French President Emmanuel Macron promoting the Paris cause, in a closed-door session with International Olympic Committee members to explain how they would host the 2024 Olympics.

Those members should vote later Tuesday to add the 2028 hosting rights and make both cities winners when the IOC next meets in September.

That will likely need IOC leaders to broker a consensus deal within weeks in talks which start with Paris widely seen as the 2024 favorite.

"We look forward to working together maybe not in competition but collaboration with Paris," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference after his city's bid officials opened the campaign event.

Garcetti and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo have long touted their good working relations on other issues such as climate change.

"We are all at the disposition and by the side of the IOC which was right to ask itself this question," Hidalgo said at the Paris news conference, citing her friendship with Garcetti as potentially a "key element" to reaching an agreement.

The dual award can give the IOC a decade of stability with two world-class cities touting financially secure bids with, in LA's case, zero risk of white elephant venues. This follows years of overspending by Olympic

hosts and political defeats to sink potential candidates.

The win-win option also guards against a 2024 loser refusing to bid again for 2028m and avoids inflicting a third recent defeat on Paris — which lost with bids for the 2008 and 2012 Olympics — and the United States. New York and Chicago both lost heavily for 2012 and 2016, respectively. Paris also failed with a 1992 bid.

"We lost three times, we don't want to lose a fourth one," Macron said. "I'm here to convey the message that there's a strong unity to back this candidacy."

Minutes after Macron spoke, U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on Twitter: "Working hard to get the Olympics for the United States (L.A.). Stay tuned!"

Garcetti said the Olympic movement "can't afford to lose the United States."

"Both of us will find it more and more difficult to convince cities — whether it's Paris, Los Angeles or other American cities — to really go into this process if one of us gets turned down," the mayor said.

Still, it could be a 2028 Olympics in LA that will be the first American-hosted games since 1996 in Atlanta.

IOC President Thomas Bach Bach has said the idea of a double award was presented to him at a lunch last year by friends whom he declined to identify in a recent interview with French sports daily L'Equipe.

The LA bid team declined to comment Tuesday whether the suggestion came from its supporters.

"He (Bach) has good friends who gave him good advice," LA bid chairman Casey Wasserman said.

If Tuesday's vote passes as expected, the Bach-chaired IOC executive board could be empowered to broker a future deal on picking the 2024 host ahead of a Sept. 13 meeting in Lima, Peru.

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



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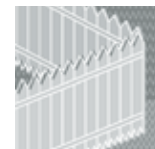
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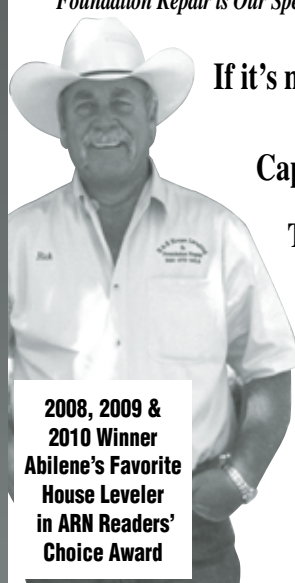
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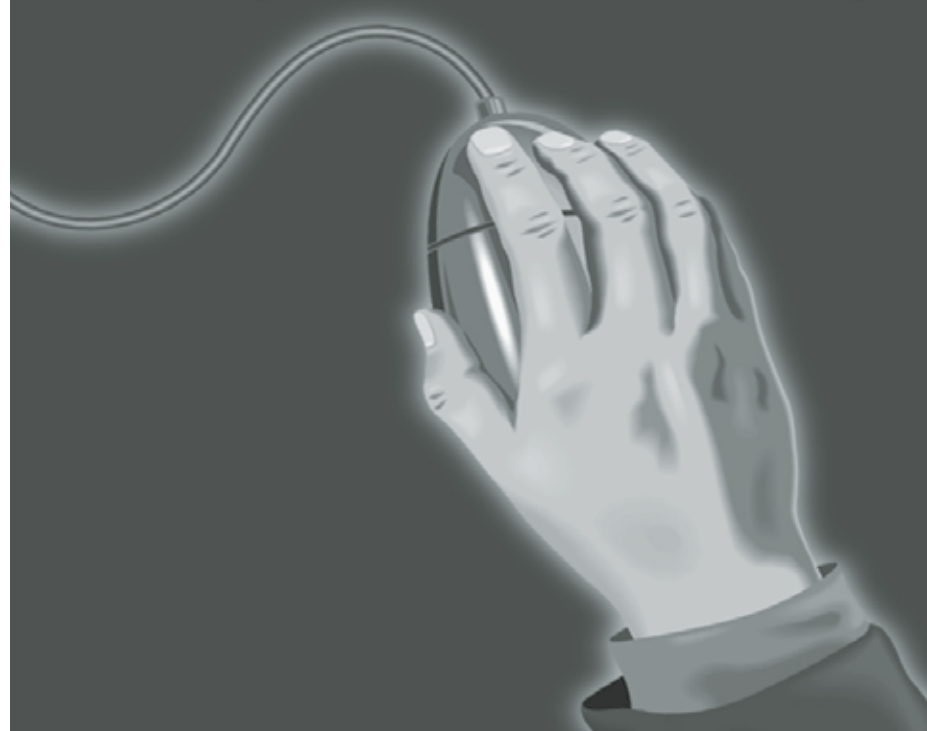
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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Planet Power to the Present

The present is where all of life's juice is. Getting there will be the hard part today, as there are many hurdles in the form of worry or wishing. Both steal from now, but they are cowardly thieves, easily deterred. The moon in Aquarius harmonizes with lucky Jupiter to help us lighten up, detach from worries and wishes and stay present.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When it goes as planned time and again, you'll be sure to change the plan up. You don't want to bore your audience, and, even more importantly, you don't want to get bored yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As for the people don't believe as you do: You treat their faith with respect and gentleness, as you would expect others to treat yours. In this way, world peace could be an eventuality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Would you rather manage something you don't understand or understand something you can't manage? You'll have your choice of problems today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The thing to work on now is on selling yourself harder. This isn't about a lack of talent: You've got plenty! But do you have the belief and ambition and vision? Flesh it out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you want to cry over love, love seems to always be able to find something for you to cry about. It's good for the emotional hydration system, like a wash of fluids through the whole network -- ultimately refreshing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Honest introspection is the call

Tomorrow's Horoscope

of the day. Your soul's quieter needs will get attention. The outside world will reflect back to you what's happening with your inner life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may not have done right by yourself, but there's no need for punishment. That would only be counterproductive. Emphasize your positive characteristics, and ignore the behaviors you'd like to be rid of.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Steer clear of dramas. Compassionate detachment will be the best way to help your loved ones. Walk a fine line, giving generously but not in a manner that would make them dependent on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some around you are inwardly more insecure than you might have guessed. If you have to constantly reassure someone of your love, it will be very tiring. Anything you can do proactively will help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are those who will try and use their

moods to manipulate those around them. But another person's bad mood should not have too much to do with how you go about your business. Bring your own emotional weather.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This day holds plenty of opportunities for whimsy, and you'll enjoy it to the degree that you take advantage of that opportunity. Take a gamble. Win or lose, the experience will be a win.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Success isn't a plate to be gobbled up alone: It's a banquet to share with many guests. Invite others to your recent win. More bounty is on the way.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 11). Your heart will be made full through friendships, family additions and romantic promises in the first third of your solar return. Lightning-bolt moments will come in October; react fast and make money! New financial partners come along in November. January doubles a prize. Stellar education is discounted in

2018. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 33, 39 and 17.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Pisces. I am fundamentally shy, though most people don't realize this because I've worked on my social skills my whole life and can pass for a friendly person. My summer is filling up with social engagements that will take me out of my usual routine. I will host houseguests for several weeks, then travel for a class reunion and a big family birthday party. At first I was looking forward to these events, but now I feel overwhelmed and anxious. I feel like cancelling everything. I'm just not sure I can handle it all. Would it be lame if I just backed out of all these plans?"

Getting out of your routine can be stressful, especially for a Pisces, but it is essential for your personal development to leave your comfort zone. You have a tendency to pick up the energies of those around you, and when

you are going to be around a lot of people you don't know, this psychic openness can drain you. Psychically protect yourself with a daily practice of prayer, meditation and exercise to maintain your energy. You signed yourself up for these events for a reason. Follow through and you will likely experience a great benefit to your confidence and your reputation.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Perhaps most famous for his role in the Disney series "Wizards of Waverly Place," David Henrie will voice a starring role in the animated "Max and Me." This Disney veteran has more titles on his filmography than years of being alive. The Cancer was born when the moon was in friendly, cooperative, artistic Libra with natal Venus and Mars in Leo, the sign of the entertainer.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact."
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Annie's Mailbox

doing weekends away together, planning several weekend trips for us all. We've only known them for a few months and been friends for a month.

I'm a pretty easy-going, kind-natured woman; I fit in with all types of crowds. But I don't like to be pushed into things or backed into a corner. I like things to take a slow, natural course, and I never rush the process of becoming close with someone.

I don't believe friendships or relationships work well when they progress quickly. My partner

and I were friends for seven years before we started dating!

I feel uncomfortable with what's developing. I have this uneasy feeling about the progress of this new friendship. My hunches are normally accurate, and I'm an OK judge of character. Am I being a little childish about this? What should I do? -- Too Fast for Me

Dear Too Fast: What's stopping you from pumping the brakes? There's a simple solution here -- saying "No, thank you" or "We're busy" to the weekend-get-away invitations. As you don't seem to have entertained that option, I'm guessing you're the type of

person who has a hard time saying no. I'd encourage you to do some self-reflection regarding why that is. Perhaps you value being seen as easy-going more than you value your own needs and wants. Work on setting boundaries.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Tired Loving Daughter," who isn't able to fully enjoy her life because of her caregiving duties. I use a camera in my mom's retirement apartment to keep up with her. I bought a nest camera about three years ago, and I can monitor her from my phone and my computer. If there is anything suspicious, I notify the staff.

The camera is set

up in her living room. I see when she leaves for her meals and when she comes and goes. I see what time the staff members come in to clean her room.

One time, I noticed that her dinner came two hours ahead of schedule; the evening chef hadn't shown up for his shift, so the manager decided to use leftovers from lunch. That meant she would have gone hungry later that night. I and several other family members took food to the residence that night, and other patients were expressing how hungry they were, too. I was thankful we had the camera so we knew what was going on. Because of that

footage, I was able to report this incident to the upper management.

The cameras will hold the footage for up to a month. I spend a small amount each month for the service, and it has been a great investment for me. -- GSP Smith

Dear GSP Smith: What a great use of technology. Thank you for sharing the tip.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Back Off, Friends

Dear Annie: I have many close friends from different groups. My time with each of them is very important, and I don't want to be tied down to one friend. My partner has many wonderful friends he enjoys spending time with, too.

Recently, we got acquainted with another couple at my young son's football match. The newfound friendship is moving too fast. They are already talking about



By Steve Becker

Keep your eye on the ball

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 10 2
♥ J 10 8 4
♦ 6 3
♣ Q 8 7 6
WEST
♠ J 9 6 5
♥ 7 6 3 2
♦ 8 7
♣ K 9 5
EAST
♠ K 8 7 3
♥ K Q 9
♦ 9
♣ A J 10 4 2
SOUTH
♠ Q 4
♥ A 5
♦ A K Q J 10 5 4 2
♣ 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♥ Dble
5♦
Opening lead — five of spades.

There are times when declarer must make an unnatural play in order to bring in his contract. South passed his test with flying colors in today's deal.

First, a word about the bidding. South had a problem of sorts in selecting his opening bid. He gave

thought to opening with five diamonds, but dismissed that option on the ground that his hand was too strong for a pre-emptive bid. Ultimately, he decided to open one diamond in order to increase the possibility of reaching a slam if his partner happened to hold a good hand.

As things turned out, South had his work cut out for him just to make five diamonds. West led a spade. Declarer played low from dummy, and when East won the trick with the king, South dropped his queen on it!

As a result of this unusual play, South made the contract. He was later able to finesse the ten of spades and discard a heart on the ace of spades to bring his total to 11 tricks. Of course, had South played the four of spades on East's king, he would have scored only one spade trick and so would have finished down one, losing a spade, a heart and a club.

It is certainly unusual for a declarer to play a queen instead of a four on a trick he has already lost, but it is the kind of thing any declarer who does not play mechanically might do.

Tomorrow: Sylvia strikes again.
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		5	4	8		3		
		9						6
6			1			2	7	
	8	1		7	3			
			5	2		6	4	
	9	7			8			2
3						4		
	4		1	5	9			

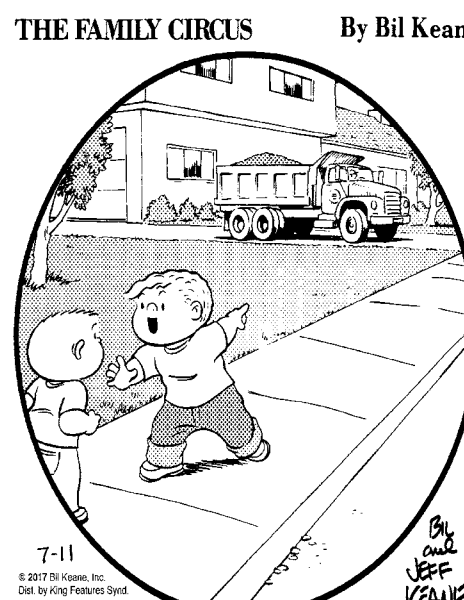
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery	
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	CBS 7	Tele	News	Shofar	Focus	Hap. Days	American	Seinfeld	(:15) Movie: Man of Steel	SportsCenter	Around	Rodeo	Mod Fam	Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticias	News	Perspect	Business	Griffith	American	Seinfeld	Michael Shannon (DVS)	Baseball	NBA Summer League Basketball		Mod Fam	Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang Pregame	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld		2017 World Series of Poker: Main Event.		Rodeo	Mod Fam	Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
6:30	Wheel			ET		News	House		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld					Mod Fam	Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
7:PM	Middle Fresh-	José de Egipto	2017 MLB All-Star Game: American League vs National League.	NCIS (DVS)	Jenni Rivera	America's Got Talent	Behind	The Story of China	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang		NBA Summer League Basketball		Rodeo	WWE SmackDown!	Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
7:30	blackish	Vida E Carrillo			Bull	La Querida	Light of Southwest		Mama's ALF	Whose? Whose?	Big Bang						Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
8:PM	House Middle	Rosario Tijeras		NCIS: New Orleans	El Señor de los	World of Dance	Light of Southwest	Frontline	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang						Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
9:PM	Local 2	Impacto	News	CBS 7	Tele	News	Aleph	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	Will	SportsCenter	ISKA Karate:	Rodeo	Shooter (DVS)	(:03) Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	M.25	Newsline	Perry Mason	King						Shooter (DVS)	(:03) Hoarders	Devil's Canyon	
11:PM	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met	James Corden	La Querida	Ministerios	Vida	Seth Meyers	Rules	Wrecked	Conan	(:08) Law & Order	SportsCenter	Drone Racing		Shooter (DVS)	(:03) Hoarders	Devil's Canyon	
12:AM	Extra	Quiero Amarte	Middle	Insider	El Señor de los	News	Inspired	Hitchcock	Cheaters	Seinfeld		(:12:08) Law & Order	SportsCenter	Sports Shorts	CBR	Shooter (DVS)	(:12:03) Hoarders	Deadliest Catch	
12:30	Paid Prg.	Mi Adorable	Law Order: CI	ET	Programa De siones	(:08) Today	Light of Southwest	Mannix	Cheaters	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	(:07) The Last Ship	SportsCenter	Jalen	Tennis: Power-	Law Order: CI	(:03) Born This Way	Deadliest Catch	
1:AM	Paid Prg.																		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M WORRIED, JOEY. MY DAD IS OLD AND HE SAYS HE STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WOMEN?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



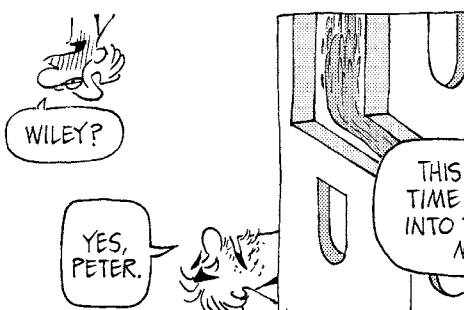
"PJ, look what's in the driveway! A real live truck!"

HAGAR



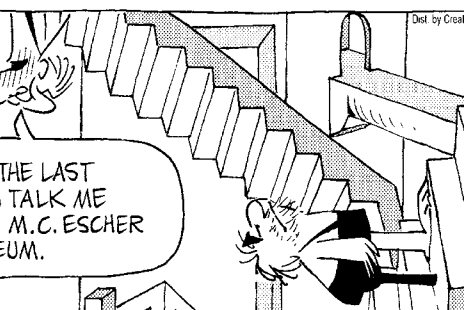
OH WELL, MY SWORD BROKE! GUESS WE'RE DONE HERE! 'BYE!' 'BYE!' 'THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS!'

BC



WILEY? YES, PETER. THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU TALK ME INTO THE M.C. ESCHER MUSEUM.

BLONDIE



HAVE YOU EVER SHAVED YOUR MUSTACHE OFF, BOSS? ACTUALLY, I DID SHAVE IT OFF ONCE, BUT I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY I LOOKED WITHOUT IT. REALLY? HOW LONG AGO DID YOU DO THAT? WHEN I WAS TEN YEARS OLD. THERE HE GOES, MESSING WITH ME AGAIN.

WIZARD OF ID



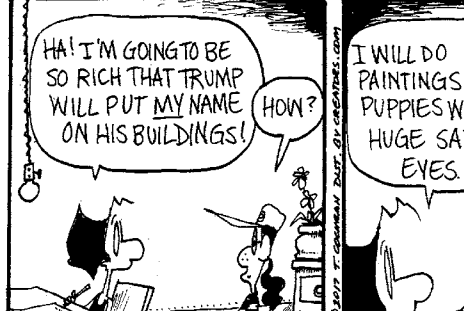
WHAT'S IN THE BOTTLE, BUNG? A GENIE! YOU SHOULD LET HIM OUT! WE'RE STILL NEGOTIATING TERMS. FIVE WISHES AND NOT ONE WISH MORE!

AGNES



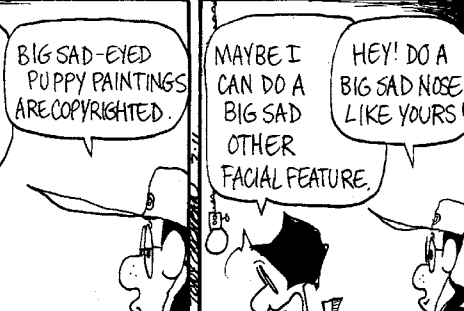
HA! I'M GOING TO BE SO RICH THAT TRUMP WILL PUT MY NAME ON HIS BUILDINGS! HOW? I WILL DO PAINTINGS OF PUPPIES WITH HUGE SAD EYES. BIG SAD-EYED PUPPY PAINTINGS ARE COPYRIGHTED. MAYBE I CAN DO A BIG SAD OTHER FACIAL FEATURE. HEY! DO A BIG SAD NOSE LIKE YOURS!

HI AND LOIS



THANKS FOR HELPING ME BRING IN THE GROCERIES. YOU OWE ME ONE. ONE WHAT? OK FOR HI TO PLAY GOLF WITH ME THIS WEEK-END.

THE OTHER COAST



YOU MARKED THE FIRE HYDRANT, THEN MARKED THE TREE RIGHT NEXT TO IT. WHAT WAS THE POINT IN THAT? I LIKE TO BACK UP MY MAIL.

SNUFFY SMITH



WHEN WE RETIRE, WHATTA WE GONNA TELL PEOPLE WE RETIRED FROM?! HMM...WE'RE GONNA HAFTA WORK ON THAT 'UN !! SEE? WE DO SO WORK !!

BEELE BAILEY



WHAT'S FOR DINNER? GUESS I'D GUESS IT'S THE SAME TASTELESS, SLIMY GUNK YOU USUALLY SERVE. I'LL GO WITH THAT.

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2017. There are 173 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 11, 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

On this date:

- In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.
- In 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)
- In 1922, the Hollywood Bowl officially opened with a program called "Symphonies Under the Stars" with Alfred Hertz conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic.
- In 1937, American composer and pianist George Gershwin died at a Los Angeles hospital of a brain tumor; he was 38.
- In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1960, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

In 1977, the Presidential Medal of Freedom was presented to polio vaccine pioneer Dr. Jonas Salk and (posthumously) to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1989, actor and director Laurence Olivier died in Steyning, West Sussex, England, at age 82.

In 1991, a Nigeria Airways DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims crashed at the Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, international airport, killing all 261 people on board.

In 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

Ten years ago: Lady Bird Johnson, the former first lady who'd championed conserva-

tion and worked tenaciously for the political career of her husband, President Lyndon Johnson, died in Austin, Texas, at age 94. Pakistani army commandos completed an eight-day siege and storming of Islamabad's radical Red Mosque; some 102 people were killed, including 10 elite troops and at least 73 suspected militants.

Five years ago: Unflinching before a skeptical NAACP crowd in Houston, Republican Mitt Romney declared he'd do more for African-Americans than Barack Obama, the nation's first black president. Hillary Rodham Clinton became the first U.S. secretary of state to visit Laos in more than five decades. Cookbook author Marion Cunningham, 90, died in Walnut Creek, California.

Answer to previous puzzle

ANGST	TEAR	NITE
TORTE	AXLE	ARAB
TRIAL	BEET	GALA
SINGLE	OCCUPANCY	
SNO	RAT	
SALSAS	TENT	HEY
AVAIL	PEST	EVE
DOUBLE	EXPOSURES	
LID	XRAY	ASONE
YDS	ATMS	BLASTS
AIR	PIE	
TRIPLE	WORDSCORE	
AURA	MAXI	MOWER
REAR	EVEN	ARENA
PSST	SENT	NESTS

7/11/17

Newsday Crossword

FEATHERY SIMILES by Billie Truitt

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Crispy sandwiches, for short
 - 5 Shove
 - 9 Linguini or ziti
 - 14 Runaway victory
 - 15 Feel sore
 - 16 Driver's full reversal
 - 17 Stare at
 - 18 Speak unclearly
 - 19 French cap
 - 20 Having good judgment
 - 23 Service charge
 - 24 ___ as hen's teeth (rather rare)
 - 25 What a manicurist files
 - 27 Duo plus one
 - 30 Hardly enough
 - 34 Cider fruit
 - 38 Worry (over)
 - 40 March Madness org.
 - 41 Egotistical
 - 44 Swim meet location
 - 45 "It wasn't me!"
 - 46 Takes it easy
 - 47 Trapped, as a mousetrap
 - 49 Stairwell sound
 - 51 Window ledge
 - 53 Mexican pals
 - 58 Frequently, in poetry
 - 61 Mild-mannered
 - 64 Backpack strategy
 - 66 Backpacker's shelter
 - 67 Line on a list
 - 68 ___ wave (destructive water)
- DOWN**
- 1 Foreheads
 - 2 Good reasoning
 - 3 Oklahoma oil city
 - 4 Turn the wheel
 - 5 Quarterback who's throwing
 - 6 West Coast sch.
 - 7 Keep away from
 - 8 "Great blue" wading bird
 - 9 Available to anyone
 - 10 Devoured
 - 11 Ride the waves
 - 12 Oak or maple
 - 13 Poker stake
 - 21 Played a role
 - 22 Squander
 - 26 Joustler's weapon
 - 28 "In that case . . ."
 - 29 Give a speech
 - 31 Cpls. and sgts.
 - 32 Diplomat's skill
 - 33 Talks and talks
 - 34 Smartphone downloads
 - 35 Chaplin's cane, for example
 - 36 Low-quality
 - 37 Humdingers
 - 39 Heroic tale
 - 42 Journalistic slant
 - 43 Fragrance
 - 48 Able to move or think quickly
 - 50 Increase one's speed
 - 52 Turn loose
 - 54 Figure of speech
 - 55 "I'm stumped"
 - 56 Microwave appliances
 - 57 Next-to-last tourney rounds
 - 58 Chooses (to)
 - 59 Fly like a butterfly
 - 60 "Look what I did!"
 - 62 Retain
 - 63 Diarist ___ Frank
 - 65 Remind much too often

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14				15				16						
17				18				19						
20				21				22		23				
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71								72				73		

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NBA

Continued from Page 6

worst record.
Quinn Cook scored 20 points as New Orleans fell to a Summer League-worst 0-3.
ROCKETS 99, SUNS 94
Troy Williams scored 27 points for the Rockets (2-1), who also got 18 from Isaiah Taylor and 16 from Chris Johnson.
Zhou Qi of China missed all five 3-point attempts and finished with three points.
Marquese Chriss had 26 points for the Suns (1-2), who blew a 15-point lead and made just four baskets in the fourth quarter. No. 4 pick Josh Jackson of Kansas scored 20 points, and fellow rookie Mike James finished with 17.
RAPTORS 82, NUGGETS 81
Jakob Poeltl and Fred VanVleet each scored 17 points as the Raptors (3-0)

hung on to remain unbeaten.
Denver had a chance to tie, but Juan Hernangomez made only two of three free throws after he was fouled with 14.5 seconds left. The Nuggets got one more chance, but Pascal Siakam came up with a steal with 2.9 seconds to go.
Siakam finished with 14 points.
Malik Beasley scored 19 points for the Nuggets (0-3).
CLIPPERS 100, BUCKS 93
Montrezl Harrell, acquired from Houston in the Chris Paul trade, scored 21 points on 10-of-13 shooting as the Clippers won for the third time in three games. He was 4 for 4 in the fourth quarter, when Los Angeles shot 11 of 14 while outscoring Milwaukee 29-18.
Sindarius Thornwell, who led South Carolina's surprising Final Four run, chipped in 18 points and Jamil Wilson finished with 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.
Rashad Vaughn scored 21 points and D.J. Wilson had 17 for the Bucks (1-2).

DERBY

Continued from Page 6

getting tired," said Seattle's Robinson Cano, the 2011 Derby winner. "He was going opposite field. He was late on the ball and he was putting the ball in the upper deck."
Judge had no trouble hitting the roof, thought to be previously untouched by batted ball. That drive didn't count.
"I got it in BP, too, earlier. So I wasn't too surprised by that," Judge said.
Hitting second each time, Judge knocked out Bour 23-22 in the first round and beat Los Angeles Dodgers rookie Cody Bellinger 13-12 in the second. Then, with lightning visible behind the huge glass door, he hit a 458-foot drive above the batter's eye for the title.
"That guy Aaron Judge, he doesn't get tired," Sano said.
Many of the All-Stars sat in foul territory, some with their kids.
"I had never seen him in person. He's really impressive," said Colorado's Charlie Blackmon, who was eliminated in the first round. "The first time I saw him, he was in a crowd. I was wondering what he was standing on. He's a monster."
Judge leads the major leagues with 30 home runs, and some Yankees fans showed up to support him in their full dress — flowing black robes and white powdered wigs. Boed initially by the crowd of 37,027, Judge earned cheers once Stan-

ton, the defending champion, and Bour were eliminated in the first round.
Judge has hit the longest home run in the regular season this year in the majors — 495 feet. He broke a TV monitor at Yankee Stadium with a BP drive that went over the center-field bleachers in May and dented a door casing with a home run last week.
In Tuesday night's game, he's set to bat third for the American League.
Sano beat Kansas City's Mike Moustakas 11-10 in the opening round, and the Yankees' Gary Sanchez topped Stanton 17-16.
Stanton, who got home at about 5 a.m. after a game in San Francisco, started slowly against pitcher Pat Shine, hitting three liners before a 429-foot drive to center. Stanton began to find his groove and hit a 496-foot shot off the glass behind the left-field seats, then started spraying impressive drives. He had 15 when his 30-second bonus road started but added just one more. The crowd groaned when his last fell short.
"It just didn't work out as we had planned," Shine said.
Bellinger, hitting off his dad, former big leaguer Clay Bellinger, earned bonus time as four minutes expired with his 13th drive, into the right-field upper deck, then with five seconds remaining knocked out Blackmon 15-14.
Hitting without batting gloves, Bour excited fans with 22 homers

. Judge, hitting against his regular BP pitcher, Danilo Valiente, had 22 through four minutes, according to the scoreboard, and when he hit one in bonus time he walked away. But scoreboard reverted to 22 — apparently the roof shot was subtracted — and Judge added another with a few seconds left.
"I thought I had 23 already, but I guess I tied him," he said. "I really didn't have any worries."
Seeming tired, Sanchez opened the second round with 10 and Sano needed just 3:10 to hit 11, the longest at 491 feet. In a matchup of the leading candidates for rookies of the year, Bellinger hit 12 and Judge topped him with a minute to spare, including a 513-foot shot high off the window, a drive that left his bat at 119 mph and rose 143 feet.
"I had no pressure going into it," Judge said. "I'm a rookie. This is my first time doing it. For me, I got no expectations. I'm just going to go in there and have some fun."



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge shows the trophy after winning the MLB baseball All-Star Home Run Derby, Monday, July 10, 2017, in Miami. AP photo

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