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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018



VOLUME 113, NUMBER 144 COPYRIGHT 2018 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

West Texas VA honors Board-certified Nurses



Courtesy photo

The photo above shows some of the nurses who were honored on Monday. From left to right are: Sudha Marri, Gloria Whitmire, Loy Long, Amy Miller, Les White, Katelin Lyons, Sharon Thomas and Treasa Wells. Not photographed, but still honored, are: Cynthia Schaffner, Shirlene Sulatan, Rebekah Friday and Olayemi (Cynthia) Akindele.

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**
 Managing Editor

Every day, many lives are affected because of the care of certified nurses. On Monday, the West Texas VA Health Care System (WTVAHCS) took part in

celebrating Certified Nurses Day, which takes place every year on March 19, and serves as a national day of recognition to honor the important achievement of nursing specialty, subspecialty and advanced practice certification.

The term board-certified indicates that the individual has gone to an outside entity and has acquired extra education and training pertaining to their profession, and has taken an outside examination and passed it.

Achieving a board-certification costs the individual a lot of extra time, money and energy on an already physically demanding job. So, this type of certification is a great accomplishment and shows their dedication to their profession.

WTVAHCS honored the ten board-certified nurses on it's staff for their dedication of their careers to helping others, their long and hard work, exceptional care and commitment to excellence. The board-certified nurses who received honors are as follows:

Olayemi (Cynthia) Akindele, FNP-BC; Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (Big Spring)

Tommy Box, RN; Psychiatric - Mental Health and Certified Case Manager (Abilene Community Based Outpatient Clinic)

Rebekah Friday, RN; Nurse Executive Advance (Big Spring)

Marjorie Harman, RN; Psychiatric - Mental Health (Permian Basin Community Based Outpatient Clinic)

Loy Long, FNP-BC;

See **NURSES**, Page 3

City, school elections coming up May 5

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

After voting in the county, state, and national primaries in March, Howard County voters will again head to the polls this April and May for city and school district general elections.

Early voting in the election begins April 23 and runs through May 2, while Election Day is May 5. April 5 is the last day to register to vote to be able to cast a ballot in the election.

While many candidates are running unopposed in the election, there are still several contested races. Big Spring City Council District 2, one Coahoma City Council at-large seat, Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees District 4, and three Coahoma Independent School District Board of Trustees at-large seats are all up for grabs.

The Big Spring City Council District 2 seat, currently held by Carmen Harbour, has three candidates vying to replace her as her term limit comes to an end. Johnnie Rawls Jr., Doug Harman, and Eric Escamilla are all running for the seat.

While District 4 and District 6 in the Big Spring City Council race were up for election this year, only the incumbents – Howard Stewart in District 4, and Jim DePauw in District 6 – filed to run for the seats.

See **ELECTIONS**, Page 3

Feel the spirit

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

Get ready to feel the spirit as BAD Events welcomes Christian recording artist Phil Wickham to the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium on Sunday, April 22.



Wickham

Philip David Wickham is a contemporary Christian musician, singer, and songwriter from San Diego, California. He has released nine albums, from his first album, "Give You My World" in 2003, to his latest album "Children of God," released in 2016. Wickham has an alternative/pop/rock sound that appeases to Christian music listeners, and

even those who don't. "BAD Events scheduled the concert for Sunday evening, so those who go to Sunday evening worship will be inclined to come and show their support. There will be prayer, a guest pastor who will be speaking, as well as a local band called 'We the People,' who will open up the show," said Barney Dodd, of BAD Events.

"BAD Events is trying to bring some entertainment to Howard County to make use of the beautiful auditorium with it's new sound system, and thought this would be a great start. Though Phil's music style appeals more to the youth, this event is for absolutely everyone." Wickham draws from a wide range of influences which include mainstream

See **PHIL**, Page 3

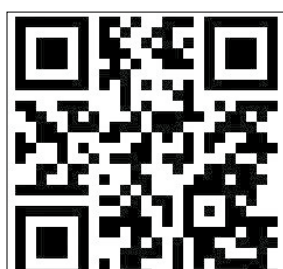
Prom Closet now open



HERALD photos/Amber Mansfield

Monday was the Prom Closet's opening day for the prom season, and is located at Ryan Hall on 605 N. Main St. The Prom Closet is purely a donation store as they provide dresses, suits, shoes and prom accessories for young women and men. The Prom Closet is currently taking donations of any and all prom items, and there is never any charge to anyone that comes to the Prom Closet! If you have any questions or need more info, please call Christian Rojas-Fair at 432-816-3573.

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Obituaries

Clay Alan Gamble



Clay Alan Gamble, 51, of Coahoma went to be with his Lord and Saviour on Sunday, March 18, 2018.

Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at Myers and Smith Chapel.

Clay was born June 9, 1966, in Big Spring, Texas, to Janis Barfield Gamble and Vernon Gamble. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County. He was a carpenter and was very much a professional and perfectionist. He loved his motorcycle and the Dallas Cowboys, as well as country music. He loved his

family with all his heart. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Clay is survived by his wife Nora Gamble; three children, Candace and husband Jamie Olivarez, Krista and husband Charles Carroll, and Hunter and wife Courtney Williams; six grandchildren, Yzabele, Jisele, Lane, Dusty, Luke, and Kaleb; his mother, Janis Neighbors; and his father, Vernon Gamble; two sisters, Larenda and husband David Larson, and Verna and husband Guido Toscano; and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

Paid obituary

Norma Patterson



Norma Patterson, 89, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 18, 2018, at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Graveside service will be at 4 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2018, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Doug Shelley, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, officiating.

Norma was born on May 22, 1928, in Pecos, Texas, to Beatrice Bowie Jones and Walter Jones. She married Robert "Pat" Patterson on Jan. 28, 1956, in Big Spring, Texas. She grew up in

Big Spring and was a homemaker. Norma had lived in Midland since 1975. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Patterson of Midland; one sister: Beverly Jones of Big Spring; one brother: Isaac "Butch" Jones and wife Peggy of Brenham; her sister-in-law, Jane and husband Don DeBiase of Las Vegas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Lois Ann Jones, Jacqueline "Bitsy" Martin, Janell "Gay" Hart, Iris "Irna" Baumcum, and Ellen Jones; and her brothers, Gary Jones and Walter "Amos" Jones.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **COBE BRIAN SMITH**, 19, of 304 E. 10th St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **PALADIO GARZA JR.**, 35, of 417 Westover Rd. was arrested on warrants for theft of property (\$100 to \$750)/shoplifting, and

criminal trespassing; and on another outstanding warrant.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 300 block of East 19th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1100 block of West Interstate 20 and the 900 block of East Interstate 20.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was re-

ported in the 3300 block of Fordham.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80 and the 1600 block of South Owens Street.
- **THEFT OF FIREARM** was reported in the 900 block of East Interstate 20.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.

- **PALADIO GARZA JR.**, 35,

by BSPD on warrants for theft of property (\$100 to \$750), possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram, and criminal trespassing; and on an insufficient bond for possession of a controlled substance (1 to 4 grams).

- **COBE BRIAN SMITH**, 19,

was booked by BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for criminal trespassing.

- **ANTHONY ELIZANDRO SOLIS**, 26, was booked by the US Marshals Service on a warrant for burglary of a habitation with intent to commit assault.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of West Eighth Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of South Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of North Moss Lake Road. One person was treated on the scene.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Sunset. One person was transported to

Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was treated on the scene.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of North Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of East Highway 350. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain

Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Scurry. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2100 block of Alabama. One person was treated on the scene.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Cornell. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Take Note

• Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, handles legal issues affecting Veterans, Retirees, and their family members. They will have clinics that provides volunteer attorneys that will provide free legal advice (up to 25 minutes depending on the issue). A pro bono attorney may be assigned to handle some cases that include: bankruptcy, consumer issues/contract, child support and custody, divorce, employment, foreclosure, housing, landlord/tenant, probate and guardianship, real estate, social security/SSI, Veterans benefits/issues, wills and estate planning. The Clinic dates are on March 22, May 24, Aug. 23, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Northside Community Center on 110 N.E 8th St. Applicants must be financially eligible to obtain services. Please bring a copy of your DD215 and/or Veterans ID card. Appointments are required. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Pete Fierro at 432-332-1207, ext. 4511.

• The Howard County Democrats meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 5:30 p.m. in the Howard College Library.

• The Howard County Fair Board thanks all those who are working on a square for the 2018 quilt. There are still a few squares left to be done/ Anyone able to help by stitching a square may pick one up at the Heritage Museum during regular hours Tuesday through Saturday. For questions or for more information, please contact Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674.

• Scholarship packets for Coahoma High School seniors are now available at the counselor's of-

fice. Thousands of dollars worth scholarships opportunities are available to Coahoma High School students. The deadline to turn in applications for some of the scholarships is fast approaching. If students or parents have any questions or need help filling out any forms, please contact Chandra Brooks at 395-5000 or come by the high school office. Extra scholarship packets are available at front office. Please see Brooks at the high school office for a packet.

• The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

Kristi "Dr. K" Jo Smith



Our beloved Kristi "Dr. K", 59, of Big Spring went home to be with our Lord and Savior March 15, 2018. She gracefully and courageously fought cancer for almost a year.

Kristi was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, on Jan. 25, 1959. Being an "Air Force Brat," she grew up in different states, and had the opportunity to live and visit different countries. In her professional life Kristi was involved in real estate and property management. Later on, she switched careers to the mental health and home health fields. She had a positive, profound effect on everyone she met or knew. She was deeply liked and loved. Kristi will be greatly missed by family and friends alike.

Kristi was preceded in death by her father, Frederick A. Rokos of Traverse City, Michigan.

She is survived by her mother, Joan Pick, Big Spring, Texas; stepfather, SMSGT. (Ret.) Larry Pick, Big Spring, Texas; one sister, Goldie "Dr. G" Chappell and her husband Bob, Grand Junction, Colorado; one niece, Courtney J. Sims, Las Vegas, Nevada; her great-nephew, Peyton Cooper Sims, Las Vegas, Nevada; and her four-legged fur-baby, Macie.

Kristi was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, 810 Scurry St., Big Spring, where a memorial service will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made to the American Cancer Society or St. Paul Lutheran Church in Kristi's honor.

Paid obituary

Janet Avant

Janet Avant, 64, of Big Spring died Monday, March 19, 2018, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

• GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Weekly Feb. 8 through May 10, 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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**MEMBER
2018**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Investigators suspect FedEx bomb is tied to Austin bombings



Emergency vehicles sit in front of a FedEx distribution center where a package exploded, Tuesday, March 20, 2018, in Schertz, Texas. Authorities believe the package bomb is linked to the recent string of Austin bombings.

By PAUL J. WEBER and WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press
AUSTIN, Texas — A package bomb that authorities believe is linked to the recent string of Austin bombings exploded early Tuesday inside of a FedEx distribution center near San Antonio, leaving one worker with minor injuries.

Hours later, police sent a hazardous materials team to a FedEx facility in Austin to check on a suspicious package there. There was no immediate word about whether that package contained a bomb.

FBI agent Michelle Lee said the explosion happened at around 1 a.m. at a FedEx facility in Schertz, which is just northeast of San Antonio and about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southwest of Austin. One worker was treated for minor injuries and released, according to statements issued by the Schertz Police Department and FedEx.

Lee said that although it is still early in the investigation, "it would be silly for us not to admit that we suspect it's related" to the four Austin bombings that have killed two people and injured four others since March 2. She didn't have details about the size, weight or description of the package.

The most recent bombing in Austin injured two men Sunday night in the quiet neighborhood of Travis Country in the southeast of

the city. It was triggered along a street by a nearly invisible tripwire, suggesting a "higher level of sophistication" than agents saw in three early package bombs left on doorsteps, according to Fred Milanowski, agent in charge of the Houston division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Sunday's attack means the carnage by a suspected serial bomber that has terrorized Austin for weeks is now random, rather than targeted at someone in particular.

Authorities haven't identified the two men injured Sunday, saying only that they are in their 20s and white. But William Grote told The Associated Press on Monday that his grandson was one of them and that he had what appeared to be

nails embedded in his knees. Police described the men's injuries as significant, and both remained hospitalized in stable condition on Monday.

Grote said his grandson was cognizant but was still in a lot of pain. He said on the night of the bombing, one of the victims was riding a bike in the street and the other was on a sidewalk when they crossed a tripwire that he said knocked "them both off their feet."

"It was so dark they couldn't tell and they tripped," he said. "They didn't see it. It was a wire. And it blew up."

Grote said his son, who lives about 100 yards (90 meters) from the blast, heard the explosion and raced outside. "Both of them were kind of bleeding profusely," Grote said.

That was a departure from the first three bombings, which involved parcels left on doorsteps that detonated when moved or opened.

The tripwire twist heightened the fear around Austin, a town famous for its cool, hipster attitude. "It's creepy," said Erin Mays, 33. "I'm not a scared

person, but this feels very next-door-neighbor kind of stuff."

Authorities repeated prior warnings about not touching unexpected packages and also issued new ones to be wary of any stray object left in public, especially ones with protruding wires.

"We're very concerned that with tripwires, a child could be walking down a sidewalk and hit something," Christopher Combs, FBI agent in charge of the bureau's San Antonio division, said in an interview.

Police originally pointed to possible hate crimes, but the victims have now been black, Hispanic and white and from different parts of the increasingly diverse city. Domestic terrorism is among the variety of possible motives investigators are looking at.

Local and state police and hundreds of federal agents are investigating, and the reward for information leading to an arrest has climbed to \$115,000.

"We are clearly dealing with what we believe to be a serial bomber at this point," Austin police Chief Brian Manley said, citing similarities among the four bombs. He would not elaborate, though, saying he didn't want to undermine the investigation.

While the first three bombings all occurred east of Interstate 35, a section of town that tends to be more heavily minority and less affluent, Sunday's was west of the highway. The differences in where the blasts have occurred, the lack of a motive and other unknowns make it harder to draw conclusions about a possible pattern, further unnerving a city on edge.

Thad Holt, 76, said he is now watching his steps as he makes his way through a section of town near the latest attack. "I think everybody can now say, 'Oh, that's like my neighborhood,'" he said.

The ATF's Milanowski said the latest bomb was anchored to a metal yard sign near the head of a hiking trail.

"It was a thin wire or filament, kind of like fishing line," he said. "It would have been very difficult for someone to see."

Milanowski said authorities have checked more than 500 leads. Police asked anyone with surveillance cameras at their homes to come forward with the footage on the chance it captured suspicious vehicles or people.

NURSES

Continued from Page 1

Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (Big Spring)

Katelin Lyons, RN; Wound Care (Big Spring)

Sudha Marri FNP-BC; Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (Big Spring)

Tonya McVay, RN; Medical - Surgical and Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (Abilene Community Based Outpatient Clinic)

Amy Miller, RN; Certified Case Manager (Big Spring)

Cynthia Schaffner, RN; Maternal Newborn Nursing (Big Spring)

Shirlene Sulatan, FNP-BC/PMHNP; Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certified Primary Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Big Spring)

Sharon Thomas, RN; Nurse Executive (Big Spring)

Treasa Wells, RN; Wound Care and Diabetic Wound Care (Big Spring)

Les White, PhD RN FNP-BC; Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (Big Spring)

Gloria Whitmire BSN, RN CCM; Certified Case Manager (Big Spring)

"We are extremely, and I wish I could find a bigger word, proud of these nurses. They bring a great amount of pride to not only ourselves and to themselves, but also to the veterans," said Registered Nurse and RN MSN Nurse Recruiter Nancy Creech, (a.k.a. "Mama Nancy"). "The fact that these nurses have done this, maintained it and taken it upon themselves to see their own personal growth shows their extra level of professionalism and how they are willing to go above and beyond. I know what it takes to get this certification, so it makes me so appreciative and so proud of them as if they were my own children."

PHIL

Continued from Page 1

artists such as Rufus Wainright, Keane and Coldplay. Wickham earned rave reviews for his unique voice and soaring, atmospheric arrangements that weren't always commonplace in worship music.

Wickham also draws inspiration from other unique places. An example of this, being his 2007 album "Cannons", featured songs "Divine Romance" and "After Your Heart", which were inspired by C.S. Lewis' book "The Voyage

of the Dawn Treader" from The Chronicles of Narnia series. Wickham also partnered with Bart Millard, of MercyMe, in his 2009 single "Safe."

Wickham hopes that his words and music touches everyone who listens, and hopes to convey God's message through his songs and lyrics.

"If people just took the time to look at the trees outside, the rain that's falling, these bodies that are walking around... life is not just evidence that God exists, but more like the world acting as worship leader, inspiring us, but much

louder than any concert you could ever imagine," Wickham states. "Ultimately, I hope that by listening to these songs people will find the same inspiration to look outside of themselves and their circumstance to the world around them and truly worship God."

Promoted by BAD Events, brought to you by Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau, and sponsored by Franklin and Sons, Phil Wickham's music and concert is for all ages. The event starts at 5:30 p.m.

"Get your tickets now. There are only 800 tickets for sale for this event," said Dodd. "The ticket price is \$26 a person. You can buy them at www.badeventstx.com."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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267-8288

Ladene Rae Hartin, 57, died Saturday. Graveside service was at 10 a.m. this morning at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Clay Alan Gamble, 51, died Sunday. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Norma Patterson, 89, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday. Graveside service will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Janet Avant, 64, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

In Coahoma, four people are running for three at-large city council seats. They include incumbents Sharon Dodson and Cody Ditto; and challengers T.J. Rueda and David Alaman. Incumbent Dustin Martin did not file for re-election.

The Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees Seat in District 4 is up for grabs. While incumbent Tony Kennedy, the current school board president, won't seek re-election this time, candidates Bond Ryan, Melissa Miller, and Steven Hobbs are running for the seat. The District 2 seat was also in play, but that race has been canceled since only incumbent Maria Padilla filed to run.

In the Coahoma ISD race, three at-large seats are up for election, and 11 people are running to fill them. Candidates for the three open positions include incumbents Jody Reid and Dicky Stone, as well as Blain Redden, Kenni Kay Wright, Adrian Abrego, Brandon Rodgers, Brandon Atkins, Scott Tuttle, Greg Moore, Odis Franklin, and Philip

Bacon.

In Forsan, all elections have been canceled as only incumbents filed to run. For the city council, two seats were open, and will remain occupied by incumbents Debbie Burton and Pat Carnahan; while in the school board race, four seats - two full term and two unexpired term - were up for election. Incumbents Lewis Boeker and Chad Myers took the full term seats, while incumbents Chris Olson and Beckie Wash will remain in the unexpired term seats.

The Howard College Board of Trustees also had two seats up for election, but only incumbents filed to run in those races. Place 3 will remain filled by Max Barr, while Adrian Calvio will remain in the Place 4 seat.

For more information, contact Howard County Elections Administrator Jodi Duck at 264-2273, or contact the city or school district involved.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@big-springherald.com.

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In reliably red Texas, cannabis entrepreneurs hope for green

By **MELISSA REPKO**

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — As state after state loosens laws on the sale of marijuana, a whole industry has sprung up to serve the fast-growing market for cannabis and related products.

Even in Texas, which hasn't legalized marijuana, some entrepreneurs are planting their flags early, wagering that the Lone Star State will one day have its own "green rush."

For legal reasons, they operate mainly on the periphery of the industry. But there's plenty of business to be had — selling everything from cannabis oil tinctures to the flooring used in greenhouses that grow marijuana.

Along with the typical challenges of any business, companies that work in the cannabis industry in Texas must navigate conflicting state and federal laws, risk backlash from banks and state agencies, and overcome the stigma of selling a product that some consider dangerous or taboo.

But being a part of a young and thriving industry also comes with a shot of adrenaline, said Peter Ricca, executive chairman of Ricca Chemical. In the late 1970s, Ricca's father founded the Arlington company, which makes industrial testing kits used for quality control by Fortune 500 food and beverage companies. About two years ago, it began getting phone calls from West Coast cannabis companies looking for products they could use for extracting cannabis oil and testing the quality of their products.

Now the company sells testing kits for the cannabis industry and blends terpenes — organic compounds found in plants like basil, lemons and rose petals — that can be added to cannabis products to create unique flavors and aromas.

"If you buy into this and say cannabis is a miracle drug, it's exciting as all hell because you sense you're changing the world," Ricca told The Dallas Morning News.

And, he said, by developing its brand and selling in other states, the company will have an edge when Texas changes its laws.

The market for cannabis is growing as more states legalize the use of medical marijuana and open up the market to recreational use. Twenty-nine states and D.C. have legalized the sale of medical marijuana, and some, including California and Colorado, allow the sale of marijuana to adults at retail shops, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Even in Texas, a reliably red state, public opinion is changing. Eighty-three percent of Texans support the legalization of marijuana for some uses, such as medical use, according to a 2017 poll by University of Texas/Texas Tribune. More than half of Texans polled in 2017 said they'd allow possession of marijuana for any type of use.

But prominent Texas politicians have voiced strong objections, with U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions, a Republican who represents Dallas, describing marijuana as a gateway drug and calling those who grow it "merchants of addiction."

And in January, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions opened the door to new enforcement by rolling back an Obama-era policy that kept federal authorities from targeting the marijuana industry in states where sales are legal. The federal government classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug, putting it in the same category as heroin and ecstasy.

The growers

In 2015, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed a law that

See **GREEN**, Page 5

Woman struck and killed by self-driving Uber vehicle

By **FELICIA FONSECA**

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A self-driving Uber vehicle struck and killed a pedestrian in a Phoenix suburb in the first fatality involving a fully autonomous test vehicle, prompting the ride-hailing company Monday to suspend all road-testing of such autos in the U.S. and Canada.

Depending on who is found to

be at fault, the accident could have far-reaching consequences for the development of self-driving vehicles, which have been billed as potentially safer than human drivers.

The Volvo was in self-driving mode with a human operator behind the wheel when a woman walking outside a crosswalk in Tempe on Sunday night was hit, police said. The woman, identified as Elaine Herzberg, 49, died at a hospital.

Uber suspended all of its self-driving vehicle testing in the Phoenix area, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Toronto.

The testing has been going on for months as automakers and technology companies compete to be the first with the technology.

Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi expressed condolences on his Twitter account and said the company is working with local law enforcement on the investigation.

The federal government has voluntary guidelines for companies that want to test autonomous vehicles, leaving much of the regulation up to states.

But Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao also has said technology and automobile companies need to allay public fears of self-driving vehicles, citing a poll showing that 78 percent of people fear riding in autonomous vehicles.

The number of states considering legislation related to autonomous vehicles gradually has increased each year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. In 2017 alone, 33 states introduced legislation.

California is among those that require manufacturers to report any incidents to the motor vehicle department during the testing phase. As of early March, the agency received 59 such reports.

Numbers reveal breadth of investigation into Texas bombings

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The series of bombings this month in the Texas capital city of Austin has generated a vast response by state and federal law enforcement agencies that are sifting through hundreds of tips to find what Austin Police Chief Brian Manley has described as a serial bomber.

Here's a look at the investigation so far, by the numbers:

— 2, 4: Number of people killed and the number wounded. The first explosion occurred March 2, killing a 39-year-old man. The latest happened Sunday evening, injuring 22- and 23-year-old men.

— 500: The number of leads that have been closed since the bombings began, according to Fred Milanowski, special agent in charge of the Houston division of the ATF.

— \$115,000: Amount of reward being offered for a tip leading to a conviction.

— 350: Number of FBI agents currently involved in the investigation, according to FBI Special Agent in Charge Christopher Combs. Hundreds of other law enforcement personnel also are involved, including those with Austin police and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

— 240: Approximate number of interviews conducted with witnesses, people calling in tips and others since the first explosion.

— 600: Calls that Austin police have responded to for suspicious packages since the second and third blasts happened March 12.



AP photo
In this file photo, an Uber driverless car heads out for a test drive in San Francisco. Phoenix police say one of Uber's self-driving vehicles has struck and killed a pedestrian. Police in the city of Tempe said Monday, March 19, 2018, that the vehicle was in autonomous mode with an operator behind the wheel when the woman walking outside of a crosswalk was hit.

Mississippi sends team to help put out Texas wildfires

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi is sending five firefighters to Texas to help that state put out wildfires.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission says the group will arrive Tuesday in Merkel,

Texas, just west of Abilene.

The team is bringing two bulldozers that they use to create fire breaks along the edge of a wildfire.

State Forester Charlie Morgan says the

Mississippi personnel are expected to stay in Texas for about two weeks.

Texas officials reported Sunday that 111 wildfires had burned nearly 25,000 acres (10,000 hectares) across

the state in the previous week. State officials reported 19 active wildfires on Monday, with the largest fires concentrated in the state's panhandle.



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GREEN

Continued from Page 4

permits some Texas companies to grow cannabis, but only for a narrow use. The law created a license for companies to grow, process and distribute a type of cannabis oil to Texans with intractable epilepsy.

So far, only three companies have received licenses under the Texas Compassionate Use Act. They grow cannabis that's low in tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the compound associated with the plant's high, but rich in cannabidiol, or CBD, a compound used as a treatment for epilepsy and other medical conditions.

But regulations don't make it easy or inexpensive to cultivate cannabis in Texas.

Long before planting a seed, the companies had to make a pricey bet. They put together thick applications for state officials, demonstrating they had the capital to finance a business and comply with strict safety and security requirements.

Once approved, each company had to pay the state nearly a half-million dollars for a license. The license will have to be renewed every two years at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Compassionate Cultivation's application for the state license was more than 300 pages, CEO Morris Denton said. It opened the state's first dispensary in February and has had 40 customers so far, with some making multiple purchases, he said.

In its corrugated steel building about 12 miles southwest of Austin, row after row of marijuana plants stretch to the ceiling. The plants hang upside down and dry out next door in a chilly room that's a wine cellar equivalent for cannabis before churning through an extraction machine and becoming a specific kind of cannabis oil.

Across the state, Miami-based Knox Medical, licensed as Cansortium Texas, is cultivating cannabis in modular units in the small town of Schulenberg, about 100 miles west of Houston and 100 miles east of San Antonio. The company sells drops of cannabis oil and plans to roll out suppositories, said Jose Hidalgo, the company's founder and CEO.

A third company with a license, Surterra Texas, is starting up its business in the Austin area.

For now, at least, the companies have a small market. The cannabis products they make can't cross state lines. Only Texans with intractable epilepsy — a population estimated between 102,000 and 136,000, according to the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas — are allowed to legally purchase their products. That shrinks further after subtracting Texans who don't have the two legally required doctors' recommendations and those who object to using cannabis as medicine.

But Denton and Hidalgo take the long view.

Knox Medical began in Florida, which initially had a law similar to Texas' but has added more eligible medical conditions over time. Hidalgo said he expects Texas to follow the same path. Knox Medical sells in Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas and Puerto Rico.

Before starting the company, Denton said, he and his four Austin business partners thought long and hard about the downsides of starting a cannabis business in Texas, from political uncertainties to personal risks. He said he worried about how the career choice might make life harder for his spouse and two teenagers.

"We spent the better part of a year trying to talk ourselves out of doing it," he said.

But he said he couldn't resist the business opportunity and the chance to be part of an industry that he believes will transform Texas' politics, economy and view of medicine. He said phone calls and emails from people with intractable epilepsy and their families cemented his decision.

"I don't spend my days worrying about things I can't control," he said. "I can't control what our federal administration does or doesn't do. I can't control what Jeff Sessions may or may not do. The only thing that I can control is the performance of this business."

Once the company got the state's approval, Denton had new challenges: raising money to fund the business and finding a bank. The company raised more than \$6 million from 13 high net-worth individuals who live in Texas. He said the company struggled to find a bank, since most are insured through the federal government, but found a Texas bank "that was willing to take the leap with us."

Another major challenge, Denton said, is educating physicians. He visits neurologists around the state. When Austin hosted a conference for the Texas Neurological Society, he sent luxury buses

Back-door ban: States fight Trump drill plan with local bans



In this Feb. 14, 2018 photo, people hold signs protesting President Donald Trump's plan to allow offshore oil and gas drilling along most of the nation's coastline at a hearing in Hamilton, N.J.

By **WAYNE PARRY**

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Some coastal states opposed to President Donald Trump's plan to allow oil and gas drilling off most of the nation's coastline are fighting back with proposed state laws designed to thwart the proposal.

The drilling Trump proposes would take place in federal waters offshore in an area called the Outer Continental Shelf. But states control the 3 miles of ocean closest to shore and are proposing laws designed to make it difficult, or impossible, to bring the oil or gas ashore in their areas.

A look at the issue:

WHAT STATES ARE DOING

States including New Jersey, New York, California, South Carolina and Rhode Island have introduced bills prohibiting any infrastructure related to offshore oil or gas production from being built in or crossing their state waters. Washington state is threatening such a bill. Maryland has introduced a bill imposing strict liability on anyone who causes a spill while engaged in offshore drilling or oil or gas extraction.

"We started thinking about how we control the first three miles of ocean, and there are state rights that we have," said New Jersey state Sen. Jeff Van Drew, a Democrat who represents the state's southern coast. "Even if we don't succeed in banning it outright, we can still make it a lot more expensive to do it in this area."

It's a back-door, ingenious way to block this."

California Democratic state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson said a ban on pipelines and docks could force the industry to rely on ships that would then have to sail to the waters of a different state to bring their cargo ashore. "What we can do is make drilling for offshore oil and gas so prohibitively expensive that it won't pencil out," she said.

ANY PRECEDENT?

In 1985, voters in Santa Cruz, California, required that any zoning changes to accommodate onshore facilities for offshore oil exploration or production must be approved by a vote of the electorate, one of 26 similar ordinances that were adopted in California. An oil and gas industry association unsuccessfully sued 13 of the communities, claiming they were interfering with lawful interstate commerce.

OIL INDUSTRY, US RESPONSE

Andy Radford, a senior policy adviser with the American Petroleum Institute, said it has been 30 years since the last detailed analysis of potential offshore oil and gas supplies. He said states ought to welcome offshore drilling for the revenue it can produce for them. Offshore energy production in the Atlantic Ocean alone could support 265,000 jobs and generate \$22 billion a year within 20 years,

he said.

"We should take that step forward to advance our energy future," he said. "Local communities and workers benefit from energy exploration and production, in addition to these investments generating significant state revenues to fund schools, hospitals and other public services."

Connie Gillette, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said "the laws, goals, and policies" of a state adjacent to the Outer Continental Shelf are among the factors the federal government must consider in approving oil and gas leases.

CONFLICTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

In May 2017, eight months before Trump proposed the nearly nationwide expansion of offshore drilling, a South Carolina legislator introduced a bill to prohibit oil drilling infrastructure in state waters. The bill remains in committee.

South Carolina's House and Senate both introduced a resolution expressing support for drilling off their state's coast and criticizing Republican Gov. Henry McMaster's request to be exempted from the plan, saying the request is "tantamount to the state exercising excessive control of South Carolina's free market."

Five Hawks selected for conference and region honors



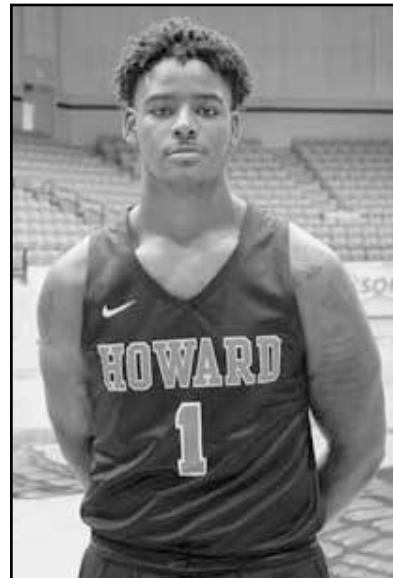
Courtesy photo

Corbyn Cunningham, the 5'9" freshman guard from Albuquerque, New Mexico was selected to the WJCAC all-conference team.



Courtesy photo

Kaki Simpson, a freshman guard from Amarillo, Texas was tagged for honorable mention recognition in the WJCAC.



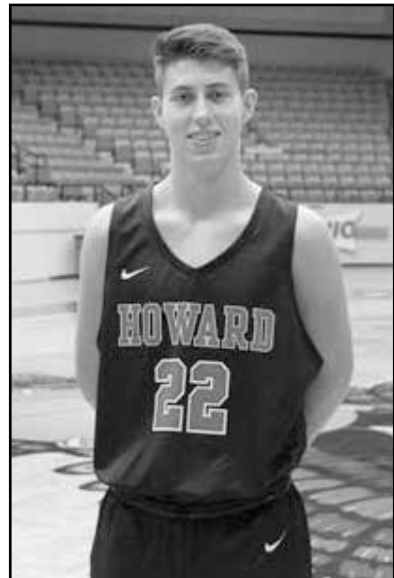
Courtesy photo

Amari McCray, a 6'9" sophomore from Ruston, LA, was nabbed for the all-conference team, WJCAC Co-Defensive player of the year and Region V all-region team.



Courtesy photo

Jeremy Hayes, a 6'3" sophomore from Baton Rouge, LA hit the all-conference and Region V all-region roster as well team.



Courtesy photo

Jake Hutchings, a 6'6" sophomore from Las Vegas, NV was also selected to the all-conference team.

Special to the Herald

Howard College Hawks landed 5 student athletes on the men's and women's Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) all conference and Region V all region teams for their efforts in the 2017-2018 season.

For the Hawk women, Corbyn Cunningham, the 5'9" freshman guard from Albuquerque, New Mexico was selected to the WJCAC all-conference team. Cunningham started 30 games for the Hawks, averaging 29.6 minutes per game. She shot 42.5% from the field and 73.3% from the free throw line for the season while average 9 rebounds and 12.7 points per game.

Additionally, Kaki Simpson, a freshman guard from Amarillo, Texas was tagged for honorable mention recognition in the WJCAC. Simpson started 32 games for the Hawks averaging 34.6 min-

utes per game. She shot 31.4% from the field with a 30.5% 3-point average and 80% from the line. She averaged 13.7 points and 3.6 rebounds per game. The Hawk women ended the season 5-9 conference record.

The Hawk men had 3 student athletes, Amari McCray, Jeremy Hayes, and Jake Hutchings, recognized for conference/regional honors.

McCray, a 6'9" sophomore from Ruston, LA, was nabbed for the all-conference team, WJCAC Co-Defensive player of the year and Region V all-region team. McCray started 24 games for the Hawks averaging 21.5 minutes per game. He finished the season with a 58.1% field goal percentage and a 68.8% free throw percentage while averaging 5.2 rebounds and 10.6 points per game.

Hayes, a 6'3" sophomore from Baton Rouge, LA hit the all-conference and Region V all-region roster as well as being named WJCAC Newcomer of

the Year. Hayes started 31 games in the season and averaged 16 points and 4.8 rebounds per game. He shot 42.7% from the field, 39.1% from 3-point range and 82.5% from the charity stripe.

Last but not least, Hutchings, a 6'6" sophomore from Las Vegas, NV was also selected to the all-conference team. He was a 3-point "go-to" guy shooting 50.8% from 3-point range while hitting 53.5% from the field and 78.8% from the free throw line. He averaged 3.9 rebounds and 13.8 points per game.

"We are proud of our players and the way they represented Howard College this season," said the Hawk men's head coach Scott Raines. "They all worked very hard to be successful and it is nice to see them get some recognition for their efforts."

The Hawks finished the season with a 10-6 conference record putting them in 3rd place. They had a heartbreaking 1 point loss in the first game of the regional tournament.

Texas rolls over Arizona State and into Sweet 16 85-65



AP photo

Texas guard Ariel Atkins (23) drives to the basket between Arizona State guard Courtney Ekmark (22) and center Charnea Johnson-Chapman (33) during a second-round game in the NCAA women's college basketball tournament, Monday, March 19, 2018, in Austin, Texas.



AP photo

Texas forward Jordan Hosey (5) shoots over Arizona State guard Courtney Ekmark (22) during a second-round game in the NCAA women's college basketball tournament, Monday, March 19, 2018, in Austin, Texas.

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — As Brooke McCarty runs, so does Texas. The diminutive senior guard has the Longhorns racing back into the Sweet 16.

McCarty scored 15 points and grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds, and Lashann Higgs scored 19 points as Texas booked its fourth consecutive trip to the Sweet 16 Monday night with an 85-65 win over Arizona State in the women's NCAA Tournament.

"This is where Texas should be every single year," McCarty said.

Higgs scored 15 in the first half, and McCarty took over in the third quarter with 10 points in a 14-2 run that pushed the Longhorns to a big lead and never let the Sun Devils recover. McCarty had a pair of 3-pointers in the run and her nifty drives and assists made sure the No. 2-seed Longhorns (28-6) avoided the same kind of home court upsets that hit several host teams earlier in the evening.

"It was Brooke. I started smiling halfway through it because I realized this kid was going off," said Texas senior guard Ariel Atkins, who scored

12 and matched McCarty's five assists.

The No. 7-seed Sun Devils had played eventual national champion South Carolina within a minute of a huge upset in the second round last season, but saw any hopes of catching the Longhorns disappear in the decisive third quarter.

McCarty, even at just 5-foot-4 and the smallest player on the court, was able to snag long rebounds and use them to kick-start Texas in transition. The Longhorns are one of the top rebounding teams in the country and dominated the Sun Devils on the boards 40-19 in a physical matchup.

"Our whole game plan was, 'Don't give them points in the paint ... We knew from the opening tip, their whole game plan was rip and go on us,' Arizona State coach Charli Turner Thorne said. "We weren't tough enough."

Kianna Ibis scored 27 to lead Arizona State (22-13), an effort that kept the Sun Devils within 40-35 at halftime. She scored just eight over the final two quarters.

Texas hosted the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament for the third

consecutive year. The Longhorns are 48-6 at the Frank Erwin Center over the last three seasons, including six wins in the tournament.

The Longhorns' fourth year in the Sweet 16 continues a resurgence for a program that produced the first women's undefeated national champion in the 1985-86 season. Texas hasn't been back to the Final Four since 2003.

"You can tell they expect this," Texas coach Karen Aston said. "I know they want bigger and better things but this is a great accomplishment. I told them in the locker room not to take this for granted."

BIG PICTURE

Arizona State: The Sun Devils had the best defense in the Pac 12 this season, holding opponents to 12 points or less in a quarter 51 times. Texas shredded the Sun Devils in every quarter. Higgs carved them up with eight of Texas' 22 points in the first quarter before McCarty sparked the 25-point burst in the third.

"They are really fast," Ibis said of Texas' backcourt. "They are really crafty players."

Texas: McCarty and Higgs drive Texas, but the Longhorns will be look-

ing for more from forwards Joyner Holmes and Jatarie White as they get deeper into the tournament. Those two combined for 20 points and nine rebounds. Texas also got a rare offensive night from seldom-used Olamide Aborowa, who scored nine points in 11 minutes.

BEATEN ON THE BOARDS

Arizona State dominated Nebraska in rebounding in the Sun Devils' first round victory could get not footing under the basket against the more powerful Longhorns. Junior center Charnea Johnson-Chapman picked up two early fouls and ended up fouling out with just two points and one rebound in 14 minutes.

"They took advantage of their size and kept taking it to us," Ibis said.

KEY STAT

Texas shot 62 percent for the second consecutive game in the tournament. The Longhorns were 37 of 60 shooting against the Sun Devils and took just 10 3-pointers, making three.

UP NEXT

Texas will play No. 3 seed UCLA in the Kansas City.

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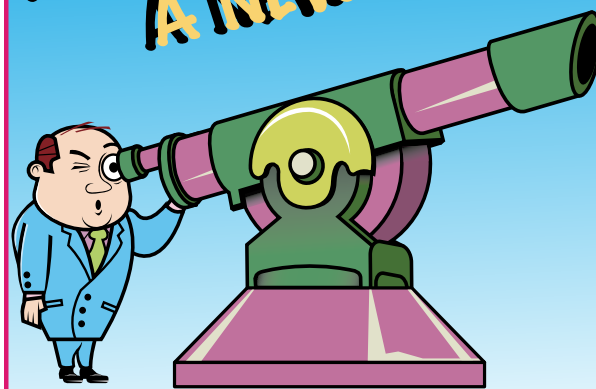
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ 9
♦ A J 7
♣ K Q J 4 2

WEST

♠ J
♥ K 10 8 6 4 3
♦ 10 5 3 2
♣ 8 6

EAST

♠ K 9
♥ A J 7 5 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A 10 9

SOUTH

♠ A Q 8 7 5 2
♥ Q
♦ K Q 9
♣ 7 5 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	

Opening lead — six of hearts.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Spring Equinox

This vernal equinox, Mercury and Venus conjoin to bring home the spring feeling of buds opening and green shoots thrusting toward the light. "And time remembered is grief forgotten/ And frosts are slain and flowers begotten/ And in green underwood and cover/ Blossom by blossom the spring begins." -- Algernon Charles Swinburne

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are a firm believer in fresh starts, and the clean energy of this special day renews you like a trip to the oxygen bar. Your high spirits create distance between you and yesterday's problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The key is not to expect people to do things they are incapable of doing. This, of course, requires you to learn the capabilities of others. You can learn something by observing, and more by testing, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your friendships work in the larger context of your friend group, but they must also work in the smaller one-on-one context to satisfy you. Today you'll finally get the individual attention you need.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Middles sag. That's the very nature of middles. Whether it's a story, a body or a project, it takes tremendous effort to create lift in the middle. Put in the work so you can get the satisfaction at the end.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've often felt as though you're doing the right thing with the wrong person, though you've almost never felt the opposite of that.

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



Because when you're with the right person, whatever you do, even nothing at all, feels so right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Life is zesty for people in love. And even if you're not quite there, a flow of positive feelings and thoughts is still creating a bubble of happiness around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Mental expansion ignites other parts of your life. It actually doesn't even matter what you're learning. Regardless of the subject matter, going from ignorance to mastery is the thrill that makes you feel most alive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can accomplish quite a mound of work in the span of a few hours. You'll get busy, and you won't stop until the agreed upon time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You underestimate how others feel about you. While it's better to err on the modest side of such matters, you should know that if you don't show up, certain people are going to be very disappointed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Most people you know could use a little help every now and then. Then there are those who are needy on an entirely different level. You may feel ready to help some-

one like that, and it will be a most rewarding experience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll get the chance to fine-tune the image you present to the world. Actually, you could do this at any time. But today will give you both the motivation and the necessary tools.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). After years of tolerating others, you've become spiritually robust. The generosity that used to seem like work to you is now innate. To be the bigger person will require no thought at all.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 20). As your personal life settles in, you'll gain clarity on a goal. Analyze the power structure; figure out the different roles how they work together and why. With a studious approach and a willingness to change and grow, you'll quickly rise up the ranks of an organization and get the reward that comes with this. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 13, 27 and 41.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: YouTube Justine Ezarik has subscribers in the multimillions. The Aries entrepreneur is also an author, actress, speaker and general thought leader in the tech and gaming world. Ezarik was born when the sun and Mercury were both in the fiery first sign of the zodiac, an excellent placement for so-called "early adopters" of any trend or idea. Scorpio influence is also strong in her natal chart.

Write Holiday Mathis at holidaymathis@gmail.com.
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Annie's Mailbox

Poisoning Morale

Dear Annie: I am trying to handle a delicate situation at the office. A man I work with has very poor hygiene and is an all-around slob. The guy has no respect for anyone, including himself. He often comes to work without combing his hair, and many times he smells as though he hasn't showered in days. He has some other unclean habits at the office that are too disgusting to mention here. I could go on, but you can see the picture.

The company has warned him many times but he's not been fired. When I confronted this employee, he threatened

me with a lawsuit, as well as our employer. I love my job, and the boss is a good, kind boss.

I am pretty sure there are depression issues. His wife even called to say he went off his medication recently. She's trying to get him back on it. In the meantime, what can I do? -- P.U.

Dear P.U.: Your co-worker's poor hygiene presents a serious problem in itself, but it's his foul attitude that's truly toxic. His unwillingness to change and his explosive temper are not winning traits for an employee. If his noxious attitude is allowed to linger, it will poison morale throughout the office. It sounds as

though your boss's kindness is getting in the way of effective management, because this has already gone way farther than it should have. Talk to him and the human resources manager, if your company has one, about the impact this issue is having on you. Explain that it's making it difficult to do your job. Take note of every offense going forward (without letting the co-worker know you're doing so) to document the pattern. Don't confront him about the issue yourself, as he's likely to lash out again. And while it's very possible his behavior is connected to mental health issues, refrain from speaking to him about that. His hy-

giene or lack thereof at the office is, unfortunately, everyone's business, but his mental health is not.

Dear Annie: You get many letters about family divisions, so I'll tell you my story.

My children are all grown. They have their careers and are doing well, all married. We thought we were the perfect family. What problem could we possibly have?

One son married into a booming family business, which I thought was great. Well, the business grew and moved to a new location, and it seems they have decided that my family shouldn't visit their store. Now, I'm thinking, why can't they just treat us like

any other customer? Perhaps, they don't believe in "giving" us the family discount. Or perhaps we aren't as good as their regular customers.

I have been totally devastated thinking my son's wife's family is embarrassed or doesn't want us to shop there for some other reason. I've been feeling left out of my son's life. Meanwhile, he seems perfectly happy to enjoy his wife's family. Any idea how to talk to my son about how I feel? -- Sad Mom

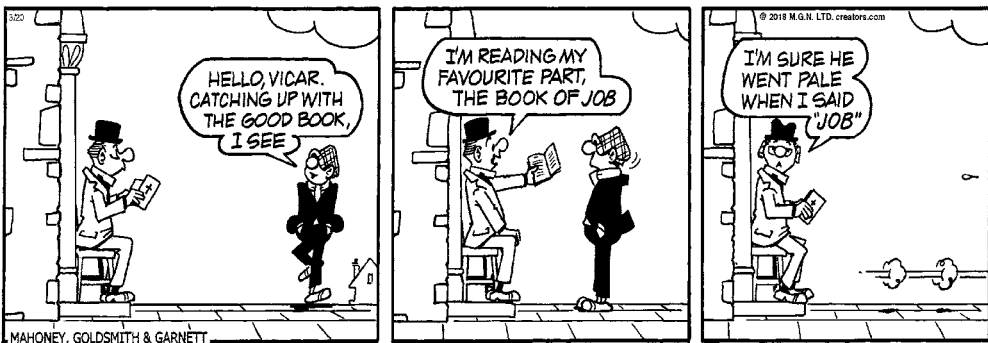
Dear Sad Mom: There are two sides to every story, and I try to answer to the best of my ability based on the side I'm given. But there's so much missing here that I'm pre-

occupied wondering about the other side. Why would your son and his in-laws ban you from shopping at their business? Are there really no clues? Did you previously overuse that family discount? Did you spend too much time socializing at the store? Consider these questions as prompts for the candid conversation you need to have with your son -- outside of business hours.

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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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery
5:30	Local 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Shofar	Focus	Hawaii Five-0	American	Fam. Guy	Lakota Goyo (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around	Snow	Mod Fam	The First 48	Moonshiners
6:30	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	College Basketball	World/Poker	UFC	Mod Fam	The First 48	Moonshiners	
7:30	Middle	El rico y Lázaro	Lethal Weapon	NCIS (DVS)	José José, el p	The Voice	News	AI Capone: Icon	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Thunder at Celtics	World/Poker	UFC Unleashed	WWE SmackDown!	The First 48	Moonshiners: Outlaw	
8:30	blackish	Papá a toda madre	LA-Vegas	NCIS (DVS)	Al otro lado	(:01) Rise (DVS)	Light of Southwest	Jackie Robinson (DVS)	G. Pyle	Black Lightning	Big Bang	College Basketball	World/Poker	Snowboarding		The First 48	Moonshiners	
9:30	For the People	Caer en tentación	News	Bull	Enemigo intimo (SS)	Chicago Med	Light of Southwest	Heroes	Page Six	Detour	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Trail Blazers	World/Poker	Mavs	Unsolved-BIG	Undercover High	(:01) Moonshiners	
10:30	Local 2	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Telemundo 20	News	Creation	Amanpour	C. Burnett	Seinfeld	Conan	SportsCenter	World/Poker	High School Basketball	Law & Order: SVU	(:03) The First 48	(:02) Moonshiners	
11:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mod Fam	Late Show-Colbert	Al otro lado	Tonight Show	M:25	Beyond	Perry Mason	Rules		SportsCenter	NFL Live		Law & Order: SVU	(:03) The First 48	(:03) Moonshiners	
12:30	Extra	Fuerza-Destino	How I Met	James Corden	Enemigo intimo (SS)	Seth Meyers	HaYesod	TBA	Tw. Zone	King	Conan	Players Only	SportsCenter	Champ Spotlight	Unsolved-BIG	(12:03) The First 48	(12:03) Moonshiners	
1:30	Paid Prg.	Pawn	Simpsons	Paid Prg.	De'siones	Daily	Think Red		Hitchcock	Cops	Brooklyn	SportsCenter	First Take	Soccer	Law & Order: SVU	Undercover High		

ANDY CAPP



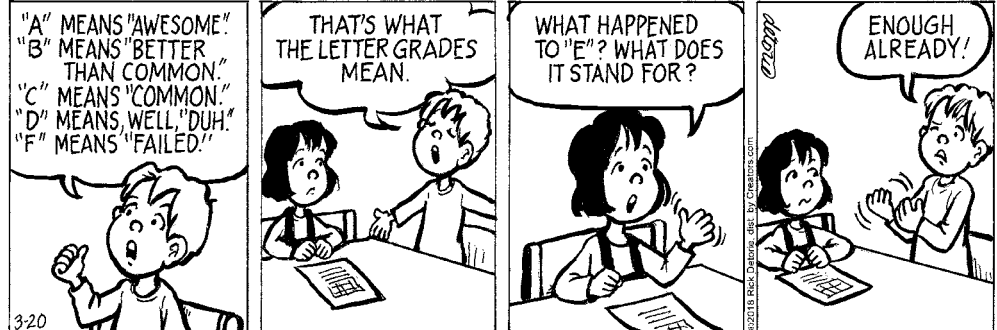
AGNES



ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 20, the 79th day of 2018. There are 286 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 12:15 p.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 20, 1854, the Republican Party of the United States was founded by slavery opponents at a schoolhouse in Ripon (RIH-puhn), Wisconsin.

On this date: In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V. In 1760, a 10-hour fire erupted in Boston, destroying 349 buildings and burning 10 ships, but claiming no lives. In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte returned to Paris after escaping his exile on Elba, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule. In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published in book form after being serialized.

In 1922, the decommissioned USS Jupiter, converted into the first U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, was re-commissioned as the USS Langley.

In 1942, U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur, having evacuated the Philippines at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, told reporters in Terowie, Australia: "I came out of Bataan, and I shall return."

In 1948, "Gentleman's Agreement" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1947; Ronald Colman was named best actor for "A Double Life," while Loretta Young won best actress for "The Farmer's Daughter."

In 1952, the U.S. Senate ratified, 66-10, a Security Treaty with Japan.

In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.

In 1977, voters in Paris chose former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to be the French capital's first mayor in more than a century.

In 1985, Libby Riddles of Teller, Alaska, became the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race.

In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the deadly chemical sarin were leaked on five separate subway trains by Aum Shinrikyo (ohm shin-ree-kyoh) cult members.

Ten years ago: In a setback for Democrat candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, a drive for a second Michigan

presidential primary collapsed as the state Senate adjourned without taking up a measure calling for a do-over contest. (Michigan had held an early primary in January 2008 in violation of Democratic Party rules, and was stripped of its delegates as a result.) Mao Asada of Japan won the women's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Goteborg, Sweden.

Five years ago: Making his first visit to Israel since taking office, President Barack Obama affirmed Israel's sovereign right to defend itself from any threat and vowed to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. Five former elected officials of Bell, California, were convicted of misappropriating public funds by paying themselves huge salaries while raising taxes on residents; one defendant was acquitted. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper signed bills that put sweeping new restrictions on sales of firearms and ammunition. Opera singer Rise (REE'-suh) Stevens, 99, died in New York.

One year ago: U.S. Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch pledged to be independent or "hang up the robe" as the Senate began confirmation hearings on President Donald Trump's conservative pick for the nation's highest bench. President Trump met for the first time with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi at the White House. David Rockefeller, guardian of the Rockefeller fortune and billionaire philanthropist, died at his home in Pocantico (poh-KAN'-tih-koh) Hills, New York, at age 101.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Dame Vera Lynn is 101. Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 96. Actor Hal Linden is 87. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) is 79. Country singer Don Edwards is 79. TV producer Paul Junger Witt is 77. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Pat Riley is 73. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 72. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Orr is 70. Blues singer-musician Marcia Ball is 69. Actor

William Hurt is 68. Rock musician Carl Palmer (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 68. Rock musician Jimmie Vaughan is 67. Country musician Jimmy Seales (Shenandoah) is 64. Actress Amy Aquino (ah-KEE'-noh) is 61. Movie director Spike Lee is 61. Actress Theresa Russell is 61. Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway is 61. Actress Holly Hunter is 60. Rock musician

Slim Jim Phantom (The Stray Cats) is 57. Actress-model-designer Kathy Ireland is 55. Actor David Thewlis is 55. Rock musician Adrian Oxaal (James) is 53. Actress Jessica Lundy is 52. Actress Liza Snyder is 50. Actor Michael Rapaport is 48. Actor Alexander Chaplin is 47. Actor Cedric Yarbrough is 44. Actress Paula Garces is 45. Actor Michael Genadry is 40.

Actress Bianca Lawson is 39. Comedian-actor Mikey Day is 38. Actor Nick Blood (TV: "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.") is 36. Rock musician Nick Wheeler (The All-American Rejects) is 36. Actor Michael Cassidy is 35. Actress-singer Christy Carlson Romano is 34. Actress Ruby Rose is 32.

Thought for Today: "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"

Robin Williams
American comedian
(1951-2014).

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Newsday Crossword

END OF WINTER by Sally R. Stein

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Writer __ Allan Poe
- 6 Wooden pins
- 10 Castaway's escape vehicle
- 14 New Hampshire neighbor
- 15 Real estate measure
- 16 Money in Spain
- 17 Spot of land in the sea
- 18 The one over there
- 19 Genesis paradise
- 20 Diplomatic improvement
- 23 Phone-book listings: Abbr.
- 24 Double-curve letter
- 25 Maze-running rodent
- 29 Gasoline or propane
- 31 Relaxing resort
- 34 Notion
- 35 Part of the eye
- 37 Geographical reference book
- 39 Be delicious
- 42 Chose, with "for"
- 43 Money in Mexico
- 44 Lake beside Cleveland
- 45 Urban thoroughfares: Abbr.
- 46 Gorillas, for instance
- 48 Lariats
- 50 "Halt, __ goes there?"
- 51 Tool for rowing
- 52 Do some fridge maintenance

- 61 Woodwind instrument
 - 62 Lean slightly
 - 63 Make an exchange
 - 64 Receive, as a salary
 - 65 Poker pot starter
 - 66 Puts up, as a painting
 - 67 Sandwich breads
 - 68 Explorer Ponce de __
 - 69 So far
- DOWN
- 1 Give off
 - 2 100-yard race
 - 3 __ monster (Arizona lizard)
 - 4 All over again
 - 5 Part of the eye
 - 6 Trails for hiking
 - 7 Canyon sound
 - 8 Mardi __
 - 9 Small sofa
 - 10 Fishing-line holders
 - 11 German auto
 - 12 Worry (about)
 - 13 Broadway award
 - 21 Away from home
 - 22 Koran reader's faith
 - 25 VIPs' autos
 - 26 Highly capable
 - 27 Waist straps
 - 28 At any __ (nevertheless)
 - 29 Monetary penalties
 - 30 Finds a function for
 - 31 Speaks unclearly
 - 32 Backyard barbecue spot
 - 33 Campfire residue
 - 36 Lariat
 - 38 Tips of socks
 - 40 Montana neighbor
 - 41 Of the sun
 - 47 Of mail
 - 49 Franklin of soul music
 - 50 Small songbirds
 - 51 Frequently
 - 52 Active person
 - 53 Online auction site
 - 54 Golfer's shout
 - 55 Fork prong
 - 56 Female choir voice
 - 57 Historical periods
 - 58 Comically outlandish
 - 59 Outer border
 - 60 Remainder

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Answer to previous puzzle

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A	P	R	I	L	S	H	O	W	E	R	I	E	
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Aldridge's double-double fuels Spurs by Warriors, 89-75



By RAUL DOMINGUEZ

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — LaMarcus Aldridge continued to lead the way for the Spurs, who are trying to find a way to remain in the playoffs.

Aldridge had 33 points and 12 rebounds, and San Antonio blew a 16-point lead to the injury-ravaged Golden State Warriors before pulling away for an 89-75 victory on Monday night.

"I'm a leader, so I have to do what we need," Aldridge said. "Playing defense, blocking shots, scoring. It all comes with it."

San Antonio beat Golden State for the first time in four tries this season and won their fourth straight overall to move into fifth place in the Western Conference, a half-game ahead of idle Utah and New Orleans.

Aldridge scored five straight points early in the fourth quarter to help the Spurs recapture a 66-65 advantage. He finished with 19 points in the fourth, including 11 straight that erased a four-point deficit and gave San Antonio a 72-65 lead it would not relinquish.

"He was a horse in that fourth quarter," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "Obviously, it wasn't a fair fight, but it just shows what kind of class they have and how well coached they are and how badly they want to be champions again. They played great and we picked the right five minutes to play really well at the end of the game."

Already without injured All-Stars Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson, Golden State lost Draymond Green in the second quarter to a bruise in the pelvic area. Green took a knee to the upper groin while defending a drive to the basket by Danny Green.

Draymond Green said he was suffering a "constant, annoying pain," but doesn't expect to miss any games.

"It'll be fine," Green said. "I think it's just something that's kind of like at the peak right now, but it's calmed down a little bit since it happened. It ain't that serious."

The Warriors weren't getting any sympathy from a Spurs team that has played without Kawhi Leonard for much of the season.

Golden State still managed to hold San Antonio to 12 points in the third quarter, matching the Spurs' season low for points in any period.

Two blocked shots propelled the Warriors to their first lead of the game.

JaVale McGee blocked Dejounte Mur-

ray's attempted floater and then scored on a dunk to pull Golden State within 59-57 with 2:21 remaining in the third. Quinn Cook tied the game on a jumper after Patrick McCaw came from the weak side defensively to stuff Pau Gasol near the rim. Kevon Looney gave the Warriors the lead at 63-61 on a jumper with two seconds left in the frame.

The Spurs responded by holding the Warriors to 12 points in the fourth quarter to help their bid for a 21st consecutive post-season appearance.

"They were great defensively," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "The Spurs turned it up a notch. They're fighting for their playoff lives and they played liked it."

Cook led Golden State with 20 points, Looney added 12 and Andre Iguodala and Nick Young had 10 each.

Mills finished with 12 points and Danny Green added 11.

TIP-INS

Warriors: Curry (right ankle), Durant (fractured rib) and Thompson (fractured right thumb) did not travel with the team, remaining in Oakland to continue rehabilitating their injuries. ... Curry was scheduled to be reevaluated Tuesday. ... The Warriors' highest point total in a quarter was 22 in the third. Golden State scored 42 points in the third quarter against Phoenix on Saturday, the 11th time it has scored 40-plus in a quarter this season. ... Golden State has won six games when trailing by 15-plus points.

Spurs: Leonard was not on the bench, as he has been for much of the team's current six-game homestand. Leonard (right quadriceps tendinopathy) has played in only nine games this season. ... Danny Green became the third player in franchise history with a 3-pointer in 400 career games, joining Manu Ginobili (746) and Bruce Bowen (411).

BOUNDING REBOUNDER

Murray had eight rebounds to set the franchise record for rebounds in a single season by a point guard. The 6-foot-5 guard has 385 rebounds in 1,436 minutes, surpassing Johnny Moore's total of 378 collected in 2,689 minutes.

"He's pretty athletic," Aldridge said. "He has a nose for the ball. He goes and gets them. That's big time for him. He's only going to get better from here."

UP NEXT

Warriors: Host Atlanta on Friday night.

Spurs: Host Washington on Wednesday night.

AP photo

Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) takes a charge from San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 19, 2018, in San Antonio.

What. Just. Happened?! NCAA amps up the March Madness

By GENARO C.

ARMAS
AP Sports Writer

One word succinctly describes what's transpired so far in the NCAA Tournament:

Madness.

But even that's probably underselling it.

A comeback for the ages by Nevada. An entire region left without a Top 4 seed in the Sweet 16 for the first time in tourney history. The 16-seed winner UMBC, falling short in its attempt to extend its historic run as underdog darlings. Oh, and defending national champion North Carolina is out, routed in its own state by Texas A&M.

And that was just on Sunday. When No. 1 seed Xavier was bounced, too.

A memorable, zany first two rounds — even by March Madness standards — set up what could be another wild two weekends in a tournament where anything can become reality.

"It's what makes March Madness special and it kills the coaches

because it's so hard and you think you have a great team," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said. "It's March Madness and you never know what's going to happen."

Before the first tipoff on Thursday, many prognosticators had deemed this tournament one of the most wide-open in recent history.

It's turned into a nutty, once-in-a-generation kind of ride.

Loyola-Chicago won two thrillers to get to the Sweet 16, making a social media star out of their 98-year-old chaplain, Sister Jean. And then the telegenic nun who provides her own scouting reports to players got overshadowed by the ultimate Cinderella team.

The UMBC Retrievers became the first No. 16 seed in the history of the men's tournament to beat a No. 1 seed, defeating Virginia in the first round Friday night.

By 20 points. Over the top overall seed and the unanimous No. 1 team in the AP poll.

The Retrievers' run

came to an end on Sunday night in a 50-43 loss to ninth-seeded Kansas State, but not before tattooing a lasting imprint on American sports, drawing attention from stars of the NFL, NBA and Twitch — and love from underdogs everywhere.

"We put our name on the map. We (gave) hope to teams that come to the tournament with lower seeds," guard K.J. Maura said.

UMBC's success story contributed to the messy, unprecedentedly jumbled bracket in the South Region, where the highest-remaining seed is No. 5 Kentucky. It's the first time in tourney history that a regional semifinal will be held without a top 4 seed, according to the NCAA.

Seventh-seeded Nevada added to that by matching the second-biggest comeback in tournament history to beat No. 2 seed Cincinnati

75-73 after trailing by 22 points in the second half.

"That locker room right now, I've never seen anything like it in my life. It's the happiest I've ever seen. It's the happiest I've ever been in my life," Wolf Pack coach Eric Musselman said.

The way reigning champion North Carolina got bounced from the tournament in an 86-65 loss to Texas A&M might have been the top storyline on any other tournament day. It left coach Roy Williams with the most lopsided tournament loss of his

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Hall of Fame career.

It was also the second straight year the titleholder lost before the Sweet 16. And it happened in UNC-friendly territory in Charlotte, North Carolina, where the Tar Heels hadn't lost a tourney game since 1979.

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"I didn't picture it ending it like this," said Williams with his players sitting nearby.

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Pitbull to speak at United Nations about global water crisis

NEW YORK (AP) — Grammy Award-winning rapper Pitbull is heading to the United Nations to discuss the global water crisis on World Water Day.

The organization Clean Water Here announced on Monday that the international pop star will be named Clean Water Here Ambassador on March 22, when he visits the U.N. in New York City.

Pitbull also will receive the 2018 World Water Champion Award for his global humanitarian efforts. He is leading the celebrity-driven social media campaign dubbed "Clean Water Here Cause Flash," in hopes of raising awareness of the water crisis. Other participants include Bruno Mars, Pink, Maroon 5, Demi Lovato, Monica and Juanes.

On March 22, U.N. General Assembly President Miroslav Lajcak will launch a 10-year plan focused on sustainable development of water resources.

AP photo

In this June 30, 2017, file photo, Pitbull performs in concert at Madison Square Garden in New York. The organization Clean Water Here announced on Monday, March 19, 2018, that the international pop star will be named Clean Water Here Ambassador on March 22, when he visits the U.N. in New York City. Pitbull is leading the celebrity-driven social media campaign dubbed "Clean Water Here Cause Flash," in hopes of raising awareness of the water crisis, and will also receive the 2018 World Water Champion Award for his global humanitarian efforts.



GREEN

Continued from Page 5

to drive about 30 doctors and their spouses out to the facility for a tour.

"The best way I know how to address whatever questions they have is show them what we do," he said.

Other uses
When Dallas-based Roots Juices began stocking its shelves with cannabis oil, its smoothie and juice shops in Oak Lawn and Lakewood attracted a loyal clientele and also some unwanted attention from law enforcement.

In October, health department officials seized about \$5,000 or \$6,000 of products from the juice shop. Owner Brent Rodgers watched as state officials carted it away in cardboard boxes wrapped in yellow caution tape.

"You would have thought I was running a meth lab," he said. "I thought it was kind of silly."

State health officials haven't yet decided what to do with the products, said spokesman Chris Van Deusen. He said the state detained them because cannabidiol, also

known as CBD, hasn't been approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a food or food additive.

The shops stopped making drinks with the cannabis oil, but Rodgers shrugged off the run-in with state officials and restocked shelves. He said it's just part of being on the leading edge of a new market.

Rodgers said he's had to overcome other obstacles, such as finding another point-of-sale system for credit card payments after the one the shops used flagged his sale of CBD oil and sent him a letter saying it violated their bank's policies.

Roots Juices sells a range of cannabis oil products, including brownies and muffins made by the shop and prepackaged drops, capsules and salves from Colorado, Oregon and California. They range in price from \$3.50 for a muffin to \$260 for a bottle of cannabis oil. The products have an even smaller trace of the psychoactive com-

pound of THC than those sold by Texas cultivators, so they are classified as hemp.

Sales of the cannabis oil products have become about half of the shops' business since sales began last summer, Rodgers said. White- and gray-haired customers looking for relief from arthritis and joint pain started coming to the shops, which usually cater to health-conscious 20- and 30-somethings. He said customers have driven from as far as Weatherford, Waxahachie and Oklahoma City.

"When I came to Dallas (in 2012), no one was juicing," he said. "Now there's a juice bar

on every corner ... It was a lot of work to educate people on the benefits of juicing. Now I am finding the same thing. I'm educating people about the benefits of CBD."

The suppliers

GrowLife, a Seattle-area company that makes potting plants, lighting and other supplies to grow marijuana and other plants indoors, opened a facility in Grand Prairie in January. The company will manufacture FreeFit Floors, flooring that reflects light and saves energy. Its flooring has become popular among cannabis companies.

It plans to expand to 50

employees over the next 18 months, GrowLife chief executive Marco Hegyi said.

The state's central location and low cost made it an ideal logistics hub, said Keith Pockock, general manager of operations for GrowLife Innovations. He said the company will use the facility to test new products, too, such as a ready-made grow kit that resembles a camping tent and comes with supplies like lighting and fans.

There's one catch, though, he said: The company will have to test its new products by growing salad greens or herbs instead of marijuana.

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