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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017



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Rojo trial expected to begin today

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

The trial of a former Big Spring Police detective indicted on multiple sex charges was expected to get underway this morning in the 118th District Court.



Rojo in the 118th District Court.

Jury selection was held Monday in the case of Joel Derek Rojo, who has been indicted in three cases including indecency with a child. Additional indictments were produced from the grand jury in Octo-

ber 2016. Mike Henry of KBYG reports that before jury selection began Monday, the defense requested a change of venue. The motion was denied.

Rojo was arrested and first indicted in April 2016. The arrest came after an investigation that lasted several months by the Texas Rangers. A lawsuit has been filed by a family member of one of Rojo's alleged victims, a minor child, against the city of Big Spring and Rojo. The plaintiff is requesting monetary damages of more than \$100,000, the court records stated, for causing the minor mental anguish and physical pain along with mental anguish of her family.

Stylists give cuts for kids



HERALD photo/Robert Barlow
 Employees at Hippy Chic Salon pose with Michelle Rodriguez (far right) of the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care before their upcoming haircutting fundraiser on Sunday. Hippy Chic stylists will be donating all of the proceeds from haircuts given on Sunday to local charity program Food 2 Kids. Pictured from left to right: Liz Ward, stylist; Mique Yarbar, owner; Devine Martine, nail tech, and Rodriguez -who volunteers at Food 2 Kids.

Craft market headed to downtown Big Spring

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

Another month means another Artwalk for downtown Big Spring organized by the Desert Flower Art Bar.

August 5, the first Saturday of the month, downtown Big Spring will be lined with vendors selling everything ranging from crafts to food, all to help promote arts in the county.

"It's going to be blast and be a lot of fun for everyone," said Jeremiah Peters, manager for the Desert Flower Art Bar. "Its going to at 9 a.m., and this time we have over 30 vendors who plan on participating."

Peters went on to say that he had spoken with some people who organize the Old Sorehead Trade Days in Stanton and was able to get some of the vendors from there involved in this event as well.

"The last one we did, a lot of the artists were on vacation," said Peters. "Thats why were trying to bring in a lot of different people. We're just trying to make this more successful every time."



See **MARKET**, Page 3

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

A group of local stylists and salon employees have teamed up and will be offering haircuts this weekend with all the proceeds going to help a local charity program.

Food 2 Kids will be getting a boost this Sunday when Hippy Chic Salon and Boutique hosts an event that offers ten dollar haircut and wash packages for teachers and students.

"We are doing a back to school 'Cut-a-thon' event for any kids or teachers going back to school. Elementary, high school, college, any students or teachers are all welcome,"



HERALD photo/Robert Barlow

Two backpacks full of school supplies will be given away this Sunday during an event held by the Hippy Chic Salon. Stylists will be volunteering their time at the salon and donating all the proceeds from the haircuts to a local charity program called Food 2 Kids. The salon is also offering a discounted ten dollar haircut to all students and teachers as long as they bring their school IDs.

said Devine Martin, a nail tech at Hippy Chic who is helping to organize the event. "We did it a couple years ago and it was great. It was a very good turnout."

Several employees along with stylists from Hippy Chic as well as some other local salons have come together to offer haircuts to help raise money for the cause.

"So by offering these haircuts, the ladies come in and volunteer their time," said Mique Yarbar, owner of the Hippy Chic Salon. "And they're offering the haircuts at an affordable price and using all of the money from the event to

See **CHARITY**, Page 3

Defiance that made Arizona sheriff popular led to downfall

By **JACQUES BILLEAUD**
 Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The political defiance that made Joe Arpaio popular and seemingly untouchable as metro Phoenix's sheriff of 24 years ultimately led to

his downfall as he was convicted of a crime for ignoring a U.S. court order to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants.

The TV interviews and news releases that the media-savvy lawmaker used over the

years to promote his immigration crackdowns came back to bite him. The judge who found him guilty of misdemeanor contempt of court cited comments Arpaio made about keeping up the patrols, even though he knew

he was not allowed.

"Not only did defendant abdicate responsibility, he announced to the world and to his subordinates that he was going to continue business as usual no matter who said

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3



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'I am transgender': A US soldier shares personal journey



AP photo

In this July 29, 2017 photo transgender U.S. army captain Jennifer Sims lifts her uniform during an interview with The Associated Press in Beratzhausen near Regensburg, Germany.

By **JULIE WATSON** and **CHRISTOPH NOELTING**

Associated Press
BERATZHAUSEN, Germany (AP) — The U.S. Army soldier took a deep breath before hitting the button that sent the email to more than 200 fellow troops. "All considered, I am, and have been, traversing what is essentially a personal matter, but is something I must address publicly," the email stated. "I am transgender."

The April 13 email officially ended the secret that burned inside Capt. Jennifer Sims, who was known as Jonathan Sims. But the feeling of relief swiftly turned to unease last week after President Donald Trump tweeted that transgender people were no longer welcome in the U.S. military.

"I read the tweets while I was at work and you know it was devastating because I still have work to do and here I am reading basically what sounds like the president of the United States — who is the commander in chief, he is the ultimate boss of the military — telling me and anybody else that is transgender that we are fired," Sims said.

Pentagon officials say the policy will remain unchanged without official White House guidance. But for Sims, the uncertainty has been upsetting.

"So in the initial moments after the tweet, I saw myself forced into the state that I was in before I started transitioning — a state of depression, exhaustion and inability to enjoy things," said Sims, 28, who spoke to The Associated Press on her own behalf and not on that of the Army.

The reversal of the Obama administration policy that allows trans-

gender people to serve openly and receive military medical coverage for transitioning from one gender to another also could affect her physically.

Sims has been on hormone therapy by her military doctor since November. If she interrupts the treatment, her body will revert to being male.

"It would be very difficult to have to go through that," said Sims, who is based at Hohenfels, a U.S. Army garrison in the German state of Bavaria.

Growing up in Minnesota and Florida, Sims, a high school football player, never felt comfortable being male. The son and grandson of military veterans quietly came to terms with identifying as a woman a year after joining the Army R.O.T.C., but outwardly kept it a secret "because I wanted to continue serving," Sims said.

Sims stopped socializing, feeling drained over worries about being masculine enough, and instead focused on work, serving in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Germany. Her sister, Natasha Sims, 24, said she saw "emptiness" in her eyes.

After the Defense Department announced in 2015 that it was considering allowing transgender troops to serve openly, Sims told Natasha and their parents. When the policy became official in June 2016, Sims said she felt the meaning of the word freedom personally after spending years fighting for it for her country.

"It was the best day of my life really," Sims said.

Sims made an appointment with the behavioral health office, was given a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and started hormone therapy in November.

Five months later, she decided to tell fellow troops.

She first told her two closest colleagues, Capt. Brandon Shorter and another infantry officer.

They were at a loss for words.

After Shorter got home, allowing it to sink in, he texted Sims about how that was brave.

"Infantry officers are best described as brutish. So Capt. Sims pulled me and another brute aside face to face. That took a lot of courage and that's the first thing that went through my mind, mixed in with surprise," Shorter said.

Sims then announced the "personal change" to more than 200 other troops.

It was not an emotional email. The seasoned military officer wrote how a lifetime of discomfort had peaked three years ago. Sims meticulously explained gender dysphoria, announced she was Capt. Jennifer Sims, not Jonathan, and outlined the steps she would take to fully transition to a woman.

"Officially in DEERS, my gender will remain male until my medical transition is complete, which means I will still comport to male standards and use male facilities," she wrote, referring to the acronym for the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, a kind of HR database for U.S. military personnel.

"While it is my preference for people to refer to me with female pronouns, if you are uncomfortable with this, there is no requirement to do so, I only respectfully request you refer to me by my proper name, Captain Sims," the email stated.

Sims assured her unit the change "if anything, will only make me more productive and capable, as I no longer have to



AP photo

In this July 29, 2017 photo transgender U.S. Army captain Jennifer Sims poses at the main gate of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center after an interview with The Associated Press in Hohenfels near Regensburg, Germany.

live two personas."

Five soldiers sent emails back with words of encouragement. Most didn't respond. For a few days, there were murmurs of "hey did you see the email?"

The force had just undergone training explaining what was expected in regards to transgender soldiers.

Sims is the first transgender person Shorter has known.

The unit is basically full of "young men wanting to chew on nails and prove how tough they are and rightly so since they are infantry men," Shorter said. There are only about eight women among the 500 soldiers in the battalion.

He had a lot of questions "being naturally

curious and wanting to be a good friend because we didn't really have a personal relationship. He's, excuse me, she's — see I still slip up sometimes — a single captain, I'm married with two daughters. Our lives are different."

Shorter, 32, of Anson, Michigan, describes himself as conservative. He said he struggles with his beliefs about what's appropriate. An assistant operations officer for the battalion, Shorter is concerned about how Sims — whom he considers to be the best signal officer he's seen in the Army — cannot deploy while undergoing medical procedures.

But Shorter, speaking on his own behalf and

not that of the Army, said he would be "incredibly disappointed" if Sims were kicked out.

After Trump's tweet, a few soldiers, including Shorter, asked Sims how she was doing. She didn't know what to say.

Her pills will run out in three months. Doctors recommend 12 months of hormone therapy before surgery. The cost of her surgery can run close to \$50,000, which Sims was expecting the military would help cover.

Army officials told her nothing will change without official guidance.

"I had waited so long just to be able to tell the world this is who I am," Sims said.

2017 Property Tax Rates in Howard County Junior College District

This notice concerns the 2017 property tax rates for Howard County Junior College District. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$7,574,377
Last year's debt taxes	\$1,457,380
Last year's total taxes	\$9,031,757
Last year's tax base	\$2,878,207,318
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.313798/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$8,989,314
÷ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$2,920,628,536
= This year's effective tax rate (Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)	\$0.307786/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$7,537,781
÷ This year's adjusted tax base	\$2,920,628,536
= This year's effective operating rate	\$0.258088/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.278735/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0.048454/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	\$0.327189/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Howard County Junior College District adopts a 2017 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.307786 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2016 taxes by \$30,756.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Unencumbered M&O Funds	0

Schedule B - 2017 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2016	985,000	441,300	400	1,426,700

Total required for 2017 debt service	\$1,426,700
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A	\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources	\$0
- Excess collections last year	\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2017	\$1,426,700
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2017	\$0
= Total debt levy	\$1,426,700

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 315 S. Main (County Annex Building).

Name of person preparing this notice: Tiffany A. Sayles
Title: Tax Assessor / Collector
Date Prepared: 07/28/2017

A state-by-state look at juvenile life without parole

By The Associated Press

States are responding to U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have found mandatory life-without-parole sentences unconstitutional for juveniles except for the rare homicide offender incapable of rehabilitation. After the latest ruling in January 2016 said those serving such terms must have a chance to argue for release one day, dozens of inmates have won new sentences — and some, freedom — while others wait or fight to have their sentences reviewed.

Through court and legislative action, states also are revisiting laws related to the punishment of juvenile offenders in myriad ways. The Associated Press reviewed correctional data and interviewed lawmakers, parole officials and advocates across the U.S. Here's a look at what's happening from state to state:

ALABAMA:

Inmates: At least 72 inmates were inmates sentenced to life without parole for murders committed as



AP photo

This Wednesday, June 21, 2017 photo shows barbed wire surrounding the prison that holds Jason Robinson, 39, in Gatesville, Texas. Robinson was convicted of murder at 16 and sentenced to automatic life with the possibility of parole. States are responding to U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have found mandatory life-without-parole sentences unconstitutional for juveniles except for the rare homicide offender incapable of rehabilitation. After the latest ruling in January 2016 said those serving such terms must have a chance to argue for release one day, dozens of inmates have won new sentences — and some, freedom — while others wait or fight to have their sentences reviewed.

LOOK

Continued from Page 5

juveniles, including Evan Miller, one of two teens whose murder convictions resulted in the landmark 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said mandatory life without parole is unconstitutional for minors convicted of homicide.

Resentenced or Released: At least 20 inmates have been resentenced to parole-eligible sentences. One has gone before the parole board, but was denied release. A judge presided over a new sentencing hearing for Miller in March. A decision is pending.

The Law: Lawmakers in 2016 passed a measure that allows juveniles convicted of capital murder life with the possibility of parole after 30 years, but life without parole remains an option.

ARIZONA

Inmates: Thirty-four serving life without parole for murders committed as teens. The state's two most populous counties, Maricopa and Pima, account for 85 percent of these inmates.

Resentenced or Released: One so far. Jack David Jewitt was resentenced in June and is eligible for parole in 2021, after 28 years. He was 14 when he and a then-20-year-old accomplice carjacked and fatally shot a woman. Jewitt's accomplice committed the murder. A handful of other inmates have petitioned for new sentences.

The Law: Life without parole for juveniles has always been discretionary in Arizona. Nevertheless, prosecutors are reviewing juvenile lifer cases. Lawyers predict lower-court judges will hold resentencing hearings to determine who

should get a new term. A bill to eliminate natural life altogether for juveniles failed this year.

ARKANSAS

Inmates: The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth estimates about 114 juvenile lifers are in state prisons, including those serving mandatory and discretionary sentences. State officials said about 41 former teen offenders are serving mandatory life without parole as of July.

Resentenced or Released: At least 16 resentenced; 11 of those released. Among them is Kuntrell Jackson, another plaintiff in the 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision on life without parole for juveniles. In 1999, Jackson was 14 when he joined in an attempted robbery during which a video store clerk was killed. Jackson was not the shooter. He was released on parole in February.

The Law: A state law that took effect in March banned life without parole for juvenile offenders and makes those already serving the sentence eligible for release after 25 years for first-degree murder or 30 years for capital murder. The parole board had been reviewing cases but put that on hold recently after one county circuit judge found that fixed terms prevent individualized sentencing.

CALIFORNIA

Inmates: Estimates vary between advocacy groups and state officials. Anywhere from 268 to 283.

Resentenced or Released: Corrections officials could not say how many have been resentenced, but Human Rights Watch estimates about 50 juvenile lifers have had their sentences reduced and seven

have been released.

The Law: A 2012 state law allows those sentenced to life without parole as juveniles to petition for resentencing. A judge can grant a hearing, and has the discretion to lower the penalty to 25-to-life. But the state Supreme Court has said the law is not enough to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions because it does not guarantee a parole hearing. A bill is pending in the Legislature that would make youthful offenders eligible for parole during their 25th year of incarceration.

COLORADO

Inmates: Colorado ended life-without-parole sentences for juvenile offenders in 2006. But the state had 48 offenders sentenced between 1990 and 2006, when the sentence was an option.

Resentenced or Released: At least four resentenced; one released. The Department of Corrections said several others are potentially coming up for resentencing soon.

The Law: Lawmakers in 2016 ordered corrections officials to create a program for offenders sentenced to life terms as juveniles, with or without parole. Those inmates could join the program after serving 20 years or 25 years if convicted of first-degree murder. Upon completion, offenders could be eligible to apply to the parole board; release is up to the governor. The Colorado Supreme Court ruled in May that the U.S. Supreme Court decisions do not prohibit lengthy sentences for teen offenders who commit multiple crimes.

KANSAS

Inmates: None. **The Law:** Offenders under 18 are prohibited

from receiving life without parole.

KENTUCKY

Inmates: Two serving life-without-parole sentences for murders they committed as teens. Two others argue they effectively have life without parole because the parole board denied their release and won't give them another hearing.

Resentenced or Released: All of the inmates have filed legal challenges asking to be made eligible for parole. A spokeswoman for the state attorney general's office said the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year does not apply to any of the defendants.

The Law: The state Supreme Court banned life without parole for juveniles charged with homicide in 2008.

LOUISIANA

Inmates: 303 sentenced to mandatory life without parole for crimes committed as juveniles, according to the state Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Resentenced or Released: The agency does not track resentencings. But over the last year, at least 67 inmates have been resentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole, according to the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights. Since the start of 2016, four juvenile life inmates have been released, including one as the result of a commutation by the governor, according to Keith Nordyke, a lawyer with the Louisiana Parole Project. A small number of juvenile lifers have been resentenced to life without parole.

The Law: The case of Louisiana inmate Henry Montgomery was at the center of the Supreme Court's 2016 ruling that gave juvenile lifers a chance at release. Montgomery, who killed a sheriff's deputy in 1963 when he was 17, was resentenced in June to life with parole and is awaiting a review. Legislation that takes effect in August makes juvenile lifers eligible for parole after serving 25 years, although prosecutors can still petition judges for no-parole sentences.

MAINE

Inmates: None. **The Law:** A juvenile tried as an adult can receive a life sentence. Maine eliminated parole more than 40 years ago, so all life sentences are imposed without the possibility of release. But the attorney general's office says it's not aware of any cases

where a juvenile has been bound over and sentenced to life.

NEW MEXICO

Inmates: None, although the state Supreme Court is reviewing the sentence of 36-year-old Joel Ira, who was convicted on multiple counts of rape as a teen and isn't eligible for parole until at least age 62. He is petitioning for release, with his lawyer arguing that sentence could be considered a de facto life without parole term. State records show Ira is among roughly 100 inmates in New Mexico sentenced to 20 years or more for crimes committed as juveniles.

The Law: Judges have broad authority to decide whether to sentence youth convicted of serious crimes as juveniles or adults. This means juveniles could theoretically receive a sentence of life without parole for first-degree murder with aggravating factors, but such sentences are exceedingly rare in the state even for adults. Judges can also hand down multiple lengthy prison terms and order them to be served consecutively, for major crimes, which is how the judge ruled in Ira's case two decades ago.

OKLAHOMA

Inmates: At least 41 inmates serving life without parole for crimes committed while they were juveniles, according to the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System.

Resentenced or Released: None, though two cases have been remanded to district court for resentencing. There is no specific review process to deal with these cases. In Oklahoma County, the state's largest, a handful of resentencing motions have been filed. Prosecutor Scott Rowland said the office would address each on a case-by-case basis.

The Law: The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals spelled out new sentencing guidelines last year when it tossed the life-without-parole sentence of Chancey Luna, who was 16 when he fatally shot Christopher Lane, a college baseball player from Australia. The court developed new instructions for juries to consider before imposing a no-parole sentence on minors, and said the sentence is prohibited unless "you find beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is irreparably corrupt and permanently incorrigible."

TEXAS

Inmates: 12 serving mandatory life-without-parole sentences for crimes committed as juveniles.

Resentenced or Released: None of the 12. Lawmakers in 2009 passed legislation banning life without parole for offenders 16 and younger and then, four years later, prohibited the sentence for 17-year-olds as well — instead mandating a sentence of life with the opportunity for parole after 40 years. A spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice said any juvenile offender whose case was still being tried or was in the appeals process when the changes passed was resentenced. Twenty-three inmates now have life with parole at 40 years after those changes and resentencing appeals. Because the changes were not applied retroactively, the remaining 12 no-parole inmates must ask for new punishment hearings.

The Law: A bill that would have cut in half the amount of time served before juvenile offenders are eligible for parole died this year in the state Legislature. Advocates plan to revive it next session. The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition said more than 2,100 juvenile inmates would have qualified for parole sooner. The law would also have required the Board of Pardons and Paroles to consider the "growth and maturity" of a youthful offender.

FEDERAL PRISONS

Inmates: 38 sentenced as juveniles to life without parole, according to the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth. That includes those whose sentences were mandated by law, and others who got that term at a judge's discretion. The Federal Bureau of Prisons says it's aware of only 20 such inmates.

Resentenced or Released: The Campaign says 23 federal juvenile lifers have been resentenced. Court briefs filed by federal officials identify 26 juvenile life inmates by name, at least 18 who have been resentenced. Two were resentenced to life without parole; others received shorter terms. One has been released.

The Law: The Justice Department in a 2015 brief supported resentencing of juvenile lifers, but some federal prosecutors continue to seek life without parole for some offenders getting new hearings.

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Marisnick's 2 homers, 5 RBIs power Astros past Rays 14-7

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Houston's lineup is so powerful that even the Astros' No. 9 hitter Jake Marisnick has been dangerous at the plate this season.

He proved that once again on Monday night, finishing with three hits, including two homers, and a career-high five RBIs and the Astros coasted to a 14-7 win over the Tampa Bay Rays.

"It's nice to have that kind of production at the bottom," manager A.J. Hinch said. "It really makes things interesting when we roll to the top again no matter who we put at the top. They've benefited from some guys at the bottom doing their part."

The Rays cut the lead to one after a two-run homer by Corey Dickerson in the third inning

before an RBI single by Tyler White made it 4-2 with two outs in the bottom of the inning.

Marisnick's first shot — a three-run homer which bounced off the wall above the seats in left field — came next to push the lead to 7-2.

Two pitches later Derek Fisher, who finished a triple shy of the cycle, connected off Alex Cobb (9-7) on a home run to right field to make it 8-2.

The Astros were up 10-2 in the fifth inning when Marisnick launched a solo shot to left field for his second career multi-homer game.

"You go 1-9 with us and we can do it and we've got guys on the bench that can do it, too," Marisnick said. "It's just a complete team, a complete team."

Houston starter Charlie Morton (9-4) allowed

See **ASTROS**, Page 13



Houston Astros' Jake Marisnick is doused with water after hitting a solo home run off Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Chase Whitley during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 31, 2017, in Houston.

AP photo

After Yu: Rangers lose 6-4 to Mariners after dealing ace



AP photo

Texas Rangers' Alex Claudio hunches over at the waist after being charged with a balk in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners on Monday, July 31, 2017, in Arlington, Texas. The balk was Claudio's second of the game in the 6-4 Mariners win.

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers seemed a bit wiped out after a few emotional days, both good and bad.

Hours after ace pitcher Yu Darvish was traded, and a day after Adrian Beltre's 3,000th career hit, the Rangers blew a big early lead in a sloppy 6-4 loss to the Seattle Mariners on Monday night.

"Obviously the magnitude yesterday, the high emotion with the 3,000 hits and then today with the trades," manager Jeff Banister said. "I don't like to use those as any type of excuse, but they are human beings, and there are different emotions. ... However, we still feel like these guys continue to battle."

After jumping ahead 4-0 the first two innings against Felix Hernandez, the Rangers couldn't overcome four errors, two balks and 13 strikeouts against the four Seattle pitchers.

Robinson Cano had the tiebreaking two-run single in the ninth, lining a ball over the head of right fielder Shin-Soo Choo. Cano was thrown out trying to stretch the head into a double, a play that came right after pitching coach Doug Brocail was ejected for arguing a balk called against Alex Claudio (2-1) that put runners at second and third.

"About as rocky start as we've seen Felix have, he didn't really have a

lot," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "The story of the game is really the bullpen."

David Phelps (1-1) got all five of his outs on strikeouts before Edwin Diaz pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Rougned Odor and Carlos Gomez hit homers in the Rangers, who had five hits in the first two innings — then only one the rest of the way.

A day after becoming the first Dominican player and 31st overall in the majors with 3,000 hits, Beltre added to his total in the first with a solid single up the middle against Hernandez, his good friend. They were teammates during Beltre's five seasons in Seattle (2005-09) and are still close.

Odor had just hit his 23rd homer overall and 10th of July, a two-run homer measured at 437 feet, when Hernandez walked toward the plate and hugged Beltre before going back to the mound.

"My first thing that came to my mind was just go to home plate and congratulate him," said Hernandez, who had alerted home plate umpire Doug Eddings of his plan. "What he did last night was unbelievable."

Darvish was dealt to the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers within minutes of the non-waiver trade deadline earlier Monday for three minor league players. Texas also traded

See **TEXAS**, Page 13

Cowboys' Byron Jones eyeing interceptions in 3rd season



AP photo

In this June 14, 2017, file photo, Dallas Cowboys free safety Byron Jones catches a pass during an NFL football practice at the team's training facility in Frisco, Texas. Jones made acrobatic interceptions two straight days in training camp, one that counted and one that did not.

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

OXNARD, Calif. — Dallas safety Byron Jones caught bouncing tennis balls and tracked baseballs from the outfield of minor league batting practice during the offseason.

The goal: Improve on the one interception he has produced in two seasons since the Cowboys drafted him late in the first round in 2015 from UConn.

The immediate result: Flashy grabs on consecutive days at training camp, one that counted as an interception and one that didn't, although it essentially left the same impression despite Jones only getting one foot inbounds.

The former cornerback is intent on catching balls in the secondary, not merely batting them down after Jones tied for the team lead with 10 pass breakups last season.

"I think a lot of those times that he's broken up the pass, if he just had a more aggressive mentality, just put two hands out there and try to catch it, I think he would have had more plays," said Jeff Heath, Dallas' other starting safety with the departure of

free agents Barry Church (Jacksonville) and J.J. Wilcox (Tampa Bay).

"That's something we've talked about and he knows that. Through the first few practices this training camp, you've seen that come alive."

Two of the biggest attention-getters of the Cowboys' California camp so far involved Jones — both leaping grabs on the run in the end zone. The second was the one where he got both feet in, and even better for Jones, 2014 All-Pro Dez Bryant was Dak Prescott's intended target.

"He's really been working on his catching ability," Bryant said. "Every day when I came in in the offseason, I've seen Byron working, working, working. Just with the tennis balls, throwing them off the wall, turning around and catching them, just little stuff like that."

Jones wasn't interested in discussing the details of his offseason work. About the best he could offer was an explanation of why he spent time with the Double-A affiliate of the Texas Rangers in Frisco, where the baseball stadium is less than a mile from the Cowboys' training facility.

See **JONES**, Page 13

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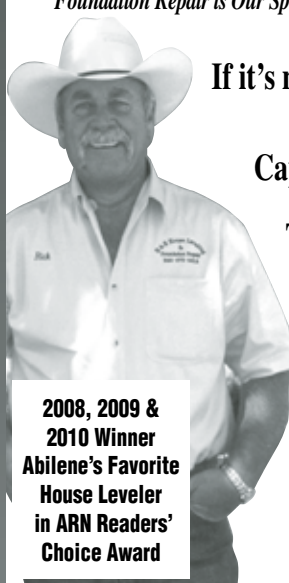
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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Uranus Retrograde Pre-show

It is impossible to achieve total control of this existence, and anyway that would be dreadfully boring. However, as Uranus readies himself for a long retrograde, many will feel driven to subtract some of the haphazardness from the equation by taking responsibility for more and doing what is necessary to turn up personal power and influence.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Avoid

the triggers of a bad mood. Limit your exposure to negativity. When you're happy, everyone around you is happy. Today you will influence many, so your happiness is kind of like a responsibility.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're impressionable. It's one of the ways you learn so quickly (though sometimes you learn the hard way). If other people in your life are telling you that someone is bad for you, listen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may change what you're doing in order to harmonize with the dominant environmental influences and forces, and that's only smart. Even so, you never completely lose your unique you-ness.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Things that look good on paper don't always play

out in real life, and things that work in real life don't often come with the hype, as hype hasn't been necessary. Word of mouth and personal referrals will serve you well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may be tempted to veer off, but dig down and find the strength and focus to stay the course. Simply put, you'll be better off tomorrow for following the plan today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is no magic formula to follow now. Logic prevails. Efforts that are correctly focused will lead to success. Repeat the same action several times -- a habit is being forged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There will be a tangled little piece of drama to sort out. Then again, perhaps this isn't yours to solve. Suspend your

judgment. Assume the innocence of others. Embrace humility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Compromise is a part of living together peaceably. However, too much negotiating hurts a relationship. In the name of respect and simplicity it may be best to do what the other person wants without making a counteroffer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Lead yourself. All sense of direction will stem from your clear, bright, compelling vision of the goal. It's worth spending time on. The right vision will help you set the strategy and execute the mission.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Listening isn't easy. To give quality focus to another is a skill that takes years to learn and decades to master, and some people

will never get it. You're good at it, and you deserve to be around people in the same league.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's all just a theory until you apply it. So go on. Decide the limits to your gamble, and then jump in and work it out. You'll either disprove the theory quickly and move on or be pleasantly rewarded.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are organized; you have a plan; and you'll stick to the plan. Because of this, you won't have too much trouble finding people who understand your deal, want to support you and will go along for the ride.

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

Newsworthy or Not?

Dear Annie: I'm a writer and photographer for a regional magazine. In my town, there's a local celebrity whom I think has gotten a big career on not-so-big talent. He gets press coverage everywhere for almost everything he does -- except in my little corner of culture writing. I have not pitched any articles about him and instead cover lesser-known people. In my mind, I'm lending credence to the those who have

actually worked hard and don't just market themselves well, but I worry that my pettiness is apparent and will limit me career-wise. Which way should I go? -- Rolling My Eyes

Dear Rolling My Eyes: If almost every other publication is covering this man, then surely no one misses him when he's not in your magazine. Still, I'd encourage you to drop your angle and consider, as objectively as possible, whether whatever he is doing is newsworthy and would be of interest to your readers. If deep down you know

the answer is yes, put aside your own feelings and feature him. If the answer really is no, then stop worrying about being perceived as petty.

By the way, these days, people with mediocre talent can exceed if they're savvy at self-promotion, and that's really not your local celebrity's fault; it's simply the times we're living in, for better or worse.

Dear Annie: There are renters who recently moved into our neighborhood. They have two children around the age of 8 who help with

chores and seem very well-mannered. Lately, a neighborhood boy around the same age has become a frequent visitor at the house and constant playmate. The boy, whom I'll call "Johnny," is well-known ... and not for good reasons. He has vandalized property, purposely walks out in front of cars, uses bad language and defies authority.

Johnny used to hang out at another house in the neighborhood but is no longer welcome there because the father decided he was "a

bad influence." I feel for Johnny. He is being raised by elderly grandparents who are in bad health and offer little oversight. However, I also wonder if I should warn the neighbor's parents about Johnny's history. What do you think? -- Concerned in Georgia

Dear Concerned: Your intentions are good, but you know what they say about good intentions. Keep your thoughts to yourself for now. Your new neighbor's children sound wonderful, and it's two well-behaved children with one not-so-well-behaved child.

They might end up influencing Johnny for the better, setting him on the straight-and-narrow. Regardless, with whom your neighbor children spend time is completely up to their parents. If their parents should come to you with questions about Johnny, then offer up your two cents.

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

Upping the percentages

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ Q 9 2
♦ A 9 6 4
♣ K 10

EAST

♠ J 6
♥ J 10 8 5 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q 8 7 2

what irregular finesse makes the contract. You eventually score four club tricks, two spades, two diamonds and a heart.

But if you lead a club to the king at trick two, instead of playing the ten, you are almost certain to finish down one.

The advantage of playing the ten from dummy is that you make four club tricks not only when the suit is divided 3-3, but also when the suit is divided 4-2 and West started with the Q-x, J-x or Q-J-x-x.

These possibilities cannot be lightly brushed aside. Thus, if you played strictly for the clubs to be divided 3-3 by cashing the K-A and continuing with a third club, you would have only a 36 percent chance of finding the suit evenly divided.

But if you play the ten from dummy at trick two, your chances improve to nearly 60 percent because of the possibility of finding West with either a doubleton honor or both honors.

In essence, the success of the contract rests on whether you make four club tricks, and leading to the ten at trick two offers by far the best chance of achieving that goal.

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — two of spades.
Assume you're in a three notrump and West leads a spade. You win East's jack with the ace, and the problem is what to do next.
Actually, there's only one correct way to proceed, and if you find it, you get home safe and sound. You lead a low club at trick two and, after West follows low, play the ten from dummy. As the cards lie, this some-

Tomorrow: An artful deception.
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sudoku

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

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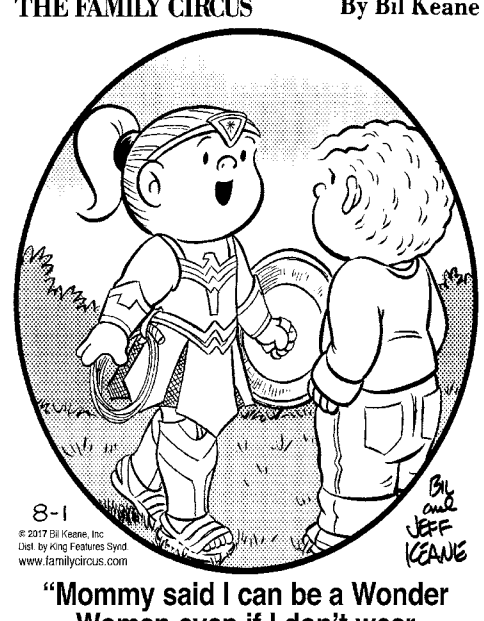
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	CBS 7	Tele	News	Shofar	Focus	Hap. Days	American	Seinfeld	Movie: Red 2, Mary-Louise Parker (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	18 Holes	Mod Fam	Wahlburg	Deadliest Catch: On Deck
6:PM	ABC	Noticiero	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticias	News	Perspect	Business	Griffith	American	Seinfeld		Basketball	NFL Live	Texans	Mod Fam	Wahlburg	
7:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cer-rado	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang				Pregame	Mod Fam	Wahlburg	
8:PM	Wheel	José de Egipto	Lethal Weapon	NCIS (DVS)	Jenni Rivera	America's Got Talent	News Behind	Amer. Experience	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang			Drone Racing	MLB Baseball: Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers.	WWE SmackDown!	Wahlburg	Deadliest Catch
9:PM	blackish	Vida E Car-rillo	The Mick	Bull	Sin Senos Si	Light of Southwest	Rare -- Cre-atures	Mama's ALF	DC's Leg-ends	Big Bang	Animal Kingdom			Drone Racing			Wahlburg	Manhunt: Unabomber
10:PM	Somewhere	Rosario Tijeras	News	NCIS: New Orleans	El Señor de los	(:01) World of Dance	Light of Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Animal Kingdom		E:60		Shooter (DVS)	Wahlburg	
11:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	CBS 7	Tele	News	Aleph	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	Law & Order	SportsCenter	Profile	Postgame Camp	Law & Order: SVU	Wahlburg	(:02) Manhunt: Unabomber
12:AM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto	Cleveland	Late Show- Colbert	Sin Senos Si	Titulares	M:25	Newsline	Rules	Wrecked	Law & Order	SportsCenter	30 for 30	Cycling	Law & Order: SVU	Wahlburg		
1:AM	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met James Corden	El Señor de los	News	Inspired	Light of Southwest	Mannix	Cheaters	Broke Girl	The Last Ship	SportsCenter	E:60	MLB Baseball: Seattle Mariners at Texas Rang-	Law Order: CI	Wahlburg	(:04) Deadliest Catch	

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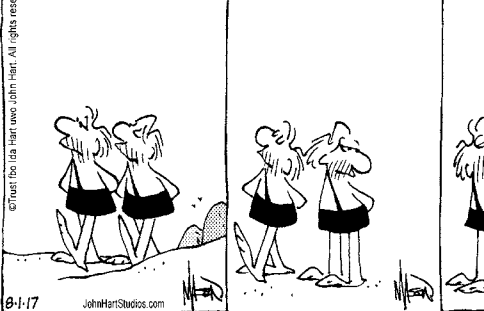
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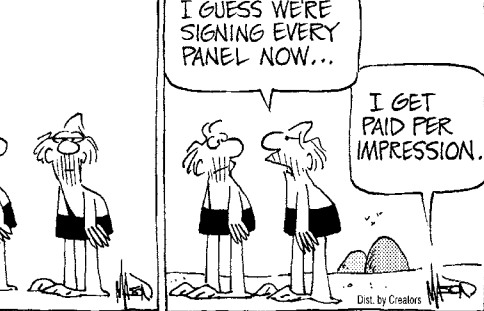
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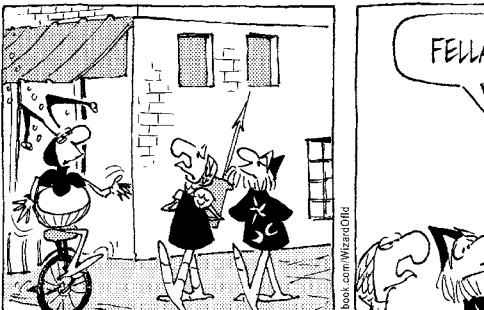
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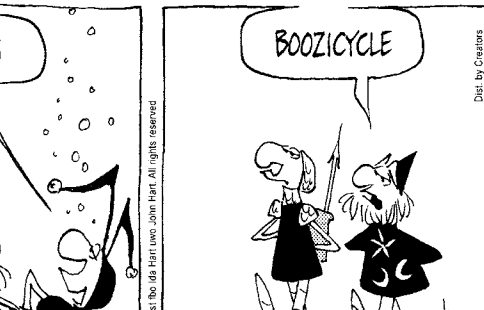
WIZARD OF ID



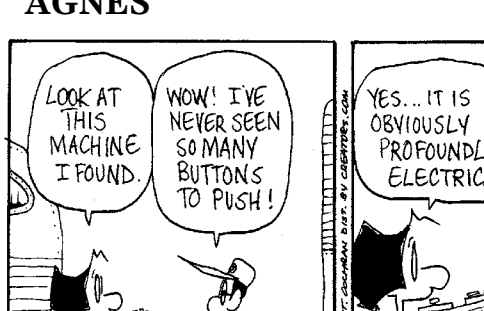
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2017. There are 152 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 1, 1957, the United States and Canada announced they had agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

On this date: In 1714, Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I.

In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.

In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1913, the Joyce Kilmer poem "Trees" was first published in "Poetry: A Magazine of Verse."

In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

In 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.

In 1947, Mickey Spillane's first novel, "I, the Jury," featuring the debut of private eye Mike Hammer, was published.

In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on an armed

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Taper off

6 One of Columbus' ships

10 Back talk

14 Lone Star State resident

15 Spiral shape

16 5,280 feet

17 Island nation near Sicily

18 Notion

19 Forget to include

20 Obscuring, as a bathroom mirror

22 Hung on to

23 Rim

24 "Because I ___" (parent's reply)

26 Wander

30 Plant with fronds

31 Creme-filled cookie

32 Practice boxing

35 White heron

39 Justification

41 Wedding vow

42 Nimble

43 Tots' batting game

44 How drive-thru orders are made

46 ___ the air (uncertain)

47 Minuscule amount

49 Truthful

51 Draw back in fear

54 Honolulu's island

56 Install, as curtains

57 Failing spectacularly

63 Eden resident

64 Bart Simpson's sister

65 Hex

66 One of Columbus' ships

67 Change for a \$5 bill

68 Snaky letters

69 ___ the line (obeyed)

70 Loch of a Scottish "monster"

71 Taking little time

DOWN

1 24-hr. cash dispensers

2 Defeated

3 Wheel rod

4 "Toodle-oo!"

5 Glossy paint

6 Cupcake topping

7 Sidestep

8 In ___ of (instead of)

9 Go by, as time

10 Indisputable evidence

11 Pointed at a target

12 Minor mistakes

13 Brief brawl

21 "Beware the ___ of March"

25 Region

26 Gen. ___ E. Lee

27 Typical Saudi

28 Southwestern tableland

29 Furious

30 Toad relative

33 Bread with a pocket

34 Big fuss

36 Ready for harvesting

37 Yale students

38 Camper's shelter

40 Plod along

45 Distracted greeting

48 Cookware coating

50 Fractions of a pound

51 Repeated slogan

52 AM/FM device

53 Nonsensical

54 Springs in the desert

55 Accumulate

58 Bit of dialogue

59 Spew forth

60 Approximately

61 ___-friendly software

62 Exam

Answer to previous puzzle

LAND	RABBI	SWAM
ICER	ELLEN	TALE
PLEA	DIANA	ATIT
SURFBOARD	STEVE	TENSE
SOURED	RENEW	IGO
CLANS	DIET	SNOW
LONG	HANDS	LEGAL
ADD	IRKS	ROASTS
BRINE	ERECT	BEACHBALL
FLUENT	MARGE	ERIE
LAKES	PRIED	LIES
ASKS	GEESE	TAINS
ROTS		

TEXAS

Continued from Page 7

reliever Jeremy Jeffress back to Milwaukee for a Double-A pitcher, and had sent catcher Johnathan Lucroy to Colorado after Sunday's game for a player to be named.

After three trades the previous week, the Mariners made no addition deals before the deadline.

Hamels struck out seven and walked one over six innings. Hernandez struck out five, walked three and hit two batters in 5 1/3 innings.

Seattle tied the game at 4-all with an unearned run in the sixth. Guillermo Heredia reached on a two-out error by Beltre and scored on a triple by Leonys Martin.

It was the third straight game that Beltre had a throwing error. He had gone 62 consecutive games without an error before that, a franchise record and career best for the five-time Gold Glove winner.

SHORT HOPS

Beltre's 3,001 hits put him 30th all-time, breaking a tie with Roberto Clemente at 3,000. ... Odor homered in three consecutive plate appearances, having gone deep in his last two at-bats Sunday. The last Rangers player with at least 10 homers in a month was Beltre, who hit 11 in September 2012.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: Martin, a .145 hitter, was recalled from Triple-A after RF Mitch Haniger got hit in the face by a fastball on Saturday. Haniger is expected to be out about two weeks.

Rangers: RHP Tyson Ross made a rehab start for Double-A Frisco, a week after going on the 10-day DL with a blister on his right index finger.

UP NEXT

Mariners: RHP Erasmo Ramirez will start three days after being re-acquired by the Mariners in a trade with Tampa Bay. Since his last start June 21, Ramirez has pitched only 10 innings in six relief appearances. Manager Scott Servais said he will be limited to 60-80 pitches and that a reliever will be ready to go.

Rangers: RHP Nick Martinez is likely to start in what was Darvish's scheduled spot Tuesday. Martinez was recalled after being activated Monday from the disabled list (right forearm soreness) at Triple-A Round Rock.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

a season-low two hits with two runs in six innings for his fourth win in five starts.

Cobb was tagged with nine hits and eight runs in a season-low three innings for his first loss since July 2. He'd been pitching well lately, allowing just five runs combined and going 3-0 in his past four starts.

"Alex just didn't have it," Tampa manager Kevin Cash said. "He couldn't quite command the baseball, missing over the plate too much. They came out, and they didn't miss anything either."

Jose Altuve added two hits, including a two-RBI single which pushed Houston's lead to 3-0 in the second, before being lifted in the seventh with the game out of hand.

Dickerson added a solo home run in Tampa's four-run eighth inning to give him his seventh multi-homer game and third this season.

Houston added three runs in the eighth inning when the Rays put backup catcher Jesus Sucre in to pitch with their bullpen taxed.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rays: 1B Logan Morrison was the team's designated hitter on Monday after missing three straight starts with a bruised left heel. Manager Kevin Cash said he wanted to give him one more day off his feet and expects him to return to first base on Tuesday.

Astros: Houston placed right-hander Lance McCullers on the 10-day disabled list on Monday with back discomfort. This is the second stint on the disabled list with the same problem for McCullers, who was also out from June 12 to 24. McCullers is 7-3 with a 3.92 ERA in 19 starts this season. ... Reliever Michael Felix left Monday night's game after the second home run by Dickerson because of discomfort in his right shoulder.

ALTUVE'S MONTH

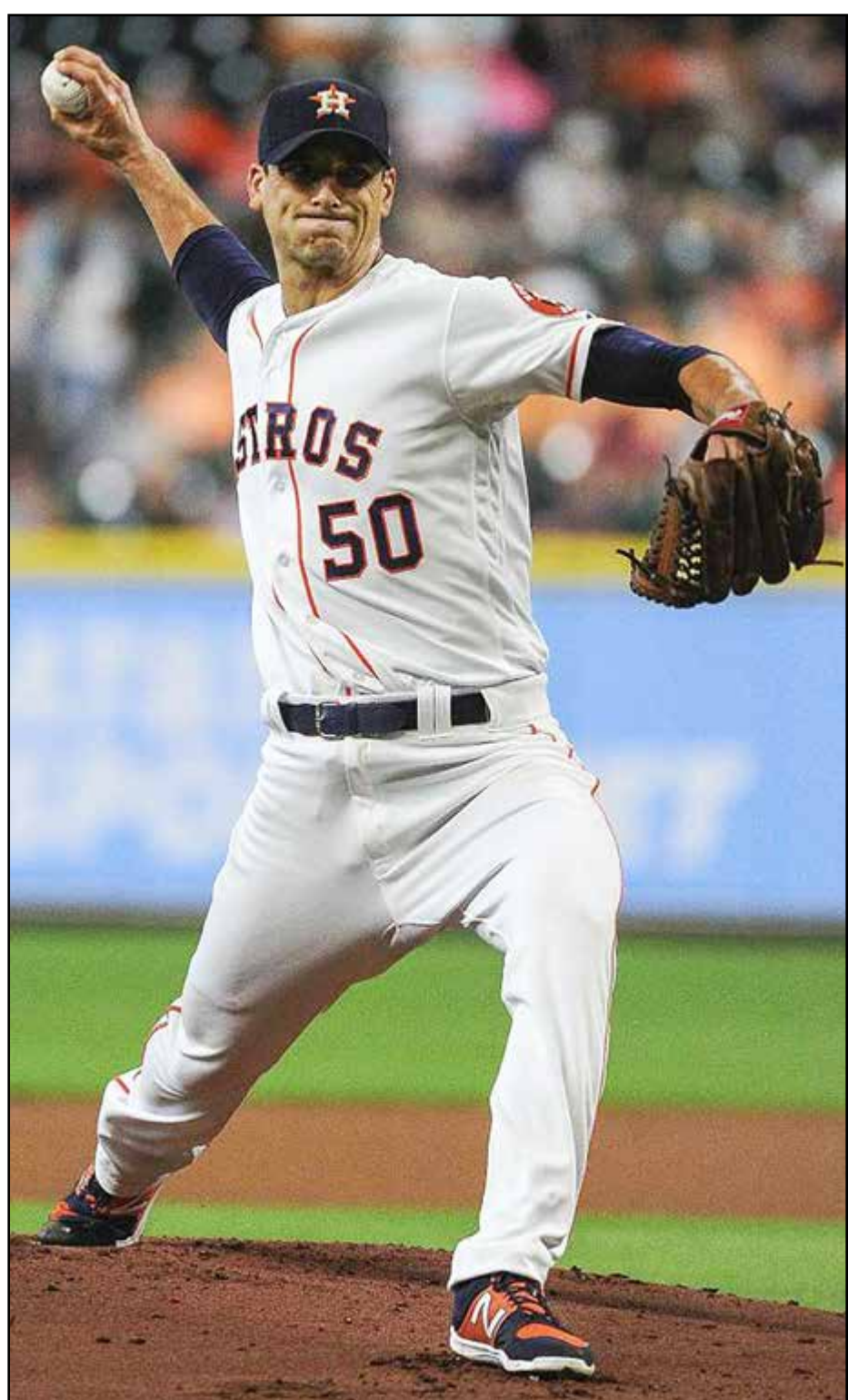
Altuve wrapped up July with the best batting average in a month in franchise history. The All-Star second baseman hit .485 with 10 doubles, a triple, four homers and 21 RBIs. His big July surpassed the .476 that Richard Hidalgo posted in September 2000. Active's 48 hits in July were the most in a month by an Astro since Lance Berkman had 49 in May 2008.

Altuve said he doesn't really keep up with what he's doing by the month, but he was so hot in July it was hard not to notice.

"I hit a lot, obviously people told me that," he said. "But the only thing I'm looking for is to help my team."

SUCRE ON THE MOUND

Sucre made his third career pitching appearance on Monday night and his first since Aug. 15, 2015, with the Mariners. That was the second of two outings in 2015, with the other one coming on June 12, 2015, against the Astros. He was a good sport about being thrown into action.



Houston Astros starting pitcher Charlie Morton delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Monday, July 31, 2017, in Houston.

"I was trying to have fun with Wilson (Ramos) over there," he said. "I was laughing every time he threw the slider down."

UP NEXT

Rays: Chris Archer (7-6, 3.80) will start for Tampa Bay on Tuesday. He struck out 10 in six innings in his previous start, but didn't factor into the decision after Alex Coloma's blown save in a 6-5 loss in 11 innings.

Astros: Mike Fiers (7-5, 3.71) is scheduled to start for Houston on Tuesday. Fiers looks to bounce back after allowing five hits and three runs in just four innings of a 9-0 loss to the Phillies in his previous start.

JONES

Continued from Page 7

"If you can track a baseball down, should be easy to track a football down," the reticent Jones said.

The Cowboys were one of six teams with fewer than 10 interceptions last season, finishing with nine. Five of those came from players no longer on the roster after Dallas also let cornerbacks Brandon Carr and Morris Claiborne leave as free agents. Church was the only Dallas player with more than one (he had two).

"That's our No. 1 objective on defense," secondary coach Joe Baker said. "We graded ourselves as sort of middle of the pack in terms of

our turnover production. We expect to be A-plus in that area. We want to crank those numbers up."

Dallas expects Jones to be in the area for most throws down the field because he's likely to be the roaming deep safety. And they're expecting him to put two hands on more of those throws.

"He's got tremendous athletic ability and what we'd like to see is have that athletic ability turn into more ball production," Baker said. "His interception (in camp) was just such a great moment when you see sort of your vision come to life on the grass."

Now the Cowboys hope to see it in the regular season.

NOTES: Veteran QB Luke McCown signed to

compete with rookie Cooper Rush for the No. 3 job after Zac Dysert sustained a back injury that required surgery. ... OL Chaz Green is expected to miss at least a week with a shoulder injury, making it more likely that Jonathan Cooper, the seventh overall pick by Arizona in 2013, will be the starting left guard. ... Rookie WR/KR Ryan Switzer is nursing a hamstring injury, so the Cowboys added WR Javontee Herndon. ... Veteran RB Ronnie Hillman signed after rookie Jahad Thomas was waived following another hamstring injury on the first day of camp. Thomas missed the offseason with the same injury.



In this July 25, 2017, file photo, Dallas Cowboys free safety Byron Jones (31) is covered by cornerback Anthony Brown (30) and safety Xavier Woods (25) as they take part in a special teams kickoff return drill during NFL football training camp in Oxnard, Calif. Jones made acrobatic interceptions two straight days in training camp, one that counted and one that did not.

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Shooting at Moscow courthouse leaves 3 dead, 4 wounded

MOSCOW (AP) — Five defendants at a Moscow courthouse attacked their guards in a bungled escape attempt, leading to a shootout that killed three people and wounded four others, officials said Tuesday.

Russia's Investigative Committee said the incident happened when five handcuffed defendants were escorted by two guards in an elevator at the Moscow Regional Court. Russia's chief investigative body said one of the defendants tried to strangle a guard. The defendants somehow managed to escape and seized the guards' weapons.

Three of the defendants were killed and two wounded in a shootout with the court's guards. Two guards were injured and taken to hospital, the agency said.

Authorities said the incident took place before a hearing for a gang of nine who are suspected of killing more than a dozen motorists.

Russia media dubbed the accused "the Grand Theft Auto gang" after the violent video game. The men on trial are accused of terrorizing Moscow motorists for months in 2014. Prosecutors said the gang members were placing spikes on roads, forcing the motorists out of their vehicles and shooting them dead.

The nine men, all from Central Asia, are charged with 17 murders and two attempted murders.

Jordanian parliament repeals 'marry the rapist' clause

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — The lower house of Jordan's parliament on Tuesday scrapped a provision in the kingdom's penal code that allowed a rapist to escape punishment if he married his victim.

Cheers and applause erupted from a packed spectators' gallery as legislators voted for repeal, following an emotional debate in which some of the lawmakers jumped up and yelled at each other.

The vote was hailed as a major step forward for women in the conservative kingdom.

"This is a victory for the women's movement and human rights movement in Jordan," said Salma Nims, the secretary general of the Jordanian National Commission for Women.

Despite the country's pro-Western political orientation and cosmopolitan urban elites, many areas of Jordan remain socially conservative, with entrenched notions of "family honor."

This includes the belief that having a rape victim in the family is shameful, and that such "shame" can be expunged through marriage.

In Tuesday's debate, some lawmakers had argued that an amended version of Article 308 was needed to protect rape victims against social stigma by giving them the marriage option.

In the end, lawmakers voted in line with the recommendations of the government and a royal committee on legal reforms. Prime Minister Hani Mulki addressed the plenum before the vote, saying the government backs repeal.

The decision must still be approved by parliament's appointed upper house, or Senate, and by King Abdullah II. After the expected final approval, Jordan would join Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt which have canceled their "marry the rapist" clauses over the years.

The international rights group Human Rights Watch said Lebanon's parliament is also considering repealing such a provision. The clause remains on the books in several other countries in the Middle East and Latin America, as well as in the Philippines and Tajikistan, HRW said.

In a statement issued before Tuesday's vote, the New York-based watchdog said that scrapping Article 308 "would be a positive step to strengthen the rule of law and end impunity for violence against women."

Dima Barakat, a leading activist, said that those forcing a girl to marry her rapist "are killing this girl a thousand times a day, at least."

The attacker "took away her dignity, her honor and took away her life," Barakat said.

Ahead of Tuesday's vote, several dozen activists rallied outside the parliament in Amman, the Jordanian capital, calling for repeal. They held up banners reading "Article 308 is a disgrace to the Jordanian justice system" and "Article 308 does not protect honor, it protects the culprit."

Nims said before the vote that many of the lawmakers had been undecided.

She said some saw the provision as a form of "protection" for women who can demand marriage rather than suffer further social stigma for having been raped.

The need for such "protection" indicates a fundamental problem in how Jordanian law and society perceive women, said Eva Abu Halaweh, executive manager of Mizan for Law, a human rights group.

"The law still looks at women as bodies, linked with 'honor,'" Abu Halaweh said.

Earlier this week, parliament took another step toward legal reform, closing a legal loophole that had given courts the discretion to impose sentences of as little as six months on those who killed female relatives in the name of "family honor."

Under the new amendment, killing "in a fit of rage" can no longer be considered a mitigating circumstance in such cases.



AP photo

Women activists protest in front Jordan's parliament in Amman on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 with banners calling on legislators to repeal a provision that allows a rapist to escape punishment if he marries his victim. Parliament is to vote on the proposed change to the penal code Tuesday. The banner in the middle in Arabic reads: Article 308 is a disgrace in the Jordanian justice system, the banner on the left says: Article 308 does not protect honor, it protects the culprit.

Italy focuses on Libya mission to manage migrant crisis

MILAN (AP) — Italy is putting its hopes for managing the migrant crisis on a new, Libya-requested mission to support the North African nation's coast guard after suffering a rebuke by humanitarian groups.

Italian ministers were briefing parliamentary committees Tuesday on a mission approved by the Cabinet to deploy the navy to aid the Libyan coast guard in its territorial waters. A vote could come as early as Wednesday.

Premier Paolo Gentiloni says the mission could become a "turning point" in Italy's bid to manage the unrelenting flow of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea. The U.N. migration agency says 94,802 migrants have arrived in Italy this year through Sunday, up 11 percent over last year and 85 percent of the European total. They estimate that 2,221 people have drowned this year alone on the central Mediterranean route.

Italy's bid to get 10 humanitarian groups to agree to new rules of conduct for rescuing people from the Mediterranean failed when at least four, including Doctors Without Borders, refused to sign on Monday.

Objections to the Italian demands included rejecting a provision permitting armed police on board the rescue ships and not being allowed to transfer migrants to another vessel in order to continue other rescues, instead being forced back to port.

Doctors Without Borders general director Gabriele Eminente said her charity would continue to work in the Mediterranean "but at the moment, I don't understand what the failure to sign means."

Bank of England workers on strike for first time in 50 years

LONDON (AP) — Striking employees at the Bank of England wore comical masks depicting the face of Governor Mark Carney on Tuesday as they stood outside the institution demanding better pay.

The three-day strike — the central bank's first in over 50 years — came after workers failed to reach a deal that would allow them to keep their wages growing as much as inflation, which is now at 2.6 percent annually.

Some 40 workers, including maintenance and security workers, carried signs reading "Bank of England staff want fair pay."

An official with the union, Unite, Peter Kavanagh, said the workers had "been left with no choice but to take industrial action because they are fac-

ing another year of having to endure a pay cut imposed upon them."

Kavanagh said Carney should meet the protesters to explain "why hardworking men and women deserve to face years of pay cuts."

The central bank noted that the number of strikers is small and says it will "continue to operate as normal during this period." The bank issued a statement which said it had been in talks with the union, "and remains ready to continue those talks at any time."

EU: 23 cities keen to host UK-based agencies post-Brexit

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union says 23 cities are competing to host the bloc's medicines and banking agencies, which are based in Britain but must move before the country leaves the EU in 2019.

Competition to host the prestigious agencies has been hot, and the new homes for the agencies are likely to be the easiest and first of many Brexit issues resolved before Britain leaves.

The EU's executive Commission said Tuesday it will make its assessment public on Sept. 30. The deadline for submitting applications passed Monday.

Paris and Frankfurt are among eight cities vying for the European Banking Authority. Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Dublin and Vienna are among the 19 hoping to host the European Medicines Agency.

EU countries will pick the winners by secret ballot in November.

Under Armour lowers outlook, cutting about 280 jobs

BALTIMORE (AP) — Under Armour is cutting approximately 280 jobs from its global workforce and lowering its full-year revenue outlook, overshadowing a strong second-quarter and extending woes for companies in the retail sports sector.

Shares declined more than 5 percent in premarket trading Tuesday.

A board-approved restructuring plan will come with about \$110 million to \$130 million in related charges this year. That includes approximately \$15 million in employee severance and benefits costs.

Under Armour Inc. now expects full-year revenue growth of 9 percent to 11 percent, down from a previous outlook of 11 percent to 12 percent growth. The chain foresees full-year adjusted earnings between 37 and 40 cents per share.

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