



Houston Chronicle
extra

TRAVEL
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ABOVE IT ALL

Treehouses, zip lines offer adventure in Laos. [Page 4](#)

All 'active vacations' aren't equal, so planning is key. [Page 2](#)

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Travel



NYT

How to plan an active vacation

By Shivani Vora | *New York Times News*

Forget the standard hangout by the beach or sightseeing through a city vacation. Hiking, walking and biking are less common ways to explore a destination, according to Susan Sparks, a travel adviser at Points of Interest Travel in Aspen, Colo., who specializes in customized active trips.

“When you take an active trip, you’re out in nature and get a perspective on a place that most travelers don’t. Plus, you’re moving a lot and burn plenty of

calories to balance out all the eating and drinking that are typical on vacations,” she said.

But she cautions that all active getaways aren’t created equal and offers tips on planning one that’s best for you.

Choose a reliable outfitter

Yes, you can plan an active vacation on your own, but Sparks said that booking with an outfitter is a smarter way to go.

“A seamless active vacation can be logistically complicated to plan, and trip outfitters have done the

groundwork of mapping out routes, vetting out good hotels along these routes and buying the right equipment,” she said.

Reliable outfitters for walking, hiking and biking trips include Backroads, Butterfield & Robinson, Gray & Co., Mountain Travel Sobek, DuVine Cycling & Adventure Co. and Trek Travel. Most offer private and group trips, and all have specialists who can help you choose a trip based on your interests, budget and fitness level.

What does active mean to you?

Your idea of an active vacation could mean waking up early to embark on a full day of heart-pumping movement. For another traveler, however, a half-day of leisurely walking with breaks built in for long lunches and cultural tours constitutes activity. Pick a trip according to your definition of active.

Sparks also advises choosing a trip that matches your fitness level. If you’re looking for a week of challenging hiking, for example, the flat and even terrain in Mallorca won’t cut it, but the steep inclines in Italy’s Dolomites will.

“If you take a trip that’s too easy or too difficult,” she said, “you may feel like it was a waste of money and time.”

Choose your destination second

Are you a biker, or are walking and hiking your activities of choice? Keep in mind that not every destination is suited to every kind of activity. Tuscany, for example, is a haven for bikers, but the busy roads and lack of walking trails make it less ideal for a walking holiday. Similarly, El Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage route in northern

Spain, is a hiker’s dream, but the narrow trails don’t offer the ease of open roads for biking.

Don’t limit yourself to one activity

Multisport trips offer more variety than a trip that’s solely walking or biking.

“There are many fun trip options that combine walking and biking and also have rafting and kayaking thrown in,” Sparks said.

One example is a Backroads trip to Croatia’s Dalmatian Coast that includes walking, biking and kayaking.

Travel

Family travel five: Nature hikes with some extraordinary scenery

By Lynn O'Rourke Hayes | *The Dallas Morning News*

Take to the trail for fresh air and adventure. Here are five places for families to take a trail hike.

1 Avalanche Lake, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Mont.

Within 4.5 miles you will witness some of the most extraordinary scenery the national park system has to offer. Expect rushing creeks and towering cedar and hemlock trees, leading to a pristine lake with waterfalls as backdrop. Take time for a snack or picnic lunch and soak in the stunning views. The trail launches from the wheelchair and stroller accessible Trail of the Cedars one-mile loop. Stay in nearby Whitefish where lake activities, restaurants, farmers markets and golf add to your vacation experience. explorewhitefish.com; hiddenmooselodge.com; firebrandhotel.com; nps.gov/glac

2 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Kanab, Utah

To claim your favorite section of this stunning terrain, visit the 1.7 million-acre national monument known for winding slot canyons, mesas, roughly carved buttes and the "crookedest river in the world." Established in 1996, the national monument includes the Canyons of the Escalante, carved by the area's namesake river and its tributaries, and serves up

numerous popular hikes. Families like to visit during the dry months to hike and wade the river. During wetter months, plop in a tube or kayak your way through the scenic landscape. The Devil's Garden, considered "easy" and located 12 miles south of town, provides another family-friendly option. utah.com; nps.gov/glca/planyourvisit/escalante.htm

3 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, Washington, D.C.

Take a break from hiking between museums and galleries and stretch your legs on an historic and scenic path just 20 minutes from the capital. The trail begins at the Old Angler's Inn and follows the canal towpath for 2.3 miles to the Great Falls Tavern, passing old locks along the way. The outing provides an opportunity to discuss the way locks once lifted boats 600 feet during the years — from the 1830s until 1924 — it was in use. The canals provided a lifeline for communities along the Potomac River. In the same area, consider The Billy Goat Trail, a 4-mile loop hike. trailink.com; nps.gov/choh/index.htm

4 State Forest State Park, Walden, Colo.

Sprawled along the west side of the Medicine Bow Mountains and reaching into the Never Summer Range, family travelers will find 71,000 acres of alpine lakes, forest and plenty of hiking trails



Jan Bryan / Associated Press file

Bring a picnic to Avalanche Lake at Glacier National Park in Montana and take in some stunning views.

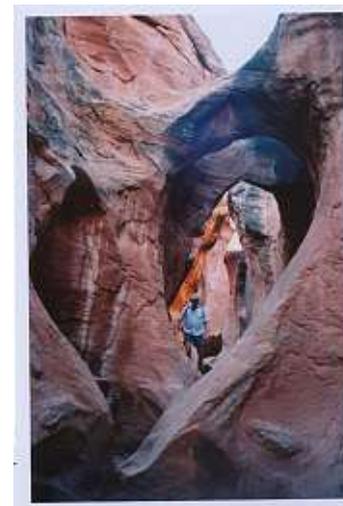
in this expansive state park, plus more than 600 resident moose. Expand your knowledge of these compelling creatures in the educational visitors center. Ask about the local geocaching possibilities and the possibility to spend the night in one of several yurts in the park. cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/stateforest; colorado.com.

5 In your backyard

Nurture the wonder of discovery early. A slow stroll around your

own block can be an adventure for the littlest explorers. Note colorful gardens, rugged tree bark, tiny bugs and birds overhead. Feel the breeze, comment on the sweet smell of neighbors barbecuing or the scent of freshly cut grass. As time passes, expand your circle and encourage your little ones to share their own observations.

Lynn O'Rourke Hayes is the editor of *FamilyTravel.com*. Email her at lohayesFamilyTravel.com.



A hiker traverses Peek-A-Boo Gulch at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. The national monument was established in 1996 and includes numerous popular hikes.

Karl Ritzler / CNS

Treehouses on top of the world: Zip lining to lodgings in Laos

Eliot Stein | *The Washington Post*

During our honeymoon, my wife strapped herself to a steel cable, kissed me goodbye and threw herself off the side of a mountain. I watched as she disappeared into the jungle mist, leaving only her scream.

Then it was my turn. I clipped my roller to the zip line, took a running start and flew high above the canopy as the forest plummeted below. It felt like horizontal BASE jumping. The adrenaline rush turned into wide-eyed wonder as I burst through the fog and glided gently through the open window of a childhood fantasy: a towering three-story treehouse built 150 feet up in the branches of a mammoth strangler fig tree overlooking the rain forest.

“Welcome home,” said my smiling wife.

Were Tarzan to dream up an eco-tourism adventure, it would probably look a lot like the Gibbon Experience in northwest Laos. During a three-day, two-night journey, you’re led deep into the remote jungle of the Bokeo Nature Reserve by guides from the surrounding hill tribes. After climbing

up a series of twisting mountain trails, you “fly” over the rain forest on a heart-stopping network of zip lines — some of which are suspended 500 feet above the forest floor and span more than six football fields. At the far end, you hike up again to continue crisscrossing the canopy on this sky-high superhighway.

At night, you sleep in some of the tallest treehouses in the world — thatched, open-air observatories surrounded by panoramic views of the forest and a symphony of birds. The only way in and out of your airborne abode is via zip line: You run off a ridge in the forest and gain enough momentum to soar in on one line, then jump out and let gravity carry you on another. Women from nearby Hmong and Lamet villages fly in your fire-cooked meals each night. Every morning, you wake up, slide on a harness and essentially toss yourself out of a 15-story building.

Not only is this exhilarating adventure one of the most unforgettable experiences in Southeast Asia, it’s also one of its most effective conservation concepts. As people from all over the planet swoop in to sleep and play high up in the trees, they’re helping to protect a critically endangered primate: the Laotian black-crested gibbon.

Due to decades of deforestation and illegal hunting, this sprawling nature reserve between Burma (also known as Myanmar) and Thailand is home to one of the last remaining populations of this rare creature. In fact, the subspecies was long believed to be on the road to extinction when Jean-Francois Reumaux, a French teacher with a passion for forest preservation, traveled from the Laotian capital, Vientiane, to the Bokeo region about 20 years ago. He spent a month living in the jungle and climbing



The extended family of Phad, a guide at the Gibbon Experience in Laos, assembles to wish



zip liners well as they begin a hike into the forest.



Eliot Stein photos / Washington Post

The Gibbon Experience helps protect the Laotian black-crested gibbon, which is critically endangered and quite elusive. The eco-tourism business pays 25 armed forest guards to patrol the rain forest and protect it against poachers.

trees to search for the elusive animals.

“I finally got close enough to film them, and when I showed the footage to anthropologists in Europe, they didn’t think it was real,” Reumaux told me over the phone. “So I told them they should come to the canopy and see the gibbons for themselves.”

Thus the idea for a sustainable monkey business was born.

Over the next several years, Reumaux and a small team of local carpenters and climbers began building seven vertiginously tall treehouses linked by narrow footpaths and a 9.3-mile network of zip lines — all within earshot of the

gibbons’ haunting hoots. As backpackers started flying in, the organization convinced the Laos National Assembly to set aside the surrounding 525 square miles of rain forest as a federally protected nature preserve — an expanse that’s nearly eight times as large as D.C.

Today, the project employs 142 canopy guides, cooks and treehouse builders. By offering villagers a more-lucrative alternative to poaching, logging and slash-and-burn farming, the organization has turned some of the gibbons’ former predators into their full-time protectors. The Gibbon Experience pays 25 armed forest guards — the only

ones in Laos’s national parks — to patrol the rain forest and protect it against poachers.

Reumaux says Bokeo’s gibbon population has risen to its highest level in decades. Clouded leopards and Asiatic black bears are making a big comeback, too, he said.

I’m glad I didn’t know that last detail as my wife and I began our adventure by bumping along dirt roads in the back of a pickup truck with five other backpackers. After a two-hour drive through the jungle from the Gibbon Experience’s headquarters in Houayxay, we arrived at the Hmong hill tribe village of Ban Toup, where we met our guides,

Phad and Si, who gave each of us a safety harness, zip lining gloves and a warm Beerlao.

“It’ll taste better in the treehouse,” Phad joked. Soon, we were off, but not before Phad’s extended family came out of their thatched huts to hug him goodbye and see us off with shy smiles.

We hiked into the mountains and were quickly engulfed in a riot of twisting vines, studded palm leaves and massive banyan trees. Two hours and one banana-leaf-wrapped baguette lunch later, we couldn’t climb any higher.

“Who wants to fly?” Phad asked.

Laos continues on 6

Laos from page 5

My wife shot up her hand. After a crash course in how to zip — legs up, lean back and squeeze the strip of worn bicycle tire that serves as a brake — she was gone, tearing at 40 mph through the canopy and losing her baseball hat in the process.

Just as I strapped in and prepared for my first flight, Phad whispered one more helpful hint to me: “Don’t look down.” It turns out that, despite five years of professionally soaring through the sky while dangling on a wire, Phad is absolutely terrified of heights.

“I always close my eyes,” he admitted. “But you should be OK!”

I was, until I shot a glance downward and caught sight of my tiny shadow racing across the treetops hundreds of feet below. I screamed as loudly as I could until I sailed safely into Si’s arms on the far platform.

Ten 500-meter trust falls later, our group was perched in the branches of our nest for the night, each quietly admiring the architectural marvel. Never mind the rooftop solar panels, suspended bedroom balconies and sweeping 360-degree views, the highlight of our sky-high home was hidden behind a curtain in the bathroom: an open-air shower where cool rainwater shoots down from the ceiling, washes over you and then drains through wooden floor slats and falls 150 feet into the rain forest below.

About two hours later, as the sun was beginning to set, we heard a faint howl in the forest and perked up. Gibbons? Nope — room service.

Two women wearing embroidered hill tribe dresses were flying in our fire-cooked dinner. While one woman spread a platter of mushrooms, chicken and cabbage on the living room table, the other strung mosquito nets over our mattresses and duvets.

“Your bedrooms are ready,”



Riders can zoom along at up to 40 mph along 9.3 miles of zip lines at the Gibbon Experience in northwest Laos. Travelers use zip lines to enter

she said quietly, before plunging off the first-floor platform and disappearing into the dusk.

We ate on squat stools and swapped travelers’ tales while nursing our warm Beerlaos. Long after the feathered chorus of bulbuls, drongos and kingfishers had quieted and there were no more card games to play, we retired into our net-covered mattresses for the night to listen to the chirping cicadas and mysterious squawking that lay just beyond the reach of our flashlights.

It’s hard to oversleep in the jungle, especially when your home sways ever so subtly in the breeze. Phad and Si swung in just

after dawn to lead our droopy-eyed group through a series of bamboo-lined trails. When we landed back in the treehouse, breakfast was waiting for us in the living room. In addition to rice, stew and piping-hot coffee, there were fresh omelets made from the bag of eggs that Si had carried as he tore through the forest the previous day, never cracking a shell.

We whizzed across 11 more zip lines on the second day — some more successfully than others. Whenever gravity left us dangling short of the far platform, we’d each have to turn around in midair to pull ourselves, arm over arm, toward

land while the rest of the group cheered: “C’mon, monkey!”

Between flights, Phad led us quietly through the dense bamboo groves in hopes of spotting wildlife. As Si silently dug up clay-colored roots as part of our lunch, Phad pointed out sambar deer tracks and matted paths made by wild pigs.

But what of the elusive gibbons? “They’re very hard to see,” Phad admitted while he and Si boiled the roots to make eyepoppingly strong “jungle tea” in the treehouse kitchen. “Much easier to hear in the morning.”

On our final day in the forest, our patience paid off. With dawn burning off the early-

morning mist, an eerie, ascending whooping sound echoed through the canopy and jolted us out of our mosquito nets. We leaned over the treehouse railing, quietly scanning through the clouds to find the source of the distant siren call.

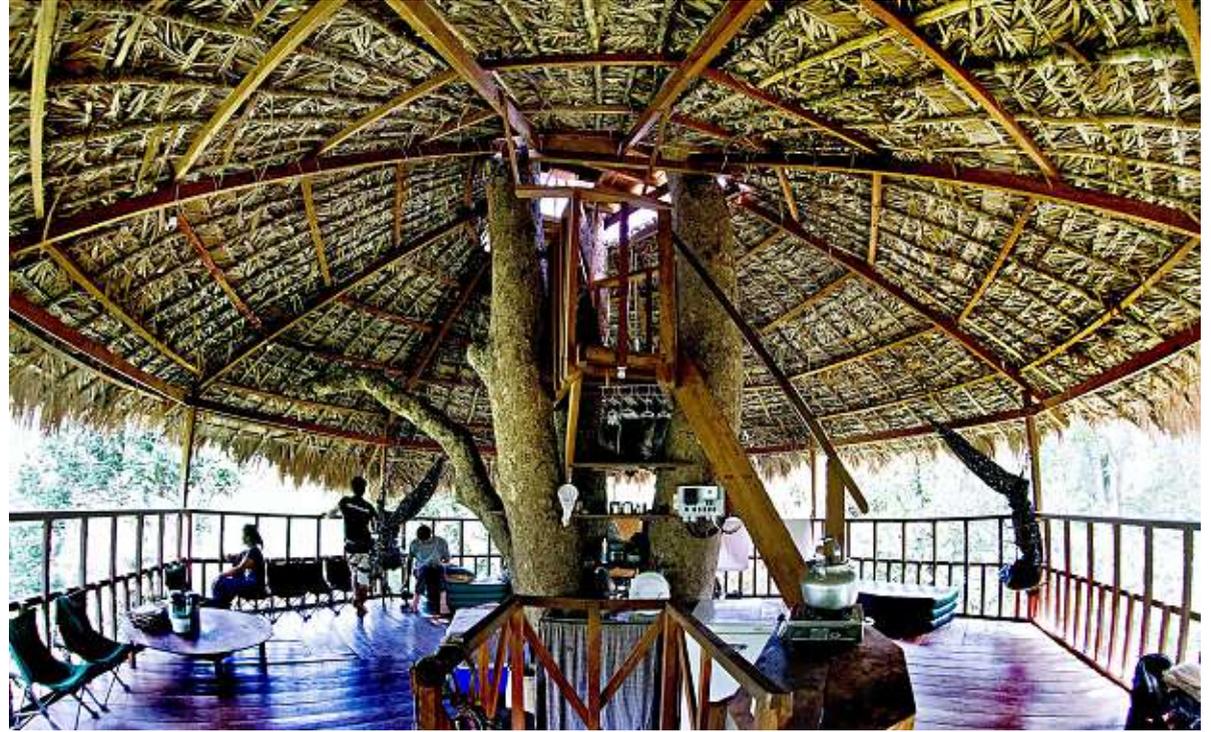
Finally, there was a response. Somewhere, deep in the jungle, a second gibbon started hooting back to the first. We listened, completely captivated, as the back-and-forth notes blossomed into a duet.

“They’re singing to each other,” Phad said. “Husband and wife.”

Just as soon as the song started, it fell away. We never



...er their treehouse accommodations, and nightly meals are flown in.



The treehouses offer sweeping views and — for the lucky — a glimpse of the endangered gibbons.

depending on how many nights you spend in the treehouses — clean clothing. Aside from solar-powered lights, there is no electricity in the treehouses, so be sure to charge your camera batteries beforehand. Towels, mosquito nets and bedding are provided.

Send an email to infogibbonexperience.org with your preferred date, trip and the number of travelers. A representative will usually get back to you within 48 hours with details and availability. Pre-payment is made online through PayPal.

WHERE TO STAY

The Gibbon Experience asks that participants check in at its office in Houayxay the day before their trip's departure. Therefore, most people end up spending the night in Houayxay. There are a number of modest guesthouses in town. Here are our favorites:

Sabaydee Guesthouse

Th. Saykhong
011-856-084-212252
Located down the street from the Gibbon Experience, Sabaydee is a family-run spot with WiFi, air

conditioning, private showers and a rooftop terrace that overlooks Houayxay's main drag.

Riverside Houayxay Hotel

R3A Rd., Ban Khonekeo
011-856-084-211064
houayxairiverside.com

This is Houayxay's most upmarket option. The three-story building overlooks the Mekong River and is conveniently located next to the boat pier. Rooms have WiFi, air conditioning and private balconies.

WHERE TO EAT

Daauw

011-856-030-9041296
projectkajsiablaos.org
Daauw is a restaurant and a bungalow that contributes proceeds to help empower minority women from the surrounding hill tribes. A great cause aside, the wood-fired pizzas, organic Hmong food and barbecued Mekong fish won't disappoint.

Riverside Restaurant

R3A Rd., Ban Khonekeo
houayxairiverside.com/RESTAURANT.html
Attached to the eponymous Riv-

erside Hotel, this alfresco restaurant offers sweeping views of the Mekong, postcard-worthy sunsets and a mixture of Thai, Laotian and Western-style food.

Mingmeaung Restaurant Th. Saykhong

Like many places in Houayxay, there isn't really a sign indicating what or where this spot is. Just follow your nose across the street from the Saybadee Guest House to tuck into sizzling barbecue, grilled sausage or sticky rice.

WHAT TO DO

Houayxay's modest attractions and quaint cafes are enough to keep you distracted for a day.

Wat Chomkao Manilat

The only way up to this colorful Buddhist temple is by ascending a staircase with engraved dragon handrails to a hilltop perched above the town.

Once you've made it, you can admire views across the Mekong into Thailand, tour the temple and help young monks practice their English at the daily "ask a monk" meetings.

did catch sight of the gibbons. By the time the mist cleared, they were long gone, swinging away together through the trees.

If you go

The Gibbon Experience

Th. Saykhong, Houayxay
011-856-084-212021
gibbonexperience.org

The Gibbon Experience offers three options: The three-day, two-night Classic Experience (\$310); the three-day, two-night Waterfall Experience (\$310); and the two-day, one-night Express Trip (\$190). All meals are included.

There are regular flights from the Laotian capital, Vientiane, to Houayxay on Lao Skyway. There

are also "slow boats," "long boats," and "speed boats" that take passengers along the Mekong River to Houayxay from Luang Prabang and the Thai border town of Pak Beng — among them the Shompoo Cruise and Luang Say Cruise. In addition, there is regular Greenbus service from Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai (Thailand) to the Laos border, just over the Mekong River from Houayxay.

Bring sturdy hiking boots and long socks to deter leeches (especially in the wet season from May to September). Everything you carry will be in your backpack. We recommend bringing water, a camera, toilet paper, mosquito repellent, soap, a flashlight and —

When skiing is sheer bliss

By Anne Z. Cooke | *Tribune News Service*

BASALT, Colo. — Winter was still in charge when we spotted them, raggedy brown patches staining the snow at Snowmass Ski Resort, in central Colorado's Pitkin County. In any other year we might have been greeted by mounds of powder on the Cirque, with a generous swath under Sheer Bliss, our favorite chairlift. The basics, indeed, for a last-of-the-season caper.

"All we need is a couple of days skiing the summit," moaned Dillon, the teenager, who'd skipped a school day to make the trip. "Is that too much to ask?"

Spoiled by annual trips to Park City Mountain Resort, in Utah, where a decade of February snowfalls have been as predictable as a ham sandwich, he stumped away toward Fanny Hill to "inspect the snow melt."

But as the sun glared down, the growing puddles of water and dripping icicles confirmed the worst: Spring had invaded overnight.

Then shortly before midnight I heard muffled whooping outside and opened the door to find the skiers from the adjacent condo celebrating the unexpected: an icy wind whirling a cloud of snowflakes over the mountain.

And what a difference a day makes. By 6 a.m. we were up and dressed and by 6:30 I was online, blogging the news on the Huffington Post, to wit:

"The blizzard that began late Tuesday night, on March 23rd, was sheer bliss for skiers at Snowmass and Aspen ski resorts who awoke to the best of all possible worlds: feathery-soft powder snow blanketing mountain peaks, valley trails, forest glades and ski lifts.

"The storm, which blew in just before midnight, was still swirling over Snowmass Village at dawn on

the 24th, laying down 4 to 5 inches of new snow on the base area runs before noon, and more — as yet unmeasured by early afternoon — on the two resorts' upper slopes.

"It's paradise," exulted Glenn, a resident from Denver, who said he'd spent the earlier part of the week skiing on hard-packed trails, 'groomed at night, but mushy by late afternoon.' Joining another group of other early risers who'd seen the snow and jumped into their gear, he snapped on his skis and followed them down to the lifts, hoping to 'ski first tracks off the top.'

"The storm was the latest of several small snowfalls, adding a total of 9 inches to a previous 66-inch base. The last big storm here in the Roaring Fork Valley fell a month ago, in late February, dumping a season-saving 43 inches.

"Today's snowfall promises to be a winner for once-a-year skiers — families with kids — who come during the annual spring break holiday and for whom good snow can make or break a vacation."

So much for blogging. If you lived in Connecticut or Florida, you could read it and weep. I, however, was lucky enough to catch a brief reprieve in a succession of fickle years at some of my favorite ski mountains.

Bad was when mild breezes turned the snow at Santa Fe Ski Resort to slush; weird was when a

succession of storms at Breckenridge, near Dillon, dropped 100 or more inches; and frustration was the result when scarce snow in some of California's Sierra Nevada resorts mountains, including Heavenly in South Lake Tahoe and Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows (now merged) on the north shore, spoiled the skiing altogether.

By early March of this year (2016), the winter season seemed to be over. Until late March, when a series of blizzards dumped record-setting snowfalls up and down the West Coast, at 12 resorts in California, seven in Washington and five in Oregon. And in Colorado? Only Winter Park and Steamboat got the love.

For now, weather extremes are the new norm. But they don't have to torpedo your ski vacations. Instead of booking lodging and lift tickets months in advance and hoping you've guessed right, you can find everything you want, updated daily, weekly and monthly, on ski resort and snow report websites.

Once resort managers realized they could engage skiers in the moment and on the internet, pricing and advertising changed overnight. No longer are lift ticket prices, multi-resort lift passes and pre-season promotions set in stone. Once posted, they're easy to change or to modify as needed, or to include in discounts and ski-and-stay packages.

If skier numbers are down, resort managers can offer new promotions or discounts and add kids-ski-free programs. If skier numbers are trending up, the resorts can stay ahead of the rush by hiring additional staff, booking more ski-related events and planning a longer season.

Skiers, too have benefitted. Resort websites post far more detail than we used to get. Skip around and you'll find trail maps, daily snow levels, numbers of lifts and runs, peak elevations, incredible videos of high-risk skiers flying off the summit, and actual views of the slopes via web-

cams. You can shop around, compare one resort with another or look for the best combination of prices, lodging options and airfares.

Curiously, what few anticipated was that instant internet access would inspire some bigger ski resorts to expand their mission to offer a bounty of non-ski entertainment: Valentine's Day weekends and beer festivals led to rock concerts, hot-air ballooning, professional and amateur downhill races, first-class dining at better restaurants, and a virtual cornucopia of other winter sports. In a word, a theme park.

"Oh, no, I don't ski," said fellow journalist Barbara Beckley when I asked about her winter trip to Breckenridge, in Summit County, Colo. "I went to see what it was all about, and I wound up having a wonderful trip. I snowshoed through the most beautiful snowy woods, and I had a lovely spa treatment, and I tried dog mushing and Nordic skiing. I went ice skating — they rent skates, of course, and tubing, and really, it was the best getaway."

Keystone, in particular, has embraced the theme park concept, offering or arranging most of the above, plus snow machine tours, trout fishing, horseback riding and parasailing. Many of these don't depend on good snow, or even on any snow, an asset for a big family reunion.

As for snow forecasts, some resort websites provide limited details, mostly offering past snowfalls as a guide to the future. For current, informed snow forecasts, it's best to go elsewhere.

"Take a look at www.opensnow.com," suggested former Olympic snowboarder Erica Mueller, at Crested Butte ski resort, 26 miles north of Gunnison, in Colorado. "Joel Gratz, a meteorologist and a skier, created it a couple of years ago. That's where we go to look ahead. I think most resorts use it."

According to Gratz, a Boulder resident, his search for the best

powder snow began then evolved into a eventually took off for a year, we were November 2011; so he says.

Gratz's team of three part-time crunch all kinds of data, including some National Oceanic and Administration, in create their own reports.

"What separates sites is that we know skiers like," he says on regional storms on which resorts are next powder storm.

Open Snow is available to use (and I do) but detailed reports for sign up and pay a month at www.opensnow.com. On the Snow, a general website, one which data like historic snow a range of ski topics onthesnow.com.

When a day makes it's usually fate decide yourself a month, a charge.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Find some of my favorite websites as follows: Snowmass Ski Resort www.snowmass.com; Aspen Snowmass www.aspensnowmass.com; Park City Mountain www.parkcitymountain.com; Keystone Resort at www.keystonerestort.com; Breckenridge Ski Resort www.breckenridge.com; Heavenly Resort at www.skiheavenly.com; Squaw Valley & Alpine Meadows www.squawalpine.com. For quality snow forecasts go to www.opensnow.com or www.onthesnow.com.

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**Flying high
brings joy
for freestyle
skiers at
Keystone
Resort in
Colorado.**

Steve Haggerty
/ TNS

Turning college visits into family vacations

By Elaine Glusac |
New York Times News

At Amherst College in Amherst, Mass., my family, including our son, prospective applicant Seth, enjoyed the natural history museum and spied on swim team practice. At Colby College in Waterville, Maine, we appreciated the colonial architecture and the modern art collection. At the University of Chicago, we loved the Hogwarts-like reading room and the pierogi truck.

So it goes with college campus visits, a mix of research and entertainment through which high schoolers shop for their academic future.

As college applications have grown — up 6 percent in fall 2015 over the prior year, according to the National Association for College Admission Counseling — so have campus visits. Boston University had nearly 80,000 visitors in the last year, up from about 65,000 in 2011. The University of California, Berkeley, reported a 14 percent increase in visitors in the last year. This year, the Ohio Independent College Visit Days program grew 30 percent.

“If you have the time and the money, I think a campus visit is a good idea,” said Lynn O’Shaughnessy, a higher education consultant who writes the College Solution Blog. “You get a sense of the school, and you can meet people and ask them some questions.”

Fall is largely celebrated as college football season, but for high school upper-classmen and their fami-



Graham Rounie / The New York Times

lies, it's also college touring season. Or one of them. During the last 18 months, we've embraced the school circuit as our travel theme, making campus calls over weekend getaways and even longer trips. Here are a few ways to make your college research a vacation, too.

1 Use your vacation budget. Depending on how far you range from home, college visits are expensive. We've done road trips and plane trips, and booked cheaper chain hotels like the Hampton Inn in Rome, N.Y., and splurges including the Hotel Vermont in Burlington. We've saved money using home rentals and by din-

ing where students have recommended.

Given the expense, it is useful to look at the trips, at least in part, as vacations. We used our vacation budget, building college visits into leisure trips (for example, we paired Cape Cod and Brown) and spending long winter weekends in Boston, a hub for regional schools, where we also sought out the trendy new Tiger Mama restaurant from the chef Tiffani Faison and took a historic walking tour.

2 Make a two-year plan. Polled by admissions officers on our college tours, the majority of the other students visiting college campuses, we

learned, have been juniors and seniors, with a few sophomores sheepishly raising their hands. But sophomore year, especially late in the year, isn't too early. We started touring schools when our son was 15.

“You have to gauge a little by your own child,” said Janice Caine, the owner of Custom College Visits, an agency that organizes campus tours for families. “You don't necessarily want to pressure them, but I think it's a good time if you have a school that is local to go see them and get an idea of what it's like to be on a college campus and what kinds of questions people are asking.”

Some start with spring

break trips. High season for college visits follows, during summer vacation. But campuses then are relatively empty (as we found at Middlebury College in Vermont in August), an argument for visits between September and May.

One potential academic benefit to starting college research early in a child's high school career is motivation. “Sometimes colleges get them very excited,” Caine said. “So excited they may work harder when they see what it takes.”

3 Don't cram. As with academics, so with college visits: For best results, don't cram.

Most visits begin with a 60- to 90-minute information session led by an admissions officer. It is invariably chock-full of facts, figures and tips, requiring full concentration. Following that is the relatively breezy campus tour, usually led by a current student adept at walking backward while pointing out the library, cafeterias, dorms and some version of the campus icon that gets painted as a student prank.

Morning sessions usually end by lunch, making a second afternoon tour possible in places with many schools. But we've found a decompression talk over a substantial sandwich is our digestive limit.

“Beyond one a day, it becomes overload,” Caine said. One school, she said, means you can take your time watching life on campus “or go through the student union and read the bulletin boards.”

4 Go off the campus tour itinerary. Think of the campus tour as your skeletal overview. Then go back and fill in the details, for both education and amusement.

Campuses are often the cultural focus of college towns. And college towns tend to attract independent shops and eclectic restaurants, where we have happily frittered away many a post-tour hour.

“There are things worth exploring other than academics,” Caine said. “We remind students that they are only in class a certain number of hours per week, and other times you will want to know what's going on.”

Arnold Palmer is heavy on the minds of Ryder Cup competitors.

Page C3

SPORTS

Rice knows it has a long fight ahead but isn't giving up after 0-4 start.

Page C5

Houston Chronicle @HoustonChron Houston Chronicle Tuesday, September 27, 2016 HoustonChronicle.com and Chron.com

Section C ★★★

ROCKETS

Bzdelik preaches defense-first plan

Rockets assistant coach Jeff Bzdelik sat down with center Clint Capela recently and asked him a few questions.

"I said to Clint, 'You know Marc Gasol was Defensive Player of the Year a couple of years ago, wasn't he?'"

"He said, 'Yeah.'"

"Are you faster than Marc? Can you jump higher than Marc?"

"He said, 'Yeah.'"

"So I said, 'Why can't you be it? Why can't you be the Defensive Player of the year?'"

JENNY DIAL CREECH
Commentary



Yeah, Capela. Why not? It's strange to talk about this Rockets team and defense.

Mike D'Antoni is the coach; James Harden is the star. Neither of those names
Creech continues on C6



Marie D. De Jesús / Houston Chronicle

Assistant coach Jeff Bzdelik works with forward Trevor Ariza, one of the Rockets' more accomplished defensive players.

D'Antoni defines Harden's new role

Elite NBA scorer will handle ball earlier in team's offensive revamp

By Jonathan Feigen

After so many years of studying the collective works of Kobe Bryant, James Harden turned the page.

Mike D'Antoni became his coach. His job changed just a bit. Harden moved on to video courses in Steve Nash 101.

For all the times opposing coaches said he was

basically the Rockets' point guard, Harden has a coach who not only admits it but embraces the idea.

Through the first days of Rockets training camp, the ball has been in Harden's hands.

Harden always had the ball in past seasons, too. He was tied with Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins in usage rate, the NBA measure for percentage of a team's possessions in which a player participates while on the court. But now, the Rockets' offense will start with

Harden continues on C6

MARINERS 4, ASTROS 3 (11)

Fading away



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Astros reliever Luke Gregerson gave up Robinson Cano's game-winning solo home run in the 11th inning. It was the Mariners second baseman's second home run of the night and perhaps the most telling of his six homers at Minute Maid Park this season.

Rally in ninth goes for naught as Cano crushes hopes

By Jake Kaplan

Robinson Cano has owned the Astros all season. In April, when his Mariners made the first of their three visits to Minute Maid Park, he drove in 10 runs over a three-game series.

In four games in May, he drove in seven.

So perhaps it was fitting, then, how Cano called to mind those performances Monday night with two home runs, including a game-winning blast off Luke Gregerson. The Astros' failure yet again to contain the Seattle star was their undoing in a 4-3

loss in 11 innings, a defeat that all but ends their remote chances at a postseason berth.

In falling to 82-75, the Astros dropped to 3½ games behind the Baltimore Orioles for the second American League wild card with only five games left on their schedule. Any combination of three Astros losses and Orioles wins will officially eliminate them from contention.

"It goes down as a loss, which at this point in the year is pretty rough," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

The Mariners (83-73) are only two games back of the Orioles,

having moved into a tie with the Detroit Tigers, who lost Monday to the Cleveland Indians.

Cano had a hand in three of the Mariners' four runs. His homers gave him a career-high 35 on the season, a whopping six in eight games at Minute Maid Park.

"He's a great player," Astros second baseman Jose Altuve said. "Everybody knows that. I think Luke made a really good pitch and I don't know how Robbie hit that ball."

The Astros forced extra innings behind a two-run, ninth-inning homer by Robinson Cano.

Astros continues on C3

AL wild-card race



Blue Jays (86-70)
Mon.: lost to Yankees 7-5
Today: vs. Orioles, 6:07



Orioles (85-71)
Mon.: Off
Today: at Blue Jays, 6:07



Tigers (83-73, 2 GB)
Mon.: lost to Indians 7-4
Today: vs. Indians, 6:10



Mariners (83-73, 2 GB)
Mon.: beat Astros 4-3
Today: at Astros, 7:10



Astros (82-75, 3½ GB)
Mon.: lost to Mariners 4-3
Today: vs. Mariners, 7:10

TEXANS

Brown's return to practice gives lift

By John McClain

For the first time since the last game of the 2015 season, Texans offensive tackle Duane Brown was back on the practice field. He was dressed in pads and ready to tangle with some of his teammates to knock off rust that has accumulated over almost nine months of inactivity.

Brown has recovered from the torn quadriceps tendon he suffered against Jacksonville, and having him back at practice was like a shot of adrenalin for the Texans, who are coming off a 27-0 loss at New England.

Even if Brown can't play in Sunday's game against Tennessee at NRG Stadium and has to wait for the Oct. 9 game at Minnesota, he didn't try to hide

Brown continues on C4

Titans at Texans

When/where: Noon Sunday; NRG Stadium.
TV/radio: CBS; 610 AM, 100.3 FM and 1180 AM (Spanish).

UH FOOTBALL

UConn's 2015 win not lost on Coogs

By Joseph Duarte

University of Houston football coach Tom Herman calls it a "chance for redemption" and "motivation to atone for the wrongs," but payback and revenge might work just as well as UH prepares to host Connecticut on Thursday night.

A 20-17 road loss to the Huskies last November derailed any chance for an unbeaten season. It also is the sixth-ranked Cougars' only blemish in the past 22 months as the football program has soared to heights not seen in decades.

"This program has lost one football game since the beginning of December 2014 with a lot of big wins in that two-year span," Herman said Monday during his weekly news conference. "This program has had one loss — and it's to the University of Connecticut."
UH continues on C5

BASEBALL

INSIDE PITCH



AMERICAN LEAGUE

West Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away	
Texas-y	92	65	.586	—	5-5	L-2	50-26	42-39	
Seattle	83	73	.532	8½	5-5	W-2	42-35	41-38	
Houston	82	75	.522	10	5-5	L-1	42-37	40-38	
Los Angeles	69	87	.442	22½	6-4	L-1	35-40	34-47	
Oakland	67	88	.432	24	4-6	W-1	34-47	33-41	

East Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away	
Boston-x	92	64	.590	—	10-0	W-11	46-32	46-32	
Toronto	86	70	.551	6	6-4	L-1	45-33	41-37	
Baltimore	85	71	.545	7	5-5	W-3	50-31	35-40	
New York	80	76	.513	12	3-7	W-1	44-31	36-45	
Tampa Bay	65	91	.417	27	2-8	L-4	36-45	29-46	

Central Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away	
Cleveland-y	91	65	.583	—	7-3	W-1	53-28	38-37	
Detroit	83	73	.532	8	5-5	L-3	43-35	40-38	
Kansas City	79	77	.506	12	5-5	W-2	45-30	34-47	
Chicago	75	81	.481	16	4-6	W-3	42-33	33-48	
Minnesota	56	100	.359	35	2-8	L-1	30-51	26-49	

Results/schedule

Sunday's results				
Houston 4	L.A. Angels 1	Oakland 7	Texas 1	
Toronto 4	N.Y. Yankees 3	Monday's results	Seattle 4	Houston 3 (11)
Boston 3	Tampa Bay 2 (10)	N.Y. Yankees 7	Toronto 5	
Chicago White Sox 3	Cleveland 0	Cleveland 7	Detroit 4	
Kansas City 12	Detroit 9	Milwaukee 8	Texas 3	
Baltimore 2	Arizona 1	Chi. White Sox 7	Tampa Bay 1	
Seattle 4	Minnesota 3	Oakland at L.A. Angels	late	

NATIONAL LEAGUE

West Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away	
Los Angeles-y	90	66	.577	—	8-2	W-5	53-28	37-38	
San Francisco	82	74	.526	8	4-6	L-1	40-35	42-39	
Colorado	73	83	.468	17	4-6	L-4	41-37	32-46	
San Diego	66	90	.423	24	4-6	W-1	37-41	29-49	
Arizona	65	91	.417	25	3-7	W-1	30-48	35-43	

East Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away	
Washington-y	91	65	.583	—	4-6	L-1	46-29	45-36	
New York	83	74	.529	8½	5-5	L-1	44-37	39-37	
Miami	78	78	.500	13	5-5	W-2	40-38	38-40	
Philadelphia	70	86	.449	21	5-5	L-1	36-42	34-44	
Atlanta	63	92	.406	27½	7-3	L-1	26-49	37-43	

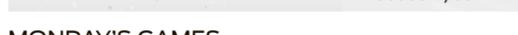
Central Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away	
Chicago-y	100	56	.641	—	7-3	W-2	57-24	43-32	
St. Louis	81	75	.519	19	5-5	L-2	33-42	48-33	
Pittsburgh	77	79	.494	23	5-5	L-3	37-41	40-38	
Milwaukee	71	86	.452	29½	5-5	W-1	41-40	30-46	
Cincinnati	66	90	.423	34	3-7	W-3	37-41	29-49	

Results/schedule

Sunday's results				
Atlanta at Miami	ccd.	Chicago Cubs 3	St. Louis 1	
N.Y. Mets 7	Philadelphia 0	Monday's results	Arizona 14	Washington 4
Baltimore 2	Arizona 1	Chicago Cubs 12	Pittsburgh 7	
Washington 10	Pittsburgh 7	Miami 7	N.Y. Mets 3	
Cincinnati 4	Milwaukee 2	Milwaukee 8	Texas 3	
L.A. Dodgers 4	Colorado 3 (10)	Cincinnati 15	St. Louis 2	
San Diego 4	San Francisco 3			

Today's games

Arizona (Koch 1-1) at Washington (Schirzer 18-7)	6:05
Chicago Cubs (Lackey 10-8) at Pittsburgh (Vogelsong 3-6)	6:05
N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 13-9) at Miami (Koehler 9-12)	6:10
Philadelphia (Eickhoff 11-14) at Atlanta (Teheran 6-10)	6:10
Milwaukee (Nelson 8-15) at Texas (Griffin 7-4)	7:05
Cincinnati (Stephenson 2-2) at St. Louis (Wainwright 12-9)	7:15
L.A. Dodgers (De Leon 0-0) at San Diego (Clemens 3-5)	9:10
Colorado (Marquez 1-0) at San Francisco (Cueto 17-5)	9:15



MONDAY'S GAMES

Marlins win for fallen ace

MIAMI — Dee Gordon and the Miami Marlins wore their emotions on the sleeves of their No. 16 jerseys. Jose Fernandez would have loved it. Gordon homered leading off the first inning for the Marlins, who totaled 14 hits and mixed cheers with the tears of the past two days by beating the New York Mets 7-3 on Monday night in their first game since Fernandez died in a boating accident.

"We were hitting balls underwater pretty much," slugger Giancarlo Stanton said. "Our eyes were full of water."

Adam Conley pitched three scoreless innings subbing for Fernandez, who had been scheduled to make his final start of the year. Justin Bour went 3-for-3, and Gordon had four hits, including one that will go down in Marlins lore.

Paying tribute to their charismatic ace, the lefthanded-hitting Gordon stepped to the plate as a righthander leading off the first. After one pitch, Gordon switched to his customary left side and pulled a 2-0 delivery from Bartolo Colon into the upper deck for his first homer of the season. The improbable clout brought tears, even from Gordon. He began crying as he circled the bases.

"It seemed like it took forever," he said. "I was trying to get back to my teammates as fast as possible. I was just wondering why Jose wasn't there standing on the top step cheering for me."

Each of the Marlins wore black jerseys bearing Fernandez's No. 16 and name, a tribute they had suggested.

When A.J. Ramos retired Curtis Granderson to end the game, the Marlins gathered around the edge of the mound and bowed their heads, and then tossed their caps onto the dirt and knelted, tears flowing yet again for Fernandez.

"It's his spot," manager Don Mattingly said. "Just kind of saying bye."

■ **INDIANS 7, TIGERS 4:** Cleveland clinched its first AL Central title since 2007, overcoming an injury to ace righthander Corey Kluber in a victory at Detroit.

■ **CUBS 12, PIRATES 2:** Javier Baez hit a grand slam and drove in a career-high six runs as Chicago won its 100th game of the season, routing host Pittsburgh.

■ **YANKEES 7, BLUE JAYS 5:** Mark Teixeira hit a tying homer in the ninth inning, and Aaron Hicks added a game-winning blast as New York beat host Toronto.

■ **DIAMONDBACKS 14, NATIONALS 4:** All-Star catcher Wilson Ramos left Washington's loss to visiting Arizona with an apparent right knee injury that could be a major blow to the NL East champions.

From wire reports

Big audience for Scully's finale

Vin Scully's final game in the Dodgers broadcast booth after a 67-year career will be simulcast in its entirety Sunday on the team's cable channel and on Los Angeles TV and radio stations.

MLB REPORT

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

RHP Rubby De La Rosa is trying to avoid a second Tommy John surgery by having a stem cell injection in his ailing elbow.

Manager Chip Hale said Monday that De La Rosa met with Dr. James Andrews and decided to try the stem cell injection instead of another major surgery. Hale didn't have a time frame for De La Rosa's return other than he will miss the remainder of the season.

Head athletic trainer Ken Crenshaw said the team is playing the odds, knowing De La Rosa has only about a 40 percent chance of returning after a second Tommy John surgery. The 27-year-old had the operation in 2011 with the Dodgers.

CLEVELAND INDIANS

Ace RHP Corey Kluber left Monday's game at Detroit after only four innings because of right groin tightness. He threw just 60 pitches.

The Indians are already dealing with injuries to starters Carlos Carrasco and Danny Salazar.

From wire reports

BOX SCORES

Indians 7, Tigers 4

Cleveland	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
Santana dh	4	1	1	0	1	255	
Gosselin 2b	5	1	1	0	1	274	
Lindor ss	2	0	0	0	2	301	
Napoli lb	2	0	0	0	2	242	
Ramirez 3b	5	1	0	0	0	313	
Hernandez c	5	0	0	0	0	290	
Crisp lf	4	2	2	0	0	239	
Almonte if	0	0	0	0	0	273	
Naquin cf	1	0	0	0	0	297	
a-Davis ph-cf	2	1	1	0	0	253	
Perez c	4	1	3	2	1	184	
Totals	34	7	8	6	3		

Detroit

Detroit	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
Kinsler 2b	5	2	3	0	0	287	
Maybin cf	5	0	0	0	2	322	
Cabrera lf	4	0	2	0	1	307	
J.Martinez dh	4	1	1	0	1	292	
V.Martinez rf	4	1	2	0	1	313	
Upton lf	3	0	0	1	2	242	
Aybar 3b	3	0	1	0	1	257	
McCann c	4	0	1	0	1	220	
Iglesias ss	3	0	0	0	1	248	
Totals	35	4	10	4	2		

Cleveland 020 020 120 — 7 8 0

Detroit 020 010 100 — 4 10 1

a-grounded out for Naquin in the 6th.

E—J.Martinez (6), LOB—Cleveland 8, Detroit 7.

7.2B—Kipnis (38), Kinsler (28), HR—Crisp (13), off Farmer; Perez (3), off J.Wilson;

(13), Martinez (22), off Kluber. RBIs—Kipnis (8), Napoli (10), Crisp (2), Perez (2), (17), Cabrera (2), J.Martinez (2), (68), SB—Davis (42), CS—Iglesias (4), SF—Napoli, S—Lindor.

Runners left in scoring position—Cleveland 4 (Kipnis 4); Detroit 3 (Iglesias 3), RISP—Cleveland 1 for 4; Detroit 3 for 7. Runners moved up—Maybin (2), GIDP—V.Martinez.

DP—Cleveland (1) (Lindor, Ramirez, Napoli).

Cleveland ip h r er bb so np era

Kluber	4	5	2	1	3	60	3.14
Otero	1½	2	1	0	0	12	5.66
Shaw H, 25	1½	2	1	0	2	37	3.14
Miller (W, 10-1)½	1	0	0	0	4	21	1.69
Allen (S, 30-33)	1	0	0	0	1	2.63	

Detroit ip h r er bb so np era

Farmer (L, 0-1)	5	4	4	4	2	91	4.60
Ryan	1	0	0	0	0	7.31	
J.Wilson	1	1	1	1	1	21	4.21
A.Wilson	1	3	2	0	0	24	2.92
Rondon	1	0	0	0	1	15	2.88

Inherited runners scored—Miller 1-1, HBP—Kluber (Iglesias).

T—3:25. A—24,981 (41,681).

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 5

New York	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
Gardner lf	4	3	3	0	1	259	
Ellsbury cf	4	0	2	1	0	259	
Sanchez c	4	0	2	0	1	315	
Butler dh	3	0	0	0	0	360	
b-McCann ph-dh	2	0	0	0	1	239	
Headley 3b	3	0	1	0	0	254	
Teixeira lf	4	1	2	1	0	204	
Gregorius ss	4	1	1	0	0	276	
Hicks rf	4	1	2	0	0	218	
Torres 2b	2	0	0	0	0	257	
a-Castro ph	1	0	0	0	0	273	
Solano 2b	1	1	1	0	0	278	
Totals	36	7	17	2	3		

Toronto

Toronto	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
Travis 2b	3	0	0	0	1	300	
Barney 2b	1	0	0	1	0	268	
Donaldson 3b	3	1	0	0	1	284	
Encarnacion dh	3	0	1	2	0	269	
1-Pompey pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	
Bautista rf	3	1	1	0	1	238	
Carrera rf	0	0	0	0	0	242	
c-Navarro ph	1	0	1	0	0	194	
2-Ceciliani pr	0						

BASEBALL | GOLF

ASTROS REPORT

Rasmus' time with club ends in odd way

For seven consecutive days, **Colby Rasmus'** name was listed among the bench players on the Astros' lineup card despite the outfielder's unavailability.

On Monday, it disappeared from the card altogether. Consider it a strange ending to Rasmus' season and all but certainly his tenure with the Astros.

Rasmus, an impending free agent, left the team to seek a second opinion on what manager **A.J. Hinch** described as "a hip issue that's kind of gone into his groin." He will visit a specialist in Philadelphia this week, according to Hinch.

Rasmus made himself unavailable to play beginning Sept. 19, explaining two days later he wasn't "feeling like myself out there on the field, so I just felt that it may be better for somebody else to get in there." He missed most of August after undergoing surgery to remove a cyst from his right ear, an issue that had caused symptoms of vertigo. He was 7-for-42 since his Aug. 30 return from the disabled list.

"This season has been a physical grind for him, so he's going to go and get the opinion that he needs," Hinch said on Monday. "I'm not expecting him to be back with us for the

remainder of the regular season."

Rasmus, who hasn't been spotted at Minute Maid Park since Saturday, is nearing the end of the one-year, \$15.8 million contract he was playing on after accepting the Astros' qualifying offer in November.

Although still above average in the outfield, Rasmus was one of the worst offensive players in the majors this season. His .206 batting average ranks 194th of the 196 major leaguers who came into the week with at least 400 plate appearances. His .641 on-base plus slugging percentage ranks 188th.

Tony Kemp and **Teoscar Hernandez** will continue to play left field in Rasmus' absence.

Bregman could play this week

With **Alex Bregman** ahead of schedule in his rehabilitation from his strained hamstring, the Astros have not ruled out the rookie third baseman's return before the regular season ends Sunday.

Manager **A.J. Hinch** acknowledged Monday "a chance" Bregman could play this week. After running sprints on the field Monday afternoon



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Marwin Gonzalez touches the jersey Yulieski Gurriel placed in the Astros' dugout to honor late Marlins pitcher Jose Fernandez, a Cuban native like Gurriel.

at Minute Maid Park, Bregman went through a normal pre-game routine, taking groundballs for the first time since sustaining his injury and joining his teammates in on-field batting practice.

"I'm more optimistic today than I was the last couple days just based on how he responded to the running that he did the last couple days and then our eagerness to get him into a regular pre-game routine," Hinch said.

"The fact that he can do that now is a good sign. It's certainly not a declaration

that he's going to be ready. But we'll see if we can aggressively get him back to baseball readiness."

Monday marked the second time Bregman ran on the field since sustaining the injury Sept. 14. He has been taking batting practice in the indoor batting cages.

"We'll see how it goes today and play it by ear for the next few days," Bregman said.

Gurriel honors Fernandez

Astros infielder

Yulieski Gurriel joined fellow Cubans **Yoenis Cespedes** of the New York Mets and **Yasiel Puig** of the Los Angeles Dodgers in paying tribute to **Jose Fernandez** in wake of the star Miami Marlins pitcher's death Sunday in a boating accident.

Gurriel hung a No. 16 Astros jersey bearing Fernandez's name in the home dugout at Minute Maid Park before Monday night's series opener against the Mariners. Cespedes and Puig honored their fallen compatriot in the same way Sunday before their teams' games.

"This is just a way to showcase the emotions that I feel and how I feel and how to respect and honor him today," Gurriel said through a translator.

Tucker talks about lost year

Speaking for the first time since season-ending surgery on his right shoulder, Astros outfielder **Preston Tucker** said he thought he could play through pain that started at the beginning of the season.

It never went away and eventually hurt on every swing. Tucker, who

had surgery Wednesday, went from the Astros' opening day designated hitter to being optioned to Class AAA Fresno in May. His return in July didn't change anything — Tucker hit .164 with 40 strikeouts and a .551 OPS in 134 at-bats in 2016.

"When I was hitting the ball, I noticed it wasn't really jumping off the bat the same," said Tucker, who went 2 for 21 on a rehab assignment with Class AA Corpus Christi in August before shutting down baseball activities. "The bat speed wasn't there. That's when I knew I needed to take care of it."

Tucker played his last game with the Astros on Aug. 11.

Odds and ends

Lance McCullers, whose return this season hinges on a postseason berth, left the Astros to continue his rehabilitation from his elbow sprain at the team's spring training facility in Kissimmee, Fla. ...

The Astros named **Alex Bregman** and **Brady Rodgers** their minor league player and pitcher of the year, respectively.

Jake Kaplan and Angel Verdejo Jr.

Astros can't match late-inning rallies

Mariners 4, Astros 3 (11)

Seattle	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
Aoki lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Gamel rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.161
Smith cf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.255
Heredia lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.224
Cano 2b	4	2	3	2	2	1	.298
Cruz dh	6	0	2	1	0	1	.287
Seager 3b	5	0	2	0	1	1	.280
Lind lb	4	0	1	0	1	1	.234
I-O'Malley pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Lee lb	1	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Martin cf	5	0	2	0	0	2	.243
Zunino c	5	0	0	0	0	3	.207
Marte ss	4	1	1	0	1	2	.258
Totals	44	4	12	3	6	16	

Houston	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg.
Springer rf	5	1	2	0	0	2	.260
Gonzalez 3b	5	0	2	1	0	0	.252
Altuve 2b	5	1	2	1	0	0	.338
Correa ss	5	0	3	1	0	1	.275
Gattis dh	4	0	1	0	1	2	.244
White lb	4	0	0	0	0	3	.219
b-Gurriel ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Kemp lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Castro c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.211
Marisnick cf	1	1	0	0	1	0	.207
a-Reed ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.174
Hernandez cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Totals	40	3	10	3	2	10	

Seattle	IP	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Houston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

a—grounded out for Marisnick in the 8th. **b**—fled out for White in the 11th. **1**—ran for Lind in the 10th. **E**—Hoyt (1). **LOB**—Seattle 14, Houston 6. **2B**—Aoki (22), Cano (31), Gonzalez (26). **HR**—Cano (34), off McHugh; Cano (35), off Gregerson. **RBIs**—Cano 2 (94), Cruz (101), Gonzalez (49), Altuve (95), Correa (95). **SB**—Cruz (1), Altuve (28). **S**—Gamel.

Runners left in scoring position—Seattle 10 (Aoki 2, Smith, Cruz 2, Seager, Martin 2, Marte, Lee); Houston 2 (Kemp, Gurriel). **RISP**—Seattle 1 for 15; Houston 2 for 9.

Runners moved up—Cruz, Lind. **GIDP**—Martin, Gonzalez, Kemp. **DP**—Seattle 2 (Cano, Marte, Lind), (Cano, Marte, Lind); Houston 1 (McHugh, Correa, White).

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Iwakuma	6	4	1	1	2	5	84	3.06
Scribner	1	0	0	0	0	2	17	0.00
Cishek	1	0	0	0	0	1	14	2.97
Diaz BS, 3-20	1	4	2	2	0	1	30	3.71
Storen (W, 4-3)	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	3.71
Vincent (S, 3-9)	1	2	0	0	0	1	17	3.55
Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McHugh	7	6	2	2	3	6	111	4.52
Harris	1	2	0	0	0	2	16	2.33
Hoyt	1	1	1	0	1	3	27	4.66
Giles	1	1	0	0	1	3	17	4.18
Gregerson (L, 4-3)	1	2	1	1	1	2	18	3.28

IBB—off Hoyt (Cano), off Gregerson (Seager). **WP**—Harris. **Umpires**—Home, Gary Cederstrom; First, Eric Cooper; Second, Jim Wolf; Third, Adrian Johnson. **T**—3:52. **A**—24,107 (42,060).

Astros from page C1

inning rally against Mariners hard-throwing closer Edwin Diaz.

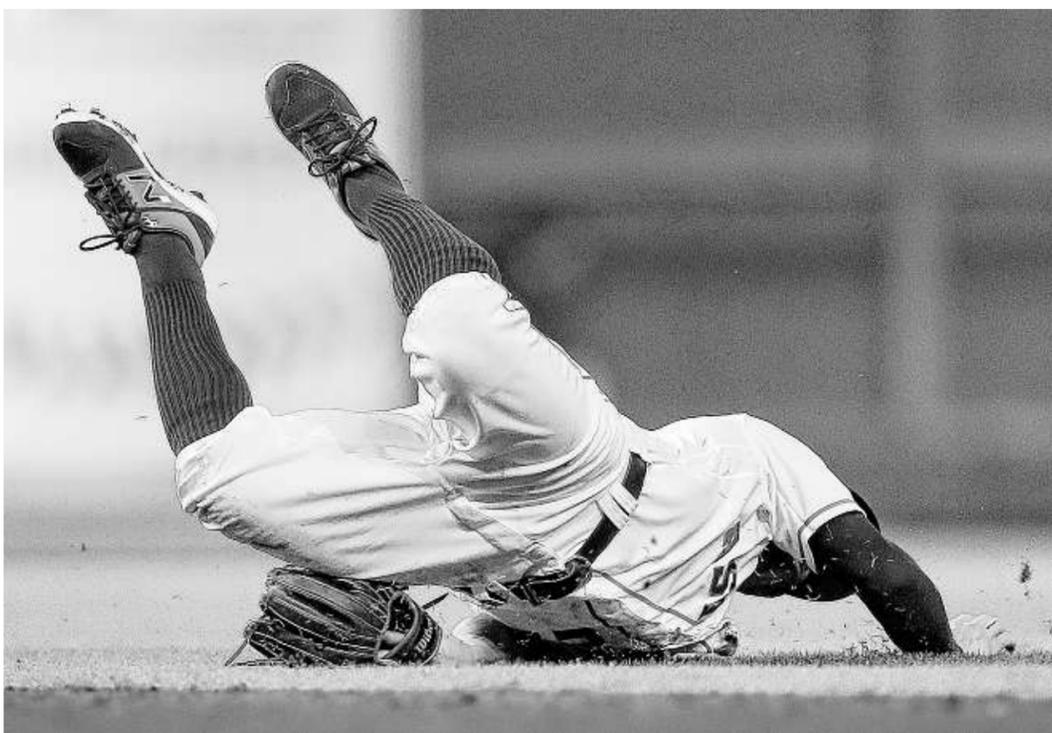
George Springer set the stage with a leadoff single and by advancing to third on a base hit by Marwin Gonzalez. A fielder's choice groundout by Altuve scored Springer while keeping Altuve's speed on the basepaths.

Altuve promptly stole second base, putting a runner in scoring position for Carlos Correa. The Astros' clutch 21-year-old shortstop came through with a single to tie the game. After a single by Evan Gattis put runners on the corners, Tyler White and Tony Kemp failed to manage a walk-off hit.

"You could tell both teams really wanted this win," Hinch said. "One swing of the bat and they win. Again, we didn't control Cano really at all."

"We need help from ourselves. We needed to help ourselves by winning today's game and now the game slipped up from us. We'll regroup and get to tomorrow."

Before their comeback, the Astros' bats were mostly silent on a night that belonged to Cano. The Astros-killing Mariners second baseman keyed



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Astros second baseman Jose Altuve appeared to hurt himself diving for a single by the Mariners' Kyle Seager in the sixth inning, but he shook it off and stayed in the game.

both of Seattle's first two runs, doubling to put runners on the corners with one out in a one-run first inning and launching a Collin McHugh cutter into the Astros' bullpen in the third.

McHugh pitched great despite Cano's early damage, allowing only two runs on six hits and completing seven innings.

"There's no doubt that we need help," he said. "We need some other teams to

beat some other teams and we need to win the rest of them."

James Hoyt surrendered the Mariners' third run in the ninth when he misfired badly on a throw to first base after fielding a sacrifice bunt by Ben Gamel.

Hoyt's error made for a 3-1 score.

The Astros plated their first run in the sixth, when Gonzalez broke through against Hisashi Iwakuma with a two-strike, two-

run single that scored Jake Marisnick.

Altuve followed with a line drive to left field hit so hard that Gonzalez had no chance to score. Third-base coach Gary Pettis sent him anyway. What left fielder Nori Aoki lacks in arm strength he made up for in accuracy, beating Gonzalez by at least five steps.

Three innings later, the poor send by Pettis became an afterthought. A score-

less fame by Ken Giles afforded the Astros another chance to win in the 10th. They went down in order against Drew Storen.

In trotted Gregerson, who struck out Gamel and Guillermo Heredia before watching Cano send his slider into the second deck in right field. The homer was his eighth in the season series.

jake.kaplan@chron.com twitter.com/jakemkaplan

GOLF

Team's Ryder Cup focus shifts from competition to Palmer

By Doug Ferguson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHASKA, Minn. — The flag at half-staff over Hazeltine National was enough to take the edge off the Ryder Cup.

Arnold Palmer occupied everyone's thoughts Monday.

"There's a hole in the game that can't be filled," Phil Mickelson said.

Tributes poured in for Palmer, who died Sunday at age 87. Even as European players arrived from an overnight flight out of Heathrow Airport, any conversation about the Ryder Cup was secondary to their thoughts on the King.

"The legacy he leaves behind is very important," Martin Kaymer said. "He inspired millions of people. That's what we as humans should try to do."

Alastair Johnston, the CEO of Arnold Palmer

Enterprises, said Palmer had gone to Pittsburgh for a heart procedure in a bid to improve "the quality of life he was severely losing." The surgery was to be Monday morning. He said his condition deteriorated over the last few days.

A private funeral in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, was scheduled for later in the week. Johnston said that would be for "pure family, direct relationships." He said a public ceremony to commemorate Palmer's life would be held at 11 a.m. on Oct. 4 at St. Vincent College. Johnston said Palmer would not have wanted to encroach on a week in golf as big as the Ryder Cup, though that proved difficult.

And the Ryder Cup made it clear it did not want to go on without Palmer.

PGA of America President Derek Sprague said there would a video tribute



David J. Phillip / Associated Press

U.S. captain Davis Love III was having trouble getting into the spirit of the Ryder Cup on Monday after the passing of Arnold Palmer.

and a moment of silence before the high-charged matches begin Friday. He also said players would pay homage to Palmer, though details have not been decided.

"It was tough waking up this morning and starting over," U.S. captain Davis Love III said. "I know ev-

erybody on our team was just kind of crushed last night. ... This is a big blow for golf, but we knew it was coming, unfortunately, since maybe even before the Bay Hill tournament this year when we saw him. His legacy will live on forever, especially through the Ryder Cup."

halftime of the NFL game announcing his final captain's pick (Moore). His son texted him with the news of Palmer's death, which changed everything.

"A bomb of that magnitude goes on in the golfing world ... it has ripples," Zach Johnson said.

How much does it alter the rest of the week?

Love and European captain Darren Clarke said they would alter their speeches at the opening ceremony Thursday.

"It's almost like we are all dealing with the loss of a family member," Love said. "Arnold is going to want us to put this behind us and go play, and it's going to be tough to do. But we are definitely going to draw inspiration from his spirits. We already had pictures of him in our locker room and team room, and we'll add a few more. He'll be with us forever."

PRO FOOTBALL

TEXANS REPORT

O'Brien says Patriots in 'rearview mirror'

Bill O'Brien wasn't channeling his inner **Bill Belichick** when he reacted to questions about the Texans' embarrassing shutout loss at the hands of the New England Patriots and their formidable coach.

Yet, the Texans coach sure sounds a lot like Belichick does when he wants to turn the page on a loss. O'Brien emphasized the need to focus on the Tennessee Titans, Sunday's opponent as the defending AFC South champions begin their division schedule.

"I'll be honest with you, we're really moving on to Tennessee," O'Brien said. "We put New England in the rearview mirror. Everybody's got to do a better job, so I'm not going to really talk about New England. If you have Tennessee questions, I'll talk about Tennessee."

The sentiment expressed by O'Brien was shared throughout the Texans' locker room, which is still stinging after a 27-0 loss to the Patriots in which they struggled with turnovers, tackling and blocking.

"We don't even really talk about it as much or bring it up in the meetings because we've had our time to reflect on that game," Texans veteran cornerback **Johnathan Joseph** said. "I think playing on a Thursday night helped. You had a long weekend to go out and watch some football on Sunday and look around the league and see exactly what else is going on. Being able to flush it out your system, coming in and having an extra day to work on Monday and watching the film as a team. Just going out there and trying to identify

some things that we did wrong as a team and correct those mistakes."

O'Brien was complimentary of the Titans, who feature quarterback **Marcus Mariota**, a powerful running game headlined by **DeMarco Murray** and **Derrick Henry**, and a defense led by innovative defensive coordinator **Dick LeBeau**.

"We just have to be more consistent," O'Brien said. "We need to, coaches and players alike, just do a better job and that's what we're doing. We're working hard to put a good game plan together for Tennessee."

Day off for Watt

Days removed from an uncharacteristically quiet performance in a loss to the Patriots, defensive end

J.J. Watt was given a day off from practice Monday.

The three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year was effectively neutralized by the Patriots' blockers during a 27-0 loss. He was knocked down at least a few times and was rendered a non-factor throughout the game.

Watt had just two tackles and zero quarterback hits Thursday night.

Watt is still shedding rust since undergoing off-season back surgery, but he had a resurgent game against the Kansas City Chiefs when he recorded 1½ sacks and a fumble recovery.

Simon off to a fast start

The emergence of outside linebacker **John Simon** as a productive pass rusher and run-stopper began last season.

The former Big Ten Conference Defensive Player of the Year and Baltimore Ravens fourth-round draft pick parlayed his strength, instincts and athleticism into a career-high five sacks and 53 tackles.

Simon is off to a fast start this season as he's started every game and has recorded 15 tackles, 2½ sacks and one forced fumble.

"I just worked all-around during the off-season, trying to work on run game, pass game, everything I can," Simon said. "I work on pass coverage, all of those things. So far, I'm off to a decent start and I just have to keep it going."

'Surreal' debut for rookie Heath

For rookie defensive lineman **Joel Heath**, it was an especially mean-

ingful game against the Patriots.

Inactive for the first two games of the regular season after making the roster as an undrafted free agent following a strong preseason, Heath made his NFL regular-season debut Thursday night.

Health played 13 snaps on defense and recorded one tackle.

"It was a lot of expectations when you go out there," Heath said. "It was a big step for me. Of course, coming from college, it's a big transition. Just to have that moment was really surreal. I think the first play I dominated the offensive tackle."

"I was happy about that. There are still things I need to work on, being able to see how fast the pace is going and react off of it. For sure, I'm very thankful."

Aaron Wilson

Brown could play against Titans, but Vikings more likely

Brown from page C1

his excitement over being able to practice.

"Today was a great milestone for me," he said. "I'm like a kid again. Honestly, being away from this game for so long, it really wears at you. Being out there working with my teammates means the world to me. It felt amazing getting back into the groove of things."

"Being sidelined for so long, you take little things — like putting on your helmet — for granted. It felt better than I thought it would, actually."

Coach **Bill O'Brien** said Friday that Brown was getting close to returning.

"I don't think he will play against Tennessee, but I know there's a shot for the next game (Vikings)," O'Brien said.

Some optimism

On Monday, O'Brien was a tad optimistic, even though Brown isn't expected to return until the Minnesota game.

"Possibly this week," O'Brien said. "You never know."

"He looked good. He's progressing well."

Chris Clark has taken Brown's place at left tackle in the first three games. Brown was informed that O'Brien hasn't ruled him out of the Tennessee game.

"(That's) great," Brown said. "I



Brett Coomer / Houston Chronicle

Coach Bill O'Brien, left, says left tackle Duane Brown "looked good" and is "progressing well" after getting back on the practice field after almost nine months of inactivity.

went out there and felt good. It's a possibility."

Asked what he needs to do in practice before he can play again, Brown said, "Hold down the edge, man."

"You have to be able to block the best of the best every week. I

think I have some pretty good guys on this team to gauge myself against to make sure I'm able to do it on Sunday."

Brown, a three-time (2012-14) Pro Bowl selection, has to be careful not to return to the field too soon.

"When you have that kind of surgery, that kind of injury, there's a certain amount of time you want to take before you start pushing it," he said. "I wanted to make sure I could generate the same amount of power in that leg as I can in my other one, make sure that swelling wasn't an issue."

"Another thing you want to be wary of is not coming back and just being week to week, but make sure you're good to go for years to come. I feel like I've been able to do that."

Criteria to meet

There are things the coaches want to see Brown do on the practice field before he can be cleared to play.

"Probably his ability to move, change direction, anchor, be able to bend and get in a good football position and be powerful because he's a very powerful guy," O'Brien said. "And then his conditioning level."

When Brown returns, he'll be playing next to left guard **Xavier Su'a-Filo** again.

"It's good to see him," Su'a-Filo said. "It's always nice to have Duane back. He's an extremely hard worker, and it's been evident in my time with him how much Duane leads by example and how hard he works."

Right guard **Jeff Allen** is in his first season with the Texans, but he watched Brown when his pre-

vious team, Kansas City, played the Texans.

Brown, who made news before the New England game by raising his right fist during the national anthem to protest social injustice, has been a focal leader during his rehab.

"He's a fierce leader," Allen said. "Since I've been here, he's been leading by his speech (and) motivating us. But over the years, seeing him play, he does it (with) his play, too. I'm excited to see that firsthand for the first time."

A lot of Brown's teammates didn't know he was going to practice until he showed up on the field.

"Everyone's really excited," Allen said. "The offensive line, we're over in a little corner, and everyone just started clapping. It was an awesome reception for him."

"He's a heck of a player. He's proven that over his (career). It can't do anything but make us better."

When Brown returns to the lineup, Clark becomes the swing tackle, a duty he performed last season until injuries caused him to start on both sides.

"If he's the guy or I'm the guy, it doesn't really matter, as long as we do what we need to do and get the job done," Clark said. "We've got each other's back."

john.mcclain@chron.com
twitter.com/mcclain_on_nfl

NFL

Washington's Hall to miss rest of season

WASHINGTON — Veteran safety **DeAngelo Hall** will miss the rest of the season with a torn ligament in his right knee, Washington coach **Jay Gruden** said Monday.

Gruden said Hall will need surgery to repair his anterior cruciate ligament.

Hall, 32, who has played in Washington for nine of his 13 NFL seasons, was hurt in the first half of the team's 29-27 victory at the New York Giants on Sunday.

Carroll hopeful Wilson can start

As of Monday afternoon, Pete Carroll's expectation was that Seattle quarterback **Russell Wilson** will be the starter on Sunday when the Seahawks face the New York Jets despite a sprained medial collateral ligament in his left knee.

"What he has, a lot of guys play with," Carroll said. "This is something our trainers have been through a number of times. We'll see what happens. We're going to do the right thing."

Odds and ends

San Diego linebacker **Manti Te'o** will miss the

rest of the season with a torn left Achilles tendon. Te'o, a fourth-year linebacker from Notre Dame, was hurt in the Chargers' 26-22 loss at Indianapolis on Sunday. ... Oakland released Pro Bowl fullback **Marcel Reece** after his four-game suspension for performance enhancing drugs was completed. Reece was suspended late last season for violating the league's policy on performance enhancing drugs and missed the final game of 2015 and the first three this season. ... San Francisco offensive lineman **Anthony Davis** once again retired from the NFL. Davis sat out last year in part because of concerns over a concussion before deciding to return to the 49ers over the summer. He suffered another concussion in practice on Sept. 15 and has not played since before the team announced his retirement Monday. ... Former Dallas defensive end **Greg Hardy**, who remains unsigned after a tumultuous 2015 season revolving around his domestic-violence case in North Carolina, was arrested on a cocaine possession charge in Texas. Jail spokesman **Tim Weed** in the Dallas suburb of Richardson said Hardy was arrested early Monday and booked on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was released on \$5,000 bond.

From wire reports

NFL AT A GLANCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

South	W	L	T	PF	PA
Houston	2	1	0	42	53
Indianapolis	1	2	0	81	95
Tennessee	1	2	0	42	57
Jacksonville	0	3	0	54	84

East

W	L	T	PF	PA	
New England	3	0	0	81	45
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	62	78
Miami	1	2	0	64	67
Buffalo	1	2	0	71	68

North

W	L	T	PF	PA	
Baltimore	3	0	0	57	44
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	65	66
Cincinnati	1	2	0	56	75
Cleveland	0	3	0	54	84

West

W	L	T	PF	PA	
Denver	3	0	0	84	57
Kansas City	2	1	0	69	49
Oakland	2	1	0	80	79
San Diego	1	2	0	87	73

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	PF	PA
Philadelphia	3	0	0	92	27
Dallas	2	1	0	77	60
N.Y. Giants	2	1	0	63	61
Washington	1	2	0	68	92

South

W	L	T	PF	PA	
Atlanta	2	1	0	104	91
Tampa Bay	1	2	0	70	101
Carolina	1	2	0	76	70
New Orleans	0	3	0	92	83

North

W	L	T	PF	PA	
Minnesota	3	0	0	64	40
Green Bay	2	1	0	75	67
Detroit	1	2	0	81	85
Chicago	0	3	0	45	83

West

W	L	T	PF	PA	
Los Angeles	2	1	0	46	63
Seattle	2	1	0	52	37
San Francisco	1	2	0	73	83
Arizona	1	2	0	79	63

Week 3 results

Thursday's result	Time	Open. line	Cur. line	O/U	TV
New England 27 Houston 0	7:25	Cin. 7	Cin. 7	44½	CBS

Sunday's results

Green Bay 34	Detroit 27
Oakland 17	Tennessee 10
Denver 29	Cincinnati 17
Minnesota 22	Carolina 10
Baltimore 19	Jacksonville 17
Buffalo 33	Arizona 18
Washington 29	N.Y. Giants 27

Week 4 schedule

Thursday's game

Miami at Cincinnati	7:25	Cin. 7	Cin. 7	44½	CBS
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Sunday's games

Time	Open. line	Cur. line	O/U	TV	
Indianapolis vs. Jacksonville-1:00pm	Ind. 2	Ind. 2	49½	NFL	
Carolina at Atlanta	noon	NL	NL	NL	
Tennessee at Houston	noon	Hou. 6½	Hou. 6½	40½	
Seattle at N.Y. Jets	noon	NL	NL	NL	
Detroit at Chicago	noon	Det. 2½	Det. 3	46½	
Buffalo at New England	noon	NL	NL	NL	
Cleveland at Washington	noon	Wash. 9½	Wash. 9½	45½	
Oakland at Baltimore	noon	Bal. 3½	Bal. 3½	46½	
Denver at Tampa Bay	3:05	Den. 3	Den. 3	44½	
Los Angeles at Arizona	3:25	Ari. 9	Ari. 9	43½	
New Orleans at San Diego	3:25	NL	NL	NL	
Dallas at San Francisco	3:25	Dal. 3	Dal. 3	45½	
Kansas City at Pittsburgh	7:30	Pitt. 5	Pitt. 6	47½	NBC

Monday's game

N.Y. Giants at Minnesota	7:30	Minn. 4	Minn. 4	43½	ESPN
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— at London

FALCONS 45, SAINTS 32

Atlanta crashes anniversary party

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — **Tevin Coleman** rushed for three touchdowns, **Matt Ryan** passed for two TDs, and **Deion Jones** returned an interception 90 yards for a score to help the Atlanta Falcons beat the winless New Orleans Saints 45-32 on Monday night.

The game was played nearly 10 years to the day after the Saints' memorable return to the Superdome on Sept. 25, 2006, 13 months after Hurricane Katrina. But there would be no reprise of New Orleans' dominant and emotional 23-3 triumph a decade ago.

The Saints' depleted defense struggled to slow down **Devonta Freeman**, who rushed for 152 yards and caught five passes for 55 yards. Coleman also was effective in the passing game out of the backfield, with three receptions for 47 yards to go with his 42 yards rushing.

The Falcons rushed for 217 yards against New Orleans' porous defense, highlighted by runs of 48, 36, and 26 yards by Freeman.

Ryan finished with 240 yards passing for Atlanta (2-1), which did not turn the ball over and moved into sole possession of first place in the NFC South.

Drew Brees put up his usual big numbers — 376 yards and three TDs pass-

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Falcons 45, Saints 32

Atlanta	7	21	10	7	45
New Orleans	7	10	8	7	32

First quarter

NO—Fleener 2 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 8:25.

Atl—T.Coleman 2 run (Bryant kick), 5:21.

Second quarter

Atl—Freeman 13 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 14:53.

NO—Thomas 3 pass from Brees

FOR THE RECORD | ETC.

Sports Editor, randy.harvey@chron.com • 713-362-3491 • Fax: 713-362-2245 @randyharvey Houston Chronicle Sports

AROUND SPORTS

Cavs' James says he will stand for anthem but supports QB

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — **LeBron James** on Monday said he plans to stand during the national anthem, but he supports **San Francisco** quarterback **Colin Kaepernick's** decision to kneel in protest.

James, who has been outspoken on social issues, said he intends to stand while "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played before games because "that's who I am, that's what I believe." However, the Cleveland Cavaliers superstar said he admires Kaepernick's "peaceful" handling of the situation.

In other pro basketball news:

• **Guard Mo Williams** informed the Cavaliers that he officially has retired. Williams, 33, had waffled all summer on whether he would return but told the team of his plans shortly before the NBA champions held their media day Monday.

GOLF

Watson named U.S. vice captain

Bubba Watson will be at the Ryder Cup, even if it's not exactly the way he imagined it.

U.S. captain **Davis Love III** announced that

Watson has been added to the team as a fifth vice captain. That after the two-time Masters champion, ranked No. 7 in the world, failed to qualify as a player on points or persuade Love to choose him with one of four captain's picks. Watson had played on the last three U.S. teams.

Ryan Moore, who lost the Tour Championship to **Rory McIlroy** in a playoff Sunday, was named as the 12th and last player on the U.S. team several hours later. After learning he had been passed over, Watson repeated his desire to be a part of the team.

Said Love: "It was an incredible gesture. We're thrilled to have him."

COLLEGES

DWI arrest costs UT's Perkins

Texas football coach **Charlie Strong** said senior offensive lineman **Kent Perkins** will be suspended for Saturday's game against Oklahoma State after being arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated last Friday.

Perkins, whose 26 career starts rank as the most on UT's roster, also will attend mandatory

counseling, perform community service and face additional team discipline, Strong said.

"If you are intoxicated and you get behind the wheel, not only are you risking your life, you're risking the life of others," Strong said. "I don't drink, so I have a pretty harsh stand on alcohol."

Perkins apologized to his teammates, coaches, fans and "anybody who ever looked up to (him)" for what he called a "stupid mistake." He said he was "ready to take full responsibility for the consequences."

PRO BASEBALL

Atlantic League title series starts

Righthander **Jake Hale** is scheduled to be on the mound for the Skeeters, who open the Atlantic League championship series against Long Island at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

Hale (6-3, 3.73 ERA) will face the Ducks' **Bobby Blevins** (2-12, 5.51 ERA) in the opener of the best-of-five series, which continues at 7:05 p.m. Wednesday at Constellation Field.

From staff and wire reports

RICE FOOTBALL

Owls not ready to quit

WR Wright says players have no doubt 0-4 season can be salvaged

By Adam Coleman

Rice wide receiver Zach Wright has been around long enough to have seen several variations of the Owls.

He remembers the 2012 team that started 1-5, said it was tired of losing and then won six of seven games, including the Armed Forces Bowl over Air Force.

Wright also remembers the 2013 Owls, whose mid-season loss to North Texas had them thinking their chances of winning the Conference USA title had all but disappeared. Refusing to quit, Rice went on to win the league crown.

And then there was the 0-3 start to the 2014 season. Undaunted by their winless ways, the Owls went on to win eight games.

"It's not what happens to you," Wright said. "It's how you respond to it."

Seniors leading the way

While the 2009 season was a bit before Wright's time, that is the last time Rice was 0-4, which is where the Owls sit heading into Saturday's C-USA road game against Southern Mississippi.

UH guarding against letdown

UH from page C1

necticut."

No sooner had UH put the finishing touches on a decisive 64-3 whipping of Texas State on Saturday, the focus shifted to a quick turnaround and rematch with UConn.

"We came into the locker room and said, 'Let's put this in the bag. We've got UConn,'" defensive end Cameron Malveaux said. "That was already on our mind."

And the stakes are even higher this go-around.

At the time of last year's Nov. 21 meeting at Hartford, Conn., the Cougars were 10-0 and ranked 13th nationally. This year, UH enters 4-0, has its highest ranking since 1991 and is a serious contender to play in the College Football Playoff.

"I'd be foolish to not think there was some added motivation to atone for the wrongs made or committed in Connecticut last year," Herman said, "and hopefully make them right ... maybe get a chance at redemption."

Defeat forced reflection

As Malveaux recalls, the Cougars came into last year's game "on a roll"

"If you asked anybody on this team, nobody would've said we were sitting 0-4 to start the season," the senior said.

After last Saturday's 42-36 double-overtime loss to North Texas, Rice will have to win six of its final eight games just to be bowl-eligible.

This is the third time the Owls have started 0-4 in the 10 seasons David Bailiff has been head coach.

In Bailiff's view, the formula for turning around the season is simple.

"This senior class is going to be remarkable in keeping it all together," Bailiff said. "The first thing we have to make sure we win is the locker room. That's what the seniors have to do. And after visiting with some of our senior leaders, I don't see we have 'the sky is falling' mentality. I think we have the mentality that we've got to do whatever we need to do to get this right."

In its first three games, Rice struggled to piece together a complete game. After losses to Western Kentucky and Army, the defense took its biggest leap against Baylor, and the offense followed the next week against North Texas.

Quarterback Tyler Stehling had the Owls' offense humming as Rice took a 17-0 lead midway through the second quarter. And the defense stepped up to hold the Mean Green to minus-17 yards in the first quarter.

Then penalties and turnovers began to take their toll.

Connecticut at UH

When/where: 7 p.m. Thursday; TDECU Stadium.

TV/radio: ESPN; 950 AM.

with a veteran defense and an offense that averaged 43.5 points and 521 yards a game.

Quarterback Greg Ward Jr. missed all but the final four plays of the game with a badly sprained ankle after being forced into the game when backup Kyle Postma was injured. Running back Kenneth Farrow was lost with a foot injury.

Houston's top defensive player — linebacker Elandon Roberts — was ejected for targeting in the first quarter.

To add insult, the Cougars committed four turnovers — the last an interception by Ward with 55 seconds left — and were held to a season-low 318 yards.

In the hours afterward, Herman said he reflected on the loss by writing "pages upon pages" of notes and thoughts.

"I learned that we were very stubborn offensively in terms of our approach and trying to lean on the inside run game while knowing that was the

Rice at So. Miss

When/where: 6 p.m. Saturday; Hattiesburg, Miss.

Radio: 1560 AM.

Three of Rice's last four second-quarter drives ended with turnovers, and the other ended with a punt. North Texas quickly cut the deficit to 17-14 and used a 28-3 run to go ahead 28-20 in the fourth quarter.

The Owls finally were done in by a roughing-the-passer call that extended the Mean Green's drive in the second overtime, resulting in the winning score.

Plenty of time left

Sophomore tackle Preston Gordon believes games are won and lost in the trenches.

"Right now, there's nothing the coaches can do," Gordon said. "I think it's more the players. We play. They coach. We just have to trust each other and do our job, and we can get this thing turned around because we still have eight games left."

Wright said he expects a different Rice team to show up for Saturday's game against the Golden Eagles at Hattiesburg, Miss.

"We've got a fight ahead of us," Wright said. "But I tell you, there's not a group of guys in the country who are dying to get in a fight right now more than the Rice Owls."

adam.coleman@chron.com twitter.com/chroncoleman

SCOREBOARD

Lottery winning numbers

TEXAS

Lotto: 9/24 5-26-37-39-44-50

Estimated jackpot \$13 million

Winning tickets None

Next jackpot 9/28 \$13.25 million

Pick 3 morn: 9/26 7-6-0 Sum: 13

Pick 3 day: 0-6-4 Sum: 10

Pick 3 even.: 9-3-9 Sum: 21

Pick 3 night: 7-1-9 Sum: 17

Daily 4 morn.: 9/26 5-3-8-9 Sum: 25

Daily 4 day: 6-4-7-5 Sum: 22

Daily 4 even.: 6-5-6-6 Sum: 23

Daily 4 night: 3-5-5-4 Sum: 17

Cash 5: 9/26 9-15-24-27-32

Two Step: 9/26 18-20-34-35

Bonus Ball: 12

POWERBALL

Powerball: 9/24 7-15-20-29-41

Powerball: 22

Estimated jackpot \$50 million

Winning tickets None

Next jackpot 9/28 \$60 million

MEGA MILLIONS

MEGA: 9/23 1-5-8-25-62

Mega Ball: 14

Megaplier: 3

Estimated jackpot \$20 million

Winning tickets None

Next jackpot 9/27 \$25 million

America's Line

(Home team in CAPS)

MLB

American League

Red Sox 8½ YANKEES

BLUE JAYS 8½ Orioles

TIGERS NL Indians

ROYALS 8½ Twins

ASTROS 8 Mariners

WHITE SOX 8 Rays

ANGELS 8½ Athletics

National League

Cubs 8 PIRATES

NATIONALS NL Diamondbacks

Mets 7½ MARLINS

BRAVES 8 Phillies

CARDINALS 8½ Reds

Dodgers 8 PADRES

GIANTS 8 Rockies

Interleague

RANGERS 10 Brewers

College football

Favorite Points Underdog

TEXAS TECH 28-28½ Kansas

HOUSTON 28½-27½ Connecticut

Friday

BYU 3½-4 Toledo

WASHINGTON 3-3 Stanford

Baseball

Atlantic League

Atlantic League championship series

Sugar Land vs. Long Island

G1: Long Island at Sugar Land 7:05 today

G2: Long Island at Sugar Land 7:05 Wed.

G3*: Sugar Land at Long Island 6:35 Fri.

G4*: Sugar Land at Long Island 6:35 Sat.

G5*: Sugar Land at Long Island 5:05 Sun.

* — If necessary

Basketball

WNBA

Playoffs

Third round

(Best-of-5)

Phoenix vs. Minnesota

G1: At Minnesota 7 Wed.

G2: At Minnesota 7 Fri.

G3: At Phoenix 4 Sun.

G4*: At Phoenix TBA Tue.

G5*: At Minnesota TBA Thur.

Chicago vs. Los Angeles

G1: At Los Angeles 9 Wed.

G2: At Los Angeles 9 Fri.

G3: At Chicago 2 Sun.

G4*: At Chicago TBA Tue.

G5*: At Los Angeles TBA Thur.

* — If necessary

Hockey

World Cup

Final (best-of-three)

G1: Canada vs. Europe 7 today

G2: Canada vs. Europe 7 Sat.

G3*: Canada vs. Europe 6 Sat.

* — If necessary

NHL

Preseason schedule

Monday's results

Ottawa 6 Toronto 3

Columbus 3 Boston 2 (OT)

Carolina 2 Washington 1 (OT)

New Jersey (ss) 2 Philadelphia (ss) 0

N.Y. Islanders 3 Philadelphia (ss) 0

Minnesota 2 Buffalo 1

New Jersey (ss) 3 Montreal 2

Television

Hockey Canada vs. Team Europe ESPN 7 p.m.

Pro baseball TBA ESPN 6 p.m.

Pro baseball Milwaukee at Texas FSSW 7 p.m.

Pro baseball Cincinnati at St. Louis MLB 7 p.m.

Pro baseball Seattle at Astros Root 7 p.m.

Soccer Bayer 04 Leverkusen at Monaco ESPN2 1:30 p.m.

Soccer Real Madrid at Borussia Dortmund FS1 1:30 p.m.

Soccer Tottenham at CSKA Moscow FS2 1:30 p.m.

Soccer Porto at Leicester City FSSW 1:30 p.m.

Radio

Pro baseball Seattle at Astros 790 AM 7 p.m.

Astros in Spanish 94.1 FM

St. Louis at Dallas late

Calgary (ss) at Edmonton (ss) late

Edmonton (ss) at Calgary (ss) late

Los Angeles (ss) at Arizona (ss) late

Arizona (ss) at Los Angeles (ss) late

Today's games

Nashville at Florida (ss) 2:30

Ottawa at Buffalo 6

N.Y. Islanders (ss) at Philadelphia, 6

N.Y. Islanders (ss) at N.Y. Rangers, 6

Nashville at Florida (ss) 6

Washington at Montreal 6:30

Pittsburgh at Detroit 6:30

Carolina at Tampa Bay 6:30

Calgary at Winnipeg 7

Colorado at Minnesota 7

Arizona at Anaheim 9

Vancouver at San Jose 9:30

Soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference

New York 13 9 9 48 53 40

Toronto FC 13 8 9 48 45 33

New York City FC 13 9 9 48 55 53

Philadelphia 11 9 9 42 50 48

Montreal 9 10 11 38 43 47

D.C. United 8 9 13 37 43 41

New England 9 13 9 36 37 51

Orlando City 7 10 13 34 49 57

Columbus 7 11 11 32 42 46

Chicago 6 14 9 27 36 48

Western Conference

FC Dallas 15 8 8 53 47 39

Colorado 12 5 12 48 32 27

Los Angeles 11 5 15 48 53 38

Real Salt Lake 12 10 9 45 42 42

Sporting KC 12 12 7 43 39 38

Portland 11 12 8 41 46 48

Seattle 11 13 5 38 38 39

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Harden becomes ball distributor

Harden from page C1

Harden, even if his job title is open for debate.

"I'm a basketball player," Harden, 6-5, said when asked if he is a shooting guard.

"With James," D'Antoni said, "you can make a cheap joke: He's a *points* guard, because he's going to score.

"We just renamed it so you guys would have something to write about."

But there is a difference in Harden's job and the Rockets' offense, even if D'Antoni said there is "very little" change.

Familiar duties

As much as Harden handled the ball last season, he ranked 98th in the NBA in percentage of possessions spent as the ball handler in the pick-and-roll.

Just 25.9 percent of Harden's possessions featured him as he will be used most often this season. Last season, 39 players handled the ball in the pick-and-roll on more than 40 percent of their possessions, including two of Harden's teammates, Pablo Prigioni and Tyler Ennis.

"James is an unbelievable distributor of the basketball," D'Antoni said. "He can see the court. We want to take advantage of it. I think he's looking forward

to the challenge and will make us a better team.

"He's more or less responsible for giving rhythm to the team. That's more or less what a point guard does. He's going to be on the ball. He's going to be distributing the ball. It takes some adjusting. He's not going to just run down. He has a lot more responsibilities as a point guard."

As with Rudy Tomjanovich's offensive adjustments with Hakeem Olajuwon, the change has the Rockets' offensive action beginning after the ball is in the hands of their best player.

"He doesn't have to wrestle with people to get the ball," D'Antoni said. "He's got it right from the get-go. He doesn't spend all the energy down there in a wrestling match, people trying to deny and all that.

"There will be times he's off (the ball). We'll find the happy medium between the two, but right now, he's directing traffic."

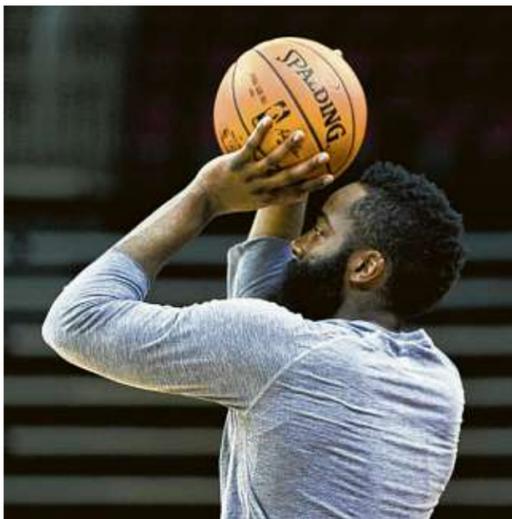
As with Olajuwon's teams, the Rockets hope to have the shooters to make the offense around their star work. In light of the Rockets ranking 19th in 3-point shooting last season while taking the second-most 3s in the league, the other part of the plan to have Harden create is to have Ryan Anderson and Eric Gordon

provide better shooting moving in his orbit.

"I don't think it changes much for him because he has the ball in his hands primarily," Anderson said. "It's just quicker. It's him starting with the ball in his hands rather than getting through some flow in the offense and then getting a pass. It makes it tougher for the defense to guard.

"Every game I've seen the Rockets play, James will bring the ball up numerous times. I haven't seen any hesitation from him. I think this offense comes very naturally to all of us."

Anderson had joked that he had been getting more open looks in two weeks of pickup games than he



Marie D. De Jesús / Houston Chronicle

Coach Mike D'Antoni promises to find the "happy medium" between James Harden playing off the ball and handling point guard duties.

had in his career with the Pelicans. He admitted he exaggerated to make his point but said the attention Harden commands makes his job easier.

Through with wrestling

After averaging career highs in scoring (29 points per game) and assists (7.5), Harden, 27, said his job will be easier when he does not have to fight to get free just to get the ball.

"We've got some really good things cooking out there," Harden said. "My job is just to go out there and create, do whatever it takes for our team to win."

jonathan.feigen@chron.com
twitter.com/jonathan_feigen

ROCKETS REPORT

D'Antoni pleased with early work

Guard **Tyler Ennis**, acquired Thursday from the Bucks, has quickly shown the Rockets why they made the move, coach **Mike D'Antoni** said.

"Good, real good. Smart," D'Antoni said Monday. "Like every other coach that had him, you just say, 'He's a ballplayer. He knows how to play.' I think he's kind of hitting his stride.

"He's the (18th) pick. I think now he's starting to feel his way around the NBA. He's got his body right. I'm expecting good things out of him."

Asked if there are others competing for playing time who have impressed in the early practices, D'Antoni cited the play of **K.J. McDaniels**, **Sam Dekker** and **Corey Brewer**, who could be vying for a rotation place behind **Trevor Ariza**.

And D'Antoni raved about **Nene**.

"The guys who jump out are usually the guys you think will jump out," D'Antoni said. "I thought K.J. made some progress. Sam, all those guys are battling. Corey Brewer has had a good camp so far. Not to leave anybody out, but those are three that have done well.

"Nene's good, very

good. Smart, talkative and just a strong center. When he's healthy, and hopefully we can keep him healthy, he's one of the top five in the league. He can do everything. He can defend. He moves his feet. You can switch with him. He can post up. He's got a nice little 15-footer."

Beverley's grit impresses coach

Guard **Pat Beverley** was considered close to being cleared for full participation in practices, but it might be difficult to tell the difference.

He's been "sneaking in" to contact drills.

"He's just been limiting the contact," coach **Mike D'Antoni** said. "He's trying to sneak in. He snuck in a couple times. We're trying to hold him out. By Wednesday for sure, 100 percent, he's doing it."

Beverley had cut his foot on a piece of glass and played with the gash throughout September. The team tried to limit him to be sure he would not reopen the wound.

"That's what makes Pat Beverley great," D'Antoni said. "That's why I love him. He's a feisty little guy."

Jonathan Feigen

Creech: Bzdelik stresses connection between defense and offense

Creech from page C1

names is the first — or 50th — that comes up when talking about great defense.

The Rockets are going to be entertaining. They are going to be fast. They are going to put up points ... lots of points.

But is this team going to be a one-dimensional scoring machine?

Not if Bzdelik, the Rockets assistant coach in charge of defense, has anything to do with it.

In case you're wondering how you know his name, he was an assistant for the Memphis Grizzlies since 2014. Yes, that Memphis team with Gasol, Tony Allen and Zach Randolph that has given the Rockets fits with its defense.

So how is Bzdelik going

to take this Rockets squad, built for offense, and make it a team that focuses on defense?

It doesn't look simple on paper. It looks like the toughest job in the NBA.

But as Bzdelik will tell you, defense is a mindset. It's an effort thing. It's a pride thing.

"Our guys want to be elite; they want to be special," Bzdelik said. "They realize to do that, you have to commit to both sides of the ball."

No solos on defense

Here's the thing about defense: It's not every man for himself. It's easy to go solo on offense. Nothing terrible happens when you miss a shot — it happens all the time.

You can't go solo on defense. If you don't get in

front of your man, if you don't hit your assignment, if you don't communicate on screens, you've messed up the scheme.

"It takes all five guys to get a stop," Bzdelik said.

The past decade shows commitment pays off. Last season, Cleveland was No. 8 in points per game and No. 4 in opponents' points per game. The year before, Golden State finished No. 1 in scoring and opponents' field-goal percentage.

"Championship teams do both," Bzdelik said. "They rank in the top offensively and defensively."

The Rockets gave up way too many points in transition last season. They also struggled consistently with defensive rebounding, allowing more second-chance points than any other team in the NBA.

Now factor in the off-season. Gone is center Dwight Howard, who ranked No. 6 in the league last year with 8.4 defensive rebounds per game.

The Rockets added big men Nene and Ryan Anderson, who together averaged seven defensive rebounds last season.

Guard Pat Beverley hangs his hat on defense, and forwards Trevor Ariza and Corey Brewer have ranked in the top 10 for steals as Rockets.

Then there's Harden, the elite scorer, who has been the butt of every defensive joke out there.

Can Bzdelik get this all together and make the Rockets an elite defense? "Absolutely," he said.

"These are good basketball players. It's all connected. Defense starts with shot se-

lection. It starts with all five guys playing defense, not just one or two individual defenders."

Sounds like the Grizzlies. "That Memphis team was always a unit on defense, the way they moved all together and each person had a role," Beverley said.

Team must buy in

He can't wait to be a part of it. But it can't be just him onboard. It can't be just Nene or Capela or Ariza. The Rockets have to be on the same page. They need a bunker mentality on defense. They need to be in it together.

Last year, they never got on that page. Anyone can score. Some do it better than others ... ahem, Harden.

But can Harden become elite on defense, too? We haven't seen that. He

seems different. He seems excited to play for Bzdelik. He knows how tough this defensive coordinator's teams can be.

He says he wants to — no, he must — improve on defense.

"I know I have to get better," Harden said. "I have to."

Yes, he does. That's what elite players do.

And if the Rockets want to be an elite team, they have to improve defensively.

That's what NBA champions do — they play well on both sides of the ball.

So is Bzdelik the guy who can turn it around? Is he the guy who can make an offensive powerhouse defensively supreme? Why not?

jenny.creech@chron.com
twitter.com/jennydialcreech

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Boys

B.J. Rainford, Ridge Point

Notable: The senior running back carried nine times for 177 yards and three scores in less than three quarters of action, helping the Panthers move to 4-0 with a 49-8 win over Kempner.

What coach Brett Sniffin said: "B.J. is the heart and soul of this team. When we need a first down, we go to him and he delivers."

Other nominees

Jacob Frazier, Magnolia: The senior quarterback continued his aerial assault in a 55-22 win over Waller, completing 18 of 23 passes for 401 yards and seven touchdowns.

Arjei Henderson, Travis: The sophomore receiver grabbed seven balls for 106 yards and four first-half TDs (three in the



Rainford Clark

second quarter) in an 86-20 win over Clements.

Trelon Smith, Cypress Ridge: The senior running back and Arizona State pledge carried 27 times for 194 yards and three TDs in a 23-17 win over Langham Creek.

Jason McDaniel

Girls

Brooke Clark, Oak Ridge

Notable: The senior opened District 12-6A with a combined 41 kills and 26 digs in wins over Conroe and The Woodlands.

What coach Tommie Lynn Sledge said: "I think Brooke is a very tal-

ented athlete and works extremely hard. She is a leader because her teammates know that she will work for them and that she supports them as well."

Other nominees

Camila Vicens, Kinkaid: Had the highest finish (third) by a Houston entry at the Texas A&M Invitational on Saturday with a time of 19 minutes and 3.30 seconds.

Reagan Kappel, Cinco Ranch: The junior won the 5,000-meter run at the Brenham Hillacious Invitational by a full minute at 18:21.50.

Yossi Pressley, Cypress Falls: Had a combined 51 kills in wins over Cypress Ranch and Cypress Lakes last week. The Golden Eagles are tied for first place in District 17-6A.

Adam Coleman

WEEK 6 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday's games		District 19-6A		District 12-4A-I	
District 15-6A	Spring Woods vs. Klein Forest, Klein Mem.....7	Mayde Creek vs. Katy Taylor, Rhodes.....7	El Campo vs. Needville, Bluejay.....7:30	District 20-6A	Sealy vs. Brazosport, Hopper.....7:30
District 16-6A	Eisenhower vs. Spring, George.....7	Kempner vs. Fort Bend Austin, Mercer.....7	Stafford vs. Columbia, Griggs.....7:30	District 21-6A	Clements vs. Ridge Point, Hall.....7:30
District 17-6A	Aldine vs. Aldine Davis, Thorne.....7	Atascocita vs. Channelview, Maddy.....7	District 14-3A-II	Bloomington at Schulenburg.....7:30	Danbury at Tidehaven.....7:30
District 18-6A	Langham Creek vs. Cy Woods, Cy-Fair Credit..7	Baytown Sterling vs. Summer Creek, Turner..7	East Bernard at Wallis Brazos.....7:30	St. John's at Fort Bend Christian.....7	Episcopal at Kinkaid.....7
District 19-6A	Chavez vs. Westbury, Butler.....7	C.E. King vs. North Shore, GPISD.....7	SPC Division I	Houston Christian at Dallas Episcopal.....7	Non-Christian
District 20-6A	Strake Jesuit vs. Seven Lakes, Rhodes.....6:30	District 22-6A	Sam Rayburn vs. Deer Park, Abshier.....7	St. Thomas vs. Pasadena, Veterans Mem.....7	Shadow Creek vs. Silsbee, Tiger.....7:30
District 21-6A	Hightower vs. Bush, Mercer.....6:30	District 23-6A	Pearland vs. Alief Taylor, Crump.....7	LC-M vs. St. Pius, Parsley.....7	Concordia Lutheran at Lutheran South.....7
District 22-6A	Kingwood vs. GC Memorial, Stallworth.....7	District 24-6A	George Ranch vs. Dawson, The Rig.....7	St. John's at Fort Bend Christian.....7	Episcopal at Kinkaid.....7
District 23-6A	Dobie vs. Pas. Memorial, Vets Memorial..6:30	District 25-6A	Alvin vs. Clear Springs, CCISD Veterans.....7	Taylor at Bellville.....7:30	Kashmere vs. Cleveland, Indian.....7:30
District 24-6A	Brazoswood vs. Hastings, Crump.....7	District 26-6A	Clear Falls vs. Friendswood, Winstan.....7	Columbus vs. Huffman, Falcon.....7:30	Tarkington at Liberty.....7:30
District 25-6A	Splendor vs. New Caney, Texan Drive.....7	District 27-6A	Clear Creek vs. Clear Brook, Challenger.....7	Shepherd at Huntington.....7:30	Hamshire-Fannett at Beaumont Kelly.....7:30
District 26-6A	Stratford vs. Northbrook, Tully.....7	District 28-6A	Brenham at Waller.....7:30	Hardin-Jefferson at Jasper.....7:30	Katy St. John XXIII at Victoria St. Joseph..7:30
District 27-6A	Klein Collins vs. Klein Oak, Klein Memorial....7	District 29-6A	Willis vs. Huntsville, Bowers.....7:30	Saturday's games	District 15-6A
District 28-6A	Nimitz vs. MacArthur, Thorne.....7	District 30-6A	Magnolia at Tomball.....7:30	District 16-6A	Klein vs. Memorial, Tully.....6
District 29-6A	Westfield vs. Dekaney, George.....7	District 31-6A	Tomball Memorial at Magnolia West.....7:30	District 17-6A	Cy Springs vs. Cy Falls, Cy-Fair Credit Union...6
District 30-6A	Cy Ranch vs. Cy Creek, Pridgeon.....7	District 32-6A	District 11-4A-I	District 18-6A	Cy Lakes vs. Cy Ridge, Pridgeon.....6
District 31-6A	Jersey Village vs. Cy-Fair, Cy-Fair Credit.....7	District 33-6A	Scarborough vs. North Forest, Cowart.....7	District 19-6A	Heights vs. Bellaire, Butler.....6
District 32-6A	Westside vs. Lamar, Delmar.....1	District 34-6A	Washington vs. Worthing, Butler.....7	District 20-6A	Tompkins vs. Morton Ranch, Rhodes.....6
District 33-6A		District 35-6A		District 21-6A	Dulles vs. Travis, Mercer.....6:30
District 34-6A		District 36-6A		District 22-6A	Dickinson vs. Clear Lake, CCISD Veterans.....6
District 35-6A		District 37-6A		District 23-6A	Galena Park vs. Elk, Hall.....6
District 36-6A		District 38-6A		District 24-6A	District 11-4A-I
District 37-6A		District 39-6A		District 25-6A	Yates vs. Wheatley, Barnett.....6
District 38-6A		District 40-6A		District 26-6A	
District 39-6A		District 41-6A		District 27-6A	
District 40-6A		District 42-6A		District 28-6A	
District 41-6A		District 43-6A		District 29-6A	
District 42-6A		District 44-6A		District 30-6A	
District 43-6A		District 45-6A		District 31-6A	
District 44-6A		District 46-6A		District 32-6A	
District 45-6A		District 47-6A		District 33-6A	
District 46-6A		District 48-6A		District 34-6A	
District 47-6A		District 49-6A		District 35-6A	
District 48-6A		District 50-6A		District 36-6A	
District 49-6A		District 51-6A		District 37-6A	
District 50-6A		District 52-6A		District 38-6A	
District 51-6A		District 53-6A		District 39-6A	
District 52-6A		District 54-6A		District 40-6A	
District 53-6A		District 55-6A		District 41-6A	
District 54-6A		District 56-6A		District 42-6A	
District 55-6A		District 57-6A		District 43-6A	
District 56-6A		District 58-6A		District 44-6A	
District 57-6A		District 59-6A		District 45-6A	
District 58-6A		District 60-6A		District 46-6A	
District 59-6A		District 61-6A		District 47-6A	
District 60-6A		District 62-6A		District 48-6A	
District 61-6A		District 63-6A		District 49-6A	
District 62-6A		District 64-6A		District 50-6A	
District 63-6A		District 65-6A		District 51-6A	
District 64-6A		District 66-6A		District 52-6A	
District 65-6A		District 67-6A		District 53-6A	
District 66-6A		District 68-6A		District 54-6A	
District 67-6A		District 69-6A		District 55-6A	
District 68-6A		District 70-6A		District 56-6A	
District 69-6A		District 71-6A		District 57-6A	
District 70-6A		District 72-6A		District 58-6A	
District 71-6A		District 73-6A		District 59-6A	
District 72-6A		District 74-6A		District 60-6A	
District 73-6A		District 75-6A		District 61-6A	
District 74-6A		District 76-6A		District 62-6A	
District 75-6A		District 77-6A		District 63-6A	
District 76-6A		District 78-6A		District 64-6A	
District 77-6A		District 79-6A		District 65-6A	
District 78-6A		District 80-6A		District 66-6A	
District 79-6A		District 81-6A		District 67-6A	
District 80-6A		District 82-6A		District 68-6A	
District 81-6A		District 83-6A		District 69-6A	
District 82-6A		District 84-6A		District 70-6A	
District 83-6A		District 85-6A		District 71-6A	
District 84-6A		District 86-6A		District 72-6A	
District 85-6A		District 87-6A		District 73-6A	
District 86-6A		District 88-6A		District 74-6A	
District 87-6A		District 89-6A		District 75-6A	
District 88-6A		District 90-6A		District 76-6A	
District 89-6A		District 91-6A			

Bare feet have their place — it's not on a chair at a restaurant

KEN HOFFMAN
Commentary



Would you have said something?
I'm not a complainer; it's not my nature. But last week, two

grievous events — one breach of etiquette, one failure of customer service — got me going.

The first one, I didn't say anything. The other time, I did. And the time I did, I wound up apologizing. Even though I was 100 percent right, I was wrong.

Last week, I went out for dinner, to one of my favorite restaurants. I was seated, and I placed my order, then checked out the room to see if maybe I recognized somebody. That's

when I saw it — as Kramer would say on "Seinfeld" — a "disturbing image."

A woman at the next table kicked off her shoes. She plopped her bare feet on the chair facing me. I could almost reach out and touch them.

I'm deciding between french fries and garlic mashed potatoes, and I'm looking at feet. I couldn't look away.

I'm not a "feet guy." I'm not even a Buffalo Bills fan. Feet are the ugliest part of the human

body. My favorite part of those "No shoes, no shirt, no service" signs is "no shoes."

This wasn't a beach town crab shack or poolside snack bar. This wasn't a baby in a high chair. This was an adult woman who thought, "I'm in a nice restaurant, I'll just put my feet on a chair where everybody can enjoy looking at them while they eat."

I eat in restaurants all the time. It has never crossed my mind to put my bare feet on a

chair where somebody else is going to sit later on.

Here's a general etiquette rule: If you're not allowed to do it on a Metro bus, you shouldn't do it in a restaurant.

I didn't say anything to the woman. I sucked it up and kept my mouth shut. If she thinks this is OK behavior, she's not going to appreciate me saying, "It's not Miss Manners to play 'this little piggy went to the market' in a restaurant."

Hoffman continues on D2

RESTAURANT GUIDE

Find out who made Alison Cook's Top 100 list at houstonchronicle.com/top100.

STARHOME

TOWN & COUNTRY

Texas gets special attention in magazine's 170th anniversary edition.

Page D3

Houston Chronicle Life & Entertainment

Houston Chronicle | Tuesday, September 27, 2016 | HoustonChronicle.com and Chron.com

@HoustonChron Section D **

AN

HOMAGE TO MIDCENTURY STYLE

By Diane Cowen

For Cy Clark, there's a flashback to his childhood in nearly every room of his Glenbrook Valley home.

Whether it's the first-floor half bath, resplendent with its 1960s-era pink tile and blond sink cabinet, the curvy Adrian Pearsall furniture in the living room or the glamorous mirrored wall in the dining room, it's all part of the ride back in time.

Many fans of midcentury-modern architecture and design know Glenbrook Valley as the pride of its genre.

The neighborhood, 1,254 homes nestled in the triangle south of Loop 610 and between the Interstate 45 S. and Telephone, is touted as the largest post-World War II historic district in the U.S.

Amazingly, most of the original construction still stands; only a handful of new-construction homes dot the area.

Now, owners of six of its homes — plus the nearby 1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby Airport — will open their doors to the public this weekend for the first ever home tour hosted by Glenbrook Valley's civic club.

Clark's home is one of them, as are five others ranging from 1,270 square feet to nearly 6,000 square feet. All were built between the early 1950s and the early 1960s.

A growing affinity for midcentury-modern architecture isn't just about nostalgia, it's about appreciating the evolution of its often minimalist aesthetic, linear composition, low-sloping gable roofs and its sometimes eccentric interior design.

Many of the homes on the Glenbrook tour still have furniture originally bought for them years ago. More than a few have built-in bars — the neighborhood apparently was just as social in its "Mad Men" years as it is now.

Two of the homes are standouts for the very different stories they tell.

Clark's house is a time capsule, virtually untouched by contractors



Yi-Chin Lee / Houston Chronicle



Melissa Phillip / Houston Chronicle

Top: The black staircase and three-dimensional wall paneling provide a dramatic entrance to the Fugate-Browning home.
Above: The interior of the home is a mix of Art Deco, midcentury and transitional design.

CAMPAIGN 2016

'The 2016 Presidential Debate' was an entertaining show

By Wei-Huan Chen

The theatrical show, "The 2016 Presidential Debate," was a highly entertaining but unrealistically over-the-top portrayal of American politics gone haywire. Loosely based on the MTV Claymation show "Celebrity Deathmatch," the hottest streamed event this year since "Grease: Live" both thrilled and confused a live audience at Hofstra University on Monday night.

The show, produced by the live theater company CNN, is an exaggerated take on a presidential debate, in which a loudmouthed businessman and a more typical politician go at each other with personal insults. It begins explosively, with its two contestants slinging insults and interruptions at

Hottest event since 'Grease: Live' both thrilled, confused audience

each other, and lags toward the end, but overall it was a triumph — it was funnier than "Veep," more ominous than "House of Cards" and more over-the-top than either show.

The protagonist is Archie Bunker-esque antihero Donald Trump, portrayed with panache by the excellent performance artist Donald Trump, a loudmouthed businessman who yells at his opponent, Hillary Clinton, a generic politician. Clinton is played by the actor Hillary Clinton, who has a reputation for mechanical performances but on Monday night grimaced and shouted almost as much as Trump. Her performance, though slightly strained, was like that of a boxer, ducking and weaving while Trump

threw uppercuts.

The moderator was a nearly invisible presence, who likely sat with the pit orchestra and would admonish the audience every now and then for bursting out, but who could blame them? The show was a brilliant show of absurdist comedy.

The production featured avant-garde staging likely inspired by experimental theater of the 1980s. Trump, the Republican candidate, is placed on the left and wears a blue tie, while Clinton, the Democrat, is put on the right side and wears red. There's also text from the Constitution, a document irrelevant to the events going on before us. None of this makes any sense, but that's precisely the point. It's a subtle touch of costume and

stage design and symbolized the topsy-turvy and certainly fictional world in which "The 2016 Presidential Debate" takes place.

"The 2016 Presidential Debate" climaxes early, with comedic touches such as Clinton gagging out the phrase "It's good to be with you" and trying to trademark the least catchy slogan ever invented, "Trumped Up Trickle Down." Trump offers up surprising improvisatory remarks, like "You've been fighting ISIS all your life," which had the tenor, volume and spontaneity that reminded me of saxophonist Sonny Rollins.

Despite the lack of a proper ending, the show was better than most political shows

on CNN. The staging was too minimalist, and would have benefitted from a live band, an elephant and some snarky celebrity judges. I don't believe the show is as good as past presidential moments, such as Ronald Reagan's 1980 theater show, "I am paying for this microphone," Al Gore's 2000 piece, "Sighing while George W. Bush speaks" or Barack Obama's "Mic Drop" at the latest White House Correspondents Dinner.

But Trump will certainly go down as a remarkable, if too exaggerated look at what American politics would look like if it were run entirely on television. His orange make-up and flimsy golden hair were great touches. So hats off to the performance artist Donald Trump for creating the goofiest political character of the 21st century to life.

DEAR ABBY: Boyfriend's belittling sister makes woman feel small. PAGE D5

TELEVISION

CBS can't conjure good reason for 'MacGyver' reboot

By Mary McNamara
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Why, why, why, 'MacGyver'?" "Why, why, why, whyyyyyyy, 'MacGyver'?"

The above should be sung to the tune of the Tom Jones hit "Delilah," and if you know that oldie but goodie, you may be the age to have a nostalgic interest in CBS' reboot of the iconic 1980s DIY secret-agent series.

Interest that will not, I fear, have much of a payoff.

The problem with icons is that, by definition, they cannot be reproduced.

When Lee David Zlotoff created the original "MacGyver," with its admirable reliance on Swiss Army knives and an endless array of creative "real-life" hacks (Fact: It is more difficult to pick most locks with a bobby pin or a paper clip than the show made it seem), he invented a whole new type of action hero.

Unlike James Bond, Angus MacGyver (Richard Dean Anderson) didn't need an arsenal of futuristic gimmicks or the ability to seduce everyone in sight while mixing the perfect martini.

All he needed was a little American ingenuity. Give MacGyver one gun, some string and a book of matches, and he could simulate an attacking



Two Texans, Lucas Till, left, and George Eads, are the leads of CBS-TV's reboot of 'MacGyver.'

army; put him in a hole with a little duct tape and a high-pressure hose, and he would literally fly to safety.

The show itself might not stand up to modern television standards (clunk, clunk, clunk went the dialogue), but the Home Depot conceit made it a national treasure. The name itself entered the vernacular, as both noun — "I pulled a MacGyver" — and verb, as in "I suddenly realized

there were no clean diapers so I MacGyvered it."

Even folks who never saw the show know what that means.

Which, one assumes, is why CBS thought it would be a grand idea to bring the series back.

This MacGyver, played by Lucas Till, is surrounded by other new faces with old names. Jack Dalton (George Eads) is Mac's sidekick muscle and Wilt Bozer (Justin Hires) his obli-

ous roommate. Updates also include a female boss (Sandrine Holt) and a tech-savvy team that includes Mac's paramour.

Producer Peter Lenkov also has given the 2.0 version a "Burn Notice"-lite voice-over to explain some of the hacks.

None of which need explaining, by the way, at least not in the premiere, which aired this past Friday, in which the action is so predictable it feels at times like a joke.

We meet the team as its members crash a fancy party to swipe a purloined weapon. One look at "waiter" Mac, and we know just what he'll do: A fingerprint will be lifted from a glass, a magnet will briefly mess up something and that drinks tray will definitely be used as a weapon as Mac crashes through a window at some point.

And then it does happen. Just as we knew it would because we have

seen it 100 million times. (Honestly, at this point, I feel like I could lift a fingerprint and bypass a security system, and I'm a TV critic.)

There is a tiny twist, involving a hostage, to prove that the team is far from perfect and now bent on revenge, but what follows is just more of the same.

The bad guys are so bad they are British and say things like "hand it over"; the good guys are almost undone by their goodness, and for some reason, Mac feels he must dissolve "tin foil" in homemade acid to create the smoke that sets off the distracting fire alarm.

Instead of, you know, just setting a rolled-up newspaper on fire.

There is, perhaps, pleasure to be had in the nuttiness of it all. The cast is fine (though Bozer is forced to say things like "I made waffles" as if he were channeling Donkey in "Shrek") and the action is propelled by one of those typically relentless soundtracks.

Ironically, this "MacGyver's" biggest problem is that it ignores the significance of the original. Zlotoff started a revolution that has affected every spy thriller from "Jason Bourne" to "Scorpion." The reboot adds nothing to the archetype, which makes it less nostalgic than archaic.

STREAMING VIDEO

Woody Allen delivers inspired comedy when in 'Crisis' mode

By David Wiegand

Woody Allen isn't practiced at the art of making TV, which turns out to be an advantage for his first TV project, "Crisis in Six Scenes," a wry screwball comedy available for streaming Friday on Amazon.

You could consider "Crisis" a welcoming Woody Allen film comedy neatly carved up into six episodes, except for the fact that the director/co-star is clearly aware that he's venturing into uncharted territory and may even be a bit worried about what unwashed TV critics might think of his little confection.

The series begins with Allen's character stopping in at his barber's for a haircut and a review. S.J. Muntzinger, a one-time advertising copy writer who's penned a few books along the way, asks the barber (Max Casella) to make him look like James Dean. The late actor's name is still relatively fresh and barbers have not yet evolved as hair-stylists because the series is set in the 1960s.

While held temporarily captive in the barber's chair, Sidney is subjected



Wood Allen, seated, and Max Casella star in "Crisis in Six Scenes."

to all manner of dismissive, withering comments about his book from his barber — as effective a send-up of critics as Tom Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound."

The dressing down leaves Sidney thinking maybe he should write a TV sitcom.

Sidney lives with his wife, Kay (Elaine May), in the suburbs. Kay is a psychologist with an office in the home. They have no kids, but the son

of friends, Allen (John Magaro), is engaged to marry a proper young woman (Rachel Brosnahan) who works at an art gallery. He plans to follow his father in the family business, banking. The Muntzingers take a parental interest in Allen's future.

One night, someone breaks into the Muntzinger home. It turns out to be Lennie (Miley Cyrus), the daughter of other friends. She's become radicalized

and is on the run. She needs a place to hide out and over Sid's objections, Kay agrees to let her.

Lennie becomes the radical who came to dinner, devouring all of Sid's favorite foods, lecturing both Muntzingers on the need for radical action to right the nation's wrongs, and hanging a Che Guevara poster in the guest room.

Sid wants her out, not only because he's terrified he and Kay will wind up

'Crisis in Six Scenes'

When: available for streaming Friday on Amazon
★★★★

in jail where he's sure he will be a target for other inmates because of his shapely figure, but also because she's eating his navel oranges, the last of the sturgeon and disrupting his routine.

That's the set-up — not an immediately credible one, of course, but it enables Allen to do a full-on Alvy Singer bit and it should go without saying that the great Elaine May makes a perfect and endearing foil for this aging, hypochondriacal nebish man.

Side trips to a screwball finale straight out of the Marx Brothers (to whom Muntzinger tips a nonexistent hat as he opens the front door to unwanted houseguests) include Kay's sessions with various clients with marital problems, a budding romance among the younger set and the radicalization of a ladies' book club.

Allen brings the whole TV-series self-conscious-

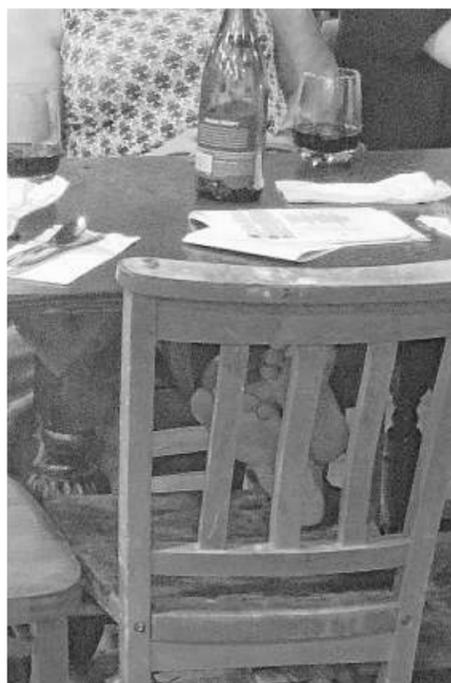
ness bit home in the final minutes of the last episode, but he needn't have worried. The fact that he hasn't spent the past half-century trying to remake "My Mother the Car" enables him to simply adapt what he does best for the so-called small screen. And it's a good fit.

The performances are winning, with wonderful cameo contributions from actors and comics like Joy Behar, Lewis Black and Michael Rapaport.

Cyrus is modestly successful as the radical with patrician roots but it takes her a while to grow into the role. For the most part, she's a convenient plot device and fulfills her obligation adequately.

Allen is working in familiar territory here, eschewing the kind of character complexity that marks his better films, such as "Blue Jasmine" and "Vicky Christina Barcelona." Fact is, television can support more complicated characters these days. Allen might ponder that for future TV projects, but in the meantime, we'll happily wallow in the inspired silliness of "Crisis."

dwigand@sfcronicle.com

Ken Hoffman / Houston Chronicle
Ken Hoffman doesn't like looking at feet while he eats in a restaurant. Is he alone?

Hoffman: Apologizing for a voicemail rant

Hoffman from page D1

I did take a photo and made it obvious what I was focused on.

A few days earlier, my cable, internet and phone — the whole bundle — went out, and stayed out for a few hours. I've always said it's a bad idea to bundle those services. When one goes out, they all go out.

I'm like that family in the TV commercial that goes berserk when their internet goes down for 10 minutes.

I live on the internet when I'm home. I keep a laptop on my lap when I'm watching TV. That way, I can look up stuff while I'm watching CNN, or check earned run averages when I'm watching the Astros, or YouTube comedians like Rohan Ganju and Jimmy Carr during commercials. Check them out, very funny.

I saw a "Top 10 List of Annoying People," and "someone who's constantly looking up things on the internet" made the list. That's me. I don't call it annoying, though. I call it a curious mind.

I'm sunk without the internet. And no TV on top of that? I won't last five minutes.

I called a couple of neighbors. "Have you lost TV and internet, too?" Yes, the whole neighborhood was down.

A few hours later (that's key, I did wait a pretty long time), I called the cable company and was switched to customer service voicemail. That only ramped up my crazy.

It's entirely possible that I'm not as adorable in real life as I am in this column. I let it loose pretty good. I insulted the company, its

executives, its customer service. I was Rickles at 2 a.m. working the lounge. I made the anonymous "comments" section at the end of web stories look like a Hallmark Mother's Day card. I was Captain Courageous on voicemail, tough guy.

In the middle of my rant, getting to the part where I was demanding money back for crummy service ... both my TV picture and internet returned. It was a Southwest Airlines "wanna get away" moment.

I said, "Uh, nevermind," and hung up. Maybe they won't know it's me. Surely they receive thousands of voicemails worse than mine.

They knew it was me. I got a call back from the cable company. The representative couldn't have been nicer. He apologized for the service outage and even offered a refund for my lost

internet time.

Now I felt like a double jerk. I was so rude to him on voicemail, and he was so polite to me on the phone.

I asked him, do you get calls like mine very often?

"I'm the recipient of the most escalated calls.

(Apparently mine rode the escalator to the top floor.) I've found that once a customer is able to vent their frustration and hear the cause of the outage, which is mostly due to a third-party accidentally cutting a fiber line, they're content with the explanation."

I apologized for the voicemail.

"By the way, I didn't mean what I said about you personally. I'm sure your co-workers and family are lovely people, too."

ken.hoffman@chron.com
twitter.com/KenChronicle

STAR

MAGAZINE

Texas gets star treatment in Town & Country

By Alyson Ward

The October issue of Town & Country celebrates the magazine's 170th anniversary with a list of "T&C Essentials" — "170 people, places and things that are built to last."

No. 35 on the list: Texas. And there, representing the Lone Star State, is a full-page photo of two famous Texans: fashion designer Brandon Maxwell and Houston icon Lynn Wyatt.

"I am fine like wine in the summertime, and I ain't lyin'," says Wyatt, standing in her dining room, clad in a Maxwell custom creation.

Maxwell — a Longview native who dresses celebrities, including Lady Gaga — told the magazine that his dream was to dress Wyatt. So Town & Country made it happen. The magazine had connections to "the quintessential yellow rose," after all: She has been on its cover.

By the way, No. 36 on the list? Blondes.

Town & Country launched in 1846 and has published continuously since then, which makes it the oldest lifestyle magazine in the country. (It's been a Hearst magazine since William Randolph Hearst himself bought it in 1925.) The monthly glossy is aimed squarely at the 1 percent — the wealthiest readers who want stories about art, jewelry, style, travel and other aspects of the good life. The wealthy and well-bred, in other words, and those who aspire to be.

"So much of what we have covered for over a century has never mattered more," says Stellene Volandes, the magazine's new editor in chief. "Things like civility and good taste, an eye for quality and craftsmanship — those things are always, and always have been, in Town & Country."

The anniversary issue has three different covers, all of them featuring model Christy Turlington. Inside, the magazine gets a bit nostalgic, honoring its 170-year history with old photos and features that look back at memorable moments.

In preparing the anniversary edition, Volandes said, the staff dug through the vast archives and came across the magazine's very first issue. The first editor's



Houstonian Lynn Wyatt and Texas designer Brandon Maxwell are featured in Town & Country's 170th anniversary edition.

letter "put forth this mission that Town & Country would be a magazine to 'instruct, refine and amuse.' None of us here had really seen that before." She believes the magazine still does those three things, even today. It instructs and refines, Volandes says, by setting standards of tradition and heritage, decency and good behavior; it amuses by "pointing out the foibles of the 1 percent."

After all, the magazine's

readers have an average household income of \$333,000 and an average net worth of \$1.8 million. And many of its readers are longtime subscribers.

"We are a generational brand," said Jennifer Levene Bruno, the magazine's vice president/publisher and chief revenue officer. "We've been in people's homes and part of people's families for decades, almost two centuries."

But all this heritage-main-

taining doesn't mean Town & Country has remained stagnant. In the past few years, the magazine has retooled quite a bit to stay fresh and modern without abandoning its pedigree.

That started a few years ago when Jay Fielden came on board as editor in chief. (He's now Town & Country's editorial director and the editor of Esquire.)

"It had for so long been



Town & Country

Town & Country produced three covers for its October issue, which celebrates the magazine's 170th anniversary.

the bible of the power class of America," Fielden said. But it was 2011, and the Occupy Wall Street movement was giving "the 1 percent" a bad name.

The magazine, Fielden decided, needed to "hold onto the elegance and the taste, which is so paramount to a title like Town & Country" — but also, "for the first time, maybe, turn in a little bit on ourselves to report about the culture of money and privilege."

That self-awareness can be seen even in the anniversary issue — and it's sometimes a little tongue-in-cheek. The issue's "Guide to Life" features advice from Andrew Ross Sorkin on how to avoid becoming a "rich jerk." Elsewhere, a full page quotes Cleveland Amory from a 1962 issue: "My favorite definition of the upper crust: A lot of crumbs held together by dough."

But above all, Town & Country is a glossy magazine that celebrates the high life. And to remain relevant, Fielden said, it has to do that well. The magazine might instruct, refine and amuse, but it also has to capture the imagination.

"This thing must look exceptionally good," he said. "The jewelry, the fashion, the vacation destinations, the food had to feel consistently amazing — like you wanted every little bit of it. I think Town & Country is that magazine, when you look at it, you think, 'Wow. This is what life can be like.'"

alyson.ward@chron.com
twitter.com/alysonward

Glenbrook Valley's architectural design has timeless appeal

Glenbrook from page D1

owns Avondale Design Studio.

For nearly two years, they worked on the home, making trips to furniture warehouses and trade-only stores looking for everything from sofas and chairs to rugs and lighting to paint colors and wallpaper.

Now the home's interiors are midcentury gems as well, with glamorous Hollywood Regency décor touches.

"It was important that it was nice but not a museum," Fugate said. "We come home and sprawl out and put our feet up. The dog and cat get on the furniture."

The couple hosts a big annual party, and it's not unusual for a happy hour to spring to life when the doorbell rings to reveal neighbors asking, "What are you guys doing?" Visitors to the Fugate-Browning home are greeted by a stunning white entry with a dramatic black spiral staircase and walls lined with three-dimensional paneling.

Hues of pale green appear in a sleek rug and a curvy, custom-made bench opposite a neutral couch and chairs in the living room. Texture comes in grass cloth wallpaper and a metal sculpture.

The couple gained a new family of giraffes in four handsome brass giraffes that were brought in for an earlier photo-shoot staging. Once they were gone, Browning sort of missed them. A quick phone call to Johnston, and the giraffes were back. Johnston remains their



Melissa Phillip photos / Houston Chronicle

An Adrian Pearsall lounge chair, gondola sofa and a flashy gold ottoman make a statement in the living room of a midcentury-modern home that will be featured on the Glenbrook Valley Home Tour.



Cy Clark grew up Baird, in a home that had a bathroom very much like this one. The small, frosted-glass doors slide open to reveal a medicine chest. Everything in this bathroom is original to the home, which was built in 1964.

go-to guy for questions before purchases. On a trip to New Mexico last summer, they fell in love with two paintings of birds. A photo and text to Johnston brought a quick

reply: "Buy them. Buy them now."

In the family room is a '60s-era shelving unit that the couple has turned into a bar. Its multilevel shelves hold liquor bottles

and barware. Add in a plush sheepskin bench and the space is just plain fun.

That same shelving unit lives in an upstairs bedroom in Clark's home, where bedrooms that once housed teenagers now comfort his guests.

One room has been dubbed "Greg's room," after a friend who stayed with him while recovering from heart surgery. They had a lot of mutual friends who helped care for him, and some of them stayed for days.

"We refer to that time as Greg's recuperation party because that's what it was," said Clark, a sixth-generation Texan who hails from Baird.

Clark got decorating advice from Kathy Heard, an interior designer who also lives in Glenbrook Valley.

Glenbrook Valley Home Tour

What: six private homes and the 1940 Air Terminal Museum near Hobby Airport
Benefits: Glenbrook Valley Marker Fund
Tickets: glenbrookvalley.org
When: noon-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Cost: \$30 per person, children ages 6-10 are \$10, children 5 and younger are free

Midcentury-modern style

» Listen to the Looped In podcast on Glenbrook Valley's midcentury-mod appeal. Houstonchronicle.com/loopedin

He's always loved the hunt for unique antiques and shifted his prey to mid-century modern when he bought the home.

Some of his furniture came with the home, but he also prowls Reeves Antiques on Taft and Metro Retro Furniture in Pasadena for pieces.

Art is a passion, too, and in his home you'll find the work of his friend the late Dick Wray, as well as some of Charlotte Smith's pieces, made with thick, layered drops of paint.

"I'm not in a hurry to fill the house with furniture," Clark said. "It's a lot

of fun looking for different items."

One piece he's proud of is a green vinyl Pearsall chair in his living room. He first spotted it at Reeves but thought it was too expensive. A year later, it was still there, and he still loved it.

"I went and looked at it one Sunday, and that night I had a dream about it," he said. "I figured if I'm having a dream about a chair, then I think that it's meant to be mine."

diane.cowen@chron.com
twitter.com/dianecowen

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PUZZLES & TV

WORD SLEUTH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. ©2016 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Monday's unlisted clue: **WET**.
 Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: **TOOTHED**
WHEELS IN A TRANSMISSION.

- Addresses
- Airplanes
- Attitudes
- Clothes
- Course
- Diapers
- Directions
- Filters
- Goals
- Hands
- Lanes
- Money
- Oil
- Our minds
- Tires

THINGS WE CHANGE

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

JUMBLE

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

NORGP
 DYRAT
 TETXEN
 SOLFIS



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

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)
 Yesterday's Jumbles: PATIO YOUTH GOSSIP PASTRY
 Answer: After getting stuck in a middle seat at 30,000 feet, she was — UPTIGHT

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Civil
- 4 Tropical fish with large peepers
- 10 Add to the staff
- 14 Jungle swinger
- 15 Rapper whose professional name sounds like a candy
- 16 Sport, for ports: Abbr.
- 17 Kindled
- 18 Churchgoer's "If it's meant to be"
- 20 Explorer Ericson
- 22 Kitchy
- 23 Blame taker
- 24 Curtain material
- 26 Another name for the gladiolus
- 30 Cable box display
- 32 Dispensable candy
- 33 High bond rating
- 34 Geological epoch in which mammals arose
- 37 Leave ___: reward the waiter
- 38 Post-Cold War hierarchy ... and what is literally contained in the circled squares
- 42 Mortar carriers
- 43 ___ Fables
- 44 Nonprofit URL ending
- 45 Adherent's suffix
- 47 Muscat residents

- 51 Out-of-the-office assignment
- 55 Point of view
- 56 Peau de ___: satin-weave cloth
- 57 Wide shoe width
- 59 In any way
- 60 They're often passed on the road
- 64 Holiday threshold
- 65 Starting course
- 66 Austrian capital
- 67 "___ Misérables"
- 68 Chris of "The Good Wife"
- 69 First female Shuttle pilot ___ Collins
- 70 H.S. 12th-graders

DOWN

- 1 NYSE locale
- 2 Per unit
- 3 Head to bed
- 4 Brussels' land: Abbr.
- 5 "Don't worry about me"
- 6 Copter predecessors
- 7 Provide with funding
- 8 Evergreen that's a homophone of a vowel
- 9 Political refugee
- 10 Judaism: kosher :: Islam: ___
- 11 Start
- 12 Took part in a marathon
- 13 Cake mix need
- 19 City southwest of Warsaw
- 21 Reporter's quintet of questions
- 25 Ask for Whiskas, perhaps
- 27 Opinion columns
- 28 Lion's den
- 29 Jabber
- 31 Prefix with friendly
- 35 Muse of poetry
- 36 Marlins' MLB div.
- 37 Source of media revenue
- 38 "Me neither"
- 39 Barely beats
- 40 Valentine card hugs
- 41 LP measures
- 42 Baseball inst. in Cooperstown
- 45 "___ it my way"
- 46 Turn sharply
- 48 Orange choices
- 49 "Well, ___!": "What an outrage!"
- 50 Blood pressure elevator
- 52 Acid test outcome, possibly
- 53 Party hearty
- 54 Nancy Drew creator Carolyn
- 58 White-tailed coastal bird
- 60 Nine-digit ID
- 61 Lav, in Bath
- 62 Three on a sundial
- 63 ___ Antonio

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. ©2016 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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

Difficulty Level ★★

9/27

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CRYPTOQUIP

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

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Z F C Y B G T D T X P J C K G T C
 K G R X Y J J W W P Y X J F D, X
 X I G J X Y C D F C R Z X K F W Y C
 G Y W D F C T B F C G K G Y D P T C G I K.

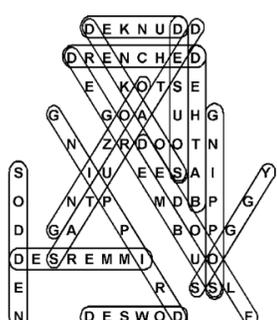
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals A

ANSWER: When partridges are saying goodnight, I imagine they wish one another pleasant dreams.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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

COVERED WITH WATER



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

TV TONIGHT

movie (S) sports (N) new programming (P) premiere (SP) season premiere (F) finale (SF) season finale (CC) - closed caption

09/27/16	COM	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
NBC	12	KPRC Channel 2 News	Ent. Tonight (CC)	The Voice: The Blind Auditions 4	The Blind Auditions 4	The 'blind auditions' continue in front of the judges. (N) (CC)	This Is Us	The Big Three (N) (CC)	Local 2 News at 10pm	35 The Tonight Show	
PBS	8	PBS NewsHour (CC)	The Contenders (N) (CC)	Frontline	The Choice 2016	Profiles of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. (N) (CC)	American Umpire (N) (CC)				
CBS	11	KHOU 11 News at 6	Wheel of Fortune (CC)	NCIS: Being Bad (N) (CC)	Bull	The Woman in 8D (N) (CC)	NCIS: New Orleans Suspicious Minds (N) (CC)	KHOU 11 News at 10	35 Stephen Colbert (N)		
ABC	13	13 News at 6 p.m. (CC)	Dancing With the Stars: The Results (N) (CC)	Agents of SHIELD	Meet the New Boss (N) (CC)	Agents of SHIELD Meet the New Boss (N) (CC)	13 News at 10 p.m. (CC)	35 Jimmy Kimmel (N)			
TBN	14	Supernatural	Potter	Trinity	Everyday	J. Prince	B. Cornelius	Praise the Lord (CC)	Unqualified		
MyTV	20	Family Feud (CC)	Family Feud (CC)	Bones	Memories in a Shallow Grave (CC)	Bones	The Hot Dog in the Competition (CC)	Big Bang Theory (CC)	Big Bang Theory (CC)	2 Broke Girls (CC)	
KLTV	22	Jerry Sevelle	John Hagee	Rob Parsley	Table Talk	Marcus and Joni Lamb	Joel Osteen (CC)	Faith	K. Copeland		
FOX	26	Modern Family (CC)	Modern Family (CC)	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	Pl. 2 (N) (CC)	Scream Queens	Warts and All (N) (CC)	TMZ (CC)	Dish Nation (CC)		
CW	39	Last Man Standing	Mike & Molly (CC)	The Flash	Invincible (CC)	MADtv (N) (SF) (CC)	NewsFix at 9	NewsFix at 10 (CC)	Two and a Half Men		
Uni.	45	La rosa de Guadalupe (CC)	Despertar contigo	Tres veces Ana	Color de pasion	Noticias 45	NoticieroUni				
Tel.	47	Caso cerrado (CC)	Silvana Sin Lana	Sin Senos Si Hay Par	Señora acero	Noticiero	Titulares				
ION	49	Criminal Mind (CC)	Criminal Mind (CC)	Cops	Cops	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King-Queens	King-Queens		
KUBE	57	Family Guy	Family Guy	King of Hill	King of Hill	Born This Way (N) (CC)	:05 Married / First Sight				
A&E	23	5:00 ♣ Enough ★★ ('02) (CC)	:45 Married / First Sight (N) (CC)	Born This Way (N) (CC)	:05 Married / First Sight						
AMC	57	♣ Pearl Harbor ★★ ('01) A love triangle unravels during the attack in 1941. (CC)	Halt and Catch Fire (N)	:05 Halt and Catch Fire							
ANPL	42	River Monsters Spc (CC)	River Monsters	Great Barrier Reef (CC)	River Monsters (CC)						
BBC	226	Star Trek: Next Gen. (CC)	♣ Rambo: First Blood ★★ ('82) (CC)	♣ Air Force One ★★ ('97) Harrison Ford. (CC)							
BET	46	Movie	♣ First Sunday ★★ (2008, Comedy) Katt Williams, Ice Cube. (CC)	One Shot (N) (CC)	:05 ♣ A Thin Line Betwe...						
BRAVO	65	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck (N)	Below Deck	Watch (N)	Housewives				
CNBC	45	The Profit (CC)	Shark Tank (CC)	Shark Tank (CC)	The Profit (N) (CC)	Shark Tank (CC)					
CNN	25	OutFront (CC)	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)	CNN Tonight (CC)	CNN Tonight (CC)					
COM	59	5:55 Futura	:25 Futura	:55 Tosh.0	Tosh.0 (CC)	Tosh.0 (CC)	Tosh.0 (SP)	Drunk (N) (SP)	Daily S. (N)	Midnight (N)	
DISC	29	Deadliest Catch (CC)	Dungeon Cove (N) (CC)	Deadliest Catch (N) (CC)	Taking Fire (N) (CC)	Deadliest Catch (CC)					
DISN	41	♣ Descendants ('15) Dove Cameron. (CC)	:05 Liv/Mad / Girl World	K.C. Underc.	StuckMid	Backstage	Best Friends				
E!	44	E! News (N) (CC)	Rob and Chyna (CC)	Rob and Chyna (CC)	Rob and Chyna (CC)	E! News (N) (CC)					
ESPN	33	5:00 (S) Sprtc (S) Pre-game	(S) Hockey World Cup - Toronto, Ont. (CC) (Live)	(S) SportsCent. (CC)							
ESPN2	34	(S) MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees - Bronx, N.Y. (CC) (Live)	(S) Baseball Tonight (Live)	(S) NFLLive (CC)							
FNC	38	On the Record (CC)	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	The Kelly File (CC)	Hannity (CC)	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)					
FOOD	52	Chopped Cake Walk? (CC)	Chopped Junior (CC)	Chopped (CC)	Chopped (CC)	Chopped					
FREEFORM	32	5:30 ♣ Pitch Perfect ★★ ('12) Anna Kendrick. (CC)	♣ 10 Things I Hate About You ★★ ('99) (CC)	The 700 Club (CC)							
FSN	37	(S) Sports (S) Pre-game	(S) MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Texas Rangers - Arlington, Texas (CC) (Live)	(S) Rangers (S) Insider (N)							
FX	31	♣ Iron Man 3 ★★ ('13) A man embarks on a mission to find a criminal. (CC)	Atlanta (N)	Atlanta	:05 Atlanta	Movie					
HALL	24	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	
HGTV	47	Fixer Upper (CC)	Fixer Upper (CC)	Fixer Upper (CC)	H.Hunt (N)	House (N)	Fixer Upper (CC)				
HIST	58	CountCars	CountCars	CountCars (N) (CC)	Forged in Fire (N) (CC)	:05 Forged in Fire (N)	:05 Forged in Fire (CC)				
LIFE	40	Grey's Anatomy (CC)	Dance Moms: Chat (N)	Dance Moms	Mommy Meltdown (N) (CC)	Dance Moms	Mommy Meltdown (CC)				
MSNBC	80	Hardball (CC)	All in With C. Hayes (CC)	Rachel Maddow (CC)	The Last Word (CC)	11th Hour	Hardball				
MTV	30	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	:35 Ridiculous			
NGEO	335	Finding Anastasia	Facing Putin (CC)	FacingSchwarzenegger (N)	Generation X (CC)	FacingSchwarzenegger					
NICK	43	Thunder	Thunder	Nicky	GShakers	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)
OWN	66	If Loving You / Wrong (CC)	If Loving You / Wrong (CC)	If Loving You / Wrong (CC)	If Loving You / Wrong (N)	If Loving You / Wrong (CC)	If Loving You / Wrong (CC)				
OXY	327	Bad Girls	:45 BadGirls	Bad Girls Club (N) (CC)	Strut (N) (CC)	Bad Girls Club (CC)	Rob and Chyna (CC)				
ROOT	39	(S) Astros	(S) Pre-game	(S) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros - Houston, Texas (CC) (Live)	(S) Postgame	(S) Baseball					
SPIKE	48	Ink Master	Ruffled Feathers	Ink Master	Ink Master Sparks Fly	Ink Master	Sticky Situation	Ink Mstr (N)	Ink Master		
SYFY	60	Movie	♣ National Treasure: Book of Secrets ★★ ('07) Nicolas Cage. (CC)	Aftermath (N) (P) (CC)	♣ Lake Placid ★★ (CC)						
TBS	51	Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	Conan (N)	
TCM	169	5:00 ♣ Music for Millions	♣ Bananas ★★ ('71) Woody Allen. (CC)	♣ Young Frankenstein ★★ ('74) Gene Wilder. (CC)	♣ Foul Play						
TLC	63	Yes Dress	Counting (N)	Counting On (N)	Sweet 15 Quinceañera (N)	Toddlers & Tiaras (CC)	:05 Counting On				
TNT	36	Castle (CC)	Castle XY (CC)	Castle XX (CC)	Castle PhDead (CC)	Castle (CC)					
TOON	22	Bare Bears	Gumball	Regular (N)	Steven	King of Hill	Cleveland	Amer. Dad	Bob Burger	Family Guy	Family Guy
TRAV	62	Bizarre Foods (CC)	Bizarre Food	Bizarre Food	B. List (N) (P)	B. List (N)	Bizarre Foods (CC)	Bizarre Foods (CC)			
TVLAND	346	A. Griffith	:35 Griffith	:10 Griffith	:50 Ray	:25 Everybody Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	King-Queens	King-Queens	
USLA	21	Chrisley	Chrisley	(S) WWE Smackdown! (CC)	Chrisley (N)	Chrisley	Modern Fam	Modern Fam			
WE	117	Law & Order D-Girl (CC)	Law & Order Turnaround	Law & Order Showtime	Law & Order Mad Dog (CC)	Law & Order (CC)					
WGN	54	Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	♣ Get Smart ★★ ('08, Comedy) Anne Hathaway, Steve Carell. (CC)	♣ Get Smart ★★ ('08) (CC)						
HBO	444	5:00 ♣ Brooklyn (CC)	♣ Steve Jobs ('15) Michael Fassbender. (CC)	(S) Real Sports (N) (CC)	:05 Three Days of Terror						
MAX	425	Movie	:50 ♣ Live Free or Die Hard ★★ ('07) Bruce Willis. (CC)	♣ Hostage ★★ ('05) Kevin Pollak, Bruce Willis. (CC)							
SHO	474	♣ Why Did I Get Married? ★★ ('07) Tyler Perry. (CC)	(S) Inside the NFL (N)	(S) F.State	(S) F.State	(S) Inside the NFL (CC)					
STARZ	410	5:35 Power	:35 ♣ True Lies ★★ ('94) Jamie Lee Curtis. (CC)	Power (CC)	♣ Vertical Limit ★★						
STZ ENC	400	:15 ♣ Wild Hogs ★★ ('07) John Travolta. (CC)	Ash vs. Evil	Blunt Talk	:05 ♣ Office Space ★★ ('99) (CC)	:35 Ash/Evil					
SUND	398	4:45 ♣ Kickboxer ★★	♣ Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome ★★ ('85) Mel Gibson. (CC)	♣ Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome ★★							
TMC	488	4:30 ♣ 1492: Conquest...	♣ Last Knights ('15) Morgan Freeman, Clive Owen. (CC)	♣ Lara Croft: Tomb Raider ★★ (CC)	Movie						

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

Someone once made the point to me that it isn't the disasters one experiences at the table that lead to the partnership break-ups; it is the postmortems. Today's deal from a teams game produced an example of precisely how not to gain friends and influence people.

In one room, against four spades, West led the heart queen. When there is a singleton in dummy, many use third hand's card as suit preference rather than length-showing or attitude, though this is very much a matter for partnership agreement. When East contributed the nine under the queen, West continued with a low diamond. East rose with the ace and played back the two. Declarer played low, the king won, and it was all over for the defense.

In the other room, East thought more deeply and realized that the first diamond lead must come from the East hand. So East overtook his partner's heart queen at trick one and returned the diamond jack — surrounding North's 10. It should not have mattered what South did; he was well on his way to losing three diamond tricks. How-

NORTH
 ♠ K 10 8 7
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 10 6 5
 ♣ A K Q 10 8

WEST
 ♠ 3 2
 ♥ Q J 10 2
 ♦ K 7 3
 ♣ 6 4 3 2

EAST
 ♠ 5 4
 ♥ A K 9 8 6
 ♦ A J 9 2
 ♣ 7 5

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J 9 6
 ♥ 7 5 3
 ♦ Q 8 4
 ♣ J 9

Vulnerable: East-West
 Dealer: East

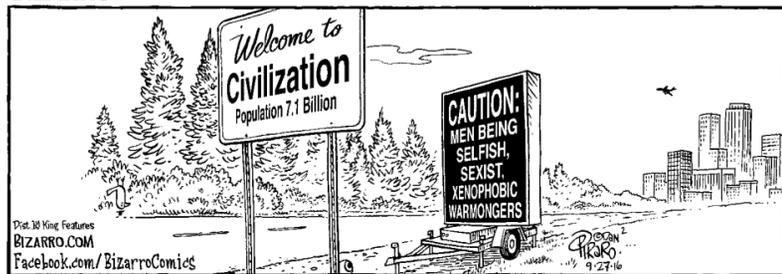
The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ 2 ♥ 4 ♠ 1 ♥
 All pass

Opening Lead: Heart queen
 ever, when East returned the jack, South covered with the queen without a care in the world. West put on the king, and then ... switched to a club.

When they scored up the

HOROSCOPES, ADVICE & COMICS

BIZARRO



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



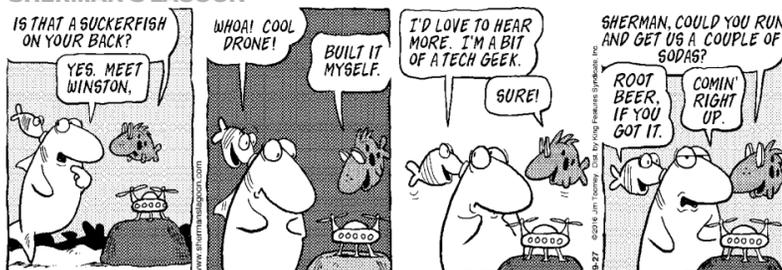
BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!



GARFIELD



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:

I've been with my boyfriend, "Jake," for two years. We are both 32. Since the beginning, his sister, "Michelle" (who is 26), has never liked me. Jake admits there's no reason for it. He thinks she's just looking out for him because he's had bad relationships in the past.

Michelle makes me very uncomfortable during family events by making rude comments, and she makes a point of excluding me from any event she is hosting. She has told people that I "shoved her" and accuses me of refusing to let her talk to her brother. Neither is true.

I have asked Jake to ask his sister to apologize and make amends, but he insists she'll do it when "hell freezes over." He thinks I should try to make amends even though I have never done anything wrong.

I'm at a loss. I don't think I should apologize for something I've never done. Abby, she has belittled me in any encounter we've had. The rest of the family shrugs and says, "That's just the way she is." Michelle has never



ABBY

liked any of Jake's girlfriends, so this seems to be a pattern for her. I'm afraid it will eventually lead to the end of Jake's and my relationship.

I love him very much, and I wish he could see my side on this. Could you please give me some advice, Abby?

Not My Fault

Dear Not My Fault: Michelle's fixation on her brother isn't normal. That Jake has been willing to tolerate it and not warn her to knock it off means that as long as you are with him, you will be subjected to her mistreatment. You may love Jake, but as long as he is under the thumb of his jealous and possessive sister, you will continue to be abused and maligned. My advice is to cut your losses.

Dear Abby:

I am an African-American woman who was in a relationship with a Hispanic man. I am now a single parent of a beautiful 6-month-old son who is

my pride and joy. My biracial son, who looks exactly like me, is very fair-skinned. My problem is, any time I leave the house with him, strangers feel the need to ask me rude questions. I have been asked about my child's father's ethnicity, and asked if I was babysitting someone else's child. I'm left flabbergasted and speechless. What should I say the next time a stranger asks about my son's race, which is none of their business?

Colorblind in Texas

Dear Colorblind: It's normal for people to be curious. If I were you, I wouldn't tell them it's none of their business because if you do, you will come across as angry and defensive. When your son is older, it may make him wonder if there is something wrong with his appearance. A better way to handle it would be to matter-of-factly just tell the truth and move on.

Dear Abby.com
Dear Abby
P.O. Box 69440
Los Angeles, CA 90069
Universal Press Syndicate

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Dear Heloise:

I bought a big desk (un-assembled) that was delivered in a box with bags of multiple-size screws, etc. — but no instructions. There was nothing on the website, so I contacted the company, which emailed the instructions — all 13 pages! It turned out great, but some instruc-



HELOISE

tions were counterintuitive, so it's a good thing I got them!

This is an example of technology being a great resource. Emailing

instructions when you cannot find them otherwise or they are not included with a product is so fast and easy.

Heloise
Heloise@heloise.com
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279
King Features Syndicate

JACQUELINE BIGAR

Your Horoscope for Tuesday, September 27

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★ Focus on making what you want happen. For many of you, this activity surrounds your work. You have a strong desire to change the status quo.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★ Keep reaching out for more information. Someone could go out of his or her way to give you as much information as he or she can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★ You drive a hard bargain more often than you realize. An associate or loved one could feel as if you are pushing him or her too hard. Do not lose sight of your long-term goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★ You could be driven to change direction, especially as a close associate pushes you to agree with him or her. You know what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★ You'll wake up feeling ready to take on nearly any project or responsibility. You might feel as if you are Superman or Superwoman for the day!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★ You could be suppressing some feelings, but don't. Let others know what you are thinking after you hear where they are coming from.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★ You might want to see both sides of an argument more clearly. You could be in a situation where you want to have a conversation, whereas the other party would prefer to create uproar.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★ You might want to do a better job of listening. You'll need to express your feelings too, even if the other party would prefer that you didn't. Note how volatile the situation could become.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ You might not be sure what someone is hinting at, as this person sees what is occurring in an entirely different light. Try to gain a new perspective; discussions will be much easier from that point on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★ You could see someone in a new light. Lie low for now, and listen to others argue. Should you decide to put an end to the discussion, you will be able to. By listening, you will learn a lot about others and where they are coming from.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★ You might consider keeping a journal to figure out why you feel out of sorts so often. You'll wonder what you could do to make yourself more relaxed. You'll discover how much easier it is to express your feelings once you have written them down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★ You might decide that a partner or close associate needs more time. This person could be pushing hard to achieve more of what he or she wants. You will need to establish stronger boundaries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY (Sept. 27) This year you become much more independent. You are fiery and full of enthusiasm. People rarely will say "no" to you. Do your best not to allow others to be intimidated by you, and support them in expressing their views.

King Features Syndicate

BLONDIE



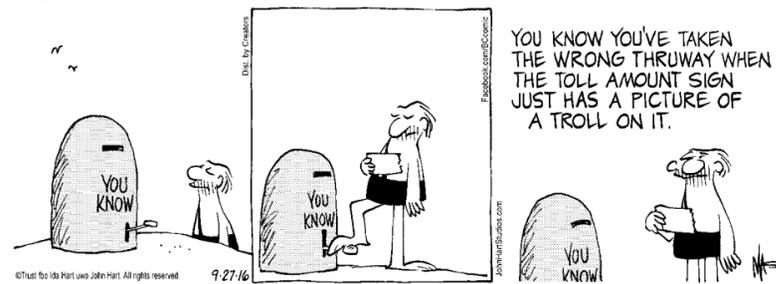
BEETLE BAILEY



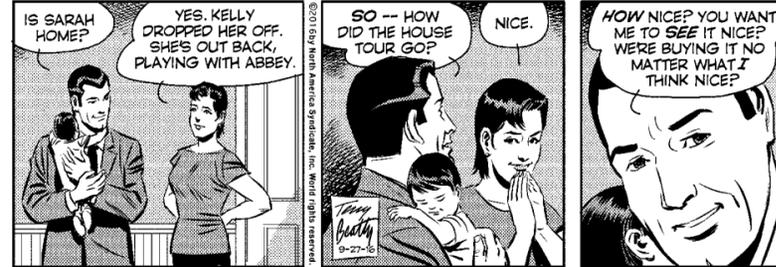
CURTIS



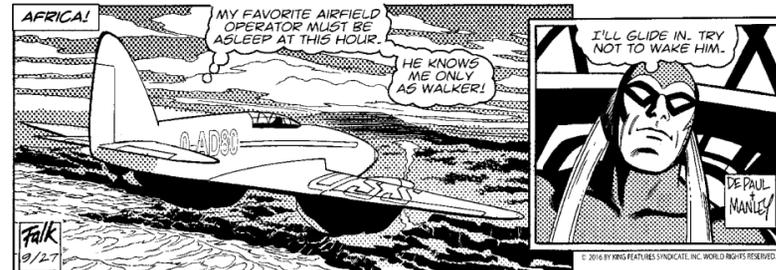
B.C.



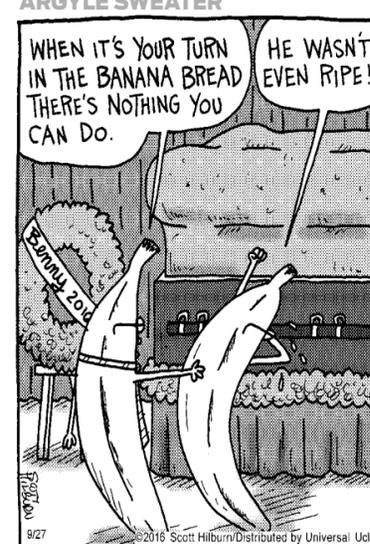
REX MORGAN, M.D.



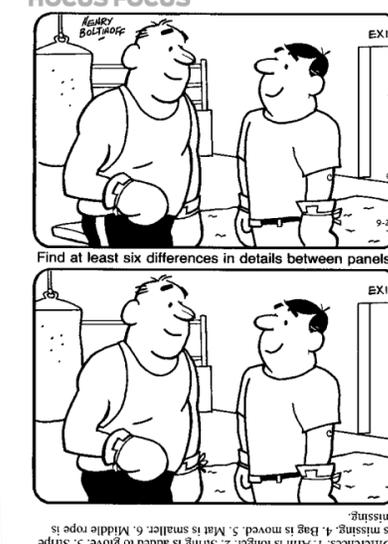
PHANTOM



ARGYLE SWEATER



HOCUS FOCUS



Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. String is added to glove. 3. Stripe is missing. 4. Bag is moved. 5. Hat is smaller. 6. Middle rope is

COMICS

FAMILY CIRCUS



9-27
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"When I buy a house, I'm gonna make sure it has nice WIDE windowsills."
By Charles JEFF KEANE

ZIGGY

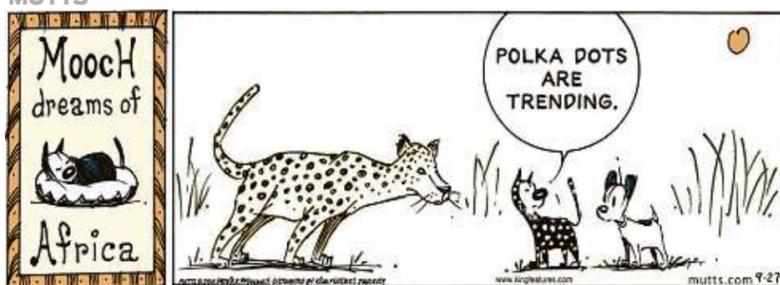


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ZITS



MUTTS



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



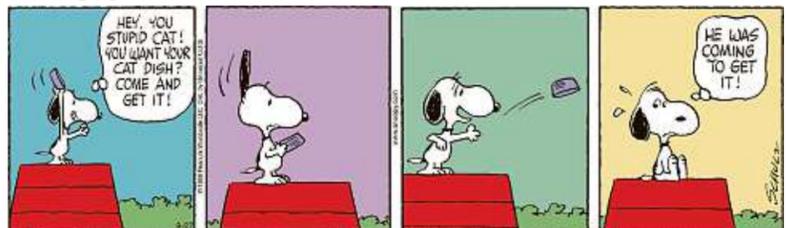
DUSTIN



BABY BLUES



PEANUTS



LUANN



HEART OF THE CITY



HI & LOIS



BALDO



RED & ROVER



SALLY FORTH



DILBERT



GET FUZZY



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



WUMO



CRANKSHAFT



FUNKY WINKERBEAN



FMINUS

