

WEEKEND GLANCE

YOUR FORECAST: The weekend offers plenty of sunshine and highs in the low to mid 80s. Lows will be near 60.

SEAPLANE-A-PALOOZA: Tavares hosts Seaplane-A-Palooza from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Wooton Park, 200 E. Ruby Street. Featuring a variety of fun contests, including fastest takeoff, watermelon bomb drop and spot landings.

4TH ANNUAL BUSKER FESTIVAL: The free, family-oriented festival will be presented in downtown Eustis at “busk stops” from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Grand Finale featuring the top performers from each division is at 6:30 p.m. in Ferran Park. Featuring musicians, dancers, comedians, jugglers, mimes, living statues, artists, acrobats.



DAILY COMMERCIAL

Friday, March 29, 2019

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75¢

Mueller probe's turns into Trump weapon

By Jonathan Lemire and Jill Colvin
The Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A fired-up President Donald Trump turned the findings of the Russia investigation into a political weapon on Thursday at a boisterous Michigan rally that was poised to be part victory lap, part 2020 campaign push.

Trump basked in his supporters' adulation at an arena

in Grand Rapids, his first political event since Attorney General William Barr released a summary that said special counsel Robert Mueller found no evidence that Trump's campaign “conspired or coordinated” with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election.

“After three years of lies and smears and slander, the Russia hoax is dead,” Trump said. “This was nothing more than a sinister effort to undermine

our historic election victory and to sabotage the will of the American people”

Trump said the investigation was an attempt to “overturn the will of the people” and that many “innocent people” were swept up in the probe.

The packed crowd, many of whom began to line up the night before, delivered a deafening roar for the president while unleashing its vitriol as he bashed the media and said of the

special counsel: “Robert Mueller was a god to Democrats, he was a god to them. Now they don't like him much now.”

Trump stood before a familiar backdrop: a giant American flag, signs reading “Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!” and, of course, signs that read “Make America Great Again.” His eldest son, Donald Trump Jr, provided a high-energy warm-up act and savaged family foe, Michael Avenatti, the celebrity lawyer who

represented Stormy Daniels, the porn star who alleged an affair with the president. Avenatti was arrested this week on charges of extortion.

“For this week only, MAGA stands for Michael Avenatti got arrested,” Trump Jr. boomed, taunting the once-rumored presidential candidate. “Avenatti 2020 became Avenatti 20-25. Maybe 50.”

See **TRUMP**, A5

‘Hostile leftist takeover’



Lake County Property Appraiser Carey Baker reads information about the Falling Man's Table at a recent veterans luncheon in Eustis. [CINDY SHARP/CORRESPONDENT]

Lake Property Appraiser says Dems trying to destroy Historical Society

By Katie Sartoris
ksartoris@dailycommercial.com

TAVARES — On Wednesday evening, Lake County Property Appraiser Carey Baker took to his private Facebook page to announce that he had uncovered “an evil coup” by local Democrats to infiltrate the Lake County Historical Society.

He said a group of local Democrats — many of whom have been vocal about their opposition to a Confederate statue coming to Lake County — were staging a “hostile leftist takeover” to destroy the society by flooding the museum with membership applications.

The post has since caught fire on Facebook and



The Lake County Historical Museum resides in the former Lake County Courthouse in downtown Tavares. [CINDY SHARP/CORRESPONDENT]

apparently sparked even more applications to the historical society. But the Democrats Baker accused of attempting to overthrow the society's leadership say there was no conspiracy; they simply want a seat at the table.

In a 234-word post, Baker accused Lake County Democratic Party Chairwoman Nancy Hurlbert of leading a movement to destroy the museum, which is run by

See **MUSEUM**, A6

House plan targets ballot initiatives

By Ana Ceballos
News Service Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A partisan clash over changing Florida's Constitution was in full view Thursday when a House panel approved a proposal that would make it harder for citizens and groups to put measures on the ballot.

On one side, Democrats said the Legislature would infringe on First Amendment rights by adding hurdles to the citizen-initiative process. But the Republican lawmaker sponsoring the proposal argued changes are needed

to “maintain the integrity and purpose of the state Constitution.”

“The purpose for this is the fact that a Constitution should behave like a Constitution,” Rep. James Grant, R-Tampa, argued during a meeting of the House Judiciary Committee, which advanced the proposal (PCB JDC 19-01) in a 12-6 party-line vote.

The proposal comes after voters approved 11 constitutional amendments, including two citizens' initiatives, during the November election. The

See **BALLOT**, A5



SPORTS | B1

TAVARES OVERCOMES DEFICIT WITH 5-RUN INNING

Bump stocks are turned in or destroyed as ban takes effect

By Lisa Marie Pane
The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The largest supplier of bump stocks turned in its entire remaining inventory to be destroyed — some 60,000 devices. Washington state's buyback program was so popular it ran out of money. One dealer held a “Viking funeral” for his last bump stock, pouring

a can of beer on it and then melting it down with a flamethrower.

A nationwide ban took effect Tuesday on bump stocks, the attachment used by the gunman in the 2017 Las Vegas massacre to make his weapons fire rapidly like machine guns.

How many of the estimated half-million devices

See **STOCKS**, A5

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TODAY
Mostly sunny
79°/58°

SATURDAY
Partly sunny
83°/61°

SUNDAY
Sunny
85°/62°



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NATION & WORLD

IN BRIEF

2020 hopeful Klobuchar touts \$1 trillion infrastructure plan

Democratic presidential candidate Amy Klobuchar is pitching an infrastructure plan she says will provide \$1 trillion to fix roads and bridges, protect against flooding and rebuild schools, airports and other projects.

The plan announced Thursday is the first policy proposal from the Minnesota senator since she joined the 2020 race with a snowy rally not far from where the Interstate 35W bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River in 2007.

Klobuchar speaks often on the campaign trail about the collapse, which killed 13 people, telling voters “a bridge just shouldn’t fall down in the middle of America.”

MANCHESTER, N.H. 3 dead after 15-hour standoff at New Hampshire hotel

Two men and a woman died in a standoff at a New Hampshire hotel that lasted for 15 hours and prompted authorities to close off a bustling commercial neighborhood filled with car dealerships, a strip mall and several restaurants.

The standoff ended Thursday morning after law enforcement officers managed to get into the Quality Inn in Manchester where two of the three people were holed up in a first floor room. The New Hampshire attorney general’s office said the pair were found dead but wouldn’t say how they died nor identify them.

Authorities wouldn’t say what was found in the hotel room.

WASHINGTON Senate Dems grill Interior pick on past lobbying work

The former oil and gas lobbyist nominated to head the Interior Department declined on Thursday to commit to recusing himself from future regulatory decisions involving past clients, telling senators “you want to have your A quarterback on the team.”

David Bernhardt appeared before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which was considering his nomination as Interior secretary. Bernhardt, a Washington veteran who has worked previously at Interior and more recently as a lobbyist, has been serving as the department’s acting secretary since Ryan Zinke resigned in December amid ethics allegations.

The Associated Press

LOTTERY

Wednesday, March 27
Powerball: 16-20-37-44-62-12-x3
Lotto: 13-17-19-23-39-50-x2
Fantasy 5: 6-7-13-19-33

Thursday, March 28
Pick 5
Afternoon: 4-4-0-0-7
Pick 4
Afternoon: 8-5-3-9
Pick 3
Afternoon: 7-0-1
Pick 2
Afternoon: 6-9



Special counsel Robert Mueller departs St. John’s Episcopal Church, across from the White House, on Sunday in Washington. Democrats say they want “all of the underlying evidence” in Mueller’s investigation. But what is all of that evidence? (CLIFF OWEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Dems battle to see ‘all’ evidence

Ostrich jacket, hard drives in Mueller’s trove of background

By Mary Clare Jalonic, Eric Tucker and Michael Balsamo

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats say they want “all of the underlying evidence” in special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation. But what is all of that evidence?

Mueller’s team issued more than 2,800 subpoenas, executed nearly 500 search warrants and interviewed more than 500 witnesses. That means the special counsel likely compiled thousands, if not millions, of documents and pieces of evidence. Material collected ranges from a \$15,000 ostrich jacket worn by President Donald Trump’s former campaign chairman to emails and encrypted text messages to hard drives and laptops. It could even include tax returns, if Mueller sought them.

In one Mueller case, that of longtime Trump confidant Roger Stone, the government said it had turned over 9 terabytes of discovery, an amount so large that Stone’s lawyers said if it were on paper it would pile as high as the Washington Monument, twice.

If all of that was delivered to Congress, the House Judiciary Committee might need to invest in a larger office space. But lawmakers say what they really want is documentation of everything — and an idea of how that evidence guided Mueller’s conclusions.

“We don’t need to see Paul Manafort’s ostrich jacket, but we do need to know that it’s there,” says Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Democratic member of the Judiciary panel.

The requests for underlying evidence are central to Democrats’ demands

for Mueller’s full report. They say that they need all that information to make their own conclusions, and to ensure that Mueller’s findings are not filtered by Attorney General William Barr, whom Trump picked for the job. While they may not need every personal item seized by Mueller — like Manafort’s jacket, meant to show his lavish lifestyle, or the contents of Stone’s hard drive — they do want as much information as possible that is relevant to his decisions.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., one of several committee chairmen asking for the full report and underlying evidence, says what he is principally interested in is documentation that supports the report. He says the committees will fight for grand jury material, including witness interviews, that is normally off limits but can be obtained in court.

Schiff said he expects negotiations with the Justice Department over the scope and breadth of what is turned over to Congress.

“It will be a product of negotiation,” Schiff said. “What we won’t accept is, ‘No, we’re not going to give you anything.’”

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., has also said Democrats will fight for grand jury material. He said he talked to Barr on Wednesday and Barr wouldn’t commit to releasing it.

“A judge would have to release those and we would hope a judge would,” Nadler said.

As part of his investigation, Mueller charged 34 people, including Manafort, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and three Russian companies. Manafort was convicted in Washington and Virginia

of crimes related to years of Ukrainian political consulting work, and Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI. In total, five Trump aides pleaded guilty and a sixth, Stone, is awaiting trial on charges that he lied to Congress and engaged in witness tampering.

In a four-page summary of Mueller’s report released Sunday, Barr said the special counsel did not find that Trump’s campaign “conspired or coordinated” with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election. It also said that Mueller reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed the federal investigation, instead setting out “evidence on both sides” of the question. Democrats say they want to know much more about both conclusions.

It’s not clear what evidence the Justice Department might be prepared to release, but documents of enormous public interest would be summaries of FBI interviews with witnesses in the case. The FBI released similar records following the conclusion of an investigation into Hillary Clinton’s emails, including a write-up of the interview agents did with Clinton herself.

In Mueller’s case, disclosure of witness interviews would almost certainly yield vivid, firsthand accounts from some of Trump’s closest aides and advisers — among them former White House officials Hope Hicks and Don McGahn — of the many episodes Mueller and his team scrutinized for potential obstruction of justice. Those include the firing of James Comey as FBI director and the constant browbeating of Jeff Sessions, Trump’s first attorney general.

There are whole other categories of information that less likely to be released.

Those include grand jury testimony; negative information about people who were investigated but not charged; and details about ongoing investigations. Though grand jury testimony is historically not released, those records were made public after the White-water investigation into former President Bill Clinton and during an investigation into President Richard Nixon before he resigned.

Schiff and other Democrats are leaning heavily on those precedents, along with the Justice Department’s recent release of hundreds of thousands of documents last year relating to the Hillary Clinton investigation and also the origins of the Russia investigation, which was ongoing at the time. Republicans sought those documents when they were in the majority; Democrats say the department can’t possibly deny them similar information now that they control the House.

Republicans, meanwhile, have been deferential to Barr. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., on Tuesday urged caution so as not to “throw innocent people who’ve not been charged under the bus.” He didn’t elaborate.

Barr appears to be moving forward on sending Congress an additional, redacted report. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Wednesday that Barr told him he was combing through Mueller’s report and removing classified, grand jury and other information in hopes of releasing it in April.

Democrats say that won’t be enough. “We’re not happy about it, to put it mildly,” Nadler said after his own call with Barr.

Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

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LOCAL & STATE

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NEWS BRIEFS

CLERMONT Man shot mom because she wouldn't give back his other gun

A Clermont man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly shooting his mother in the index finger, police say.

Jason Kron, 47, used either a BB gun or pellet gun to threaten his mother, 75, at their home, according to an arrest report.

The mother told police that Kron came into her bedroom while she was sleeping to demand a gun that she had taken from him. She said he was holding what she thought was a real handgun, so she stalled for time by pretending to look for his gun and seeking an opportunity to call the police.

When she tried to make the call, Kron reportedly shot her in the finger, leaving her with a puncture wound which was treated by Lake EMS.

According to the arrest report, Kron threatened to kill his mother multiple times during the incident. Kron allegedly fled the scene on a bike before deputies arrived, but he was caught by a deputy on patrol.

Kron has a violent recent history. He was arrested in April, 2018, for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and in July, 2018, for abuse of an elderly person. He was sentenced to 90 days in the Lake County Jail.

CLERMONT Man charged with carting large amount of pot

A Groveland man allegedly caught with a sizable quantity of marijuana in a duffel bag of packaged marijuana claimed it wasn't for sale but for sampling with a friend.

It didn't matter to the Clermont police officer who pulled over Alec Joseph Petritis, 25, for running a stop sign. Petritis was charged with possession of THC oil, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license suspended.

According to the arrest report, the officer smelled marijuana after pulling Petritis over, but Petritis told him a friend had smoked in the car earlier.

When the officer searched the car, he reportedly found a black duffel bag on the back seat, which contained several plastic bags of marijuana, as well as a mason jar full of pot.

The bags were labeled with different names for the drug. Petritis allegedly told the officer that the drugs were his, but he wasn't looking to sell it. He had been collecting the drugs to try with his friend later.

The bag's contents weighed 35 grams.

SORRENTO Multiple tasers have no effect on drunken-driving suspect

A Deltona man pulled over for drunk driving reportedly shrugged off three attempts to tase him before officers were able to subdue him at gunpoint.

After allegedly failing a field sobriety test near Sundance Drive and County Road 437, Jamar Antwan Epps, 36, apparently pulled his hand away from an arresting deputy and fled from police. Another deputy was able to tase Epps, causing him to fall into some bushes.

When deputies caught up, he broke free of their grasp again and continued running. According to the arrest affidavit, deputies managed to land taser shots on Epps two more times, but they had no effect. The chase finally came to an

See BRIEFS, A4

Poll: DeSantis still popular

By Zac Anderson
GateHouse Florida

Gov. Ron DeSantis remains popular and so are many of the proposals being pursued by DeSantis and the GOP-controlled Legislature this year, according to a new poll by Florida Atlantic University.

DeSantis has a 54 percent approval rating in the poll released Thursday, with only 19 percent of respondents saying they disapprove of the governor and 27 percent unsure. The governor's approval

rating is up six percentage points from an FAU poll last month.

A big reason that a majority of Floridians approve of DeSantis is his support for policy proposals that have bipartisan backing, including allowing patients to smoke medical marijuana and cleaning up the environment.

DeSantis also backs expanding school vouchers, cracking down on so-called sanctuary cities and importing lower-cost

See DESANTIS, A4



Gov. Ron DeSantis, left, speaks before introducing his pick for the Florida Supreme Court, as his wife, Casey, looks on, on Wednesday in Miami. (AP PHOTO/WILFREDO LEE)

IceHouse's hot new shows



Actors perform a musical number at a dress rehearsal for a 2015 show at the IceHouse Theatre. The Sonnentag Theatre at the IceHouse in Mount Dora recently announced the 2019-20 season, beginning July 12 and running until June 7. Shows for the season feature six plays, three musicals and three comedies. (DAILY COMMERCIAL FILE)

Six new shows come to the stage in Mount Dora

By Linda Florea
Correspondent

MOUNT DORA — The Sonnentag Theatre at the IceHouse in Mount Dora recently announced the 2019-20 season beginning July 12 and running until June 7, 2020. Shows for the season feature six plays, three musicals and three comedies.

"The Drowsy Chaperone" starts out the season from July 12 to Aug. 4. Music and lyrics are by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison, with book by Bob Martin and Don McKellarthe. The production won five Tony Awards.

The play is a loving send-up of the musical comedies of the 1920s. As a shy, middle-aged theater buff describes a fictitious 1928 hit musical called "The Drowsy Chaperone," The quirky little musical springs to life in his living room.

"Suite Surrender," a comedy by playwright Michael McKeever, is the second show of the season, running Sept. 13 to Oct. 6. The show is a hilarious love note to the classic farces of the '30s and '40s, in which two of Hollywood's biggest divas arrive at the luxurious Palm Beach Royale Hotel and are mistakenly checked into the same suite. Two overblown egos, double entendres and a legendary feud set off fireworks.

Coming to the stage just

in time for the holidays is the family favorite "The Sound of Music," winner of the 1960 Tony for Best Musical and 1965 Oscar for Best Picture. In the play, a young postulant nun, Maria, is sent to be the governess for the seven children of a widowed Austrian naval officer. Her growing love for the youngsters, and her joy for life, capture the heart of the stern captain. The 1938 invasion of Austria by the Nazis results in the family's narrow escape to Switzerland on the eve of World War II.

Next up on the marquee, from Jan. 17 to Feb. 9, is "Biloxi Blues," a Neil Simon dramatic comedy and winner of the 1985

See SHOWS, A4

Drug imports could extend to state workers

By Christine Sexton
News Service Florida

TALLAHASSEE — State employees have been thrown into the drug importation mix.

Amid a push by Gov. Ron DeSantis to allow Canadian prescription-drug imports, the House Appropriations Committee this week approved a bill that would require the Florida Department of Management Services to offer an international prescription-drug program as a benefit to state employees.

The proposal is included in a bill (HB 5009) that would conform state law to the House's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. The Senate has not included the drug-importation option in its budget bills.

The Department of Management Services oversees the health insurance program for state employees.

DeSantis has made a priority of trying to allow cheaper prescription drugs to be imported from Canada and has

See DRUG, A4

Groveland Founder's Day bash this weekend

By Linda Florea
Correspondent

GROVELAND — Groveland celebrates its 2019 Founder's Day Celebration Saturday and Sunday.

Events to celebrate the occasion will be held at Festival Park and the Puryear Building. There will be a groundbreaking for a park at Wilson Lake Parkway and a presentation at Hope International Church.

"Groveland is in a good place now and it's time to celebrate a little," Mayor Evelyn Wilson said, citing explosive growth

and the announcement that Kroger Co. is building a major high-tech distribution center here.

Events kick off Saturday with the Historic Groveland Expo at the Puryear Building and Historic Museum hosted by the Groveland Historical Society from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tables will be set up inside the Puryear Building and are staffed by churches that want to tell their history, Historical Society President Mary Helen Myers said. Also featured at the Expo are a display of the Arnold family that at one time

owned the largest saw mill in the southeast and employed up to 500 people, a timeline for the police department, memorabilia from Groveland High School and more.

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for a new 40-acre park at 121 Wilson Lake Parkway at 2 p.m.

Events return to Festival Park at 3 p.m. with vendors, food trucks, a rock climbing wall and face painting. Country music artists Randy McNeeley, the Southern Brotherz Band

See BASH, A4



Country music artists Randy McNeeley, the Southern Brotherz Band and Groveland's own Rob Nichols perform from 3 to 9 p.m. on Saturday at the 2019 Founder's Day Celebration. (FACEBOOK)

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BALLOT

From Page A1

other nine amendments were placed on the ballot by the Legislature and the Florida Constitution Revision Commission.

It also comes as groups gather petition signatures to get potentially high-profile issues on the 2020 ballot, such as a proposal that would raise the state's minimum wage. The minimum-wage proposal is being spearheaded by Orlando lawyer John Morgan, who also led a successful effort in 2016 to pass a constitutional amendment that broadly legalized medical marijuana.

To get on the ballot, supporters of those initiatives will have to submit 766,200 valid petition signatures to the state and get Florida Supreme Court approval of amendment wording.

The House bill that moved forward Thursday would make it illegal to use out-of-state petition gatherers or to pay them by the number of petitions they collect. It also would require amendments to say if the proposed changes to the Constitution "may require increased taxes or a reduction in government services that are currently funded."

Under the proposal, petition gatherers would have to be Florida residents and register with

It also comes as groups gather petition signatures to get potentially high-profile issues on the 2020 ballot, such as a proposal that would raise the state's minimum wage. The minimum-wage proposal is being spearheaded by Orlando lawyer John Morgan, who also led a successful effort in 2016 to pass a constitutional amendment that broadly legalized medical marijuana.

the secretary of state. It also would allow "any person of interest" to submit a 50-word position statement to outline "why the person supports or opposes the amendment." Those statements would be posted on the Department of State's website.

The Attorney General would also have the authority to ask the Supreme Court to rule on whether proposed amendments are policy changes that the Legislature could make in lieu of amending the Constitution. That answer — a yes or a no — would be required to be printed on the ballot measure for voters to see.

"On the ballot, we want to ensure that when someone walks in to vote, they understand what they are voting on," Grant said. "The voters should know, 'Do I agree with x enough to pay the price tag on it?'"

The legislation would impact proposed constitutional changes on the 2020 ballot.

History shows that ballot measures are often backed by big money. For example, Disney Worldwide Services, Inc. and the Seminole Tribe of Florida bankrolled an amendment

on the November ballot that is designed to make it harder to expand gambling in the state. Also, it has been common for out-of-state firms to be hired to gather petition signatures.

Two environmental groups, however, chastised the House proposal because they argued it is designed to discourage citizens from pursuing ballot initiatives.

"To us, this bill is transparent in that the Legislature wants sole authority to put things on the ballot," said David Cullen, a lobbyist for the Sierra Club. "Have a little respect for future voters who disagree with you ... that's the essence of democracy."

State Rep. Joseph Geller, D-Aventura, was upset that committee members were not given more time to discuss the petition process under the proposal, which emerged this week. He said he agrees some restrictions ought to be in place, but that there was "too much coming too late."

"I think some restrictions are needed and we need to take a good look at this, but I feel rushed," Geller said.



A device called a "bump stock" is attached to a semi-automatic rifle at the Gun Vault store and shooting range, Oct. 4, 2017 in South Jordan, Utah. [ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO]

STOCKS

From Page A1

believed to be in circulation in the U.S. are still around is anyone's guess, but in the weeks leading up to the ban, there were signs that many were destroyed or turned in as required.

Anyone in possession of a bump stock from now on can be charged with a federal offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms outlawed the attachments at President Donald Trump's direction after the Las Vegas gunman rained fire from his high-rise hotel suite on concertgoers, killing 58 people in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court declined

to put the ban on hold.

As the prohibition drew near, RW Arms in Fort Worth, Texas, featured a countdown clock on its website and heavily promoted last chances to buy the accessories. By the time the ban took effect, RW Arms was left with 60,000, probably worth millions, since they sell for around \$150 to \$250 each.

The company turned over crates of them to the ATF, and a video showed boxes being loaded onto a conveyer belt and fed into an industrial grinder.

Washington state set aside \$150,000 to offer owners \$150 for each device they turned in to police. Within weeks, the money had been used up.

The ATF declined to say how many people brought their bump stocks to an ATF office.

T.J. Kirgin, owner of a firearms tactical gear

company in St. Peters, Missouri, said that in the weeks before the measure went into effect, he made one last sweep through his warehouse to make sure he didn't have any more devices left.

And then he took his very last one and with some friends held a mock funeral for it, reducing it to a hunk of melted plastic embedded in a rock.

While gun control activists welcomed the end of the line for a device blamed for horrifying carnage, Kirgin called it not just the day bump stocks died but the day freedom died.

"If they can do this with a piece of plastic, then they'll be able to do it with another piece of plastic and another piece of metal," he said. "And it's just systematically taking away Second Amendment rights."

TRUMP

From Page A1

But he also turned serious and thanked the Trump supporters for staying loyal to the president.

"This week's vindication of my father, of me, of our family: It's not just our vindication, it's your vindication," Trump Jr. said. "You own that with us. Because you stuck by us. You knew it was nonsense. You knew my father was fighting for all of you."

Mueller's report stretches more than 300 pages, according to a Justice Department official. But Barr's four-page summary released Sunday has been seized upon by the Republican president and his allies as a weapon to use against Democrats, the so-called Deep State and the media.

While Trump's base has long been suspicious of Mueller, the president's team believes independents and moderate Democrats who backed him in the last election but have since soured may return to the fold if convinced he was unfairly targeted.

The White House believes Mueller's findings may starve the oxygen from both Democratic talking points and possible GOP primary challenges. Some swing voters, wary at the prospect of endless investigations and talk of impeachment, may prove more sympathetic to the president.

The president and his allies will now link the report with the investigations launched by House Democrats and try to make the case that, in the wake of Mueller's findings, further probes are partisan overreach. And they intend to use the moment to heighten attacks on the media, which many Trump supporters believe unjustly fanned the flames of the special counsel's probe in an effort to bring down the president.

started lining up in front of the Van Andel Arena on Wednesday evening, with some camping out in tents and sleeping bags overnight. By midafternoon, a crowd of thousands, many in red "Make America Great Again" hats, snaked for blocks around downtown Grand Rapids, just across the river from The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

Many said they expected a victory lap. Sandra Kiczinski, who was among the first in line, said she'd never felt the same kind of enthusiasm from the crowd as she awaited her 25th Trump rally.

"He's just going to be on fire," Kiczinski said. Trump's sojourn to the Midwest is expected to be the first of many.

His campaign is seeking to hold three key states that he swung from blue to red in 2016 — Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania but know this will be a battle after midterm elections that showed rising Democratic energy. Still, advisers believe that Trump's core supporters remain enthusiastic heading into 2020.

Even before Thursday's barnburner, Grand Rapids loomed large in Trump lore.

On the eve of the 2016 election, Trump's breakneck final blitz of rallies was meant to come to an end in Manchester,

New Hampshire, where he was to be joined by family members to salute the traditional swing state where he had claimed his first electoral win, in its primary, months earlier.

But just days before, the Trump campaign tacked on one more rally in the western Michigan city after seeing data that showed a surge for their candidate. Internal polls showed late movement in a series of Rust Belt states on which Democrats were banking but Trump's team felt could be stolen.

The Grand Rapids rally didn't start end after midnight, bleeding into

Election Day. Trump won Michigan by just 10,704 votes — his margins of victory in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania were similarly small — and those close to the president have long pointed to the rally as a reason why.

Several longtime aides made the trip to Michigan to soak up the nostalgia and take in the show, including White House senior advisers Jared Kushner and Stephen Miller, chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski and former campaign aide David Bossie.

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ANOTHER OPINION

Floridians deserve access to records

Access to public records and government meetings is a fundamental right that Floridians treasure so much they wrote it into the state's constitution. Yet every year, those rights to Sunshine come under attack. This year, sadly, is no different.

The Legislature is considering bills that could obscure the public's understanding of mass tragedies and violent crime, as well as bills that punch holes in public records that are relied upon by businesses and government watchdogs. Many of them are vague, unpredictable and subjective.

The most high-profile is legislation (SB 186, HB 7017) that would block access to photographs, video or audio of mass shootings. The bill's sponsors are acting with good intentions. But in the aftermath of massacres at the Pulse nightclub and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, scrutiny of those records illuminated major decisions — including the allocation of hundreds of millions of dollars of public money to beef up school security in the wake of the Parkland tragedy.

Among other scary prospects, SB 248/HB 203, would drastically expand the definition of "home address" for roughly three dozen categories of public employees and their families, and could make it difficult to conduct routine tasks like title searches.

HB 1249/SB 1622 would block the release of the names of foster parents — a move that could stymie investigations of abuse of children while in state custody. Often, outside involvement is the only hope these children have.

Open-government advocates are worried most of all, however, about something the Legislature isn't doing — a lack of action that could lead to a records blackout the likes of which Florida has rarely seen.

In November, voters approved a constitutional amendment that included a provision known as "Marsy's law." It granted broad new rights to crime victims, including the right to have any information blocked "that could be used to locate or harass a victim or the victim's family."

Petersen is compiling a long and growing list of decisions by police agencies who have taken it upon themselves to withhold information related to criminal cases — including, in some instances, almost every detail but the fact that a particular crime took place. The interim Volusia County Medical Examiner is refusing to release names of homicide victims, citing Marsy's law. In Sarasota, police charged a daycare worker with child neglect — but refused to release the name of the daycare where she worked.

Police agencies are making their best guess as to what the vague outlines of Marsy's law covers, but the Legislature should set specific guidelines that spell out exactly which records are exempt. Thus far, the bill that would implement Marsy's law lacks that guidance; lawmakers should remedy that by the end of session.

Florida's public-records and access laws should be strong, specific and always protective of the public's right to know. If lawmakers keep that in mind, they will advance the good legislation, and stop the attempts to cast more records into darkness. It's that simple — or at least, it should be.

Daytona Beach News Journal

ANOTHER OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No collusion — remarkable!

Extraordinary! After all this time and money, the Mueller investigative team of 13 Democrats, including Attorney Rhee who defended the Clinton email case in front of Congress and Bernstein who was a donation-bundler for Clinton in 2016, could not find a collusion indictment on any American.

Twenty-four Russians who will never see trial, but no Trump collusion indictment from an investigation team that hated him.

Gerard Fischer, Mount Dora

The truth concerning climate

Replying to Jim Freeman's "The truth concerning climate" that ran on March 14: The writer of this letter believes he knows more about climate science than every scientific body of national or international standing — all of them say he's wrong.

We simply can't afford to listen to the scientifically illiterate any longer. It's already cost American taxpayers \$1.6 trillion in ever-increasing climate disasters (NASA/NOAA).

If we stick with our "business-as-usual" approach to dealing with global warming, we will

have an "economic collapse" which will cost hundreds of trillions, followed by a "societal collapse" — and the cost of that would be incalculable (National Academy of Sciences, IPCC).

Fortunately, we now have a way to fix both climate change and the economy.

It has "overwhelming support" — 81 percent — from voters in both parties according to Yale, Monmouth and George Mason University polls, as reported in "The Hill". It would end the CO2 emissions that kill over 300,000 Americans annually (MIT.edu) and costs Americans over \$800 billion in health costs annually (Forbes).

We can pay for a Green New Deal by taxing the one percent who owns more wealth than the bottom 90 percent of this country's population (Wikipedia) and by taxing fossil fuel mega-corporations out of existence. Our oil and coal corporations knowingly created the climate crisis (Scientific American) and they, not the ordinary taxpayer, should pay to fix it.

A carbon tax that's paid directly to every taxpayer would increase our GDP by \$350 billion annually (CBO). Switch to clean energy and you don't pay the tax you just get the tax money.

Canada's done it successfully for a decade: "Canada passed a carbon tax that will give most Canadians more money" (The Guardian).

Solar and wind energy are now becoming as cheap or cheaper, worldwide, as any fossil fuel (Forbes, Lazard) and they'll be "essentially free" by 2030 (Financial Times, UBS).

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster

GAO voter fraud

In John Cohn's March 9 letter to the editor, he states that the GAO only found voter fraud in .00025 percent of voters. If talking about 200 million voters, he believes that this is 50,000 proven cases. Unfortunately for John, his math-solving skills need a refresher course because .00025 percent of 200,000,000 is just 500, not 50,000.

Hint: multiplying 200 million by .00025 is not the same as multiplying 200 million by .00025 percent. Try it for yourself — multiply 100 by 1 and compare it to multiplying 100 by 1 percent.

Don't let that pesky decimal point get you down, John. We still look forward to your point of view, whether we agree or not.

Ronald Million, Fruitland Park

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ANOTHER OPINION

Witch-hunter found no witch, but Dems still see one



Jay Ambrose

The witch-hunt found no witch.

After 22 months, more than \$25 million, 2,800 subpoenas, 500 sessions with witnesses and hundreds of search warrants, special counsel Robert Mueller and his team of 59 lawyers, FBI agents and other specialists came to a conclusion in its investigation into President Donald Trump colluding with Russians.

There was no coordination or cooperation to enable the man with the golden hair to win the 2016 election. It didn't happen.

Even though there were government agents illegally leaking classified information to implicate Trump, the crimes did not pay. Even though screeching Democrats said this

scandal would open the door to impeachment, their plans will have to be revised. Even though we had endless incriminating news reports in which bias outperformed facts, facts stood their ground. Even though varied liberal commentators acted as either prophets or ninnies in their absolute assurance of Trumpian guilt, they weren't prophets.

The scary truth is that this was a farce from the beginning, a conspiracy theory on the order of the birther tale about President Barack Obama, an investigation that began with nothing to back it up except lies from the Hillary Clinton campaign and an awry Justice Department. The consequences were political tumult, governmental disruption and abuse of our precious system by trying to dispose of a legitimately elected president on the basis of nothing.

Mueller is an intense, gotcha kind of guy who followed paths through the woods, off cliffs and sometimes

trespassed where he shouldn't have, but — congratulations and apologies, sir — did honestly concede he could not find a hint of any help to the Russians who, by the way, have been messing with our elections since the 1960s, according to the Washington Post.

In a summary of the official report, Mueller is also quoted by Attorney General William Barr as saying that he did not conclude that Trump had or had not committed obstruction of justice. Barr and his deputy, Rob Rosenstein, examined the Mueller findings on that question and said exonerated was the answer in the absence of sufficient evidence or a persuasive legal rationale to bring charges. Trump had nothing to hide and therefore no reason to harbor criminal intent nor, for that matter, criminal sneakiness. He did everything in public.

Democrats furiously see their reasoning as an obstruction of their dearest, deepest wishes as they also scream

for a full report that Barr had already promised, except for disclosure of secret grand jury proceedings that by law should stay out of sight. But please understand that the Democrats are ready to make the end of the world out of nothing, even an uncrossed "t," and that no fact, no insight, no logical analysis will dissuade them.

Yes, it's possible to understand their disgust at a president who will, for instance, pointlessly disparage the late, honorable Sen. John McCain, gets so much wrong and invites judgments of unfitness. But you don't burn down the barn out of fear someone else will, and he has pluses.

Even some liberal economists are now conceding that Trump's tax reforms have helped produce business expansion, record revenues, record low unemployment rates and higher wages. Rule of law has been upheld better than under his predecessor. Regulations are not strangling us as much anymore, prisons

are being reformed, ISIS has gone poof and he has given the Supreme Court two more constitutionalists as justices.

The other team wants to play juvenile, debasing games with the Supreme Court. The Medicare for all scheme paraded by Sen. Bernie Sanders would double all individual and corporate taxes unless the Dems decided to have a debt crisis instead. They bargain for votes by promising free college to everyone who mistakes the word "free" as meaning no one pays. The Green New Deal is absolute madness in which authoritarians would make you give up your car, destroy oil, gas and nuclear power and put millions out of work while warming the opposite.

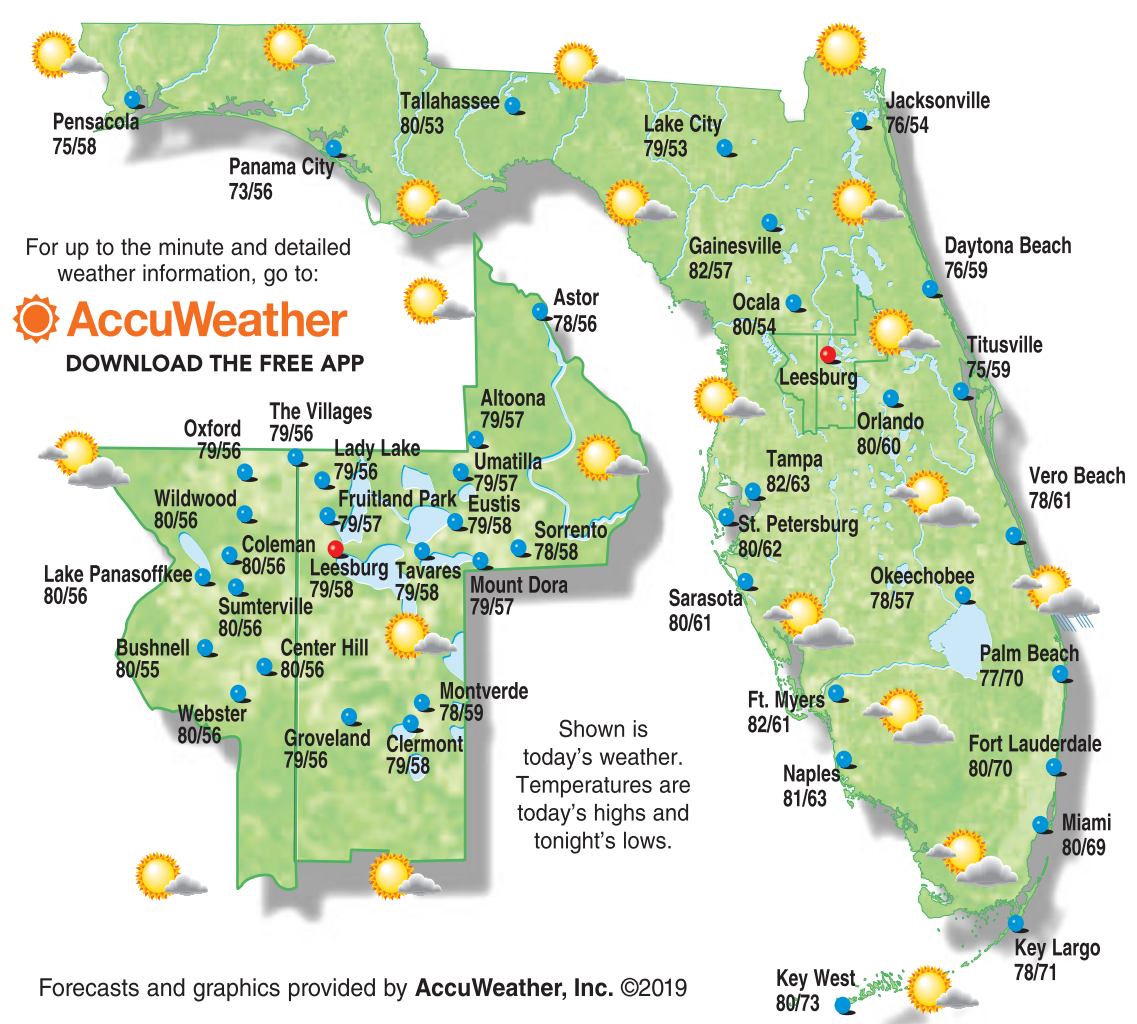
Global warming probably wouldn't even notice.

The special prosecutors in 2020 should be alert voters.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

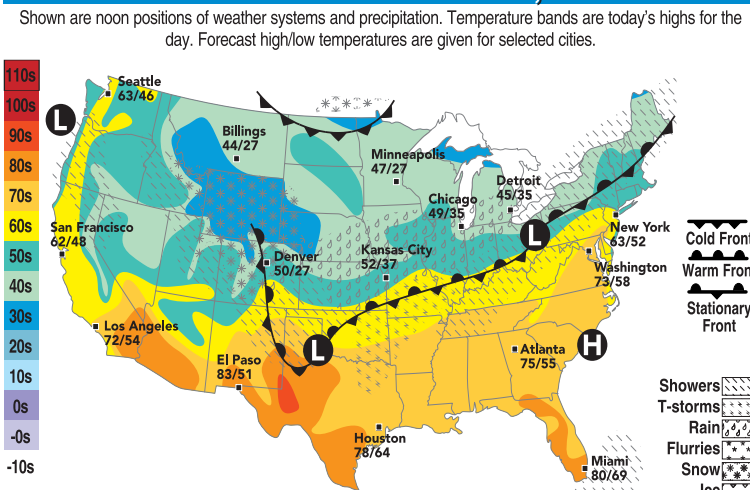
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Mostly sunny and nice		Partly sunny and pleasant		Sunny		Not as warm with considerable cloudiness		Mostly cloudy with a few showers	
HIGH 79°	LOW 58°	HIGH 83°	LOW 61°	HIGH 85°	LOW 62°	HIGH 78°	LOW 61°	HIGH 74°	LOW 51°



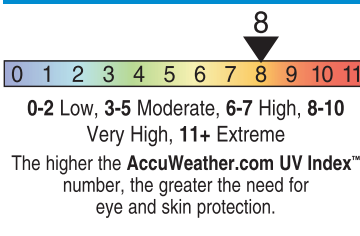
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NATIONAL WEATHER FOR MARCH 29, 2019



Yesterday's National High/Low: (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High 81° in McAllen, TX Low 9° in Berlin, NH

UV INDEX TODAY



SOLAR TABLE

The solar period schedule allows planning days so you will be fishing in good territory or hunting in good cover during those times. Major periods begin at the times shown and last for 1.5 to 2 hours. The minor periods are shorter.

Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Today 7:40 a.m.	1:28 a.m.	8:05 p.m.	1:52 p.m.
Sat. 8:25 a.m.	2:13 a.m.	8:49 p.m.	2:37 p.m.

THE SUN AND MOON

	Today	Saturday
Sunrise	7:21 a.m.	7:20 a.m.
Sunset	7:44 p.m.	7:44 p.m.
Moonrise	3:23 a.m.	4:08 a.m.
Moonsset	2:04 p.m.	2:56 p.m.



TIDES

Day	High	Feet	Low	Feet
Homosassa				
Today	2:23 pm	0.6	9:45 am	0.2
	11:51 pm	1.1	5:56 pm	0.4
Daytona Beach				
Today	3:29 am	3.7	9:57 am	0.7
	3:45 pm	3.3	10:04 pm	0.8

Day	High	Feet	Low	Feet
Sat.				
	3:28 pm	0.7	10:37 am	0.1
	---	---	7:15 pm	0.4
Daytona Beach				
Day	High	Feet	Low	Feet
Sat.	4:27 am	3.7	10:49 am	0.7
	4:43 pm	3.4	10:59 pm	0.7

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Saturday	City	Today	Saturday	City	Today	Saturday	City	Today	Saturday
Albany	54 45 r	66 45 c	Cheyenne	34 23 sn	39 24 pc	Great Falls	44 25 c	51 28 pc	Norfolk, VA	73 52 s	75 58 pc
Albuquerque	72 41 s	61 39 s	Chicago	49 35 r	42 26 c	Greensboro, NC	72 51 s	75 54 pc	Oklahoma City	69 40 t	51 32 pc
Anchorage	43 33 pc	43 27 s	Cincinnati	60 54 sh	60 29 t	Hartford	59 46 c	66 51 c	Omaha	48 34 r	45 26 pc
Asheville	72 47 s	70 50 pc	Cleveland	48 42 r	54 28 r	Honolulu	81 65 sh	81 66 pc	Philadelphia	70 55 c	73 55 pc
Atlanta	75 55 pc	77 54 pc	Columbia, SC	78 52 s	81 57 pc	Houston	78 64 sh	73 47 t	Phoenix	83 56 s	84 59 s
Atlantic City	67 49 c	67 53 pc	Concord, NH	53 41 r	59 47 c	Indianapolis	58 51 sh	53 26 r	Pittsburgh	59 49 sh	62 29 sh
Baltimore	70 53 c	74 55 pc	Dallas	74 53 c	58 40 sh	Jackson, MS	76 59 c	80 44 t	Portland, ME	51 39 c	50 45 c
Billings	44 27 c	52 32 pc	Dayton	58 52 sh	55 26 t	Kansas City	52 37 r	45 27 sh	Portland, OR	63 43 pc	68 45 pc
Birmingham	77 56 pc	78 46 c	Denver	50 27 r	41 27 sn	Las Vegas	73 52 s	74 53 s	Providence	56 44 c	61 50 c
Bismarck	50 20 c	42 28 s	Des Moines	51 33 r	45 25 pc	Little Rock	73 57 c	65 38 t	Raleigh	73 50 s	76 54 pc
Boise	56 36 c	59 38 pc	Detroit	45 35 r	44 24 r	Louisville	64 57 sh	63 33 t	Reno	55 32 s	60 36 pc
Boston	57 46 c	63 52 c	Duluth	45 20 pc	35 18 s	Memphis	72 60 c	67 40 t	Richmond	75 52 pc	77 57 pc
Buffalo	46 39 c	49 28 r	El Paso	83 51 s	73 43 s	Milwaukee	46 34 pc	45 25 sn	Sacramento	65 44 s	71 46 pc
Burlington, VT	51 34 pc	53 36 r	Fargo	41 16 pc	33 21 s	Minneapolis	47 27 pc	40 24 s	St. Louis	62 46 t	47 32 r
Charleston, SC	76 52 s	78 58 pc	Fairbanks	44 20 pc	45 24 pc	Nashville	72 55 c	72 37 t	Salt Lake City	52 36 c	53 36 pc
Charleston, WV	68 53 sh	73 40 t	Flagstaff	57 24 s	56 25 s	New Orleans	78 64 pc	80 58 pc	San Antonio	80 61 pc	74 45 c
Charlotte, NC	75 51 s	77 58 pc	Grand Rapids	52 33 c	46 21 r	New York City	63 52 c	67 54 pc	San Diego	67 55 s	72 57 s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Bill unveiled to make Puerto Rico 51st state

By Jeff Stein
 The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers on Thursday will unveil legislation to make Puerto Rico the 51st state in the nation, pushing to give the island equal voting and economic rights in the U.S. government amid an escalating feud between President Donald Trump and Puerto Rico officials over hurricane relief aid.

The legislation, set to be introduced by Rep. Darren Soto, D-Fla., with the support of Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, comes as several Democratic presidential candidates have embraced calls to grant statehood to the island, which has been mired in economic stagnation as it struggles to recover from Hurricane Maria in September 2017.

The bill is likely to spark a broader debate in both the states and Puerto Rico about the island's status as a U.S. territory. In Puerto Rico, supporters of statehood have for decades fought with those who believe the island should instead push for greater independence from the United States.

Some lawmakers have argued the Trump administration's response to Hurricane Maria, as well as the imposition of federal control over the island's budget under President Barack Obama, highlight the danger in leaving the island subject to a government it has no role in electing.

Puerto Rico has been in an economic recession for about 13 years and faces a government debt crisis, leading hundreds of thousands of residents to move to the states as the island's poverty rate rise about three times as high as the average in the United States.

"You can see the island's colonial status is not working," Soto said in an interview.



President Trump and Gov. Ricardo Rosselló of Puerto Rico participate in an Oct. 19, 2017, meeting in the Oval Office. [JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST]

"It's time to end the 120-year injustice of Puerto Rico being a colony."

Soto's legislation is the first introduced in Congress that would automatically make Puerto Rico a state, rather than calling for additional statehood referendums on the island or only allow admission after certain conditions were met, according to a spokeswoman for the congressman.

It has little chance of being signed into law anytime soon, given that Republicans control the Senate and the White House and are expected to oppose the measure. Under current law, Puerto Rico does not elect voting members of Congress, or have a say in U.S. presidential elections (although they can vote in both major parties' presidential primaries). Congressional Democratic leadership this year has also backed making statehood for the District of Columbia a priority, an idea supported by more than 200 House Democrats.

Soto said the bill will be

supported by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, former chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee that oversees Puerto Rico issues, as well as other House Republicans. Republican Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott of Florida, home to thousands who have moved from Puerto Rico, have previously expressed support for statehood for the island if that is what Puerto Ricans choose.

The island has held multiple referendum votes over its political status, but the statehood question still provokes fierce debate. Most recently, in a 2017 referendum, 97 percent of those who cast ballots voted for statehood.

However, only 23 percent of all registered voters cast ballots, as opposition parties boycotted the vote they perceived as flawed. Ramon Luis Nieves, a former Puerto Rico state senator who belongs to the island's pro-independence party, said statehood does not enjoy majority support among Puerto Ricans.

"We, the Puerto Rican

people, have our own national identity. We do not consider ourselves 'Americans,' since we have our own culture, traditions, and language," Luis Nieves said.

Proponents of statehood have noted the island receives far less generous federal benefits than U.S. states, including for programs such as food stamps and Medicaid, the health-care program for the poor and disabled. Under a deal reached by Obama and the Republican Congress, Puerto Rico's budgets must now be approved by a fiscal control board, appointed by Congress and the White House, that has pushed cuts to health care, education, and other programs run by the island's government.

The island's lack of representation in Congress has also come into sharp relief in the wake of Hurricane Maria, Rosselló said in an interview last week. At the beginning of this month, the island's government started cutting emergency food stamp benefits for 1.3 million Puerto

Rican residents amid criticism from the White House and an impasse in Congress.

The controversy over federal treatment of Puerto Rico intensified again this week after Trump privately fumed to GOP senators that the island is getting far too much money and that its funding should be redirected to U.S. states. Rosselló responded by attacking the president: "Enough with the insults and demeaning mischaracterizations."

Trump's attacks on Puerto Rico may be encouraging his political opponents to voice support for statehood for Puerto Rico. Democratic presidential hopeful Beto O'Rourke over the weekend called for admitting Puerto Rico as the 51st U.S. state, while Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass, and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., among other candidates, have called for admitting Puerto Rico as a state if that is what the island votes to approve.

"We're in a moment where Puerto Rico has four or five crises occurring simultaneously. The debate is so much more heated now, because the current status quo has lost its legitimacy from an economic, legal, and political perspective," said Hector Cordero-Guzmán, a professor at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York.

Soto said he is focused on building bipartisan support within the natural resources committee for the legislation, rather than racing to increase its number of co-sponsors. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., has previously expressed support for Puerto Rican statehood, but it is unclear if the idea has a chance of being brought up for a vote in the House.

Puerto Rico has 3.3 million residents, which would make it bigger than 21 existing U.S. states. The second largest U.S. territory, Guam, has fewer than 200,000 people.

SPORTS

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Hachimura leads Gonzaga to victory over FSU

By Joe Reedy
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Gonzaga is in the Elite Eight for the fourth time in history following a 72-58 victory over Florida State in the opening West regional semifinal on Thursday night.

Rui Hachimura scored 17

points to lead the top-seeded Bulldogs, while Brandon Clarke had 15 points and 12 rebounds as Gonzaga returned to the regional final for the second time in three seasons.

Josh Perkins and Zach Norvell Jr. each scored 14 points for Gonzaga, which led most of the game. Florida State

pulled within four with less five minutes to play but the Bulldogs closed with a 12-2 run and avenged last year's loss to the Seminoles in the regional semifinals.

Trent Forrest led fourth-seeded Florida State (29-8)

See FSU, B5



Florida State guard Terance Mann, right, vies for a rebound with Gonzaga guard Zach Norvell Jr., middle, and Florida State's Trent Forrest during the first half of an NCAA men's college basketball tournament West Region semifinal Thursday, in Anaheim, Calif.

[JAE C. HONG/AP PHOTO]

In the clutch



Tavares' Olivia Rivera (11) tries to catch the ball before Umatilla's Aimee Crews (5) can slide into second base at a game between Tavares High School and Umatilla High School in Umatilla on Thursday. [PAUL RYAN / CORRESPONDENT]

Tavares overcomes early deficit with 5-run fifth inning in 7-4 win

By Frank Jolley
frank.jolley@daily-commercial.com

UMATILLA — It takes time to build a winning program.

Tavares High School softball coach Tracey Hanson understands that and is working to transform the Bulldogs one step at a time.

And she watched her team take several steps in the right direction in Thursday's 7-4 win against Umatilla.

Umatilla had a four-run lead after two innings before Tavares responded with seven unanswered runs in the fourth and fifth innings for the win. Michelle Norvell picked up the complete game, scattering 10 hits while striking out four.

Norvell gave up six hits in her first two innings of work before settling down.

"I thought Michelle pitched very well and her catcher, Breanna Falcone, called a great game," said



Tavares' Michelle Norvell (5) pitches at a game between Tavares High School and Umatilla High School in Umatilla on Thursday. [PAUL RYAN / CORRESPONDENT]

Hanson. "Our offense came out swinging and hit the ball really well, but we still struggled to hit with runners in scoring position. We've got some things to work on, but we're getting better."

"I think we gelled some tonight." Trailing 4-2 heading into the fifth inning, Tavares (5-7) took the lead with a five-run frame.

With Kaley Rose on in

relief of Umatilla starting pitcher Dovie Jarc, Amaya Schreiber reached on a one-out single and scored when Falcone tripled into the left-field corner. Falcone raced home with the tying run on a single by Peightyn Tomson.

Tomson advanced on a wild pitch and scored the eventual winning run when Abby Habel's grounder was misplayed into an error.

Jarc went back into the

circle after that, but Habel and Elisabeth Auciello managed to score, turning a 4-2 deficit at the start of the inning into a 7-4 lead. In the inning, Tavares hit 4-for-6 (.667) with runners in scoring position.

The Bulldogs were 3-for-10 in scoring situations prior to the fifth.

Umatilla (4-6) jumped on Norvell in the second for an early lead.

Jarc opened the inning with a single and Rose blooped a one-out hit into shallow right. After Ashlee Shaw popped out for the second out of the inning, Jarc scored when Monroy reached on an error to keep the inning alive.

Aimee Crews then singled to right, scoring Rose and Kreighton Steinke followed with a single to right that scored Monroy. Tiara Morales followed with a third successive single to score Crews.

But, that was all Umatilla could get off Norvell. After going 3-for-6 with

See CLUTCH, B5



AUTO RACING | B3

NASCAR'S SCHEDULE OFFERS UP NEW TWISTS

UF's White is already reworking his roster

By Pat Dooley
GateHouse Media

GAINESVILLE — In NFL terms, Mike White has some cap room.

The Florida basketball coach will see an overhaul in his roster after three players announced they would transfer this week.

White had his first news conference of the 2019 season Thursday, putting the wraps on another NCAA Tournament year for the program.

"It was rewarding in the end," White said.

It will be a different team next season with seven scholarship players gone from this season's roster.

Already, the Gators have made a move to get a big man. Jason Jitoboh, a 6-foot-11 power forward from Chattanooga, Tennessee, announced Thursday he was committing to Florida. Jitoboh is a three-star or four-star recruit depending on the service and missed some time this year with ankle and foot injuries.

See ROSTER, B5



Florida coach Mike White directs his team during a first round game against Nevada in the NCAA Tournament on March 21 in Des Moines, Iowa.

[AP PHOTO/CHARLIE NEIBERGALL]



Fans stand for the national anthem before Thursday's game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks in Los Angeles. [MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Harper, Red Sox draw cheers, deGrom stars on Opening Day

By Ben Walker
The Associated Press

Bryce Harper bowed to his new fans, Chris Sale and the Boston Red Sox began the defense of their World Series crown and the great Mariano Rivera threw one more strike from the mound at Yankee Stadium.

Then, from ballparks across the land, it was time for opening day.

Lorenzo Cain made the big catch. Javier Baez swung a powerful bat. And Jordan

Zimmermann came close to giving Major League Baseball a perfect start Thursday.

A week after Ichiro Suzuki and the Seattle Mariners swept two games from Oakland at the Tokyo Dome, everyone was in action.

The packed crowd at Citizens Bank Park was especially energized by Harper and the Philadelphia Phillies in a 10-4 win over Atlanta.

"The atmosphere was unbelievable," Harper said. "The atmosphere was rocking all through the game."

And a year after the conditions were more fit for snowballs than baseballs in some places, the weather was fine. A little rainy in Kansas City, causing a slight delay, but no freezing temperatures anywhere.

Cy Young Award winners past and present took the hill — Jacob deGrom and Max Scherzer delivered the marquee matchup that was expected, but a duel never developed between Justin Verlander and Blake Snell.

See SOX, B5

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SPORTS ON TV

AUTO RACING
 6:55 a.m.
ESPN — Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix, practice, Bahrain
 10:55 a.m.
ESPN — Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix, practice, Bahrain
 3 p.m.
FS1 — MONSTER ENERGY NASCAR CUP, practice, Fort Worth, Texas
ESPN — Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix, practice, Bahrain
 3 p.m.
FS1 — MONSTER ENERGY NASCAR CUP, practice, Fort Worth, Texas
 4 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR XFINTY, practice, Fort Worth, Texas
 5 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR GANDER OUTDOOR TRUCK SERIES, qualifying, Fort Worth, Texas
 6:30 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR XFINTY, final practice, Fort Worth, Texas
 7:30 p.m.
FS1 — MONSTER ENERGY NASCAR CUP, qualifying, Fort Worth, Texas
 9 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR GANDER OUTDOOR TRUCK SERIES, The Vankor 350, Fort Worth, Texas

COLLEGE BASEBALL

3 p.m.
BTN — Michigan at Michigan St.
 7 p.m.
SEC — LSU at Mississippi St.
 9 p.m.
ESPN — Ole Miss at Arkansas

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

7 p.m.
CBS — NCAA Tournament: LSU vs. Michigan State, regional semifinal
 7:15 p.m.
TBS — NCAA Tournament: Auburn vs. North Carolina, regional semifinal
 9:30 p.m.
CBS — NCAA Tournament: Virginia Tech vs. Duke, regional semifinal
 9:45 p.m.
TBS — NCAA Tournament: Houston vs. Kentucky, regional semifinal

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

7 p.m.
CBSN — Division II Tournament: Lubbock Christian University vs. Southwestern Oklahoma State, championship
ESPN — NCAA Tournament: UCLA vs. UConn, regional semifinal
 9 p.m.
ESPN — NCAA Tournament: Arizona State vs. Mississippi State, regional semifinal

Lake-Sumter rolls past Rollins JV 19-3

Staff Report

LEESBURG — Kobie Leonard went 4 for 5 with three runs and two RBIs to lead a 15-hit attack as Lake-Sumter State College overwhelmed Rollins College JV 19-3 on Wednesday at Hawk's Nest.
 Collin Teegarden, Gabriel Dorsey and Steven Beach each had two hits and

IN BRIEF

TUSCALOOSA, ALA.
New Alabama coach:
'We can make a Final Four'

Nate Oats was a high school coach and math teacher making a five-figure salary six years ago.

Then he made a rapid ascent as a Buffalo assistant and head coach and is now set to lead Alabama. The men's basketball program hasn't kept pace in the Southeastern Conference, which has grown stronger overall in recent years.

But Oats did the math and believes the Crimson Tide can make it to Final Fours, though the program never has.

"Obviously, the money doesn't hurt, but it's more about 'OK, how high a level can you take?'" the program? Oats said Thursday after being formally introduced as the new Tide coach. "I'd like to play for national championships. I'm a competitor, I'm ultra-competitive on everything.

"Can you do that here? Yeah, I believe you can. I mean, they proved it in I don't know how many other different sports. You go through the list of sports that have won national championships here, they've got a bunch of them. Football competes for it every year. There's no reason we can't get to that level."

three RBIs with Teegarden scoring four runs, Johziel Serrano also had two hits.

Lake-Sumter used six pitchers, with Cameron Recny picking up the win. Recny allowed one unearned run in two innings while allowing three hits.

Lake-Sumter improved to 19-15-1 and returns to action Saturday when the Lakehawks host Seminole State College at 1 p.m.

LEWISTON, N.Y.
Niagara hires son of Michigan hoops coach

Patrick Beilein is following his father's college basketball coaching career path by moving to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

The 36-year-old son of Michigan coach John Beilein was hired on Thursday to take over at Niagara University. Patrick Beilein spent the past four seasons at Division II Le Moyne, where he had a 77-41 record.

Le Moyne qualified for the NCAA Tournament in each of its past three seasons and made its first appearance in the quarterfinals a year ago.

PHILADELPHIA
76ers assistant Lange to lead Saint Joe's

Saint Joseph's University has hired Philadelphia 76ers assistant Billy Lange as its new basketball coach.

The school said Thursday that Lange would succeed longtime coach Phil Martelli, who was fired earlier this month after three straight losing seasons.

Lange joined the Sixers in 2013, initially focusing on player development.

He previously was associate head coach at Villanova and head coach at Navy, where he led the Midshipmen in 2007-08 to their first winning season in seven years.

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	PCT	GB
y-Milwaukee	56	19	.747	—
x-Toronto	52	23	.693	4
x-Philadelphia	47	27	.635	8½
x-Indiana	45	30	.600	11
x-Boston	44	31	.587	12
Brooklyn	38	37	.507	18
Detroit	37	37	.500	18½
Orlando	37	38	.493	19
Miami	36	38	.486	19½
Charlotte	35	39	.473	20½
Washington	31	45	.408	25½
Atlanta	27	48	.360	29
Chicago	21	55	.276	35½
Cleveland	19	56	.253	37
New York	14	60	.189	41½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Golden State	51	23	.689	—
50	23	.685	½	
47	27	.635	4	
x-Houston	47	28	.627	4½
Utah	45	30	.600	6½
x-L.A. Clippers	45	30	.600	6½
Oklahoma City	44	31	.587	7½
43	32	.573	8½	
37	37	.500	14	
Minnesota	33	41	.446	18
L.A. Lakers	33	42	.440	18½
New Orleans	31	45	.408	21
Memphis	30	45	.400	21½
Dallas	29	45	.392	22
Phoenix	17	59	.224	35

Wednesday's Games

Golden State 118, Memphis 103
 Oklahoma City 107, Indiana 99
 Portland 118, Chicago 98
 Washington 124, Phoenix 121
 Utah 115, L.A. Lakers 100
Thursday's Games
 Brooklyn at Philadelphia, late
 Orlando at Detroit, late
 Dallas at Miami, late
 Toronto at New York, late
 Denver at Houston, late
 L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, late
 Sacramento at New Orleans, late
 Cleveland at San Antonio, late
Today's Games
 Indiana at Boston, 7 p.m.
 Portland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Denver at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
 Golden State at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Washington at Utah, 9 p.m.
 Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
 Cleveland at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
 Boston at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.
 Sacramento at Houston, 6 p.m.
 Orlando at Indiana, 7 p.m.
 Portland at Detroit, 7 p.m.
 Miami at New York, 7:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Memphis at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

PRO HOCKEY

NHL

All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF GA
z-Tampa Bay	77	59	14	4	122	306 206
x-Boston	77	47	21	9	103	243 197
Washington	77	45	24	8	98	264 235
Toronto	77	45	25	7	97	275 233
N.Y. Islanders	77	44	26	7	95	212 188
Pittsburgh	77	42	24	11	95	261 228
Carolina	76	42	27	7	91	226 210
Montreal	77	41	28	8	90	233 220
Columbus	76	42	30	4	88	232 218
Philadelphia	77	37	32	8	82	234 256
Florida	77	33	32	12	78	249 268
Buffalo	76	31	36	9	71	207 251
N.Y. Rangers	76	29	34	13	71	211 256
New Jersey	77	29	39	9	67	211 260
Detroit	76	28	38	10	66	206 258
Ottawa	76	27	43	6	60	226 278

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF GA
x-Calgary	77	47	23	7	101	269 215
x-San Jose	76	43	24	9	95	268 240
x-Winnipeg	76	45	27	4	94	256 223
x-Nashville	77	43	28	6	92	224 202
St. Louis	76	41	27	8	90	226 206
Vegas	77	42	29	6	90	238 213
Dallas	77	40	31	6	86	195 189
Colorado	77	35	29	13	83	244 232
Arizona	77	37	33	7	81	200 212
Minnesota	77	35	33	9	79	203 224
Edmonton	76	34	34	8	76	221 253
Chicago	76	33	33	10	76	248 272
Vancouver	77	32	35	10	74	211 242
Anaheim	78	32	36	10	74	185 241
Los Angeles	76	28	40	8	64	185 243

Wednesday's Games

Philadelphia 5, Toronto 4, SO
 Boston 6, N.Y. Rangers 3
 Dallas 2, Calgary 1
 Colorado 4, Vegas 3
Thursday's Games
 Washington at Carolina, late
 Montreal at Columbus, late
 Detroit at Buffalo, late
 Florida at Ottawa, late
 N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg, late
 Dallas at Edmonton, late
 Los Angeles at Vancouver, late
 Chicago at San Jose, late
Today's Games
 St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
 Nashville at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
 New Jersey at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
 Anaheim at Calgary, 9 p.m.
 Arizona at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Minnesota at Vegas, 10 p.m.
Saturday's Games
 Florida at Boston, 1 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Carolina, 1:30 p.m.
 Montreal at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
 Toronto at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
 Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
 Washington at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
 St. Louis at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 Columbus at Nashville, 8 p.m.
 Vegas at San Jose, 9 p.m.
 Anaheim at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
 Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
 Chicago at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
	W	L	T	PTS	GF GA
D.C. United	2	0	1	7	7
Cincinnati	2	1	1	7	7
Columbus	2	1	1	7	4
Toronto FC	2	0	0	6	6
Montreal	2	1	0	6	6
Orlando City	1	1	2	5	6
New York Red Bulls	1	1	1	4	5
Philadelphia	1	2	1	4	5
New York City FC	0	0	3	3	4
Atlanta	0	1	2	2	4
Chicago	0	2	1	1	4
New England	0	3	1	1	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	PTS	GF GA
Los Angeles FC	3	0	1	10	10
Seattle	3	0	0	9	10
Houston	2	0	1	7	6
FC Dallas	2	1	1	7	5
Minnesota United	2	1	0	6	8
LA Galaxy	2	1	0	6	5
Sporting Kansas City	1	1	1	4	4
Real Salt Lake	1	2	1	4	3
Colorado	0	2	2	5	8
Portland	0	2	1	1	4
Vancouver	0	3	0	0	4
San Jose	0	3	0	0	2

Today's Game

New York City FC at Toronto FC, 8 p.m.
Saturday's Games
 New York at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Minnesota United at New England, 2 p.m.
 Montreal at Sporting Kansas City, 3 p.m.
 Los Angeles FC at San Jose, 3:30 p.m.
 Atlanta at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.
 FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
 Houston at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Seattle at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

D.C. United at Orlando City, 6:30 p.m.
 Portland at LA Galaxy, 9 p.m.

ODDS

PREGAME.COM LINE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Today				
National League	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
Colorado	-146	at Miami	+136	
at Milwaukee	-125	St. Louis	+115	
at San Diego	-146	San Francisco	+136	
at L.A. Dodgers	-158	Arizona	+148	

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Today				
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Boston	6½	214	Indiana	+120
Portland	3	232½	at Atlanta	
at Oklahoma City	5	221	Denver	
Golden State	9½	230	at Minnesota	
at Utah	12	226½	Washington	
Charlotte	2	225½	at L.A. Lakers	

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Today				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE	
Michigan State	6	LSU		
Duke	7½	Virginia Tech		
Kentucky	3	Houston		
North Carolina	5½	Auburn		
at Green Bay	6	CS Bakersfield		

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Today				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE	
St. Louis	-210	at NY Rangers	+190	
at Pittsburgh	-134	Nashville	+124	
at Detroit	-133	New Jersey	+123	
at Calgary	-250	Anaheim	+220	
at Colorado	Off	Arizona	Off	
at Vegas	Off	Minnesota	Off	

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Placed 1B Steve Pearce, 2B Dustin Pedroia and 3B Marco Hernandez on the 10-day IL, Pearce retroactive to Monday. Placed RHP Steven Wright on the restricted list.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Placed INFs Jason Kipnis and Francisco Lindor and OF Bradley Zimmer on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday. Designated RHP Ben Taylor for assignment. Reassigned RHP Tyler Clippard, OF Carlos Gonzalez and C Dionar Navarro to minor league camp. Selected the contract of INF/DH Hanley Ramirez from Columbus (IL).
HOUSTON ASTROS — Placed RHPs Lance McCullers Jr. and Joe Smith on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday. Placed RHP Francis Martes on the restricted list.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Placed LHPs Danny Duffy and Brian Flynn on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday, and RHP Trevor Oaks on the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of INF Frank Schwindel from Omaha (PCL). Reassigned C Nick Dini, INF/OF Erick Mejia, RHPs Homer Bailey and Michael Ynoa and INFs Humberto Arteaga and Cheslor Cuthbert to minor league camp. Placed LHP Eric Skoglund on the restricted list.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed RHP/DH Shohei Ohtani, OFs Justin Upton and Michael Taylor Cole on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday. Claimed OF Brian Goodwin off waivers from Kansas City.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Placed OFs Aaron Hicks and Jacoby Ellsbury, SS Didi Gregorius and RHPs Dellin Betances, Ben Heller and Luis Severino on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday. Placed LHP CC Sabathia on the suspended list.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Optioned INF Franklin Barreto to Las Vegas (PCL).
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Placed 3B Matt Duffy, LHP Anthony Banda and RHP Jose De Leon on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday.
TEXAS RANGERS — Placed LHP Yohaner Mendez on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday, and RHP Luke Farrell on the 60-day IL. Optioned OF Zack Granite to Nashville (PCL). Assigned RHP Adrian Sampson to Nashville. Designated RHP Connor Sadzeck for assignment. Selected the contracts of RHP Jeanmar Gomez, 2B Logan Forsythe and OF Hunter Pence from Nashville (PCL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed OF Dalton Pompey on the 7-day IL and OF Jonathan Davis, LHP Ryan Borucki and RHPs Clay Buchholz, David Phelps and Ryan Tepera on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Monday. Recalled 1B Rowdy Tellez from Buffalo (IL). Selected the

Analysis: NASCAR did its best freshening schedule

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — An entire generation of NASCAR has spent its life tuned to a schedule so predictable events could be planned years in advance and race dates marked milestones.

Daytona meant the beach — a week out of school in February, the Fourth of July for vacation — while Memorial Day was spent at Charlotte. Labor Day meant South Carolina sweet tea at Darlington Raceway.

Seriously, nearly every weekend has been the same for as long as an entire generation remembers.

But 2020 will be different, the first radically changed schedule in practically forever, as NASCAR did the best it could in answering an urgent need to freshen its product.

NASCAR was not blessed with a blank sheet of paper for this Jim France-driven project because binding contracts with its existing track operators limited NASCAR's power. NASCAR legally could only force a track to move two weeks forward or backward from its existing date; anything more drastic needed track approval.

That handcuffed NASCAR's effort in demanding the fixes fans have begged for the last several years, but the series still made a huge right turn for 2020.

"A lot of that is a product of Jim France, wanting to make some bold moves, wanting to make moves quickly, trying to answer some of the questions or some of the asks of the fans. We feel like we were able to do that," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer.

BIGGEST WINNER

Martinsville Speedway in Virginia gets the overall win because it got Saturday night before Mother's Day under its state-of-the-art LED lighting system AND the final race before the championship round. Drivers can and will use fenders to win at Martinsville, and the schedule



The crowd watches drivers through the first two turns, during a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Phoenix International Raceway, on March 13, 2016, in Avondale, Ariz. [AP PHOTO/ROSS D. FRANKLIN, FILE]

changes give the shortest track on the NASCAR schedule two can't-miss events.

BOLDEST MOVER

Pocono Raceway agreed to try a doubleheader and run a pair of 400-mile races on one weekend. The move helped NASCAR shorten the season by one week, ending on Nov. 8 on Veteran's Day weekend — the date NBC Sports requested for the finale.

The Pennsylvania track took on an opportunity to build something from scratch as the first venue to host a doubleheader. Pocono, if inclined, can turn its event into a pretty neat outdoor festival by bringing in musical acts and making the infield the place for the New York City market on one June weekend. How the two events in two days will be pulled off is still in planning stages, and Pocono has already signed on for a heavy and new undertaking. But, why not make it a weeklong event and give IndyCar a share of the stage? Have IndyCar come in a few days ahead of time, as an appetizer to this new doubleheader and run before Cup gets to town, thus encouraging fans to show up early and stay awhile.

BIGGEST SURPRISE

Do not accuse NASCAR of being too tied to tradition to make a strong move because Dale Earnhardt Jr. can't remember the last July 4th weekend he

didn't spend in Daytona. You went to the beach when you weren't at the speedway and that's just how it always has been because Daytona International Speedway has hosted a race on July 4th or the Fourth of July weekend since it opened in 1959.

The speedway gave up that date equity to take the last race of the regular season, the one that finalizes the playoff field, in late August. O'Donnell said the industry, drivers included, supported ending the season at Daytona even though the track has insane racing and wrecks dozens of cars. The holiday race instead went to Indianapolis Motor Speedway, host of the Memorial Day event of the year 42 days earlier with the Indianapolis 500.

The loudest gripe so far has been concern about temperatures at Indianapolis next July 5th, but IMS for 13 years raced NASCAR during the first weekend in August and then raced 11 seasons in late July. It was only last season, just one time, the race was run in September as the regular-season finale. It is always hot in Indianapolis in the summer, but the speedway for more than 100 years has proven to be an iconic symbol in honoring the nation during patriotic events.

And don't forget, it was always hot at Daytona in July, too. And at least a portion of Daytona on-track activity was rained out, seemingly every single day.

YOU HAD TO SEE THIS COMING

The season finale went to ISM Raceway outside of Phoenix, a move that validates International Speedway Corp.'s decision to spend more than \$175 million to renovate it into a state-of-the-art facility. ISC is controlled by the France family, which owns NASCAR, which is chaired by Jim France. ISC is currently trying to re-acquire the public shares of the company, which would essentially give the France family two-thirds control of NASCAR.

Of course, ISC was going to give its new jewel in the desert a shining spot on the calendar. For ISC, it is a chance to prove it can host world-class events in a market crowded with many of sport's crowning moments.

ISC and the France's have the most to lose right now, and they get to decide what best suits their business model. ISC gets credit for getting Martinsville its race under the lights, the bold departure from Daytona, the Phoenix finale, and getting Darlington Raceway into the playoffs as the opener. But ISC did not step forward and claim a midweek race — no track did, so anyone upset over that void should place blame across the sport — and it was independently owned Pocono that took on the doubleheader. Those accusing NASCAR of not going far enough in changing the 2020 schedule can wonder if ISC — the France family — offered enough.

WHAT ABOUT SMI?

Speedway Motorsports Inc. maintained its place at the bargaining table by earning weather-friendlier dates for Atlanta and second Las Vegas, a new slot for Texas Motor Speedway that avoids the opening of hunting season, and a popular new spot for Bristol in the playoffs. Both Bristol and "The Roval" at Charlotte, critical events in SMI's eight-track conglomerate, got elimination races in the playoffs and the addition of Bristol puts three short tracks in the 10-race playoffs.

Charlotte also kept the All-Star Race, an event that hasn't felt necessary in at least a decade. But SMI head Marcus Smith is willing to consider Nashville next year, and fans have loudly asked for the return of that old Tennessee short track.

SMI did OK for itself, but for the second-largest player in the game, it must wonder why the regular season and the playoffs both open and close at ISC tracks.

BIGGEST LOSER

It is easily Homestead-Miami Speedway, host of the finale since 2002. Homestead was built from the 1992 ruins of Hurricane Andrew, got a Cup date in 1999 was a marquee venue four years later.

The track layout is unique, the racing considered among the most competitive of the year, and the NASCAR champion has been the race winner every year since the elimination format began in 2014. The racing at Homestead is very good, and it became ISC's sacrificial lamb as it was rescheduled to a random Sunday in March.

Homestead never caught on with the South Beach set and the appeal of hosting the championship there was essentially the racing. NASCAR should have made it the second race of the season, and kept the Daytona 500 winner in Florida for a whirlwind trip through NASCAR's birthplace to open the 2020 season.

BOTTOM LINE

NASCAR did the best with what it could, and there are more positive changes than negative ones in this first big overhaul in forever. NASCAR itself gets a victory for its commitment to legitimate change, and critical television partners Fox Sports and NBC Sports worked alongside ISC and SMI to give fans the best options for 2020.

More important, all sides proved willing to take chances, which should help NASCAR start 2021 planning with a cleaner sheet of paper.

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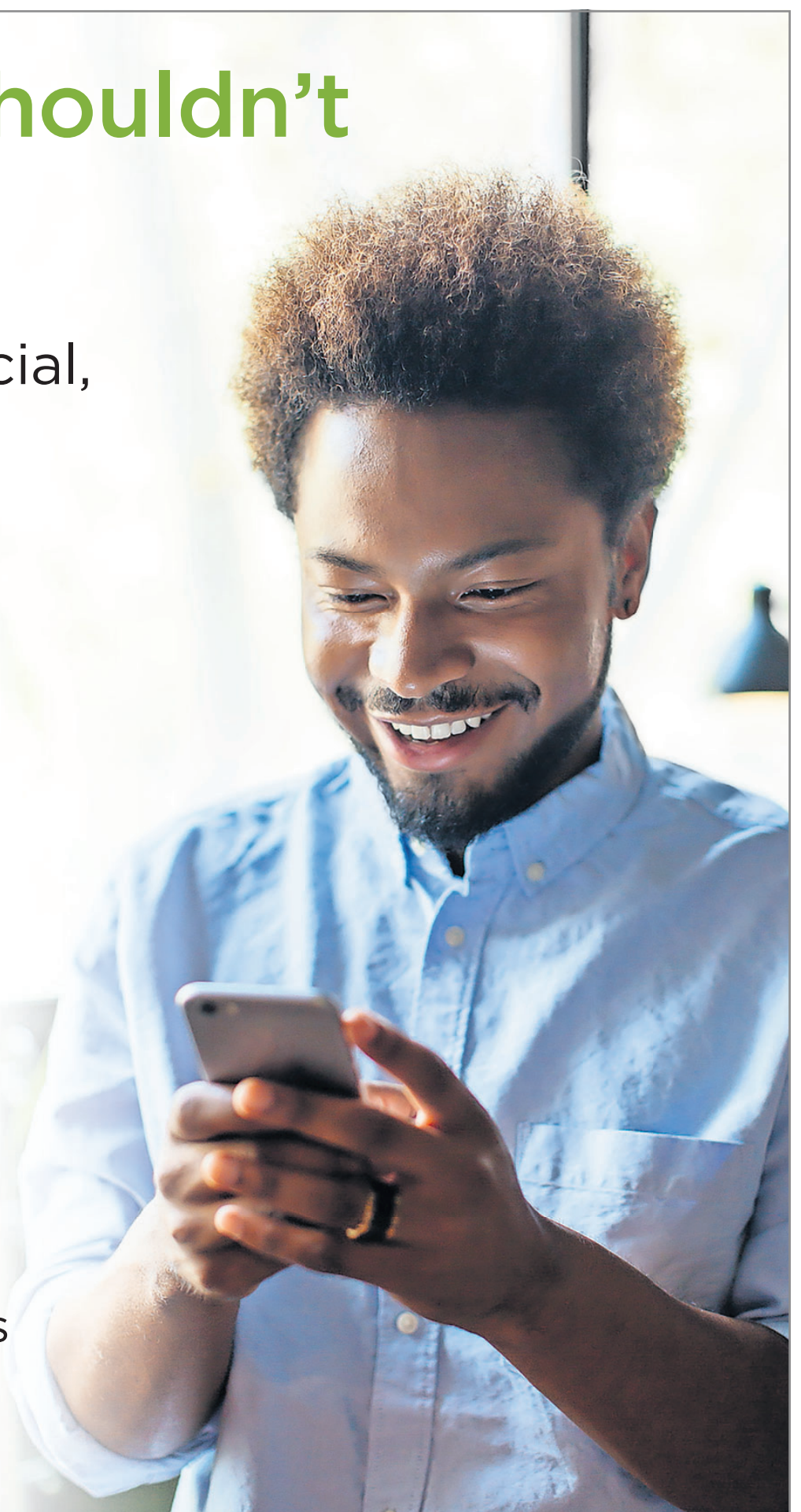
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DAILY COMMERCIAL



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: EAST DIVISION, TEAM, W, L, PCT., GB, WCGB, L10, STR, HOME, AWAY. Lists teams like New York, Boston, Baltimore, Tampa Bay, Toronto.

Table with columns: CENTRAL DIVISION, TEAM, W, L, PCT., GB, WCGB, L10, STR, HOME, AWAY. Lists teams like Detroit, Minnesota, Chicago, Kansas City, Cleveland.

Table with columns: WEST DIVISION, TEAM, W, L, PCT., GB, WCGB, L10, STR, HOME, AWAY. Lists teams like Seattle, Houston, Oakland, Los Angeles, Texas.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: EAST DIVISION, TEAM, W, L, PCT., GB, WCGB, L10, STR, HOME, AWAY. Lists teams like New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, Washington.

Table with columns: CENTRAL DIVISION, TEAM, W, L, PCT., GB, WCGB, L10, STR, HOME, AWAY. Lists teams like Chicago, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, St. Louis.

Table with columns: WEST DIVISION, TEAM, W, L, PCT., GB, WCGB, L10, STR, HOME, AWAY. Lists teams like Colorado, Los Angeles, San Diego, Arizona, San Francisco.

RESULTS/SCHEDULE

THURSDAY'S GAMES: American League. N.Y. Yankees 7, Baltimore 2; Detroit 2, Toronto 0, 10 innings; Houston 5, Tampa Bay 1; Oakland 4, L.A. Angels 0; Minnesota 2, Cleveland 0; Chicago (AL) at Kansas City, late; Boston at Seattle, late.

National League. N.Y. Mets 2, Washington 0; Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 4; Philadelphia 10, Atlanta 4; L.A. Dodgers 12, Arizona 5; Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 3; Colorado 6, Miami 3; San Diego 2, San Francisco 0.

Interleague. Chicago (NL) 12, Texas 4.

SATURDAY'S GAMES: American League. Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m.; Cleveland at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m.; Chicago (AL) at Kansas City, 2:15 p.m.; Detroit at Toronto, 3:07 p.m.; Houston at Tampa Bay, 6:10 p.m.; L.A. Angels at Oakland, 9:07 p.m.; Boston at Seattle, 9:10 p.m.

National League. N.Y. Mets at Washington, 1:05 p.m.; Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 2:10 p.m.; Atlanta at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.; Colorado at Miami, 6:10 p.m.; St. Louis at Milwaukee, 7:10 p.m.; San Francisco at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.; Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10 p.m.

Interleague. Chicago (NL) at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

BOX SCORES

YANKEES 7, ORIOLES 2. BALTIMORE AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Mullins cf 3 0 0 0 1 0 .000; Smith Jr. lf 3 1 1 0 0 0 .333; a-Jackson ph-1f 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Villar 2b 4 0 2 0 0 0 .500; Mancini dh 4 1 3 1 0 0 .750; Ruiz 3b 3 0 1 1 0 2 .333; b-Alberto ph 1 0 1 0 0 0 1.000; Rickard rf 4 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Davis 1b 3 0 0 0 0 3 .000; c-Nunez ph 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Sucre c 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Martin ss 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; TOTALS 34 2 8 2 1 9. NEW YORK AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Gardner cf 4 1 0 0 1 1 .000; Judge rf 3 3 2 0 2 1 .667; Stanton lf 3 1 0 2 1 1 .333; Voit dh 1 1 1 4 2 0 1.000; Andujar 3b 3 0 1 1 0 0 .333; Sanchez c 4 0 1 0 0 0 .250; Bird 1b 4 1 1 1 0 3 .250; Torres 2b 3 0 1 0 1 1 .333; Tulowitzki ss 4 0 1 0 0 1 .250; TOTALS 29 7 9 6 8 8. BALTIMORE 000 101 000-2 8 0. NEW YORK 301 020 01X-7 9 1. a-out on fielder's choice for Smith Jr. in the 8th. b-singled for Ruiz in the 9th. c-lined out for Davis in the 9th. E--Andujar (1). LOB--Baltimore 6, New York 8. 2B--Mancini (1), Tulowitzki (1). HR--Voit (1), off Cashner; Bird (1), off Fry. RBIs--Mancini (1), Ruiz (1), Voit 4 (4), Andujar (1), Bird (1). SF--Andujar.

White dh 4 0 1 0 0 1 .250; Chirinos c 3 1 1 0 1 1 .333; A.Diaz ss 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Marisnick cf 3 1 1 0 1 1 .333; TOTALS 35 5 10 5 2 8. TAMPA BAY AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Meadows rf 4 1 1 1 0 2 .250; Pham lf 4 0 2 0 0 0 .500; Lauer, W. 1-0 4 0 0 0 2 .000; Choi 1b 4 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Lowe dh 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Y.Diaz 3b 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Wendle 2b 2 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Adames ss 4 0 0 0 0 3 .000; Kiermaier cf 3 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Zunino c 3 0 0 0 0 2 .000; TOTALS 31 1 4 1 1 12. HOUSTON 003 110 000-5 10 1. TAMPA BAY 100 000 000-1 4 0. E--A.Diaz (1). LOB--Houston 5, Tampa Bay 6. 2B--Altuve (1), Gurrriel (1), Chirinos (1), Y.Diaz (1). HR--Springer (1), off Snell; Brantley (1), off Snell; Altuve (1), off Snell; Meadows (1), off Verlander. RBIs--Springer 3 (3), Altuve (1), Brantley (1), Meadows (1). CS--Springer (1), Gurrriel (1). HOUSTON IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Vrinder, W, 1-0 7 3 1 1 1 9 102 1.29; Pressly 1 1 0 0 0 2 13 0.00; Osuna 1 0 0 0 0 1 9 0.00. TAMPA BAY IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Snell, L, 0-1 6 6 5 5 2 3 91 7.50; Beeks 3 4 0 0 0 5 54 0.00; HBP--Verlander 2 (Wendle,Wendle). T--2:38. A--25,025 (42,735). TWINS 2, INDIANS 0. CLEVELAND AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Martin cf 4 0 0 1 0 2 .250; J.Ramirez 3b 4 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Naquin rf 3 0 0 0 0 3 .000; B.Luplow ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Santana 1b 2 0 0 0 1 0 .000; H.Ramirez dh 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Bowers lf 3 0 0 0 0 0 .000; R.Perez c 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Miller 2b 3 0 1 0 0 2 .333; Stames ss 2 0 0 0 0 2 .000; a-Allen ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Moroff ss 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 29 0 2 0 1 13. MINNESOTA AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Kepler rf 4 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Polanco ss 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Cruz dh 4 1 1 0 0 2 .250; Rosario lf 4 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Cron 1b 3 1 1 0 0 0 .333; Gonzalez 2b 2 0 1 2 1 0 .500; Schoop 2b 2 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Castro c 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Buxton cf 3 0 1 0 0 0 .333; TOTALS 28 2 4 2 1 6. CLEVELAND 000 000 000-0 2 0. MINNESOTA 000 000 20X-2 4 0. a-struck out for Stames in the 8th. b-struck out for Naquin in the 9th. LOB--Cleveland 3, Minnesota 5. 2B--Martin (1), Gonzalez (1), Buxton (1). RBIs--Gonzalez 2 (2). CLEVELAND IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Kluber, L, 0-1 7 4 2 2 1 5 79 5.27; O.Perez .1 0 0 0 0 0 6 0.00; Cimber .1 0 0 0 0 0 4 0.00; Hand .1 0 0 0 0 0 3 0.00. MINNESOTA IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Brrios, W, 1-0 7 2 2 0 0 1 10 96 0.00; Rogers, S, 1-1 1 1 1 0 0 0 3 15 0.00. Inherited runners-scored--Cimber 1-0, Hand 1-0, Rogers 1-0. HBP--Kluber (Schoop), O.Perez (Polanco). T--2:18. A--39,519 (38,649). ATHLETICS 4, ANGELS 0. LOS ANGELES AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Calhoun rf 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Trout cf 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Bour 1b 4 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Simmons ss 3 0 0 0 1 0 .000; Pujols dh 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Cozart 3b 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; La Stella 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .333; Lucroy c 2 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Bourjos lf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; TOTALS 28 0 3 0 4 3. OAKLAND AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Grossman lf 4 1 2 0 0 0 .429; Chapman 3b 3 0 1 0 1 0 .250; Piscotty rf 4 0 1 1 0 1 .250; Davis dh 4 1 1 0 1 1 .231; Profar 1b 4 1 1 0 0 0 .214; Pinder 2b 2 0 1 0 0 0 .250; Semien ss 3 1 1 1 0 1 .455; Laureano cf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .154; Phegley c 3 0 0 0 0 0 .000; TOTALS 30 4 7 4 1 4. LOS ANGELES 000 000 000-0 3 0. OAKLAND 011 101 00X-4 7 1. E--Laureano (1). LOB--Los Angeles 6, Oakland 4. 2B--La Stella (1), Piscotty (1), 3B--Profar (1). HR--Semien (1), off Cahill; Davis (2), off Cahill. RBIs--Piscotty (2), Davis (5), Pinder (1), Semien (3). SB--Grossman (1). SF--Pinder. DP--Oakland 2 (Chapman, Profar), (Chapman, Semien, Profar). LOS ANGELES IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Cahill, L, 0-1 6 6 4 4 1 3 86 6.00; Cedeno 1 0 0 0 0 0 7 0.00; Bedrosian 1 0 0 0 0 0 7 0.00; Bard 1 1 0 0 0 1 10 0.00. OAKLAND IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Fiers, W, 1-1 6 1 0 3 2 83 5.00; Trivino 1 0 0 0 1 1 12 0.00; Soria 1 2 0 0 0 0 16 4.50; Treinen 1 0 0 0 0 0 7 0.00; HBP--Fiers (Pujols), WP--Fiers. T--2:18. A--22,691 (46,765). PADRES 2, GIANTS 0. SAN FRAN. AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Dugger cf 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Belt 1b 4 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Longoria 3b 4 0 2 0 0 0 .500; Posey c 4 0 1 0 0 1 .250; Crawford ss 3 0 1 0 0 0 .333; Joe lf 1 0 0 1 0 0 .000; a-Parra ph-rf 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Reed rf 2 0 0 0 0 1 .000; b-Solarte ph-lf 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Panik 2b 3 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Bumgarner p 2 0 1 0 0 0 .500; c-Sandoval dh 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Vincent p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 30 5 0 1 5. SAN DIEGO AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Kinsler 2b 4 1 1 0 0 1 .250; Myers lf 2 1 2 2 1 0 1.000; Machado 3b 3 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Reyes rf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Wingerter p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Loup p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Stammen p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Yates p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Hosmer 1b 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Tatis Jr. ss 3 0 2 0 0 1 .667; Margot cf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Hedges c 3 0 1 0 0 1 .333; Lauer p 2 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Cordero rf 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; TOTALS 27 2 6 2 9. SAN FRANCISCO 000 000 000-0 5 0. SAN DIEGO 001 001 00X-2 6 0. a-grounded out for Joe in the 7th. b-grounded out for Reed in the 7th. c-grounded out for Bumgarner in the 8th. LOB--San Francisco 4, San Diego 2. 2B--Kinsler (1). HR--Myers (1), off Bumgarner.

PHILLIES 10, BRAVES 4. ATLANTA AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Inciarte cf 4 0 0 0 0 3 .000; Donaldson 3b 3 1 0 0 1 1 .000; Freeman 1b 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Acuna Jr. lf 2 0 1 1 2 0 .500; Markakis rf 4 0 1 1 0 1 .250; Albies 2b 4 0 1 0 0 0 .250; McCann c 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Swanson ss 3 1 1 0 1 1 .333; Teheran p 2 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Carle p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Parsons p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; b-Joyce ph 1 1 1 2 0 0 1.000; Jackson p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Fried p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; d-Camargo ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; TOTALS 30 4 7 4 6 9. PHILADELPHIA AB R H BI BB SO AVG. McCutchen lf 4 2 1 1 1 1 .250; Segura ss 4 2 2 0 0 1 .500; Harper sf 3 1 0 0 1 2 .000; Hoskins 1b 3 2 1 4 1 1 .333; Realmuto c 3 1 0 0 1 0 .000; Herrera cf 4 0 1 1 1 0 .250; Hernandez 2b 3 1 1 1 1 1 .333; Franco 3b 3 1 1 3 1 1 .333; Nola p 2 0 0 0 0 0 .000; a-Williams ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Neris p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Robertson p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; c-Kingery ph 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Neshek p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 31 10 7 10 6 9. ATLANTA 010 000 210- 4 7 2. PHILADELPHIA 100 203 40X- 10 7 0. a-struck out for Nola in the 6th. b-homered for Parsons in the 7th. c-grounded out for Robertson in the 8th. d-struck out for Fried in the 9th. E--Swanson (1), Jackson (1). LOB--Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 3. 2B--Swanson (1), HR--Joyce (1), off Neris; McCutchen (1), off Teheran; Franco (1), off Carle; Hoskins (1), off Jackson. RBIs--Acuna Jr. (1), Markakis (1), Joyce 2 (2), McCutchen (1), Hoskins 4 (4), Herrera (1), Hernandez (1), Franco 3 (3). SB--Acuna Jr. (1). CS--Freeman (1). DP--Philadelphia 2 (Hernandez, Segura, Hoskins), (Neshek, Hoskins). ATLANTA IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Teheran, L, 0-1 5 4 3 3 2 7 88 5.40; Carle .2 1 3 3 2 1 2540.50; Parsons .1 0 0 0 0 0 6 0.00; Jackson .1 0 0 0 0 0 1836.00; Fried .1 0 0 0 0 0 11 0.00. PHILADELPHIA IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Nola, W, 1-0 6 2 1 1 5 8 99 1.50; Neris 1 2 2 1 1 0 0 1918.00; Robertson 1 2 1 1 0 1 24 9.00; Neshek 1 1 0 0 0 1 14 0.00; WP--Teheran 2. T--3:04. A--44,469 (43,647).

PHILLIES 10, BRAVES 4. ATLANTA AB R H BI BB SO AVG. McCutchen lf 4 2 1 1 1 1 .250; Segura ss 4 2 2 0 0 1 .500; Harper sf 3 1 0 0 1 2 .000; Hoskins 1b 3 2 1 4 1 1 .333; Realmuto c 3 1 0 0 1 0 .000; Herrera cf 4 0 1 1 1 0 .250; Hernandez 2b 3 1 1 1 1 1 .333; Franco 3b 3 1 1 3 1 1 .333; Nola p 2 0 0 0 0 0 .000; a-Williams ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Neris p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Robertson p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; c-Kingery ph 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Neshek p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 31 10 7 10 6 9. ATLANTA 010 000 210- 4 7 2. PHILADELPHIA 100 203 40X- 10 7 0. a-struck out for Nola in the 6th. b-homered for Parsons in the 7th. c-grounded out for Robertson in the 8th. d-struck out for Fried in the 9th. E--Swanson (1), Jackson (1). LOB--Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 3. 2B--Swanson (1), HR--Joyce (1), off Neris; McCutchen (1), off Teheran; Franco (1), off Carle; Hoskins (1), off Jackson. RBIs--Acuna Jr. (1), Markakis (1), Joyce 2 (2), McCutchen (1), Hoskins 4 (4), Herrera (1), Hernandez (1), Franco 3 (3). SB--Acuna Jr. (1). CS--Freeman (1). DP--Philadelphia 2 (Hernandez, Segura, Hoskins), (Neshek, Hoskins).

TIGERS 2, BLUE JAYS 0, 10 INN.: Jordan Zimmermann took a perfect game into the seventh inning, and Christian Stewart hit a two-run homer in the 10th. Zimmermann, who pitched a no-hitter for Washington on the final day of the 2014 season, came close to bookending it -- Hall of Famer Bob Feller threw the only no-hitter on opening day, for Cleveland in 1940. PHILLIES 10 BRAVES 4: Bryce Harper struck out twice in green Phanatic cleats in his \$330 million debut and bowed to thousands of fans in No. 3 jerseys who gave him rousing standing ovations in Philadelphia's win over Atlanta. YANKEES 7, ORIOLES 2: Luke Voit hit a first-inning homer, Masahiro Tanaka finally got an opening day victory in his fourth try and New York started the season with a win over Baltimore on Thursday. Voit launched a three-run drive off Andrew Cashner (0-1), and Greg Bird added a solo homer in the eighth, the first big flies for New York a year after hitting a record 267 en route to 100 wins. BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 4: Milwaukee center fielder Lorenzo Cain soared above the wall to rob Jose Martinez of a tying home run for the final out, lifting Christian Yelich and the Brewers over St. Louis. With at least one Cardinals player in the bullpen already raising his arms to celebrate, Cain pulled back the pinch-hit drive by Martinez in right-center. A fired-up Cain flung the ball high into the air as the Brewers poured onto the field to celebrate. METS 2, NATIONALS 0: Robinson Cano homered in his debut at-bat for the Mets then added a late RBI single, Jacob deGrom outpitched Max Scherzer as each struck out at least 10 in a sterling matchup between the winners of the past three NL Cy Young Awards, and New York edged Bryce Harper-less Washington in the opener for both teams. ROCKIES 6, MARLINS 3: Kyle Freeland allowed two hits and one run in seven innings in his first opening day start, and Colorado beat sloppy Miami. Freeland (1-0), who had a breakout 17-win season in 2018, retired his first 11 batters before Starlin Castro lined a single.

DODGERS 12, DIAMONDBACKS 5: Joc Pederson and Enrique Hernandez each hit two of Los Angeles' eight home runs, which set a major league record for opening day and tied the franchise record for any game, in a rout of Arizona. Hernandez, Austin Barnes and Corey Seager all homered in the fourth inning to chase Arizona ace Zack Greinke. TWINS 2, INDIANS 0: Minnesota newcomer Marwin Gonzalez hit a two-run double in the seventh inning, and Jose Berrios outdueled Corey Kluber and gave manager Rocco Baldelli a win in his debut. Berrios set a Twins opening day record with 10 strikeouts, with the 24-year-old right-hander picking up where he left off as an All-Star in 2018. ATHLETICS 4, ANGELS 0: Reigning home run champion Khris Davis went deep for the second time this season, and Marcus Semien added a solo shot as Oakland got its first win after a pair of losses to Seattle last week in Japan. CUBS 12, RANGERS 4: Javier Baez homered twice, Jon Lester won for the first time in his last five opening day starts and Chicago began the season with a victory at Texas, spoiling the debut of new Rangers manager Chris Woodward. PADRES 2, GIANTS 0: Manny Machado went hitless in his first game with San Diego and Fernando Tatis Jr. singled twice in his big league debut, a Padres win over San Francisco. Wil Myers homered off Madison Bumgarner in the start of a new era for the Padres, who popped above .500 for the first time since June 8, 2015. REDS 5, PIRATES 3: Derek Dietrich's three-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning rallied new-look Cincinnati over Pittsburgh, an encouraging start for a Reds team looking to escape last place. ASTROS 5, RAYS 1: Justin Verlander outpitched Blake Snell in a rare opening-day matchup between a reigning Cy Young Award winner and runner-up, helping Houston open the season with a twin over Tampa Bay. George Springer homered on opening day for the third straight year. Michael Brantley and Jose Altuve also went deep for the Astros against Snell, the AL Cy Young recipient who won 21 games and led the American League in ERA in 2018.

LOS ANGELES AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Calhoun rf 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Trout cf 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Bour 1b 4 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Simmons ss 3 0 0 0 1 0 .000; Pujols dh 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Cozart 3b 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; La Stella 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .333; Lucroy c 2 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Bourjos lf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; TOTALS 28 0 3 0 4 3. OAKLAND AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Grossman lf 4 1 2 0 0 0 .429; Chapman 3b 3 0 1 0 1 0 .250; Piscotty rf 4 0 1 1 0 1 .250; Davis dh 4 1 1 0 1 1 .231; Profar 1b 4 1 1 0 0 0 .214; Pinder 2b 2 0 1 0 0 0 .250; Semien ss 3 1 1 1 0 1 .455; Laureano cf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .154; Phegley c 3 0 0 0 0 0 .000; TOTALS 30 4 7 4 1 4. LOS ANGELES 000 000 000-0 3 0. OAKLAND 011 101 00X-4 7 1. E--Laureano (1). LOB--Los Angeles 6, Oakland 4. 2B--La Stella (1), Piscotty (1), 3B--Profar (1). HR--Semien (1), off Cahill; Davis (2), off Cahill. RBIs--Piscotty (2), Davis (5), Pinder (1), Semien (3). SB--Grossman (1). SF--Pinder. DP--Oakland 2 (Chapman, Profar), (Chapman, Semien, Profar). LOS ANGELES IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Cahill, L, 0-1 6 6 4 4 1 3 86 6.00; Cedeno 1 0 0 0 0 0 7 0.00; Bedrosian 1 0 0 0 0 0 7 0.00; Bard 1 1 0 0 0 1 10 0.00. OAKLAND IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Fiers, W, 1-1 6 1 0 3 2 83 5.00; Trivino 1 0 0 0 1 1 12 0.00; Soria 1 2 0 0 0 0 16 4.50; Treinen 1 0 0 0 0 0 7 0.00; HBP--Fiers (Pujols), WP--Fiers. T--2:18. A--22,691 (46,765). PADRES 2, GIANTS 0. SAN FRAN. AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Dugger cf 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Belt 1b 4 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Longoria 3b 4 0 2 0 0 0 .500; Posey c 4 0 1 0 0 1 .250; Crawford ss 3 0 1 0 0 0 .333; Joe lf 1 0 0 1 0 0 .000; a-Parra ph-rf 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Reed rf 2 0 0 0 0 1 .000; b-Solarte ph-lf 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Panik 2b 3 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Bumgarner p 2 0 1 0 0 0 .500; c-Sandoval dh 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Vincent p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 30 5 0 1 5. SAN DIEGO AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Kinsler 2b 4 1 1 0 0 1 .250; Myers lf 2 1 2 2 1 0 1.000; Machado 3b 3 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Reyes rf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Wingerter p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Loup p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Stammen p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Yates p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Hosmer 1b 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Tatis Jr. ss 3 0 2 0 0 1 .667; Margot cf 3 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Hedges c 3 0 1 0 0 1 .333; Lauer p 2 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Cordero rf 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; TOTALS 27 2 6 2 9. SAN FRANCISCO 000 000 000-0 5 0. SAN DIEGO 001 001 00X-2 6 0. a-grounded out for Joe in the 7th. b-grounded out for Reed in the 7th. c-grounded out for Bumgarner in the 8th. LOB--San Francisco 4, San Diego 2. 2B--Kinsler (1). HR--Myers (1), off Bumgarner.

PHILLIES 10, BRAVES 4. ATLANTA AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Inciarte cf 4 0 0 0 0 3 .000; Donaldson 3b 3 1 0 0 1 1 .000; Freeman 1b 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Acuna Jr. lf 2 0 1 1 2 0 .500; Markakis rf 4 0 1 1 0 1 .250; Albies 2b 4 0 1 0 0 0 .250; McCann c 3 0 1 0 1 0 .333; Swanson ss 3 1 1 0 1 1 .333; Teheran p 2 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Carle p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Parsons p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; b-Joyce ph 1 1 1 2 0 0 1.000; Jackson p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Fried p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; d-Camargo ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; TOTALS 30 4 7 4 6 9. PHILADELPHIA AB R H BI BB SO AVG. McCutchen lf 4 2 1 1 1 1 .250; Segura ss 4 2 2 0 0 1 .500; Harper sf 3 1 0 0 1 2 .000; Hoskins 1b 3 2 1 4 1 1 .333; Realmuto c 3 1 0 0 1 0 .000; Herrera cf 4 0 1 1 1 0 .250; Hernandez 2b 3 1 1 1 1 1 .333; Franco 3b 3 1 1 3 1 1 .333; Nola p 2 0 0 0 0 0 .000; a-Williams ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Neris p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Robertson p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; c-Kingery ph 1 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Neshek p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 31 10 7 10 6 9. ATLANTA 010 000 210- 4 7 2. PHILADELPHIA 100 203 40X- 10 7 0. a-struck out for Nola in the 6th. b-homered for Parsons in the 7th. c-grounded out for Robertson in the 8th. d-struck out for Fried in the 9th. E--Swanson (1), Jackson (1). LOB--Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 3. 2B--Swanson (1), HR--Joyce (1), off Neris; McCutchen (1), off Teheran; Franco (1), off Carle; Hoskins (1), off Jackson. RBIs--Acuna Jr. (1), Markakis (1), Joyce 2 (2), McCutchen (1), Hoskins 4 (4), Herrera (1), Hernandez (1), Franco 3 (3). SB--Acuna Jr. (1). CS--Freeman (1). DP--Philadelphia 2 (Hernandez, Segura, Hoskins), (Neshek, Hoskins).

TIGERS 2, BLUE JAYS 0, 10 INN.: Jordan Zimmermann took a perfect game into the seventh inning, and Christian Stewart hit a two-run homer in the 10th. Zimmermann, who pitched a no-hitter for Washington on the final day of the 2014 season, came close to bookending it -- Hall of Famer Bob Feller threw the only no-hitter on opening day, for Cleveland in 1940. PHILLIES 10 BRAVES 4: Bryce Harper struck out twice in green Phanatic cleats in his \$330 million debut and bowed to thousands of fans in No. 3 jerseys who gave him rousing standing ovations in Philadelphia's win over Atlanta. YANKEES 7, ORIOLES 2: Luke Voit hit a first-inning homer, Masahiro Tanaka finally got an opening day victory in his fourth try and New York started the season with a win over Baltimore on Thursday. Voit launched a three-run drive off Andrew Cashner (0-1), and Greg Bird added a solo homer in the eighth, the first big flies for New York a year after hitting a record 267 en route to 100 wins. BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 4: Milwaukee center fielder Lorenzo Cain soared above the wall to rob Jose Martinez of a tying home run for the final out, lifting Christian Yelich and the Brewers over St. Louis. With at least one Cardinals player in the bullpen already raising his arms to celebrate, Cain pulled back the pinch-hit drive by Martinez in right-center. A fired-up Cain flung the ball high into the air as the Brewers poured onto the field to celebrate. METS 2, NATIONALS 0: Robinson Cano homered in his debut at-bat for the Mets then added a late RBI single, Jacob deGrom outpitched Max Scherzer as each struck out at least 10 in a sterling matchup between the winners of the past three NL Cy Young Awards, and New York edged Bryce Harper-less Washington in the opener for both teams. ROCKIES 6, MARLINS 3: Kyle Freeland allowed two hits and one run in seven innings in his first opening day start, and Colorado beat sloppy Miami. Freeland (1-0), who had a breakout 17-win season in 2018, retired his first 11 batters before Starlin Castro lined a single.

ROCKIES 6, MARLINS 3. COLORADO AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Blackmon rf 5 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Murphy 1b 5 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Arenado 3b 5 1 1 0 0 0 .200; Story ss 3 2 1 1 0 0 .333; Dahl lf 4 2 3 1 0 1 .750; Desmond cf 4 0 1 1 0 1 .250; McMahon 2b 4 1 1 1 0 0 .250; Iannetta c 3 0 2 1 1 1 .667; Freeland p 2 0 0 0 1 2 .000; b-Tapia ph 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Oberg p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; Oh p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 36 6 9 5 3 7. MIAMI AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Brinson cf 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; B.Anderson 3b 4 0 0 0 0 2 .000; Castro 2b 4 0 1 0 0 1 .250; Cooper rf 4 0 0 0 0 1 .000; Prado 1b 4 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Alfaro c 3 1 1 1 0 1 .333; Peralta lf 3 0 0 0 1 0 .000; Herrera ss 3 0 0 0 0 0 .000; Urena p 1 0 0 0 0 1 .000; N.Anderson p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; a-Guerrero p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; R.Riddle ph 1 1 1 1 0 0 1.000; Brice p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; c-Walker ph 1 1 1 1 0 0 1.000; Kinley p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---; TOTALS 32 3 4 3 1 7. COLORADO 000 420 000-6 9 1. MIAMI 000 001 011-3 4 2. a-homered for Guerrero in the 6th. b-struck out for Freeland in the 8th. c-homered for Brice in the 8th. E--Freeland (1), Brinson (1), Rojas (1). LOB--Colorado 6, Miami 4. 2B--Arenado (1), Dahl (1). Desmond (1), Iannetta (1), HR--Story (1), off Urena; Riddle (1), off Freeland; Walker (1), off Oberg; Alfaro (1), off Oh. RBIs--Story (1), Dahl (1), Desmond (1), McMahon (1), Iannetta (1), Alfaro (1), Riddle (1), Walker (1). DP--Miami 1 (Cooper, B.Anderson). COLORADO IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Freeland, W, 1-0 7 2 1 1 1 5 93 1.29; Oberg 1 1 1 0 1 0 10 9.00; Oh 1 1 1 1 0 1 18 9.00. MIAMI IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA. Urena, L, 0-1 4 2 9 6 4 1 2 94 7.71; N.Anderson .1 0 0 0 0 0 2 0.00; Guerrero 1 0 0 0 0 2 10 0.00; Brice 2 0 0 0 2 2 28 0.00; Kinley 1 0 0 0 0 1 15 0.00; Inherited runners-scored--N.Anderson 1-0. HBP--Freeland (Alfaro), WP--Urena. T--2:55. A--25,423 (36,742).

PHILLIES 10, BRAVES 4. ATLANTA AB R H BI BB SO AVG. Inciarte cf 4 0 0 0

Woods down, but not yet out at Match Play

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The magical escape by Tiger Woods didn't keep him from losing Thursday in the Dell Technologies Match Play.

He just didn't lose hope of playing on the weekend.

The same couldn't be said for defending champion Bubba Watson, Brooks Koepka, Phil Mickelson, Patrick Reed and a host of others who have to return Friday morning to Austin Country Club with no chance of advancing out of their group.

The Match Play began to take shape, more because of 20 players from the 64-man field mathematically eliminated than who can still reach the weekend.

Jordan Spieth is still alive after building a 6-up lead through 12 holes on Kevin Na, but not winning until four holes later when Na missed a 4-foot birdie putt. Jim Furyk and Henrik Stenson emerged with 2-0 records from the group of major champions. They play Friday after knocking out Mickelson and Jason Day.

"It's going to be a tough one again," Stenson said. "Jim, I don't think he's given away an easy bogey since 1994 or something."

Brandt Snedeker took advantage of too many mistakes by Woods off the tee and on the



Tiger Woods watch his shot on the sixth hole during the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship, Thursday in Austin, Texas.

[ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

greens for a 2-and-1 victory, a big one for Snedeker because of his opponent's name and reputation. But it was just one win.

"I knew I was playing good, so I was excited about the opportunity," Snedeker said. "I turned into Tiger's biggest fan tomorrow going forward, because I need him to go out there and beat Patrick (Cantlay) tomorrow."

Snedeker first has to beat Aaron Wise, who was eliminated when Cantlay beat him, and he would only advance if Woods beats Cantlay. Otherwise, Snedeker and Cantlay will return to the first tee for a sudden-death playoff.

Several groups are like that.

"See you on the first tee tomorrow," Horschel said with a smile and a wink to Spieth.

Horschel and Spieth halved their match in the opening round, both won on Thursday, and if they win again — Spieth faces Watson, Horschel gets Na — they would be in a playoff to determine who reaches the knockout stage on the weekend.

Woods, back in the Match Play for the first time since 2013, has never been part of this round-robin format. All that mattered was trying to win his match, and he never led against Snedeker. He still provided one of the most remarkable halves on another action-packed day.



Tavares' Maddy Krain (3) gets a hit at a game between Tavares High School and Umatilla High School in Umatilla on Thursday. [PAUL RYAN / CORRESPONDENT]

CLUTCH

From Page B1

runners in scoring position in the inning, the Bulldogs went 0-for-5 in similar situations

for the rest of the game.

Jarc and Rose surrendered 13 hits, while striking out two. In two separate stints in the circle, Jarc pitched 6 2/3 innings and allowed 10 hits, while Rose was tagged for three hits and four runs in 1/3 innings.

Rose was charged with the loss.

For Umatilla, Crews had three hits, while Steinke and Rose had two hits apiece.

Tavares was led by Rivera, Schreiber and Auciello with three hits apiece. Habel and Auciello scored two runs each.

ROSTER

From Page B1

(White could not speak on any recruits until they are signed).

The Florida coach, who will enter his fifth season at UF, was open about a wide variety of subjects during the mass interview with local media.

On the attrition

Florida has had four players leave the program — Chase Johnson in December and Deaundrea Ballard, Keith Stone and Michael Okauru this week.

"It's part of it, its college basketball," White said. "Hundreds who have decided to transfer and hundreds more who will. Not surprising at all.

"None of them (this week) were a surprise. Chase was very unique, very different than these three this week. Both (Ballard and Okauru) would have liked to have played more this year and that's what they are looking for."

Florida now has six players on campus with three freshmen plus Jitoboh coming in. That leaves White with three more scholarships to work with.

On finding the next Gators

White made it clear he's looking for certain personalities as much as anything.

"Transfers, high school guys, we're open to any type of guy out there who is a good fit," he said. "You hope they would accept the role, hope they would put winning above any personal aspirations. Character guys who fit our culture."

One goal is to find a power forward. Florida had to use Keyontae Johnson in that role at 6-foot-5 after Stone went down.

"We went all year without a true four," White said. "We're looking at what's out there."

On Florida's lack of size

Departed senior Kevarrius Hayes was a warrior for the Gators, but UF was one of the worst teams in the SEC in rebounding. Florida also struggled to get easy looks inside.

But White believes he may have the players to fill the void on campus with 6-9 Dontay Bassett, 6-11 Gorjak Gak and 6-8 Isaiah Stokes.

"Some people could argue we've got some size, we've got some height," White said. "We've gotta get production from those guys."

"We have plenty of

size, guys we just gotta get better up front. We've gotta get healthy up front. I can't imagine anybody in the country has had more injuries than us up front. I'm not making excuses, but we have to get healthy up front."

On chemistry issues

White admitted it was a struggle with this year's team to make players happy with so many playing the same position. That didn't improve when Florida shortened its bench late in the season.

"Our culture wasn't as good this year as it has been the last two years, especially two years ago," he said. "We had some unhappiness in the locker room. It's typical of college basketball, guys on the bench are frustrated."

"But off the court, zero issues."

On Florida's style of play

Florida was one of the slowest teams in the country after starting out the season looking like a pressing, running team.

White figured out that this team couldn't play fast and there was a better answer, even if it wasn't as much fun to watch.

"We figured out how to play finally and that's on me," he said. "We finally found the best version of ourselves. We played as well as we could have played at the end of the year, except maybe a few possessions in the Michigan game."

It was something new for White, who came to Florida with a reputation as an up-tempo coach.

"There are so many different ways to do it," White said. "Just look at the teams in our league and how different they are. When I first got here, I had a style of play I would have liked to have played. Faster, up tempo. This year, I've never even been on a staff that played nearly this slow."

"We all had to adapt to a different style. At the end of the day, we were better because of it. It gave us a better chance. Experimented a little in practice and then we had to sell it to our guys."

As coaches adjusted and asked their players to follow, the Gators were a team of great highs and numbing lows.

"We were like four or five different teams this year," White said.

He'd like to be just one next season.

"I don't know how we'll play next year," he said. "I don't care. We want to max out, we want to get to March and we want to make a run."

FSU

From Page B1

with 20 points. The Seminoles advanced to the Sweet 16 in consecutive seasons for the first time since 1993, but fell one step short of another trip to the Elite Eight.

Florida State played without senior Phil Cofer, who learned after his team's first-round win over Vermont that his father,

former NFL player Mike Cofer, had died after a long illness. The funeral is Saturday in Georgia and Cofer is with his family. The Seminoles left an open spot for Cofer when they lined up in pre-game for the national anthem.

Gonzaga used a 16-5 run to break open the rematch and take a 30-17 lead in the first half. The Bulldogs missed their first three 3-point attempts but recovered to hit 4 of 6 from behind the arc during the run. The Seminoles

committed three turnovers and were 2 of 9 from the field.

Gonzaga led by as many as 14 in the first half before the Seminoles got within eight late in the half. The Bulldogs seized momentum before the break when Perkins stole the ball from Trent Forrest and made a three-point play with .4 seconds remaining to give them a 38-27 lead at halftime.

Corey Kispert's dunk gave the Bulldogs a 55-42 lead with 12:14

remaining when Florida State made one final rally. Forrest scored seven points during a 14-5 run to get the Seminoles within 60-56 with 4:11 remaining, but they could not get any closer.

BIG PICTURE

Florida State: The Seminoles are losing Cofer, Terrance Mann and Christ Koumadje, but return three of their four leading scorers next season. Cofer,

Mann and Koumadje led FSU to 98 wins — a program record — and three straight NCAA Tournament appearances.

Gonzaga: The Bulldogs came into the game leading the nation in field goal percentage (53.2 percent) but shot just 25 of 62.

UP NEXT

Florida State: Opens the 2019-20 season on Nov. 6 at Pittsburgh.

SOX

From Page B1

Robinson Cano, Andrew McCutchen and Marwin Gonzalez got key hits for their new clubs, but Harper, Manny Machado and Paul Goldschmidt didn't.

Fernando Tatis Jr. represented the rookies well — just a few months past his 20th birthday, the highly touted San Diego Padres prospect became the youngest player with a multi-hit game in an opener since Robin Yount in 1975.

Playing up the power factor that often dominates these

days, the NL champion Los Angeles Dodgers hit eight home runs — a record for opening day — and romped past Arizona 12-5.

New managers began with a mixed bag. Minnesota's Rocco Baldelli and Cincinnati's David Bell won while Brannan's David Hyde took over the 115-loss Orioles, Toronto's Charlie Montoyo, Texas' Chris Woodward and the Angels' Brad Ausmus lost.

"I think the dugout seemed a little quieter than normal," Hyde said. "I just felt like it was quieter than normal because of some jitters from some younger players."

The sellout crowd in the Bronx had plenty to cheer,

including Rivera's ceremonial first ball. The first player to be unanimously elected to the Hall of Fame, he zinged it, too.

Far from Fenway Park, the Red Sox were greeted with huge cheers as the champs were introduced in Seattle. Boston rooters who traveled cross-country chanted "Mookie! Mookie!" for MVP Mookie Betts.

At Target Field, there was a different look as Cleveland took on Minnesota. The Twins showed off a new backdrop beyond the center field fence, with 5,700 sea green juniper plants now maing up the batter's eye.

The Indians, meanwhile,

wore uniforms without the divisive Chief Wahoo logo on them for the first time in 70 years.

Everyone on field, however, wore a path commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first professional baseball team.

In Philly, Harper was a huge hit — even though he went 0 for 3 with two strikeouts.

Fresh off signing a \$330 million contract, Harper came onto the field wearing cleats featuring the green Phillie Phanatic. Harper did a pronounced bow to the stands in right field when he took his position and threw a warmup ball into the third deck.

Many fans wore his new

No. 3 jersey. Earlier in the day, MLB announced Harper had the sport's top-selling jersey, ending a two-year run by Yankees slugger Aaron Judge's No. 99.

The crowd of 45,000 stood for Harper's at-bats and chanted his name. Harper's deal was the largest in baseball history until Angels star Mike Trout topped that with a \$426.5 million contract.

Trout, a two-time MVP and generally regarded as the best player in baseball, has never won a playoff game in his eight years with the Angels. He went 1 for 3 as Los Angeles opened this season with a 4-0 loss to Oakland.

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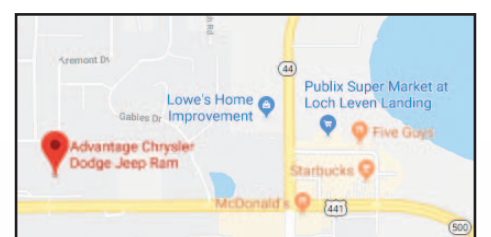
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UNDER THE HOOD

Recurring, unexplained leakage bedevils Yukon owner



Brad Bergholdt

Q: I have been experiencing a water leak in our GMC Yukon.

It does not have a sun-roof. There is no crack in the windshield. For approximately one month we noticed a soggy carpet on the front passenger side. There have been heavy rains this past month. Then a week later we noticed the front drivers side carpet soaked. Our fear is mold will set in and the car will be in bad shape.

A local mechanic blew air in a drain plug near the windshield wipers and we thought that would solve the issue, it did not. For one week, it did not rain and yet we noticed the carpets wet again. Arrggghh!

One day my wife made a sharp right turn out of our driveway and she heard a "shwoosh" sound from behind the dashboard. It was definitely fluid. The leak does not appear to be of coolant or other fluids. There is no smell.

A: There are three possible fluid leak scenarios:

Rain or car wash water entering the cabin via a faulty windshield seal, door weatherstrip or body seam.

Engine coolant due to a leaking heater core.

Condensation water because of a plugged evaporator case drain.

It sounds like new wetness occurred without rain, so that likely rules out scenario one.

Searching for the source of body/windshield/door leaks is best done with a helper operating a garden hose while one is inside the vehicle head/down in the footwell with a flashlight. With the hood open, the helper applies a moderate spray beginning as low as possible, making sweeps around the door and lower firewall area. If no leakage is seen, the helper sweeps again higher in stages, finishing across the top of the door and windshield. Starting out low best insures leakage is spotted right away, helping to determine the exact leak location.

A leaking heater core may result in windshield fogging during defrost. Other signs would be noticeably low engine coolant level, a citrus-like odor, wetness mostly on-center to passenger side, and a slimy quality and one of many possible colors to the wetness. If this is the problem, it's fairly likely a drop or two may still be hanging from the heater/ventilation/AC housing below the instrument panel.

A plugged evaporator case drain sounds like the most likely cause of your wetness, as you mentioned it was clear, a sloshing sound occurred, and this happened again during a dry weather spell.

It may seem odd the air conditioning system is utilized during wet/cold weather defrosting, but this dehumidifies the cabin, greatly assisting defrosting efforts. Cabin moisture accumulates on the evaporator, a cigar box-shaped radiator-like device, and is supposed to fall downward out of the evaporator case

See **LEAKAGE, C2**

Still in a class of its own



2019 Mercedes AMG S63 Cabriolet has a elegant front fascia, muscular hood and smooth profile. [MERCEDES-BENZ]

2019 Mercedes AMG S63 has undergone a 'refresh'

By Barry Spyker
Tribune News Service

The 2019 S-Class from Mercedes has undergone a midlife "refresh," we're told, but a closer examination reveals it's more refreshing than one might think.

Take the AMG S63 Cabriolet: At first glance, one sees the same elegant front fascia, muscular hood and smooth profile. But it also has some striking new design tweaks, like new tail lights comprised of 66 "floating" organic LEDs that present a virtual 3-D light show when the car is locked or unlocked. And new 20-inch, 10-spoke wheels with red brake calipers. And revised bumpers and exhaust tips.

Add some new technology and safety gadgets and classy new interior trims, and it's one pretty impressive "refresh."

The Cabrio, launched in 2015, keeps its coupe-like appearance with a rigid



2019 Mercedes AMG S63 Cabriolet has three new wood trims: a glossy brown burl walnut, satin-finish ash gray, and Designo Magnolia Flowing Lines. [MERCEDES-BENZ]

three-layer fabric roof, which minimizes noise. The top goes up or down in 20 seconds, at speeds up to 37 mph, and an electric divider automatically partitions the trunk to stash the roof — yet still leave seven

cubes of space for luggage.

Mercedes' Air-Scarf neck heater, which allows you to expand the top-down season, and wind deflectors both are standard features for 2019. A Warmth Comfort Package

(\$1,990) adds heated front armrests and steering wheel.

A new flat-bottom AMG performance steering wheel (in wood-leather) is racy but

See **MERCEDES, C2**

2019 Ford Mustang EcoBoost Convertible is one prize pony



2019 Ford Mustang EcoBoost Convertible has more or less retained its classic styling cues, blending its iconic American design with European elan, buffed to a modern sheen. [FORD]

By Larry Printz
Tribune News Service

I recently drove a 2019 Chevrolet Camaro, followed shortly thereafter by the 2019 Ford Mustang.

Which did I prefer? From a technical standpoint, both cars have never been better, riding atop state-of-the-art platforms and wearing styling that blends elements of their original designs with the latest styling cues. Both perform well and are

modestly priced for the performance they deliver.

So why do I find it so hard to like the Camaro? Perhaps it's the model's design evolution.

Having carefully developed from 1970 through 2002 on one design path, it could have continued when it returned for 2010 by reinterpreting the beautiful 1970 model, one influenced by Italian coachwork. Instead, the Camaro's return self-consciously plagiarized its first generation,

which was cribbed from the Ford Mustang.

While the new Camaro steps away from that, it still seems more like a buffoonish caricature than a natural evolution. The Mustang has more or less retained its classic styling cues across its lifetime, with the 2019 edition blending its iconic American design with European elan, buffed to a modern sheen.

See **MUSTANG, C2**

Stats

Base price: \$31,895
Engine: EcoBoost 2.3-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine
Horsepower: 310
Torque: 350 pound-feet
EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 21/32 mpg
Wheelbase: 107.1 inches
Length: 185.1 inches
Cargo capacity: 11.4 cubic feet
Curb weight: 3,676-3,702 pounds

AUTOMOTIVE



DID YOU KNOW
Lyft is the first ride-hailing company to go public as it filed IPO documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission earlier this month.

AUTO BITS

New report shows industry achieving record high MPG

In its latest report on fuel economy and emissions trends in the U.S., the EPA finds that automakers are setting records for fuel economy improvement and CO₂ emission reduction. Since the first such EPA report in 1975, the overall fleet fuel economy average has doubled in America and CO₂ emissions per mile driven have been cut in half.

One interesting fact about the 1975 report and the one just released this March of 2019 is that the Honda brand had the best MPG rating overall in both years. Honda has also led the industry in more years than any other brand including in the projected results for the 2018 model year.

Toyota Dips – Prius Sales To Blame?

The newest EPA report has final data from model year 2017 and preliminary data for model year 2018 vehicles. Among all manufacturers, only Toyota saw a dip in its fleet's MPG average. This could be due to the Prius hybrid's slowing sales. Toyota's Prius has significantly declined even further since 2017, but the world's largest producer of green vehicles has multiple new green models since 2017 filling the gap the Prius has left in its green vehicle numbers. The new Corolla Hybrid and an improved fleet of hybrid crossovers will help to keep Toyota on track.

– John Goreham/
BestRide.com

Test Drive: 2019 Toyota Highlander SE

By Greg Zyla
More Content Now

Entry Price: \$31,530
Price as Tested: \$44,127

This week, we're reviewing the 2019 Toyota Highlander, delivered in SE trim with All Wheel Drive (AWD) mechanicals. Following a refresh in 2016, Toyota Highlander offers excellent midsize SUV accommodations with room for seven or eight passengers depending on the second row seat design. Highlander continues to be one of Toyota's best-selling vehicles overall and boasts "recommended" and "best buy" ratings year-after-year from the major consumer publications.

Looking back, Highlander first appeared in North America in 2001 and was assembled on the Toyota Camry platform. Highlander quickly became one of the most popular SUV/Crossovers in America along with sibling and smaller Toyota RAV4. Nowadays, it seems the biggest decision prospective Toyota consumers have to make is whether to buy a Highlander or a RAV4. This reality equates to "all is well" for the Toyota brand, be it Highlander or RAV4.

Sales numbers you ask? In 2018, 244,511 Highlanders were sold, a new record and



2019 Toyota Highlander SE [TOYOTA]

easily breaking the old high mark of 215,775 units sold in 2017. If you want a more rugged body-on-chassis based 4x4, Toyota's 4Runner is still one of the better choices along with big brother full-size Toyota Sequoia.

A total of eight Highlanders are available for 2019, amongst them five internal combustion Highlanders and three hybrids. The entry LE starts at just \$31,530 retail and comes with a 185-horse four-cylinder coupled to a six-speed automatic. Once you move up to XLE (\$39,420) and above, a V6

with an eight-speed automatic is standard across the board all the way up to the most expensive non-hybrid Limited at \$42,640. The three hybrids (starting at \$37,170) are all AWD and use the V6, but rely on a special continuously variable automatic (CVT) instead of the eight-speed units.

Built in Princeton, Indiana, and still sharing Camry platform underpinnings, our Highlander SE starts at \$40,640 and delivers decent room for seven passengers thanks to its third row bench seat. Ease of access to the

third row is notable, although adults might find that longer trips in row three more burdensome than not. Still, your kids and the family dog will fit just fine as third rows in this class are always tight.

Likes: Toyota quality, V6 power, looks, great resale value.

Dislikes: Third row seat snug for adults, no Apple/Android feature.

Greg Zyla writes weekly for More Content Now and GateHouse Media. Contact him at greg@gregzyla.com or at 303 Roosevelt St., Sayre, PA 18840.

MUSTANG

From Page C1

In this light, GM seems like a follower, not a leader – perhaps because it is. The Ford Mustang has been continuously built for 55 years. In contrast, the Camaro has come and gone, afflicted by periodic bouts of corporate neglect, as if GM didn't take the car seriously.

Besides, Steve McQueen drove one. And as if that's not enough, remember that the Mustang invented the class the Camaro competes in, namely the pony car class.

And it remains the leader for 2019.

Returning in EcoBoost

(310 horsepower), GT (460 horsepower), Bullitt (526 horsepower) and Shelby GT350 (ditto) trim, all but the EcoBoost Mustang receive double-overhead-cam V-8s. In contrast, the EcoBoost makes do with a double-overhead-cam 2.3-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine with four valves per cylinder and twin independent variable camshaft timing. If the idea of a four-cylinder Mustang makes your blood run cold, or makes you feel like Steve McQueen's unloved relative, keep in mind it develops 310 horsepower to the rear wheels, more than the Mustang's V-8 developed 10 years ago. A six-speed manual is standard, a 10-speed automatic is optional. And it starts at less than \$26,395 for the EcoBoost coupe, or \$31,895 for the EcoBoost convertible.

It's easy to admire the engineering that went into the Mustang EcoBoost convertible once you put the top down. Twist and unhook the center-mounted handle and hold a button. Then, put this prized steed in gear, stomp on the accelerator and let the spring sun's warmth clear out the winter cobwebs.

Despite the puny number of cylinders under the hood, the EcoBoost is close enough to greased lightning to be a whole mess of fun. The steering has just enough heft without feeling too light, and turn-in remains sharp, even on the base model. The car remains flat in corners, but that's to be expected. And while I admit that the Camaro I drove had a more precise feel, the trade-off in punishing ride quality was hardly worth it given the crumbling nature of American

roads; I prefer all of my vertebrae to remain intact. That's what makes the Mustang such a pleasure; it doesn't punish you for your fun, providing the optimal amount of grip while delivering impressive bump absorption and admirable ride quality.

Wind management is excellent, providing just enough wind rustle to remind you that you're outside. And when the top is raised, the interior is remarkably hushed while rear visibility still bests the Camaro coupe, whose crevice-like windows and huge blind spots make driving a leap of faith. Not so with the Mustang.

And this stallion's cabin is as modern as its engine, with standard dual automatic climate control, remote starting, leather-wrapped shifter and parking brake, reverse

sensing system with rearview camera, SYNC infotainment system with an 8-inch LCD capacitive touchscreen, two USB ports, and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. There's also a lengthy options list, offering everything from adaptive safety features to added performance equipment.

With its classically updated looks, sporting yet refined manners and admirable performance, the 2019 Mustang EcoBoost is a classic American stallion, the perfect way to welcome the new season. And even if driving this will never transform you into Steve McQueen, except in your wildest dreams, it could fatten your wallet. After all, Mustangs eventually become collectible – you just have to wait awhile.

In the meantime, imagine the fun you'll have with this sassy pony.

LEAKAGE

From Page C1

through a drain hose. Clear water dripping/puddling on the ground on the passenger

side, roughly inboard of the right front wheel, is a good sign the A/C system is functioning and the drain is reasonably clear.

I'm not certain where your tech blew his/her air; this may have been an attempt to clear the drain (it's typically very low on the firewall/passenger

side, sometimes awkward to find and access). If so, perhaps dirt/debris was blown back up the tube, only to reappear and clog the tube again. Some drain tubes have a rubber end flap or similar, a one-way valve of sorts. Sometimes this adds too much restriction for smaller debris to exit, clogging

up a bit too easily (consider modifying it slightly).

I'd get going as soon as possible drying the carpet and insulation pad (the thick, incredibly absorbent matting beneath carpet). Pulling back both layers as far as possible and running a fan on the area for perhaps

two days with all windows down may be needed.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

MERCEDES

From Page C1

also functional: It has touch-sensitive controls that enable you to toggle through all the menus on the 12.3-inch dual screens. That means, for the first time, you never have to take your hands off the wheel.

There are three different layouts on the digital instrument panel – Classic, Sporty

or Progressive – and they are adaptable so you can reconfigure the data to your liking. The navigation map, too, was updated this year to include helpful alerts on the weather, fuel prices and free parking along your route.

The 2019 has three new wood trims: a glossy brown burl walnut, satin-finish ash gray, and something called Designo Magnolia Flowing Lines which is really striking.

Most important to AMGers is the powerplant, led by a hand-built 4.0-liter twin-turbo V-8

engine that builds to 603 hp and 664 pound-feet of torque. It delivers the 4,800-pound bull-turned-cheetah to 60 mph in just 3.4 seconds.

It's not a punishing sprint but a smooth, forceful run through the nine gears. The multi-clutch transmission will, however, lurch aggressively when the accelerator is mashed. And, it's not overly loud unless you want it to be – there is a button to ramp up the exhaust volume.

Credit Merc's 4Matic all-wheel-drive system for the

superb handling, balance and traction on curves. The front seat – exquisitely quilted and contoured – has active side bolsters to provide lateral support on corners.

Mercedes' Airmatic suspension continually adapts to road conditions and can even self-level to account for varying loads. Fuel economy is aided by a cylinder deactivation system but the S63 AMG isn't here for mpg bragging rights. EPA estimates 15 mpg city, 24 highway for 18 combined.

New tech-safety options

include a Driver Assist Package (\$2,250) which essentially converts the S63 into a semi-autonomous vehicle. An Active Distance feature keeps it a safe distance from the car in front and takes evasive action if necessary. Active Speed automatically adjusts the speed ahead of curves and intersections.

Mercedes' flagship cabriolet was already one of the best full-size drop-tops out there. The new safety aids, AMG power and design choices just strengthen the argument.

MOVIES & TV

MOVIE REVIEW

'Dumbo' remake goes sky-high with family entertainment

By Ed Symkus

More Content Now

Will this live-action Disney remake of the classic 1941 Disney animated feature make you laugh? Yes, it will. Will it make you cry? You bet! And because it's directed by Tim Burton — a man of many fantastical movie ideas — you'll probably also gawk in wonder at some of the astounding visuals.

But it should be made clear that Burton and his screenwriter Ehren Kruger have done what you're supposed to do with a remake. They've completely reimagined the original. So, there are trappings of the 1941 film: A cute and clumsy little elephant with huge ears that enable him to fly, almost everyone making fun of his appearance, a forced separation from his mom, psychedelic visions of pink elephants, some perilous scenes in a circus tent, and a happy ending. There is a mouse (I think named Timothy), but he's only onscreen for a minute or two and is not, as in the original, a helpful pal for our big-eared hero. PC police will be thrilled to know there isn't a controversial crow to be seen.

But there are people, lots of people. This is



Circus folks give their new star some pampering. [WALT DISNEY STUDIOS]

more a story of people and their troubles and hopes and dreams than it is about a flying elephant.

It's 1919, and the small-time, old-fashioned Medici Brothers Circus is making its way across the middle of America by train. Holt Farrier (Colin Farrell) has just come home from WWI after being away for two years. A lot has happened while he was gone. His wife, who was his performing partner in the circus' trick riding act, has died of the flu. The struggling circus has had to sell its horses. His two young kids

have been taken in and cared for by their circus family. The poor guy has returned to a tough emotional situation. One more thing. He lost an arm in battle, but hasn't told his kids. You can see how broken he is, not only by the circumstances awaiting him, but by the shocked expressions on his kids' faces when they see him. "It's still me," he says, forlornly, trying hard to smile.

Circus owner Max Medici has somehow kept things afloat, has even bought a new elephant for the show, a pregnant elephant named

Mrs. Jumbo. Now that he can't do trick riding, Holt's new job is to tend the elephants, and he's there just in time for the birth of Mrs. Jumbo's new calf. That would be Little Jumbo, later renamed Dumbo, the small fellow with ears so big he trips over them, the sight of which causes nervous Max to scream, "Make those giant ears disappear!"

Thank goodness they don't, because Holt's kids, taking an interest in Dumbo, learn of his strange talent. If the conditions are right, he can use those ears to fly. But before any

'Dumbo'

Written by Ehren Kruger; directed by Tim Burton
With Colin Farrell, Eva Green, Danny DeVito, Michael Keaton
Rated PG

if this can turn into good news, tragedy strikes. A circus member who regularly mistreats animals goes after Dumbo, causing Mrs. Jumbo to go after the guy. She is immediately labeled dangerous and is removed from the circus. If you don't shed tears during the separation scene, you're probably an automaton. In the middle of all of this, Holt comes to the realization that he has no idea how to talk with his own kids.

Then there's more drama, with the introduction of the snake of an entrepreneur V.A. Vandevere (a deliciously overacting Michael Keaton), who wants the flying elephant to draw crowds at his own spiffy Dreamland park.

The film is all about hope. Holt hopes he can forge a better relationship with his kids, Max hopes the circus can get back on its feet, Dumbo hopes he can reunite with his mom. It's also very funny, but — a warning to parents with kids 5 and under — there are a couple of scenes featuring great peril, notably during a big fire in the tent.

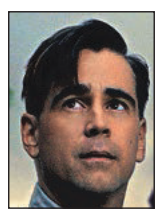
In the end, though, it's a family movie about all sorts of families, and the main theme involves people — and elephants — believing in themselves.

Farrell tries to make sense of an unfair world in 'Dumbo'

By Ed Symkus

More Content Now

It doesn't seem very fair — or accurate — that Colin Farrell has come to be best known, in some circles, as a tough



Farrell

guy sort of actor, in others for doing action roles. Sure, he's played a few of those. But the Dublin native has also regularly shown a very different, extremely vulnerable side.

In "Dumbo," Farrell again goes for that latter type of character. He plays Holt Farrier, a Kentucky horseman who's half of a trick riding team with his wife in the small Medici Bros. Circus. Farrell recently spoke about the film.

Q. How did you become involved in "Dumbo"?

A. I heard those three words: Tim, Burton, Dumbo, and I was done, man. It was sign me up. I sent Tim a very long-winded email about how much I loved his work and how strongly I felt about certain aspects of this film and the message that I felt was going to be a through-line in it.

Q. Any second thoughts about remaking such an iconic movie?

A. Not really. I never saw it when I was a kid, so I had no nostalgic

attachment to it. But I did see the film about three months before I got on the plane to London, and I thought it was great. I thought it was moving and disturbing, and I thought all the elements of darkness and hope that existed in that 1941 animated film also existed in our version. But now there was this whole human component, this whole other aspect that wasn't in the original. I thought the human component of the story mirrors Dumbo's journey in a really beautiful way.

Q. Holt comes home from war at the beginning of the film and finds himself in a terrible situation. Could you talk about what might be going on in his head?

A. When we meet him, he's a damaged man, a broken man — both physically, as represented by the absence of his left arm, which he lost in battle — and he's also broken emotionally and psychologically. He's grieving for his wife who is no longer in the world waiting for him. He has two children that he feels disenfranchised from. He doesn't understand them, they don't understand or recognize the man that was their father in him. His struggle is very real. Like many characters in this film, he feels at odds with his environment and with the things that should be important to him in his life.

STAY TUNED

'Veep,' TV's best political satire, starts its final season



Melissa Crawley

It's time to say goodbye to one charming virgin and the sharpest political satire on TV, as "Jane the Virgin" and "Veep" begin their last seasons.

Dispatches: Weekly TV news

- Apple announced plans for Apple TV+, a new ad-free video subscription service. The streaming service will be available in May with an official rollout this fall. Original programming will include shows from Oprah and Steven Spielberg and will feature "The Morning Show," a drama starring Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon and Steve Carell. Pricing for the service has not yet been announced.

- Animated children's TV series "Dora the Explorer" will make its big-screen debut on Aug. 2 with "Dora and the Lost City of Gold." The live-action film stars Isabela Moner as Dora, now a teenager in high school, who must save her parents and solve a mystery about a lost Inca civilization. The trusty Boots, (voiced by Danny Trejo) Dora's monkey best friend, is there to help.

- It's a wrap for the Winchester brothers. After 15



Former Vice President and brief Commander in Chief Selina Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) decides to run again in "Veep." [DUNDEE PRODUCTIONS]

seasons, the CW's "Supernatural" will end. Co-stars Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles and Misha Collins announced the news.

- Ryan Murphy's newest original series, "The Politician," is slated for a Sept. 27 premiere on Netflix. The dark comedy will focus on the privileged Payton Hobart (Ben Platt) who has a plan to be president of the United States. But first he has to navigate his ruthless classmates and be elected student body president.

Contenders: Shows to keep on your radar

- Picking up after an ending that could be straight out of Jane's favorite tele-novela, "Jane the Virgin" starts its fifth and final season this week on the CW. Not all is lost, Jane fans: A spinoff is planned.

- In "Hanna," a teenage girl is trained to be a killer (March 29, Amazon).

Based on the 2011 film, the TV version is similar. One highlight is a reunion of "The Killing" co-stars Joel Kinnaman and Mireille Enos.

- Bill Hader's assassin-turned-actor returns in the popular dark comedy "Barry" with a season two premiere on March 31 (HBO, 10 p.m. ET). "Barry" is followed by the seventh and final season of HBO's "Veep." Former Vice President and brief Commander in Chief Selina Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) decides to run again. It's your last chance to catch the brilliant and hilarious Louis-Dreyfus in a standout performance.

- Travel to another dimension with Jordan Peele ("Get Out," "Us") who hosts and narrates "The Twilight Zone" (April 1, CBS All Access). Originally premiering in 1959 on CBS, the series uses socially conscious storytelling to explore contemporary human experience.

Report Card: Ratings winners and losers

Winners: Fox has renewed "9-1-1" and "The Resident" for third seasons.

Losers: Lawyer drama "For the People" is not satisfying enough people. A few weeks into its second season, the show is tied with "Speechless" as ABC's lowest-rated series.

Email Melissa Crawley at staytuned@outlook.com.

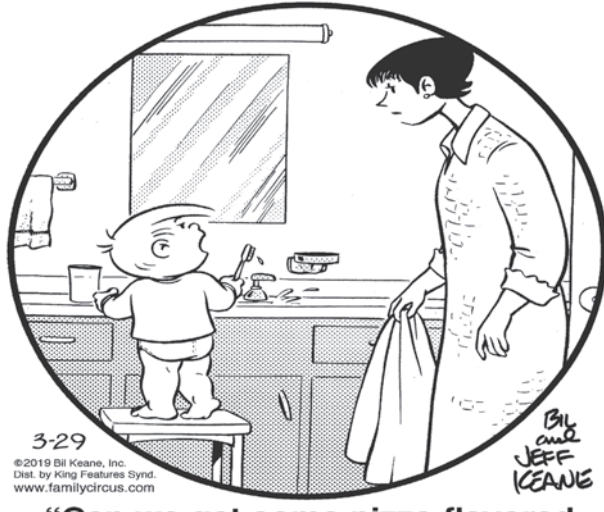
COMICS

DENNIS THE MENACE



"IF YOU REALLY WANT A PUPPY, JOEY, YOU SHOULD START OUT BY ASKING FOR A PONY!"

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Can we get some pizza-flavored toothpaste?"

HEATHCLIFF



"THE STENCH OF LOVE IS IN THE AIR."

LUANN



DILBERT



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



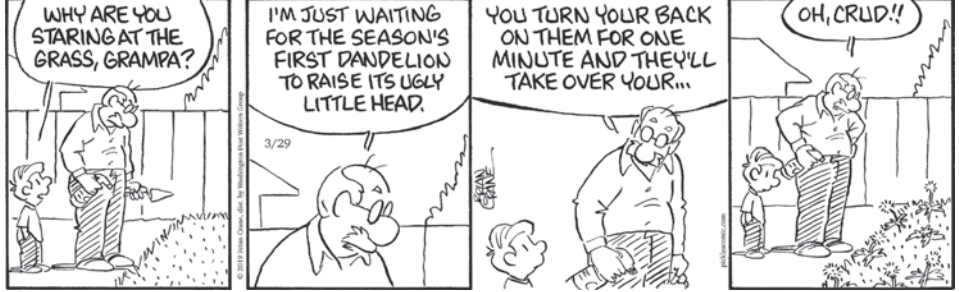
BABY BLUES



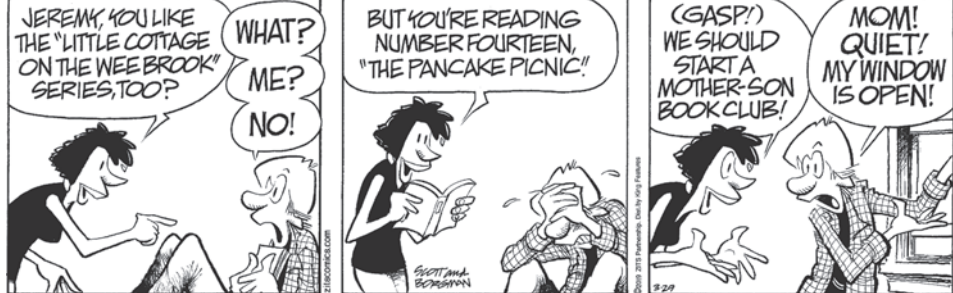
BETLE BAILEY



PICKLES



ZITS



PHANTOM



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



SHOE



B.C.



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



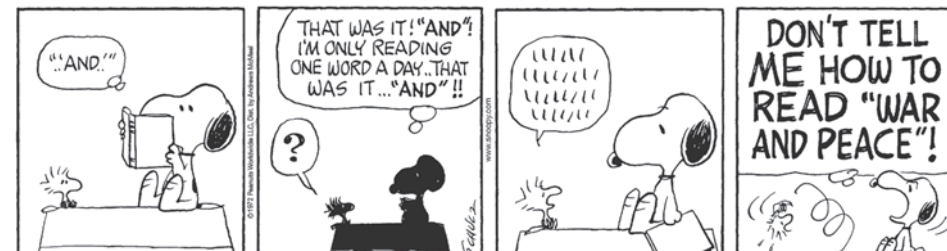
ROSE IS ROSE



SNUFFY SMITH



CLASSIC PEANUTS



DON'T TELL ME HOW TO READ "WAR AND PEACE"!

DIVERSIONS

Demand for tips from online company makes wife see red

DEAR ABBY: My husband recently broke his eyeglasses. Because they couldn't be repaired locally, he sent them by mail to a company that had been referred to him. They fixed his glasses and returned them to him.

A short time later he received an email from the company "salesperson" requesting a tip! ("If you are happy with me as your salesperson and would like to give me a tip, please click on the link below.") My husband replied, "Can you please send me a receipt? I need it for my records." She replied, "How much will you tip me?" He said, "Is the only way I can get a receipt for my repairs if I tip you?" She replied, "Yes, can you give me \$5?"

I have never heard of an online company soliciting tips before, let alone refusing to send a receipt unless one is given. How would you respond to this? Getting a receipt is not the important thing

JEANNE PHILLIPS

DEAR ABBY



here; it's the solicitation that dumbfounds me! -- **DUMBFUNDED IN TINLEY PARK, ILL.**

DEAR DUMBFUNDED: Every time I think I have heard everything, a letter like yours crosses my desk. The word for what that salesperson is attempting is extortion. Your husband should contact the owner of the company that repaired his glasses, tell the person the name of the employee who is trying to extort money and the date it happened, and request the receipt. If it doesn't arrive posthaste, the company should be reported to the Better Business Bureau.

P.S. Who referred you to that company? That person should also be informed about what has

been going on. **DEAR ABBY:** Ever since my son was a baby (he's almost 6 now), my husband and I have printed photograph invitations for his birthday parties. We sent the invitations to everyone, including those who lived too far away to attend, so people could have a current picture of him.

After reading many of your archives, I realize this may be perceived as a bid for gifts, and I no longer wish to do it. I would still like to send out a picture card of some sort. Any ideas on how to do it without making anyone think we want gifts? -- **DON'T WANT TO MAKE WAVES**

DEAR DON'T: A way to do that would be to send them during the holidays when your friends and relatives are sending out cards to friends and acquaintances.

DEAR ABBY: I work the newspaper crossword puzzle every day. I came across an answer re-

cently that stumped me. It was an "abbreviation for bowling lane." The answer was AMF. I'm asking you what it stands for because I cannot get a straight answer. What is so secretive about this logo? Please help. -- **STUMPED IN TEXAS**

DEAR STUMPED: The clue may have been misleading. AMF is a BRAND. It stands for American Machine and Foundry, which many years ago was one of the nation's largest recreational equipment companies.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

» BRIDGE

Bidding quiz

You are South and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
 1. ♠ J6 ♥ 72 ♦ A94 ♣ KQJ653
 2. ♠ A83 ♥ 10 ♦ Q32 ♣ AKQ1092
 3. ♠ 4 ♥ 6 ♦ AK987 ♣ KQ10743
 4. ♠ 9852 ♥ KJ ♦ 62 ♣ AKQ75

1. Four spades. The jump-rebid in spades, in addition to showing extra points, virtually guarantees at least a six-card suit, so the J-6 can be regarded as adequate trump support. A rebid of three notrump, without a heart stopper, would constitute a needless risk. The only other conceivable bid, four clubs, is not desirable either, since it might lead to a contract of five clubs rather than four spades. Ten tricks at spades will almost surely be easier to make than 11 tricks at clubs, and you should act accordingly.

2. Four notrump. It is highly likely that a grand slam in spades, clubs or notrump can be made if partner has the two missing aces. You therefore invoke Blackwood. If partner responds five diamonds, indicating only one ace, your best shot is six spades, which should make a high percentage of the time. The only real concern is that partner

has two immediate diamond losers and the opponents lead that suit, but given the bidding, this is not probable.

3. Four diamonds. There may be a slam here also, but where it might lie is uncertain. Four diamonds suggests to partner that you lack spade support and asks if he can support clubs or diamonds. If partner next bids five clubs or five diamonds, you should carry on to six, feeling confident that you'll score at least 12 tricks.

4. Five spades. This is not an ideal type of hand with which to ask about aces, so a jump-raise in spades, inviting partner to bid six, seems the best choice. This is true even though your spades are not as strong as you'd like them to be — you lack a high honor, and it is chiefly for this reason that you don't bid six directly.

Partner is not required to bid again over five spades, but in practice he will seldom pass with a hand that can produce 12 tricks opposite the one you have here. Considering your spade fit, strong clubs and secondary heart control, you have the values that make a spade slam likely.

It would not be wrong to go directly to six, especially with a conservative partner. Such decisions — whether to bid five spades or six — are frequently based on practical considerations.

Tomorrow: A tough one to solve.
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» HOROSCOPES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019:

This year you expand your insight and perspective. You could meet a foreigner who may be instrumental in opening your eyes. If single, this person could become more than just a friend. In any case, a relationship will blossom this year. If attached, the two of you enjoy each other more and more, yet have the capacity to deal with difficult situations. AQUARIUS makes a great friend.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19) You could mull over all the information you heard yesterday. You recognize the need to take more responsibility in order to make the various facets of your life work. You could be overly serious and out of kilter. Do not make any final decisions yet; instead, give yourself a day or two. Tonight: Make an appearance.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20) Be more direct with a friend or associate. He or she thinks very differently than you, yet you always understand each other. You both seem to be in the process of revitalizing your thinking. You will spontaneously energize. Tonight: Look beyond the obvious.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Relate directly to a loved one. Do not hesitate to share what you're thinking. You find a close associate or partner to be a downer at first. You might decide to revive this bond and change how you interact. Be more in touch with the frustration you might feel from them. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22) If you can wait for the other party to make the first move, by all means do. You might be more likely to win in a power play. Speak your mind. Do not allow anyone to hold you back. Tonight: Getting what you want.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22) You cannot be stopped as you try to complete the workweek with a clear agenda and a neat desk. You have a lot to accomplish, but you will make the most of the next few days. You have a lot of ground to cover. Tonight: Use your imagination.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22) You have a unique need or desire to be a perfectionist. Try not to be too hard on yourself or another person. You drive yourself when you want to. Take a half-day if you can,

JACQUELINE BIGAR

BIGAR'S STARS



and start your weekend early. Tonight: TGIF.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You could be drawn and overly tired. Try not to continue on the present path if you experience more fatigue and change than you feel is normal. You express ingenuity and the ability to read between the lines. Tonight: Stepping out.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21) You could be unusually rigid and determined to have your way. Others sense your determination and decide not to buck your present mood. Make a call or reach out for someone if you feel alone. Recognize that your attitude pushes others away. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21) Your fiery personality allows greater give and take. Nevertheless, you need to deal with a financial matter with clarity and caring. You choose

to take action and no longer sit back. Tonight: Go for a brief walk if you're too tense over a hassle.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19) Others admire your endurance, renewed perspective and willingness to take a stand. You choose to take a strong yet accepted route. A loved one or child might balk at what until now has been accepted. Tonight: Celebrating the weekend.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18) You might be unusually taciturn and intense. Others question how to approach you at this point in time. An issue could come up that involves your domestic life and home. You wonder what might be best to do. Tonight: Could go into the wee hours.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20) You aim high and with authority. As a result, you make an impact no matter how big or little your audience might be. A change in the nature of an association might be the natural outcome. Others appreciate your efforts. Tonight: Catch up with a dear friend.

» CRYPTOQUOTE

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-29 CRYPTOQUOTE
NUB XF FPLBKXUMU KONK

QPBFM'K LNKKBG, SMWBFF

ZPS NGB N EOBFBF. — WSXF

DSMSBW
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PLANTS DO NOT GROW MERELY TO SATISFY AMBITIONS OR TO FULFILL GOOD INTENTIONS. — LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY

» TODAY IN HISTORY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 88th day of 2019. There are 277 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On March 29, 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union. (They were executed in June 1953.)

ON THIS DATE:

In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In 1912, British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, his doomed expedition stranded in an Antarctic blizzard after failing to be the first to reach the South Pole, wrote the last words of his journal: "For Gods sake look after our people."

In 1951, The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I" opened on Broadway.

In 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time. (Johnny Carson debuted as host the following October.)

In 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending Ameri-

ca's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1989, at the Academy Awards, "Rain Man" won best picture, best director for Barry Levinson and best actor for Dustin Hoffman; Jodie Foster won best actress for "The Accused." (This was the Oscars ceremony that featured the notorious opening number with Rob Lowe and "Snow White.")

WORD SCRIMMAGE™
BY JUDD HAMBRICK © 2019 UFS / Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

1st DOWN
E₁ U₃ I₂ A₂ M₆ D₃ C₆ 1st Down + 50 PTS

2nd DOWN
U₃ I₂ E₁ B₆ L₂ F₇ C₆ 2nd Down + 30 PTS

3rd DOWN
D₃ X₁₂ G₆ I₂ A₂ O₂ G₃ 3rd Down + 60 PTS

4th DOWN
W₇ T₂ T₂ O₂ I₂ S₂ U₃ 4th Down + 40 PTS

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN JUDD'S TOTAL = 320 AVERAGE GAME 205-215 PTS
Directions: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters on each yardline. Add points to each word or letter using scoring directions. Seven-letter words get a 60-point bonus. All words can be found in Webster's New World College Dictionary.
3-29-19 JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

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

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

WORD SCRIMMAGE™ SOLUTION BY JUDD HAMBRICK
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C₆ L₂ E₁ R₂ K₁₂ E₁ D₃ 1st DOWN = 94

D₃ R₂ A₂ Y₇ A₂ G₃ E₁ 2nd DOWN = 80

B₆ L₂ E₁ M₆ I₂ S₂ H₇ 3rd DOWN = 116

D₃ W₇ E₁ L₂ L₂ E₁ R₂ 4th DOWN = 78

AVERAGE GAME 235-245 PTS JUDD'S TOTAL = 368
3-29-19

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

How to play: Fill in the blank squares with the numbers 1 through 9 so that each horizontal row, vertical column and nine-square sub-grid contains no repeated numbers.

Puzzles range in difficulty from one to six stars.

The solution to today's puzzle will be in tomorrow's paper.

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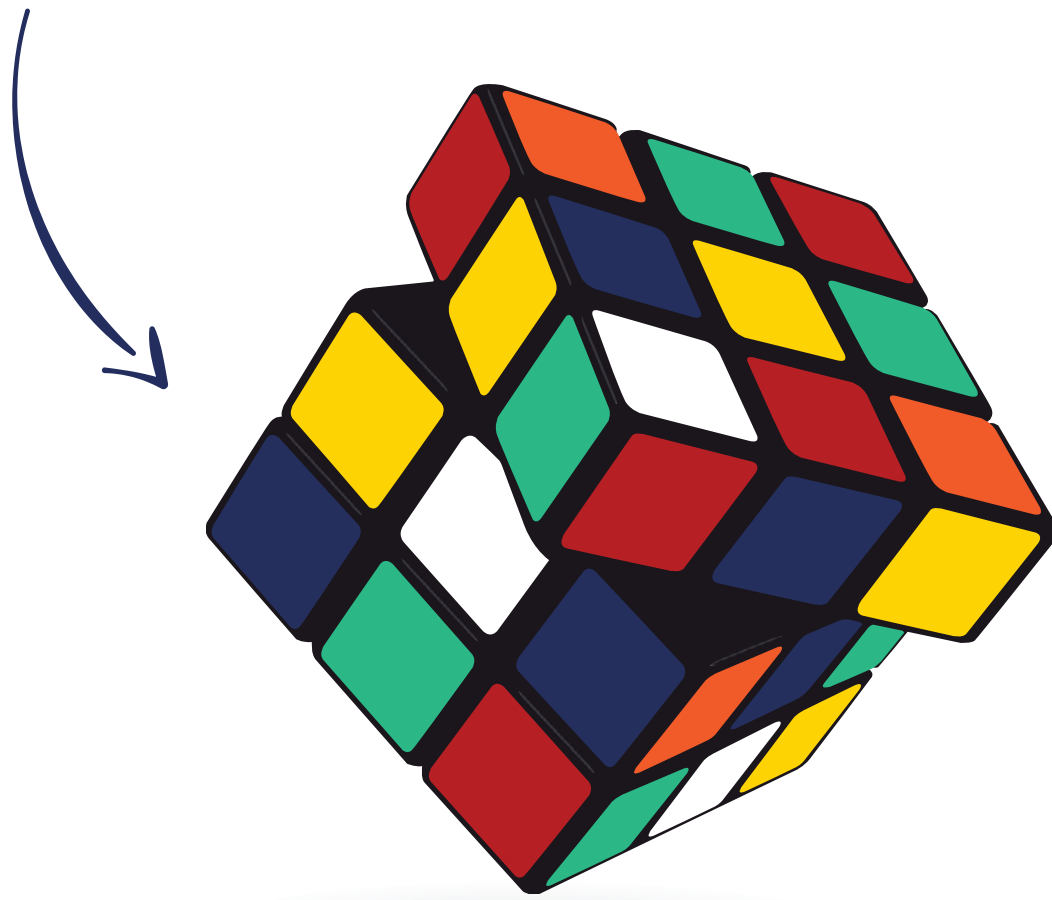
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