



Human Interest

Central Talent Book

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The kid versus the logger for \$8.5 million at the World Series of Poker



LAS VEGAS -- In an improbable match-up, Joe "The Kid" Cada will go head to head Monday night with Maryland logger Darvin Moon for the \$8.5 million top prize at the World Series of Poker. Cada, 21, of Shelby Township, Mich., set the pairing Sunday morning when he eliminated France's Antoine

Saout in third place. Cada's fans, clad in canary yellow t-shirts, danced with joy after the final card dealt was the king Cada needed to give him a pair of kings and beat Saout's pair of eights. On Saturday night, Cada was down to just about two million chips. But he came back and will go into Monday night's final duel with about 137 million chips. Moon has about 59 million. Cada and Moon are already assured at least \$5.2 million for second place. Moon, a burly logger from Maryland cut down a former Bear Stearns executive in yesterday, collecting \$22 million from the Wall Street man and ending his run for the title. Steven Begleiter put everything he had on a pair of queens, betting that the 46-year-old logger wouldn't beat him. But alas, Moon turned up an ace and a queen, sending Begleiter back home to Chappaqua, New York with a sixth place prize of \$1.59 million. Moon, a recreational player who had never been to Las Vegas or played professionally before his World Series debut, made it all the way to the championship, where he will play Joe Cada for the \$8.55 million prize, later today. My wife wants a lawnmower, but we don't need a lawnmower," Moon told cardplayer.com. "But I told my dad if I win, I'm buying him a new pink Cadillac." This already is the longest final table in the 40-year history of the Main Event at the World Series.



Jilted bride throws party for retirement community

SENSVILLE, CA- A buzz of excitement continues to build around Asbury Court Retirement Community in Des Plaines, with local, national and

even international news outlets clamoring for interviews. "We've filmed commercials and videos here before, but we've never had this kind of attention," says Ellen Mostardini, marketing director. "Everyone's still talking about it, including the residents." One week ago, a jilted bride, Teanne Harris of Bensenville, walked in with her mother, Bari Harris, of Long Beach, Calif., offering to donate all of the elements from her Halloween wedding, planned for that same night at Manzo's Ristorante & Banquets, across the street. Just like that, the Halloween party planned for the 340 residents at Asbury Court turned into a lavish banquet, with a sumptuous meal, elegant flowers, sparkling masks right out of a masquerade ball, and a disc jockey who kept the mood lively. "We knew we weren't going to be getting our money back," says Harris, during a phone interview from Hawaii, where she followed through with her honeymoon trip. "So after doing damage control and not wanting anything to go to waste, we looked for somebody who would benefit from it, and we saw the retirement center." Asbury officials still marvel over the turn of events, and of the selfless act by Harris. On Friday, they mounted a marquis sign thank you to Harris to show their appreciation. "It was out of the blue; she knows no one here," says Eric Haugan, resident services director. "And yet when she came to the party herself, she had all these grandmas wanting to give her a hug. She just broke down." Harris concedes that the moment hit her, as she looked around and saw all the masks she had bought, and the flowers she had selected for a far different occasion. But then she snapped out of it and enjoyed the party. "It made me feel good," Harris says.

324 Plus years of sisterhood



MINDEN, LA- It's not often that you meet someone older than the age of 100, but there are three sisters in Minden, Louisiana that have long surpassed the century mark. Together they have a Guinness world record as the oldest living siblings. The town of Minden celebrated their milestones Sunday. The Thornton sisters are Maggie Mae Thornton Renfro, 114; Carrie Lee Thornton Miller, 107 and Rosie Lee Thornton Warren, 103. They've suffered through segregation, witnessed the civil rights movement,

lived through 21 presidents and survived long enough to see the first black president. Through all that history, they are now making history themselves. The oldest sister Maggie is already in the record books. The super centenarian is the oldest black woman in the United States, the oldest person in Louisiana, the fourth oldest in the nation and sixth oldest in the world. Relatives say the secret to their longevity is faith and family. "What they need to live this long is love and care so that's what we give them," said Lovie Warren, the daughter of the youngest sister Rosie. She says they've set a standard for their family. Maggie Thornton will celebrate her 114th birthday on November 14th. Guinness World Records officials said the oldest person documented by Guinness was 122 years old. ([Watch Video](#))

84-year-old baker crafts cracker empire



CHICAGO- Inside a small brick building on Chicago's North Side, an 84-year-old woman with pearls in her earlobes and, on occasion, mismatched socks on her feet makes magnificent little crackers. They come in 19 all-natural varieties, are slammed with tantalizing flavors like cranberries and peppers, and have quirky names like "Love in the Afternoon" and "Your Wildest Dreams." They are munched by patrons at more than 350 high-end grocers and hotel restaurants across the continent, including The Ritz-Carlton and The Trump International

Hotel and Tower in ChicagoThe woman behind the cracker is Nicole Bergere, a former fashion and costume designer with short, spiked blond hair who refers to those around her as "Miss Adorable" or "Little Girl." "She is a character," said Mark Payne, executive chef at The Ritz-Carlton Chicago. "She normally gives me a hard time when she comes here." Bergere brings samples for him to try and if he isn't keen on one, she explains crisply why he's wrong. "She's a very genuine person," he said. Bergere's crackers and breads are served in the hotel's bread basket and with its cheese plates. "They've got a great flavor, nice and crispy," Payne said, describing the appeal. "They've got some nice salt on them, a nice texture. She is always consistent." Bergere said the concept is simple. "The thrust of the company has been to build the cracker," she said. "It's taken people a long time to get it. But now, they get it." Three of Bergere's crackers -- "Oh for the Love of Herb," "Your Wildest Dreams" and "Heaven Is Lavender" -- won gold medals in 2005 and 2006 in an international gourmet food competition called the Great Taste Awards organized by The Guild of Fine Food. Bergere plans to enter the contest again in 2010. Bergere said she learned at an early age "to make something out of nothing." She said her mother cooked with whatever was available and would take apart used clothing and sew it to fit Bergere. "I never felt like I was suffering," Bergere said. "My mother made everything so beautiful." Then, 15 years ago, the Ritz asked Bergere to create a cracker. So she did, taking inspiration from her professional training as well as her first food inspiration: her mother. ([Full Article](#))

330ft fish roll is a record-breaker



BERKELEY, CA - Amateur sushi chefs at the University of California assembled a record-breaking 330ft California roll to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Berkeley school's Center for Japanese studies. The students' rice-and-seaweed behemoth surpassed even the whale-sized 300ft roll made in Hawaii in 2001. Needless to say, the students needed a lot of ingredients, which included 200 pounds of rice, 80 pounds of avocado, 80 pounds of cucumber and 180 pounds of fish.

Is that a banana in your pocket ...



PHILADELPHIA- A man who robbed a Bethlehem bank kept a rotten banana in his pocket to make it look as if he had a gun, police say. But he slipped up by leaving his wallet on the bank counter, according to court records filed Friday. Lloyd Virgil Barclay, 51, of Philadelphia was arrested Monday night in the basement of 721 Spring St., Bethlehem. He is charged with the Sept. 2 holdup of the KNBT at 920 W. Broad St. Police say he admitted pulling off the heist. Barclay told investigators that during the robbery, he kept a blackened

banana in his pocket to infer to tellers that he had a gun, according to a search warrant inventory. According to court records: Around 9:15 a.m. on Sept. 2, a teller at the bank called 911 and said it had just been robbed by a man who didn't show a weapon but said he had a gun. Barclay came into the bank with his wallet in his hand and was carrying pieces of paper. He gave one note to a teller, demanding cash. As she got the money, he told her to "hurry up" and said he didn't want to hurt her. When she gave him \$800, he said it wasn't enough and "I want more." He moved to the next teller and gave her a note and said "Don't call anybody. I have a gun." As that teller looked

down at the note, Barclay fled. But he left his wallet, with several identification cards, on the counter. On Nov. 2, police interviewed Barclay. In his belongings, they found a note to a woman in which Barclay admitted robbing the bank. They also recovered a gray sweatshirt that a surveillance photo showed Barclay was wearing during the robbery. Barclay remains in Lehigh County Prison under \$500,000 bail on charges of robbery, theft and receiving stolen property.

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