TOGETHER AGAIN

Ex-Astros Lee, Maldonado now in Chicago.

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WEST NILE VIRUS GROWING HERE

Harris County Public Health has logged 74 cases in area mosquitoes in a month.

PAGE A3



BEATING THE ODDS

Positive HIV test changed man's life.

PAGE A8

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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City hints at change in homeless plan

Housing director says 'bigger program' will provide meals, help people find place to stay

By R.A. Schuetz
STAFF WRITER

A tentative plan may address a longstanding question in Houston's homeless community: In a city where "encamping" is illegal, where is a person without a home supposed to stay while waiting for permanent housing?

City Council hinted at a bold change in its strategy to address homelessness Tuesday when it voted to extend a contract to serve free meals near the municipal courthouse.

"The additional funds will allow the program to continue while the Housing Department works to develop a long-term plan for the program," read the agenda item.

Housing and Community Development Department Director Mike Nichols said a "bigger program" is in the works that will provide meals, services and a plan to help find people a place to sleep while they wait for housing. He said the idea is for multiple existing centers to provide these resources. The locations have not been determined, but at least one would be downtown since that's where many homeless people already go to receive services.

He said funding would likely come from philanthropists, the city, Harris County and the shifting of some federal dollars, but it has not been finalized yet.

Nichols spoke about those

Homeless continues on A5



Jon Shapley/Staff file photo

A man waits for help to move from an encampment last year near Minute Maid Park. Encampments are illegal in the city.

SEASON'S OPENING SALVO



Joseph Canzanella walks through the storm surge from Tropical Storm Alberto to get to work Wednesday in Surfside Beach. "This ain't the first time I've had to do this, and it won't be the last," he said. Alberto is the opening act for what's expected to be a highly active 2024 Atlantic hurricane season. **Story, page A2**

JON SHAPLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HPD will expand use of AI cameras

Growing tech hailed for efficiency raises concerns, some say

By John Lomax V
STAFF WRITER

An AI technology firm will install 64 new cameras throughout the city to improve public safety as Houston Police Department officials say they are facing staffing shortages.

In a $177,483 contract approved June 12 by City Council, Airship AI agreed to install the additional cameras and provide expanded server space to support them. The deal comes on the heels of statewide efforts to adopt the new technology across its many departments and agencies.

Advocates claim machine-learning tools will expand law enforcement capabilities and revolutionize public safety.

"The backdrop to all this, whether in policing or corrections, is the ongoing staffing crisis in the public safety sector," said Marc Levin, chief policy counsel at the Council on Criminal Justice. "With the right guardrails, this type of technology can improve the efficiency and efficacy of police work."

Levin pointed to the recent controversy surrounding HPD's crime lab backlog. He said that, when used properly and within the guidelines of the Constitution, AI-driven technologies can free up resources dedicated to menial work.

"Right now we're only clearing about half of reported homicides," Levin said. "Property crime is at about 10%. There's clearly a use case for technologies that can help us get those numbers up. It just comes down to a question of whether or not we're willing to accept some of the trade-offs that come with using AI."

AI continues on A5

WILLIE MAYS 1931-2024

Electrifying Hall of Famer set superstar standard

By Hillel Italie
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Willie Mays, the electrifying "Say Hey Kid" whose singular combination of talent, drive and exuberance made him one of baseball's greatest and most beloved players, has died. He was 93.

Mays' family and the San Francisco Giants jointly announced Tuesday night he had died earlier in the afternoon in the Bay Area.

"My father has passed away peacefully and among loved ones," son Michael Mays said in a statement released by the club. "I want to thank you all from the bottom of my broken heart for the unwavering love

Mays continues on A6

INSIDE

• Tributes to Mays pour in as mural is unveiled in Alabama. **A6**



Hall of Fame center fielder Willie Mays, one of baseball's greatest and most beloved players, has died at 93.

Associated Press file

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Alberto dumps rain as season opens

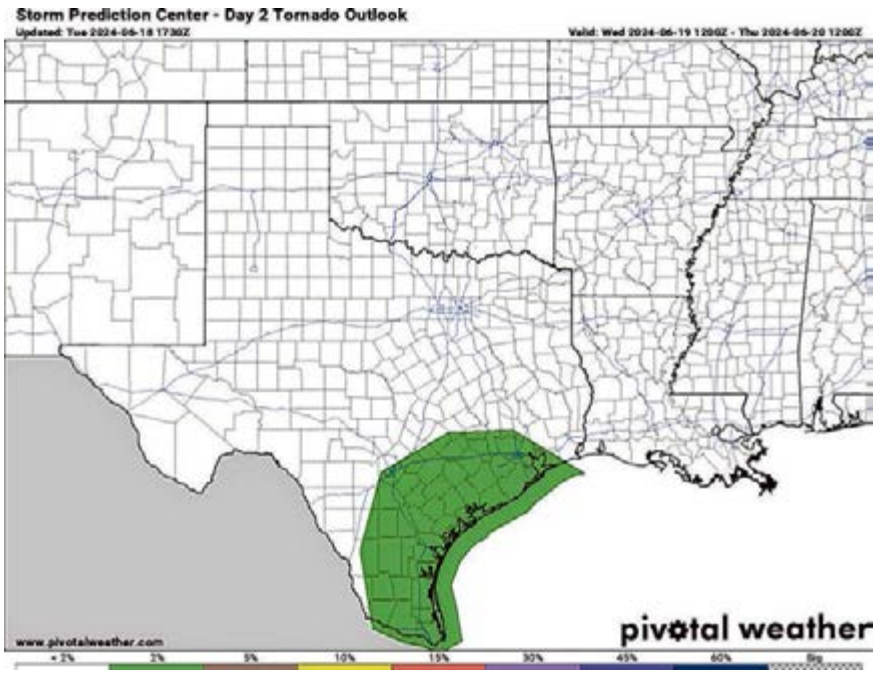
By Justin Ballard
NEWSROOM METEOROLOGIST

Tropical Storm Alberto formed Wednesday morning in the Gulf of Mexico, according to the National Hurricane Center. Arriving just a few days ahead of the 30-year average date when named storms form, Alberto is the opening act for what's expected to be a highly active 2024 Atlantic hurricane season.

Alberto was boasting maximum sustained winds of 40 mph, making it a relatively weak tropical storm, as it moved westward at 9 mph. The center of the rotating system of low atmospheric pressure was about 300 miles south-southeast of Brownsville.

But tropical storm-force winds still extended outward more than 400 miles north, putting large swaths of the Texas Gulf Coast, from Galveston to the Rio Grande, under a tropical storm warning and susceptible to rough waters, high surf and storm surges.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center expected Alberto to continue west before picking up speed as it approached the northeastern coast of Mexico during the early morning hours of Thursday.



Storm Prediction Center/ Pivotal Weather

Shown is the outlook for tornadoes Wednesday in Texas, according to the Storm Prediction Center. As with all landfalling tropical systems, a few weak tornadoes may spin up. This image was captured Tuesday evening and does not reflect the latest forecast.

Another system forming?

Although Alberto is on the move, the hurricane center remains focused on the tropical storm's birthplace in the Bay of Campeche, the southwestern corner of the Gulf of Mexico. There, another broad area of low atmospheric pressure is expected to develop storm activity later this weekend.

Hurricane center forecasters on Wednesday said "environmental conditions are expected to be conducive for gradual development of this system through early next week while it moves slowly west-northwestward or northwestward."

Forecasters used similar language last week to describe the origins of a system that eventually became Alberto, but this new system appears weaker and only has a 30% chance of forming a tropical cyclone over the next seven days.

What could Alberto do?

Rainfall: Northern Mexico is poised to receive the most rainfall from Alberto, with up to 20 inches possible in higher elevations where life-threatening mudslides are possible.

Additional rainfall totals of 4 to 8 inches were expected in far South Texas through Thursday, with isolated totals of up to 12 inches possible. For southern portions of the state, flood watches remained in effect through Wednesday. Flash flooding and urban flooding were expected with bands of heavier rainfall, along with new or renewed river flooding. In Houston, the heaviest rainfall associated with Alberto was winding down Wednesday.

Storm surge: As Alberto approaches Mexico to make landfall on Thursday, storm surge and the tide cycles will cause normally dry ground to become inundated along the coast. Coastal flood alerts are in place in lieu of storm surge warnings, which are typically issued during the landfall of stronger tropical storms and hurricanes. Water could reach 2 to 4 feet above normally dry ground from Sargent to Sabine Pass, including in Galveston Bay. Elsewhere, from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Sargent, water rises of 1 to 3 feet were expected.

Wind: Tropical storm conditions were expected from the middle of the Texas Gulf Coast to northern Mexico through Wednesday. Sustained winds of 40 mph or higher could result in power outages, especially in areas with weak trees in rain-soaked soils.

Tornadoes: As with any tropical system making landfall, a few tornadoes can't be ruled out, but tropical tornadoes tend to be short-lived and weak. If you are between Houston and Brownsville, be sure to have a way to receive severe weather alerts through midweek.

Surf: Large swells generated by Alberto will affect coastal Texas and northeastern Mexico through early Thursday. Red flag warnings are up along the upper Texas Gulf Coast to raise awareness of the life-threatening surf and rip current conditions that are expected.

Officials: Fatal balcony collapse was a 'tragic accident'

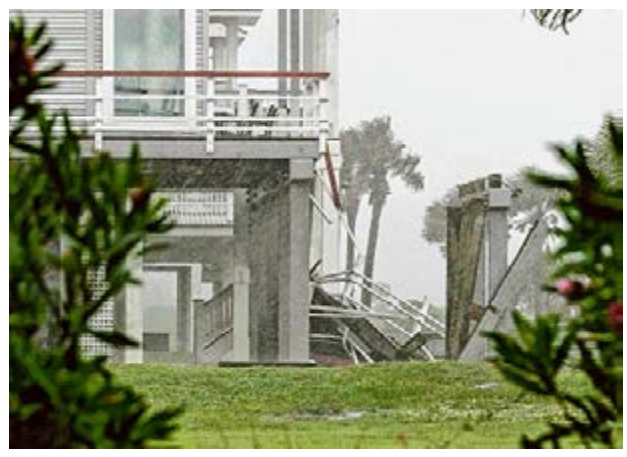
By Matt deGrood
STAFF WRITER

A balcony collapse outside a home on the West End of Galveston that led to the death of well-connected Houston public relations professional Susan Farb Morris appears to be a "tragic accident," according to a spokesman for the Galveston Police Department.

An inspector was planning to visit the site of the collapse as of Tuesday morning, but the police weren't overseeing any investigation, according to Kurt Koopmann, spokesman for the department.

The news comes days after Morris died when the balcony collapsed outside a home on Kahala Drive East, officials said. A forensic examiner determined she died from significant injuries, according to John "D.J." Florence, chief investigator for the Galveston County Medical Examiner.

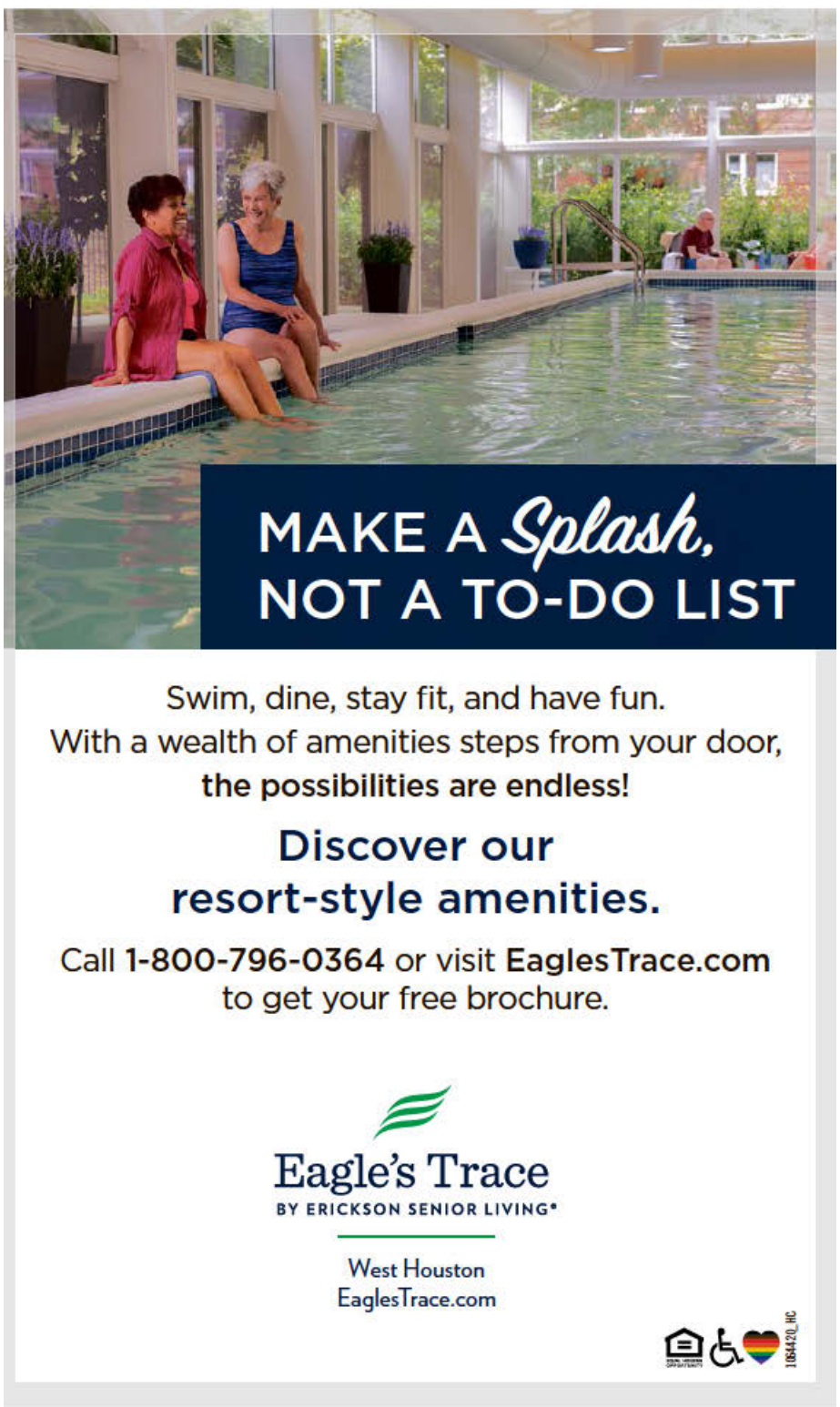
Emergency responders around 2:15 p.m. Friday were called to the home in response to a health call, Koopmann said. Two were reported injured in the collapse and one was sent to the hospital. Those responding included EMS and fire personnel, Koopmann said.



Yi-Chin Lee/Staff photographer

A balcony collapse outside a home that led to Susan Farb Morris' death is shown Tuesday on the West End of Galveston.

Officials may have additional updates sometime after the inspector concludes a visit to the site, Koopmann said.



Avelo Airlines' debut flight takes off from Hobby airport

By Octavia Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Avelo Airlines took flight for the first time from Houston on Friday, initiating a nonstop service leaving William P. Hobby Airport to Connecticut.

The nonstop service will be between Hobby Airport and Tweed-New Haven Airport. The airlines will operate the route twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays through Boeing Next-Generation 737 aircraft, according to a news release.

"Today marks a significant milestone as we inaugurate Avelo's first flight from our home city of Houston. This route will also connect our airline's National Support Center (headquarters) with the largest of our six bases," Andrew Levy, Avelo Airlines founder and CEO, said in a statement.



Staff file photo

Avelo is offering two flights a week from Houston to Tweed-New Haven Airport.

Travelers were invited to participate in "gate-side celebration and fanfare, including commemorative boarding passes, local Houston bites, a musician and a water cannon salute upon the flight's arrival," company officials said in the news release. They hope to expand the network connections between Houston and New Haven.

"This exciting partnership offers our passengers even more convenient travel options between Houston and the Northeast. Avelo's commitment to affordability perfectly aligns with our mission of connecting people, businesses, and cultures to Houston," Jim Szczesniak, director of aviation for Houston Airports, said in a statement.

The airline offers advanced seat assignments — with seats ranging from 32 inches to more than 36 inches — and flexibility in paying for priority boarding, checked bags, carry-on overhead bags and traveling with a pet.

Travelers looking for one-way tickets can book them for as low as $98 at Aveloair.com.

Avelo Airlines has flown more than 4.7 million customers on more than 37,000 flights serving 53 destinations in 24 U.S. states and Puerto Rico. The company touts its operations of flying unserved routes to underserved communities.

West Nile virus found in dozens of mosquitoes

By John Lomax V
STAFF WRITER

Less than a month after the first confirmed report, Harris County Public Health has logged 74 positive cases of the West Nile virus in area mosquitos.

That's a big jump from last year, when the Mosquito and Vector Control Division reported 50 positive cases throughout the entire year.

The disease-carrying mosquitoes were reported in areas ranging from Braeswood to Tomball, according the county. No human cases have been reported, but the jump in positive tests in mosquitos confirms initial concerns from health officials that excessive rain and heat might lead to an outbreak of the virus.

Dr. Max Vigilant, Harris County's mosquito control director, said earlier in June that climate change and other factors could create ideal conditions for the disease to proliferate in the area.

Kamesha Owens, an epidemiologist with the Texas Department of Health tasked with monitoring West Nile and other mosquito-borne illnesses, said that it's too early to tell whether the reported cases are part of a larger trend.

"We're just now getting into peak mosquito season here in Texas, and there are a host of factors that can contribute to an increase in positive cases," Owens said. "People tend to associate West Nile with rainfall and heat, but we've seen spikes during periods of excessive drought."

The West Nile virus is most commonly spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The most common symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea.



Kirk Sides/Staff photographer

Victoria Adesuyi tests mosquitoes collected from traps placed around Harris County for the presence of West Nile virus.

Owens said that West Nile is generally not fatal and the vast majority of cases are asymptomatic. She said this creates a challenge for health officials as only one-percent of those infected require treatment, meaning the virus often goes unreported.

Basing projections off of mosquitoes that tested positive can be problematic as it is highly dependent on the number caught and tested in a particular area. Without knowing the exact number of traps set in previous years, it's hard to tell whether or not these numbers are cause for alarm, Owens said.

"This is a type of surveillance tool that tells us in public health that there is some level of transmission going on," Owens said. "But it really depends from county to county. Seventy-four could be a lot for one area, but a drop in the bucket for another."

While it may be too early to tell whether or not Harris County is in danger of an outbreak of West Nile, Owens said residents should do what they can to limit the spread of the disease.

"At the end of the day, it's all about prevention," she said. "We always recommend people take steps to eliminate standing water, wear bug spray and limit exposure to areas with excessive populations."



Photos by Jason Fochtman/Staff photographer

Rose Caballero takes in the reading of the Juneteenth proclamation as others video the annual event on their phones Wednesday at Ashton Villa in Galveston.

Galveston marks Juneteenth with its annual reenactment

By Rebekah F. Ward
STAFF WRITER

As the tail of Tropical Storm Alberto tugged at palm trees on Galveston Island, more than 150 Juneteenth celebrants tucked into the chandeliered ballroom of Ashton Villa Mansion, the former residence of Confederate Army officers during the Civil War.

On Wednesday, one Union General uniform took center stage. For the past decade, reenactor the Rt. Rev. Stephen Duncan has donned his rare navy blue cap and wool replica each year to read out the order issued by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, finally telling enslaved Black Texans in Galveston they were free.

"He probably didn't read it, he probably signed it and off it went," Duncan said. "But what a wonderful thing to read every year. This is where freedom came to be, and that is worth saying over, and over, and over again."

Attendees commemorated the day when news of slavery's end finally reached Galveston, more than two years after Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The crowd also sang, prayed, and celebrated more recent history, including the major role of late Texas Rep. Al Edwards in making Juneteenth a state holiday in 1979. Over three decades later, the federal government followed suit.

By the time Edwards started pushing for recognition, June 19 had for years meant a crucial celebration in the area's Black community. Shirley Foreman, who brought the event's youngest attendee to Ashton Villa Mansion, said she wanted her two-month-old grandson Tru to grow up knowing his history.

"Him being here is a part of history as well, even though he's too young to know. Juneteenth is a major part of our community, being born and raised here in Galveston," Foreman said.



County Commissioner Stephen Holmes speaks at Wednesday's event, which also recognized state Rep. Albert Edwards.



The Rt. Rev. Stephen Duncan reads the general order in his navy blue cap and wool replica Union uniform as Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger.

As he gets older, she said she hopes Tru understands the struggles his people faced: "Being free is not just taken for granted."

During more than an hour of greetings and speeches, some of the day's guests called out the recently shifting set of attendees.

"When I was a kid ... only African Americans took part in the celebration. But over the last several years, I see the change," said Galveston County Commissioner Stephen Holmes. He was glad, he said, because Juneteenth should be a moment the whole country honors.

"It stands not only for freedom from slavery," said Galveston Mayor Chris Brown. "It stands also for the idea that no one's free until everybody's free."

In Galveston the occasion still draws a chorus, even on a rainy day. Wednesday's roomful filled with voices as they opened the day with "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and soon the event's rear was standing-room-only.

"I just want to say thank you, because it means a whole lot that you'd come out rain or shine," said Pete Henley, the president of the event's organizer Old Central Cultural Center.

"People have no problem attending events when the sun is shining but for some reason, rain can stop people from going to church," Henley said, hitting one of many event moments that sent a low rumble of laughter through the crowd.

Still, filled with testimonies, prayer, hymns, readings and moments of silence for the recently dead, Wednesday's event itself echoed a church service.

Officials ID girl, 12, found dead in creek

By John Wayne Ferguson
STAFF WRITER

Authorities on Wednesday named the 12-year-old girl found dead in a shallow north Houston creek earlier this week.

Jocelyn Nungaray was found strangled near a bridge in the 400 block of West Rankin Road, according to police. The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences released Jocelyn's name Wednesday morning.

The identification came hours after the Houston Police Department announced a search for two men wanted for questioning in connection with her death.

Police on Monday said Jocelyn lived with her family at an apartment complex not far from where she was found. Police believe she snuck out of her home some time after 10 p.m. Sunday and walked to a convenience store about a half a mile east of where her body was found.

Investigators have released little other information about what they believe happened that night. But during a City Council meeting Tuesday morning, Mayor John Whitmire said police believed Jocelyn was speaking to her boyfriend on the phone around midnight while she was at the store.



Jocelyn

The boyfriend, who is 13 years old, heard Jocelyn speaking to two adults while she was at the store.

Jocelyn's body was found by a passerby around 6:15 a.m. Monday.

Police on Tuesday night released security camera images of two men they identified as persons of interest in the investigation. In the images, the men were wearing T-shirts and baseball caps. One had a fanny pack and was wearing shorts, while the other was wearing a black shirt and jeans.

Police asked anyone with information about the girl's death to call the homicide division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers or Houston at 713-222-TIPS.

Work almost complete on I-69/Loop 610 interchange

By Dug Begley
STAFF WRITER

Seven years and many closings later, Houston-area drivers have full use of a rebuilt Loop 610 and Interstate 69 interchange near Uptown.

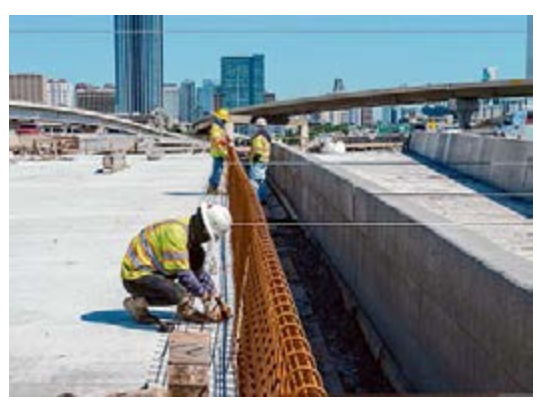
With the weekend opening of the ramp from northbound Loop 610 to northbound I-69, which closed in March, all of the ramps between the two interstates, along with rebuilt main lanes of Loop 610, are open for traffic. While there is still work to do for a few weeks more, all major work on the project — and major closings that came with it — are in the past and one of the area's largest construction jobs will slow.

Final closeout of the project, when the Texas Department of Transportation considers the job finished, is expected in the fall, agency spokesman Danny Perez said. Work will continue on shoulders and in some locations where ramps join freeway main lanes. Work also remains below Loop 610 along Westpark Drive where the construction work removed sidewalks, as well as some limited landscaping along the project.

For drivers, however, the ramps and lanes are in place, aimed at making trips through the interchange smoother. All of the ramps between the freeways were rebuilt and most expanded to two lanes to ease backups at peak commuting periods. The only ramp that remains one lane in each direction is the one from southbound I-69 to northbound Loop 610, which was limited by TxDOT not wanting to acquire more residential property and encroach on homes in the northeast corner of the interchange.

Prior to the work, the interchange was the worst in the state, based on freeway segments. The crossing is where the most congested freeway segment in the state, Loop 610 through Uptown, meets the fifth-most congested, I-69 from the loop to Texas 288. As a result, state officials made rebuilding it a priority and one the first projects started under the Texas Clear Lanes program months after voters approved billions of dollars in transportation spending.

Initially estimated to cost $258.7 million, the current estimated cost of the rebuild is $272.1 million, based on TxDOT's internal updates.



Looking north from Loop 610 at the Interstate 69 interchange, work is winding down.

Kirk Sides/Staff photographer

NATION & WORLD

Cooler temps could help corral N.M. blazes

By Morgan Lee and Andrés Leighton
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSWELL, N.M. — Cooler weather — and the chance of rain — could bring some relief but also the risk of danger this week to firefighters battling blazes in southern New Mexico that killed at least one person, damaged hundreds of structures and forced thousands to evacuate.

Strong wind pushed the larger of two wildfires into the mountain village of Ruidoso, forcing residents to flee immediately with little notice Monday. Weather patterns were shifting with moisture from a tropical wave in the Gulf of Mexico, Bladen Breitreiter of the National Weather Service office in Albuquerque said Wednesday.

"It will be a challenging situation going into the late afternoon and evening," said Breitreiter, who has been an incident meteorologist at past wildfires. "The potential for scattered to isolated thunderstorms could help, but it depends on where they hit. If the rain misses the fires, downward winds could cause problems for firefighters on the ground."

He said rain could also lead to dangerous flash flooding in newly burned areas in the mountainous region.

The two fires remained at 0% containment at midday Wednesday as crews used heavy equipment to build fire lines while water and retardant was dropped from the air, authorities said.

Officials said about 254 firefighters were on the scene by the early morning and alert to any spot fires that could flare up. More personnel from departments from around the region were continuing to arrive throughout Wednesday.

Ruidoso and much of the Southwest has been exceedingly dry and hot this spring. Those conditions, along with strong wind, whipped flames out of control Monday and Tuesday, rapidly advancing the South Fork Fire into the village. Along with homes and businesses, a regional medical center and the Ruidoso Downs horse track were evacuated.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's office confirmed one fatality as a result of the fire but said it had no further details.

New Mexico State Police spokesperson Wilson Silver said Wednesday that the department was notified about a 60-year-old man found Tuesday on the side of the road near a Ruidoso motel. Patrick Pearson apparently died from numerous burns he sustained from the fire, he said.

About 1,400 structures have been destroyed or damaged, but it's unclear how many were homes. A flyover to provide more accurate mapping and a better assessment of damage is being organized, Lujan Grisham said.

Ardis Holder left Ruidoso with her two young daughters, her gas tank nearly on empty as she prayed that they'd make it out safe. She was sure the house she rented in the village she grew up in is gone, based on the maps she's seen so far.

"We were already seeing where all the fire hit, it's everywhere," she said late Tuesday from a shelter in nearby Roswell. "If there's something standing, that's awesome. But, if not, we were prepared for the worst."

About 1,500 horses stabled at the Ruidoso Downs racetrack were moved in a chaotic scene after authorities ordered they be evacuated for the animals' safety, said horse trainer John Stinebaugh.

Hundreds died during 2024 Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia amid intense heat, officials say

By Samy Magdy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — Hundreds of people died during this year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia as the faithful faced intense high temperatures at Islamic holy sites in the desert kingdom, officials said Wednesday as people tried to claim their loved ones' bodies.

Saudi Arabia has not commented on the death toll amid the heat during the pilgrimage, required of every able Muslim once in their life, nor offered any causes for those who died. However, hundreds of people had lined up at the Emergency Complex in Al-Muaisem neighborhood in Mecca, trying to get information about their missing family members.

One list circulating online suggested at least 550 people died during the five-day Hajj. A medic who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss information not released publicly by the government said that the names listed appeared genuine. That medic and another official who also spoke on condition of anonymity said they believed at least 600 bodies were at the facility.

Deaths aren't uncommon at the Hajj, which has drawn at times over 2 million people to Saudi Arabia. There have been stampedes and epidemics through the pilgrimage's history.

Each year, the Hajj draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from low-income nations, "many of whom have had little, if any, pre-Hajj health care," an article in the April edition of the Journal of Infection and Public Health said.

Communicable illnesses can spread among the gathered masses, many of whom saved their entire lives for their trips and can be elderly with preexisting health conditions, the paper added.

However, the number of dead this year suggests something caused the number of deaths to swell. Already, several countries have said some of their pilgrims died because of the heat that swept across the holy sites at Mecca, including Jordan and Tunisia.



Rafiq Maqbool/Associated Press

Muslim pilgrims use umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun as they arrive to cast stones at pillars in the symbolic stoning of the devil, the last rite of the annual Hajj, on Tuesday in Mina, near the holy city of Mecca.

Temperatures on Tuesday reached 117 degrees Fahrenheit in Mecca and the sacred sites in and around the city, according to the Saudi National Center for Meteorology. Onlookers saw some people faint while trying to perform the symbolic stoning of the devil,

At the Grand Mosque in Mecca, temperatures reached 125 F on Monday though pilgrims had already left for Mina, authorities said.

Others, including many Egyptians, lost track of their loved ones in the heat and the crowds.

More than 1.83 million Muslims performed the Hajj in 2024, including more than 1.6 million pilgrims from 22 countries, and around 222,000 Saudi citizens and residents, according to the Saudi Hajj authorities.

On Wednesday at the medical complex in Mecca, an Egyptian man collapsed to the ground when he heard the name of mother among the dead. He cried for some time before grabbing his cellphone and calling a travel agent, shouting: "He left her to die!" The crowd tried to calm the man.

Security appeared tight at the complex, with an official reading out names of the dead and the nationalities, which included people from Algeria, Egypt and India. Those who said they were kin of the dead were allowed inside to identify the deceased.

The AP could not independently confirm the causes of death for those bodies held at the complex. Saudi officials did not respond to questions seeking more information.

The kingdom's ruling Al Saud family maintains a major influence in the Muslim world through its oil wealth and management of Islam's holiest sites. Like Saudi monarchs before him, King Salman has taken the title of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, referring to the Grand Mosque in Mecca home to the cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims pray towards five times a day, and the Prophet's Mosque in the nearby city of Medina.

Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars on crowd control and safety measures for those attending the annual five-day pilgrimage, but the sheer number of participants makes ensuring their safety difficult.

Climate change could make the risk even greater. A 2019 study by experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that even if the world succeeds in mitigating the worst effects of climate change, the Hajj would be held in temperatures exceeding an "extreme danger threshold" from 2047 to 2052, and from 2079 to 2086.

Islam follows a lunar calendar, so the Hajj falls around 11 days earlier each year. In 2030, the Hajj will occur in April, and over the next several years it will fall in the winter, when temperatures are milder.

A 2015 stampede in Mina during the hajj killed over 2,400 pilgrims, the deadliest incident to ever strike the pilgrimage, an AP count showed. Saudi Arabia has never acknowledged the full toll of the stampede. A separate crane collapse at Mecca's Grand Mosque, which preceded the Mina disaster, killed 111 people.

The second-deadliest incident at hajj was a 1990 stampede that killed 1,426 people.

Migrant spouse policy both a dream and nightmare

By Valerie Gonzalez and Juan A. Lozano
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Hundreds of thousands of immigrants had reason to rejoice when President Joe Biden unveiled a highly expansive plan to extend legal status to spouses of U.S. citizens but, inevitably, some were left out.

Claudia Zúniga, 35, married in 2017, 10 years after her husband came to the United States. He moved to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, after they wed, knowing that, by law, he had to live outside the country for years to gain legal status.

"Our lives took a 180-degree turn," she said.

Biden announced Tuesday that his administration will, in coming months, allow U.S. citizens' spouses without legal status to apply for permanent residency and eventually citizenship without having to first depart the country for up to 10 years. About 500,000 immigrants may benefit, according to senior administration officials.



Jae C. Hong/Associated Press

DACA recipient Brenda Valle says she and husband Antonio, a U.S. citizen, now can plan for their long-term future.

To qualify, an immigrant must have lived in the United States for 10 years and be married to a U.S. citizen, both as of Monday. Zúniga's husband is ineligible because he wasn't in the United States.

"Imagine, it would be a dream come true," said Zúniga, who works part time in her father's transportation business in Houston. "My husband could be with us. We could focus on the well-being of our children."

Every immigration benefit — even those as sweeping as Biden's election-year offer — has a cutoff date and other eligibility requirements. In September, the Democratic president expanded temporary status for nearly 500,000 Venezuelans living in the United States on July 31 of last year. Those who had arrived a day later were out of luck.

The Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which has shielded from deportation hundreds of thousands of people who came to the United States as young children and is popularly known as DACA, required applicants be in the United States on June 15, 2012, and continuously for the previous five years.

About 1.1 million spouses who are in the country illegally are married to U.S. citizens, according to the advocacy group FWD.us., meaning hundreds of thousands won't qualify because they were in the United States for less than 10 years.

Brenda Valle of Los Angeles, whose husband has been a U.S. citizen since 2001 and, like her, was born in Mexico, renews her DACA permit every two years.

"We can start planning more long-term, for the future, instead of what we can do for the next two years," she said.

AROUND THE NATION AND WORLD

LOUISIANA

Schools must display Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments must be displayed in Louisiana classrooms under requirement signed into law.

Louisiana has become the first state to require that the Ten Commandments be displayed in every public school classroom.

Republican Gov. Jeff Landry signed the bill mandating the display on Wednesday.

The GOP-drafted legislation mandates that a poster-size display of the Ten Commandments in "large, easily readable font" be required in all public classrooms, from kindergarten to state-funded universities.

Opponents question the law's constitutionality. Several civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, promised a lawsuit.

Proponents say the purpose of the measure is not solely religious, but that it has historical significance. Classrooms must display the Ten Commandments by the start of 2025.

MASSACHUSETTS

Firewall leads to outage of 911 system

A firewall designed to prevent cyberattacks and hacking was to blame for the 911 outage that hit Massachusetts this week, state officials said Wednesday.

Massachusetts' 911 system was down for about two hours Tuesday, making it impossible for anyone to reach emergency services using the emergency number.

In a statement Wednesday, the Massachusetts State 911 Department determined the outage, which lasted from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., was due to a safety feature that prevents cyberattacks, though the reason for that was still under review.

While some calls didn't go through, the state said the system "allows dispatch centers to identify the phone number of callers and return those calls." As a result, the Department was not aware of any emergencies being negatively affected by the outage.

NORTH KOREA

Putin, Kim hail new partnership

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un say the strategic partnership they have signed is a breakthrough.

But neither side has released the text of the agreement that resulted from Putin's visit to Pyongyang, and its consequences for the near and long terms are uncertain.

Relations between sprawling Russia and small, isolated North Korea — both of them nuclear powers — have warmed significantly in recent years amid Russia's growing acrimony with the West over the invasion of Ukraine and the suppression of domestic opposition.

The new agreements could bring them even closer and pose new challenges to the international community.

Associated Press

HOMELESS

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plans at a recent neighborhood meeting May 29 in the Sixth Ward.

Many expressed at the meeting that feeding homeless people near the municipal courthouse, just across Houston Avenue from their community, negatively impacted their safety. Nichols explained the city planned to extend the meals, known as the Dinner to Home Program, as it develops another program to meet the needs of people awaiting permanent housing.

"We're looking for the funding so when (people) wait for housing, they don't have to sleep outside," he said. "There's access to somewhere else to sleep that's safe to them." He said data showed that people who are homeless are victims of crime more often than they are perpetrators. In Harris County, 7% of homeless deaths are by homicide



Yi-Chin Lee/Staff file photo

Beds are set up at the city's Navigation Center. The city is looking to use government funding for homeless shelters.

The city, county and their partners have long focused financial resources on permanent housing as opposed to shelters. That's because the more resources you dedicate toward permanent housing, the more people you move out of homelessness.

Nichols signaled Houston was looking into using government funding to fund shelters. It's likely new shelters will not be opened but that existing shelters will receive additional support. Currently, shelters for the general population function without government funding, and as a result, most are run by religious institutions. Many Houstonians say they avoid shelters because of all of the associated requirements, which can include religious components and strict schedules that people say make it difficult to work.

Nichols said the city had some "low barrier" shelters in mind and was confident that providers could meet people's needs if they had the funding for more staff.

On Tuesday, City Council unanimously voted to increase the maximum contract amount for the Dinner to Home Program to $229,000 from $187,000. Council members Abbie Kamin, Joaquin Martinez and Mario Castillo were absent. Nichols said that should be enough for the free meals, which are served by the nonprofit Bread of Life, to continue through the end of July. At that point, he hopes the city will be ready to move forward with its new plan, though it's possible another extension may be needed.

The Dinner to Home Program began at the end of 2022, shortly before the now-stalled efforts to stop people from handing out free food on the same four evenings outside Central Library. Those providing meals outside the library were asked to move their services to the Dinner to Home location or face hefty fines.

But police ticketing of volunteers, who are part of a group called Food Not Bombs, has paused until a federal judge rules on the constitutionality of the city ordinance requiring permission before free food can be given to people in need. That case is scheduled to be heard in October 2025.

Abby Church contributed to this report.

AI

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Others, however, have taken a less rosy view of the use of AI surveillance tools in public safety.

Savannah Kumar, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer specializing in surveillance and police bias, said such contracts represent a growing movement among government bodies rapidly adopting the technology.

"We're seeing AI crop up pretty much across the entire state," Kumar said. "It's definitely a source of alarm and concern, particularly when it comes to the use of predictive technology and other tools in law enforcement."

According to Kumar, predictive technologies, or programs that can flag an individual or group as high-risk for criminal activity, directly violate the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on undue search and seizure. In effect, Kumar said, AI technologies could one day be used to police individuals before any crime has been committed.

While the expansion of Airship AI's infrastructure does not necessarily mean HPD will employ predictive algorithms in day-to-day law enforcement operations, the race to adopt cutting-edge technology could lead government agencies to sacrifice due process — possibly without even knowing it, she said.



Yi-Chin Lee/Staff file photo

Investigators work the scene of a shooting. Advocates for predictive AI in law enforcement say using the technology could help clear more homicide and property crime investigations.

"There's a real lack of transparency and understanding in terms of what algorithms are being used, how these tools are functioning or even when they're a part of the process," Kumar said. "Particularly as it applies to law enforcement, surveillance companies are making use of proprietary technology that is sometimes opaque even to the departments using them."

The current contract makes no mention of specific algorithms or analytics, but Airship AI's website states part of its mission is to provide law enforcement and security operations with " ... predictive analysis of events, before they occur ... "

Levin, despite his support for the technology, largely shared Kumar's concerns with lack of transparency. He pointed to recent legislation from the European Union, which mandated AI providers share code with regulators. In the U.S., this information is generally classified as intellectual property and is not accessible to government officials.

He said there have been examples of cases in which evidence gathered through the use of AI was ruled inadmissible because no one could openly testify to how the software worked, or how it arrived at the conclusion it did.

Despite transparency concerns, the technology has also been deployed at Texas' southern border. In late 2023, Airship AI was awarded a $10.9 million contract with an agency within the Department of Homeland Security to support intelligence-gathering operations. For Levin, the adoption of AI in roles like border safety isn't an option, it's an arms race.

"We've definitely seen an explosion of AI use among organized crime groups like cartels," Levin said. "At the end of the day, they often have access to a lot of the same technology we do."

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Tributes pour in as Alabama mural unveiled

By Alanis Thames
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Hours before crowds were expected to gather for the unveiling of a mural honoring baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays in downtown Birmingham, a handful of cars drove by, slowing to a halt as passersby thrust cameras out of their windows to take pictures of the display.

It's an enchanting depiction of the electrifying "Say Hey Kid," showing Mays beaming with his hands on his knees, his bevy of athletic accomplishments painted around him.

The mural was created by artist Chuck Styles and celebrates Mays' contributions to baseball, honoring the longtime Giants center fielder who died Tuesday at age 93.

Tributes to Mays, born in Westfield, Ala., near Birmingham, poured in all over the country on Wednesday, including from President Joe Biden.

"Like so many others in my neighborhood and around the country, when I played Little League, I wanted to play center field because of Willie Mays," Biden said in a statement. "It was a rite of passage to practice his basket catches, daring steals, and command at the plate — only to be told by coaches to cut it out because no one can do what Willie Mays could do."

Mays, who began his professional career with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues in 1948, had been baseball's oldest living Hall of Famer and was considered the sport's greatest living player.

Mays died two days before a game between his former team, the San Francisco Giants, and the St. Louis Cardinals to honor the Negro Leagues at Rickwood Field in Birmingham.

"It's actually even heavier today," said Giants manager Bob Melvin, wearing a Mays T-shirt. "When you read all the articles and you read what everybody has to say about him, it kind of comes full circle in what he's meant to our country. Even if you don't know baseball, you know who Willie Mays is."

Melvin said the Giants would wear patches with Mays' No. 24 on their chest for Wednesday's game against the Chicago Cubs.



Alanis Thames/Associated Press
The mural in Birmingham, Ala., was created by artist Chuck Styles and celebrates Willie Mays' contributions to baseball.

When the team travels to Birmingham for the commemorative game at Rickwood Field on Thursday, the Giants will open Oracle Park for fans to watch the game on the scoreboard, the team announced.

Images of Mays will appear on the scoreboard before and after the event, and a sculpture of his jersey number will be placed in center field to honor him.

Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol said Thursday's game becomes even more poignant after Mays' death.

"Being there with everything that is going on will be definitely meaningful. You have an icon of the sport in the city where it all started, so I think bringing light to all of it will be a pretty cool moment down there," Marmol said.

The 37-year-old manager said he never met Mays, but it was interesting to hear stories from former Giants like Brandon Crawford about him.

"I will do more of that today. It will be fun to hear people's stories," Marmol said. "I am curious to ask around to those who have."

Cardinals assistant coach Willie McGee said he had several conversations with Mays when he played for the Giants from 1991-94.

"Willie was the best, man, the greatest I have ever seen," McGee said. "He had all six tools. His aggressiveness, his baserunning. That is what separated him, for me, his aggressiveness and his instincts from other five-tool guys."

When asked if Mays ever gave him any advice, McGee chuckled.

"All the time — but I don't remember none of it," he said.

MAYS

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you have shown him over the years. You have been his life's blood."

The center fielder, who began his professional career in the Negro Leagues in 1948, had been baseball's oldest living Hall of Famer. He was voted into the Hall in 1979, his first year of eligibility, and in 1999 followed only Babe Ruth on The Sporting News' list of the game's top stars. The Giants retired his uniform number, 24, and set their AT&T Park in San Francisco on Willie Mays Plaza.

Mays died two days before a game between the Giants and St. Louis Cardinals to honor the Negro Leagues at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Ala.

"All of Major League Baseball is in mourning today as we are gathered at the very ballpark where a career and a legacy like no other began," Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Willie Mays took his all-around brilliance from the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League to the historic Giants franchise. From coast to coast ... Willie inspired generations of players and fans as the game grew and truly earned its place as our National Pastime."

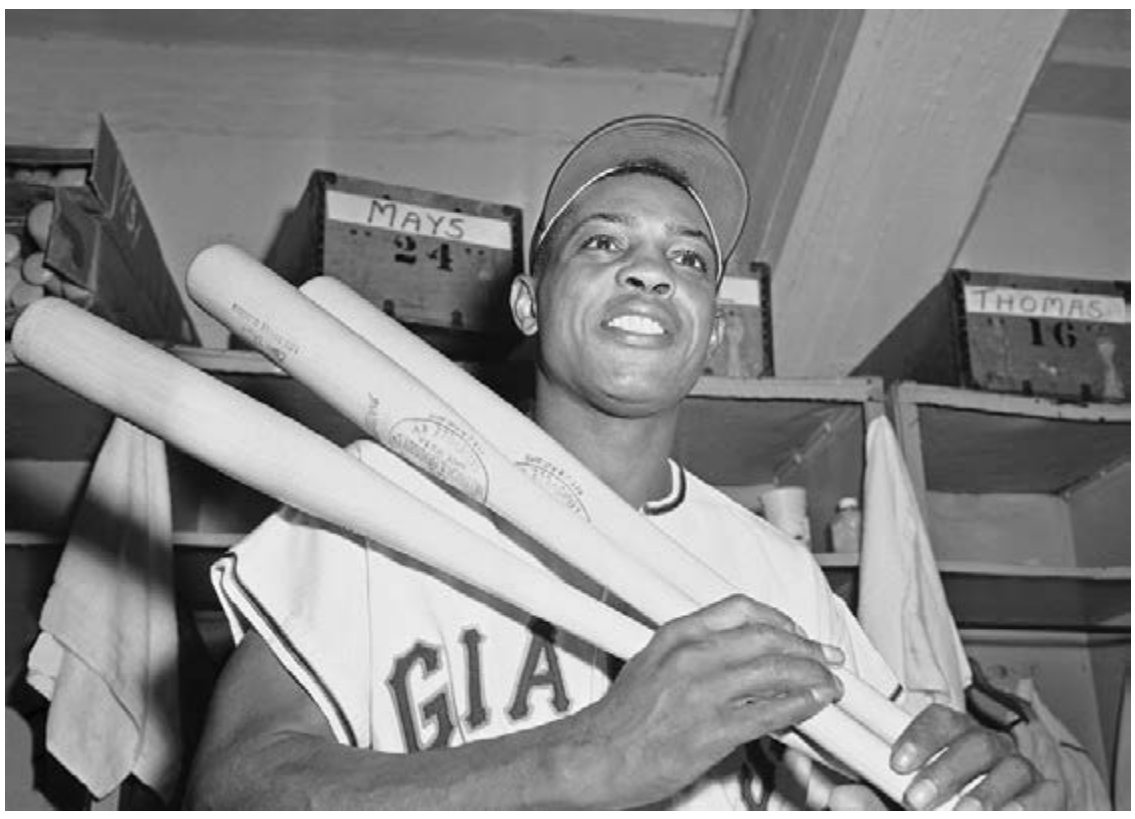
Few were so blessed with each of the five essential qualities for a superstar — hitting for average, hitting for power, speed, fielding and throwing. Fewer so joyously exerted those qualities — whether launching home runs; dashing around the bases, loose-fitting cap flying off his head; or chasing down fly balls in center field and finishing the job with his trademark basket catch.

Over 23 major league seasons, virtually all with the New York/San Francisco Giants but also including one in the Negro Leagues, Mays batted .301, hit 660 home runs, totaled 3,293 hits, scored more than 2,000 runs and won 12 Gold Gloves. He was Rookie of the Year in 1951, twice was named the Most Valuable Player and finished in the top 10 for the MVP 10 other times. His lightning sprint and over-the-shoulder grab of an apparent extra base hit in the 1954 World Series remains the most celebrated defensive play in baseball history.

"When I played ball, I tried to make sure everybody enjoyed what I was doing," Mays told NPR in 2010. "I made the clubhouse guy fit me a cap that when I ran, the wind gets up in the bottom and it flies right off. People love that kind of stuff."

For millions in the 1950s and '60s and after, the smiling ballplayer with the friendly, high-pitched voice was a signature athlete and showman during an era when baseball was still the signature pastime. Awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2015, Mays left his fans with countless memories. But a single feat served to capture his magic — one so untoppable it was simply called "The Catch."

In Game 1 of the 1954 World Series, the then-New York Giants hosted the Cleveland Indians, who had won 111 games in the regular season and were strong favorites in the postseason. The score was 2-2 in the top of the eighth inning. Cleveland's Vic Wertz faced reliever Don Liddle with none out, Larry Doby on second and Al Rosen on first.


Associated Press file
New York Giants center fielder Willie Mays flashes his winning smile after clouting his 20th triple of the 1957 season to become the first National League player to reach that total since Stan Musial.

With the count 1-2, Wertz smashed a fastball to deep center field. In an average park, with an average center fielder, Wertz would have homered, or at least had an easy triple. But the center field wall in the eccentrically shaped Polo Grounds was more than 450 feet away. And there was nothing close to average about the skills of Willie Mays.

Decades of taped replays have not diminished the astonishment of watching Mays race toward the wall, his back to home plate, reach out his glove and haul in the drive. What followed was also extraordinary: Mays managed to turn around while still moving forward, heave the ball to the infield and prevent Doby from scoring even as Mays spun to the ground. Mays himself would proudly point out that "the throw" was as important as "the catch."

'The Catch'

"The Catch" was seen and heard by millions through radio and the then-emerging medium of television, and Mays became one of the first Black athletes with mass media appeal. He was a guest star on "The Donna Reed Show," "Bewitched" and other sitcoms. He inspired a handful of songs and was named first in Terry Cashman's 1980s novelty hit, "Talkin' Baseball (Willie, Mickey & The Duke)," a tribute in part to the brief era when New York had three future Hall of Famers in center: Mays, Mantle of the Yankees and Snider of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The Giants went on to sweep the Indians, with many citing Mays' play as the turning point. The impact was so powerful that 63 years later, in 2017, baseball named the World Series Most Valuable Player after him even though it was his only moment of postseason greatness. He appeared in three other World Series, in 1951 and 1962 for the Giants and 1973 for the Mets, batting just .239 with no home runs in the four series. (His one postseason homer was in the 1971 National League playoffs, when the Giants lost to the Pittsburgh Pirates).

But "The Catch" and his achievements during the regular season were greatness enough. Yankees and Dodgers fans may have fiercely challenged Mays' eminence, but Mantle and Snider did not. At a 1995 baseball writers dinner in Manhattan, with all three at the dais, Mantle raised the eternal question: Which of the three was better?

"We don't mind being second, do we, Duke?" he added.

Between 1954 and 1966, Mays drove in 100 or more runs 10 times, scored 100 or more 12 times, hit 40 or more homers six times, more than 50 homers twice and led the league in stolen bases four times. His numbers might have been bigger. He missed most of 1952 and all of 1953 because of military service, quite possibly costing him the chance to overtake Ruth's career home run record of 714, an honor that first went to Henry Aaron, then Mays' godson, Barry Bonds.

He likely would have won more Gold Gloves if the award had been established before 1956. He insisted he would have led the league in steals more often had he tried.

"I am beyond devastated and overcome with emotion. I have no words to describe what you mean to me," Bonds wrote on Instagram.

Mays was fortunate in escaping serious injury and avoiding major scandal, but he endured personal and professional troubles. His first marriage, to Margherite Wendell, ended in divorce. He was often short of money in the pre-free agent era, and he received less for endorsements than Mantle and other white athletes.

He was subject to racist insults and his insistence that he was an entertainer, not a spokesman, led to his being chastised by Jackie Robinson and others for not contributing more to the civil rights movement. He didn't care for some of his managers and didn't always appreciate a fellow idol, notably Aaron, his greatest contemporary.

Admirers of Aaron, who died in 2021, would contend that only his quiet demeanor and geographical distance from major media centers — Aaron played in Atlanta and Milwaukee — kept him from being ranked the same as, or even better than, Mays. But much of the baseball world placed Mays above all. He was the game's highest-paid player for 11 seasons (according to the Society for American Baseball Research) and often batted first in All-Star Games, because he was Willie Mays. From center field, he called pitches and positioned other fielders. He boasted that he relied on his own instincts, not those of any coach, when deciding whether to try for an extra base.

The 'Say Hey Kid'

Sports writer Barney Kremenko has often been credited with nicknaming him the "Say Hey Kid," referring to Mays' spirited way of greeting his teammates. Moments on and off the field sealed the public's affection. In 1965, Mays defused a horrifying brawl after teammate Juan Marichal clubbed Los Angeles Dodgers catcher John Roseboro with a bat. Mays led a bloodied Roseboro away and sat with him on the clubhouse bench of the Dodgers, the Giants' hated rivals.

Years earlier, when living in Manhattan, he endeared himself to young fans by playing in neighborhood stickball games.

Mays was born in Westfield, Ala., in 1931, the son of a Negro League player who wanted Willie to do the same, playing catch with him and letting him sit in the dugout. Young Mays was so gifted an athlete that childhood friends swore that basketball, not baseball, was his best sport.

By high school he was playing for the Birmingham Black Barons, and late in life would receive an additional 10 hits to his career total, 3,293, when Negro League statistics were recognized in 2024 by Major League Baseball. With Robinson breaking the major league's color barrier in 1947, Mays' ascension became inevitable. The Giants signed him after he graduated from high school (he had to skip his senior prom) and sent him to their minor league affiliate in Trenton, New Jersey. He began the 1951 season with Minneapolis, a Triple-A club. After 35 games, he was batting a head-turning .477 and was labeled by one scout as "the best prospect in America." Giants Manager Leo Durocher saw no reason to wait and demanded that Mays, barely 20 at the time, join his team's starting lineup.

Durocher managed Mays from 1951-55 and became a father figure — the surly but astute leader who nurtured and sometimes pampered the young phenom. As Durocher liked to tell it, and Mays never disputed, Mays struggled in his first few games and was ready to go back to the minors.

"In the minors I'm hitting .477, killing everybody. And I came to the majors, I couldn't hit. I was playing the outfield very, very well, throwing out everybody, but I just couldn't get a hit," Mays told the Academy of Achievement, a Washington-based leadership center, in 1996. "And I started crying, and Leo came to me and he says: 'You're my center fielder; it doesn't make any difference what you do. You just go home, come back and play tomorrow.' I think that really, really turned me around."

Mays finished 1951 batting .272 with 20 home runs, good enough to be named the league's top rookie.

His military service the next two years stalled his career but not his development. Mays was assigned as a batting instructor for his unit's baseball team and, at the suggestion of one pupil, began catching fly balls by holding out his glove face up, around his belly, like a basket. Mays adopted the new approach in part because it enabled him to throw more quickly.

In retirement, he mentored Bonds and defended him against allegations of using steroids. Mays himself was in trouble when Commissioner Bowie Kuhn banned him from the game, in 1979, for doing promotional work at the Bally's Park Place Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (Kuhn's successor, Peter Ueberroth, reinstated Mays and fellow casino promoter Mantle in 1985).

But tributes were more common and they came from everywhere — show business, sports, the White House. In the 1979 movie "Manhattan," Woody Allen's character cites Mays as among his reasons for living. When Obama learned he was a distant cousin of political rival and former Vice President Dick Cheney, he lamented that he wasn't related to someone "cool" like Mays.

"Willie Mays wasn't just a singular athlete, blessed with an unmatched combination of grace, skill and power," Obama said Tuesday on X. "He was also a wonderfully warm and generous person — and an inspiration to an entire generation."

OPINION

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
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EDITORIAL

Deepfake nudes and AI porn torment teens

Volleyball practice. Bible study. The English essay due next week. These are the things that once occupied 14-year-old Elliston Berry's mind.

Then came Ellis' rude awakening. One fall morning last year at her home outside of Fort Worth, she woke up to a flurry of missed calls and texts from her friends that sent her heart racing: *Had she seen the nude photo of her circulating on Snapchat?*

Ellis had never taken a naked photo of herself, much less sent one. But that didn't matter.

A benign cruise photo she had posted on her private Instagram had been enough for a classmate to feed into a "nudification" tool — an app that, armed with artificial intelligence, can strip a person's clothes and create a realistic explicit image in seconds. With the same ease, the classmate, a 15-year-old boy, allegedly created several Snapchat accounts to befriend classmates and then bombarded them with fake nudes of Ellis and six of her friends.

"On Oct. 7, 2023 our lives were forever changed," Anna McAdams, Ellis' mom, tearfully testified to the Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice earlier this month. "My daughter's innocence was shattered and her eyes were opened to the reality of how cruel a person can be."

As if parents didn't have enough to worry about, now it's malicious "deepfakes" — videos, photos or audio digitally altered with AI. While often associated with fake photos and videos aimed at candidates vying for public office, more than 95% of deepfakes online are pornographic and 99% target women or girls. Few are published with consent.

More often than not, deepfake porn targets celebrities, including Taylor Swift and, more recently, Houston's own Megan Thee Stallion. Federal and state laws failed these celebrities, and they've failed to protect children, who have far less power, from being traumatized by this technology.

Last session, the Legislature passed at least three bills addressing the issue, including House Bill 2700, which expanded the definition of child pornography to encompass visual material that uses an actual child's image, including content created using AI. But the law doesn't go far enough and we're glad to see that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has charged senators with closing loopholes.

While Ellis worries whether, each time she applies to college or to a job, these nude photos will come back to haunt her, the classmate who targeted her and her friends will never have to worry about a permanent record.

When her family reached out to the school and the sheriff's office for help, at first they were told that, because the cyberbully was a minor, they couldn't reveal his identity. It wasn't until Anna McAdams filed a Title IX complaint that they found out who he was.

Even then, "the school was ill-equipped and law enforcement didn't know what to do," McAdams testified. She says the 15-year-old boy received in-school suspension, and then his parents transferred him to another school. The sheriff's office charged him with distribution of harmful material to a minor, a Class A misdemeanor, but he was let off on probation, according to McAdams.

"At 18, his case will be expunged," she said. "No one will ever know what he did."

The case has inspired U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, a ranking member of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee, to introduce a bipartisan bill on Tuesday this week called the TAKE IT DOWN Act. The bill treats the online world as interstate commerce, making it a criminal offense to publish or threaten to publish non-consensual intimate images depicting real people, including computer-generated images, on social media. Cruz's office explained that the penalty — three years of jail time if the victim is a minor or two years if they're an adult — would apply to both adults and minors who commit the offense.

> Cruz is fighting back with a new bill that can send violators to jail

The bill, if passed, would send a more powerful warning to kids considering creating or publishing non-consensual deepfakes. More importantly, it will also give victims a message of hope — a way out from having those images follow them in perpetuity.

Cruz, who is also among the 70 senators co-sponsoring a comprehensive reform bill called the Kids Online Safety Act, included in the new bill a provision requiring websites to take down those non-consensual images within 48 hours of a victim requesting it. For McAdams, persuading Snapchat to remove the images had been like screaming into a void.

"Right now, if you happen to be a big, famous star like Taylor Swift, you can get the images pulled down," Cruz told the editorial board this week. "But if you're just a Texas teenager, Big Tech's answer is typically 'go jump in a lake.'"

One phone call from Cruz's office was all it took for Snapchat to finally scrub the photos last week, but it shouldn't take congressional pressure for victims to get relief from an explicit photo published without their say.

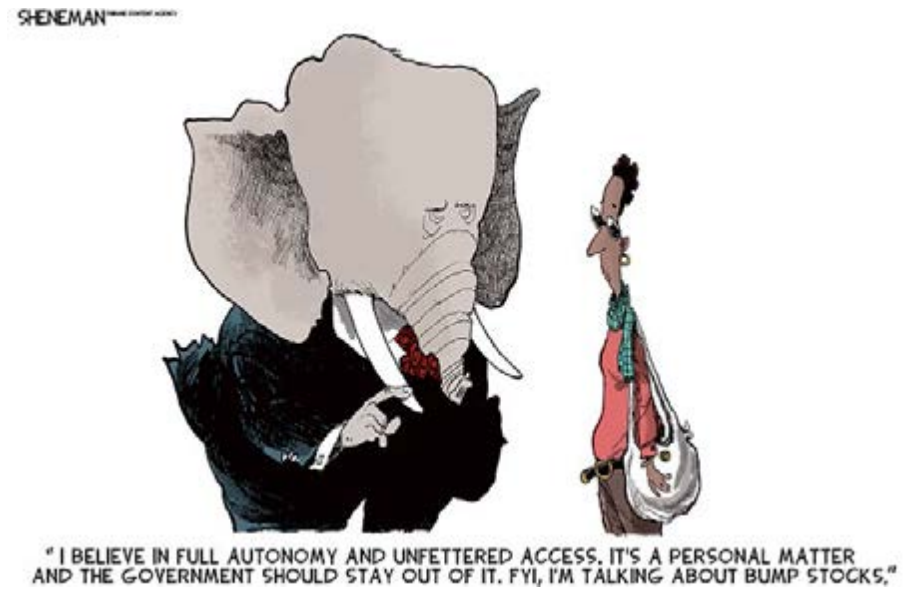
Parents don't have to wait for regulations to catch up to technology to get informed about the issue and start sounding the alarm in local school communities. Invite your kids to a frank conversation about deepfakes. Extend that conversation to your school board. McAdams told us her daughter's high school still doesn't have a specific AI deepfake policy in place, despite at least three incidents. We understand that schools are often too underresourced and overwhelmed by the sheer volume of potential online harms to pay sufficient attention to cases of AI misuse.

But urge your schools to heed Ellis' warning: It can happen to anyone. Using something as benign as a LinkedIn headshot, a bad actor can upend your life. Without stronger laws, there's nothing to stop him.

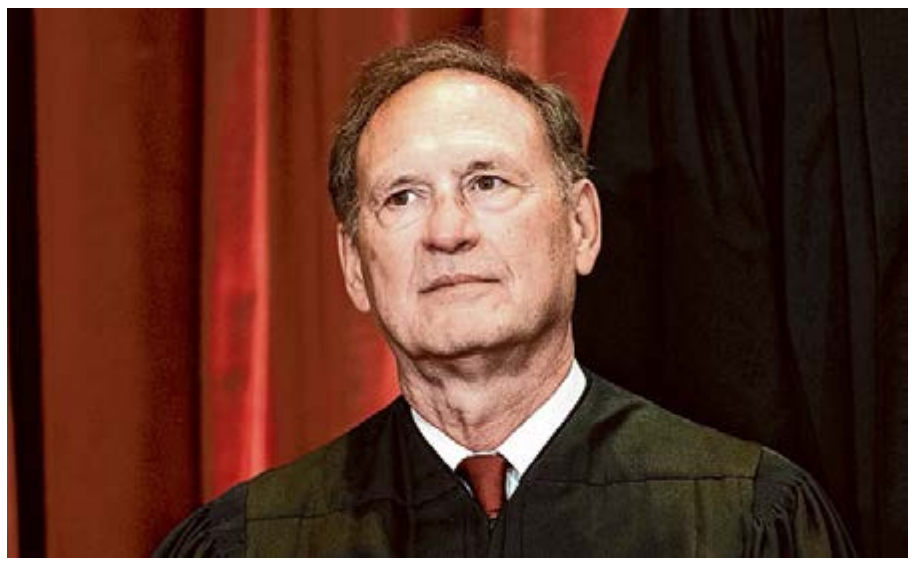


Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Houston, speaks with Elliston Berry, a victim of deepfake image abuse, and her mother Anna McAdams on Tuesday in Washington, DC.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Erin Schaff/Getty Images

Readers come to the defense of U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel Alito's secretly recorded comments.

What's so wrong with that?

Regarding "Justice Alito questions possibility of political compromise in secret recording," (June 10): I cannot believe you'd print — on the front page, no less — an article where Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel Alito says this country has to get back to God, and you make it sound as if he should not be saying that. What the hell is this country coming to? And you perpetrate it.

Ed Kuny, Seabrook

A liberal filmmaker secretly records a Supreme Court justice saying one side or the other will win then broadcasts the soundbites on social media. Doesn't this surreptitious act used to discredit the judge say something about the intentions of this actor?

And what is wrong with the belief that one side will win? Judges have to take a stand. It is ridiculous to assume that judges have no feelings or beliefs. They are not robots that are void of these things. That is why there are nine of them, so that there are differing points of view. Then call this what it is, an attempt to extort a justice to recuse himself from hearings of which the outcome might not be of the bully's desire.

These attempts to curtail conservative judges from Supreme Court cases to create an outcome of their choosing are as blatant and despicable as the attempt at coercion used to tarnish these justices and should not be tolerated.

Julia Purtill, Richmond

By the book(s)

Regarding "Texas GOP to vote on adding Bible lessons, deporting foreign protesters to party platform," (May 24): I am an 11-year-old Houstonian, and I want to write about the Texas Education Agency's proposal for elementary school curriculum. Houston ISD is in Houston, one of the most diverse cities in the country.

If the TEA is going to put out a curriculum with religious references, they can't just do Bible quotes. Other religions are reportedly included, but they should be equally represented. It's not like all the students seeing this curriculum are Christian. They also have to include citations from the Quran, references to the Vedas and sayings from the Buddha.

The Bible may teach children things about society, but the Quran or the Vedas could also teach them something similar! The Bible may have said, "you shall not murder," but the Quran also says, "if anyone kills a person ... it is as if he kills all mankind." We cannot just ignore Judaism or Islam or Hinduism or Daoism or any religion. The TEA cannot ignore how many different religions are in this city and just think they can replace them all with a curriculum.

Houston has one of the largest Muslim populations in the country, the largest Sikh community in Texas and some 35 Hindu temples.

Suhani Dewart, Houston

No trust, no bond

Regarding "Support the HISD bond. It's not about the state takeover. It's about our kids. | Opinion," (June 13): Lead in schools' drinking water is an emergency issue that a competent Houston ISD superintendent would have handled six months ago. It is appalling that advocacy organization Good Reason Houston would use the superintendent's failure as reason to give him a $4.4 billion check.

I don't blame the op-ed's writer for figuratively holding lead pipes to kids' heads. Her employer, Good Reason Houston, which welcomed the state takeover, is chaired by Scott McClelland, who is also the HISD bond advisory committee co-chair.

I'm voting no for this bond because taxation without representation is tyranny, no matter how good the cause or intention. Save the bond talk for once HISD's house is in order and elected representatives are restored.

Adolph Trudeau, Houston

End of a tradition

Regarding "Why Texas A&M is right not to restore the Aggie Bonfire | Opinion," (June 4): I built the 'll (Aggies will recognize this polite version of a four-letter word) out out of the bonfire from 1952 to 1955. Our children did the same from 1979 to 1990. We have supplied equipment for the off-campus bonfire over the years. It pains me so, but I have to agree with President Mark Welsh that the best way to memorialize that tradition is by honoring those 12 fallen Aggies with the Bonfire Memorial. May they rest in peace.

Joe Hlavinka, East Bernard

BIBLE VERSE

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:12

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Viewpoints c/o Houston Chronicle, 4747 Southwest Freeway, Houston, Texas, 77027 or viewpoints@chron.com. We welcome and encourage letters and emails from readers. Letters must include name, address and telephone numbers for verification purposes only. All letters are subject to editing.



BEATING THE ODDS

Donnell Walker has battled HIV, diabetes, a heart attack and two strokes. 'And right now, I'm surviving cancer.'

By Lindsay Peyton
CORRESPONDENT

A positive HIV test changed Donnell Walker's life forever, but not in the way you might think.

The diagnosis jump-started the Katy resident's journey to better health.

Growing up, Walker was an athlete and a member of his high school football team in his hometown of Brooklyn.

His struggle with weight didn't begin until after graduation, when he went to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and then on to Columbia University to earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics.



"I dropped sports and I dropped exercise," Walker said. "It just began to spiral out of control."

As a teenager, he had been coached to eat as much as he could to help build muscles. Without the intense workouts, that amount of food became too much.

Walker began dealing with depression, which only made him want to eat more. "All of it contributed to my weight gain," he said.

Walker weighed about 405 pounds when he moved to Houston in 2004.

At a nightclub one night, he stopped by a table sponsored by Legacy Community Health Clinic, a full-service health care system.

"They were asking everyone there to

Walker continues on A10

Top: Felicia White works with Donnell Walker in the gym at Legacy Community Health Clinic in Montrose. Above: In the first year and a half following his new diet and fitness routine, Walker dropped 210 pounds.

Photos by Melissa Phillip/Staff photographer

THE EXPERTS

Seek guidance about proper anesthetic

Q: I understand there are multiple kinds of anesthetic, and I was wondering which would be best for my husband who is 85 and getting a shoulder replacement?

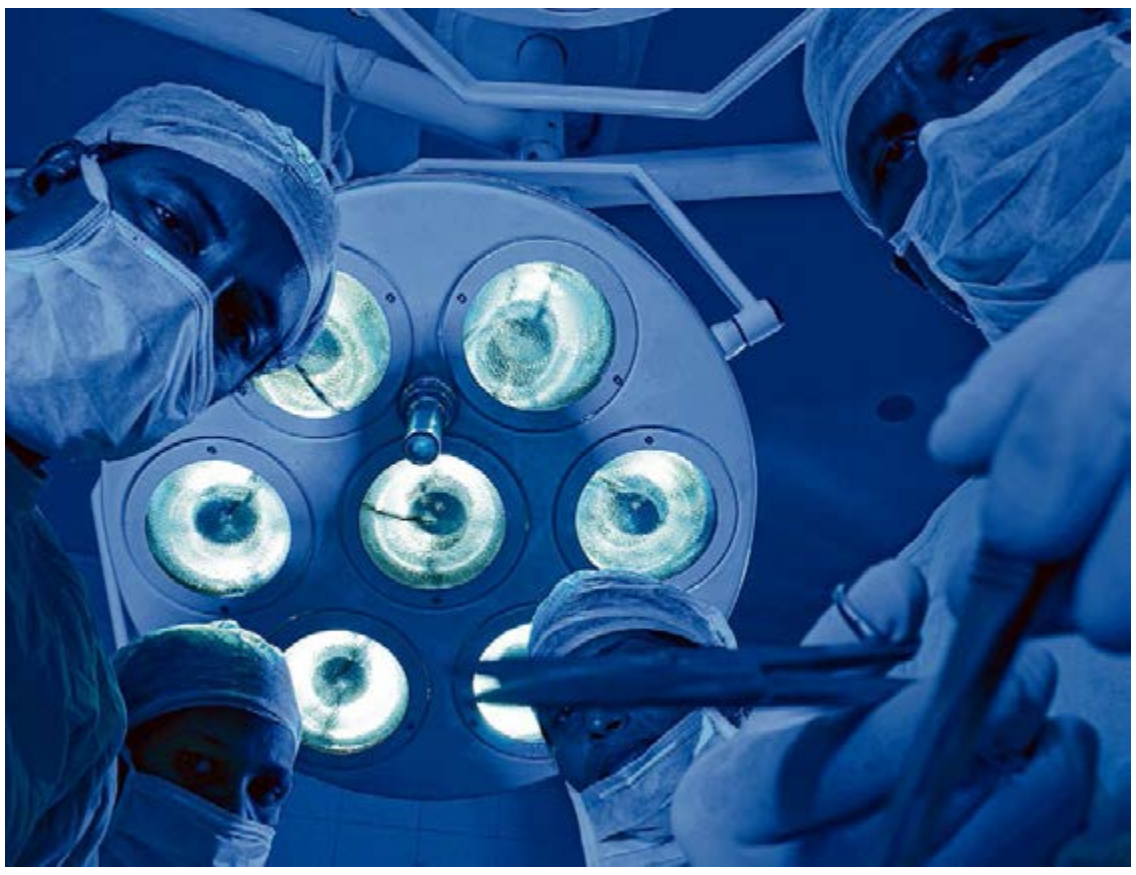
A: Choice of anesthetic is firmly in the realm of the anesthesiologist whose expertise is in this very issue. Because older adults tend to metabolize many anesthetic agents slower than young adults, anesthesiologists adjust the agents they use and their doses based on a person's age and many other medical characteristics.



Dr. Keith Roach

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

It is absolutely worth a discussion with the anesthesiologist prior to surgery. For a shoulder replacement surgery in particular, a nerve block is often done, in addition to general anesthesia, which allows better pain control and the possibility of a faster discharge from the hospital.



Dreamstime/TNS

Set aside some time to talk with an anesthesiologist prior to surgery if you have concerns about the effects of anesthesia.

Q: I'm 65 and in good health. I'm only on a low-dose cholesterol medication and a blood pressure medication. I also have laryngopharyngeal (LPR) reflux. I went to a functional doctor and was sold $350 worth of supplements to do a 21-day cleanse/clean-eating/vegan-type diet. She said I would then need to go get a full blood panel afterward. She also wants me to get a whole body precancer scan, which is $750 and isn't coverd by insurance. Insurance doesn't cover all the supplements either.

What do you know about these methods, and are they really going to get me off my big pharma meds? Or is this a money grab? I'm just confused about these methods. I don't eat badly. I drink alcohol occasionally, and I work out every day (using an exercise bike, strength training, stretching and tennis).

A: There are some parts of your story that concern me.

Most North Americans probably could eat in such a way as to improve their health, but I don't like the term "clean," as I don't think it has any specific meaning. Vegan diets are generally healthier than typical Western diets, but there are healthy and unhealthy vegan diets. There is no evidence to suggest a "cleanse" is necessary or helpful.

A (mostly) plant-based diet, in combination with a regular moderate-to-vigorous exercise program, helps most people reduce (and sometimes eliminate) their need for cholesterol and blood pressure medications. Diet and lifestyle modification are also the first-line treatments for LPR reflux in adults.

However, $350 in supplements sounds excessive, and there are no supplements that effectively replace cholesterol medication or treat high blood pressure. If your diet is about to improve, I'm not sure which dietary supplements are indicated. If they sold the supplements to you, I would call this unethical behavior.

I also do not recommend whole body imaging scans to diagnose cancer, as the evidence is clear that these are more likely to diagnose incidental findings that will never bother you, rather than diagnosing a problem early. It may take much time, worry and expense to prove this. I don't know which blood tests she is recommending, but it may be completely appropriate to reexamine cholesterol and other blood tests after a major change in diet and lifestyle.

I can't tell you what she's thinking, but let's give her the benefit of the doubt and say she is really trying to help you. Still, I disagree with the need for expensive supplements and extensive testing that aren't based on identified problems and aren't studied, approved preventive care maneuvers.

Q: I'm 80 years old. My doctor ordered a fasting blood test, which showed that my LDL cholesterol is 119 mg/dL; my HDL is 68 mg/dL; my cholesterol/HDL ratio is 3-to-1; my total cholesterol is 208 mg/dL; and my triglyceride level is 104 mg/dL. A recent CT scan of my neck that was done for other reasons showed some plaque buildup. He wants me to start on 10 mg of atorvastatin and follow up in three months.

My original primary care physician who recently retired said my HDL level was so good that he gave me an A- and wasn't concerned about my cholesterol. I'd appreciate your thoughts on this, as I'm not sure which course of action I should take.

Answer: The reason to use statin drugs, or other drugs for high cholesterol, is not to make numbers look better but to reduce a person's chances of getting a heart attack or stroke. The higher the person's risk, the more benefit they will get from taking a statin.

In people who are known to have blockages in their arteries, the benefit almost always outweighs the small risks of taking these drugs. In people without known blockages, we examine cholesterol numbers, including non-HDL cholesterol levels (or calculated LDL) and HDL levels, but sometimes other risk factors such as Lp(a) and C-reactive protein levels. Various calculators exist that can estimate a person's risk using age, sex, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, smoking history and other risk factors. My practice is to use the best possible estimate and discuss the expected benefit of a statin with my patient.

However, most of the data we have on statins are in people younger than 75. From what data there are — and our understanding of the biology of arterial atherosclerosis — we expect that older people are as likely to benefit from statins as younger people.

In my opinion, the most important finding you told me is not your cholesterol numbers, but the fact that you have plaque buildup in the arteries of your neck. In this situation, statin drugs are likely to have such a significant reduction in your risk of heart attack and stroke. I strongly recommend taking medication to prevent them, even though your cholesterol numbers are pretty good.

Q: I had a colonoscopy in January, and my digestive health didn't seem to bounce back after the prep. The colonoscopy was normal, and I didn't have any polyps. I should add that I am an 80-year-old male. I have been drinking a cup of kefir for about six weeks now and feel a tremendous difference in my health. Is this just psychological, or is kefir quite beneficial?

A: In your specific case, neither of us will ever know whether you would have gotten better just as quickly if you hadn't had the kefir (a fermented milk drink similar to thin yogurt that contains bacteria thought to be beneficial to the colon).

I can say that multiple randomized, controlled trials found that probiotics (not necessarily kefir) did not have a statistically significant benefit in returning normal bowel function after a colonoscopy. But it's possible you were helped by kefir or other probiotic sources.

Traditionally made kefir (from raw milk) has been shown to contain harmful bacteria. But kefir made in North America is usually made from pasteurized milk, and there have been very few reports of people getting ill from it.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu or send mail to 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Magnesium proves to be a multipurpose supplement



JOE AND TERESA GRAEDON

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY

Q: You wrote recently about people who have trouble with regularity when they are traveling. Here's my solution. Taking magnesium citrate capsules at bedtime helps me sleep in a new bed and move my bowels in the morning. Magnesium also helps prevent muscle cramping after an active day.

A: Thank you for sharing your multipurpose supplement. Magnesium has laxative properties, so getting the dose right may require some trial and error.

A recent review of clinical trials found that many reported that magnesium improved sleep (Cureus, April 29, 2024). In addition, readers report that magnesium supplements may alleviate restless legs. You can learn more about this in our "eGuide to Getting a Good Night's Sleep." This online resource is available under the Health eGuides tab at Peoples Pharmacy.com.

Q: A friend had a severe anaphylactic reaction hours after eating a hamburger and barely made it to a local emergency room. They diagnosed him with alpha-gal, which is how I heard about it.

A couple of years ago, I began to have severe stomach cramps and diarrhea after a tick bite. When my family doctor tested me for tick-related reactions, we learned my alpha-gal antibodies were very high.

I stopped eating meat and dairy products. To avoid gelatin, I even opened capsules and put the contents in applesauce to take them. After 18 months, my antibody levels had dropped a lot, so I am starting to eat meat again.

With so many deer around, I am sure many other people will also have to deal with this bizarre condition.



Paul Buckowski/Albany Times Union

While one reader uses magnesium citrate capsules to stay regular, the supplement's many touted benefits also include improving sleep and alleviating restless legs.

A: Lone star ticks (Amblyomma americanum) trigger alpha-gal allergy, but the reaction is to food rather than to the bite itself. As you discovered, the reaction to consuming mammalian meat can range from diarrhea and stomach cramps to wheezing and anaphylaxis. People who experience a life-threatening allergic reaction as your friend did need to keep injectable epinephrine on hand. The primary means of controlling alpha-gal reactions is to avoid consuming meat and, for some people, dairy.

Q: I dread flying if my allergies are active, as my ears hurt when we get ready to land. If I must fly during allergy season, I take a decongestant and use a long-lasting spray like Afrin before the flight. During the descent, yawning with my mouth closed, like trying to stifle a yawn, helps relieve the ear pressure.

The spray works wonders, but I have to be careful to use it only for a short time. Otherwise, rebound congestion is a big problem.

A: When you are congested, the eustachian tube connecting the middle ear to the nose and throat becomes blocked. This tube equalizes pressure between the atmosphere and the middle ear.

When a plane descends, cabin pressure changes rapidly. That can cause ear pain if the eustachian tube isn't open. Swallowing or yawning helps. So does chewing gum. As you have discovered, a decongestant also can be helpful but should only be used for a few days.

Q: I followed the advice of a radio doctor to take up to eight ibuprofen tablets per day for several weeks for a foot injury. I damaged my kidneys. Now I stay away from NSAIDs.

A: The over-the-counter dosage for ibuprofen is one 200 milligram pill every four to six hours, not to exceed six in a day. Ibuprofen can damage the kidneys, especially in susceptible individuals. You are wise to avoid this class of pain relievers going forward.

In general, it makes sense to treat the advice of radio doctors with caution. That means verifying recommendations with your health care provider.

Write to Joe and Teresa Graedon in care of King Features, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803, or email them via their website: PeoplesPharmacy.com.

WALKER

From page A8

be checked for HIV and to learn how to better handle their health care," Walker said.

Legacy formed as a merger of Montrose Clinic, which had played a critical role in care for HIV and AIDS patients since the epidemic began, and the Assistance Fund, which provided financial assistance for HIV-positive patients, in 2005.

Two days after taking the test, Walker found himself in the clinic discussing the results. In addition to HIV, Walker was diagnosed with hypertension and diabetes.

"I had been dealing with both for years, but I didn't know," he said. "I worked and I had medical insurance, but I never went to the doctor. I'm an African American man, and, in my culture, men just didn't go to the doctor."

The first step was simply to start regularly seeing a primary-care physician. Walker was headed in the right direction.



Melissa Phillip/Staff photographer

Sean Barrett, Legacy Community Health Clinic's director of nutrition and fitness, left, developed a nutrition plan to jump-start Donnell Walker's journey back to good health.

Addressing three diagnoses

Being diagnosed with three conditions in one day was overwhelming.

"I was most fearful of having HIV," Walker said. "I felt like the walking dead. I felt like it would soon be over for me."

He worried about telling his family and his friends. His doctor recommended seeing a therapist.

At the time, he did not know a lot about HIV. He would learn that the virus, which initially caused him the most concern, was easily contained with modern medications.

Diabetes and hypertension, however, would prove to be much greater challenges.

"I struggled with trying to handle it all myself," he said. "I tried going to the gym, but I didn't know what to do."

Walker wanted to improve his diet, but he didn't know where to start. "I wasn't taught how to eat properly," he said. "It was not a success. It just didn't work."

Four years after his diagnosis, Walker was riding in the back of an ambulance after having a heart attack.

The doctor told him, "You've got to get a grip on your weight."

The following year, Walker had his first stroke. A second followed in 2013.

Walker tied it all to his high blood pressure, which led to heart disease.

"Can you imagine my small heart trying to take care of 200 pounds over the limit?" he asked. "I had done a lot of damage to my body. I had major issues. I knew my PCP would help save my life. But how could she if I didn't turn my eating habits around?"

Changing his habits

At Legacy, Walker met nutrition coach Sean Barrett. At that first appointment, "Donnell came into my office on a walker," Barrett said. "He was barely able to stand."

Barrett was upfront. "He was straight to the point. He told me, 'If you don't get a handle on your weight, you will die. And you will die from not anything other than being obese, not managing your diabetes or your high blood pressure.'"

Barrett instructed Walker to keep a food journal and faithfully record everything he ate.

"The very first thing Sean had me do was to pay attention to every single item I put in my mouth," Walker recalled. "The next week, we went over every item."

Barrett helped create a nutrition plan and urged Walker to follow a routine, eating at the same time each day and nothing after 6 p.m. Snacks were eliminated and protein levels increased.

"We started with the basics," Barrett said. "What can we change today?"

Walking would be the answer. At that point, Walker could not reach his mailbox without getting winded.

"We started with getting the mail at his house," Barrett said. "After that, it was getting to his neighbor's and then his neighbor's neighbor. Before long, we had him going around the block."

One block turned into two and then multiplied. Walker was soon walking on his own.

Eventually, Barrett brought Walker over to the clinic's gym and signed him up with Felicia White, Legacy's health and wellness manager.

"She's a bodybuilder and a motivator," Walker said. "She knows how to encourage people and pull us all together."

With his new exercise group, Walker took on the treadmill, exercise bike and step aerobics. "We would all motivate each other," he said.

It was like being back in high school, playing football with a supportive team and a coach who knew just how to propel them forward.

Learning to manage his health

White said Walker is a prime example of how regular exercise can make a world of difference.

"I put him on a routine," she said. "He's a very good student. You teach him one time, and he's going to do it."

In the first year and a half following his new diet and fitness routine, Walker dropped 210 pounds.

"As the years went by, he became healthier and healthier and stronger and stronger," White said. "I started giving him my bodybuilder workouts. He became my partner, and we'd do the same thing. We'd be at the gym for two hours."

Barrett would often drop by the gym to check on Walker, working hand in hand with White to ensure their client's wellness needs were met. The nutrition coach was also encouraging his client to keep up with his doctor's appointments and use MyChart. A bigger picture of wellness was emerging, Walker said.

"I began to learn how to better manage my health care, and I'm very grateful," he said. "I'm grateful for meeting people who helped change my life."

Barrett also encouraged Walker to get into therapy. Now, Walker has found medications to keep his anxiety and depression under control.

"All of the different experts we have at Legacy, Donnell was able to pull together and make it work," Barrett said. "He's had a lot of challenges over the years, and he's gone through it all. He just gets back up. It doesn't hold him back anymore."

Better prepared to face a challenge

Learning to prioritize his health was a lesson that guided Walker two years ago when he faced another setback: prostate cancer.

If he had not learned to go for regular checkups, Walker said he would have never known his labs were amiss.

Hearing the words "prostate cancer" frightened Walker. "I thought, 'Here we go again.'

"I survived a heart attack. I survived two strokes. And right now, I'm surviving cancer."

Walker's prostate was removed in July at Houston Methodist Hospital. He started 36 days of radiation in January. After the treatment, Walker felt weak. His oncologist placed him back on a walker.

Walker knew where to turn to help his recovery: the Legacy gym.

"Now he's back," White said. "He's so resilient and determined. You just can't stop him."

Walker is again working with his favorite trainer, going every day of the week.

"Felicia puts me on the exercise bike and the treadmill," he said. "She's had me lifting weights, doing legs one week and uppers the next. And she gives me all of these motivational talks."

"He's doing great," White said. "We're going to keep fighting the good fight."

Walker turned 59 in May and is still in treatment. He knows by experience the importance of being proactive, and he wants to share that with others, especially in communities like his own, African American and LGBTQ+.

"I want everyone to know how important it is to manage your health and strengthen your chance of living longer and enjoying the people you love," Walker said.



WORD SLEUTH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. *©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.*

Wednesday's unlisted clue: **ROYCE.**
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: **NUGGETS NIKOLA —.**

Antetokounmpo
Billups
Bird
Bryant
Curry
Duncan
Durant
Havlicek
Iguodala
James
Jordan
Leonard
Nowitzki
O'Neal
Wade

NBA FINALS MVP WINNERS

S A X U R O L J G D A A X V S
P N K I F C A X B V L S Q O L
J H E C A X V Y I T A R P N L
J S P U L L I B R H D F D B Y
X C V T R P O K D R O M K S I
G B I E N D B R Z Z U N X E W
U R T K R A A Q O T G C E M N
L Y J I O N C K E C I L V A H
N A D R O J G N E D A W F J L
A N T E T O K O U N M P O D C
A T L Y T N A R U D X W V N T

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOHEW
BHTIA
CILDAP
FIUTOT



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

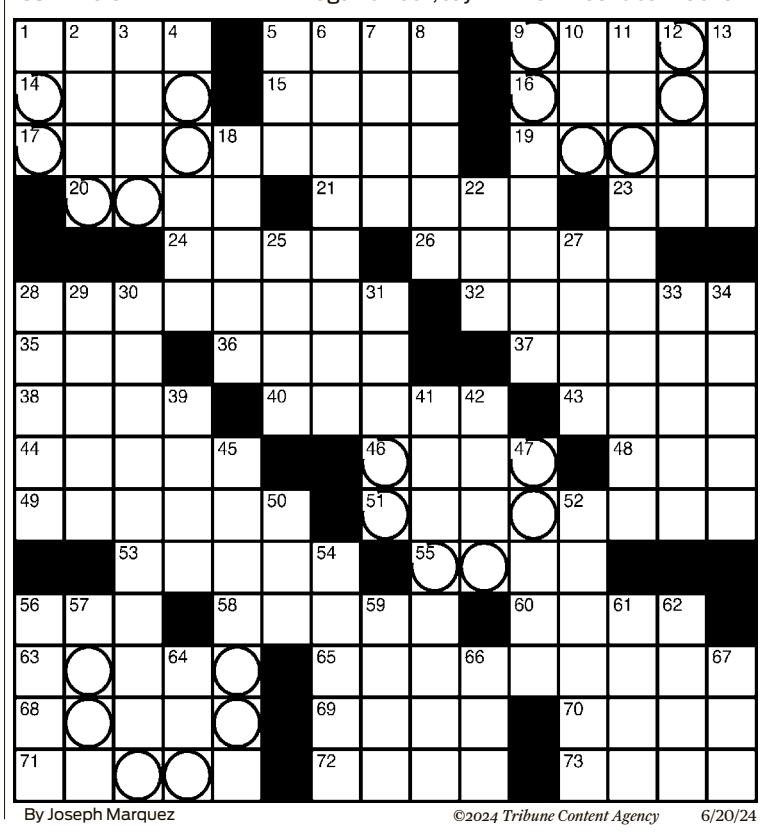
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KIOSK ELOPE RATHER GAZEBO
Answer: After the invention of the telescope, people were curious and wanted to — TAKE A LOOK-SEE

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Such a pity!"
5 Caramel custard
9 Championship game
14 Quick meal
15 Country great McEntire
16 "Feliz año nuevo" month
17 Ballpark figures
19 Adulated ones
20 Climactic beginning?
21 Challenge for 64-Down students
23 Garden vessel
24 Chromebook maker
26 Reclusive one
28 Mythological event depicted in a 2017 "Thor" film
32 Share on social media
35 "Xanadu" rock gp.
36 Saintly ring
37 Baghdad currency
38 Heaps and heaps
40 Gross figures
43 __-switching
44 Gold-loving king
46 Courtroom entry
48 Home of the world's tallest building, briefly
49 Blind dates, e.g.
51 Enhances
53 Different
55 California wine region
56 __choy
58 Like some change
60 JD-to-be's hurdle
63 Dogpatch name
65 Headwear featured four times in this puzzle
68 Baggy
69 Like one of Picasso's periods
70 Trickster of Asgard
71 Cries like a kitten
72 Barely noticeable
73 All those in favor

DOWN
1 Civil War POTUS
2 "Abbott Elementary" actress __ Ann Walter
3 Memo abbr.
4 Staple of some plant-based diets
5 Title for a monk
6 "Time to go!"
7 One of Eve's sons
8 Sounding congested
9 Pretended
10 Third-party abbr.
11 Self-identifier such as "ze" or "hir"
12 "My Soft Machine" singer Parks
13 Played scissors against rock, say
18 Book between Jonah and Nahum
22 Neither partner
25 Notable times
27 Awesome
28 Paper orders
29 Classic TV's "Kate & __"
30 "Thanks for the info"
31 Turtlelike Mario Bros. foe
33 Nobelist Anwar
34 Forest denizens
39 Not slack
41 Hairstyle with a uniform length
42 Streets of Rage game company
45 Baseballs and basketballs, but not rugby balls
47 Substantial
50 Health class topic
52 Nabe south of Pasadena
54 Bar mitzvah figure
56 Application to chapped lips
57 Clarinet kin
59 Fringe group
61 Nautical call
62 Swipe
64 Subj. for some citizenship applicants
66 __ lime pie
67 Poetic contraction



By Joseph Marquez ©2024 Tribune Content Agency 6/20/24

SUDOKU

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/20

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CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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ZBSV KGTNP UGT KSNN F-OSU WQSIRY VBSV LRGLNR IRV ZBRD TDPROIGWDI PRDVSN RFSQY? VGGVB LWKY.

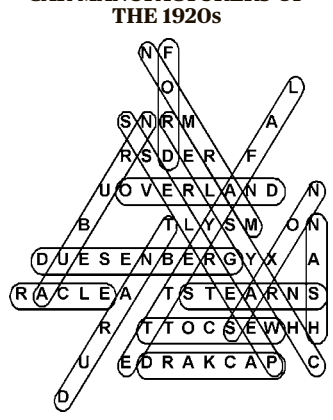
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals X

ANSWER: What could you call X-ray images that people get when undergoing dental exams? Tooth pics.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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

CAR MANUFACTURERS OF THE 1920s



B	A	L	D	■	T	H	E	C	B	C	■	G	I	N
O	R	E	O	■	R	U	G	R	A	T	■	A	C	E
B	E	A	N	B	U	R	R	I	T	O	■	T	I	E
S	A	N	T	A	■	T	E	S	T	■	S	H	E	D
■	■	■	G	H	O	S	T	P	E	P	P	E	R	S
A	B	B	O	T	S	■	■	■	D	I	O	R	■	■
S	R	I	■	■	H	A	H	A	■	S	O	D	A	S
A	I	R	P	L	A	N	E	P	E	A	N	U	T	S
P	E	T	R	I	■	A	X	E	S	■	■	S	E	T
■	■	H	I	F	I	■	■	■	A	B	A	T	E	S
F	R	O	Z	E	N	Y	O	G	U	R	T	■	■	■
L	O	R	E	■	T	O	R	O	■	A	T	S	E	A
O	D	D	■	J	U	N	I	O	R	M	I	N	T	S
W	E	E	■	E	N	C	O	D	E	■	C	A	N	I
N	O	R	■	T	E	E	N	S	Y	■	S	P	A	N

What to watch

THURSDAY

June 20, 2024

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

America's Sweethearts: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders

Netflix ■ New Series

The team behind *Cheer* and *Last Chance U* created this seven-episode docuseries that follows the 2023-24 Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders squad from start to finish, kicking off at auditions and training camp and continuing through the NFL season.

MLB Baseball: San Francisco vs. St. Louis (at Birmingham, Alabama)

FOX, 6 p.m. Live

The San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals meet today at historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama, for a regular-season game paying tribute to the Negro Leagues.

Soccer: CONMEBOL Copa América: Argentina vs. Canada

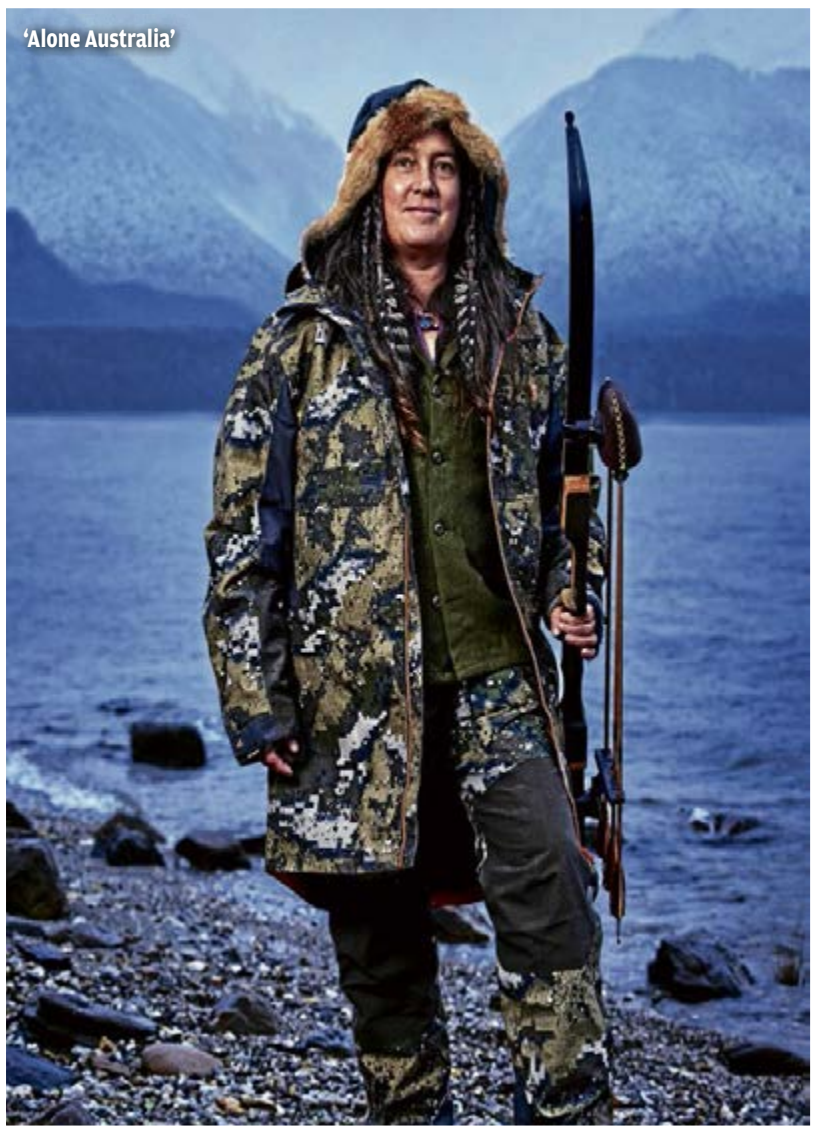
FS1, 7 p.m. Live

Lionel Messi and FIFA World Cup champion Argentina open the CONMEBOL Copa América soccer tournament against Canada at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Alone Australia

History, 8:30 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 2 of this survival competition series drops 10 Australian survivalists in the wild terrain of Aotearoa's Te Waipounamu, also known as the South Island of New Zealand. Throughout 10 episodes, each participant is challenged by the merciless forces of nature, extreme hunger and total isolation to be the last one standing and win 250,000 Australian dollars. For the first time, competitors are permitted to hunt with a bow and arrow, which introduces a new set of strategies and skills.



HISTORY

CATCH A CLASSIC

Starring James Stewart

TCM, beginning at 7 p.m.

Enjoy a nice mix that exemplifies the range of beloved acting icon James Stewart with this five-film lineup of Stewart classics from across various genres. Up first is 1954's **Rear Window (pictured),** the second of four legendary thrillers that Stewart made with director Alfred Hitchcock, who earned an Oscar nomination here. Next is the Western **The Far Country** (1954), one of the eight films (mostly Westerns) that Stewart and director Anthony Mann made. The funny side of Stewart can be seen in the next title, the comedy **Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation** (1962). Next, Stewart portrays Charles Lindbergh in the Billy Wilder-directed biographical drama **The Spirit of St. Louis** (1957), and the lineup concludes with the World War II-set thriller **Malaya** (1950).



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

When this hand was declared in the English open trials, declarer reached four spades on an uncontested auction. West, feeling he had no good bid over one spade because he had only a five-card diamond suit, stayed silent so as to give nothing away. Many would have overcalled here, but I understand the disciplined approach – even if I might have acted myself.

Declarer ruffed the second round of diamonds and laid down a top spade, prepared to claim on a 2-1 split. When East showed out, things became more complicated.

Declarer took the simple approach of crossing to the heart ace and playing up to the club king. She would succeed immediately if East held the club ace. When West won and persisted with the spade jack, South would still have survived if East had begun with the club queen. Alas, West grabbed the second club and drew a third round of trumps, and declarer could ruff just one more club. She had to lose the fourth round of the suit for one down.

Banking on the success of a club to the king was certainly not the best approach. When that lost, declarer needed West to hold four clubs to allow two ruffs in dummy. That was against the odds, given the 3-0 trump break. It was better to lead a club toward the jack, playing for either the queen to be with West or the ace with East. Here, that would wrap up the contract even if West played small smoothly and declarer finessed the nine spot, because West's honors would both fall later, establishing the king.

NORTH 06-20-A
♠ 10 7 4 3
♥ A 8 7
♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ J 9

WEST
♠ J 9 8
♥ Q 2
♦ A K 9 8 5
♣ A Q 8

EAST
♠ ---
♥ J 10 9 6 4 3
♦ Q J 2
♣ 10 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 6 5 2
♥ K 5
♦ 6
♣ K 7 5 3

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

Opening Lead: Diamond king

LEAD WITH THE ACES

South holds:
♠ ---
♥ J 10 9 6 4 3
♦ Q J 2
♣ 10 6 4 2

South	West	North	East
	1 ♦	Dbl.	Pass
?			

ANSWER: I am torn here. My first instinct is to bid a lot of hearts, but if it is partner who has the powerhouse, I might end up too high. I think I will settle for a one-heart bid, expecting partner to advance or jump in spades, after which I can rebid hearts. If the opening to my left were a one-spade bid, this would be a horse of a different color, I admit.

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LOOKING BACK

1863: West Virginia became the 35th state.

1943: race-related rioting erupted in Detroit; federal troops were sent in two days later to quell the violence that resulted in more than 30 deaths.

1967: boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted and was sentenced to five years in prison. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court).

BIRTHDAYS

Actor **Bonnie Bartlett** is 95. Actor **James Tolkan** is 93. Director **Stephen Frears** is 83. Actor **Candy Clark** is 77. Producer **Tina Sinatra** is 76. R&B singer **Lionel Richie** is 75. Rock musician **John Taylor** is 64. Actor **Nicole Kidman** is 57. Country-folk singer-songwriter **Amos Lee** is 47. Actor **Tika Sumpter** is 44. Actor-singer **Alisan Porter** is 43. U.S. Olympic beach volleyball gold medalist **April Ross** is 42. Actor **Chris Mintz-Plasse** is 35.

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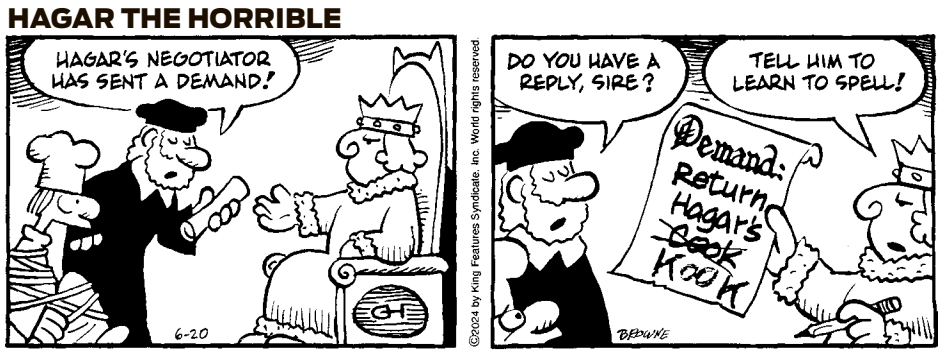
BIZARRO



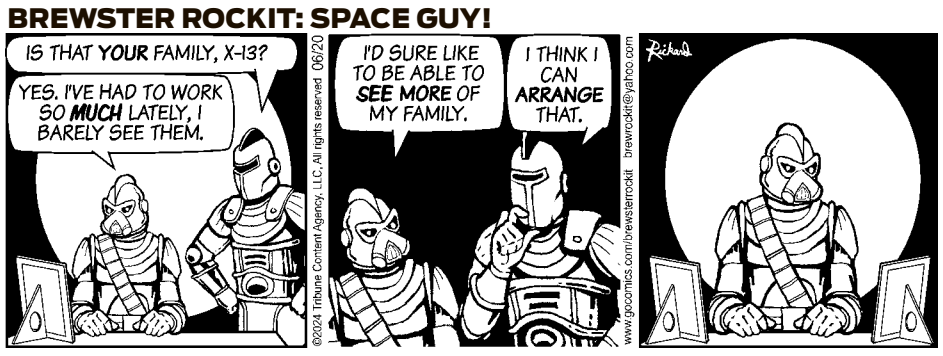
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



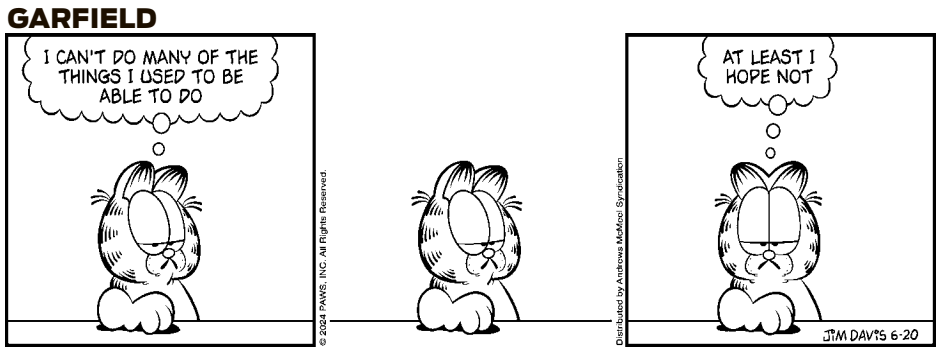
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



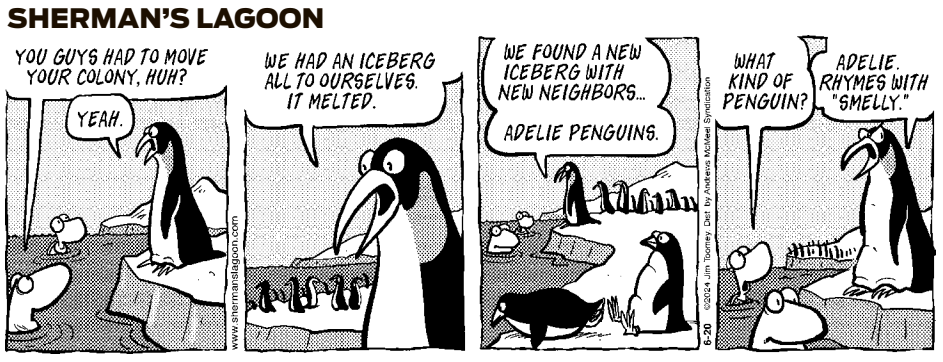
BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!



GARFIELD



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



ROYAL STARS

Today's Birthday (June 20). You are warm, affectionate and spontaneous. You're also charming and love to entertain others. This is a year of reflection for you. It's time to look inward and renew your spiritual or religious beliefs.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions on this Summer Solstice day. The Moon is in Sagittarius.

Aries (March 21-April 19) ★★★ For the next few weeks, your attention will turn to family and your private life. You will have an increased focus on redecorating projects and home repairs. Tonight: Avoid controversy.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ The pace of your days will accelerate for the next few weeks. Get ready for this. Expect a busy schedule due to increased appointments, shopping, errands, short trips, etc. Busy you! Tonight: Check your finances.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Your focus on money, cash flow and earnings will increase for the next four weeks. This will be an excellent time for you to get on top of your scene. Tonight: Cooperate.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ The Sun enters your sign today, giving you a chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year! You have a desire to talk to others. Tonight: Toe the line.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Your personal year is ending, which is why you might want to be more reclusive in the next few weeks. Take time to ponder what you want for your new year ahead. Tonight: Responsibilities.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Get ready for a popular time ahead. Enjoy interactions with friends. Expect to be involved more with clubs, groups and associations as well. Tonight: Listen.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ You create a marvelous impression on everyone in the next few weeks. Do be aware of this, because with this advantage, you can go after what you want. Doors will open for you. Tonight: Relax.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Your desire to travel will be strong because you need a change of scenery. If you can't travel far, then explore your own city. You need to feel stimulated. Tonight: Be practical.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Many issues in your life will take on an increased intensity, especially related to taxes, debt and inheritances. Someone might help you with these matters. Tonight: Stay positive.

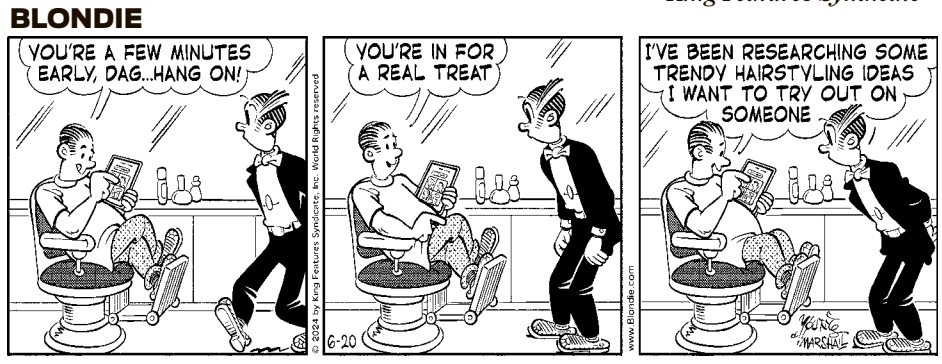
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You will need more rest in the next few weeks. You will also have the advantage of having more objectivity in viewing your closest relationships. Tonight: Solitude.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ It's time to hustle thy buns! In the next few weeks, you will work hard to be as productive as possible. Roll up your sleeves and get hands-on. Tonight: Listen.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Beginning today, you enter a four-week window filled with opportunities to socialize. Your creative vibes will shine! Express your creativity. Tonight: Show respect.

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BLONDIE



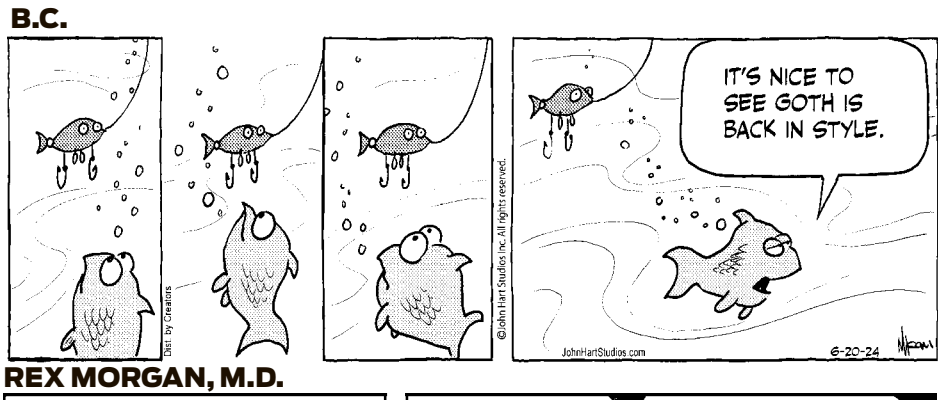
BEETLE BAILEY



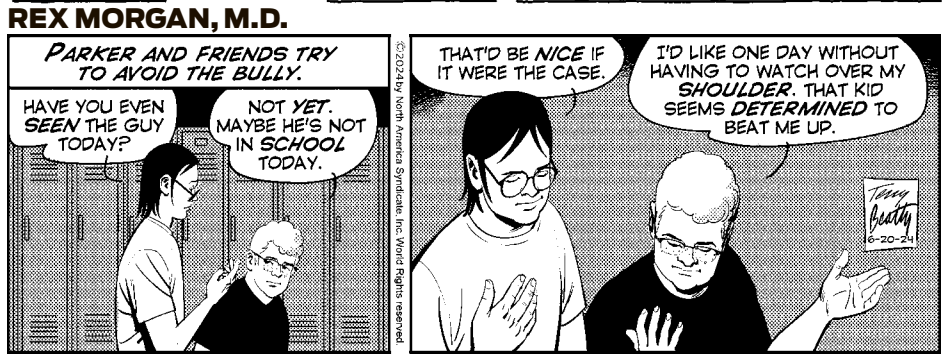
CURTIS



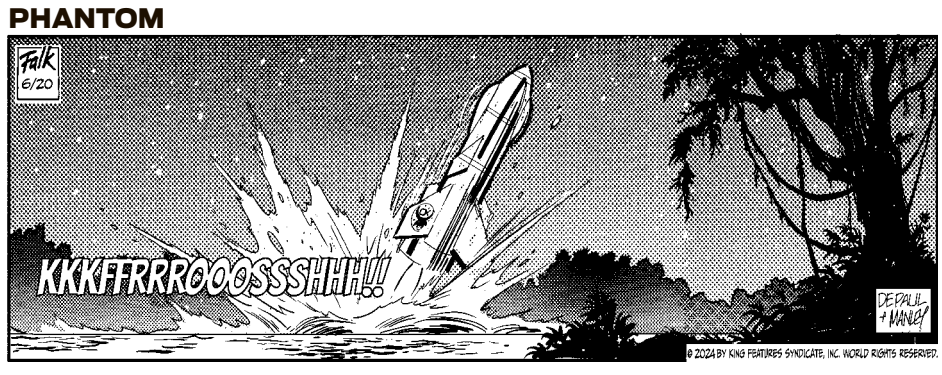
B.C.



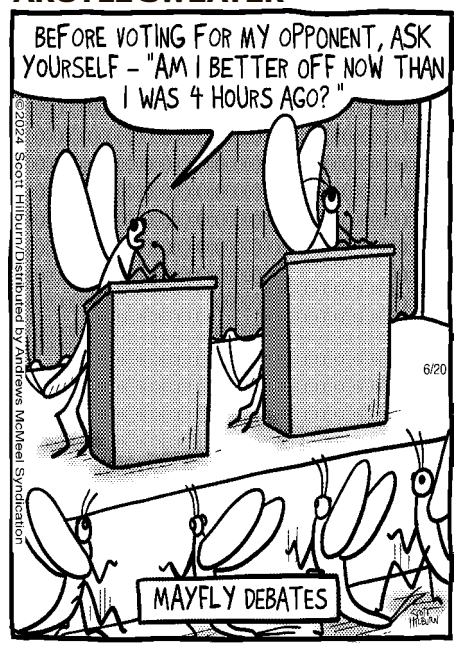
REX MORGAN, M.D.



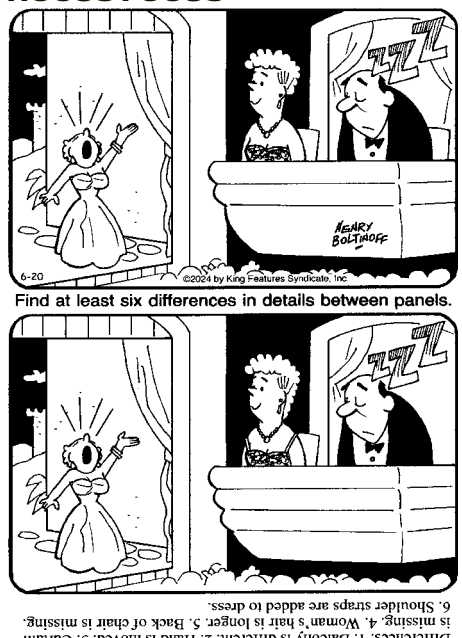
PHANTOM



ARGYLE SWEATER



HOCUS FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Balcony is different. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Curtain is missing. 4. Woman's hair is longer. 5. Back of chair is missing. 6. Shoulder straps are added to dress.

Dear Abby

Dear Abby: My cat recently passed away, and it has devastated me. He was my emotional support during some of the hardest times of my life — relationships ending, moving to different states, deaths in my family, lonely nights battling depression. My cat was my one constant source of peace and companionship. I miss him dearly.

When I mentioned to some friends that I'm looking forward to reuniting with him one day in the "hereafter," a religious friend scoffed and laughed. She then proceeded to tell me cats do not have souls and I shouldn't get my hopes up of ever seeing him again. I managed a small shrug and changed the subject, but on the drive home I was depressed, thinking about what she'd said.

Upon further research, I found that, according to Catholicism, she was correct, and animals do not have souls, which has made me heartbroken all over again. Should I consult a religious adviser or continue believing I'll see my cat again?

I have to think that people who have no friends or family but do have beloved pets will be reunited with them. Lots of times, our pets are the only family we have.

Missing My Cat In Georgia

Dear Missing: Your friend was insensitive to deny you the comfort of believing your soul would be reunited with that of your beloved kitty. There are many religions, and not all of them subscribe to the same philosophies. If you need reassurance, discuss this with your own religious adviser who, I am sure, has had a similar conversation with many members of his flock.

P.S. My personal philosophy is that my soul will be reunited with any soul I wish once I have shed this earthly shell.

Dear Abby: I was asked to be the maid of honor in a friend's wedding. I did not consider us to be close friends, but she has no sisters and few girlfriends.

She seemed desperate and told me I was the only one who could fit this role, so I obliged.

Now it's my turn to be the bride. I have other girlfriends I am closer to that I would like to ask to be my bridesmaids. I feel guilty for not returning the favor. She's invited to the wedding, but I don't want her to be in my wedding party. I also feel awkward having to tell her she isn't as close to me as the other girlfriends I want. How do I let her down gently without hurting her feelings?

Not Close In The West

Dear Not Close: Why are you feeling guilty? Having served as this woman's maid of honor does not obligate you to have her be part of your own wedding. A way to "let her down gently" would be not to mention the subject at all. If she brings it up, explain that you invited her because you want her there to share in your happiness. Period.

www.DearAbby.com
Andrews McMeel Syndication



Heloise

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Dear Heloise: Please advise your readers of a Medicare scam that is going around. They will get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the "medical center" or the "state medical center." They may offer a back brace or some piece of medical equipment at no cost. What the caller really wants is the person's Medicare number. They will use that number to file fraudulent claims with Medicare.

When someone gets a call like that, they shouldn't give out any information. Just hang up instead.

Les, in San Antonio

Dear Heloise: I have a hint that works for us, so I thought I'd share it:

Instead of a clothes hamper, we just put our dirty clothes directly into the washing machine; then, when it's full, we do a cold-water wash.

It just makes life easier, and we don't have to make room for a hamper. So, why not?

Barbara, Hollywood Beach, California

Heloise@heloise.com
King Features Syndicate

FAMILY CIRCUS

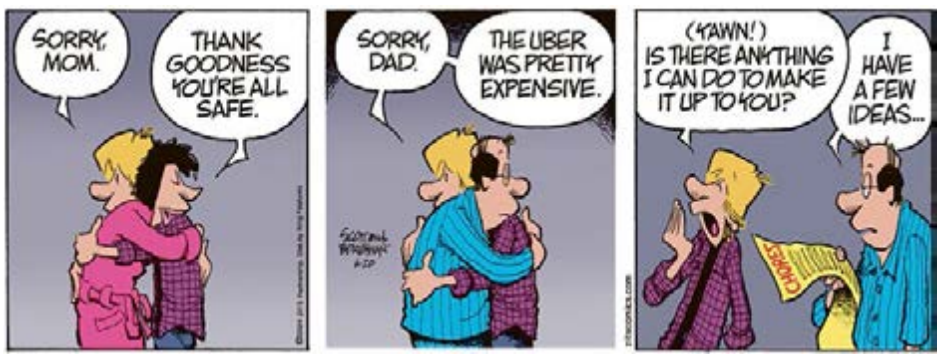


"They're not dandeTIGERS, Jeffy. They're dandeLIONS. Dandetigers have stripes."

ZIGGY



ZITS



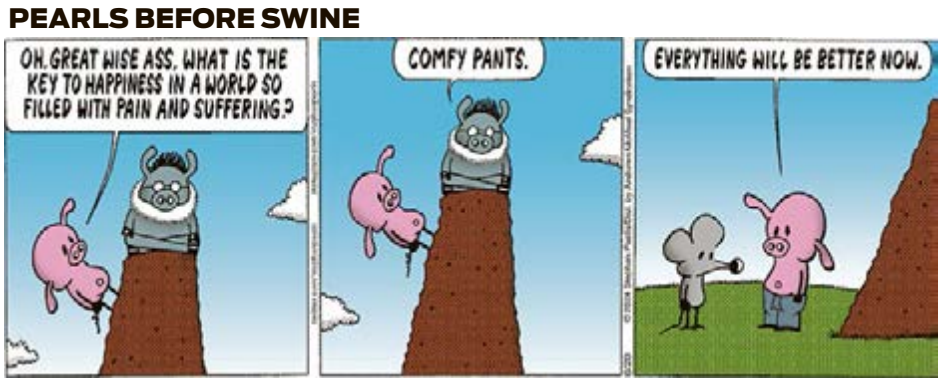
MUTTS



WALLACE THE BRAVE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



BABY BLUES



PEANUTS



LUANN



BREAKING CAT NEWS



HEART OF THE CITY



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



HI & LOIS



WUMO



BALDO



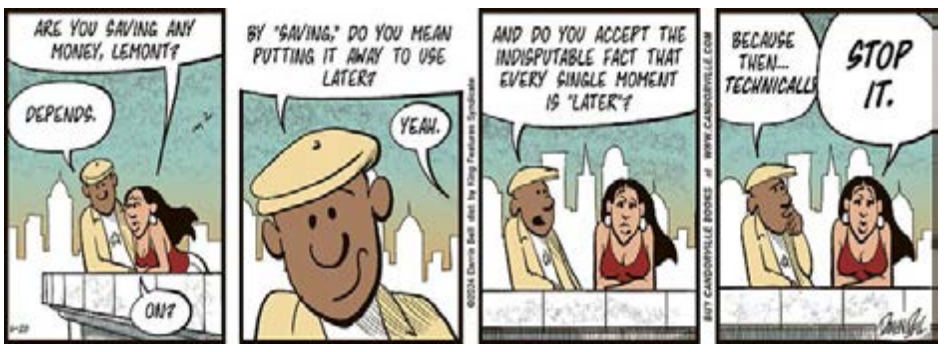
CRANKSHAFT



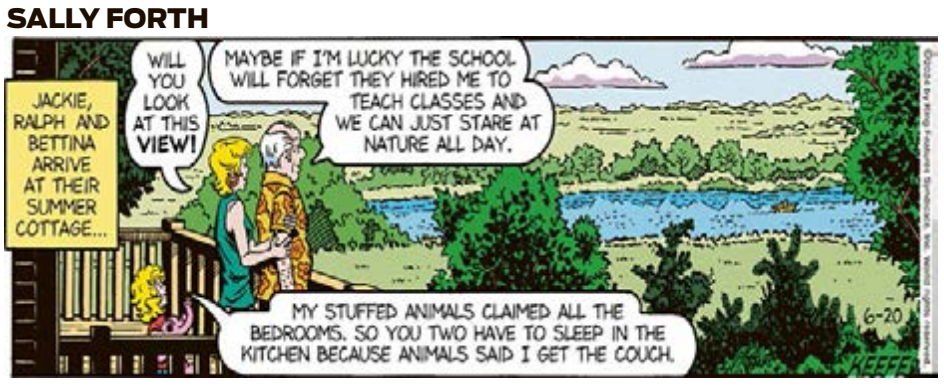
RED & ROVER



CANDORVILLE

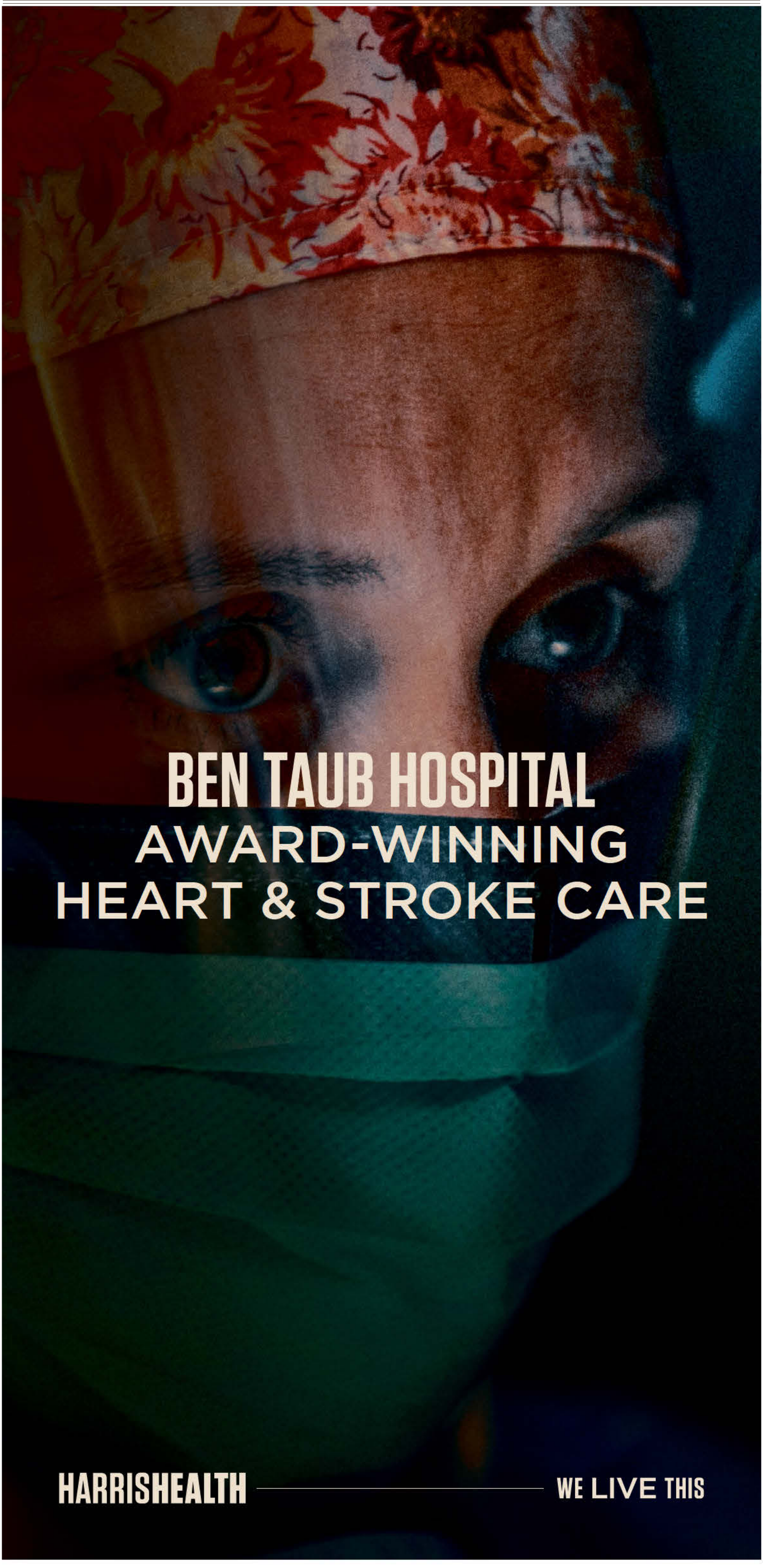


SALLY FORTH



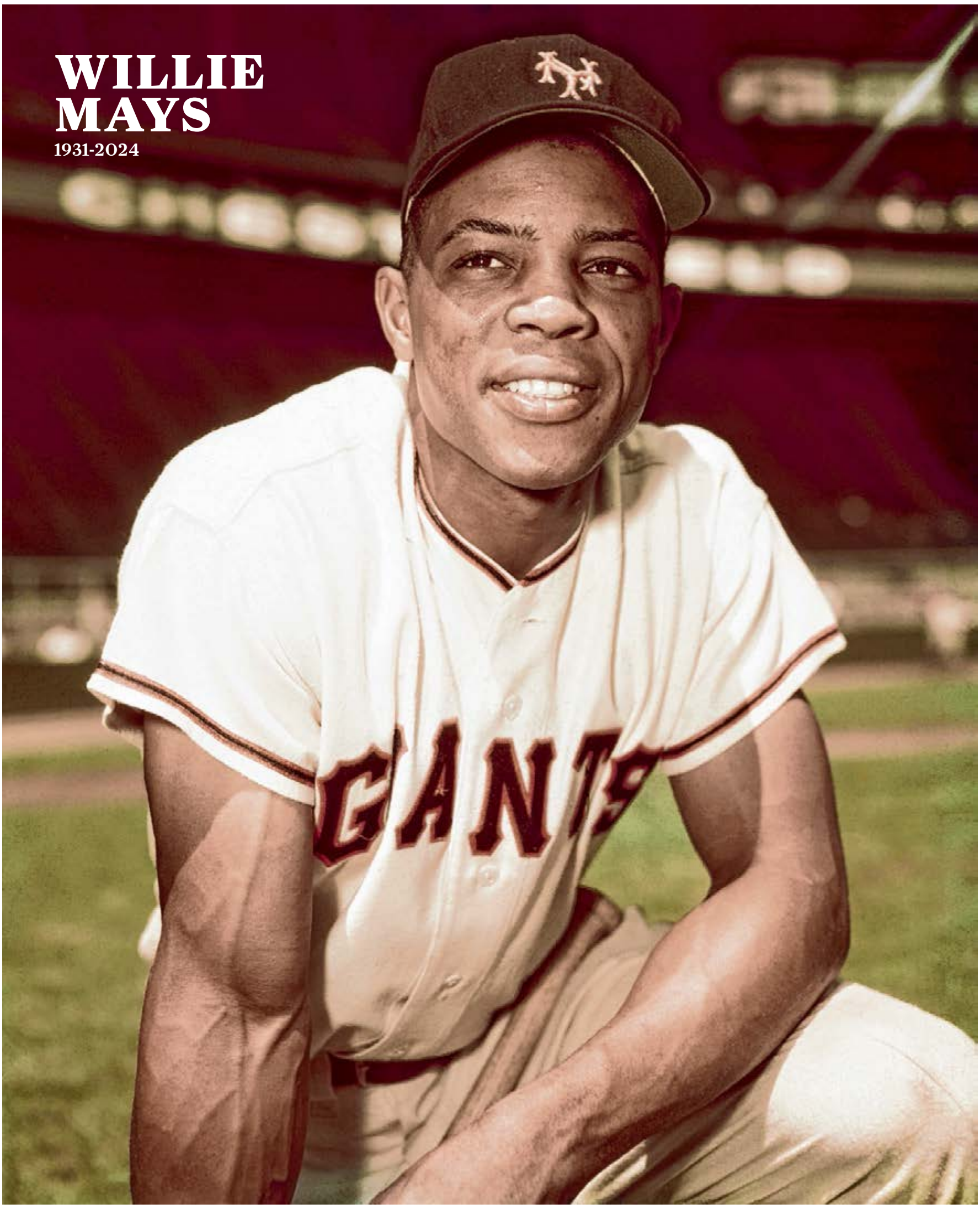
F MINUS




BEN TAUB HOSPITAL
AWARD-WINNING
HEART & STROKE CARE
HARRISHEALTH
WE LIVE THIS

SPORTS

HOUSTONCHRONICLE.COM • THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 • SECTION B



Courtesy of The Bettmann Archive

MAKING IT LOOK EASY

Iconic outfielder, who died Tuesday at 93, did a lot of heavy lifting, excelled in every way

Willie Mays made No. 24 famous forever. His old team plays at 24 Willie Mays Plaza, the ballpark that features a courtyard lined with 24 palm trees.

But here's another number that will forever be associated with Mays: 17.

Mays, promoted to the New York Giants from the minors early in the 1951 season, was the 17th Black player in the major leagues.

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the then-white major leagues in 1947, but by the end of the 1950 season, only five of the 16 major-league teams had integrated.

If Jackie put his shoulder to that invisible iron door of integration and wedged it open, Willie Mays kicked that sucker down four seasons later upon his promotion.

When the rookie Mays, just turned 20, first put on the Giants' flannels, many in baseball and in America were clinging to the hope that integrated baseball was a passing fad. Mays' baseball skill, style and personality were

Mays continues on B4



SCOTT OSTLER
COMMENTARY

QB recruit knows how to put on show



Joseph Duarte
ON THE COUGARS

As Keisean Henderson left for a trip to Florida, his mother put a surprise in his duffle bag.

"I need you to do something so you can stand out," Erica Henderson told her son of the Davy Crockett-style raccoon hat she thought would grab some attention.

When he arrived for a 7-on-7 football tournament, Henderson put on the furry hat, complete with long tail, and called his mom.

"Wear it," she told him.

Henderson did a backflip to see if it would stay on his head. It did. Cameras soon followed.

"My mom is one of those people that needs to see me every time I'm on the field," Henderson said by phone this week. "Ever since then my life has changed. It blew up my social media presence. My brand has expanded."

It also helps that Henderson is one of the top

UH continues on B3

ASTROS

Lee reunites with mentor Maldonado

Briefly teammates in Houston, catchers take on same roles in Chicago



Steph Chambers/Getty Images

The White Sox are giving Korey Lee the most playing time of his major-league career.

By Matt Kawahara
STAFF WRITER

CHICAGO — Across the field from the Astros in this series reside two recent figures in their organizational procession at catcher. One represents the past and the other once appeared the future, each supplanted as Houston set its present course at the position.

Martín Maldonado played the last four seasons as the Astros' primary catcher. Korey Lee entered their system as a first-round draft pick in 2019. For one month in July 2022, the two overlapped in Houston, Lee on his first major-league call-up

Astros continues on B5

UP NEXT

ASTROS AT WHITE SOX

When/where: 1:10 p.m. Thursday in Chicago.

TV/radio: SCHN; 790 AM, 93.3 FM (Spanish), 1010 AM (Spanish).

ASTROS UPDATES

For our latest game coverage, scan this code.

ROCKETS

Sheppard's shooting fits

Kentucky guard would fill a need, but at 6-2, his size may present problems

By Jonathan Feigen
STAFF WRITER

Third in a series of the pros and cons for players the Rockets could take at No. 3 in the NBA draft on June 27.

Reed Sheppard
Position: G
Height: 6-2
Age: 19
College/team: Kentucky



Andy Lyons/Getty Images

Reed Sheppard shot 52.1% on 3-pointers in his only season at Kentucky, marksmanship that has the attention of a Rockets team that ranked 23rd shooting 3s.

The scenario

If Alex Sarr and Zaccharie Risacher are the first two picks, going in some order to the Atlanta Hawks and Washington Wizards, Sheppard would be there for the taking with the third pick.

The Rockets would have a wide variety of options, ranging from the 6-2 Sheppard to the 7-2 Donovan Clingan, with an unusually large list of options in between to consider. The uncertainty that still exists this early in the draft reflects the lack of elite prospects, but also the balance well after the top three picks.

Scouting report

There is little doubt about Sheppard's strength. His shooting numbers are undeniable. His 52.5% shooting and 52.1% 3-point shooting immediately point to the skill that would most comfortably translate to the next level. His shooting stroke is so solid, with a quick, high release and no wasted motion, Sheppard should be a consistently outstanding range shooter.

Though he has not been a traditional point guard, he moves the ball quickly, giving him a chance to be effective initiating or connecting offense.

At just shy of 6-2 with a small wingspan and standing reach, Sheppard is extremely undersized. That can especially be a problem defensively, but also comes up when teams close out on 3s, forcing Sheppard to drive into traffic where his lack of length can get him in trouble.

He has shown outstanding instincts and quick hands defensively, able to get deflections off the ball and harass ballhandlers at the point of attack. That could make him more difficult to attack in isolation despite his lack of size but is far more uncertain to work on the next level than his obvious strength.

The case to draft him

The Rockets insist they do not draft for need but they cannot run from it, either. Sheppard is widely considered the best 3-point shooter in the draft, able to shoot reliably well off the dribble or in catch-and-shoot. The Rockets could use more shooting, ranking 23rd in 3-point shooting.

The Rockets shot more 3s per game after the All-Star break but made roughly the same percentage of their 3-pointers, 35.3%. Sheppard could improve those numbers and help create more spacing for Jalen Green or Alperen Sengun.

That shooting also could pair well in a backcourt with Amen Thompson, with Thompson sharing playmaking duties, allowing Sheppard to work off the ball, but able to pick up larger opponents defensively. Sheppard will initially be more of an undersized shooting guard than a point guard, which could fit nicely with Thompson.

Though the Rockets do not have a clear path to playing time for any of the prospects, there is less overlap at the guard spots behind Fred VanVleet and Green. Aaron Holiday began the season out of the rotation but played in 78 games.

Worth noting that Sheppard's numbers — adding 4.1 rebounds, 4.5 assists and 2.4 steals in his 28.9 minutes per game — were phenomenal at Kentucky and the Rockets' front office still places extensive weight on the analytics.

On the other hand

Holiday's playing time began with Cam Whitmore beginning the season in the G League and Thompson getting hurt in the fourth game. Both are solidly in the rotation heading into their second seasons, leaving little opportunity for Sheppard in the backup rotation.

Though the Rockets are clearly not opposed to an undersized guard, even a guard that is not a traditional facilitator, VanVleet is a burlier, more physical defender when switching onto bigger opponents that would seek to take him inside.

If Sheppard cannot work well in the Rockets' switch-heavy defensive schemes in many matchups, the Rockets would be limiting his chances at significant playing time even after he develops in other ways. They are seeking to build a playoff team and ideally a championship-caliber team. But the Rockets would have to be careful about adding a player that could be targeted, if they believe he will be, in a playoff series.

While much was made of Sheppard's remarkable vertical jump numbers at the draft combine, his agility test results were underwhelming, and likely to come up more often than his vertical jump. Sheppard has strengths that go beyond his shooting, but question marks that did not come with the Rockets' previous top four picks.

Previous

June 17: Alex Sarr
June 18: Zaccharie Risacher

NBA NOTEBOOK

Pistons move on from Williams

WIRE REPORTS

The Detroit Pistons fired coach Monty Williams on Wednesday after just one season that ended with an NBA-worst 14-68 record.

"Decisions like these are difficult to make, and I want to thank Monty for his hard work and dedication," Pistons owner Tom Gores said in a statement. "Coaching has many dynamic challenges that emerge during a season and Monty always handled those with grace. However, after reviewing our performance carefully and assessing our current position as an organization, we will chart a new course moving forward."

Last season was the first in what was a six-year, $78.5 million contract for Williams — one that, at the time, was the richest ever given to an NBA coach. The Pistons will owe Williams the approximately $65 million remaining on his deal.

The team started a front office rebuild when the season ended, including the hiring of Trajan Langdon as president of basketball operations, the departure of general manager Troy Weaver and now a vacancy at head coach.

The firing continues a wildly strange run for Williams. In 2021, as coach of the Suns, he went to the NBA Finals, where Phoenix led 2-0 before falling in six games to Milwaukee. In 2022, he was the NBA's coach of the year in runaway voting. In 2023, the Suns fired him and now, in 2024, the Pistons have done the same.

The record for total value of a coaching contract has since been eclipsed; Miami gave Erik Spoelstra an eight-year extension worth $120 million earlier this year.

This was, by any measure, a disaster of a season for the Pistons. They started 2-1 and didn't win another game for the next two months.

A 28-game losing streak, the longest ever in a single season in NBA history and tied for the longest ever when factoring in multiple seasons, turned the season into a debacle. The Pistons' longest winning streak was two games (done on three occasions) and the roster was constantly in flux. Detroit used 31 different players over the course of the season and 36 different starting lineups and lost 39 times by double digits.

The vacancy in Detroit is the third active one in the NBA, with Cleveland and the Los Angeles Lakers still seeking coaches. The Pistons' move comes a week before the start of the NBA draft, with Detroit set to make the fifth overall pick on June 26 — someone that should be able to further enhance a young core led by Cade Cunningham, Jaden Ivey and Jalen Duren.

Siakam to stay with Pacers

Pascal Siakam intends to sign a four-year, $189.5 million contract to remain with the Indiana Pacers when the NBA's offseason moratorium is lifted in early July, a person with knowledge of the talks between the sides said Wednesday.

Under terms of the new collective bargaining agreement, teams could start speaking to their own free agents one day after the conclusion of the NBA Finals. And the Pacers were clear going into the offseason that retaining Siakam was a top priority, so it was no surprise that they wanted to begin official talks quickly.

Siakam — a two-time All-Star and part of the Toronto team that won the 2019 NBA title — would be in line to make about $42 million next season and around $53 million in 2027-28, the final year of the new deal.

The Pacers acquired the 30-year-old power forward in a January trade, and he quickly became a major part of the team that would reach the Eastern Conference finals before falling to eventual NBA champion Boston. Siakam shot 55% from the field and 38% from 3-point range in 41 regular-season games with Indiana this past season.

Counting his time in Toronto, Siakam averaged 21.7 points and 7.1 rebounds last season.

STANLEY CUP FINAL: OILERS 5, PANTHERS 3 TUESDAY'S GAME

McDavid's four-point night helps Edmonton extend series

By Tim Reynolds
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNRISE, Fla. — Matthew Tkachuk took off at full speed from basically center ice, chasing a puck that had sailed over his head and was heading directly toward an empty net.

He dove. He outstretched his stick. He swatted and barely, just barely, knocked the puck away to keep the Florida Panthers' hope of forcing overtime alive. Problem was, the next person who got to the puck was Connor McDavid — who scored to put the game away.

Such was how Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final went for the Panthers. Even when they were good, it wasn't good enough. And another long flight to Alberta awaits, with this title series suddenly looking very tight.

The Panthers gave up two power-play goals and a short-handed score, got into a 3-0 hole before trying to rally and wound up falling 5-3 to the Edmonton Oilers in Game 5 of the title series on Tuesday night. It was the second consecutive time Florida was thwarted in a chance to win the Cup, after an 8-1 embarrassment in Edmonton over the weekend.



Elsa/Getty Images

Connor McDavid, center, scored an empty-net goal to help secure the Oilers' win over the Panthers on Tuesday night, forcing a Game 6 in the Stanley Cup Final.

Game 6 is there on Friday night.

"I'm not pumping tires. I'm not rubbing backs. I don't think we need that at all," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "Everybody feels probably exactly the way I do right now. I'm not feeling deflated. Neither's the hockey team. They're not feeling deflated. Little grumpy."

Maybe a lot grumpy.

"We're going to turn the page," forward Evan Rodrigues said. "We're going to learn from this one."

Rodrigues and Tkachuk each had a goal and an assist for Florida, and Oliver Ekman-Larsson also scored for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 19 shots for Florida, which will see its 30-years-and-counting wait for the franchise's first Stanley Cup title last at least three more days.

"We get another crack at it on Friday," Tkachuk said.

McDavid had two goals and two assists to become the first player in NHL history to have back-to-back four-point games in the Stanley Cup Final, and Evan Bouchard added three assists for Edmonton. Connor Brown, Zach Hyman and Corey Perry also had goals for the Oilers, while Stuart Skinner stopped 29 shots.

McDavid said it was a total team effort. It was, but it was also another superhuman effort from McDavid, the game's best player who is doing things never before done in the title series.

The four points gave McDavid 42 in these playoffs, the fourth-most in a single postseason in NHL history. The only players ahead of him are the ones everyone would expect: Wayne Gretzky had 47 points in 1985, Mario Lemieux had 44 in 1991 and Gretzky had 43 in 1988.

RESULTS/ SCHEDULE

Florida 3, Edmonton 2
Game 1: Florida 3, Edmonton 0
Game 2: Florida 4, Edmonton 1
Game 3: Florida 4, Edmonton 3
Game 4: Edmonton 8, Florida 1
Game 5: Edmonton 5, Florida 3
Game 6: at Edmonton, 5 p.m. Friday
Game 7*: at Florida, 5 p.m. Monday
**If necessary*

Tuesday's game

Oilers 5, Panthers 3

Edmonton	1	3	1	— 5
Florida	0	2	1	— 3

First period—1, Edmonton, Brown 2, 5:30 (sh).
Second period—2, Edmonton, Hyman 15 (Bouchard, McDavid), 1:58 (pp). 3, Edmonton, McDavid 7 (Foegele, Bouchard), 5:00. 4, Florida, Tkachuk 6 (Rodrigues), 6:53. 5, Edmonton, Perry 1 (McDavid, Bouchard), 11:54 (pp). 6, Florida, Rodrigues 7 (Montour, Bennett), 12:08.
Third period—7, Florida, Ekman-Larsson 2 (Tkachuk), 4:04. 8, Edmonton, McDavid 8, 19:41 (en).
Shots on goal—Edmonton 10-10-4—24. Florida 6-16-11—33.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 2 of 5; Florida 0 of 3.
Goalies—Edmonton, Skinner 13-8-0 (33 shots-30 saves). Florida, Bobrovsky 15-7-0 (23-19).
A—19,956 (19,250). T—2:33.
Referees—Steve Kozari, Dan O'Rourke. Linesmen—Matt MacPherson, Jonny Murray.

U.S. SWIMMING TRIALS



Michael Conroy/Associated Press

Regan Smith set the world record in the 100-meter backstroke Tuesday, regaining a mark she set in 2019 at age 17 before going through an inconsistent stretch of performances.

Smith enters Paris on high

By Paul Newberry
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — This world record was five years in the making for Regan Smith.

What an up-and-down journey it's been.

Bouncing back from a close-but-no-Olympics call in her first race, Smith set a world record in the women's 100-meter backstroke at the U.S. swimming trials on Tuesday night.

The 22-year-old Minnesota native touched in 57.13 seconds, easily beating the mark of 57.33 set a year ago by Australia's Kaylee McKeown.

Smith was just 17 years old when she first set a world record in the 100 back at the 2019 world championships. But she struggled to deal with the sudden, newfound fame, ceding dominance in the event to McKeown.

"A long time coming," Smith said. "It's about time."

There was never any doubt about Smith's talent, but a lack of confidence was almost crippling at times.

She's been working with a sports psychologist since October, which helped turn things around from mental standpoint. Her coach, Bob Bowman, best known for his work with 23-time gold medalist Michael Phelps, took care of the physical side with a grueling training regimen.

"This is incredibly rewarding," Smith said. "When I was a teenager, I had not done much. There was no pressure on me. I was always the youngest. No one expected much from me. I could go into it fearless."

Once she tasted success, it was hard to get back on top. She made the U.S. team for the Tokyo Olympics, but finished third in the backstroke as McKeown took the gold.

"I've always had it physically, but I didn't have it mentally," Smith conceded. "I just didn't have it up here," pointing toward her head.

Showing how much her confidence has grown, Smith bounced back emphatically after getting edged for a spot on the U.S. team in the 100 butterfly, where she finished third behind Gretchen Walsh and Torri Huske.

Flipping to her back, Smith set the second world record of the trials, following Walsh's mark in the semifinals of the 100 fly.

Katharine Berkoff claimed the second expected Olympic spot for the U.S. with a time of 57.91.

In the night's other final, Bobby Finke earned the right to defend the 800 freestyle gold he won in Tokyo with a time of 7 minutes, 44.22 seconds.

Finke had to work hard to get to the wall ahead of 18-year-old Indiana phenom Luke Whitlock, who set a national age-group record at 7:45.19 and will likely head to his first Olympics with the second U.S. spot.

No one else was within 4 seconds of the top two.

"I find I need pressure to do well, at least in my eyes," Finke said. "So I feel like the more pressure I feel, then the more likely I am to do well. Happy with the time we got."

Whitlock splashed the water emphatically after going virtually stroke-for-stroke with the reigning Olympic champion, who swept the 800 and 1,500 free in Tokyo.

He is expected to become the youngest male swimmer to make the U.S. team since that guy named Phelps, who was 15 when he qualified for his first Olympics in Sydney in 2000.

"It's really just over the last, especially the last two months, my training has really picked up and now just talking to my coach, we just had a really good plan," Whitlock said. "We kind of got everything planned out like a month and a half before this and I was just really confident with the work I've been putting in, so I knew I could execute it."

MANUEL MAKES THIRD OLYMPIC TEAM

Sugar Land's Simone Manuel earned a spot on her third Olympic team with a fourth-place finish in the women's 100-meter freestyle at the U.S. swimming trials in Indianapolis.

Kate Douglass and Torri Huske finished 1-2 in the race to earn individual spots in the 100 for Paris. Douglass won in 52.56 seconds, ahead of Huske at 52.93.

Manuel (53.25) and third-place finisher Gretchen Walsh (53.13) qualified for Paris as part of the 4x100 relay team.

"I'm excited to be on this relay with these women," said Manuel, 27.

Manuel's making the team marked a comeback after she had to shut down all physical activity after the 2021 Olympics in Tokoy because of overtraining syndrome.

Manuel was the first Black American female swimmer to capture an individual gold medal when she won twice in Rio in 2016 to go along with two silvers.

In Tokyo, she barely managed to qualify and then earned bronze in the 4x100 relay.

Manuel will also compete in the 50 freestyle in the last two days of the trials.

Reid Laymance

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Tennessee earns spot in title series

WIRE REPORTS

OMAHA, Neb. — Tennessee will play in the College World Series finals for the first time in the modern era after it knocked out Florida State with a 7-2 victory on Wednesday to win its bracket.

Zander Sechrist held the Seminoles scoreless for six inning before allowing a pair of solo homers and the Volunteers struck for four early runs to become the first No. 1 national seed since 2009 to advance to the best-of-three finals.

"We always say before something happens, something happens," coach Tony Vitello said. "There's been a lot of build-up into the successes we've had this year and the failures, too, to be honest with you. And it's been fun to be a part of."

Tennessee's win assured an all-SEC finals for the second straight year and third time in four. The Volunteers (58-12) will play Texas A&M or Florida for the championship beginning Saturday. The Southeastern Conference will have at least one team in the finals for the 15th time in 16 years.

The Seminoles (49-17) came into the game still smarting from their 12-11 loss to Tennessee in their CWS opener. They were up 11-8 going to the bottom of the ninth inning of that game. The third-base umpire's call on Blake Burke's check swing with two strikes and two outs went against FSU, and Dylan Dreiling drove in the winning run in the Vols' walk-off win.

Tennessee left no doubt about the outcome in the rematch while completing a three-game sweep through bracket play.

The Vols made it to a one-game final in its first CWS appearance in 1951, losing 3-2 to Oklahoma. In those days, there were no preliminary rounds in the NCAA Tournament; teams were selected for the CWS based on regular-season performance.

The Vols broke through under Vitello after winning a combined one of five games in trips to Omaha in 2021 and '23. They'll try to become the first top seed to win the championship since Miami in 1999.

Tennessee was up 4-0 when Burke singled in a run in the second and he finished the scoring in the ninth when he hit his 20th home run of the season. That made the Vols the first team in Division I history to have five players with at least 20 homers.

Sechrist (5-1) came into the game 3-0 in his previous four starts with an 0.78 ERA and 18 strikeouts in 23 innings.

FLORIDA 15, KENTUCKY 4

Brody Donay hit a grand slam for the first of his two homers and Jac Caglianone became the Gators' all-time home run leader in a lopsided victory over the Wildcats in a College World Series elimination game Wednesday.

The win over Kentucky was extra satisfying for Florida because they lost a weekend series at home to the Wildcats a month ago.

"We had to get some sort of revenge, I guess," Caglianone said. "No better opportunity than to do it on this stage. All the guys were pretty pumped up about it."

Kentucky (46-16) went 1-2 in its first CWS appearance after giving up the most runs since it lost 16-6 to LSU on April 13, 2023.

The Gators' bats didn't require a wakeup call for the 10 a.m. game. They banged out 15 hits and finished with their third-highest run total of the season.



Mike Buscher/Associated Press

Tennessee's Zander Sechrist held Florida State to five hits and two runs over 6 ⅓ innings in Wednesday's win.

UH

From page B1

college prospects for the class of 2026.

A junior-to-be at Legacy School of Sport Sciences, a charter school located in Spring, Henderson committed to new coach Willie Fritz and the University of Houston on May 27. As the No. 1 athlete in the nation (No. 19 overall), Henderson is the Cougars' second-highest rated commitment in the modern recruiting era, according to 247Sports, behind three-time All-American and Outland Trophy winner Ed Oliver.

Racoon hat or not, Henderson was born to be in front of a camera and put on a show. Need proof? Just watch the videos posted on social media websites, TikTok and Instagram. His touchdown celebrations draw a crowd — and imitations — in the end zone. There's a reason his high school coach, Michael Bishop, the 1998 Heisman Trophy runner-up at Kansas State, has nicknamed him "Hollywood" Henderson.

And Henderson has the talent to back it up. His offer list includes more than 30 schools, a who's-who of major programs that includes Michigan, LSU, Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Oregon.

At 6-foot-4 and 180 pounds, Henderson passes the eye-test. He's a sure-handed wide receiver and has spent time at safety. But his future, specifically at UH, is as a quarterback. That was the message delivered from Shawn Bell, UH's quarterback coach/passing game coordinator, when he was the first to offer Henderson while still on the coaching staff at Baylor.

"(Coach Bell) was the first to lay it on the line and say, 'I want you to play quarterback, I don't want you at any other position,'" Henderson said. "He believed in me from the jump.

"They have made it known that they want me to be their quarterback of the future."

Henderson called the "athlete" tag in his recruitment "a blessing and a curse," as some will remain skeptical if quarterback is his ultimate destination.



Courtesy of Keisean Henderson

Keisean Henderson, wearing a Davy Crockett-style racoon hat, is one of the top college prospects for the class of 2026 and has committed to UH.

"You can call me an athlete if you want to, but in my heart, I am a quarterback," Henderson said.

On the varsity as a freshman, Henderson had 74 receptions for 1,135 yards and 14 touchdowns. He moved to quarterback as a sophomore, throwing for more than 2,000 yards and 25 touchdowns.

In just a few months since taking the job, Fritz has made considerable in-roads in recruiting for the Cougars: his 2025 class, headlined by a pair of four-star commitments, Jasper offensive tackle Demetrius Dean and Mansfield Summit defensive lineman Travis Buhake, is ranked No. 53 nationally and the '26 class (which also includes Port Arthur Memorial wide receiver Keavon Roberts) is No. 15.

"UH really ran away with it," Henderson said of his recruitment. "I loved UH since I went there the first time. It was always No. 1 in my eyes."

On the day he committed, Henderson posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, "Kei to the city." He said there is no reason some of the Houston area's top talent can't stay home and play for the hometown Cougars, who are entering their second season in the Big 12.

"That's the goal. That's the plan," Henderson said. "I feel like if you can recruit Houston and keep the top talent all at home, you're going to get a great squad. You don't always have to go to bigger places to get what you want. You can always go to a school that is for you."

Henderson said he leaned on advice from Bishop, who played for Fritz and won a pair of junior college national titles at Blinn College. Bishop was recently inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

"That was the go-to guy if we needed anything or help putting the plan in motion," Henderson said of Bishop. "I'm a big family guy. Coach Fritz and Coach Bell showed every time I came to the school that it's family."

Asked what UH fans can expect when he eventually arrives on campus, Henderson added: "I want to bring the fun back to football.

"I'm just having fun and living in the moment and playing as hard as I can. One thing they'll get from me is a guy who is dedicated to the game, who loves the game, who loves the fans, who loves family and everything that comes with it.

"Very gritty about football. Anything that has to do with football or sports or anything, I'm going to go 110% and give it my all."

Until then, Henderson plans to keep wearing his signature raccoon hat.

"I'm not a fan of the hat, but I do get it," Bishop joked.

During a recent visit to the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, Bishop was approached by a woman who was familiar with Henderson.

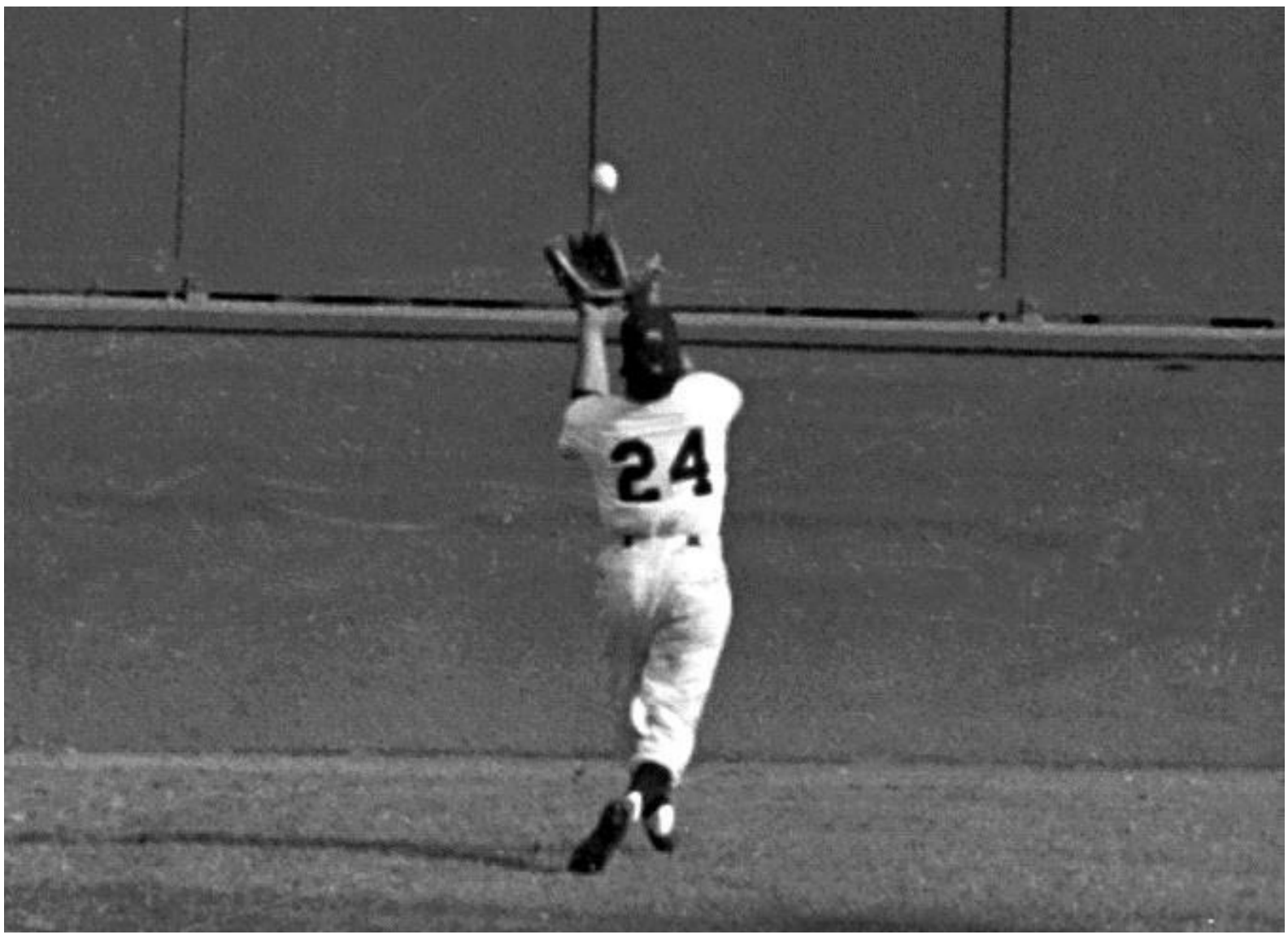
"There's a guy from Texas who plays with a (raccoon) hat," she told him.

Bishop dialed up Henderson on FaceTime to talk to the woman.

"You never know who follows you," Bishop said.

WILLIE MAYS

1931-2024



N.Y. Daily News via Getty Images

Willie Mays' over-the-shoulder catch in the 1954 World Series likely saved two runs and helped lead the Giants to a sweep of Cleveland.

'The Catch' and the icon

Famous grab in the 1954 World Series among game's defining moments

By Janie McCauley
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Willie Mays raced at top speed toward the centerfield wall at the spacious Polo Grounds and somehow managed to track down and corral a fast-traveling ball with an over-the-shoulder catch that became the most iconic moment in the Hall of Famer's decorated career that featured 660 home runs.

It simply became known as "The Catch."

But there was little simple about it. The Say Hey Kid's superb grab of a drive hit by Cleveland's Vic Wertz in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series against the favored Indians will always be one of his finest moments, also a key in the New York Giants' 4-0 sweep to win the title.

"It wasn't no lucky catch," Mays emphatically noted years later.

Not at all.

The play showed off the mesmerizing skill of one of the most talented players ever to step on a baseball field and was considered by many to be the Greatest Living Ballplayer before he died at age 93 on Tuesday.

In the top of the eighth inning with runners on first and second in a 2-2 game, Mays took off running straight back toward the wall, head looking at the outfield rather than tracking the ball, and snared it before instantly releasing a fabulous throw that gets far less attention than the catch itself.

"Yeah, that was the key right there, I thought," Mays recalled in April 2014. "Because if I hadn't caught that, you gotta get three runs some kind of way. Vic would have been on third some kind of way and the other two would have scored. So I think that was the key to the whole World Series."

It was a play that is as famous as any in the grand history of baseball and was memorialized at the time by the Hall of Fame broadcaster Jack Brickhouse, who said: "Willie Mays just brought this crowd to its feet with a catch which must have been an optical illusion to a lot of people!"

To Mays, it was just another play that happened to come on the biggest stage.

"I usually catch fly balls like that all the time," he said. "But you're talking about a World Series. You're talking about something that doesn't happen all the time. Even if you make a catch like that, which I did, in the regular season — but to catch it in a way that the world is looking at you — it's remarkable, I think."

Mays never wanted to say where that play stood on the list in his career of brilliant catches — and there were many for a player who won 12 Gold Gloves as one of the game's greatest fielding outfielders.

"I never ranked catches," he said. "It's important to make sure to try to catch everything out there. This is my theory, I don't know how other people think. I just feel if I started ranking them, you guys would have nothing to write about. I never did worry about things like that."

No one knows for sure how far from home plate the drive by Wertz carried, with best estimates at perhaps 425 feet. It's all part of the legend of Mays.

Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson, now a special advisor with the Astros, said in 2018 that it still should be viewed "as the greatest catch ever."

"Today's player has gone up and over the fence, climbed the wall, and that's pretty cool," Jackson said. "But I still think we all go back and the greatest outfielder ever is Willie Mays.

"There were guys that covered more ground and ran this fast, he had some angle. But I think Willie will be recognized as maybe the greatest athlete that ever played, arguably the best player falling with (Hank) Aaron, (Babe) Ruth, (Lou) Gehrig and those guys. It's just kind of the epitome of his career."

Mays' godson, Barry Bonds, said years ago that he wants to make sure people appreciate more than just that one moment in a remarkable 23-year career.

There were the two MVPs, the Rookie of the Year Award, the 24 All-Star games, the 660 home runs, and the 3,293 hits. It all added up to Mays being widely considered the game's greatest all-around player.

"There's a lot of people who made great catches in the game of baseball. But he happens to be one of the best baseball players. That does make it seem a lot better," Bonds said. "I think we've had our moments in catches. I think his longevity of his career is more important than just the catch to anyone who's played the game of baseball. To play 20-something years in the game of baseball is an accomplishment in itself. Longevity is way more important than a single catch.

"There's a lot of guys that have made single great catches and played one year, or two years or five years. You don't know who those people are but to do it for the amount of time that he's done it in his career and played as long as he has in his career, that's another level. That's way bigger."

MAYS

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so captivating that the idea of integrated baseball became much more appealing.

As Bill Clinton told the San Francisco Chronicle's John Shea when Shea was co-writing a book with Mays, "Willie Mays made it absurd to be racist."

He was just too good, too spirited, to hate. When Mays broke in, the Giants had an infielder named Bill Rigney who later became the first manager of the Giants in San Francisco. Rigney is gone, but years ago he told me what it was like when Mays arrived.

In spring training of '51, Giants manager Leo Durocher went to the team's Triple-A camp to watch Mays play.

Rigney said, "Leo came back and boy, that's all he talked about for the next 10 days, this kid playing for Minneapolis."

Mays was called up from the minors at the end of May after hitting .477 in 35 games at Triple-A.

"Willie brought a pace to that '51 club that was all we needed," Rigney said. "We had some good players, but we were a long ways back (in the standings), and he brought a new level to the manner of play, a level it was gonna take to catch the Dodgers, a real shot of energy. ... He brought a freshness. It was like getting your second wind."

There were some in baseball then who believed Black people weren't smart enough to excel at baseball, and Mays destroyed that belief. He once told of how he controlled the game from center field — positioning the other six fielders before every hitter and giving signals to the catcher to tell him how to pitch to each batter.

One winter, Mays played ball in Puerto Rico. He was in center field, Roberto Clemente was in right. When one opponent singled to center field, Mays let the ball roll between his legs, knowing who was backing him up. The runner saw Mays' "error" and headed for second, only to be cut down by the great Clemente.

And, oh, the flair. Rigney told this one: "Bobby Thomson was in left for us. There was a ball hit to left-center. Bobby called for it and was going to catch it but he slipped and fell down. Mays caught the ball and picked Bobby up in one motion. Oh, what a good idea."



Anonymous/Associated Press

Willie Mays became the 17th Black man in the majors when the Giants promoted him in 1951.

To watch Mays was to watch the game at a new level. The basket catch, the cap flying off as he chased flies or rounded the bases, the bullfighter-graceful slides, the elegant and powerful swing. Mays' uniform was perfect, from the cut of the socks to the bend of the cap brim. Baseball in the Negro Leagues was played with more flair and showmanship than you would see in the white majors back then, and Mays brought a basketful of that baseball with him and put it in play without offending the purists.

We saw all that. What we didn't see was what Mays did for Black people in baseball. He took young Black players, on his team and every team, under his wing. Gave them golf clubs, gave them advice, offered himself as a mentor and cheerleader.

When San Francisco Giants manager Alvin Dark incurred the wrath of the Giants' Black players, the team came close to mutiny. Mays defused the crisis, and not by backing down or groveling. What could have been a setback for Black baseball players wound up with Dark backing down and eventually admitting he'd been wrong.

Mays wasn't known as a civil rights crusader, but when he and his wife were denied buying a home in San Francisco because of their race, he didn't rail at the injustice or issue threats. He quietly and firmly persisted. Told he could buy a different house, Mays said, "I want *that* house." He got it, lifting a supposedly progressive city to a new level of enlightenment.

Mays did a lot of heavy lifting for baseball and the world, and he made it look easy.

Scott Ostler is a San Francisco Chronicle columnist.

"I am beyond devastated and overcome with emotion. I have no words to describe what you mean to me — you helped shape me to be who I am today. Thank you for being my Godfather and always being there. I love you forever. #SayHey"

Barry Bonds

"He's the godfather of center fielders. When you think about playing center field and you're a person of color, that's who they compare you to."

Ken Griffey Jr.

"Willie Mays wasn't just a singular athlete, blessed with an unmatched combination of grace, skill and power. He was also a wonderfully warm and generous person — and an inspiration to an entire generation."

Barack Obama

"His incredible achievements and statistics do not begin to describe the awe that came with watching Willie Mays dominate the game in every way imaginable."

Rob Manfred

"RIP Willie Mays. You changed the game forever and inspired kids like me to chase our dream. Thank you for everything you did on and off the field."

CC *Sabathia*

"Willie Mays' passion for the game and incredible talent made him the embodiment of baseball for millions of fans and one of the most beloved players in history. More than a half century after his playing days, he remained an American treasure."

Jane Forbes Clark, Hall of Fame chair

ASTROS

Shorthanded lineup can't find big hit

By Matt Kawahara
STAFF WRITER

CHICAGO — Alex Bregman's flare landed on the center-field grass, giving the Astros' offense an opening on an anemic night. His single began the fourth inning Tuesday. The middle of a shorthanded lineup loomed behind him.

On six pitches, Jonathan Cannon, the right-hander making his fifth major league start for baseball's worst team, dispatched it. Yainer Diaz saw one pitch, flying out to right. Jon Singleton tapped a 2-1 changeup to third baseman Lenyn Sosa. Mauricio Dubón pulled a first-pitch slider to Sosa, leaving Bregman at second.

The sequence illustrated an ineffective showing by the Astros' lineup in a 2-0 loss, made more glaring by the setting. The White Sox own the majors' worst record. Three games at their stadium seemed to offer Houston a chance to build on a series win over Detroit and perhaps begin the push that remains elusive.

Chicago carried the majors' second-highest team ERA into Tuesday's opener. It sent a 23-year-old rookie to the mound. The Astros managed seven hits and a walk against Cannon but came up empty in situational at-bats. They finished 0-for-5 with men in scoring position. They moved one runner past second base.

That came in the seventh inning. Victor Caratini's two-out single sent Jon Singleton to third. Jake Meyers arrived at the plate and saw one pitch from Cannon, grounding into a force out. Afterward, manager Joe Espada said he thought "there was some urgency behind" his team's at-bats with runners on base.

"We talked about that today," Espada said. "Once we get guys in scoring position, he's going to be in the zone — let's be aggressive and swing the bat. Just things didn't really go our way. And credit to (Cannon), he threw the ball really well."

Espada was measured in his postgame comments, as he has been through the Astros' difficult first half, after watching the final six innings from their clubhouse. Espada was ejected in the bottom of the third in the culmination of a sequence that might have reflected some mounting frustration.

In the top of the inning, Trey Cabbage pulled a one-out double, bringing the top of the Astros' order up for a second time. Jose Altuve worked a determined at-bat, falling behind 0-2 and drawing the meeting with Cannon out to its seventh pitch.



Jamie Sabau/Getty Images

Jose Altuve went 0-for-4 with a pair of strikeouts in the Astros' 2-0 loss Tuesday to the White Sox.

Altuve thought Cannon's sinker arrived high. Home plate umpire Derek Thomas disagreed, ringing him up on strikes. Altuve appeared frustrated at the call. As he took the field in the bottom of the third, the usually buoyant second baseman looked openly angry.

Espada was ejected two batters into the inning after Framber Valdez threw a borderline pitch at the top of the zone that Thomas called a ball. From his office, Espada watched a lineup missing Kyle Tucker and Yordan Alvarez strand five more runners over the course of the game.

Alvarez was away Tuesday due to a family matter. Tucker is still sidelined by a shin contusion sustained June 3. The Astros still rank fifth among AL teams in OPS and sixth in runs scored in June, yet Tuesday underscored the need for wider contributions from a top-heavy lineup.

With Alvarez and Tucker absent, Jeremy Peña moved up to the second spot in the order Tuesday for the fifth time this season. Peña went hitless in four at-bats and is batting .171 in his past 20 games. Meyers, who enjoyed a torrid May, went 0-for-3 and is hitting .176 in his past 20 games started.

Singleton, now in line for regular starts at first base after the release of José Abreu, is batting .219 after going 1-for-3 and drawing the Astros' lone walk Tuesday. Even with Tucker and Alvarez both out, Chas McCormick, who owns a .560 OPS, could not crack the lineup. Cabbage, a left-handed hitter, drew the start in right field instead and struck two of Houston's seven hits against Cannon.

"We all wish we could have them here, but they're just not," Espada said of Tucker and Alvarez. "We're very much capable of scoring runs with those guys not in the lineup. We have some guys that can get it done. And we just did not get it done today."

In his four previous starts with Chicago, Cannon had faced a hitter for the third time in the game on 16 occasions. Those hitters were 5-for-16 with three home runs. On Tuesday, Cannon retired seven of nine hitters his third time through Houston's order, allowing him a fourth look at the top of the lineup.

Altuve and Peña finished hitless in a combined eight at-bats against him. The top four spots combined to go 2-for-16, with Bregman accounting for two singles. In the fifth, Cabbage singled with two out to bring Altuve up as the potential tying run. Cabbage was thrown out trying to steal second, ending the inning.

"I just thought we didn't really string anything together, to be honest with you," Bregman said.

Tuesday's game

White Sox 2, Astros 0

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.295
Peña ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Bregman 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.241
Diaz dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Singleton 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.219
Dubón lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.300
Caratini c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Meyers cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.249
Cabbage rf	3	0	2	0	0	0	.297
Totals	**33**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**1**	**4**	
Chicago	**AB**	**R**	**H**	**BI**	**BB**	**SO**	**Avg.**
Pham rf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.283
Vaughn 1b	4	0	1	2	0	0	.235
Robert cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.176
DeJong ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.237
Sosa 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Benintendi lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.201
Julks dh	1	1	0	0	1	0	.236
a-Sheets ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Lee c	1	1	0	0	2	1	.240
Mendick 2b	2	0	1	0	0	1	.212
b-Lopez ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Totals	**25**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**5**	**7**	

Houston	**000**	**000**	**000—0**	**7**	**0**
Chicago	**001**	**010**	**00x—2**	**2**	**0**

a-flied out for Julks in the 7th. b-grounded out for Mendick in the 7th. LOB—Houston 7, Chicago 4. 2B—Cabbage (3). RBIs—Vaughn 2 (33). CS—Cabbage (1). Runners left in scoring position—Houston 4 (Dubón, Meyers, Caratini, Peña); Chicago 1 (Robert). RISP—Houston 0 for 5; Chicago 0 for 5. Runners moved up—Singleton. GIDP—Robert. DP—Houston 1 (Peña, Singleton).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Valdez, L, 5-5	6	2	2	2	5	5	93	3.91
Scott	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	1.77
Montero	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	3.72
Chicago	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Cannon, W, 1-1	8 2/3	7	0	0	1	4	106	3.34
Brebbia, S, 2-3	1/3	0	0	0	0	0	5	5.81

Inherited runners-scored—Brebbia 2-0. WP—Valdez. Umpires—Home, Derek Thomas; First, Chris Conroy; Second, Brennan Miller; Third, Mark Ripperger. T—2:02. A—16,763 (40,241).

ASTROS

From page B1

and Maldonado seemingly working with his successor.

That setup recurs now in a different setting. Lee and Maldonado form a catching tandem for a White Sox team enduring a difficult season. Lee, 25, is getting his best chance yet at major-league playing time, sharing it with Maldonado, 37, a veteran presence on a club with the majors' worst record.

"The season has been up and down," Maldonado said before Tuesday's game. "We've got a lot of young guys asking a lot of questions, and I think they understand the way other teams have done it that I've been on. ... I understand the business. I've been in this game too long to be in the same spot. I feel like I had good years in Houston and I think it was time to move forward."

The Astros drafted Lee in June 2019 and traded for Maldonado a month later. Maldonado spent the next four seasons guiding an Astros pitching staff that thrived under his handling. Lee climbed their minor-league system, buoyed by defense, and was widely deemed their top prospect prior to the 2022 season.

Last season brought an inflection point behind the plate. Maldonado entered it an impending free agent. Lee began it in a battle with Yainer Diaz for the backup job, a competition with long-term implications.

In July, the Astros traded Lee to the White Sox for reliever Kendall Graveman, a move that signaled their faith in Diaz to assume primary catching duties this season. Maldonado became a free agent and signed with the White Sox in January, on a one-year, $4.25 million deal that includes a club option for 2025.

Entering Wednesday, Lee and Maldonado had each started 37 games for the White Sox behind the plate. As Lee navigates his first full season in the majors, Maldonado said part of his own role is to help.

"We had a really good relationship over in Houston for the last five years," Lee said. "He was someone I always looked up to when I was in high school, when I was in college. And obviously having him here has been nothing but good for me. He's been in the league for quite a long time. That's something that I see myself doing also, just being a catcher first and then hitting comes as a plus. He's taught me that. He's taught me how to prepare."



Rick Scuteri/Associated Press

Martín Maldonado, 37, is sharing playing time with Korey Lee, 25, and imparting his catching knowlege.

Lee said the Astros "did nothing but support me" while in their system. He said the possibility of a trade "wasn't something I was thinking about, but it's part of this business that we're in and I'm happy that they gave me the opportunity to come over here and I cherish the White Sox for the opportunity also."

Lee's major-league time with Houston consisted of 12 games in 2022. A .662 OPS and mixed defensive metrics entering Wednesday reflect his ongoing development. The White Sox shut out Houston in the opener of their three-game series Tuesday, with Lee behind the plate.

"Just being able to see his development, it's impressive," Maldonado said. "That guy has one of the best arms I've seen, throwing people out, being able to play every day, being able to adjust on a daily basis. I feel like in Houston they didn't give him a fair shot. Especially a guy that got drafted in '19, 2020 was the COVID season, '21 he got hurt, and then '22 was in the big leagues. So I think now I can see what he can do is the stuff I thought he was going to be able to do when I saw him in Houston."

Maldonado caught 116 games in his final season for Houston, reflecting the confidence former manager Dusty Baker and Astros pitchers held in his preparation and game calling even as his offense and some defensive metrics declined. He caught every game in Houston's two playoff series last year and 65 playoff games total across six years and two stints with the Astros that included three World Series appearances.

Diaz, acquired by the Astros in a 2021 trade with Cleveland, had a breakout 2023 season as Maldonado's backup, hitting 23 home runs and finishing fifth in AL Rookie of the Year voting. Houston installed Diaz as its primary catcher this spring and signed Victor Caratini as a veteran backup. Maldonado said he viewed last season with Diaz as, again, working with a likely replacement.

"I did look at it that way," Maldonado said. "Last year I asked the clubbie to put (Diaz) next to my locker so we can talk about a lot of parts of the game, and I feel that sometimes he listened, sometimes he was not fully committed. I feel like that's being a young guy. But at the end of the day, I feel like he earned to be the everyday guy. The stuff that he did last year was impressive."

Houston signed Caratini to a two-year, $12 million contract in December to address what Brown termed one of his top offseason objectives. Maldonado indicated he heard from one member of Houston's front office but never had formal talks with the team about a possible return as a backup.

"It surprised me a little bit," Maldonado said. "I also understood that they want Diaz to be the catcher at the time, and I think he earned the right to be the catcher. But they never reached out."

Maldonado bore frequent fan frustration for his offense while in Houston and entered Wednesday with a .269 OPS in 38 games this season for the White Sox. Former Astros teammates, meanwhile, lauded Maldonado's impact on the pitching staff and clubhouse during his tenure before this series. Maldonado, on Tuesday, spoke fondly of his time in Houston.

"Amazing five, six years there," Maldonado said. "Three World Series. I was part of that dynasty. I saw the growth of Framber (Valdez), I saw the growth of (Cristian) Javier, (Bryan) Abreu, I saw how good (Ryan) Pressly was in those years, especially in the playoffs. I saw the evolution of Yordan (Alvarez). I saw how every guy that came up stepped up.

"It was something that, I enjoyed every single minute. I've got a lot of good memories from those years there. And at the end of the day, I'm still friends with a lot of those guys."

NOTEBOOK

Starter needed against Orioles

By Matt Kawahara
STAFF WRITER

CHICAGO — The Astros will start **Spencer Arrighetti** in Thursday's series finale against the White Sox and plan to call up a starter to pitch in the ensuing series against Baltimore, manager **Joe Espada** said.

Houston placed **Justin Verlander** on the 15-day injured list with a neck ailment Tuesday, leaving it with four active starters. Arrighetti will make Thursday's start on regular rest due to the team's off day on Monday.

Espada said the Astros will likely call up a pitcher to start Friday's opener against the Orioles.

Ronel Blanco could start Friday on regular rest, but Espada said the Astros would prefer to give Blanco, who has thrown a team-high 77⅔ innings, the extra day of rest. That would line Blanco up to pitch Saturday.

The Astros have one healthy starter on their 40-man roster in the minors, **Blair Henley**, who is scheduled to start Thursday for Triple-A Sugar Land. **AJ Blubaugh** is scheduled to start Friday for Sugar Land and **Eric Lauer** on Saturday; either would have to be added to the 40-man roster if called up.

Another non-40-man option could be right-hander **Jake Bloss**, who is at Double-A Corpus Christi. Bloss, 22, has made just eight starts above A-ball but has a 1.61 ERA in 44⅔ innings at Double-A and worked the first 6⅓ innings of a combined no-hitter in his last outing Saturday.

Alvarez misses another game

Astros slugger **Yordan Alvarez** remained away from the team for a second consecutive game Wednesday due to a family matter.

Espada said pregame "there's a chance" Alvarez could rejoin the Astros late Wednesday and be available for Thursday afternoon's series finale against the White Sox.

"Just giving him some time to deal with the family" matter, Espada said. "But hopeful that he could get here tonight."

Espada ejected in third inning

Espada was ejected in the bottom of the third inning of Tuesday's 2-0 loss by home plate umpire **Derek Thomas**, apparently for arguing balls and strikes.

Framber Valdez threw a first-pitch sinker at the top of the zone to **Danny Mendick** that was called a ball. Thomas turned toward the Astros' dugout and ejected Espada, who was in the dugout.

Thomas had rung up **Jose Altuve** in the top of the inning on a called third strike that MLB pitch tracking showed as being above the zone. Altuve was visibly frustrated at the call and during the inning changeover.

"I just didn't agree with the strike zone there," Espada said. "I asked where the pitch was and (Thomas) said it was up in the zone. I disagreed. I thought Altuve's pitch the previous inning was up in the zone. So that led to the ejection."

Odds and ends

Espada said he exchanged text messages with Verlander, who was placed on the 15-day IL due to a neck ailment on Tuesday. "He said he feels better, so that's really good news," Espada said. "We'll see when we get home tomorrow and hopefully we get him playing catch here pretty soon." ... Starter **Luis Garcia**, who is continuing his rehab from Tommy John surgery at the Astros' minor-league facility in West Palm Beach, Fla., faced hitters in another live batting practice Sunday. Espada said Garcia threw about 25 to 30 pitches in the session and could throw another live BP "in the next few days."

FOR THE RECORD

MLB AT A GLANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
New York	51	24	.680	—	—	6-4	W-1	23-10	28-14
Baltimore	47	25	.653	2 ½	+7	7-3	L-1	25-14	22-11
Boston	39	35	.527	11 ½	2	7-3	W-4	18-20	21-15
Toronto	35	38	.479	15	5 ½	5-5	L-2	18-18	17-20
Tampa Bay	34	39	.466	16	6 ½	3-7	L-1	19-23	15-16

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Cleveland	44	26	.629	—	—	4-6	L-3	21-9	23-17
Minnesota	41	32	.562	4 ½	+ ½	8-2	W-6	23-14	18-18
Kansas City	41	33	.554	5	—	3-7	L-2	25-14	16-19
Detroit	34	40	.459	12	7	3-7	L-4	16-19	18-21
Chicago	20	54	.270	26	21	4-6	W-1	13-23	7-31

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Seattle	44	31	.587	—	—	8-2	W-4	27-12	17-19
Houston	33	40	.452	10	7 ½	5-5	L-1	19-19	14-21
Texas	33	40	.452	10	7 ½	3-7	L-5	16-19	17-21
Los Angeles	29	44	.397	14	11 ½	5-5	L-1	12-24	17-20
Oakland	27	48	.360	17	14 ½	1-9	W-1	16-20	11-28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Philadelphia	49	25	.662	—	—	4-6	L-1	29-11	20-14
Atlanta	41	31	.569	7	+5 ½	6-4	W-3	24-13	17-18
Washington	36	37	.493	12 ½	—	8-2	W-1	17-18	19-19
New York	35	37	.486	13	½	8-2	W-7	18-23	17-14
Miami	25	49	.338	24	11 ½	3-7	W-2	14-26	11-23

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Milwaukee	43	30	.589	—	—	6-4	W-1	22-12	21-18
St. Louis	36	37	.493	7	—	6-4	L-2	17-15	19-22
Pittsburgh	36	38	.486	7 ½	½	5-5	W-1	18-18	18-20
Chicago	36	39	.480	8	1	5-5	W-2	21-16	15-23
Cincinnati	35	39	.473	8 ½	1 ½	4-6	L-1	18-19	17-20

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Los Angeles	46	29	.613	—	—	6-4	W-3	24-15	22-14
San Diego	38	40	.487	9 ½	½	4-6	W-1	18-21	20-19
Arizona	36	38	.486	9 ½	½	6-4	L-1	19-18	17-20
San Francisco	36	39	.480	10	1	4-6	L-2	20-17	16-22
Colorado	25	48	.342	20	11	3-7	L-3	14-21	11-27

Tuesday's results

American League	National League
White Sox 2, Houston 0	Cincinnati 2, Pittsburgh 1
Atlanta 2, Detroit 1	Arizona 5, Washington 0
Seattle 8, Cleveland 5	Miami 9, St. Louis 8 (10)
Yankees 4, Baltimore 2	Philadelphia 4, San Diego 3
Boston 4, Toronto 3	Atlanta 2, Detroit 1
Minnesota 7, Tampa Bay 6	Cubs 5, San Francisco 2
Mets 7, Texas 6	Mets 7, Texas 6
Oakland 7, Kansas City 5	Dodgers 11, Colorado 9
Milwaukee 6, Angels 3	Milwaukee 6, Angels 3

Wednesday's results

American League	National League
Atlanta 7, Detroit 0	Pittsburgh 1, Cincinnati 0
Houston at White Sox, late	Atlanta 7, Detroit 0
Seattle at Cleveland, late	Miami 4, St. Louis 3
Baltimore at Yankees, late	San Diego 5, Philadelphia 2
Boston at Toronto, late	Cubs 6, San Francisco 5
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, late	Washington 3, Arizona 1
Mets at Texas, late	Mets at Texas, late
Milwaukee at Angels, late	Dodgers at Colorado, late
Kansas City at Oakland, late	Milwaukee at Angels, late

Thursday's games

American League

Seattle (Castillo 6-7) at Cleveland (Allen 7-3), 12:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Littell 2-5) at Minnesota (Woods Richardson 2-1), 12:10 p.m.
Houston (Arrighetti 3-6) at White Sox (Flexen 2-6), 1:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Lugo 10-2) at Oakland (Spence 4-3), 2:37 p.m.
Baltimore (Irvin 6-3) at Yankees (Gil 9-1), 3:05 p.m.

National League

Arizona (Nelson 4-5) at Washington (Gore 6-5), 12:05 p.m.
Dodgers (Stone 7-2) at Colorado (Blach 3-4), 2:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Winn 3-7) at St. Louis (Pallante 2-3), 6:15 p.m.
Milwaukee (Wilson 4-3) at San Diego (Mazur 0-2), 8:40 p.m.

MLB NOTEBOOK

JUDGE OUT OF LINEUP AFTER BEING HIT BY PITCH

Aaron Judge was out of the New York Yankees' starting lineup Wednesday against the Baltimore Orioles, one night after he was hit on the left hand by a pitch.

Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Judge was feeling better, though, and even took swings in the indoor batting cage.

"I think it's day to day," Boone said. "It was probably close today."

Trent Grisham was set to replace Judge in center field and bat ninth. Yankees ace Gerrit Cole was scheduled to make his season debut after recovering from a right elbow injury.

Judge was struck by a 94.1 mph fastball from Baltimore starter Albert Suárez during New York's 4-2 win Tuesday night. The slugger left the game an inning later, but X-rays and a CT scan were negative, so it appears he avoided serious injury.

ARENADO, GIBSON HURTING

St. Louis Cardinals third baseman Nolan Arenado left Wednesday's game against Miami after being hit in the right elbow by a fastball from Marlins reliever Huascar Brazoban in the eighth inning.

Arenado collapsed into a heap after the pitch struck first his elbow and then his midsection. He remained on the ground for about two minutes before he was escorted to the dugout by a Cardinals trainer.

The team said he suffered a bruised elbow and x-rays were negative.

Cardinals starting pitcher Kyle Gibson was scratched from his scheduled start just before the game because of back tightness.

Gibson (5-2, 3.44 ERA) had been away from the team this week on bereavement leave after a death in his family. About two hours before the game, Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol had said Gibson got in his normal workouts during his absence and had expected no issues.

BRADISH OUT FOR SEASON

Kyle Bradish will miss the rest of the season after undergoing Tommy John Surgery Wednesday morning.

Bradish is the third Orioles' starting pitcher to be lost for this season after surgery. John Means and Tyler Wells are also out for the year.

Bradish made his final start last Friday against the Philadelphia Phillies, and he was seen shaking his elbow. He was then placed on the 15-day injured list with a UCL injury.

Bradish had a 2.75 ERA in eight starts this season. He threw 75 pitches in five innings before he was replaced in Friday's game.

WEDNESDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sean Murphy hit a pair of two-run homers and Atlanta completed a three-game sweep of Detroit with a 7-0 victory. ... Bryan Reynolds hit a go-ahead home run in the bottom of the eighth inning and Pittsburgh edged Cincinnati 1-0. ... San Diego avoided a 10th straight road loss with a late rally off Philadelphia's bullpen to beat the Phillies 5-2. ... Otto Lopez got his second walk-off hit of the season, a two-out single in the bottom of the ninth to drive in Tim Anderson and Miami defeated St. Louis 4-3.

Wire reports

SCOREBOARD

Odds

Home team capitalized

MLB

Thursday

American League

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
Tampa Bay	-120	at MINNESOTA	+102
Seattle	-118	at CLEVELAND	+100
Houston	-116	at CHICAGO WHITE SOX	-102
Kansas City	-180	at OAKLAND	+152
N.Y YANKEES	-138	Baltimore	+118

National League

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
WASHINGTON	-138	Arizona	+118
LA Dodgers	-205	at COLORADO	+172
San Francisco	-116	at ST. LOUIS	-102
Milwaukee	OFF	at SAN DIEGO	OFF

Baseball

Triple-A Pacific Coast League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Sugar Land (Houston)	46	24	.657	—
Oklahoma City (L.A. Dodgers)	38	32	.543	8
Round Rock (Texas)	31	35	.493	11 ½
El Paso (San Diego)	29	41	.414	17
Albuquerque (Colorado)	23	47	.329	23
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Sacramento (San Francisco)	42	28	.600	4
Tacoma (Seattle)	39	31	.557	7
Las Vegas (Oakland)	36	34	.514	10
Reno (Arizona)	33	37	.471	13
Salt Lake (L.A. Angels)	29	40	.420	16 ½

Monday's results
No games scheduled
Tuesday's results
Albuquerque 8, Oklahoma City 5
Salt Lake 8, Reno 4
Sugar Land 10, El Paso 8
Las Vegas 8, Tacoma 4
Round Rock 5, Sacramento 0
Wednesday's results
Oklahoma City 5, Albuquerque 4 (11)
Salt Lake 3, Reno 2
Round Rock 5, Sacramento 4 (10)
Sugar Land at El Paso, late
Las Vegas at Tacoma, late
Thursday's game
Albuquerque at Oklahoma City, 7:05 p.m.
Reno at Salt Lake, 7:35 p.m.
Sugar Land at El Paso, 7:35 p.m.
Round Rock at Sacramento, 8:45 p.m.
Las Vegas at Tacoma, 9:05 p.m.
Friday's games
Albuquerque at Oklahoma City, 7:05 p.m.
Reno at Salt Lake, 7:35 p.m.
Sugar Land at El Paso, 7:35 p.m.
Round Rock at Sacramento, 8:45 p.m.
Las Vegas at Tacoma, 9:05 p.m.

Tuesday's game

Space Cowboys 10, Chihuahuas 8

Sugar Land	025	000	120	—	10	11	1
El Paso	101	310	011	—	8	12	2

W: Gaither (2-0); Otto (0-1); S: Suero (14)
Sugar Land - Gordon (4), Gaither (5), Mushinski (7), Ort (7), Ort (8), King (8), Suero (9). El Paso - Otto (1), Reynold (3), Fry (5), Bachar (7), Nance (8), Gillaspie (8), Davis (9).

Basketball

WNBA

EASTERN	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	13	1	.929	—
New York	12	3	.800	1 ½
Atlanta	6	6	.500	6
Indiana	5	10	.333	8 ½
Chicago	4	9	.308	8 ½
Washington	2	12	.143	11
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Minnesota	11	3	.786	—
Seattle	9	5	.643	2
Phoenix	8	7	.533	3 ½
Las Vegas	6	6	.500	4
Los Angeles	4	11	.267	7 ½
Dallas	3	10	.231	7 ½

Monday's resutls
Minnesota 90, Dallas 78
Tuesday's results
Connecticut 79, Los Angeles 70
Phoenix 99, New York 93
Wednesday's results
Washington at Indiana, late
Atlanta at Minnesota, late
Seattle at Las Vegas, late
Thursday's games
Dallas at Chicago, 11 a.m.
Los Angeles at New York, 6 p.m.
Friday's games
Indiana at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Connecticut at Las Vegas, 9 p.m.

Colleges

Baseball

College World Series

All games at Omaha, Neb.; double elimination
Friday's results
Game 1: North Carolina 3, Virginia 2
Game 2: Tennessee 12, Florida St. 11
Saturday's results
Game 3: Kentucky 5, NC State 4 (10)
Game 4: Texas A&M 3, Florida 2
Sunday's result
Game 5: Florida St. 7, Virginia 3 (Virginia eliminated)
Game 6: Tennessee 6, North Carolina 1
Monday's results
Game 7: Florida 5, NC State 4 (NC State eliminated)
Game 8: Texas A&M 5, Kentucky 1
Tuesday's results
Game 9: Florida St. 9, North Carolina 5 (North Carolina eliminated)
Game 10: Kentucky vs. Florida, ppd.
Wednesday's results
Game 10: Florida 15, Kentucky 4 (Kentucky eliminated)
Game 11: Tennessee 7, Florida St. 2 (Florida St. eliminated)
Game 12: Texas A&M vs. Florida, late
Thursday's games
Game 14*: Texas A&M vs. Florida, TBA
** if necessary*

Golf

Holes-in-one

Golfer; Hole; Yards; Club; Date; Course
Taddy Dance; West 6; 130; N/A; June 16; The Woodlands CC
John Cater; 6; 151; 9-iron; June 16; Jersey Meadow

PGA Tour FedEx Cup leaders

Through June 17

		Points	Money
1.	Scottie Scheffler	5,068	$24,096,858
2.	Xander Schauffele	3,117	$12,236,360
3.	Rory McIlroy	2,445	$10,034,665
4.	Collin Morikawa	2,101	$7,109,252
5.	Ludvig Aberg	1,935	$7,686,998
6.	Wyndham Clark	1,915	$9,208,975
7.	Sahith Theegala	1,833	$7,513,399
8.	Hideki Matsuyama	1,815	$7,413,831
9.	Byeong Hun An	1,620	$5,175,436
10.	Patrick Cantlay	1,455	$4,703,737
11.	Matthieu Pavon	1,445	$4,722,808
12.	Shane Lowry	1,418	$4,573,520
13.	Russell Henley	1,358	$3,967,683
14.	Sepp Straka	1,332	$3,862,201
15.	Tony Finau	1,317	$4,178,560

Rugby

Major League Rugby

West	W	L	D	PF	PA	Pts
Houston	13	1	0	425	282	62
Seattle	10	4	0	436	316	51
San Diego	9	5	0	339	317	46
Dallas	6	8	0	408	371	39
Utah	4	10	0	350	394	28
RFC Los Angeles	4	9	1	324	420	27
East	**W**	**L**	**D**	**PF**	**PA**	**Pts**
New England	10	4	0	406	310	50
NOLA	9	5	0	359	305	43
Old Glory DC	6	6	2	355	375	36
Chicago	6	7	1	378	332	35
Miami	5	9	0	292	339	27
Anthem RC	0	14	0	287	598	6

Monday's result
Chicago 22, San Diego 16
Saturday's games
New England at NOLA, 5 p.m.
Chicago at Anthem RC, 6 p.m.
Old Glory at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
RFC Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
Sunday's game
Houston at San Diego, 5 p.m.

Soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	11	3	5	38	44	28
Cincinnati	11	3	3	36	27	18
New York	8	4	6	30	29	23
New York City FC	9	6	2	29	26	20
Charlotte FC	8	6	4	28	19	18
Columbus	7	2	6	27	24	15
Toronto FC	7	8	3	24	27	30
Philadelphia	4	5	8	20	28	25
Nashville	4	5	8	20	20	22
D.C. United	4	7	7	19	25	32
Chicago	4	8	6	18	21	30
CF Montréal	4	7	6	18	23	35
Atlanta	4	8	5	17	24	23
Orlando City	4	8	5	17	17	27
New England	5	10	1	16	15	29

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	9	2	7	34	36	19
Los Angeles FC	10	4	3	33	31	20
LA Galaxy	8	3	7	31	35	27
Minnesota United	8	4	5	29	28	23
Vancouver	7	6	4	25	26	22
Colorado	7	7	4	25	31	31
Houston	6	6	5	23	20	20
Austin FC	6	7	5	23	21	27
Seattle	5	7	6	21	22	21
Portland	5	7	6	21	32	32
St Louis City	3	5	9	18	23	27
FC Dallas	4	8	5	17	20	25
Sporting Kansas City	3	10	5	14	28	36
San Jose	3	12	2	11	26	43

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Wednesday's results
Orlando City at Charlotte FC, late
Atlanta at D.C. United, late
Columbus at Miami, late
New York at CF Montréal, late
Nashville at Toronto FC, late
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, late
Los Angeles FC at Austin FC, late
Minnesota at FC Dallas, late
Seattle at Houston, late
Real Salt Lake at Sporting Kansas City, late
Colorado at St Louis City, late
New York City FC at LA Galaxy, late
Portland at San Jose, late
Saturday's games
New England at Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Columbus, 6:30 p.m.
Houston at D.C. United, 6:30 p.m.
Toronto FC at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando City, 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte FC at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.
Austin FC at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.
New York City FC at Nashville, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at St Louis City, 7:30 p.m.
CF Montréal at Colorado, 8:30 p.m.
LA Galaxy at Real Salt Lake, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles FC, 9:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Portland, 9:30 p.m.
FC Dallas at Seattle, 9:30 p.m.

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	8	0	5	29	33	19
Orlando	8	0	5	29	21	11
Washington	9	3	1	28	27	17
Gotham FC	7	2	3	24	14	8
Portland	7	4	2	23	25	16
Chicago	5	6	2	17	18	19
North Carolina	5	7	1	16	13	15
Louisville	3	3	6	15	17	14
San Diego	3	4	5	14	11	11
Houston	3	6	4	13	11	20
Angel City	3	6	3	12	12	18
Bay FC	4	9	0	12	17	25
Seattle	2	9	2	8	13	25
Utah Royals FC	2	10	1	7	7	21

Sunday's results
Portland 0, Seattle 0
Utah Royals FC 1, Bay FC 0
Wednesday's results
San Diego at Gotham FC, late
Louisville at Angel City, late
Friday's game
Utah Royals FC at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Saturday's games
San Diego at Houston, 6:30 p.m.
Angel City at Bay FC, 9 p.m.
Sunday's games
Washington at Gotham FC, 12:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Portland, 3 p.m.
Louisville at Seattle, 5 p.m.
Chicago at North Carolina, 5 p.m.

2024 European Championship

First round

Top two in each group advances

Group A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Scotland	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Hungary	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

June 14 result
Germany 5 Scotland 1
June 15 result
Switzerland 3, Hungary 1
Wednesday's results
Germany 2, Hungary 0
Scotland 1, Switzerland 1
Sunday's games
Switzerland vs. Germany, 2 p.m.
Scotland vs. Hungary, 2 p.m.

Group B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Italy	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Albania	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Croatia	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

June 15 results
Spain 3, Croatia 0
Italy 2, Albania 1
Wednesday's results
Croatia 2, Albania 2
Thursday's game
Spain vs. Italy, 2 p.m.
June 24 games
Albania vs. Spain, 2 p.m.
Croatia vs. Italy, 2 p.m.

Group C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Denmark	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Slovenia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Serbia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Sunday's results
Slovenia 1, Denmark 1
England 1, Serbia 0
Thursday's games
Slovenia vs. Serbia, 8 a.m.
Denmark vs, England, 11 a.m.
June 25 games
England. vs. Slovenia, 2 p.m.
Denmark vs. Serbia, 2 p.m.

Group D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
France	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Poland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Austria	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Sunday's result
Netherlands 2, Poland 1
Monday's result
France 1, Austria 0
Friday's game
Poland vs. Austria, 11 a.m.
Netherlands vs. France, 2 p.m.
June 25 games
Netherlands vs. Austria, 11 a.m.
France vs. Poland, 11 a.m.

Group E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Romania	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Slovakia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Belgium	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Ukraine	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Monday's results
Romania 3, Ukraine 1
Slovakia 1, Belgium 0
Friday's games
Slovakia vs. Ukraine, 8 a.m.
Saturday's games
Belgium vs. Romania, 2 p.m.
June 26 games
Slovakia vs. Romania, 11 a.m.
Ukraine vs. Belgium, 11 a.m.

Group F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Turkey	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Portugal	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Czech Republic	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Georgia	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Tuesday's results
Turkey 3, Georgia 1
Portugal 2, Czech Republic 1
Saturday's game
Georgia vs. Czech Republic, 8 a.m.
Turkey vs, Portugal, 11 a.m.
June 26 games
Georgia vs. Portugal, 2 p.m.
Czech Republic vs. Turkey, 2 p.m.

Tennis

ATP World Tour
Cinch Championships

Wednesday's results
At London

Men's Singles

Round of 16
Rinky Hijikata, Australia, def. Matteo Arnaldi, Italy, 7-6 (0), 7-6 (7).
Sebastian Korda, United States, def. Grigor Dimitrov (3), Bulgaria, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.
Jordan Thompson, Australia, def. Andy Murray, Britain, 4-1, ret.
Taylor Fritz (4), United States, def. Milos Raonic, Canada, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

ATP World Tour
Terra Wortmann Open

Wednesday's results
At Halle, Germany

Men's singles

Round of 32
Matteo Berrettini, Italy, def. Alex Michelsen, United States, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Luciano Darderi, Italy, 6-7 (2), 7-5, 7-6 (10).

Men's singles

Round of 16
Arthur Fils, France, def. Dominik Koepfer, Germany, 6-3, 6-4.
Christopher Eubanks, United States, def. Alexander Bublik (7), Kazakhstan, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3.
Zhang Zhizhen, China, def. Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (5).
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

WTA Rothesay Classic
Birmingham

Wednesday's results
Birmingham, Great Britain

Women's singles

Round of 16
Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, def. Zhu Lin, China, 6-7 (6), 6-1, 6-4.
Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, def. Sloane Stephens, United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Leylah Annie Fernandez (6), Canada, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Anastasia Potapova (7), Russia, def. Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, 6-3, 7-5.

WTA Bett1Open

Wednesday's results
At Berlin

Women's singles

Round of 16
Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, def. Zeynep Sonmez, Turkiye, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's doubles

Round of 16
Lyudmyla Kichenok and Nadiia Kichenok (3), Ukraine, def. Ulrikke Eikeri, Norway, and Ingrid Neel, Estonia, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, and Paula Badosa, Spain, def. Irina Khromacheva and Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.

WTA Veneto Open Internazionali

Wednesday's results
At Gaiba, Italy

Women's singles

Round of 16
Susan Bandecchi, Switzerland, def. Erika Andreeva (7), Russia, 7-5, 6-4.
Bernarda Pera (8), United States, def. Aliona Falei, Belarus, 6-4, 7-5.

Transactions

BASEBALL

MLB

American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES: Transferred RHP Tyler Wells from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Optioned CF Kyle Stowers to Norfolk (IL). Selected the contract of SS Nick Maton from Norfolk.
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS: Recalled RHP Darren McCaughan from Columbus (IL). Placed RHP Nick Sandlin on the 15-day IL retroactive to June 17.
DETROIT TIGERS: Sent RHP Alex Faedo on a rehab assignment to Toledo (IL).
NEW YORK YANKEES: Optioned LHP Clayton Andrews to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
National League
CHICAGO CUBS: Signed and Activated C Tomás Nido. Designated C Yan Gomes for assignment. Placed RHP Keegan Thompson on the paternity list. Recalled RHP Porter Hodge from Iowa (IL).
MIAMI MARLINS: Designated LHP Kent Emanuel for assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Yonny Chirinos from Jacksonville (IL). Sent RHP Edward Cabrera on a rehab assignment to Jacksonville.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES: Reinstated SS Alika Williams from the 10-day IL. Optioned SS Alika Williams to Indianapolis (IL).
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS: Reinstated RHP Kyle Gibson from the bereavement list. Optioned RHP Ryan Loutos to Memphis (IL).

FOOTBALL

NFL
DENVER BRONCOS: Signed LB Dondrea Tillman to a three-year contract.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS: Cut WR Denzel Mims and DB Trenton Thompson.

BASKETBALL

NBA
DETROIT PISTONS: Fired Head Coach Monty Williams.
WNBA
DALLAS WINGS: Signed F Morgan Bertsch to a Rest-of-Season Hardship Contract.

HOCKEY

NHL
DETROIT RED WINGS: Signed D Albert Johansson to a one-year, two-way contract
NEW YORK ISLANDERS: Signed F Kyle MacLean to a three-year contract.
SAN JOSE SHARKS: Acquired C Ty Dellandrea from the Dallas Stars for a 2025 4th round pick.

SOCCER

MLS
ATLANTA UNITED: Signed D Matt Edwards and MF Matías Gallardo to Short-Term Agreements.
FC CINCINNATI: Signed G Alec Kann to a contract extension.
USL Championship
HARTFORD ATHLETIC: Acquired D Michael DeShields from Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC via transfer.

ON THE AIR

Television

AHL	Calder Cup Finals (Game 4): Hershey at Coachella Valley	NHL	9 p.m.
Golf	World: KLM Open	Golf	6 p.m.
Golf	PGA: Travelers Championship	Golf	2 p.m.
Golf	LPGA: Women's PGA Championship	Golf	5 p.m.
Horse racing	America's Day at the Races	FS2	1 p.m.
MLB	Astros at Chicago White Sox	SCHN	1 p.m.
MLB	San Francisco vs. St. Louis	Fox	6 p.m.
MLB	Milwaukee at San Diego	MLB	10 p.m.*
NCAA baseball	CWS: Florida vs. Texas A&M**	ESPN	TBD
Swimming and diving	U.S. Olympic Trials: Swimming finals	NBC	7 p.m.
Swimming and diving	U.S. Olympic Trials: Diving finals	NBC	8:15 p.m.
Soccer	UEFA Euro 2024: Serbia vs. Slovenia	FS1	8 a.m.
Soccer	UEFA Euro 2024: Denmark vs. England	FS1	11 a.m.
Soccer	UEFA Euro 2024: Italy vs. Spain	Fox	2 p.m.
Soccer	Copa América: Argentina vs. Canada	FS1	7 p.m.
Tennis	ATP: Queen's Club Championships	Tennis	4 a.m.
Tennis	ATP: Halle Open	Tennis	4 a.m.
Tennis	WTA: German Open	Tennis	4 a.m.
Tennis	WTA: Birmingham Classic	Tennis	4 a.m.
WNBA	Los Angeles at New York	Prime Video	6 p.m.

* joined in progress. ** if necessary

Radio

MLB	Astros at Chicago White Sox In Spanish	790 AM 93.3 FM, 1010 AM	1 p.m.
MiLB	Space Cowboys at El Paso	92.5 FM	7:30 p.m.
Soccer	Argentina vs. Canada (Spanish)	93.3 FM, 1010 AM, 102.9 FM	7 p.m.

AROUND SPORTS

Musiala goal lifts Germany to victory

WIRE REPORTS

STUTTGART, Germany — **Jamal Musiala** scored his second goal of the tournament to help Germany beat Hungary 2-0 on Wednesday and book its spot in the European Championship knockout stage.

Musiala opened the scoring in the 22nd minute with a goal that was furiously protested by Hungary. **Ilkay Gündogan** had set that up and the Germany captain got on the scoresheet himself in the second half.

The 21-year-old Musiala had netted Germany's second goal in the 5-1 opening victory over Scotland on Friday. Hungary lost 3-1 to Switzerland on Saturday and now faces an uphill challenge to advance.

Albania hurt by own goal: Substitute **Klaus Gjasula** had the rare experience of scoring for both teams in Albania's intense 2-2 draw with Croatia in Hamburg that included an own goal.

The result leaves both Croatia and Albania in a precarious situation in Group B after they lost to Spain and Italy, respectively, in their first matches.

Swiss earn draw: **Xherdan Shaqiri**'s stunning first-half strike secured a 1-1 draw for Switzerland against Scotland in Cologne.

The draw leaves Switzerland second in Group B on four points, while Scotland's hopes of advancing to the round of 16 depend on the result of its final game against Hungary on Sunday.

WNBA

Sparks' Brink out with torn ACL

Cameron Brink tore the ACL in her left knee, the Los Angeles Sparks announced Wednesday a day after the rookie had to be helped off the court during the first quarter of a 79-70 loss to the Sun.

The 22-year-old Brink came into the game averaging 8.1 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.5 blocks in her first season for Los Angeles (4-11).

MISCELLANEOUS

Woods' son earns spot in USGA

Charlie Woods earned his way into his first USGA championship on Wednesday in Coral Springs, Fla., when the 15-year-old son of **Tiger Woods** had the leading score among qualifi

Majority favors forgiving medical debt

Poll shows Americans want government to give relief to those facing huge bills, fraud

By Cora Lewis and Linley Sanders
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Janille Williams wants to buy a house someday — but first, he has to pay down tens of thousands of dollars in medical debt.

"I was hospitalized for a blood infection for three months more than 10 years ago, and the bill was for more than $300,000," said Williams, 38, a Fairbanks, Alaska, resident who works as a retail sales manager for AT&T. "I was in the middle of changing jobs, the only time in my life I haven't had health insurance."

When the bill went to collections, the debt was eventually lowered to about $50,000, he said, an amount that was still not feasible for him to pay.

Medical debt forgiveness, a priority for some lawmakers and advocates, would make a substantial difference to Williams' credit report and stop the calls from collections agencies.

"They don't give you a choice in the hospital. 'If you leave, you'll die,' they told me. I didn't feel like dying," Williams said. "I don't think anyone should have to go into financial ruin to live."

Many Americans agree, according to a new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

According to the survey, about half of Americans say it's extremely or very important for the U.S. government to provide debt relief for those who have yet to pay off medical treatments.

Especially since the pandemic, an increasing number of cities and states — including Connecticut, New York City, New Orleans and Chicago — are implementing their own versions of medical debt forgiveness.

The Biden administration recently announced a proposed rule that would wipe consumer medical debt off most credit reports.

The poll found that support for medical debt forgiveness is particularly high in cases where a patient experienced health care fraud.

About two-thirds of U.S. adults support medical debt forgiveness if the individual has, for example, been wrongfully billed for services.

Debt continues on B11



Photos by Houston Association of Realtors

The three-story Colonial style at 333 W. Friar Tuck is north of the Galleria in the Memorial area. It was the most expensive Houston home sold in May.

Pricey homes padded with extras

Luxury listings feature wine cellars, tennis courts, theater rooms, infinity-edge pools

By Katherine Feser
STAFF WRITER

The Memorial area dominated the Houston region's most expensive home sales in May with a colonial-style mansion listed for $14.8 million commanding the highest sales price, according to the Houston Association of Realtors. Built in 1983, the property sold for more than $10 million and was the oldest among the top five, which ranged in age from 7 to 41 years. Luxury features of the top home sales included wine cellars, tennis courts, infinity edge pools, theater rooms and guest homes. Four of the top five were in Memorial and one was in River Oaks.

No. 1: 333 W. Friar Tuck Lane

List price: $14,800,000

Sold price: More than $10 million

6 bedrooms, 8 full and 4 half-bathrooms

This 17,192-square-foot colonial on more than 4 acres north of the Galleria has a private lake, tennis court and pool. The three-level house also has marble flooring, refinished walnut floors throughout, a whole-house generator, a

Luxury continues on B9



The foyer of 333 W. Friar Tuck has marble floors and a suspended staircase. It was listed for $14.8 million.

Gordon Food Service opens store in Greater Third Ward

By Katherine Feser
STAFF WRITER

Gordon Food Service, the Grand Rapids, Mich.-based food service company that made a splash in Houston with the opening of its first Texas grocery stores in 2023, is expanding with a new location in southeast Houston.

Gordon Restaurant Market will open June 18 at 4519 Griggs Road serving local restaurants, food operations and the public. The company has opened eight other Houston-area stores since entering the market in March 2023. Located inside Loop 610, the new store is near Cullen Boulevard and Old Spanish Trail.

The store, which reflects the latest branding of Gordon Restaurant Market, is primarily designed to provide food products

Gordon continues on B11

UT System one of the top institutions for patent approvals, new report says

By Melissa Manno
STAFF WRITER

The University of Texas System has again been recognized among the top higher education institutions for utility patent approvals.

The Texas university system ranked third on the National Academy of Inventors' annual Top 100 U.S. Universities List for the second consecutive year. UT schools were granted 235 U.S. utility patents — or "patents for invention" — in 2023 compared to 225 the previous year, according to a news release.

"UT inventors are addressing some of the world's most critical challenges, in medicine, energy, artificial intelligence and much more," UT System Chancellor James Milliken said. "We are indebted to all the researchers, entrepreneurs and inventors who consistently position UT institutions at the forefront of discovery and application."

The Regents of the University of California secured the most utility patents in 2023 with 546, followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with 365.

Purdue University was ranked fourth with 201 patents,

Patents continues on B11

Business Editor Jonathan Diamond: Jonathan.Diamond@houstonchronicle.com

McDonald's to end AI drive-thru ordering

By Wyatte Grantham-Philips
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Ever get your McDonald's order mixed up at an AI-powered drive-thru? The experiment behind the fast-food giant's current automated order taker will soon be coming to a close.

McDonald's confirmed late Monday that it decided to end a global partnership with IBM, which has been testing this artificial intelligence technology at select McDonald's drive-thrus since late 2021.

That doesn't mean you'll never encounter some sort of chatbot while picking up fries on your car ride home again. While the IBM partnership for McDonald's current automated order taker test is winding down, the Chicago-based company suggested that it wasn't ruling out any other potential AI drive-thru plans down the road — pointing to "an opportunity to explore voice ordering solutions more broadly."

"Our work with IBM has given us the confidence that a voice ordering solution for drive-thru will be part of our restaurants' future," McDonald's said in a prepared statement this week — adding that it would continue evaluations to "make an informed decision on a future voice ordering solution by the end of the year."



Getty Images

McDonald's has confirmed that it will end testing of its AI-powered order-taking system at its drive-thrus.

Numerous fast-food chains have begun exploring the implementation of AI across operations over recent years, with many pointing to possibilities of maximizing speed and cutting costs.

In the U.S., Wendy's partnered with Google Cloud to develop "Wendy's FreshAI" chatbot. White Castle teamed up with SoundHound AI with a goal of bringing voice-powered AI technology to more than 100 restaurants by the end of 2024. And a handful of Panera, Arby's and Popeyes locations have brought OpenCity's "Tori" voice assistant to their order lanes.

Beyond America, Popeyes U.K. also launched its first AI-powered drive-thru (dubbed "Al") last month, after the company said a pilot program reported 97% accuracy.

Success for AI-powered drive-thrus has been mixed. McDonald's automated order taker with IBM received scores of complaints in recent years, for example — with many customers taking to social media to document the chatbot misunderstanding their orders.

Unnamed sources familiar with the technology told CNBC that the technology has had difficulty interpreting different accents and dialects, among other challenges affecting order accuracy.

McDonald's declined to comment about the automated order taker's accuracy. In an initial statement, IBM said that "this technology is proven to have some of the most comprehensive capabilities in the industry, fast and accurate in some of the most demanding conditions," but did not immediately respond to a request for further comment about specifics of potential challenges.

The Armonk, N.Y.-based tech company also said that it is currently "in discussions and pilots" with several other quick-serve restaurant clients interested in the automated order taker.

According to trade publication Restaurant Business and CNBC, which obtained a memo sent to franchisees last week, the automated order technology will be shut off in McDonald's locations testing it "no later than July 26, 2024."

Both IBM and McDonald's maintained that, while their AI drive-thru partnership was ending, the two would continue their relationship on other projects. McDonalds said that it still plans to use many of IBM's products across its global system.

In December, McDonald's launched a multiyear partnership with Google Cloud. In addition to moving restaurant computations from servers into the cloud, the partnership is also set to apply generative AI "across a number of key business priorities" in restaurants around the world.

Amazon Labor Union members vote to align with Teamsters

By Michelle Chapman and Haleluya Hadero
ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York City warehouse workers who are part of the Amazon Labor Union overwhelmingly voted to align themselves with the Teamsters as they try to get a contract from the online retailer.

The ALU members voted 98.3% in favor of the affiliation, which will give them access to additional resources in their effort to bring Amazon to the bargaining table, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters said Tuesday.

"Together, with hard work, courage, and conviction, the Teamsters and ALU will fight fearlessly to ensure Amazon workers secure the good jobs and safe working conditions they deserve in a union contract," Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien said in a statement.

Amazon, which has disputed the 2022 election in which the ALU won the right to represent workers at a Staten Island warehouse, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Now that the labor group's members have approved the affiliation deal, the ALU will essentially join the Teamsters as an "autonomous" local union with the same rights and duties as a standard chapter, according to a copy of the agreement that was seen by the Associated Press.

The approximately 5,500 Amazon warehouse workers in Staten Island will be represented by a newly chartered ALU-International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 1. It will have jurisdiction for Amazon warehouse workers across New York's five boroughs and is also expected to help with the Teamsters' broader organizing efforts at other Amazon facilities outside its jurisdiction.

The agreement says at least three representatives of the local union will participate in "executive planning and strategy discussions" with the Teamsters division that focuses on organizing Amazon workers.

ALU President Chris Smalls said he was proud of members for "choosing a path to victory."

"We're now stronger than ever before," Smalls said.

John Logan, a labor history professor at San Francisco State University, said teaming up with an established union was like a "lifeline" for the independent ALU because the group is "going nowhere at the moment."

"Doing it independently is just so difficult when you're up against a company like (Amazon), which is big, wealthy and is determined to defeat the union," Logan said.

The Amazon Labor Union's 2022 victory in Staten Island remains its only election win to date. Yet the group is the only labor organization to pull off the feat at an Amazon warehouse in the U.S., in part due to opposition from the company and the sheer size of many of its facilities.

But despite the ALU's initial success, it hasn't been able to secure a contract for more than two years as Amazon continues to appeal the vote the National Labor Relation Board.

At the same time, the group has encountered other setbacks, including two election losses at other Amazon warehouses and internal strife about its organizing strategy.

Some organizers left to form the ALU Democratic Reform Caucus, a dissident group that sued the ALU last year to force an election for new leadership. That election is expected to be held in July outside of the warehouse that voted to unionize, Arthur Schwartz, an attorney who represents the dissident group, said earlier this month.



Seth Wenig/Associated Press file photo

Jason Anthony, an Amazon worker and union organizer, keeps track of the ongoing count of votes to unionize an Amazon warehouse outside an office of the National Labor Relations Board in New York on May 2, 2022.

FAA sues S.A. woman who was restrained with duct tape on flight

By Sarah Bahari
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The Federal Aviation Administration is suing a San Antonio woman who kicked and spat at passengers and flight attendants and was forcibly restrained with duct tape.

Heather Wells, 34, was traveling first class on American Airlines from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport to Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina in July 2021. About an hour into the flight, Wells ordered a Jack Daniels whiskey, became agitated and "wanted out" of the airplane, according to the lawsuit filed this month in federal court.

Wells ran toward the back of the plane, fell to her knees and talked incoherently to other passengers before crawling back to the main cabin, the suit says. When a flight attendant responded, she told him she would "hurt him" if he did not get out of her way, and she pushed him aside.

When she reached the front of the aircraft, Wells attempted to grab the cabin door handle while screaming and yelling profanities, according to the lawsuit. Two flight attendants and a passenger physically restrained her, and she struck a flight attendant in the head multiple times during the struggle.

Once restrained with duct tape and flex cuffs, Wells continued to kick and spit and attempted to bite and headbutt a flight attendant and passengers. Duct tape was then applied to her mouth.

The captain decided that landing in Charlotte would be faster than diverting elsewhere, and law enforcement officers were waiting for the plane's arrival, the suit says.

The FAA is seeking to collect $81,950 in civil penalties from Wells. An attorney for Wells is not listed in court documents.

Wells told CBS affiliate KENS 5 in San Antonio that she was having a mental health episode that day. Images of Wells duct taped to her seat went viral on social media before being removed.

"I know that it was not rational, and I was not actually in any external danger but at the time I was genuinely afraid for my life," Wells said. "Words can't express how sorry I am for the fear I caused and the people I hurt."

LUXURY

From page B7

separate small apartment with kitchen, a seven-car garage and water well for the lawn.

No. 2: 3263 Huntingdon Place

List price: $5,595,000

Sold price: $5,081,001 — $5,864,000

4 to 5 bedrooms, 6 full and 2 half-bathrooms

This 8,169-square-foot French-style house was built by Memorial Builders in River Oaks Country Club Estates in 1990 with a stucco exterior, slate roof and copper gutters. The home features formal living and dining rooms, a kitchen with attached breakfast room and butler's pantry, a swimming pool and hot tub, marble flooring, white oak hardwoods, wood paneling in the library and an elevator serving all three levels. A guest apartment sits above the three-car garage.

No. 3 (tie): 705 Kuhlman Road

List price: $6,150,000

Sold price: $5,081,001 — $5,864,000

5 bedrooms, 5 full and 3 half-bathrooms

The 12,061-square-foot French-style home was built by King Residential in 2010 on more than an ace in Hunters Creek Village. The stately mansion features a grand entry with marble flooring, custom pillars and two chandeliers. Spaces include a primary suite on the first floor, theater room, office/study, outdoor summer kitchen and pool.

No. 3 (tie): 108 Shasta Drive

List price: $6,900,000

Sold price: $5,081,001 — $5,864,000

7 to 8 bedrooms, 9 full and 4 half-bathrooms

Built in 1998, this 14,130-square-foot contemporary in Hunters Creek Village sits on 3.14 acres along Buffalo Bayou across from the 17th hole of Houston Country Club. A two-story wall of windows provides views of the infinity-edge pool and mature trees. The primary suite, on the first floor, has a fireplace and sunken shower with garden views. Separate quarters with a kitchen are above the garage.

No. 5: 239 Bryn Mawr Circle

List price: $4,990,000

Sold price: $4,418,001 — $5,081,000

6 bedrooms, 7 full and 3 half-bathrooms

Built in 2017, this nearly 9,000-square-foot stucco and brick home is on half an acre with a pool and spa in Hunters Creek Village. The kitchen, outfitted with all Thermador appliances, opens to adjacent living areas with Italian cypress wood floors and arched windows. Spaces include a climate-controlled wine cellar, guest bedroom on the first floor and media/game room on the second floor. A smart-home system controls lighting, audio, window shades, video cameras and the security system.



Photos by Houston Association of Realtors

Amenities at 333 W. Friar Tuck include a pool and tennis court. It also boasts a seven-car garage and separate apartment.



The primary suite is one of five bedrooms in the main house at 333 W. Friar Tuck.

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Type	Details
NORTHWEST	**INDOOR GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALE.** 15+ Families: **14929 Stubner Airline Rd.,** Sat., June 22 8am-3pm, Sun. June 23 10am-2pm. Antiques/lots of furn. & collectibles, beveled mirrors, lots of hunting & fishing items, tools, ladders, artwork, electronics, lamps, Hot Wheels, baby items, children's & adult clothing. **TOO MUCH TO MENTION!**

Pets

Type	Details
DOGS	**AKC** REGISTERED | LITTER REGISTERED BICHON FRISE' born April 14, 2024 Excellent family members to all ages, looking for forever loving homes $450.00 a piece. Contact 512-318-1926
DOGS	**GOLDEN Retriever | ENGLISH Cream puppies for sale.** Born 4-11-24. Champion lines. First Shots. No deposit required. Ready to go home on first come basis. Price is $500. Contact 936-229-7765 or frances.crossno@gmail.com

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Land

Type	Details
LEASES	**32-ACRE Duck Pond for Lease | LOCATION:** CR 127, Edna, TX Call 979-308-0360 or 832-674-3120 for details.
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Legal Bids & Proposals | Legal Bids & Proposals

Houston Gateway Academy is seeking Requests for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) for procurement of materials and installation of data and communications for a new campus currently being constructed at 9777 Riverstone Ranch Dr. Houston, TX 77089. Proposals must be delivered to 7310 Bowie St. Houston, TX 77012 no later than June 25, 2024 at 11:00 am CST. For inquiries, contact Shaun Garibaldi at garibaldis@hgaschools.org. To view the bid package, visit https://www.hgaschools.org/apps/pages/rfp24

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 162, Attention Nick Ozuna, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 2:00 PM Local Time, Thursday June 27, 2024, and then publicly opened and read via Microsoft Teams for "Construction of Water, Drainage & Paving Facilities for Evergreen Stonecrest Drive Ph 2 & Cooper Rose Way in Montgomery County, Texas" To join via Microsoft Teams the conference call number is 469-965-2602. The access code is 529 325 961#.
Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Water, Drainage & Paving Facilities
Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely** on Thursday June 20, 2024, at 2:00 PM Local Time, via conference call Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **not mandatory**. The conference call number is 469-965-2602. The access code 377 906 713#
Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.
Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search Evergreen Stonecrest Drive Ph 2 & Cooper Rose Way WSD&P. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.
Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.
By submitting a Bid, bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner's Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.
The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.
Advertisement Dates: 6/13/2024 & 6/20/2024

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed **Electronic** Bids addressed Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 162, Attention Nick Ozuna, President, Board of Directors, will be **electronically** received, until 10:00 AM Local Time, Thursday June 27, 2024, and then publicly opened and read via Microsoft Teams for "Construction of Water, Drainage & Paving Facilities for Evergreen Section 7 in Montgomery County, Texas" To join via Microsoft Teams the conference call number is 469-965-2602. The access code is 519 820 936#.
Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: Water, Drainage & Paving Facilities
Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **NON MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held **remotely** on Thursday June 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM Local Time, via conference call Attendance by each prospective bidder or its representative at the pre-bid conference is **not mandatory**. The conference call number is 469-965-2602. The access code 486 230 667#
Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the original certified or cashier's check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.
Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search Evergreen Sec 7 WSD&P. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.
Bidder must submit its Bid and Bid Securities in compliance with Owner's Order Adopting Section 49.2731 Electronic Bidding Rules and all Bids and Bid Securities must be submitted through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bidder must register on this website to submit a Bid and Bid Security and there is no charge to submit Bids and Bid Securities on this website.
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Advertisement Dates: 6/13/2024 & 6/20/2024

Notice to Bidders

The Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRATX) with The Sabine River Authority of Louisiana is seeking bids for the bulk fuel purchase of unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel to be delivered to the Toledo Bend Project Joint Operations Division for the two-year period from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2026. Sealed bids are to be received in the office of the Assistant Division Manager, Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRA) Toledo Bend Division Office at 450 Spur 135 Burkeville, TX 75932 for response to this request for bid, until **10:00 a.m. June 27, 2024.** Bids will, immediately thereafter, be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be submitted and received no later than the opening date and time specified above. Any Bid received later than the specified time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. The SRA is not responsible for ensuring the delivery of Bids to our offices. Bids shall be sealed and clearly marked, "Request for Bid – TBPJO Bulk Fuel Purchase (RFB #24-001)."

Mail Bids to: OR **Deliver Bids to:**
Sabine River Authority of Texas
Attn: Andrew Mills
450 Spur 135
Burkeville, TX, 75932

Sabine River Authority of Texas
Attn: Andrew Mills
450 Spur 135
Burkeville, TX, 75932

The Sabine River Authority reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous interpretation of the bids submitted in the case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, to reject any or all bids, and/or waive any formalities.

Contract documents may be obtained from (1) SRATX Authority General Office, 12777 Hwy. 87 N., Orange, TX or (2) SRA Toledo Bend Division Office, 450 Spur 135 Burkeville or (3) by download from www.sratx.org under doing business "bid opportunities" or www.civcast.com under project "Sabine River Authority of Texas – Toledo Bend Division Bulk Fuel" or (4) by email request to sstanley@sratx.org. Parties requesting sets to be mailed shall pay all charges involved.

Questions regarding contract documents may be emailed to sstanley@sratx.org or directed to Andrew Mills at 409-565-2273.

ADVERTISEMENT TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 165, Harris County, Texas, for **Water Treatment Plant No. 6 Second Waterline Connection Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 165, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas** (DAC Job No. 8165-2306) will be **received electronically via www.CivCastUSA.com or at the office of DAC Engineers 16420 Park Ten Place, Suite 250, until 2:00 p.m., Thursday June 27, 2024**, and then publicly opened and read aloud at address above and via Zoom meeting. Plans, specifications and bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at the CivCastUSA Website (www.CivCastUSA.com). Reproduction charges will apply according to CivCastUSA rates. **A cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of 2% of the total amount of the bid must accompany each bid.** The successful bidder must furnish a payment and performance bond acceptable to Owner. A **Non-mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held **Thursday, June 20, at 2:00 p.m. at the DAC Engineers office and via Zoom meeting.**

Dates Advertised: 6/13/2024, 6/20/2024

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NOTIFICATION OF DATA INCIDENT

On April 15, 2024, Walmart Inc. became aware of an error that occurred on February 14, 2024 and affected a subset of digital pharmacy patient profiles, which caused information about one patient to be visible to another patient. Walmart immediately began investigating to determine the extent of the personal information impacted.

The investigation revealed that the first and last name, date of birth, and gender of some patient's digital pharmacy profiles may have been visible to another patient. The issue was due to an error. The security of Walmart's systems was not impacted. If you logged into your online pharmacy account between February 14, 2024 and April 18, 2024, it is possible you were affected by this error.

Walmart takes this matter very seriously and the company is fully committed to protecting the privacy and security of protected health information. We have addressed the error, and we are also continuing to evaluate additional safeguards to help prevent this type of incident from occurring in the future.

Walmart is sending individual notices to affected patients. If you have any questions, we encourage you to contact our dedicated call center at 1-866-898-4544, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 5:30 pm CST, excluding major US holidays. As a reminder, please be vigilant when reviewing information pertaining to you and always be cautious about requests to provide any personal or financial information over the phone, by text or by email. Be sure to always verify the source of any request for such information.

NOTICE OF SALE

FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 169
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Fort Bend County)

$7,170,000

Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024A
"Not Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations"

The Board of Directors of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 169 (the "District") will publicly receive sealed bids on up to $7,170,000 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024A (the "Bonds") on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 9:30 A.M., Houston Time, at the offices of the District's Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. At a Board of Directors meeting on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 10:30 A.M., Houston Time, at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston, Texas 77027, the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District.

A bid for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the "President and Board of Directors, Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 169" at the above address of Masterson Advisors LLC. All bidders must submit a signed "Official Bid Form" and a bank cashier's check in the amount of $143,400 payable to the order of "Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 169" as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the "Official Notice of Sale."

The Bonds will mature serially on May 1, 2027 through 2049, and will be dated August 1, 2024. The "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and "Official Bid Form" may be obtained from the District's Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and "Official Bid Form."

Mr. Arden J. Morley
President, Board of Directors
Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 169
Fort Bend County, Texas

PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT SPECIAL REQUEST

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the partial replatting of **Richmond Road Estates** being all or part of Lot 41, in Block 4, as recorded in Volume 031 Page 024 of the Harris County Deed Records for the purpose of creating Two (2) Lots and One (1) Block.

The new subdivision name is **Richmond Road Estates Partial Replat No 3.**

This is the written notice of a public hearing the City send to all owners of property within 300' of the boundary of the plat.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold a public meeting and public hearing on this replat. The Commission is the non-legislative body authorized to review and render decisions on subdivision applications and requests. The meeting at which this item will first be considered is listed below. A sign with this information has also been posted on the project site.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING INFORMATION:
Thursday, July 11, 2024, beginning at 2:30 p.m.
City Hall Annex Building,
900 Bagby Street
City Council Chamber, Public Level,
Houston, Texas

Members of the public may make comments or express concerns about the proposed project by attending the meeting at City Council Chamber listed above or submit comments to:
speakercomments.pc@houstontx.gov or call the Planning Department at: 832-393-6624 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to sign up to speak.

Contact the applicant at 832-660-1042 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information

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CAUSE NO. 2023-32244

JOHN MESRAHI *Plaintiff*	§	**IN THE DISTRICT COURT**
vs.	§	**HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**
ANTONIO O AJ GUARCHAJ GUACHIAC *Defendant*	§	**80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

ORDER ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR JUDGMENT NUNC PRO TUNC

After reviewing the Motion for Nunc Pro Tune filed by Defendant, **ANTONIO O AJ GUARCHAJ GUACHIAC** MOTION FOR JUDGMENT NUNC PRO TUNC, the court finds that there is a clerical mistake in the record of the judgement and **ORDERS** that the Motion is **GRANTED**.

IT IS ORDERED that a judgment Nunc Pro Tune shall be entered in this suit to correct the clerical mistake. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the judgment Nunc Pro Tune so entered shall read as follows:

ON THIS DAY came on for consideration the Plaintiffs Motion for Service by Publication under Rule I 09, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. It appears to the Court that Plaintiff is unaware of Defendant Antonio O AJ Guarchaj Guachiac' s present address and that Plaintiff has exercised due diligence to locate and personally serve Defendant Antonio O AJ Guarchaj Guachiac but has not been successful. It further appears to the Court that the manner of service ordered herein will be reasonably effective to give said defendant notice of the lawsuit. It is therefore,

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs Motion for Service by Publication on Defendant Antonio O AJ Guarchaj Guachiac is GRANTED.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Clerk of Harris County, Texas shall issue a citation containing the names of the parties, a brief statement of the nature of the suit, and commanding Defendant Antonio O AJ Guarchaj Guachiac to appear and answer at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance thereof, specifying the day of the week, the day of the month, and the time of day the defendant is required to answer.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Clerk of Harris County, Texas shall published such citation once each week for four (4) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be at least twenty-eight (28) days before the return day of the citation, in a publication reasonably calculated to provide effective notice to Defendant Antonio O AJ Guarchaj Guachiac in Harris County, Texas.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the return of the officer executing such citation shall be indorsed or attached to the same and show how and when the citation was executed, specifying the dates of the publication, be officially signed and accompanied by a printed copy of the publication.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that that any failure on the part of Defendant Antonio O AJ Guarchaj Guachiac to answer such service shall not be deemed to render such service invalid.

SIGNED AND ORDERED ENTERED this the 13 day of May , 2024.
Signed: _____
JUDGE PRESIDING

I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.
Witness my official hand and seal of office this May 28, 2024
Certified Document Number: 114368680 Total Pages: 2

/s/ Marilyn Burgess
Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

LEGAL NOTICES & A SNORING SPOUSE

Two things that you better not forget about.
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HoustonChronicle.com

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NO: 2024-21416

IN THE 190th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Plaintiff: NGO, LAN (AKA KEVIN NGO) and HUYNH, LOC
vs.

Defendant: DOE, JOHN

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

To: JOHN DO WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the **190TH Judicial District Court** of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday , the **15TH day of JULY**, **2024** being the Monday after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the **ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**, filed in said Court on the **4TH day of APRIL, 2024,** in suit numbered **2024-21416** docket of said court, wherein **NGO, LAN (AKA KEVIN NGO) and HUYNH, LOC** the Plaintiff, **JOHN DOE**, the Defendants.

SUMMARY

Take Notice that suit has been filed and is p recently pending for Declaratory Judgment, wherein Plaintiffs are seeking relief against the Unknown Defendant, John Doe in the above referenced cause. The nature of relief being sought is as follows:

The Plaintiffs, Lan Ngo aka Kevin Ngo and Loc Huynh, have filed their Original Petition seeking a Declaratory Judgment. In relation to the Declaratory Judgment sought, the Plaintiffs seek a finding by the Court that GoDaddy, Inc.'s Customer Account #161445001 was hacked by an unknown party, "John Doe." Further, said unknown party, "John Doe," without any authorization by the Plaintiffs changed the Account's password, phone number and email address, thereby rendering the account inaccessible to the Plaintiffs. Said rightful owners of the account. Plaintiffs cannot access and use their domain, unless Plaintiff's obtain a Declaratory Judgment against "John Doe", that Plaintiff's are the owners of the domain, LLDTEK.COM under GoDaddy's Customer Account Number 1614445001. By obtaining said Declaratory Judgment, the Plaintiffs will then be allowed by GoDaddy, Inc. to provide it with Plaintiff's actual password, phone number and email address, instead of what was provided by "John Ode" without any authorization or known relationship to Plaintiffs.

Notice thereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the **15th day of JULY, 2024**, in some newspaper published in the County of Harris, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on **JUNE 11TH 2024**, which is forty two days after the date is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk, Harris County, Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this **30TH day of MAY, 2024**.

Newspaper: **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

(SEAL)

MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk
Harris County, Texas
201 CAROLINE, Houston, Texas 77002
P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

ISSUED BY: **CHANDRA LAWSON**
JUNIOR DEPUTY CLERK

Issued at the request of:
ALEX LIEBER-ALESSIE
2203 HARDY ST
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77026
(713) 224-4300
BAR NUMBER: **12331500**

Citation by Publication | Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 2023-56702

Plaintiff(s):
CAPISTRANO, CORAMAE
vs.
Defendant:
MARQUEZ, MARTHA L

IN THE 127th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. **In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."**

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AT LAW OF LORETTA WHYTE

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the **127TH Judicial District Court** of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the **8 TH day of JULY, 2024**, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file a written answer to the **PLAINTIFF'S EIRST ORIGINAL PETITION** filed in said Court on the **24 TH day of AUGUST, 2023** in a suit numbered **2023-56702** docket of said court, **CORAMAE CAPISTRANO** the Plaintiff, **MARTHA L MARQUEZ** the Defendants.

PLAINTIFF'S SUMMARY OF SUIT FOR CITATION BY PUBLICATION

On or about August 25, 2021, Defendant Martha L. Marquez was driving a silver Honda Pilot behind Plaintiff Coramae Capistrano, who was in a Toyota Rav4 behind non-party Saji Kodathathu Varghese, who was driving a blue Lexus RX350. All three drivers were on US 59 North near the Main Street exit ramp when Defendant Marquez failed to control her speed and collided into the rear of Plaintiff's vehicle, causing it to bump Varghese's vehicle. Plaintiff called the police and waited. After waiting about 15 minutes, the Defendant exited her vehicle and knocked on Plaintiff's car window. Defendant looked at the Rav4 and the Lexus and declared, "No damage." To Plaintiff's dismay, Defendant then returned to her vehicle, got on her phone, and started backing up her vehicle. Plaintiff was able to record the Defendant as she drove off, including her face and license plate, which is how Plaintiff Capistrano is able to obtain Defendant's information.

Notice thereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the **8 TH day of JULY, 2024**, in some newspaper published in the County of Harris, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on **JULY 2, 2024** which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk, Harris County Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this **21st day of MAY, 2024.**
Newspaper: **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk
Harris County, Texas
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002
P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210
ISSUED BY: **CHANDRA LAWSON**
JUNIOR DEPUTY CLERK

Issued at the request of :
KANG CHEN
10515 BELLAIRE BLVD SUITE H
HOUSTON, Texas 77072
Telephone: (832) 328-3838
Fax: (832) 328-3837
Bar Number: **24059562**

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DEBT

From page B7

But majorities of Americans favor relief in other situations, too, such as when the patient has made on-time payments toward an existing loan for 20 years, has large amounts of medical debt compared to their income, or is experiencing financial hardship.

About 6 in 10 people with debt from medical bills favor medical debt forgiveness if the person has large amounts of debt compared to their income, compared to about half of people without medical debt.

Denise Early, 65, an Independent in Omaha, Nebraska, who favors medical debt forgiveness, said she experienced an injury on the job that eventually led to several surgeries she believes should have been covered by workers' compensation claims, but were not. The costs eventually pushed her to declare bankruptcy.

Early worked as a custodian at a post office, she said, when she suffered an accident. After initial hospital visits and treatments were ineffective, Early eventually received knee and ankle surgeries to address ongoing difficulties.

"I still get bills every day," Early said. "Forgiveness would help clear a lot of my debts."

Early said she also currently has more than $100,000 in unpaid student loan debt.

Although reducing student loan debt has been a focus for President Joe Biden, the poll found that Americans are more likely to say medical debt relief should be a government priority. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults said that it's extremely or very important for the U.S. government to provide student debt relief.

Lesley Turner, an associate professor of public policy at the University of Chicago, who helped craft the poll, said the survey captures a divide regarding who deserves debt relief.

"If you need to go to the emergency room because of a major health issue, that is much less of an active choice than the decision to go to college," she said. "Even though, given today's economy, going to college is in many ways a very important if not essential route to economic mobility and stability."

Overall, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are all similarly likely to support clearing medical debt if the person experienced fraud, the AP-NORC poll found, though Democrats are more supportive than Republicans in cases where the person is experiencing financial hardship or if the person has large amounts of medical debt compared to their income.

Ed Kane, a 71-year-old Republican from Chicopee, Massachusetts, believes medical debt forgiveness should not be an option. He's survived multiple medical emergencies — including heart attacks and cancer — and credits his employer health insurance for providing good coverage that kept him out of debt.

"We are starting to become a nation that gives away everything. And I'm tired of it," Kane said.

"I've worked hard all my life. I worked two jobs. I had great medical insurance because of it. Everybody can do it; there's no reason that people can't reach a higher level than they do."

Medical debt forgiveness is also a higher priority for Democrats. According to the poll, about two-thirds of Democrats say it's extremely or very important for the U.S. government to provide medical debt relief, compared to about 3 in 10 Republicans.

Matt Haskell, 24, of Englewood, Florida, a Republican who said he supports debt forgiveness, also has firsthand experience with high medical bills for an unexpected emergency.

Haskell said he was working on cars, some of which were rusty, at the time of his accident. One afternoon, what seemed like a piece of dust got into his eye.

"It turned out it was a metal flake embedded in my cornea," Haskell said. "I didn't know for five days. I went to the ER when I could no longer open my eyes."

From the visit, Haskell said he incurred more than $4,500 in debt.

"I generally think it's never anybody's fault when they have a medical condition," he said. "If they get cancer or a tumor or have an episode from undiagnosed diabetes — it's not someone's fault if they develop something and now they're thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt."

The poll of 1,309 adults was conducted May 16-21, 2024. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.

The Associated Press receives support from Charles Schwab Foundation for educational and explanatory reporting to improve financial literacy. The independent foundation is separate from Charles Schwab and Co. Inc. The AP is solely responsible for its journalism.

GORDON

From page B7

to restaurant owners and food service customers, but also features goods for home shoppers. The assortment includes packaged and fresh produce, meats by the piece, pound or case, rotisserie and fried chicken, ribs, gourmet popcorn and pantry staples such as oil, sugar, rice and paper products. The layout has walk-in coolers with cases of meats, cheese and seasonal produce.

The initial Houston stores opened under the Gordon Food Service Stores name. Newer locations have adopted the new name to make it clear to restaurant owners and operators that the store's offerings are targeted to them and their businesses, even though the retail locations are open to everyone, according to a company spokesperson.

The store has just over 28,000 square feet, including 15,000 square feet on the sales floor. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Privately held, family-operated Gordon Food Service started as a butter and egg delivery service in the late 1800s. The food service distributor serves operators such as restaurants, hospitals and universities in the U.S. and Canada. It operates more than 180 Gordon Food Service Stores in the U.S.

PATENTS

From page B7

and Stanford University came in fifth with 199.

The UT System was the only Texas institution to land among the top patent earners. The Texas A&M University System was ranked 30th with 66 patents last year.

The list was compiled using calendar-year patent data from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to recognize U.S. universities that significantly contribute to innovation and invention.

Utility patents "cover the creation of new or improved products, processes or machines," the news release said, and the number of utility patents granted to a university is "a key indicator of the commercial potential of its research activities."

The UT System achieved a record $4.3 billion in total research expenditures across its 14 academic and health institutions in 2023, including more than $2 billion in federally sponsored research. Its research enterprise earned it the top spot in Texas and second nationwide for total and federal research expenditures last year, according to the release.

LEGAL NOTICES
713.362.6868
legals@chron.com

Citation by Publication

DOCKET NO. CV-0092665

County Court at Law No. 1

Timothy Taylor

vs.

Damian Ray De Los Santos and Breanna Michelle Billiot

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF GALVESTON

TO: Breanna Michelle Billiot - is an individual who may be served at: 2401 13th Street Texas City TX 77591

GREETING:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. **If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.**

Said written answer may be filed by mailing same to: Galveston County Clerk's Office, 600 59th Street, Suite 2001, Galveston, Texas 77551-4180. The case is presently before Honorable John Grady, County Court at Law No. 1 of Galveston County, at the Galveston County Justice Center in Galveston, Texas.

SAID PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION WAS FILED ON FEBRUARY 01, 2024, under DOCKET NO. CV-0092665, with the style of the cause being: Timothy Taylor vs. Damian Ray De Los Santos and Breanna Michelle Billiot.

The name and address of the plaintiff or the attorney of record is: Lawrence M Tylka, 1104 East Main League City TX 77573. A copy of Plaintiff's Original Petition together with case information statement accompany this citation and are made a part hereof.

If this citation is not served, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, at Galveston, Texas, on this, the 1st day of February, 2024.

Dwight D. Sullivan, Galveston County Clerk County Court at Law No. 1

Galveston County, Texas

By /s/ Julie Hairgrove Deputy

Julie Hairgrove

LIFE TRIBUTES

JOE EASON

10/09/1929 - 05/17/2024



Joe O. Eason

October 9, 1929—May 17, 2024

Joseph Oliver Eason, a long-time Houston business pillar, civic leader, artist, and award winning amateur golfer, passed away May 17 at the age of 94.

Born October 9, 1929 in Independence, Kansas to Winnie B. Fleming and Joseph Clarence Eason, Joe Eason moved with his family to Houston in 1938.

A graduate of Lamar High School, he spent his college years at the University of Texas and University of Houston where he played varsity baseball. During the Korean War he served in the Texas National Guard. His career as a Houston area insurance professional included a decades-long tenure as a senior partner at the well-known firm of Danvers Eason & Gentle Insurance.

Outside his business activities, family, sports, community service, art, and his church, St. Luke's United Methodist, where he was a member since 1952— were all major parts of Joe Eason's life. Married to Barbara Greengrass in 1953 (she pre-deceased him in 2022), Joe and Barbara had three children. He was a long-time referee for Southwest Conference basketball. A renowned amateur golfer, Eason was a seven-time Braeburn Country Club champion, and multiple medal winner in National Senior Olympics' golf tournaments—where he shot his age (or under) right up until his final tournament at age 88.

A highly praised silversmith, Joe Eason taught classes at St. Luke's, Houston's Glassel School, as well as out at Laity Lodge in Leakey, Texas. At one time he was the foremost authority on American Indian cradle boards, he was one of America's leading American Indian artifact collectors, a licensed American Indian art appraiser, and a member of both the Texas and Louisiana Indian Historical Associations.

Joe served as Chairman of the Board of Big Brothers of Houston, Braeburn C.C., The Good Samaritan Foundation, The Bluebonnet Bowl, Independent Insurance Agents of Houston and St. Luke's United Methodist Church. The owner of a ranch in Bellville, Texas, where he raised cattle for many years, Joe was also a Past President of the Bellville Historical Society and served on the town's Jail Restoration Committee.

Joe was also a member of the Santa Fe Neighborhood Association and enjoyed entertaining his many friends and family for many years at his beloved Martinez Hacienda.

Last but not least, along with wife Barbara, Joe's membership at St. Luke's was deep and wide. He served the church in many capacities, including as a member of the Missions Committee, and as a skilled woodworker in the church's volunteer wood-shop where he and his friends crafted toys for children and restored antique furniture for friends and family. Joe Eason is survived by daughter Ann Alicia (Eason) Seelen and her husband Barry Seelen, sons Joseph Charles "Chuck" Eason and Michael Alan Eason, grandchildren Joseph Paul Eason, Melissa Kathryn Eason, Marcus V. Eason and his wife, Kelly Kingston, Lucas V. Eason, and Colton Taylor Eason, great-granddaughter Sierra Jean Eason, as well as Nancy Espinoza, a beloved family member, who loved and cared for both Barbara and Joe.

Joe had the ability to make and maintain enduring friendships that were incredibly important to him. He will always be remembered by the many people who loved him.

A memorial service will be held at St. Luke's UMC on July 1st at 1pm with Dr. Tom Pace officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, in Joe's memory and designated for one of his passions, the woodworking shop.

Note: For those unable to attend, the service will be live streamed at: https://www.stlukesmethodist.org/joseph-oliver-eason/

MILDRED "MARIE" MARKS ROBERTSON

02/09/1933 - 06/13/2024



Mildred "Marie" Marks Robertson crossed over from this life to the next on Thursday, the 13th of June 2024, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the hour of her Lord and Savior's death and the hour at which she devoutly recited the Divine Mercy chaplet.

Marie, a native Houstonian born in 1933, was a proud alumna of St. Agnes Academy and Dominican College, where she earned one of the first formal nursing degrees. She practiced with passion and skill at St. Joseph's Hospital alongside the Dominican sisters whom she dearly loved. Marie devotedly continued her nursing vocation at home, where she nurtured and cherished her five children by Guy J. Robertson: Kathryn Coulter, Christa Robertson Yates, Guy J. Robertson, Jr., Clare Teas, and Rosanne Easton. The beloved matriarch of an ever-growing family, Marie treasured her 13 grandchildren and her great-children numbering 19 to date.

Marie, renowned for her gracious hospitality, opened her loving arms to any and every soul that crossed the threshold of her happy home. She provided spiritual strength and physical sustenance to family and friends alike and never met a stranger. Always able to see the good in everyone she encountered, countless family friends adopted Marie as a second mother, and her home was always filled with good food, laughter, and people of all ages and walks of life. A lifelong singer, she serenaded her children and grandchildren with her beautiful voice. And she never turned away a stray dog that her kids brought home to rescue.

May Marie's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from five o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening on Thursday, the 20th of June, in the library and grand foyer of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston.

The recitation of the Holy Rosary is to commence at half past nine o'clock in the morning on Friday, the 21st of June, at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 1801 Sage Road in Houston, where the Requiem Mass celebrating Marie's life is to commence at half past ten o'clock in the morning, with Fr. Wayne W. Wilkerson, officiating.

The family will gather for a private interment at Forest Park Lawndale in Houston.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions in Marie's honor may be directed to St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o Development, 2403 Holcombe Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77021, or by visiting online at www.svdphouston.org/give or BARC Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 22568, Houston, Texas 77227-2568 or by visiting online at www.houstonbarcfoundation.org.

Please visit Marie's online memorial tribute at GeoHLewis.com where memories and words of comfort and condolences may be shared electronically with her family.

GEO. H. LEWIS & SONS
WWW.GEOHLEWIS.COM, 713.789.3005

CLARE TURNER HALL

01/15/1930 - 06/15/2024

Clare Turner Hall, 94, died peacefully in her Cypress, Texas home on Saturday, June 15. Born to Clarence Joseph Turner and Julia Kirk Turner, Clare was a fifth-generation Texan and a native Houstonian. She attended Houston public schools and graduated high school from Ward-Belmont, Nashville, TN. An honor graduate, she received her BA from University of Houston and her MA from University of Texas, Austin. Member of Who's Who in American Universities, Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Scholastic Fraternity. and student government honor organizations. Present and past affiliations include Houston Jr. Forum, College Women's Club, and Episcopal Churchwomen.

Preceded in death by her husband, Joseph R. Hall, Jr. and her brother, T. Kirk Whatley. Survived by daughter Julia Clare Hall, son Joseph Woodard (Jay) Hall, grandson William Turner Sanders, sister-in-law Kathleen F. Whatley, nieces Christina Leach, Martha Whatley Ganjineh, Charlotte Whatley, and Kathleen (Katie) Whatley.

There will be a private graveside service. Remembrances may be made to your favorite charity. Arrangements by Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home.

Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home
Dignity
6900 Lawndale Street
Houston, TX 77023
(713) 928-5141
Condolences may be offered at www.ForestParkLawndaleFH.com

HERBERT JOHN WOLF, JR.

06/27/1932 - 06/16/2024

Herbert John Wolf, Jr. passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, June 16, 2024. He fully embraced life and had a deep spiritual connection with his family and friends. A full obituary celebrating his life can be found online at www.DistinctiveLife.com.

JOSEPH C. ANDERSON

02/13/1958- 06/17/2024



I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." - Psalm 91:2

Mr. Joseph Clinton Anderson entered into eternal rest on June 17, 2024.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 5102 Dabney St., 77026. Rosary: 9:30 a.m. Visitation: 10 - 10:45 a.m.

MABRIE MEMORIAL MORTUARY
Express reflections at Mabriemortuary.com
5000 Almeda Rd.
Houston, TX 77004
(713) 942-7673

MARCUS KENNETH MOSELEY

06/15/1942- 06/14/2024



Marcus Kenneth Moseley took his love of people, historical intellect, and expertise as an elite athlete and poured into students as a coach and educator for over thirty years. On June 14, 2024, he peacefully transitioned into eternity at his home.

His Celebration of Life service will be held on Sunday, June 23, 2024, 12 pm at Mabrie Memorial Mortuary. Visitation will begin at 11 am.

MABRIE MEMORIAL MORTUARY
Express reflections at Mabriemortuary.com
5000 Almeda Rd.
Houston, TX 77004
(713) 942-7673



WEATHER

HOUSTON'S SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
90 / 74	90 / 76	93 / 75	93 / 77	91 / 77	92 / 78	92 / 76
A few showers; humid this afternoon	Humid with a shower and t-storm	Mostly sunny	A few afternoon showers; humid	Humid; a t-storm around in the a.m.	Humid with a thunderstorm in spots	Rain and a t-storm in the morning

METRO AREA OUTLOOK

TODAY: A few showers; breezy this morning, then becoming humid. High 87 to 92. Winds E-SE 10-20 mph. **TONIGHT:** A moonlit sky and humid with a shower in spots. Low 71 to 76. Winds east 6-12 mph.

AIR QUALITY

Today's forecast for the entire metro area by the TCEQ:

Ozone watch

- Good
- Moderate
- Unhealthy for sensitive groups
- Unhealthy
- Very unhealthy
- Hazardous

POLLEN AND MOLD

Yesterday's readings by the Houston Health Department:

	Count per cubic meter of air
Tree pollen	None
Weed pollen	Medium 48
Grass pollen	Medium 10
Mold spores	Low 6033

- Low
- Medium
- Heavy
- Extremely heavy

Note: No measurements on weekends; charts in Sunday and Monday papers reflect forecast ratings from the previous Friday.

COMFORT INDEX

The comfort index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

Today	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
1	3	4	3	4	2

UV TODAY

Values indicate the exposure to the sun's Ultraviolet rays.

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
1	1	3	4	3	1

- 0-2, Low
- 3-5, Moderate
- 6-7, High
- 8-10, Very high
- 11+, Extreme

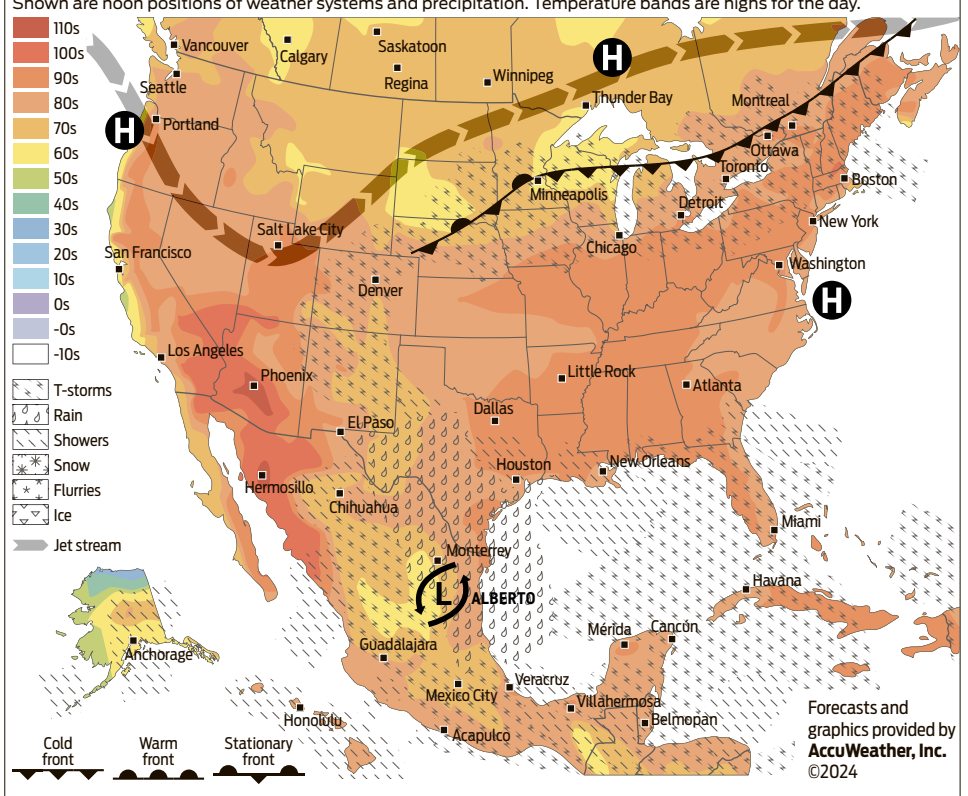
SUN AND MOON

Full moon	Last quarter	New moon	First quarter
June 21	June 28	July 5	July 13

Sunset tonight	8:25 p.m.
Sunrise Friday	6:21 a.m.
Moonrise today	7:36 p.m.
Moonset today	4:47 a.m.

NORTH AMERICA TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

FOR THE RECORD

George Bush Intercontinental Airport through 3 p.m. Wed.

Temperature	Degrees F
High	85
Low	76
Normal high	93
Normal low	74
Record high	101 in 1980
Record low	64 in 1912
Precipitation	**Inches**
24-hour total	0.32
Month to date	6.61
Normal month to date	3.87
Year to date	34.77
Normal year to date	23.15
Other readings	
Top wind speed	16 mph
High barometer	29.94 in.
Low barometer	29.85 in.
High dewpoint	78°
Low dewpoint	72°
Average dewpoint	74°
High humidity	93%
Low humidity	78%

KEY TO CONDITIONS

s - sunny
pc - partly cloudy
c - cloudy
sh - showers
t - thunderstorms
r - rain
sf - snow flurries
sn - snow
i - ice

TEXAS

	Today	Fri.
Abilene	85/71/c	89/72/c
Amarillo	81/66/pc	83/68/pc
Austin	89/71/sh	91/71/t
Beaumont	91/74/pc	90/75/t
Brownsville	92/80/t	92/79/t
Bryan/College St.	93/76/c	94/76/pc
Corpus Christi	92/79/t	92/77/t
Dallas/Ft. Worth	91/76/pc	94/77/s
El Paso	87/67/t	90/71/pc
Galveston	88/79/sh	89/79/t
Kingsville	92/79/t	92/78/t
Laredo	85/77/t	91/76/t
Longview	93/71/pc	92/74/s
Lubbock	78/68/pc	88/70/c
McAllen	86/77/t	89/74/t
Midland/Odessa	78/70/r	90/70/c
San Angelo	84/72/sh	92/72/c
San Antonio	86/76/t	90/75/t
Texarkana	95/71/s	97/75/s
Victoria	89/75/t	90/74/t
Waco	90/73/c	92/75/pc

NATIONAL

	Today	Fri.
Albany, NY	96/74/t	88/67/t
Albuquerque	89/66/pc	79/65/s
Anchorage	62/49/s	64/53/pc
Atlanta	89/71/s	93/73/s
Baltimore	91/68/pc	97/71/s
Billings	78/55/pc	78/55/c
Birmingham	93/71/s	93/72/s
Boise	91/59/pc	94/60/s
Boston	95/75/t	83/64/t
Buffalo	89/70/t	85/68/t
Charleston, SC	88/72/pc	86/73/pc
Charlotte	90/68/pc	90/72/c
Chicago	88/68/t	92/76/pc
Cincinnati	94/72/s	96/74/s

NATIONAL cont.

	Today	Fri.
Cleveland	91/71/t	88/71/t
Columbus	95/73/s	96/74/s
Denver	88/62/t	89/63/c
Des Moines	88/69/t	91/74/pc
Detroit	90/70/t	90/71/t
Duluth	65/51/pc	58/53/c
Fairbanks	79/56/pc	77/54/sh
Great Falls	75/48/pc	70/47/t
Hartford	97/72/t	95/70/t
Honolulu	87/77/sh	87/77/sh
Indianapolis	93/73/pc	97/74/s
Jackson, MS	93/72/s	96/70/s
Juneau	69/51/c	68/53/c
Kansas City	91/72/s	92/72/pc
Las Vegas	106/79/s	107/81/s
Little Rock	95/71/pc	94/75/s
Los Angeles	81/61/pc	82/61/pc
Memphis	92/73/s	94/76/s
Miami	89/78/t	90/80/t
Milwaukee	72/62/t	76/66/t
Minneapolis	68/63/t	76/70/t
Nashville	94/72/s	96/73/s
New Orleans	87/79/pc	91/77/s
New York City	92/76/s	94/74/t
Oklahoma City	86/72/pc	91/71/pc
Orlando	89/74/t	94/76/t
Philadelphia	92/72/s	94/75/s
Phoenix	115/88/s	115/88/s
Pittsburgh	94/70/t	97/72/t
Portland, OR	89/59/pc	89/54/s
Sacramento	90/55/s	98/59/s
St. Louis	95/75/s	96/78/s
Salt Lake City	90/69/s	92/69/pc
San Diego	71/62/pc	71/62/pc
San Francisco	66/53/pc	70/52/pc
Santa Fe	84/60/t	72/60/t
Seattle	82/57/s	85/56/s
Tucson	111/82/s	102/81/s
Washington, DC	91/71/pc	97/75/s

INTERNATIONAL

	Today	Fri.
Africa		
Cairo	101/78/s	102/78/s
Cape Town	65/49/c	62/53/r
Casablanca	74/63/pc	75/65/s
Dakar	85/78/pc	85/77/pc
Johannesburg	67/42/s	63/41/c
Lagos	87/76/t	86/75/t
Asia/Pacific		
Beijing	93/72/pc	81/69/c
Ho Chi Minh City	93/79/t	88/78/t
Hong Kong	92/84/t	92/84/t
Islamabad	104/80/pc	99/80/c
Jakarta	92/74/pc	92/75/pc
Karachi	98/85/s	97/84/s
Kuala Lumpur	89/76/t	87/76/t
Manila	91/80/t	90/80/t
New Delhi	102/86/pc	106/88/pc
Seoul	91/68/pc	89/72/c
Shanghai	84/75/t	88/80/t
Singapore	87/80/t	85/79/t
Sydney	62/47/pc	63/48/s
Taipei	96/80/t	97/80/c
Tokyo	83/71/pc	78/69/r
Canada		
Calgary	68/45/s	66/48/t
Edmonton	72/42/pc	74/44/s
Montreal	90/66/t	79/63/t
Toronto	86/69/t	80/66/t
Vancouver	74/55/s	76/56/s
Winnipeg	77/54/s	78/57/c
Europe		
Amsterdam	71/57/c	67/56/r
Athens	96/82/s	95/78/s
Berlin	75/60/pc	84/59/t
Copenhagen	67/53/c	66/58/pc
Dublin	66/55/pc	64/49/sh
Frankfurt	78/62/sh	75/56/c
Geneva	71/61/t	72/54/r
Istanbul	88/73/s	87/71/s
London	73/53/s	75/56/s
Madrid	72/52/pc	83/56/s
Moscow	70/51/sh	70/55/pc
Paris	72/61/r	73/58/r
Prague	76/60/c	86/62/t
Rome	91/70/pc	89/66/s
Stockholm	72/53/s	70/50/pc
Vienna	83/66/pc	92/69/pc
Warsaw	72/53/c	80/64/pc
Zurich	78/60/sh	71/55/r
Latin America		
Bogota	65/50/sh	66/49/sh
Buenos Aires	59/56/s	66/61/r
Caracas	89/78/t	89/77/t
Havana	88/75/t	89/76/c
Kingston	91/79/r	90/82/pc
Lima	68/61/c	69/60/pc
Rio de Janeiro	84/69/s	81/69/s
San Juan	90/81/t	90/81/t
San Salvador	76/70/t	76/71/t
Santiago	57/46/c	49/44/r
Sao Paulo	82/55/s	80/56/pc
St. Thomas	90/82/pc	89/79/t
Mexico		
Acapulco	83/77/c	83/76/c
Cancun	87/78/t	81/78/t
Guadalajara	76/66/t	81/62/t
Guanajuato	72/64/t	75/60/t
Mazatlan	89/79/sh	86/77/c
Merida	89/77/sh	81/76/sh
Mexico City	71/60/t	74/58/sh
Puerto Vallarta	87/77/c	86/76/t
Tampico	88/80/r	86/78/t
Veracruz	88/79/t	85/79/r
Middle East		
Baghdad	119/86/pc	120/87/pc
Beirut	87/77/s	87/75/s
Dubai	108/94/s	112/96/s
Jerusalem	94/71/s	92/70/s
Kabul	88/66/s	84/61/c
Mecca	109/84/c	109/86/pc
Riyadh	114/87/pc	115/87/s
Tehran	93/75/s	95/76/s
Tel Aviv	88/77/s	89/77/s

COASTAL FORECAST

GALVESTON BAY: Wind from the east at 12-25 knots today. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility less than 2 miles at times in showers. **Tonight:** Wind from the east-southeast at 10-20 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. A shower early; partly cloudy.

MATAGORDA SHIP CHANNEL TO HIGH ISLAND OUT 20 TO 50 MILES: Wind from the east at 15-25 knots today. Seas 2-4 feet. Visibility less than 2 miles at times in showers and thunderstorms. **Tonight:** Wind from the east at 10-20 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. An evening thunderstorm in spots.

GALVESTON TIDES

Highs	Feet	Lows	Feet
6:04 a.m.	1.6	9:46 p.m.	-0.5
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RIVERS, CREEKS AND BAYOUS

through 7 a.m. Wednesday

	Location	Flood stage	Latest stage	24-hr. chg.
Brays Bayou	South Main	54	16.81	+0.01
Brazos River	Bryan	43	22.46	-0.15
	Hempstead	50	26.94	-1.02
	Richmond	48	26.65	-5.22
Buffalo Bayou	Piney Point	50	28.19	+0.04
	Shepherd Dr.	23	3.24	+0.07
Clear Creek	Friendswood	12	3.28	+0.86
Colorado R.	Austin	29	11.43	-0.03
	Bastrop	25	3.11	-0.13
	La Grange	32	4.00	-0.05
	Columbus	34	9.90	-0.05
	Wharton	39	8.18	-0.04
	Bay City	44	3.70	+0.55
Greens Bayou	Eastex Fwy.	61	39.37	+0.01
Guadalupe R.	Hunt	12	7.66	+0.01
	Comfort	26	3.08	-0.07
	Spring Branch	36	1.61	-0.10
	New Braunfels	13	9.35	-0.01
	Gonzales	31	10.59	-0.93
	Cuero	20	7.17	-0.31
	Victoria	21	5.53	+0.57
	Dupont	20	9.45	-0.32
Little River	Little River	30	14.72	-0.04
	Cameron	30	11.07	-0.13
Navasota R.	Easterly	19	5.55	-1.76
Neches River	Evadale	19	16.67	+0.02
Pine Island B.	Sour Lake	25	12.98	-0.05
Sabine River	Bon Wier	30	27.50	-0.57
	Deweyville	24	25.20	-0.37
	Orange	4	2.04	+0.11
	Burkeville	43	27.40	-0.08
San Bernard R.	E. Bernard	17	6.39	-0.05
E. San. Jac. R.	Cleveland	19	5.86	-0.06
W. San. Jac. R.	Conroe	116	97.23	none
San Jacinto R.	Sheldon	10	3.25	+0.34
Sims Bayou	Telephone Rd.	30	3.12	+0.31
Trinity River	Goodrich	36	33.13	+0.02
	Liberty	26	28.72	+0.08
Village Creek	Kountze	20	5.57	-0.28
White Oak B.	Heights Blvd.	48	8.18	-0.26

TEXAS LAKES

through 7 a.m. Wednesday	Full pool	Latest level	Release cfs
Canyon Dam	909	885.42	73
Conroe	201	200.60	0
Houston	41.73	41.47	N.A.
Lake Travis	681	634.76	411
Livingston	131	132.72	

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Great Earnings.



$50.00 to $24,999	0.25% APY*
$25,000 to $99,999	5.00% APY*
$100,000 to $249,999	5.00% APY*
$250,000 to $499,999	5.00% APY*
$500,000 & Over	5.00% APY*

Business Money Market Account

*APY - Annual Percentage Yield, Money Market rates are subject to change and require a minimum deposit of $250 in new money to open and $50.00 or more to earn stated APY. Minimum balance to avoid fee is $1,500 or maintain $2,500 average collected balance**. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Effective date for APY 3/13/24. If money market account exceeds the 6-withdrawal limit there will be a $10.00 fee for each withdrawal over the limit per statement cycle.
**The average collected balance is the average balance of collected funds (less any uncleared or uncollected deposits)

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Survey: Payment fraud concerns business owners

By Mae Anderson
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ted Shaffrey/Associated Press

Small businesses are increasingly worried about the impact of payment fraud, according to a new survey.

NEW YORK — Small businesses are increasingly concerned about payment fraud.

That's according to a small business survey from regional bank KeyBank. Nearly 2,000 small-to-medium size business with annual revenue of less than $10 million were surveyed.

The top concern among survey participants was payment fraud of various types. Forty-four percent were worried about unauthorized transactions or unauthorized electric fund transfers; 37% were concerned about identity theft; 28% said malware and ransomware attacks were their biggest concern; and 27% were worried about phishing and e-mail scams.

"With the introduction of new technology over the last several years, small businesses are some of the many that have fallen victim to fraudulent activity," said Mike Walters, President of Business Banking at KeyBank. He stressed the importance of owners having a plan in place to combat fraud.

Aside from fraud, the survey found that the top three anticipated economic challenges in coming months include high overhead costs, delayed payments from clients or customers, and fluctuating revenue. But businesses remain confident in their ability to weather challenges, with 65% of small business owners saying they feel confident they could fund their operating expenses for one month with their cash reserves if an unexpected need arose.

Small business owners' "resilience is a testament to years of weathering financial uncertainty, and with their confidence remaining strong, they're able to power through the last leg of inflation and keep themselves on track for economic growth," Walters said.

Hyundai to manufacture IONIQ 5 electric SUVs at Georgia facility

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Hyundai Motor Group said Tuesday that it plans to begin manufacturing IONIQ 5 electric SUVs at its sprawling new plant in Georgia this fall.

It was the first time the South Korean automaker has identified which model of electric vehicle it will produce at its $7.6 billion EV and battery plant west of Savannah. The factory should begin operating in the fourth quarter, the company said in a news release, though it didn't specify which month.

"We are in the final phase of construction and are getting ready for the 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 to roll off the line," said Oscar Kwon, the new plant's CEO. "It's the ideal vehicle for us to start production with."

The plant was initially expected to open in 2025, but the company accelerated construction to take advantage of federal incentives that reward domestic production of EVs.

The announcement that new IONIC 5 vehicles will be manufactured in Georgia came before the 2025 model has been shown to the public. The electric SUV model launched in 2022, and Hyundai said this year's sales of the model have jumped 43% compared to last year.

It's unclear how many people will work at the plant when production begins.