

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

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TAILGATES & TOUCHDOWNS

View photos of tailgaters at the Texas Tech scrimmage March 24.

Section C



FINAL FOUR PREVIEW

Kansas takes on Villanova, and Loyola is up against Michigan in the March Madness tournament.

Page 1B

Prospective owners line up for chance to buy lot

'In Midland or Odessa, we can't build them fast enough,' Permian Homes president says

By Corey Paul
Odessa American

Travis Turner and Harlie Deckert bought their first new home on Monday morning. But to do it, they had to spend months on a waiting list. Finally, they camped overnight in an east Odessa neighborhood with more than another dozen people who all wanted to buy lots.

A whirring drilling rig nearby kept them awake. And at one point someone suspecting a homeless camp called the police, Turner said.

"It rained a couple times on us out there," Turner said. "But we got to meet all our neighbors."

Turner, who works at a tow truck company, said he still feels lucky. After all, the couple was seeking a new home amid

scarce supply in one of the country's hottest housing markets.

At the Odessa Board of Realtors, Executive Vice President Connie Coots said she could not remember a time when the inventory of existing homes was so low, including during the peak of the last oil boom a few years ago.

In February, the trade group reported 1.5 months of housing inventory — a

measure of market that estimates how long it would take all the listed homes to sell. That's a third of what it was at the same time last year, which was already a tight market. A balanced housing market has about six months of inventory.

"New builds are just not keeping up with the demand," Coots said. "If they are

Please see HOMES/2A

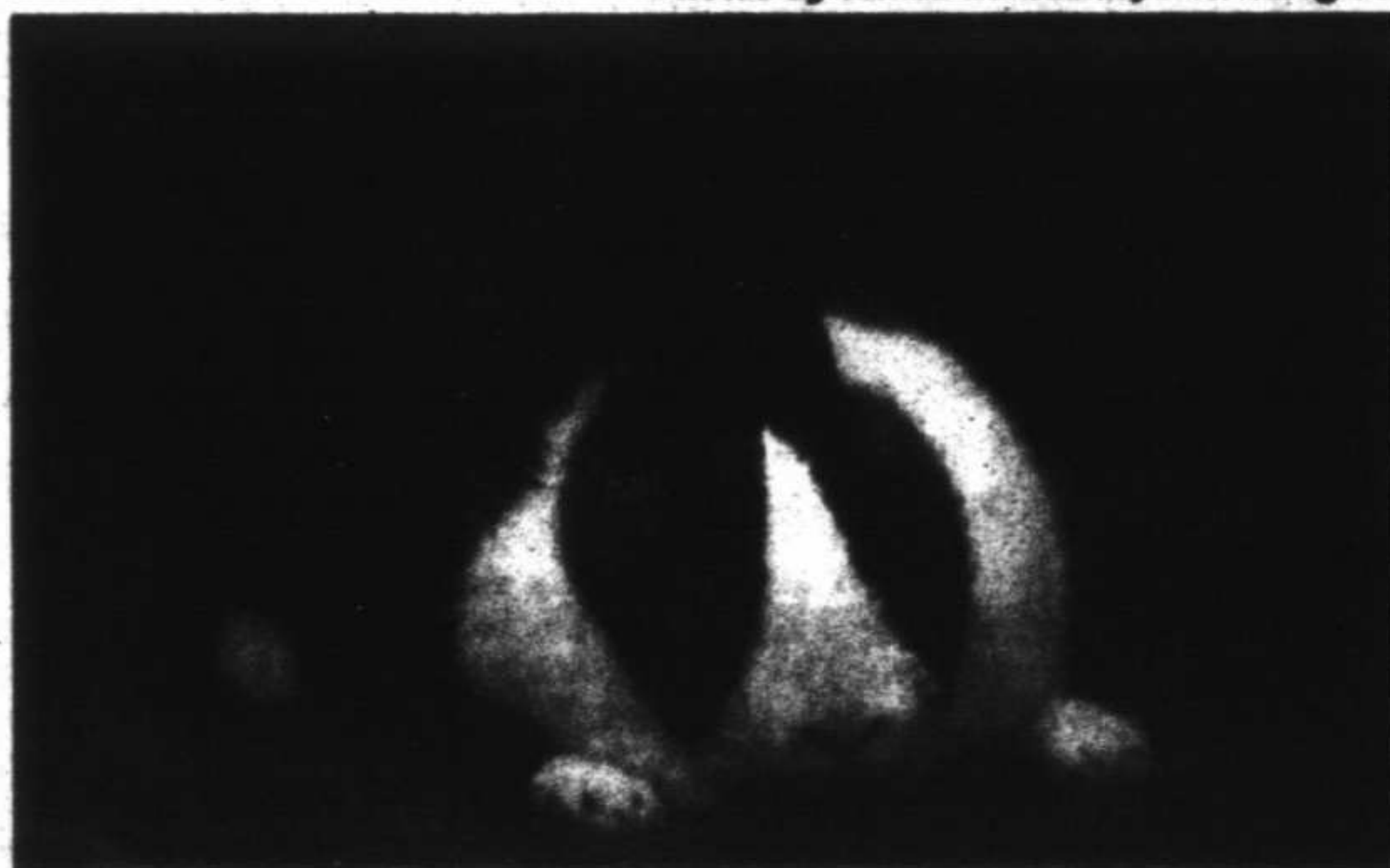
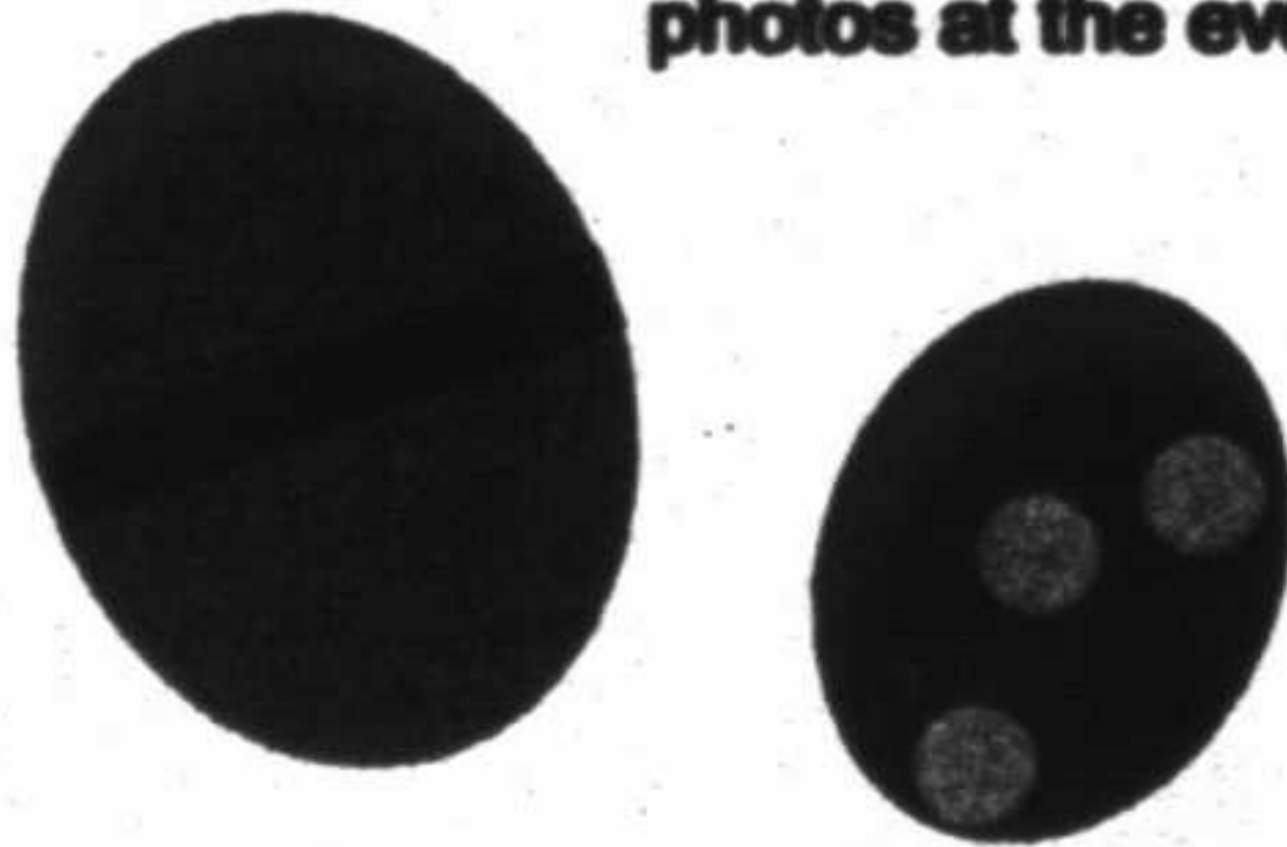
EASTER SPRING FEST



Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

ABOVE: Children get a running start for an Easter egg hunt during the Easter Spring Fest and open house Friday at Ashton Medical Lodge.

RIGHT: A rabbit was available for photos at the event.



Trump EPA expected to roll back auto gas mileage standards

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — The Trump administration is expected to announce that it will roll back automobile gas mileage and pollution standards that were a pillar in the Obama administration's plans to combat climate change.

It's not clear whether the announcement will include a specific number, but current regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency require the fleet of new vehicles to get 36 miles per gallon in real-world driving by 2025. That's about 10 mpg over the existing standard.

Environmental groups, who predict

increased greenhouse gas emissions and more gasoline consumption if the standards are relaxed, say the announcement could come Tuesday at a Virginia car dealership. EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said in an email Friday that the standards are still being reviewed.

Any change is likely to set up a lengthy legal showdown with California, which currently has the power to set its own pollution and gas mileage standards and doesn't want them to change. About a dozen other states follow California's rules, and together they account for more than one-third of the vehicles sold in the U.S. Currently the federal and California standards are the same.

Automakers have lobbied to revisit the requirements, saying they'll have trouble reaching them because people are buying bigger vehicles due to low gas prices. They say the standards will cost the industry billions of dollars and raise vehicle prices due to the cost of developing technology needed to raise mileage.

When the standards were first proposed, the government predicted that two-thirds of new vehicles sold would be cars, with the rest trucks and SUVs, said Gloria Bergquist, spokeswoman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. Now the reverse is true, she said.

Still, environmental groups say the standards save money at the pump, and the technology is available for the industry to comply.

They also say burning more gasoline will put people's health at risk.

"The American public overwhelmingly supports strong vehicle standards because

Please see MILEAGE/4A

Permian Basin loses 1 rig for total of 443

■ Midland and Reeves counties each lose 2 rigs

From staff reports

The Permian Basin lost one rig this week, slipping to 443 from 444 a week ago, according to Baker Hughes' weekly rig count. Midland and Reeves counties each lost two rigs; Midland's total is 49, and Reeves' total is 66.

The Permian rig count is up 124 rigs from the 319 reported a year ago, while Midland County has gained 13 rigs over a year ago.

In Railroad Commission District 8, the rig count was unchanged at 304 rigs, while it was up one rig to 16 in District 8A and down one rig to 35 in District 7C.

Texas lost three rigs, followed by New Mexico, Ohio and West Virginia, which each lost one rig. Pennsylvania gained two rigs, while Louisiana and Oklahoma each gained one rig.

The U.S. rig count dipped to 993, down two for the week. The number of rigs working on land dropped two to 977, while the number of rigs working in inland waters and offshore was unchanged at 16. A year ago there were 824 rigs active.

There were 797 rigs drilling for crude, down seven from the previous week but up 135 from a year ago. There were 194 rigs drilling for natural gas, up four from the previous week and 34 from a year ago.

Canada saw 27 rigs laid down this week, dropping its rig count to 134.

Susan Combs to be named to Interior Department post

■ Former state comptroller to oversee U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service

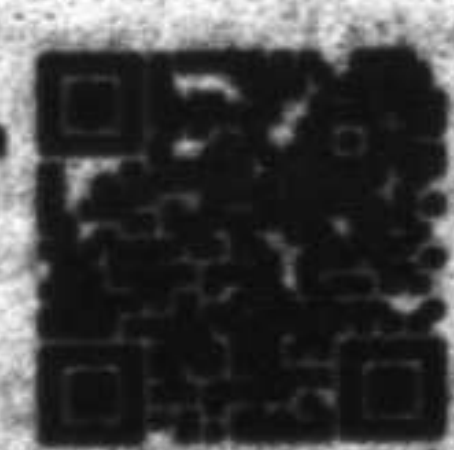
By Asher Price and
Eric Drexler

Ashe American Statesman

A former Texas official who once refused to propose endangered species protections as "increasing Social liberals" will soon be named to a Trump administration post overseeing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

Please see COMBS/2A

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on social media



Did you know?

Ozzy Osbourne
joined Adam Carolla's
podcast on Thursday.

The big number

50

dollars a night
is what the EPA will pay
for a 50-year-old car to a
dealer. Page 4A

Word of the Day

stipulate

Do you know what it
means? Find out the
definition on Page 5A.

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Vol. 99, No. 20

Daily 32, Sunday 33

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43447-0001

Odessa woman dies in motorcycle wreck

From staff reports

A 28-year-old Odessa woman died early Sunday morning after being thrown from a motorcycle in a one-vehicle wreck on a road in Midland County, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Rachel E. Smalling was a passenger on a Harley Davidson that was castbound on West County Road 100 seven miles west of Midland.

The driver, a 26-year-old Odessa man, lost control of the motorcycle, which left the roadway, according to the release that

was received Friday.

Smalling died at the scene. The driver, who also was thrown from the cycle, was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with incapacitating injuries, according to the release.

Neither Smalling nor the driver were wearing helmets, according to the release.

Smalling was the sixth person to die in wrecks on roads in Midland County this year, according to Reporter-Telegram records. It was reported previously that fatality No. 5 was a 34-year-old Odessa man who died Monday in a one-vehicle wreck on Loop 250.

Texas bluebonnet season means great time for views, photos

A sea of yellow wildflowers recently cast a magical glow upon the flat pastureland just east of the Brazos River at Highway 290, but a dose of reality awaited on the west side of the bridge, under the "Welcome to Washington County" sign that usually draws a crowd this time of year: no hill of bluebonnets.

The Houston Chronicle reports across the county's bucolic, rolling pastures — typically the closest bluebonnet haven to Houston — the wildflowers are prolific in some roadside patches but not blanketing the landscape profusely. So much for the popular misconception that Hurricane Harvey's deluges created ideal conditions for a spectacular show of the state flower.

Overall, the 2018 spring wildflower season is on track to be "perfectly average" in many parts of Texas, say experts at The University of Texas at Austin's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Slightly more ephemeral than other wildflowers that can linger into June, bluebonnets tend to peak during the first two weeks of April. Their season is on schedule, but the display hinges on a lot of things, including the timing and intensity of rainfall and temperatures during the fall, winter and early spring. In spite of Harvey, the state's key bluebonnet regions saw below-average rainfall during the prime seed germination months of October and November.

Andrea DeLong-Amaya, the wildflower center's horticulture director, said the Austin area's rainfall is about 4 inches below average for the year. "It was looking good early in the season for bluebonnets, but I've seen plants dying up, so they're not flourishing," she said. On the plus side, she expects to see bumper crops of phlox and pink evening primroses this season. "Every year the conditions shift," she said.

Humans impact the wildflower environment, too. DeLong-Amaya said several pastures near Austin that have always provided a spring show are now construction sites, evidence of the city's continual expansion.

Well out into the country, however, some area ranchers now pasture to discourage visitors from trespassing into areas that also harbor ants, poisonous snakes and livestock, said Jenny Mills, tourism director for the Brenham/Washington County Chamber/CVB.

MOLLY GLENTZER
Houston Chronicle



Ranchers may also mow wildflowers for the health of their livestock. "For big, fat cows, you need grasses, not flowers," DeLong-Amaya said. That iconic postcard image — a lone flower standing in a field of bluebonnets and prickly pear cactus — tells her cattle are being over-grazed, because opportunistic flowers take over where there's a dearth of grass.

She has been irked, however, to see a field near her home mowed under in the middle of wildflower season. "Maybe it's an absentee landlord who doesn't know, but you think, what a curmudgeon, not waiting a few weeks," she said.

Dale Ramsey, who owns the 26-year-old Bluebonnet House gift shop in Chappell Hill, understands the predicament of property owners who don't want the liability of kids in flip-flops trampling through their fields.

"People from the city come up here and think this world is all open to them," she said. "They don't understand what a barbed-wire fence is." Several of her neighbors have already reported seeing deadly copperhead snakes this season.

But Ramsey, like many other area merchants, also depends on bluebonnets for business.

"This is our Christmas," she said. Hotel-motel taxes in Washington County declined more than 12 percent from 2013 to 2016 for a number of reasons including storms and malaise of Houston's oil economy. But the tax revenues spiked significantly in March and April during those years. Mills, who said the tourist economy is showing improvement, knows bluebonnets are an important attraction but said the spring antiques shows that consume about 30 miles of Highway 237 in neighboring Fayette County in late March and early April also are a big draw, as is the lure of clean, open air during the blustery months of spring.

Obituaries



Ashley Marie Gandy

Ashley Marie Gandy, New Iberia - Memorial services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 2018 at Pellerin Funeral Home in New Iberia. Ashley Marie Gandy 16, who passed away on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

A gathering of family and friends will be at Pellerin Funeral Home in New Iberia from 12:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. Rev. Ed Degcyer will be the Officiant.

Interment will be at a later date. Ashley was the daughter of Tracy Rene Gandy of Midland, Texas and Nicole Douglas Gandy of Spring, Texas. She is also survived by her special twin sister, Emily Gandy, and older sister Shea Gandy; brothers, Chris Gandy, and Josh Gandy and wife Charlie; as well as Victoria, Julieanna and Jason Robin. She was the granddaughter of Wanda Bernard Douglas and the late James D. Douglas, Sr. and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whittington. Also surviving are Ashley's Godparents James D. Douglas, Jr. and Dee Dee Waldmann; and many cousins on both sides, who always brought out her deep laugh and wonderful smile. Ashley brightened every room she entered and showed true joy daily. She will be deeply missed.

Her family wishes to express their unending gratitude to Dr. Nabulsi, her lifelong pediatrician, for his care and concern all these years.

Special thanks to Midland Children's Rehab for all the years of love, therapy and friendship they provided; to Ashley's tight knit special-needs friends and families that have experienced life with her; and to her other "yo-yo" mothers (Liz, Leslie and Tracy), along with her aunts Deida Isbell and Kathy Miller for the love shown to Ashley. Ashley will always have a special place in the hearts of Elva, Mona, Sandra and Nicole, who cared for her daily thought out her life. We also thank all of the caregivers, Peds Med center, all home health workers, and her

homebound teacher. Your love and enthusiasm for Ashley was exceptional. Our true gratitude for those who had continual phone conversations with Ashley; calls from Nicole Murphy, Grammy and Deida Isbell absolutely made her day, and were such an important part of her life!

The family requests memorial donations be made in Ashley's name to Midland Children's Rehab Center, 802 Ventura Ave., Midland, Texas 79705.

To view on-line obituary, sign guest book, and view video tribute, please go to www.pellerinfuneralhome.com at Pellerin Funeral Home, 502 Jefferson Terrace Blvd., New Iberia, LA 70560 (337-365-3331) is in charge of arrangements.



Mary Lee Ottis Crane

Mary Lee Ottis Crane, 80, of Midland passed away Monday, March 26, 2018 in Midland, Texas.

Mary Lee was born on November 25, 1937 to James Allen and Lydia Lee Ottis in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mary Lee lived most of her childhood in Laurel, Mississippi and graduated from Laurel High School in 1955.

Mary Lee was a resident in Hattiesburg for over 30 years. It was here that her three daughters were born and raised. Mary Lee was an active member of Main Street Baptist Church where she enjoyed singing in the choir and serving in the nursery. She also enjoyed volunteering with several charitable organizations in the community.

Mary Lee moved to Houston, Texas in 1989. She worked as an Office Manager in the Oil & Gas industry until her retirement in 2013. She had been an active member of Tallowood Baptist Church. She also enjoyed gardening and traveling to spend time with family and friends during her retirement years.

By far the greatest joy of Mary Lee's life were her five grandsons. Mary Lee has the distinction of being an Aggie Grandmother. All five of her grandsons either graduated from or is currently enrolled

at Texas A&M; Joshua Lawrence Gilbert '12 of Houston, Texas; Chase Eldon Gilbert '13 of Midland, Texas; Zachary Allen Gilbert '17 of Midland, Texas; Samuel David Gilbert '19 of College Station, Texas and Timothy Clayton Bobo '22 of Houston, Texas. Mary Lee "Gram" will be painfully missed by all of her boys.

Mary Lee is survived by her three daughters, Janice Lee Crane Bobo and husband Tim of Houston, Texas; Victoria Renee Crane Gilbert and husband Larry of Midland, Texas and Susan Michelle Crane of Houston, Texas. She is also survived by her brother John Richard Ottis and wife Sharon of Hattiesburg, Mississippi and their children, Megan Sheehy and husband Sean of Huntsville, Alabama and Jimmy Ottis and wife Shea of Brandon, Florida.

Visitation will be held on Monday, April 2, 2018 at Moore Funeral Home in Hattiesburg, Mississippi at 1:00 p.m. A graveside service will immediately follow at Roseland Cemetery at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made to Alzheimer's Association - Midland Chapter.

Nalley-Fickie & Welch
Funeral Home & Crematory
(432) 550-5000

Death Notices

Corene Benton

Corene Benton, 94, of Midland passed away March 30, 2018 in Midland. She was born January 18, 1924 in Terry County, Texas.

She is survived by her son, Ted Benton; her son Randall Benton; 1 sister; 11 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at the Nalley-Fickie & Welch Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow in Resthaven North Cemetery, Midland, Texas.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Fickie & Welch Funeral & Crematory of Midland.

Mary Kiefer

Mary Kiefer, 57, of Midland, Texas away Thursday, March 29, 2018. A rosary service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 2018 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Midland. A memorial mass will be held at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Survivors include husband, Richard Kiefer; sons, Chad Kiefer, Daniel Kiefer, William Kiefer, and Anthony Kiefer; mother, Donna Rejman; and seven siblings.

COMBS

From 1A

Susan Combs, a rancher and former Texas state senator and state comptroller who has long championed private property rights, is to be named acting assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks.

The posting comes as she awaits U.S. Senate confirmation for another post at the U.S. Department of Interior.

The new job was confirmed by several federal and state officials and one of her partners in an effort to de-list an endangered roughleg found in Central

Texas.

The American Statesman revealed in 2015 that Combs and a high-ranking official in land commissioner George P. Bush's office — Anne Isbell, now the head of the Texas regional office of the Trump administration's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — had pressed military officials at Fort Hood, prime habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler, to play up the impact of the bird protections on military training as part of their delisting effort.

"Susan's appointment fits with the priorities expressed

by the president to address the scope and power of the federal government," said Robert Henneke, director of the Center for the American Future at the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation, which represented the General Land Office as it tried to get the species de-listed. "I see her as faithful to the text and common understanding of the Endangered Species Act."

Birders and environmentalists in Texas were critical of Combs' approach, noting that habitat loss continued.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

HOMES

From 1A

priced right, they are moving."

Turner, Deckert and the other hopefuls Monday were vying for one of 25 lots where Permian Homes will build new houses this year.

The latest sales were for the second phase of the Enclave at Mission Ranch development, where homes start at about \$230,000 and give buyers custom options. The buyers had sought one of 78 lots in the first phase, but those quickly sold out.

"In Midland or Odessa, we can't build them fast enough," Permian Homes President Greg Ferrel said. "It doesn't matter the price point, or where it is, everything is selling. That's just what the market's doing. That's what all is doing."

It's been that way since late 2017. "It just exploded," Ferrel said. "And it hasn't slowed down since."

Permian Homes didn't advertise the Monday sale, Ferrel said. Turner said the buyers were all on the waiting list and most learned of it by seeking updates from the company.

Turner and Deckert joined the waiting list about six months ago, which already had more than 100 other people on it. She started coming out Sunday afternoon,

earlier than the couple planned, once she drove by and saw other prospective buyers had beaten them to it.

Today, Odessa has one of the strongest housing markets in the country, a recent study by the insurance company Nationwide that looked at factors such as home sales, the mortgage market, job and wage growth, and demographics as people flock to the area showed.

"A lot of people who would like to buy homes either have to pay a lot more to get one, or they have to wait," Nationwide Chief Economist David Barron said. "It's just a lack of supply."

That's unlikely to change in the next year, so long as job growth and other indicators of a booming local economy remain, Barron said.

Turner said he and his fiancée should be able to move into their new \$300,000 home around November and avoid the rent increase they would face if they moved the lease at their Midland apartment.

"Getting to pick out exactly what we want, I feel like it's a pretty good deal," Turner said. "Especially with all the money to be made here, all the jobs — You are kind of in the middle of everything."

Distributed by the Associated Press

STATE BRIEFS

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANGELO Man found guilty in slaying of 5-year-old

A West Texas man has been found guilty in the 2014 slaying of his then-girlfriend's 5-year-old daughter, who died after her throat was slit.

The San Angelo Standard-Times reports a jury found 27-year-old Isidro Miguel Delacruz guilty of capital murder Thursday in the death of Naiya Villalga. The sentencing phase begins Monday. Delacruz faces death or life in prison.

According to testimony, the girl was killed after Delacruz went to his girlfriend's home in the early morning hours. Nayra Barron testified she'd been afraid he would come over, and she'd tried to barricade the residence.

She testified that when she saw him break in through a window, she ran out of the house. Barron said she left Naiya sleeping because she believed Delacruz wouldn't hurt the child.

AUSTIN Man accused of throwing toddler son out 3rd story window

Investigators say a Central Texas man has been arrested after a neighbor reported seeing him throw his 2-year-old son out a third-story window. Travis County jail records

show 32-year-old Pam Fainzleff was being held Friday on a charge of injury to a child. Austin police say the boy suffered cuts and bruises in Tuesday's incident at some apartments.

An affidavit says Fainzleff told police he was asleep, his son opened a window and fell.

Court documents indicate a witness told police she was outside, heard yelling, then saw a man remove the window screen and toss the toddler out. The mother retrieved the boy and later allegedly told police he fell at a park.

Office records don't list an attorney representing Fainzleff. Bond was \$30,000. Child Protective Services is investigating.

HOUSTON Suspended judge resigns before possible removal

An embattled judge in Houston who was suspended last year without pay and faced a review that could potentially remove her from the bench has resigned. The Houston Chronicle reports Harris County Justice of the Peace Hilary Green, who'd been a judge since 2007, cited family reasons when she quit Thursday.

The Texas Supreme Court suspended Green amid allegations she used in court and used illegal drugs. The State Commission on Judicial Conduct earlier investigated Green amid complaints since 2012.

Records show Green, in response, acknowledged she illegally obtained prescription drugs, used marijuana and engaged in sexually explicit and drug-related texts with a boyfriend.

Green had faced trial in April to determine her judicial future. County commissioners will appoint a replacement for Democrat Green, to serve until the November election.

FLAND Suspect in deadly shooting tied to another slaying

Officials believe a man arrested in a shooting that left one dead and three wounded in the Dallas suburb of Plano is connected to the fatal shooting of two in another suburb.

Arlington police Lt. Christopher Cook said Friday there's investigative work to be done before filing charges but that evidence includes contact they believe the victims had with the suspect.

The bodies of two men were found Thursday in a car parked in an apartment complex in Arlington, located 40 miles southwest of Plano. The Plano shooting happened Thursday at an apartment complex.

Plano police say 18-year-old Franklin Lee Brown was arrested in connection to the shooting there and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Additional charges are expected.

TODAYINMIDLAND

WORD OF THE DAY



stuporific

[stu-por-ih-ic]

adjective

causing stupor
was all ready to
knock myself out
with something
really stuporific

— Christopher Morley

Midland
Reporter-Telegram
AT YOUR SERVICE

A Midland Newspaper
Published each morning by the
Midland Reporter-Telegram
Company, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland,
TX 79701. Periodicals postage paid at
Midland, TX 79701. POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to the
Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E.
Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

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Things to do

■ Easter Bash Car Event will
include egg hunt, bicycle giveaway,
and car show. Hosted by Model
Citizens of West Texas, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,
Beal Park, 5200 W. Wall St.

■ Easter Spring Fling and 5K
Run hosted by City of Odessa Parks
and Recreation, 9 a.m.-noon, UTFS
soccer fields, E Loop 338, Odessa.
odessaparks.org

■ Classic Cars and Coffee, 9
a.m.-noon, Higher Grounds Coffee
Shop, 403 Andrews Highway.

■ Sensory-friendly Screening:
"Sherlock Holmes," 6:30 a.m.,
Cinema, 1917 Liberty Drive.

■ Easter Cookies and Canes for
kindergartners through sixth-graders,
10 a.m., The Orchard Church, 6112
N. State Highway 348, \$10. Register
by texting "paleo" to 432-535-5013.
Parents can drop off children for this
event.

■ Bridge lessons, 10 a.m., Allison
Bridge Center, 913 W. Wall St. Ave.
\$3. Peralta@bridgecenter.com

■ Bridge game play, 10:30 a.m.,
913 W. Wall St. Ave. \$8. For more
information call 682-6505.

■ The eighth annual Community
Egg Hunt hosted by First Christian
Church, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Hill Park,
1301 W. Colburn Ave. The event will
feature free hot dogs, cotton candy
and more than 25,000 eggs to hunt for.

■ "The Duckling Gets a Cookie!"
storytime, 11 a.m., Barnes and Noble
Bookstore, 2617 W. Loop 250 N.
barnesandnoble.com

■ "Cool tea talk" by The Mid-
Land, 11:55 a.m., Hill City
Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250,
\$23.77 adults, \$21.80 seniors, \$17.28
children. info@midland.com

■ Author Signing: Local pastor
Tyler Frick signs copies of his book
"Freaking Out," noon, Barnes and
Noble Bookstore, 2617 W. Loop 250
N., barnesandnoble.com

■ Championship Boxing: Anthony
Joshua versus Joseph Parker for the
unified heavyweight title, 4 p.m.,
Triple Threat Sports Bar and Grill, 12
Moto Drive.

■ Canfish Ball, 5-9 p.m., Nemo's
Cocina Crafolla, 4401 N. Big Spring St.
■ Steak Night, 6 p.m., Ranchland
Hills Golf Club, 1000 E. Wall St. Ave.
ranchlandhills.com

■ Wicked West Band, 9 p.m., Your
Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

■ Miles Williams, 9 p.m., Filley's
Bar and Grill, 3421 W. Wall St.

■ Free Spirit, 9 p.m., Galaxy Doo
Saloon, 6009 N. Golden Ave., Odessa.
\$10.

■ DJ Alex Shock, 9 p.m., So-
perman Nightclub, 2215 N. Midland
Drive, \$10.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Jenna Bush Hager speaks with Patricia Maurer, head of preschool and lower school at Trinity School. Hager visited Trinity on Tuesday to speak about her involvement with charitable efforts. During the same event, checks were presented to three nonprofits — Breaking Bread Kitchen, Casa de Amigos and The Field's Edge — as part of Can it for Charity. Kindergartners through sixth-graders collected cans and sought donations to raise money for the three organizations.

Alpine Gem and Mineral Show
at the Alpine Civic Center, 801 W.
Holland Ave., Alpine.Museum plans
design contest

A contest this month challenges
students to design and build model
spacecrafts using everyday objects.
Kindergarten through 12th-grade
participants can use any materials to
make a rocket that is to be no larger
than 16 inches on all sides.
Entries for The SpaceShip
Rocket Competition must be sub-
mitted between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. April
21 at the Stephens Planetarium.

They will be judged for design,
creativity and appearance during that
day's ceremony celebration. Retired
Col. Elmer Capron, NASA's first
female space shuttle commander, will
announce winners at 4 p.m.Museum of the Southwest
previously held a spacecraft-building
competition for Astronomy Day in
2015. For information about this
year's contest and programming, visit
museum.org.

Today in history

Today is Saturday, March 31, the
90th day of 2018. There are 275 days
left in the year.
Today's highlight:

On March 31, 1968, at the conclu-
sion of a nationally broadcast address
on Vietnam, President Lyndon B.
Johnson stunned listeners by declar-
ing, "I shall not seek, and I will not
accept, the nomination of my party for
another term as your president."On this date:
In 1958, the Chuck Berry single
"Johnny B. Goode" was first released
on the Chess label.In 1953, actor Brandon Lee, 28,
was accidentally shot to death during
the filming of a movie in Wilmington,
North Carolina, when he was hit by
a bullet fragment that had become
lodged inside a prop gun.In 1996, Mexican-American singer
Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, wasshot to death in Corpus Christi by the
band leader of her fan club, Yolanda Sal-
divar, who was convicted of murder and
sentenced to life in prison.In 2005, Terri Schiavo, 41, died at
a hospice in Fort Lauderdale, Florida,
13 days after her feeding tube was
removed in a wrenching right-to-life
dispute.

Source: The Associated Press

Open today

Midland County Public Library
Central branch only, 10 a.m.-7
p.m.
U.S. Post Office, Graves Station,
3304 W. Wall St. Ave., 10 a.m. to 2
p.m.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 5-2-5
Pick 3 day: 1-0-8
Pick 3 evening: 4-0-8
Pick 3 night: 3-5-7
Daily 4 morning: 0-6-2-8
Daily 4 day: 4-0-8
Daily 4 evening: 1-4-2-1
Daily 4 night: 8-5-0-8
Cash Plus: 2-14-31-33
Triple Chance: 2-13-10-21-22-
24-25-48-49

Weather

Today's temperatures
High: 76
Low: 48
Normal high: 74
Normal low: 44

March 30's records
Record high: 94, set in
1946
Low: 17, set in 1987Precipitation
Thursday: 0.00 in.
Friday: 0.02 in.
Month total: 0.11 in.
Year total: 0.16 in.
Normal total
(year to date): 1.85 in.Winds
Wind speed: 22 mph
Gust speed: 33 mphToday's forecast
High: 87

Forecast for Saturday, March 31, 2018



Low: 55
Conditions: Mostly sunny
today/Partly cloudy tonight
Winds: South 10-20 mph,
with gusts up to 30 mph to-

day/west 10-15 mph tonight
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise: 7:38 a.m.
Sunset: 8:08 p.m.
Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult

Note: Bigar's Stars is based
on the degree of your sun at
birth. The sign name is simply
a label astrologers put on a
set of degrees for convenience.
For best results, readers should
refer to the dates following each
sign.

A baby born today has a Sun
in Aries and a Moon in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for
Saturday, March 31, 2018:

This year you could witness
a new beginning in at least one
area of your life. Your job or
career will demand attention.

You might feel a need to spend
more time with your parents
and/or loved ones. You value
these people more the older you
get. If you are single, you will
meet someone in the second
half of the year who could be
significant to your life. If you
are married, the two of you
might get along even better than
usual. You understand where
your creative comes from. Your
interest in LIBRA grows, possibly
because he or she doesn't feel
a different point of view from
yours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★ ★ ★ ★ Many of you get a
kick out of April Fool's Day;
however, there might be too
much upper happening now for
you to focus on it. Your temper
could flare, which will encour-
age someone you love to back
off. Relax with this Full Moon,
as it could be wacky. Tonight:
Out and about.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★ ★ ★ ★ Venus, your ruling
planet, moves into your sign,
which makes you more attrac-
tive and desirable. The mood
of contentment around you could
be contagious, but not serious.
You will be able to clear up a
misunderstanding soon enough.
Tonight: Let bygones be
bygones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★ ★ ★ ★ Mercury rules you
now, but he could be about getting
caught in the crossfire of an
argument between friends. Lie
low for now, and look for the
positive energy around the issue
at hand. You could be more
upset about a problem than you
realize. Tonight: Let off some
steam.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ Your instincts to
head home as soon as you see
some disruption might mean to
get a bad idea. You won't
be able to isolate yourself
from all this energy, but you
have a better chance of being
more removed from it at home.
Misunderstandings can run rampant.
Tonight: Screen calls.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ You might be
unusually difficult, as someone
else's negative mood seems to
put a damper on the mood.
Understand that a friend could
be distancing him- or herself
because he or she doesn't feel
up to snuff. Let go of judg-
ments, and just do your thing.
Tonight: Let the fun begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ You might be
concerned about a matter that
is close to your heart. You
detach emotionally from the
here and now, and are one of the
most laid-back people around.
A family member could be
down, distant and/or difficult.
Tonight: Help a loved one get
past a misunderstanding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ You enjoy being
the center of attention, but make
time to show down, take a nap or do
something just for you. Others
might have some difficulty with
the intensity of the Full Moon
and the beauty that marks this
particular lunar event, but not
you. Tonight: Do whatever you
want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★ ★ ★ ★ You might want to
step back and watch others for
now. You won't want to be in
the middle of the fray, espe-
cially with all of the activity
associated with this Full Moon.
Communication contains some
negativity. Tonight: The more
receptive you are, the better the
results will be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★ ★ ★ ★ You always value
the feedback of a friend, no
matter what is going on. You
no longer want to sustain the
ups and downs of relating to
this particular person. Make an
effort to get in touch with

another friend who needs some
attention. Tonight: Meet up
with loved ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★ ★ ★ ★ You'll note an issue
arising between family and
your more public life. How you
handle this matter could define
today as well as a sustained
period afterward. Avoid being
argumentative, even if you are
disappointed. Make a point to
go out. Tonight: A floor to be
dust with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★ ★ ★ ★ Observe what is go-
ing on around you. Emphasize
long-distance communication
as well as a potential trip. Stay
open to what is being offered.

You are full of energy and ready
for a change. Touch base with
a loved one whom you don't
often hear from. Tonight: Be
entertained.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★ ★ ★ ★ One-on-one
talking down positive results,
especially from a partner or
close loved one. Still, you might
find yourself in an unusual
situation. Your focus needs to
be on the other party for now.
Use caution with spending or
signing any money agreements.
Tonight: Make nice.

BORN TODAY

Quintus Augustus Young
(1935), actor Christopher
Walken (1943), actress Ellen
Patterson (1948)

TREE REMOVAL

CONTACT THE
PROFESSIONALS AT

TO REMOVE DEAD OR UNWANTED TREES

MILEAGE

From 1A

they cut the cost of driving, reduce air pollution, and combat climate change," said Luke Tonachel, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Clean Vehicles and Fuels Project.

The EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are involved in setting the standards, which would cover the years 2022 through 2025.

Some conservative groups are pressing EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to revoke a waiver that allows California to set its own rules. They say California shouldn't be allowed to set policy for the rest of the nation. Pruitt has publicly questioned the veracity of evidence compiled by climate scientists, including those in his own agency, that global warming is overwhelmingly caused by man-made carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels.

If the waiver is revoked, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra says the state will resist. "What we're doing to protect California's environment isn't just good for our communities—it's good for the country," he said in a statement. "We're not looking to pick a fight with the Trump administration, but when they threaten our values, we're ready."

Getting rid of the waiver or having two gas mileage and pollution requirements presents a huge dilemma for automakers: while they would like to avoid fines for



J. David Ake/Associated Press

Traffic streaks along U.S. Highway 50 early Friday morning across the Potomac River from Washington in Arlington, Va.

failing to meet the standards, they also want the expense of building two versions of cars and trucks, one for the California-led states and another for the rest of the country.

Mark Reuss, a General Motors' product development chief, said in a recent interview that he would rather have a single nationwide standard, even if it stays the same.

He called two standards "just waste," because they would require different vehicle equipment and costly additional engineering. "I want one good one," he said. "I could focus all my engineers on one."

Automakers agreed to the standards in 2012, but lobbied for and received a midterm review in 2018 to account for changes in market conditions. In the waning days of the Obama presidency, the EPA did the

review and proclaimed that the standards have enough flexibility and the technology is available to meet them.

Janet McCabe, who was acting assistant EPA administrator under Obama when the review was done, said Friday it will take a couple years for the EPA to propose new rules, gather public comment and finalize any changes. Any rollback would likely bring legal challenges, forcing Pruitt's EPA to defend the science behind the changes.

"This would all take a long time," said McCabe, now a senior fellow at the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

In the meantime, automakers have to proceed with plans for new cars and trucks under the current gas mileage requirements because it takes years to develop vehicles.



Andrew Harnik/Associated Press

The Capitol Hill condo building, photographed Friday, where Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has stayed in Washington.

Officials: EPA chief paid \$50 a night for condo linked to lobbyist

By Michael Biesecker
and Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The head of the Environmental Protection Agency paid just \$50 a night to stay in a Capitol Hill condominium linked to a prominent Washington lobbyist whose firm represents fossil fuel companies, officials acknowledged Friday.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt paid for a single bedroom in the building about a block from the U.S. Capitol, staying for about six months in 2017. Three units inside the building belong to a corporation co-owned by the wife of J. Steven Hart, the chairman and CEO of the powerhouse lobbying firm Williams and Jensen PLLC, according to records.

The firm's clients include Exxon Mobil Corp. and the major liquefied natural gas exporter Cheniere Energy Inc. — companies that have billions at stake in regulatory decisions over which Pruitt presides. In at least one case, Pruitt met in his EPA office with a lobbyist from Hart's firm while he was renting the room, records showed.

The \$50-per-night rate is significantly lower than advertised rates for rentals in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. One-bedroom apartments range between \$1,600 and \$2,500 a month, depending on amenities. Single rooms listed online for one-night rentals averaged about \$120 a night.

It was too soon to know whether Pruitt — who was previously criticized over high travel expenses — will face any consequences or draw the ire of President Donald Trump.

White House officials, who expressed frustration by the optics of Pruitt's living arrangements, were reviewing the seriousness of the issue, according to a White House official not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions.

An ethics lawyer at EPA, Justina Fugh, told The Associated Press that Pruitt's rental agreement allowed him to pay only for nights he occupied the room, totaling about \$6,000 in payments over the term of the lease.

Fugh said she was first briefed by other EPA officials about the terms of lease on Thursday, shortly after ABC News first reported on Pruitt's prior living arrangements. Fugh said she was not asked to review the lease or issue a formal legal opinion on it, though she did not immediately see it as an ethical concern since Pruitt paid for the room.

Fugh said she was told Pruitt has since moved to another apartment, though she said she was not privy to any details about where the administrator is currently staying, who owns that property or what rate he is paying.

As Trump's top environmental official, Pruitt has moved to scrap, gut or replace numerous environmental regulations opposed by the industry while boosting the continued burning of fossil fuels.

In December, Pruitt and members of his staff spent about \$40,000 in public funds to fly to Morocco to help encourage the import of liquefied natural gas from

the United States. Cheniere, the lobbying client of Hart's firm, is currently the only exporter of liquefied natural gas from the continental United States.

In a statement Thursday, Hart said Pruitt is a casual friend from Oklahoma who moved into the building in early 2017. Hart said he had no contact with Pruitt for many months, other than a brief exchange at the National Prayer Breakfast in February.

He described the lease as "market-based, short-term" and said Pruitt could all rent owed as agreed. He said the condo was partly owned by his wife, whom he said has not lobbied the EPA. Hart's wife, Vicki Hart, is a lobbyist focusing on health care issues.

EPA's press office did not respond to questions from the AP on Thursday or Friday, although officials there showed check payments related to the deal to Bloomberg News.

A House oversight committee and the EPA's inspector general are now reviewing Pruitt's travel spending. Jeffrey Legida, a spokesman for EPA's internal watchdog, said Friday the office has been made aware of allegations over Pruitt's lease.

Pruitt's travels often included weekend-long layovers at his home in Tulsa. The EPA chief is widely mentioned in Oklahoma as a possible successor to Sen. James Inhofe, the Republican senator expected to retire at the end of his term.

Among clients at Hart's lobbying firm is OGE Energy Corp., an electricity company serving Oklahoma and Arkansas. The company paid Williams and Jensen \$400,000 in 2017 to lobby on issues that included EPA regulations on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, records showed.

Copies of Pruitt's daily calendar obtained by the AP through a public records request show that Pruitt held a March 2017 meeting in his EPA office with OGE Chairman and CEO Sean Trueschke and company vice president Paul Renfrow. The meeting was arranged at the request of George Baker, a registered lobbyist from Hart's firm, who also attended.

In October, EPA announced it would rewrite the Clean Power Plan, an Obama-era regulation that sought to limit planet-warming carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants like those operated by OGE. EPA has also moved to scrap regulations cutting power plant emissions of such toxic substances as mercury, as well as tighter standards on dumps containing coal ash.

Democrats and environmentalists Friday seized on details of Pruitt's living arrangements to renew calls for his resignation or firing.

"He apparently did not report the details of his arrangement to ethics counsel at the EPA beforehand, nor to the public," said Rep. Don Beyer of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on a House oversight subcommittee that oversees EPA. "As he has done over and over again, he showed contempt for transparency, ethical guidelines and the public interest. Pruitt must resign. If he refuses to do so he should be fired immediately."

Past abuse undermines wife's focus on happy, new marriage

DEAR ABBY: I'm 42 years old and in my second marriage. My first husband was very abusive. My second loves me, and respects me, defends me, has brought out the best in me. But I don't feel like I do the same for him.

Things will get good in our relationship, and then I will lose perspective again, which causes conflict. How do I fix that? How do I find it again, and the sex drive I have lost? I'm so happy. He makes me just glow at times. — TRYING TO FIND MYSELF

DEAR TRYING: The best place to find your perspective would be on the couch of a licensed mental health therapist. It appears you may have brought the baggage from your first marriage into this one. It's not unusual for people who have been in abusive relationships to have emotional scars. Start interviewing now, and don't stop until you find someone you are comfortable confiding in.

DEAR ABBY: I have a dear friend I met at work three years ago. She's African-American. We have lunch or coffee almost weekly. She always arrives late for our get-togethers, but lately it's become too much. She has made me

wait 40 minutes to an hour rather than the usual 10 to 20 minutes. When I show my frustration, she says she is on BPT (Black People Time).

I have tried adopting her lifestyle of being late, but it makes me anxious because I am a very prompt person. I have heard comedians talk about BPT, but I know not all black people do this because I work with others who are considerate of other people's time. Any suggestions? — LADY IN WAITING

DEAR LADY IN WAITING: What your friend is doing is showing a lack of respect not only for your time but also for your feelings. The next time you arrange to see her, warn her that in the future you will wait no more than 15 minutes, and if she doesn't show up, you will leave. Then do it. If seeing you is important to her, she'll manage to get there. If not, you will know you need to make arrange-

ments with other friends for coffee and lunch.

DEAR ABBY: I am a funeral director by trade, but a couple of years ago one of my good friends asked me to officiate at his wedding. I was happy to do it, and I have since been asked by several other friends to perform their wedding ceremonies, too. I did three last year and have two scheduled for this year.

I am always happy to honor, and I don't charge an honorarium. My question is: Am I required to give the couple a gift? I'd like to do what is appropriate. — MARRYING & BURYING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR M&B: No rule of etiquette requires you to give the couple a gift in addition to the services you are performing for free. If you would LIKE to give them something in addition, by all means do, but it shouldn't be expected.

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.



GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

- Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you bid:
- you bid: 4Q4VAQ10830J760AK4
- 4Q97070Q86420AK83 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- Right hand opponent opens two hearts.
- INT Pass 20 Pass
- weak. What call would you make?
- 22 Pass 2NT Pass
- Q2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you bid:
- What call would you make?
- 4J72VAQJ50KQ960KJ
- 4J72VAQJ50KQ960KJ SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- INT Pass 20 Pass
- 22 Pass 42 Pass
- What call would you make?
- one club and partner responds one diamond.
- Q3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you bid: What is your bid?



Ozzy Osbourne joins New Mexico city's chamber of commerce

Associated Press

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. — The Prince of Darkness is joining the Chamber of Commerce of a southern New Mexico city.

The Alamogordo Daily News reports heavy metal rock icon Ozzy Osbourne recently signed up for the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce while visiting the White Sands National Monument.

Osbourne and his children, Jack and Kelly, made a stop in Alamogordo to film an episode of their A&E television show "Ozzy and Jack's World Detour." The show is in its third season.



Osbourne

The Osbournes also visited a ranch out in Laborcita Canyon in La Luz owned by Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce Executive Director G.B. Oliver.

After filming at the ranch, Oliver says Osbourne signed up to join the chamber.

A picture of Osbourne signing up was posted on the chamber's Facebook page.

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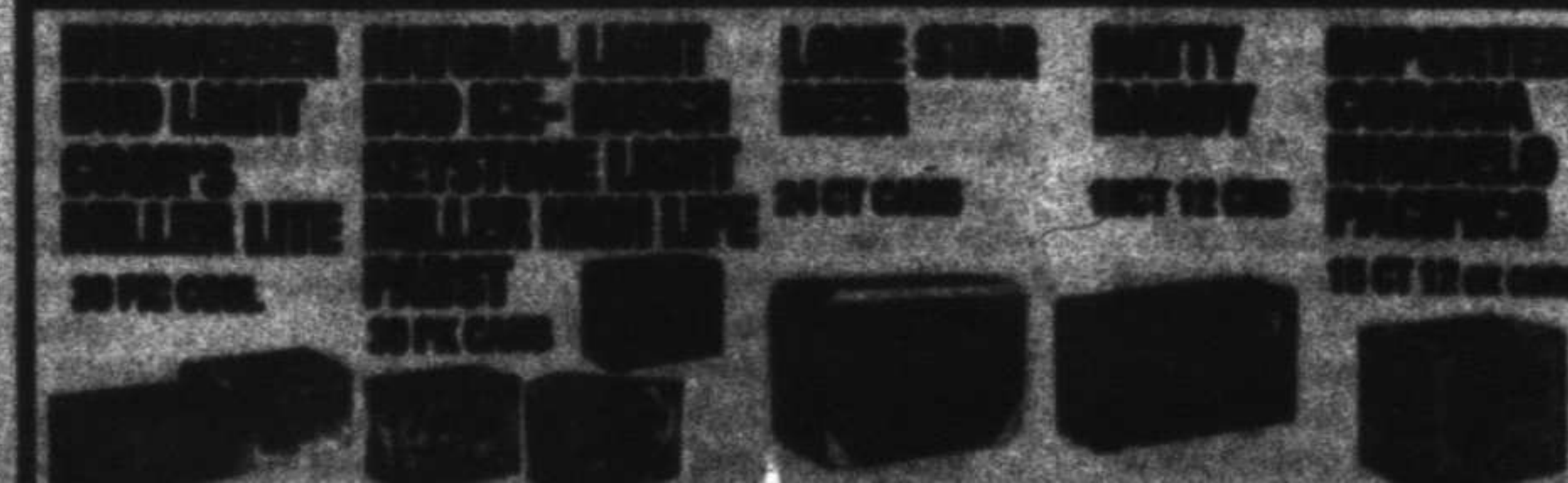
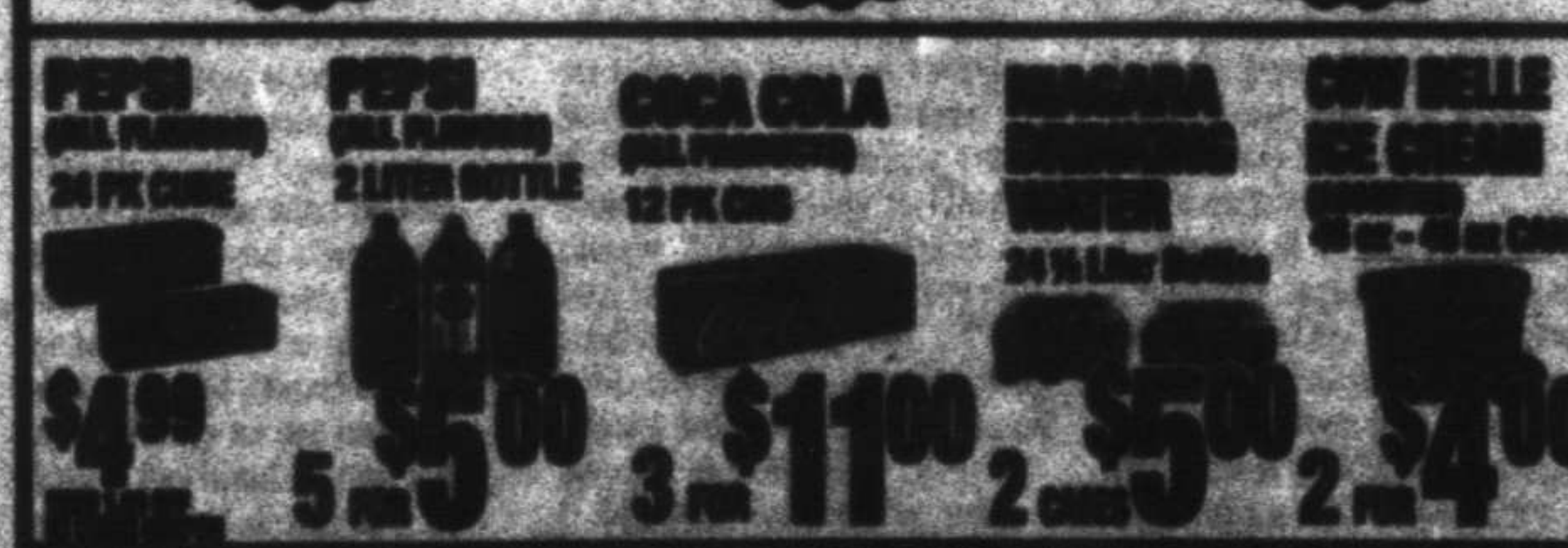
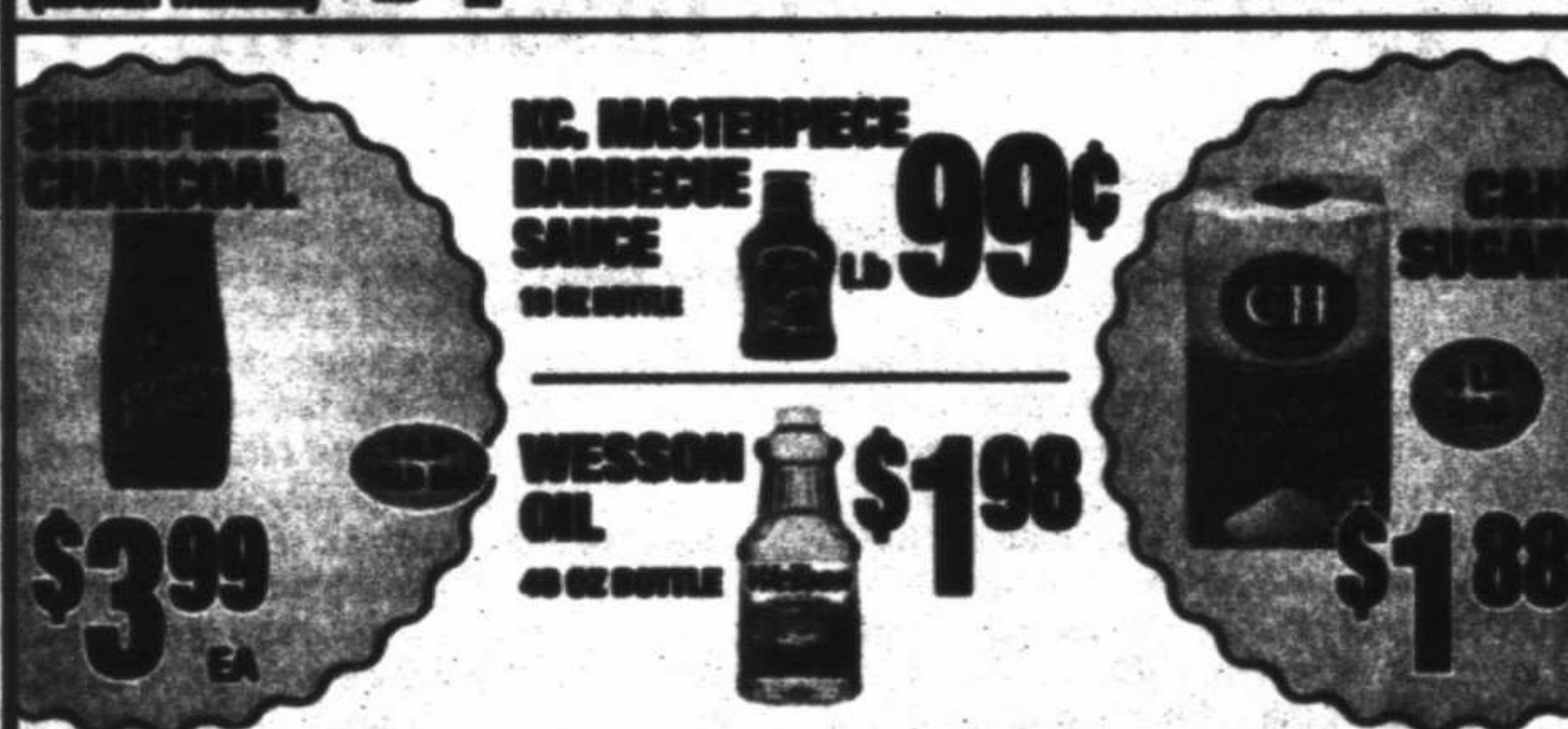
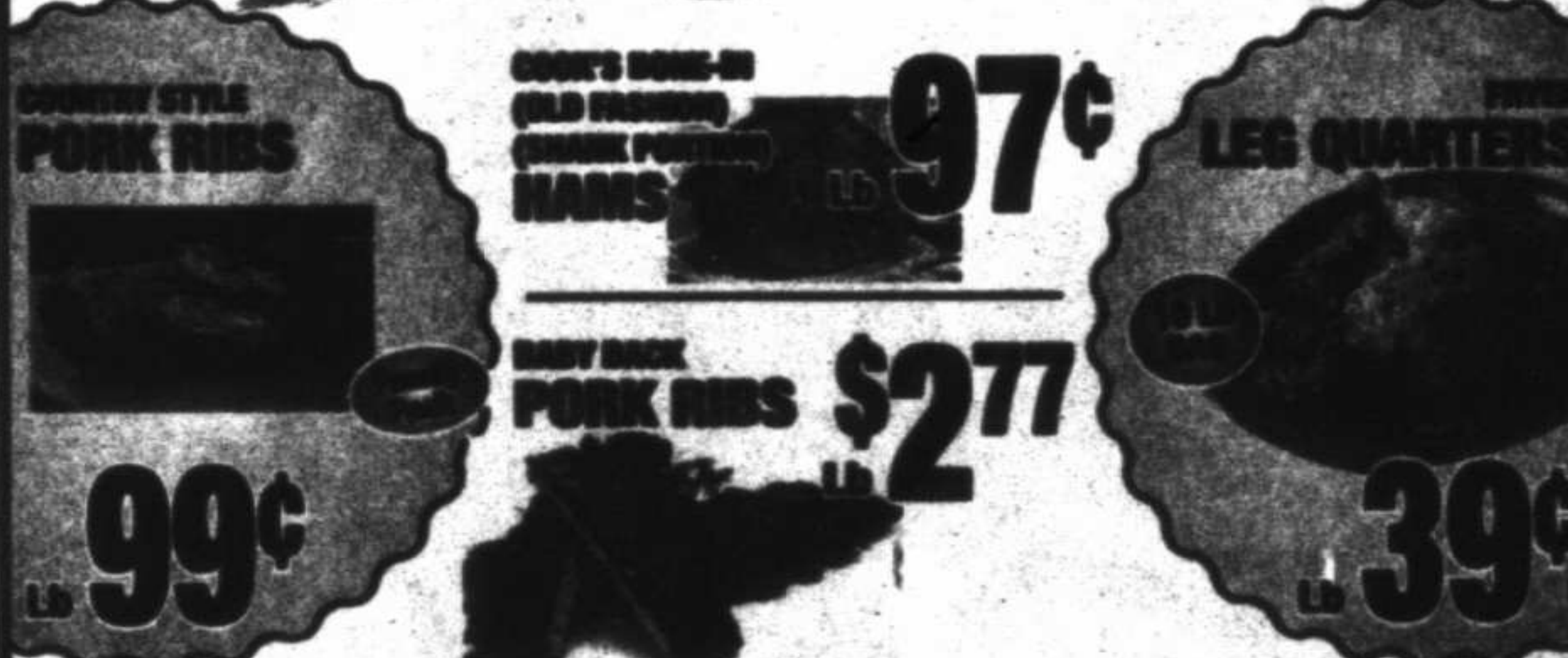
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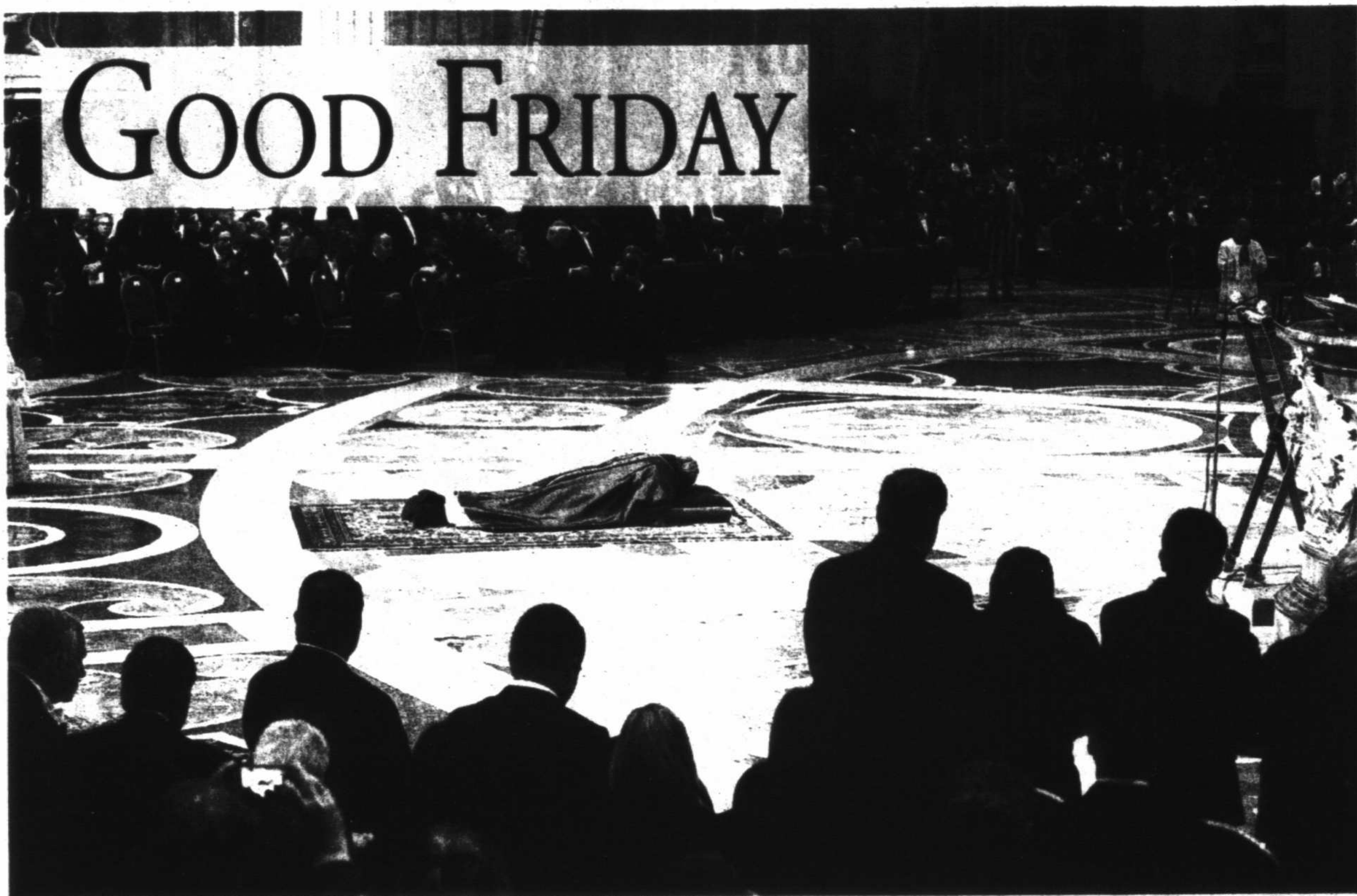
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Andrew Medichini/Associated Press

Pope Francis lies down in prayer Friday during the Good Friday Passion of Christ Mass inside St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican. Pope Francis began the Good Friday service at the Vatican with the Passion of Christ Mass and hours later, went to the ancient Colosseum in Rome for the traditional Way of the Cross procession.

Pope presides over Good Friday amid security, controversy

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis presided over solemn Good Friday services amid heightened security at Rome's Colosseum for the Via Crucis procession and a new communications controversy at home.

Italian police, carabinieri and soldiers were on alert, with Holy Week coinciding with a spate of arrests of suspected Islamic extremists around Italy and warnings from law enforcement about the return of

foreign fighters from Iraq and Syria.

At the start of the most solemn period of the Catholic Church calendar, Francis lay prostrate in front of the altar in St. Peter's Basilica before the chant-filled Good Friday evening service got underway.

Later Friday, Francis traveled to the Colosseum to preside over the Way of the Cross procession re-enacting Christ's crucifixion — the seminal event in Christianity leading to Christ's resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday.

The solemn commemorations coincide with a new communications controversy in the Vatican over the pope's reported

assertion — at the height of Holy Week — that hell doesn't exist.

The Vatican hasn't denied Francis' comments to the La Repubblica newspaper, saying only that the journalist reconstructed a conversation.

It was the fifth time in five years that Francis has spoken to Repubblica's founder, Eugenio Scalfari, a devout atheist who admits he doesn't record or take notes during interviews.

Nearly every time a Francis interview has appeared on Repubblica's front page, the Vatican press office has insisted the pope's words weren't necessarily accurate,

without denying them outright. That has prompted questions about why the pope continually lets himself be quoted by Scalfari.

Spokesman Greg Burke didn't respond Friday when asked whether the pope believes in the existence of hell or not. Francis has in the past spoke frequently about the devil and hell.

The doubts, however, have enraged Catholic conservatives, who have lost their patience with a pope who seems to care less about doctrine than dialogue, especially with atheists and people of other faiths.

Irish pubs open on Good Friday for 1st time in 90 years

Associated Press

DUBLIN — Guinness is flowing in Irish pubs on a Good Friday for the first time in 90 years.

Lines of people were reported as pubs opened at 7 a.m. to serve alcohol, thanks to legislation that overturned the 1927 ban on pubs opening on Good Friday in time for thirsty locals and tourists.

The Vintners' Federation of Ireland welcomed the change, saying it would add 40 million euros (\$49 million) in sales. Chief executive Padraig Cribben said "the Good Friday ban is from a different era and is rightfully consigned to history."

Cribben said the change meant pub

owners now had a choice whether to open, "like all other businesses who were never subject to a ban."

The closing requirement had often surprised tourists arriving in Ireland for the long Easter weekend.

The Intoxicating Liquor Act of 1927 prohibited the sale of alcohol on Christmas Day, Good Friday and St. Patrick's Day. The St. Patrick's Day ban was lifted in 1962.

There had been some previous exceptions to the Good Friday ban. Alcohol could be served to hotel residents; those travelling by air, rail or sea; or people attending a theater show or a sporting event.

Good Friday is when Christians remember Jesus' death on the cross.



Brian Lawless/PA via AP

Jim Croke, in Sherry's Bar on Capel Street in Dublin, drinks a pint on Good Friday. Drinking establishments are open and serving alcohol — thanks to recently legislation that overturned a ban in place since 1927 and took effect in the nick of time for thirsty locals and tourists.

Throngs trek to adobe church in New Mexico on Good Friday

By Morgan Lee
Associated Press

CHIMAYO, N.M. — An annual pilgrimage is underway that attracts thousands of Catholics to an adobe church in the hills of northern New Mexico.

Thousands of pilgrims trek out Friday for El Santisimo de Chimayo in an

annual act of prayer, reflection and sacrifice.

The Easter-week tradition dates back more than two centuries. Many participants walk more than 30 miles along highways from Santa Fe or as far as Albuquerque.

At the shrine, the faithful file through an adjacent

of dirt that some say has curative powers. Visitors often arrive with small containers to take away pinches of dirt, and have left behind crutches in testimony that they've been healed.

The small, Spanish colonial-style church at Chimayo is listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Bishop's fate highlights China's power amid Vatican talks

By Yunnan Wang
Associated Press

SAIQI, China — The twin-spired church in this southern Chinese village was packed with more than a thousand Catholics observing Good Friday, but the bishop who tends to the congregation was not among them. Just a day earlier, government agents had taken him away.

Bishop Guo Xijin is at the center of talks between the Vatican and the atheist Communist Party that will likely yield a deal on who appoints bishops in China. The move would be historic, uniting the country's Catholics for the first time since Beijing and the Holy See severed relations nearly seven decades ago.

At a pre-dawn Mass on Thursday, Guo had urged congregants at the Siaoqi church to be brave and keep the faith. "Full of comfort and hope, we are inspired to move bravely face struggles and offer our love to God," he told them.

Not long after, government agents arrived and for the second time during Holy Week took Guo away for what they described as a "vacation" — a euphemistic term in China for an enforced disappearance.

For years, China's Catholics have been split between those who follow state-sanctioned churches outside the Vatican's authority and those who attend underground churches that swear loyalty to the pope. Guo is the head of one such underground church.

Under the deal being discussed, the Vatican is expected to recognize seven Beijing-appointed bishops not chosen by the pope, and Guo and one other underground bishop would step aside.

Supporters say the deal would help the Holy See achieve its years-long goal of bringing all of China's 12 million Catholics officially under the pope's authority.

Others, including a prominent Hong Kong activist,

have accused the Vatican of selling out its followers to an authoritarian regime.

Guo's exile serves as a stark reminder of the power of a state that has been seeking to center the people's devotion on the ruling party.

It also highlights how high-level deliberations in the marble-columned splendor of the Vatican City and in Beijing's walled leadership compound could have reverberations in places like rural Siaoqi for generations to come.

Guo's church sits atop a steep hill overlooking meandering streets of small businesses and noodle joints. Parishioners say they don't know what to expect from a deal they discuss mostly in whispered conversations between morning and evening services.

For decades, they say, they've been able to peacefully practice their religion despite being under the watchful eye of the state. But it wasn't always that way.

The story of the Catholic Church's dark period in China during Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution has been told and retold to the young people at Guo's parish. They've heard the tales of elderly relatives having their Bibles torn up, being paraded down the street during public denouncing sessions or sent away to labor camps. "That generation had to go through so much," said Huang Weiping, 37, who manages a shop selling every book and portrait of Joseph and Mary.

He said his relative was Guo's predecessor, Bishop Huang Shoukang, who spent many years in prison.

Li Qizun, a 55-year-old parishioner, said heeding the divide between the official and underground church would be difficult.

"Our parents always told us that the Catholic Church comes from Rome, and then suddenly the Communist Party comes out with its own church," Li said. "There's a conflict. Yes, but it's not our concern."

sacrificed so much — was their blood shed for nothing?"

The state-backed Chinese church at recent conferences has stressed the need to remain independent of the Vatican and to "Sinicize" itself — code for accepting party leadership and rejecting foreign links.

A Vatican official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to reveal the content of the talks with China acknowledged there were downfalls to the potential deal. The official said it would limit the Holy See's activities in China and curb power to Beijing to nominate bishops, with the pope only able to exercise what amounts to a papal veto.

China's State Administration of Religious Affairs declined to be interviewed.

The underground churches have had regular communications with Chinese authorities since the 1990s, and officials even ask the church for help with local disputes, said Rev. Peng Zhongkang, a priest in Guo's parish.

"Villagers here will listen to clergy," Peng said.

He said Guo is often taken away during "sensitive" periods and that the bishop doesn't resist. This time, Peng said, his exile was nearly linked to the Vatican talks.

Reached by phone on Thursday, a priest who had been asked by authorities to leave Siaoqi along with Guo said they were just getting off a train in Xiamen, a city more than 140 miles (235 kilometers) away.

"It's important for the bishop to talk right now. I'm sorry," Rev. Xu Wenming said before hanging up.

The Vatican official said that under the proposed deal with China, Guo would become an auxiliary bishop to the official, state-sanctioned Bishop Zhao Xie, but would remain in charge of the churches he had been leading. The official said Guo has agreed to the arrangement.



AP file photo

Artwork and signatures cover a fence Nov. 30, 2016, around the Pulse nightclub, scene of a mass shooting, in Orlando, Fla. Jurors in the federal trial of Noor Salman, the Pulse nightclub gunman's widow, have gotten a look inside his Florida condo through crime scene photos taken as FBI agents searched the home. They also saw some of her husband Omar Mateen's web browsing history Tuesday, including beheading videos created by the Islamic State group Mateen had pledged allegiance to.

Widow of Orlando nightclub gunman is acquitted in the attack

By Tamara Lush
Associated Press

The widow of the gunman who slaughtered 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, was acquitted Friday of helping to plot the attack and lying to the FBI afterward — a rare and stinging defeat for the U.S. government in a terrorism case.

Noor Salman, 31, sobbed upon hearing the jury's verdict of not guilty of obstruction and providing material support to a terrorist organization, charges that could have brought a life sentence. Her family gasped each time the words "not guilty" were pronounced.

On the other side of the Orlando courtroom, the families of the victims of the June 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting sat stone-faced and silent.

Within hours, Salman was released from jail after 14 months and got into a waiting car without answering questions.

"Noor is so grateful. Her belief in the process was shown. She wants to get back to her son," her attorney Linda Moreno said. Family spokeswoman Susan Clary said Salman's family "always thought that Noor was the first victim" of her husband, Omar Mateen.

The verdict reverberated through Orlando and legal circles beyond.

"The government rarely, rarely loses these kinds of cases. It's got every single factor on its side," said David Oscar Markus, a Miami attorney who routinely tries federal cases. "It's a pretty impressive win for the defense and a devastating loss for the government."

Mateen, the American-born son of Afghan immigrants, was killed by police after opening fire in the

name of the Islamic State group.

Relying heavily on an alleged confession from Salman, federal prosecutors charged that she and Mateen had scouted out potential targets together — including Disney World's shopping and entertainment complex — and that she gave him the "green light to commit terrorism."

But the defense portrayed her as an easily manipulated woman with a low IQ and argued that she signed a false confession because she was tired after a long interrogation and feared losing her young son.

In a blow to the government's case, the FBI itself found that receipts and cellphone signals showed the couple were nowhere near the Pulse on the day Salman said they were.

Also, prosecutors introduced no online posts, texts or any other evidence that Salman supported ISIS, and were hard-pressed to counter the defense's portrayal of her as a simple, sweet mother who loves her 5-year-old son, romance novels and the cartoon character Hello Kitty.

After the verdict, prosecutors said they were disappointed and took no questions.

The jurors said little as they left court. "Noor Salman should never have been on trial," said Ahmed Badier, a civil rights advocate and the president of United Voices of America. "Let this verdict serve as a message to law enforcement and prosecutors who railroad and persecute innocent people on little evidence, the people of this great nation will not allow it."

Some veteran attorneys said the government made a mistake in not recording the alleged confession. The

jury was given only a written statement.

"The FBI needs to start recording their statements. It's a terrible practice. But it's the FBI's policy not to record," Markus said. "Even local police agencies and are required to do so. Jurors in today's age want to hear the recording, they want to see the evidence."

Miami defense attorney David Weinstein said: "As much as we don't want to admit it, this is the age of the cellphone. It's ingrained in the minds of jurors, if it's not recorded, it didn't happen."

Christine Leinonen, an attorney and former state trooper whose only son was killed in the nightclub massacre, told The Orlando Sentinel she was disappointed but not shocked by the verdict. She said Salman's alleged confession was "clearly coerced" and added: "Cops screw up their own cases."

Prosecutors had also accused Salman of falsely claiming that her husband didn't use the internet in his home, that he had deactivated his Facebook account years earlier, that he had one gun when he had three, and that he wasn't radicalized.

But the defense said that Salman, who was born in California to Palestinian parents, was abused and cheated on by her husband and that he concealed much of his life from her. Her attorneys argued there was no way she knew her husband would attack the nightclub because even he didn't know it until moments before.

According to prosecutors, Mateen intended to attack Disney World's shopping and entertainment complex by hiding a gun in a stroller but became spooked by police and chose a new target.

Rosa Parks house to be shown, after trans-Atlantic odyssey

By Michelle R. Smith
and David Rising
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The small, tired house with peeling white paint once served as a refuge for Rosa Parks in Detroit. It has traveled across the world and back in an odyssey conceived by an artist and a Parks family member determined to preserve the civil rights activist's legacy.

It was rescued for \$500 off a demolition list, then disassembled and shipped to Germany, and was supposed to be the centerpiece of a weeks-long exhibition at Brown University this spring: an American homecoming amid a national conversation surrounding race, history and the value of certain monuments. Instead, the Ivy League school abruptly canceled.

Parks' niece, Rhea McCauley, calls it a rejection of Parks and her legacy. But with the looming possibility that the house would come all this way and never be seen, the community has stepped in. Volunteers are working to reconstruct the home as much as possible so that it can be displayed to the public for free Saturday and Sunday, Easter weekend.

Berlin-based artist Ryan Mendoza calls the two-day show "Farewell Rosa Parks: Outcast in Your Own Country." Once it's over, he will have to take the house apart quickly and ship it elsewhere, possibly back to Germany if he cannot find an American home.

To escape death threats, Parks moved to Detroit in 1957, two years after her defining act of defiance: refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. She lived in the tiny house in Detroit with her brother and his family and struggled to make a new life for herself. The family says Parks lived there with 17 other relatives.

It was abandoned and slated for demolition after the financial crisis in 2008 and Detroit's dramatic decline, but McCauley instead bought it from the city for \$500 and donated it to Mendoza, an American. After unsuccessful efforts trying to persuade the city to help save the building, Mendoza in 2016 carefully dismantled it and moved it to the German capital, rebuilding it on the lot of his studio.

Despite being tucked away in an obscure location, the home drew daily visitors, many traipsing into the parking lot of the neighboring apartment building to get a frontal view of from the other side of a small fence.

It was almost as if only taking the house out of its context showed people its real value, Mendoza said.

"This was the real success of the project

in my eyes," he said. "So many people learned who Rosa Parks was and what she did in her life, and how important one person is, that you don't have to be a giant in order to effect change."

But the delicate structure was exposed to the elements in Berlin. Mendoza and McCauley were determined to bring it home, and display it indoors where it would be protected from vandals and the weather.

Mendoza was drawn to Brown University because it has publicly acknowledged how it benefited from the slave trade.

It took weeks for Mendoza and two architects to gingerly dismantle the house, neatly stacking and cataloging each piece of the warped and cracked planks of cedar cladding. Then, it was shipped back across the Atlantic in two containers and brought to the WaterFire Arts Center in Providence, where they began to rebuild.

But earlier this month, Brown canceled, citing an unspecified dispute involving the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, which Parks co-founded but which has feuded with relatives for years. A lawyer for the institute has questioned whether Parks' time there was significant, calling it "an unimportant blip in the timeline of her life here in Detroit."

"The 'house' is simply not a human interest story," Steven Cohen told The Associated Press in an email.

Mendoza, McCauley and many members of the Rhode Island community disagree.

In the house, they see the story of so many African Americans who migrated north, only to face redlining and other discrimination that has affected generations of black Americans.

Malia Quirindongo, 18, who was volunteering with the group, YouthBuild Providence to reconstruct the house this week, said what she has learned about its story shows that the country doesn't value Parks as it should.

"They were going to knock her house down, and sold it for \$500 when they have hotels where presidents have stayed for one night yet there's plaques talking about 'he stayed here,'" Quirindongo said. "They're going to knock down a house that is to someone who is so important in this country, and in history? It's eye-opening."

Mendoza still hopes he can find a place for the house in America. He and McCauley wonder if the country just isn't ready to examine this uncomfortable part of its past.

"I would like for this house to have a home," McCauley said. "This is a story that's a larger part of American history. It cannot be overlooked."



Markus Schwilke/Associated Press

Rhea McCauley, a niece of Rosa Parks, poses April 6, 2017, in front of the rebuilt house of Rosa Parks in Berlin. McCauley donated the former Detroit house of Rosa Parks to American artist Ryan Mendoza who has taken apart the Michigan house that Rosa Parks once lived in and rebuilt it in the German capital, to raise awareness about the late civil rights activist and her legacy. Mendoza now has brought it back to America earlier this year, and is working to reconstruct it for a brief showing on Easter weekend.

Schwarzenegger is stable after heart surgery

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Arnold Schwarzenegger is recovering in a Los Angeles hospital after undergoing heart surgery.

The 70-year-old former California governor had a scheduled procedure to replace a pulsating valve Thursday, according to Schwarzenegger's spokesman, Daniel Ketchell. He was in stable condition on Friday.

"His first words were actually 'I'm back,' so he is in good spirits," Ketchell tweeted.

The operation was necessary to replace a valve that had originally been installed in 1997 for a congenital heart defect. "That 1997 replacement valve was never meant to be permanent, and has outlived

its life expectancy," Ketchell said. Schwarzenegger opted for a less-invasive catheter valve replacement procedure.

An open-heart surgery team was ready during the procedure, but Ketchell said their presence wasn't unusual in such circumstances.

Schwarzenegger was a bodybuilding star before

turning to movies. His career as an action hero took off with the box-office hit "Conan the Barbarian" in 1982. His role in the "Terminator" in 1984 propelled him into box-office superstardom. He served as governor of California from 2003 to 2011.

In addition to his heart ailments, Schwarzenegger had a motorcycle crash

in 2001 that left him with several broken ribs. He's had a hip replaced and had rotator cuff surgery in 2003. A 2006 skiing accident broke his right femur, an injury that required a complicated surgery to repair. It also forced Schwarzenegger to bubble on crutches during his second gubernatorial inauguration and several major events.

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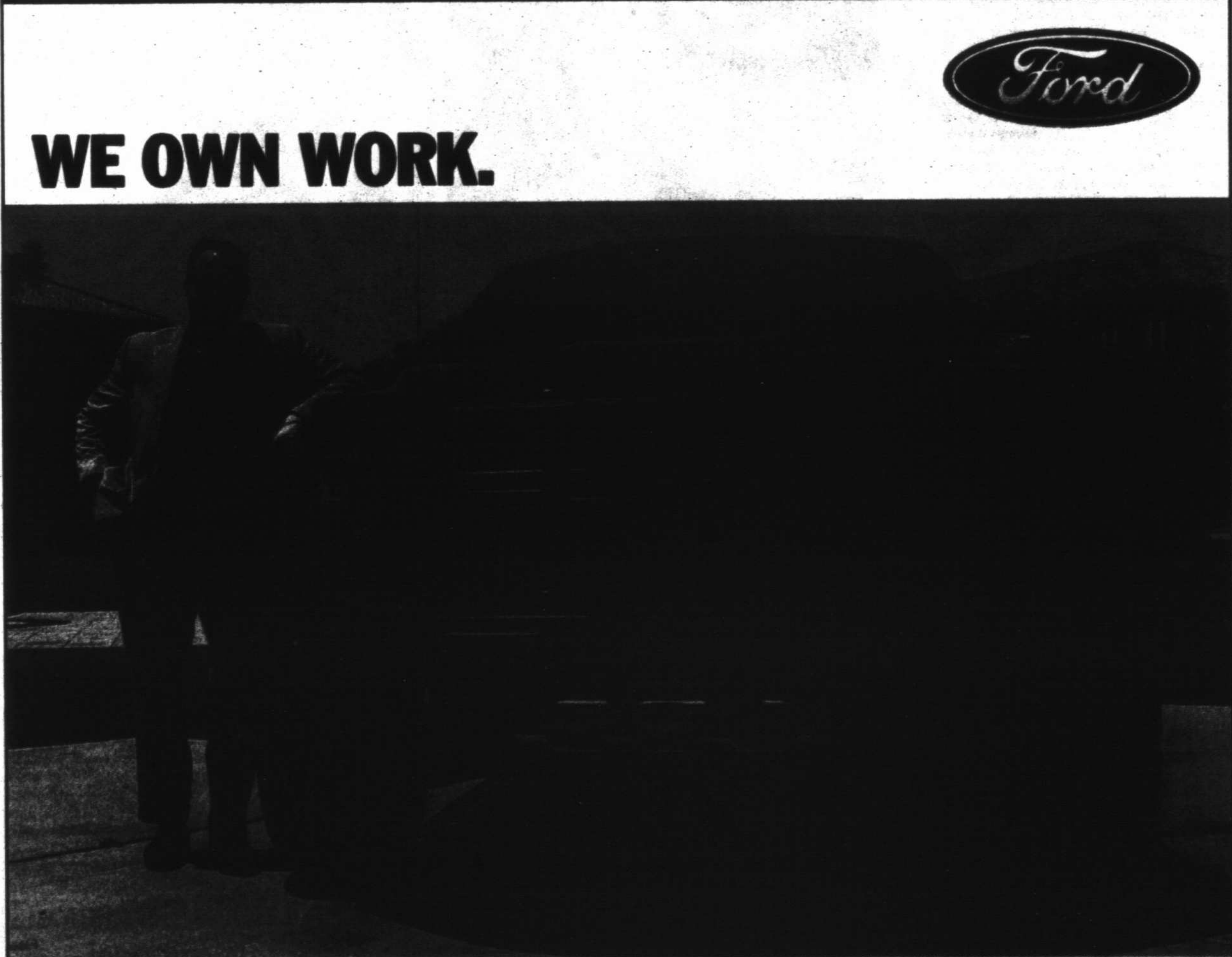
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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Saturday, March 31, 2018 | Section B

Short-handed Lee falls to Montwood in bi-district

From staff reports

ALPINE — A severely short-handed Lee boys soccer team gave El Paso Montwood everything it could handle, but fell 3-1 to the Rams in a Class 6A bi-district match, Friday at Sul Ross State University.

The Rebels ended their season at 15-8-2 overall, while District 1-6A No. 3 seed Keller, Tuesday at Ratliff Stadium in the area round.

The match, which was originally slated to start at 3 p.m. CDT, was delayed nearly 90 minutes. According to Lee head Scott Hicks, the match time was incorrectly

reported to the UIL and the officials assigned to the game mistakenly thought the match was set for 3 p.m. MDT.

During the delay, both coaches sent their teams back to their respective buses to relax for several minutes while passing the time. The officials arrived at the field at 4:20 p.m. and the match kicked off at 4:30 p.m. with Montwood taking an early 1-0 lead in the 10th minute on a penalty shot after a Lee handball in the goalie box.

The Rebels, playing without five



Aranda

starters for various reasons, played tough and relied on the efforts of a handful of junior varsity players who held their own. Lee trailed 2-0 at halftime.

Lee went on the offensive in the second half and got on the board in the 57th minute when Christian Martinez scored unassisted. But Montwood tallied the dagger in the 72nd minute on a set piece play to wrap up the victory.

Hicks said that under the circumstances, he was thrilled with the effort and



Hicks

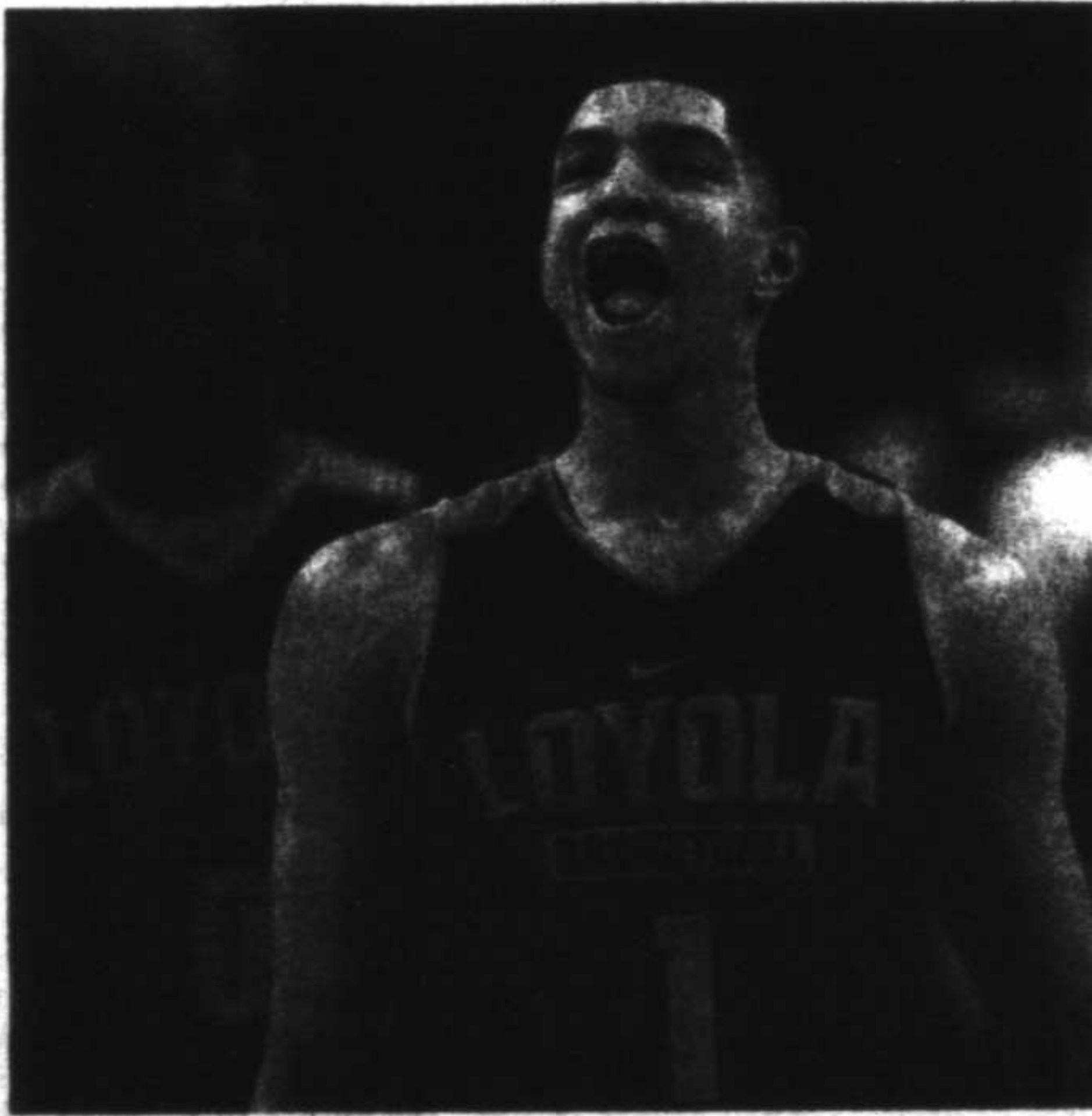
performance of his players against a historically strong Montwood program. Hicks added that the official delay didn't have an effect on the Rebels' play.

"I couldn't be more proud of our kids," Hicks said. "We came to play and left everything out on the field. We brought JV kids up and we played our butts off. We gave (Montwood) everything they wanted. Our kids aren't scared of El Paso teams anymore and we held our own."

"I think our kids believe we can play with those guys and I'm as proud as I ever have been of this team."

Lee was in the playoffs for the second consecutive season.

The Alamo City 4



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Villanova guard Julian Brunson, right, drives past teammate Dylan Painter, left, during a practice session for the Final Four NCAA basketball tournament Friday in San Antonio. David J. Phillip/Associated Press; Loyola-Chicago's Lucas Williamson (1) reacts during a practice session. Eric Gay/Associated Press; Michigan forward Isaiah Livers during a practice session. David J. Phillip/Associated Press; Kansas guard Devon' Graham participates on a drill during a practice session. Eric Gay/Associated Press

Loyola hopes Ramblers run opens door for mid-majors

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Loyola-Chicago's miraculous run to the Final Four will be remembered for clutch shots, the "Wall of Culture," a couple of guards who have been playing together since grade-school and, of course,

Sister Jean. Regardless of whether the Ramblers beat Michigan (32-7) in the Final Four on Saturday night at the Alamodome to become the lowest seeded team to reach the national championship game, they have been the stars of this NCAA Tournament.

Please see LOYOLA/3B

KU-Villanova an argument for reseeding Final Four

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Don't mind Kansas or Villanova if the winner starts cutting down nets Saturday night.

In the most lopsided Final Four upset since the tournament was expanded in

1985, these two No. 1 seeds square off in what might as well be called the "Big Boy Semifinal." Barring an injury or something else totally unexpected, the winner will be favored to take the championship two nights later against either third-seeded Michigan or the Sister Jean-inspired

Please see SEEDING/3B

Fister controls Astros in Texas debut, Rangers win 5-1

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Doug Fister mostly silenced the powerful Houston lineup for five innings in his Texas debut, Nomar Mazara homered for an early lead and the Rangers beat the Astros 5-1 on Friday night.

The right-hander who pitched for the Astros in 2016, the year before they won their first World Series, allowed only Max Stassi's RBI double in the fifth in his new home ballpark, where he had an 8.73 ERA coming in.

Four relievers held the Astros to one hit over the final four innings, capped by Keone Kela pitching around a walk in the ninth.

Robinson Chirinos and Rougned Odor hit back-to-back sacrifice flies for a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning against 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel. Chirinos' drive with the bases loaded was caught at the wall in right field by Josh Reddick.

Keuchel (0-1) allowed seven hits and three runs in six innings for the defending champs, who had a five-game winning streak against Texas after taking the season opener.

Fister (1-0) allowed four hits, struck out three and walked three. The 34-year-old was the first of 166 major league free agents to finalize a deal in the offseason after waiting until May last year.

Mazara, who had one homer in 123 at-bats against left-handers last season, went deep in his first lefty-just matchup this season. The solo liner just to the right of home in center field came in the second inning. He walked and scored in the fourth.

After facing a four-man outfield in four hitless at-bats on opening day, Texas slugger Joey Gallo had two hits, including an RBI double off the top of the wall in center, against a more traditional shift.

Chris Martin and Alex Claudio each had a bases-loaded strikeout to preserve a 3-1 lead in a bizarre sixth inning. The Astros loaded the bases after Odor threw about 30 feet wide of first in the middle of turning around on a botched double-play attempt that didn't get anybody out.

Jane Althave was initially allowed to score when Odor's throw went into the Texas dugout but was called back to third on review. An earlier review that Mazara trapped Althave's liner was upheld even though the replay appeared to show Mazara bending to make the catch after running too far back.

Villanova's return

Rangers: Lefty starter Martin Perez (recovering from right elbow surgery)

Please see RANGERS/6B



Michael A. Ableson/Associated Press

Former MC coach McCasland, Smart lead UNT to CBI title

Associated Press

DENTON — Roosevelt Smart scored 25 points and made all 14 of his free throws, leading North Texas over San Francisco 88-77 Friday night in the deciding Game 3 of the College Basketball Invitational finals.

The Mean Green (20-18) lost the opener in the best-of-three matchup, but won 69-55 Wednesday to set up the championship game.

Four of Smart's points came during an 8-1 run in the second half after USF rallied within 52-51. He was fouled while shooting for the first two free throws,



Smart
McCasland, North Texas head coach

then added two more when San Francisco coach Kyle Smith drew a technical foul.

Frankie Ferreri led the Dons (22-17) with 19 points. Nate Randolph added 18 and Chase Foster had 12.

North Texas led 45-31 before USF began its comeback.

Jordan Duffy scored 14 points and A.J. Lawson and Michael Miller each had 12.

San Francisco played without center Matt McCarthy, who was injured in Game 2.

Big picture

San Francisco: The Dons won their home game in the finals but lost both games at UNT. They stayed in the final game by making 12 3-pointers, bringing

their season total to 333. North Texas: The Mean Green had their first winning season since 2011-12. Their 20 wins were 12 more than a year ago. UNT had six 3-pointers for a season total of 302.

Up next

San Francisco has had consecutive 20-win seasons for the first time since 1982. A third season wouldn't be a stretch. Foster is one of only two Dons seniors.

North Texas also has only two seniors, and neither scored in the two home games in the series. The CBI title could portend bigger things. The 2015 and 2016 champions, Loyola and Nevada, reached at least the Sweet 16 in this season's NCAA tournament.

Miss State earns second straight trip to women's final

By Mitch Stacy
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Teaira McCowan had 21 points and 25 rebounds to help Mississippi State reach the national championship game for the second straight year with a 73-63 overtime win over Louisville on Friday night.

Down three points, Roshunda Johnson hit a 3-point shot from the wing to tie the game at 59 with seven seconds left in regulation. Louisville's Myisha Hines-Allen then drove the length of the floor but missed a layup as time ran out with McCowan dogging her.

In overtime, the Bulldogs asserted themselves and Morgan

William, who hit the game-winning shot in OT last year in the Final Four to end UConn's 111-game winning streak, made two free throws in the last minute to help Mississippi State (37-1) pull away.

Louisville (36-3) managed just one basket on 10 shots in the extra period.

The Cardinals were hurt when center Sam Fuchring was called for a technical foul with 2:42 left in the fourth quarter when she slapped the floor after getting called for a foul. That technical fouled her out of the game. The Cardinals were down 54-53 and William hit both free throws to give the Bulldogs a three-point lead.

Notre Dame beats UConn on last-second shot

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

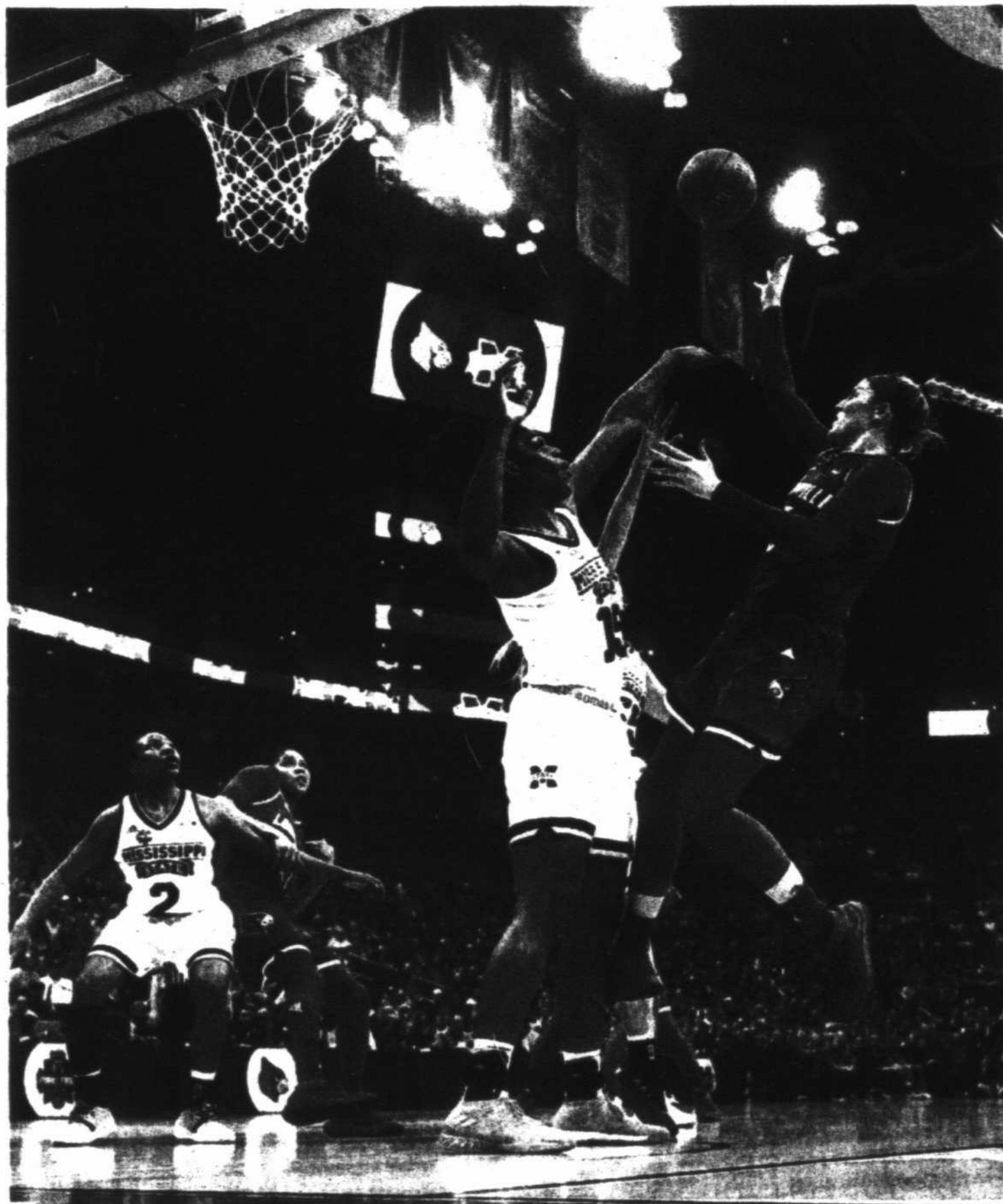
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Arike Ogunbowale's jumper from the corner with 1 second left lifted Notre Dame to a 91-89 overtime victory over UConn on Friday night in the national semifinals.

She finished with 27 points and Jackie Young had a career-high 32 to lead the Irish back to the championship game for the

first time since 2015.

It's the second consecutive year an undefeated UConn team lost in the Final Four on a last-second shot in overtime. Last time it was Mississippi State and Morgan William, ending the Huskies' 111-game win streak.

The Irish will face the Bulldogs on Sunday night in the title game. Muffet McGraw's squad will be looking for its second national championship to go with the one the Irish won in 2001.



Tony Daph/Associated Press

Louisville's Sam Fuchring, right, shoots over Mississippi State's Teaira McCowan (15) during the first half in the semifinals of the women's NCAA Final Four basketball tournament Friday in Columbus, Ohio.

LOYOLA

From 1B

Coach Porter Moser hopes his team's legacy is more than just memorable moments. Maybe the Ramblers' success can help turn around a troubling trend for programs from mid-major conferences that are finding it increasingly difficult to secure at-large NCAA bids.

The Ramblers (32-5) are the fourth No. 11 seed to reach the Final Four. The last two were George Mason in 2006 and VCU in 2011. Both of those underdogs came from the Colonial Athletic Association, but unlike the Loyola, they didn't win their conference to earn an NCAA Tournament bid.

"Those story lines wouldn't have happened in today's day and age because they wouldn't have got in," Moser said.

In 2006, eight at-large bids went to teams from conferences other than the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern Conference. And that was when the field had still had only 64 teams. In 2011, when the field expanded to 68, seven at-large bids went to teams outside college basketball's big six conferences. This year, that number was down to five.

Loyola won both the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament and regular-season titles, but had the Ramblers stumbled in the league tournament there is a decent chance they would have been left out of the NCAA field. That's what happened to Middle Tennessee this season. The Blue Raiders went 24-7 overall and 16-2 in the Conference

USA, but were upset in the league's tournament and relegated to the NIT. Meanwhile, Marshall, which won the C-USA tournament, ended up winning a first-round NCAA game against fourth-seeded Wichita State.

The problem, as Moser points out, is the selection committee's emphasis on schedule strength gives major conference teams a built-in advantage. Syracuse can go 8-10 in the ACC, but simply by having more opportunities to face what is considered better quality opponents the Orange can accumulate more impressive victories than a team such as Middle Tennessee can.

"The thing that bothers me the most is us getting blamed for not having a tough schedule when we're trying our tails off," Moser said.

Moser said getting games against teams in the power conferences — even in preseason tournaments — is becoming more difficult. Loyola played at Florida this season and beat the Gators in a buy game, when a power conference team cuts a check to the opponent instead of playing a future game at their place. The Ramblers success this season will make even those games harder for Loyola to get.

"To get bought now is tricky," Moser said.

Third-seeded Michigan has been playing the underdog card for much of this season. The Wolverines were ranked nationally to start the season, predicted to finish in the middle of the pack in the Big Ten and stood at 19-7 on Feb. 6 after losing at Northwestern. The Wolverines have not lost since, winning 13 straight,

including the Big Ten Tournament as the fifth seed.

Against Loyola, Michigan will play the heavy favorite trying to spoil an all-time feel-good story. But the Wolverines also want to make clear they see the Ramblers, who have won 14 straight, as equals.

"They're not a Cinderella team," Michigan's Charles Matthews said. "That is not a good way to explain it. They are a good team. They are a legit team. You can't keep saying this is luck. This is who they are."

The Ramblers introduced themselves to the country by winning their first three tournament games by a total of 4 points, each time with a winning-shot in the waning seconds. The middle of the three came from Clayton Carter, the Iowa State transfer who was convinced to come to Loyola by childhood friend and fellow Ramblers guard Ben Richardson.

Basketball fans have gotten to know Moser's Wall of Culture, a collection of catchy phrases such as "Through You to the Rim" and "Reach for the Lights" he uses as teaching tools.

And of course, Sister Dolores Jean Schmidt, the 98-year nun and Loyola super fan, stationed courtside in her wheelchair near the Ramblers bench. Sister Jean held a news conference Friday at the Alamodome, packing a meeting room with reporters and cameras.

Moser hopes Loyola's performance will open the door for more mid-majors to get an opportunity to be the next Loyola, but, really, there will never be another bunch quite like this.

WOMEN'S NIT GLANCE

First Round Wednesday, March 14 UCF 65, Jacksonville 61, OT St. Joseph's 75, Saint Louis 57 Alabama 65, Southern 55 Thursday, March 15 Michigan State 61, Connecticut 55 Purdue 65, UConn 60 Ball State 65, Middle Tennessee 60 Indiana 74, UT Martin 55 West Virginia 65, Belmont 55 Robert Morris 65, Penn State 52, OT James Madison 65, ETSU 55 St. John's 65, Miami 47 Duquesne 65, Miami (Fla.) 55 Georgia Tech 65, Southern California 52 UAB 65, Chattanooga 55 VCU 65, Lamar 55 Marshall 65, Louisiana Tech 55 South Dakota 65, Houston 55 Rice 71, Texas State 55 Mississippi 61, Northern Iowa 57 Sam Houston 65, Eastern Michigan 57 Wyoming 67, New Mexico State 59 Colorado State 67, Western State 54 New Mexico 65, Saint Mary's (Cal.) 55 UC Santa Barbara 65, Utah 55 Utah 75, UNLV 55 Fifth Round Texas 65, Virginia Tech 55 Penn 75, Albany 55 Georgia 67, Arizona 57 Portland 65, Harvard 47 Duquesne 67, Indiana 55 Georgia 65, Stephen F. Austin 75 Virginia Tech 65, Navy 55 Second Round UC Santa Barbara 67, Colorado 57 VCU 65, Missouri 55 Ball State 65, Stanford 55 Stanford 65, March 16	Indiana 74, Michigan 54 Purdue 77, Ball State 72 Virginia Tech 75, Georgia 65 South Dakota 75, Colorado State 60 Georgia Tech 61, UNLV 47 West Virginia 75, Saint Joseph's 51 Alabama 65, UCF 61 UC Santa Barbara 75, Wyoming 54 Purdue 65, Duquesne 55 James Madison 74, Utah 57 Stanford 65, Michigan State 55 Duquesne 65, Georgetown 55 St. John's 65, Penn 55 Thursday, March 16 New Mexico 65, Rice 75 West Round Thursday, March 16 Indiana 75, Purdue 61 Virginia Tech 61, Portland 55 St. John's 65, Duquesne 52 Alabama 61, Georgia Tech 55 South Dakota 65, Michigan State 55, OT VCU 75, New Mexico 72 Fifth Round West Virginia 67, James Madison 55 UC Santa Barbara 71, Penn State 55 Stanford 65 Sunday, March 18 Indiana 61, UC Santa Barbara 55 Virginia Tech 75, Alabama 57 West Virginia 75, St. John's 57 VCU 75, South Dakota 71 Stanford 65 Wednesday, March 19 Indiana 71, VCU 55 Virginia Tech 61, West Virginia 51 Clayton Thursday, March 20 Virginia Tech (55-1) vs. Indiana (55-1), 5 p.m.
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MEN'S NIT GLANCE

First Round Thursday, March 15 Dayton 65, Wagner 55 Louisville 65, North Kentucky 55 Middle Tennessee 65, Tennessee 55 Western Kentucky 75, Eastern Kentucky 65 Ohio State 65, Florida Gulf Coast 65 State College 65, Hampton 55 Coastal 65, Alcorn 55 Saint Mary's 65, SE Louisiana 45 Southern Cal 65, UNC Asheville 65, 1OT Wednesday, March 14 Mississippi 67, Howard 55 LSU 65, Louisiana-Lafayette 75 Penn State 65, Temple 57 Marquette 65, Wichita State 55 Utah 65, UC Santa Barbara 55 Stanford 65, BYU 55 Washington 77, Boise State 74 Georgia 65 Sunday, March 17 Penn State 75, State College 65 Stanford 65 Washington State 75, Dayton 77	Marquette 65, Oregon 65 Louisville 65, Middle Tennessee 65 Thursday, March 16 Oklahoma State 71, Stanford 65 Utah 65, LSU 71 Saint Mary's 65, Washington 65 Western Kentucky 75, Southern Cal 75 Georgia 65 Penn State 65, Mississippi 55 Marquette 65, Wichita State 55 Wednesday, March 15 Western Kentucky 65, Oklahoma State 64 Utah 67, Saint Mary's 67 Clayton At Alamodome Sports Center Sun Run Thursday, March 17 Utah 65, Washington 51 Penn State 75, Marquette 55 Clayton Friday, March 18 Penn State 65, Utah 65
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NCAA WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR GLANCE

FINAL FOUR At Alamodome, San Antonio Wednesday, March 29 Friday, March 30 Saturday, March 31 Monday, April 2 Wednesday, April 4 Thursday, April 5 Friday, April 6 Saturday, April 7 Sunday, April 8 Monday, April 9 Tuesday, April 10 Wednesday, April 11 Thursday, April 12 Friday, April 13 Saturday, April 14 Sunday, April 15 Monday, April 16 Tuesday, April 17 Wednesday, April 18 Thursday, April 19 Friday, April 20 Saturday, April 21 Sunday, April 22 Monday, April 23 Tuesday, April 24 Wednesday, April 25 Thursday, April 26 Friday, April 27 Saturday, April 28 Sunday, April 29 Monday, April 30 Tuesday, May 1 Wednesday, May 2 Thursday, May 3 Friday, May 4 Saturday, May 5 Sunday, May 6 Monday, May 7 Tuesday, May 8 Wednesday, May 9 Thursday, May 10 Friday, May 11 Saturday, May 12 Sunday, May 13 Monday, May 14 Tuesday, May 15 Wednesday, May 16 Thursday, May 17 Friday, May 18 Saturday, May 19 Sunday, May 20 Monday, May 21 Tuesday, May 22 Wednesday, May 23 Thursday, May 24 Friday, May 25 Saturday, 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Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) is fouled by Phoenix Suns guard Tyler Ulis (8) in the first half of an NBA game Friday in Houston.



George Bridge/Associated Press

Green's 3-pointer at buzzer lifts Rockets over Suns 104-103

By Kristie Ricken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Gerald Green made a 3-pointer at the buzzer and the Houston Rockets rallied from a 21-point, second-half deficit for a 104-103 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Friday night.

The win was Houston's 11th straight and extended Phoenix's skid to 14 games.

James Harden hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 101-101 with 12 seconds left before rookie Josh Jackson put Phoenix on top with a basket with 1.4 seconds remaining.

After a timeout, Trevor Ariza found Green in the corner and he knocked down the shot to extend Houston's streak. Green's teammates mobbed him after the shot and he ended up on his back on the court with a huge grin on his face.

Houston rested Chris Paul, Eric Gordon and Nene after clinching the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference on Thursday with Golden State's loss to Milwaukee. The Rockets that did play looked uninspired early against the team with the NBA's worst record, and Houston trailed by 17 at halftime.

They began chipping

away at the lead in the third, but never led in the second half until Green's game-winner.

Harden had 28 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds. P.J. Tucker added 18 points and made a career-high five 3-pointers.

Jackson had 27 points for the Suns, who haven't won since Feb. 28, and Troy Daniels added 23.

The Suns were up by four with about a minute left after a basket by Daniels. Harden missed two free throws soon after that and Tucker made one of two to cut the lead to 101-98 with 46 seconds remaining.

Phoenix was up by 11 to start the fourth and remained up by that margin with about 8 minutes left before Houston scored seven points in a row to cut the lead to 89-85.

Jackson made a layup after that, but Houston scored the next five points, capped by a 3 from Tucker, to get within one with about 5 1/2 minutes left.

The Suns were up by 17 at halftime and had a 14-point lead early in the third when Daniels made three 3-pointers to power a 9-2 run and push the lead to 71-50 with about 8 minutes left in the quarter.

The Rockets finally found a bit of rhythm after

that, using a 10-2 spurt to get within 73-60 midway through the quarter.

Joe Johnson scored the last four points of the third to cut Phoenix's lead to 86-75 entering the fourth.

Tucker got Houston within 3 midway through the second quarter before Phoenix scored the next 12 points to push the lead to 49-34. Daniel House got things going with a 3-pointer and Jackson wrapped it up with seven straight points.

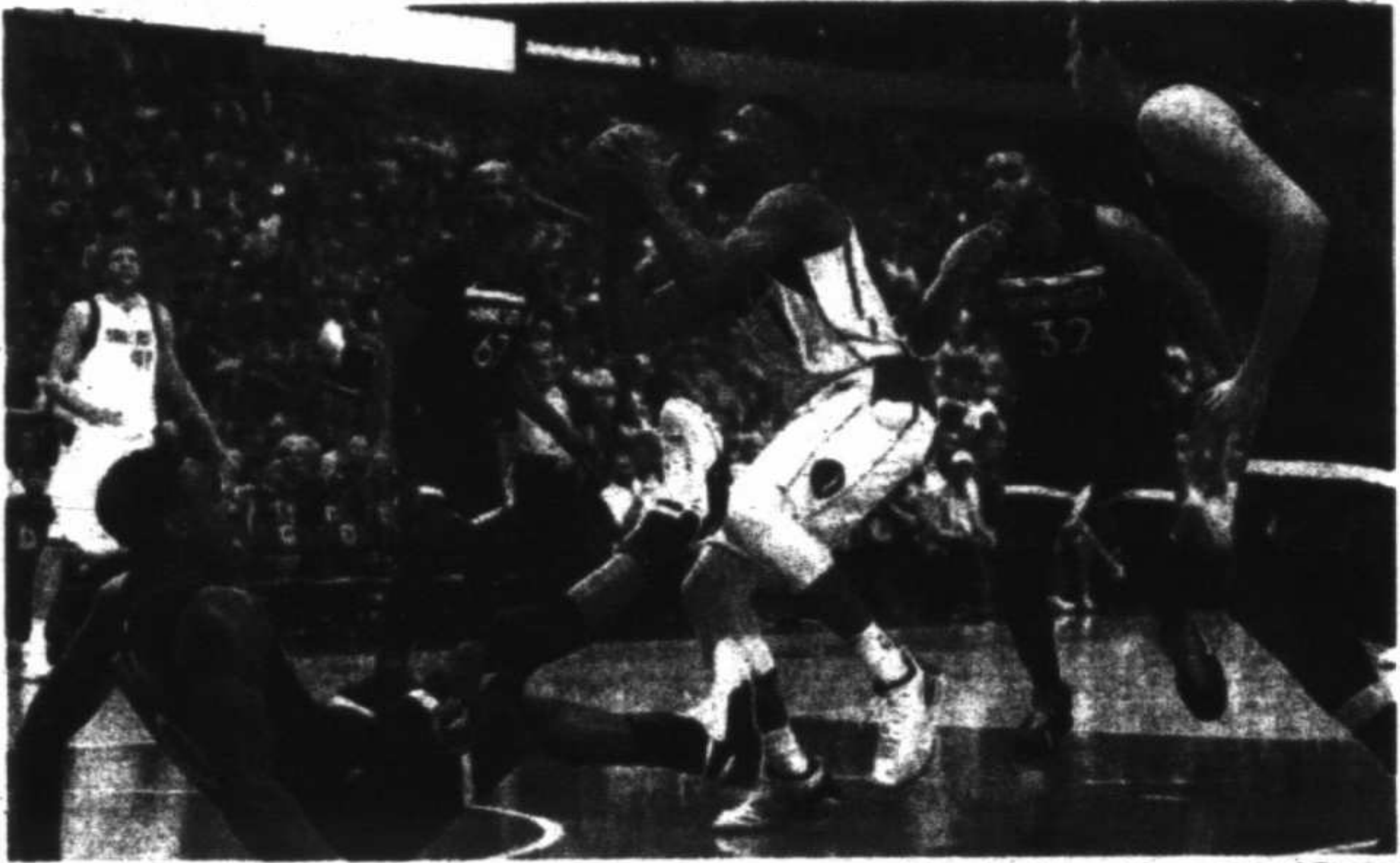
A free throw by Harden cut the lead to 12 later in the quarter, but the Suns scored the last five points of the second quarter to make it 57-40 at halftime.

Tip-ins

Suns: Devin Booker missed his seventh straight game with a sprained right hand. ... Alex Len sat out for the second straight game with a sprained left ankle. ... Phoenix had 17 turnovers.

Rockets: Luc Mbah a Moute returned after missing the last three games with a sore left knee.

... Houston signed Tim Quarterman for the rest of the season on Friday. He appeared in 11 games for the Clippers' G League team this season. ... Green finished with 15 points.



Tony Gutierrez/Associated Press

Towns, Crawford help Wolves edge Mavs 93-92

By Dave Jackson
Associated Press

DALLAS — Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points and 20 rebounds, Jamal Crawford scored 24 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves held off the Dallas Mavericks 93-92 on Friday night to gain ground in the tight Western Conference playoff race.

After shooting just 34 percent in the first half and trailing until midway through the third quarter, the Wolves turned to Crawford, who scored 15 points after halftime.

He hit three consecutive shots, including a 3 over a 1:14 stretch of the fourth quarter to give Minnesota a 74-68 lead. Nemanja Bjelica, scoreless for the first three quarters, hit two 3s to extend it to 85-73.

The Mavericks got within 91-89 on the second of consecutive layups by Dennis Smith Jr. off a steal with 28.3 seconds to play.

But Crawford came to the rescue again, posting up the smaller Yogi Ferrell and draining a jumper over him. Ferrell hit a 3 with 1.3 seconds left, but the Mavericks were not over the limit in fouls and could not foul the Wolves twice in the remaining time.

Harrison Barnes led Dallas with 19 points, and Smith had 17.

Minnesota entered the night in seventh place in the bunch-up Western Conference but moved into fifth with losses by Oklahoma City and New Orleans. Just three games separated fourth place from 10th in the West.

The Wolves play Utah, who entered Friday in eighth place, on Sunday and play 10th-place Denver twice over their final five games.

The Mavericks led for the entire first half and took their biggest lead early in the second quarter at 31-22.

Minnesota scored five points in the final 2.3 seconds of the half to get within 46-44 at the break. Jamal Crawford hit a 3-pointer off Towns' offensive rebound, and then Towns scored just before the buzzer after Dallas' Maxi Kleber inbounded the ball right to him.

Butler cleared for contact

Wolves guard Jimmy Butler made the trip to Dallas and has been cleared for contact drills, using a brace on his right knee.

"He had a good workout, did the shoot-around and stayed and played after," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "He's been diligent with the rehab, going twice a day. He went through the non-contact great, didn't have any problems. This was the next step."

Thibodeau didn't put a timeline on Butler's return. Butler had meniscus surgery on Feb. 25, and Minnesota is 8-7 in the games he has missed.

Tip-ins

Timberwolves: Wolves assistant coach Rick Brunson will stay in Texas to watch his son Jalen lead Villanova in the NCAA national semifinals against Kansas on Saturday in San Antonio.

Mavericks: Nowitzki set an NBA record by playing in his 75th game this season, the most by a player in his 20th season in the league. ... Guard J.J. Barea sat out for personal reasons.

Up next

Timberwolves: Host Utah on Sunday. Mavericks: At Cleveland on Sunday. Dallas plays four of its final six on the road.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE				WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division			
Brooklyn	W	L	Pct	OKC	W	L	Pct
25	20	720	—	25	20	720	—
26	20	720	3	26	20	720	3
27	20	720	10	27	20	720	10
28	20	720	20	28	20	720	20
29	20	720	31	29	20	720	31
Southeast Division				Northwest Division			
Washington	W	L	Pct	Portland	W	L	Pct
41	24	557	—	41	24	557	—
42	24	557	1	42	24	557	1
43	24	557	7	43	24	557	7
44	24	557	10	44	24	557	10
45	24	557	20	45	24	557	20
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Chicago	W	L	Pct	Golden State	W	L	Pct
46	24	557	—	46	24	557	—
47	24	557	1	47	24	557	1
48	24	557	10	48	24	557	10
49	24	557	20	49	24	557	20

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK 2018
ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY
Thursday, March 29
Mass at 7:00 pm
Washing of Feet
Presentation of Sacred Oils
The Lord's Supper and Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY
Friday, March 30
Stations of the Cross at 12:00 pm
Good Friday Liturgy at 7:00 pm
Liturgy of the Word
Veneration of the Cross
Holy Communion

HOLY SATURDAY
Saturday, March 31
Easter Vigil at 8:30 pm
First Mass of the Resurrection

EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday, April 1
Mass at 8:00 am, 10:45 am, 1:00 pm (Specialty and Special)

St. Ann's, 1906 W. Texas Ave.
Midland, Texas
Parish Office 682-6363
(Phonics will be provided for all services except Easter Sunday Vigil Mass)

sears
STORE CLOSING!
LAST 9 DAYS!

SATURDAY 3/31 TO MONDAY 4/2
ENTIRE STORE
30% TO 70% OFF

THURSDAY 4/5 TO FRIDAY 4/6
ENTIRE STORE
40% TO 80% OFF

LAST DAYS!

BARE WALLS!

DISCOVER MORE

Hossler leads at Houston Open as Fowler, Spieth chase

Associated Press

HUMBLE — Beau Hossler was steady while better-known players faltered down the stretch Friday at the Houston Open, leaving him with a one-shot lead heading into the weekend.

The 23-year-old Hossler shot a 4-under 68 for a two-day total of 11-under 133, good enough for the second 36-hole lead of his rookie season. He shared the lead with Dustin Johnson at the halfway mark at Pebble Beach before falling out of contention.

Hossler opened with a bogey but didn't drop another shot the rest of the day, finishing with a wedge from 114 yards to inside 3 feet to save par on the tough par-4 18th. He said patience will be key as he seeks his first PGA Tour victory.

Rickie Fowler was tied with Hossler before he hooked his drive into the water on 18, leading to bogey. He shot 68 to join Sam Ryder, Abraham Ancer and Nicholas Lindheim at 10 under.

Jordan Spieth's putter heated up before his momentum stalled with a missed 3-footer on the 16th hole. He shot 67 and was two shots back as he seeks his first win of the season on the eve of the Masters. Spieth lost in a playoff in Houston in 2015 and went on to win the first of his three major titles the following week at Augusta National.

"From where I was (three days ago, my goal is) accomplished for the week already," Spieth said. "So at this point anything else is icing on the cake. It was a round that could have been really special. But I don't have to (shoot) 8 or 9 under. I feel like my game's in form, and that's really cool. I'm having a lot of fun out there."

Phil Mickelson took the

biggest step backward on 18. He was bogey-free for 17 holes and 8 under for the tournament before he found the water twice and made triple bogey.

Twenty-two players were within three shots of the lead. Paul Dunne of Ireland, who finished his first-round 64 on Friday morning, was 9 under after a 71. Henrik Stenson and Matt Kuchar were among the dozen players at 8 under.

Hosler, from Mission Viejo, California, first showed off his game to a national audience when he briefly led the 2012 U.S. Open while still in high school. He went on to star at Texas and is now based in Dallas, where he frequently practices alongside Spieth at Trinity Forest, which will host the AT&T Byron Nelson in May.

Byron Nelson in May

**Houston Open Scores
Friday
At Golf Club of Houston
Houston, Texas
Purse: \$7 million
Winning: 7,044; Par 72
Second Round**

Second Round	
Dean Hender	CH
Sam Ryder	CH
Pickin Foster	CH
Abraham Anzor	CH
Nicholas Lindholm	CH

Paul Davis	6
Benson Haggen	6
Jordan Smith	6
Kevin Troy	6
John Galt	6
Steve Spivey	6

Shawn Stintz	6
Ryan Armour	6
Guyton Murray	6
Matt Kucher	6
Shane Lowry	6
Luke List	6

Chesson Hufley	6
Ed Cady	6
Sam Saunders	7
James Hahn	8
Harold Hanson	8
Bill Stansbury	9

Orin Duggan	6
Justin Ross	6
Ian Foster	7
John Mah	7
Roberto Diaz	8
Matt Every	8

Enlano Gills	6
Ethan Tracy	7
Danny Lee	6
Joan Debra	7
Toy Martin	6
Johnson Thomas	7

Johnson Wagner	7
Mark Mitchell	6
Lucas Glover	6
Robert Gavigan	6
Scott Perry	6
Charles Howell III	7

James Lovelock	6
Aaron Wiss	6
Michael Thompson	6
Aaron Babbity	7
Phil Nicholson	6
Lee Woodward	6

Lee Westwood	6
Nate Lashley	7
Tom Lewis	7
Ben Crane	7
Jonathan Vegas	7
Greg Chalmers	8

Jonathan Byrd

Joel Dahmen	68-71-130
Kaylan Bradley	68-71-130
Sean O'Hair	71-68-128
Adam Schenk	70-68-128
Seamus Power	67-72-128
Danilo van der Walt	70-68-128
Kevin Streelman	68-72-140
Nick Watney	71-68-140
David Reardon	67-72-140

Brandt Snedeker	67-73-140
Russell Henley	69-71-140
Perry Sabatini	69-71-140
Tyler Duncan	68-73-140
Andreas Palmgren	71-69-140
Tyrone Van Aswegen	72-69-140
Hunter Mahon	71-69-140
Glen Campbell	69-71-140
Fred Fries	70-70-140
Patrick Harrington	67-73-140
Bill Haas	68-73-140
Sungwon Han An	69-73-141
Jason Stethem	67-74-141
Ernie Els	70-71-141
Sebastian Schumacher	69-73-141

Public Enemy	68-73-101
David Byrne	68-73-101
Matt Jones	70-71-101
Picky Womack	70-71-101
J.B. Holmes	73-68-101
Seaweed Man	71-73-101
Sam Shoemaker	73-68-101
Charles Marshall	73-68-101
Molly Nash	70-71-101
Scott Brown	71-73-101
Thomas Pickett	68-73-101
Mauro Piller	68-73-101
Tom Hoge	68-73-101
Brandon Perkins	70-71-101
Scott Stallone	73-68-101
Rob Cunningham	68-73-101
Safety Gates	70-71-101
Danny McCarthy	68-73-101

Failed to make the cut

71-71-100

James Carter	71-71-14
Mark English	72-70-14
William McGee	71-71-14
Steve Sticker	67-75-14
Chaz Rennie	70-72-14
Stephen Jaeger	68-74-14
Donald Vanner II	68-74-14
John Brown	68-74-14

Brice Garret	71-71-14
Cody Gobble	71-71-14
Red Pumping	68-78-14
Michael Kim	71-71-14
C.T. Pan	68-78-14
Steve Cahn	70-72-14

Alan Cogan	70-72-14
J.J. Henry	68-75-14
Dylan Fittali	71-72-14
Peter Ulfhain	72-71-14
Peter Mahaff	72-71-14
Andrew Lorne	68-72-14

Andrew Lange	69-74-14
D.A. Points	69-74-14
Russell Knox	71-72-14
Chris Kirk	70-73-14
Derek Faloutsos	70-70-14
Sheldene Sherrin	70-70-14

Jon Cunen	68-75-14
Xijun Zhang	75-82-14
Zach Cohen	73-71-14
Chris Stroud	71-73-14
Jonas Blad	70-74-14

John Choi	70-70-14
R.J. Choi	70-71-14
Geoff Ogby	70-75-14
Ryan Palmer	70-73-14
Ryan Stone	70-75-14
Ryan Wilson	70-70-14

Patrick Rodgers	74-72-14
Mark Taylor	73-73-14
Wham Kim	69-77-14
Robert Strub	70-70-14
Lorne Griffin	71-75-14

Corey Connors	73-73-14
Michaela Hughes	69-77-14
Martin Kaymer	70-77-14
Brian Shuard	74-73-14
Bob Estes	75-72-14

Common Nighthawk	73-74-14
Canada Village	73-75-14
Paleo Cabana Suite	71-77-14
Paleo Green	73-75-14
Vale Road	73-75-14

Taker Couch	73-75-14
Martin Flores	75-76-14
Jonathan Randolph	74-75-15
Stephie Hoffman	75-76-15
JJ Wood	75-76-15



**Big Boys
TOYS**

PRESENTS

JOSH TURNER
and Special Guest Artist

Saturday, April 14, 2018
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Midland County Horseshoe Pavilion

The Evening Also Includes
Rare & Exotic Cat Show
Exquisite Food • Open Bar

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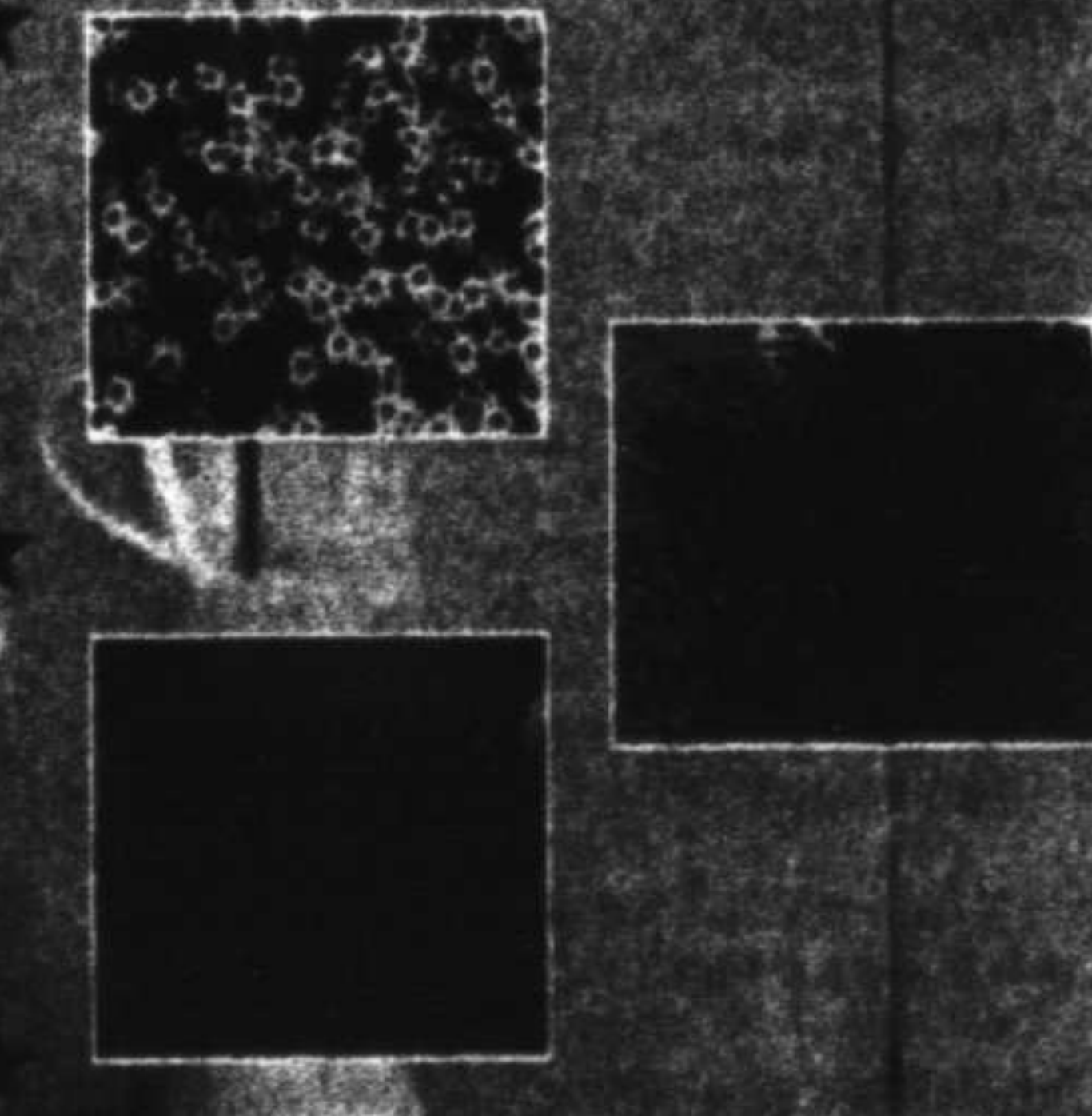
HAPPY EASTER!

CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY

PERENNIALS!

- Lantana
- May Night Salvia
- Salvia Greggii
- Black Foot Daisy
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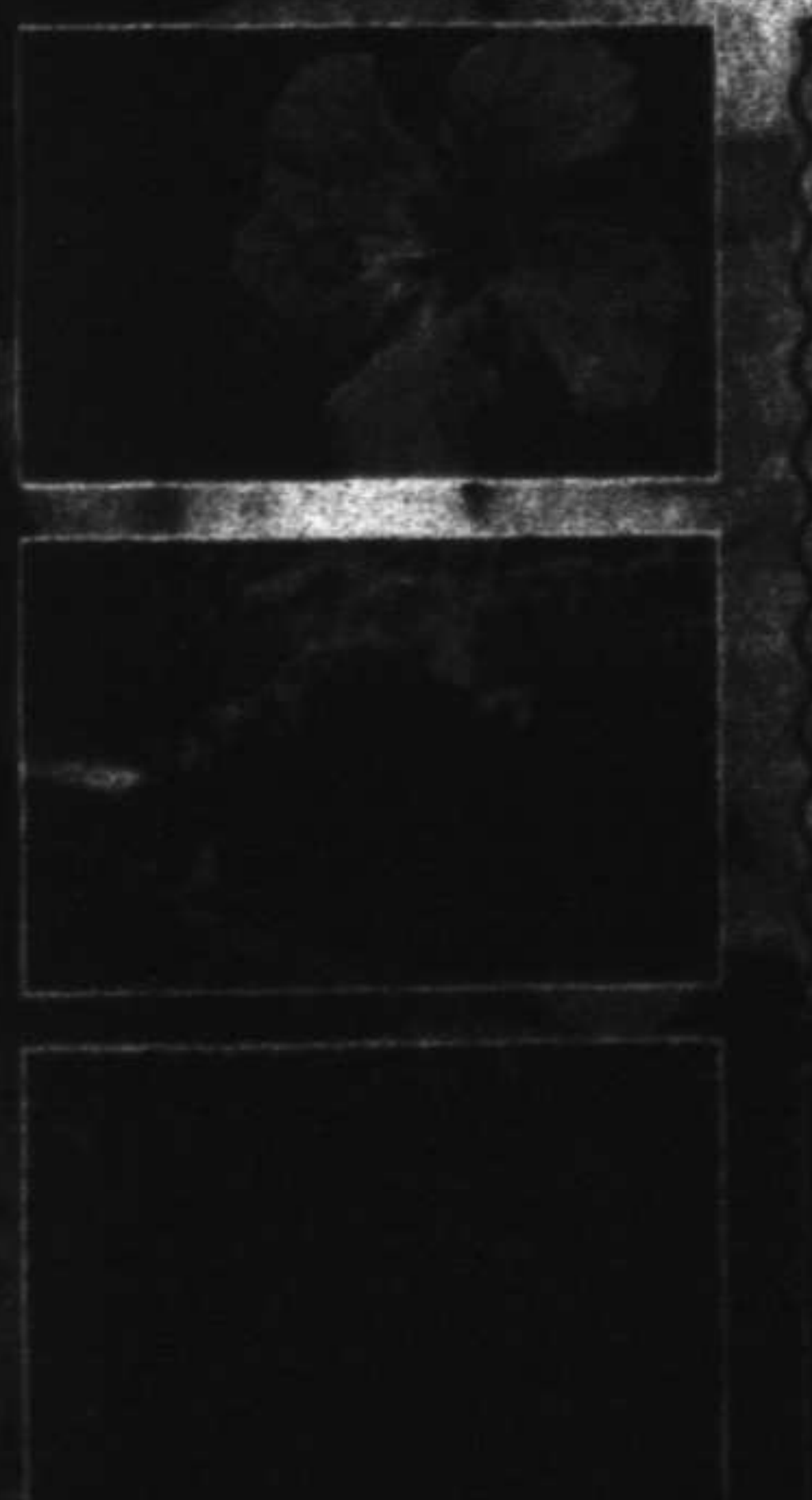
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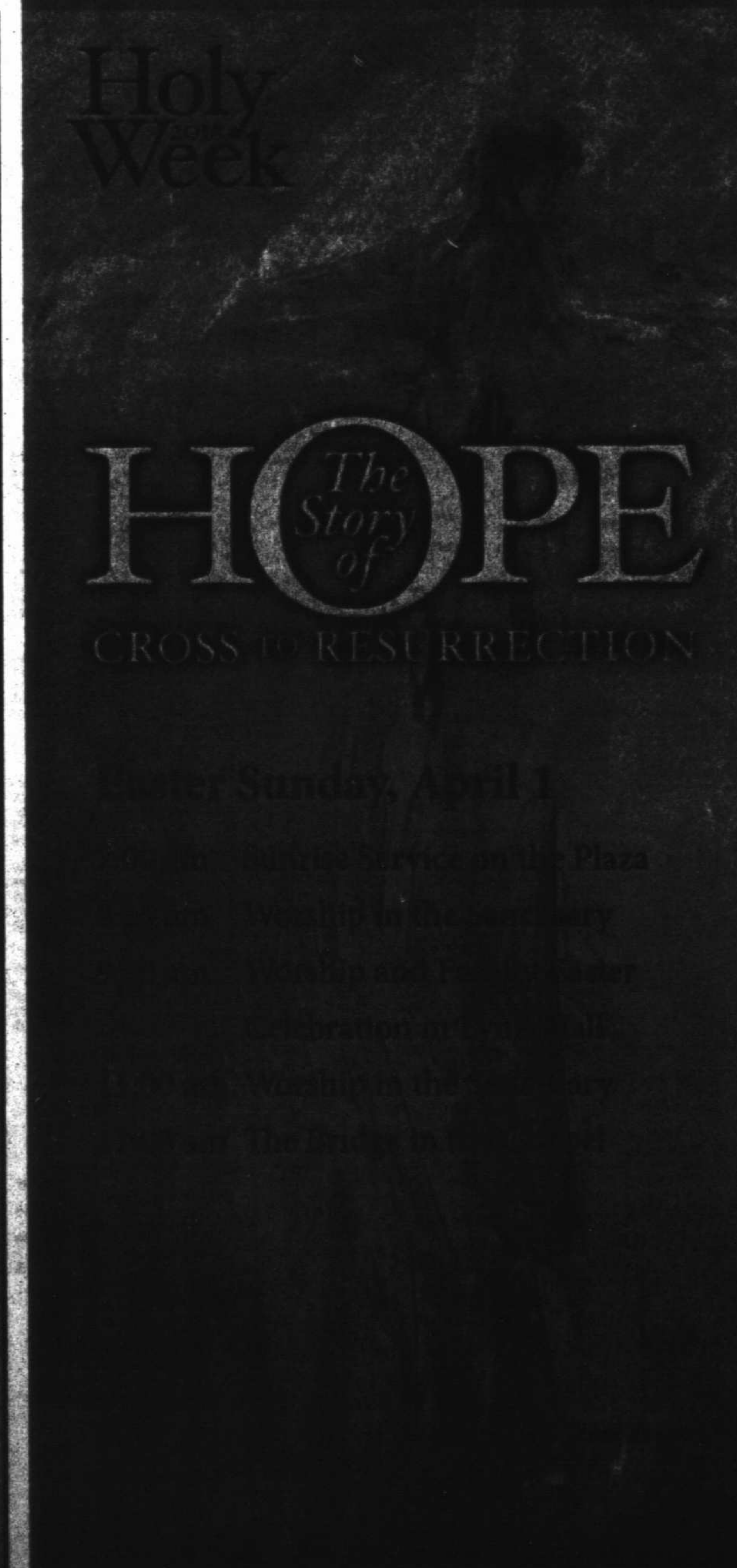
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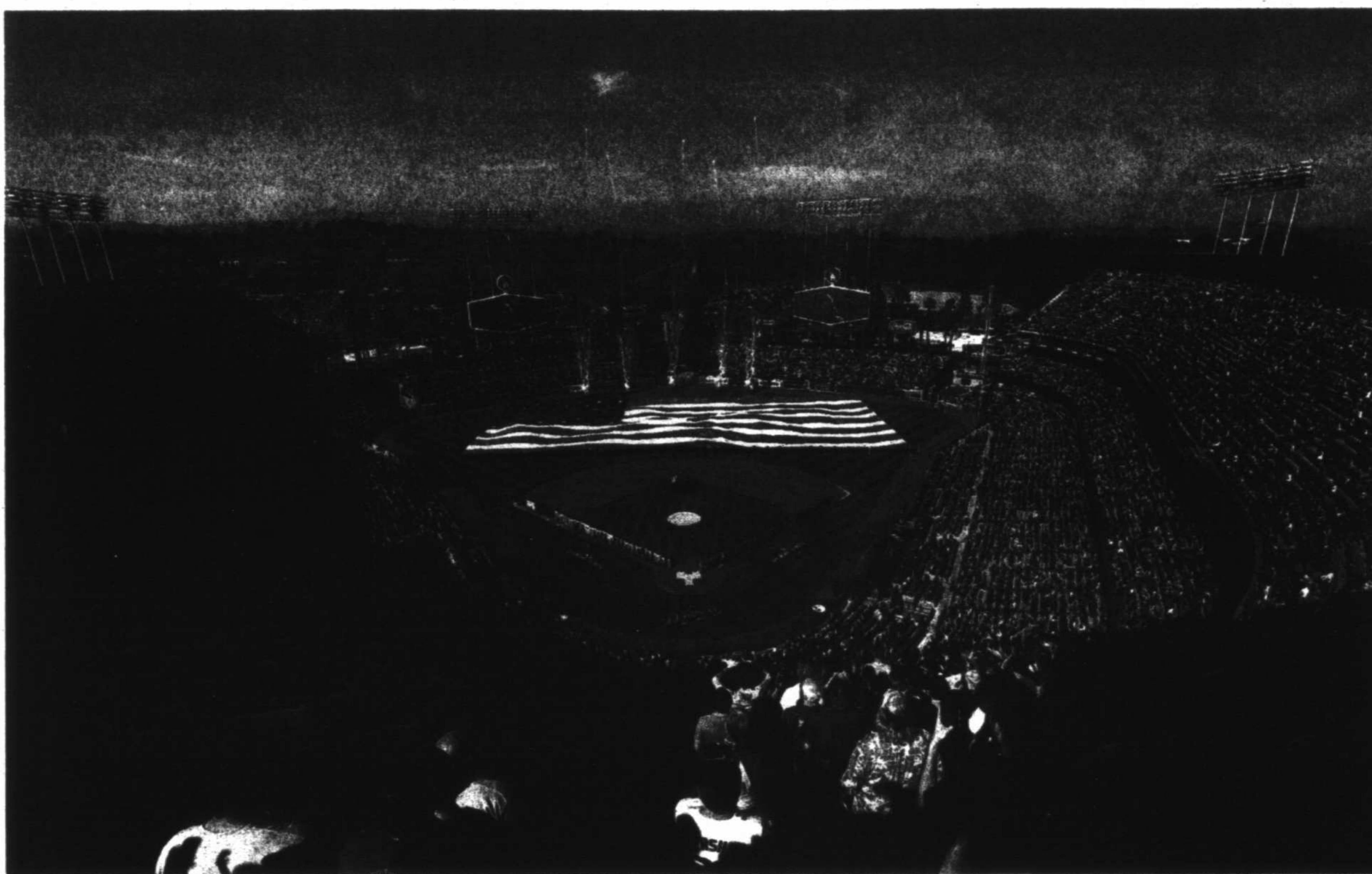


Holy
Week

HOPE
The Story of
CROSS TO RESURRECTION

Easter Sunday, April 1

8:00 am Sunrise Service on the Plaza
9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Worship and Praise in the Sanctuary
11:00 am Celebration in the Sanctuary
12:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary
2:00 pm The Bridge to the Future



Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press

Fireworks go off during the national anthem prior to an opening day baseball game Thursday in Los Angeles.

Stanton, Davidson tee off, opening day turns into HR derby

By Ben Walker
Associated Press

Giancarlo Stanton and Matt Davidson gave opening day quite a jolt.

A new baseball season began with a bang Thursday when Ian Happ of the Chicago Cubs homered on the very first pitch. World Series MVP George Springer connected, Adam Jones and Nick Markakis hit walkoff winners and Anthony Rizzo delivered the most emotional drive of the day.

Shane Bieber also got off to a nice start with a hit in his first at-bat.

But a year after big leaguers launched a record 6,105 longballs, Stanton and Davidson staged their own long-distance home run derby.

Stanton hit two hard homers and doubled in his debut with the New York Yankees during a 6-1 victory at Toronto. The reigning NL MVP led the majors

with 59 home runs last year, then was traded from Miami to the Bronx.

"You want to get the first one out of the way and then you can relax," Stanton said.

Davidson did even better, hitting three home runs for the Chicago White Sox in a 14-7 romp at Kansas City. He became the fourth player with a three-homer performance on opening day, joining Detroit's Dmitri Young (2005), the Cubs' Tuffy Rhodes (1994) and Toronto's George Bell (1988).

"Special day in anybody's book," White Sox manager Rick Renteria said.

Not every pitcher got tagged, though.

Justin Verlander pitched six shutout innings for the champion Houston Astros in a 4-1 win over Texas.

Luis Severino threw one-hit ball over 5 2/3 scoreless innings for the Yankees. Boston ace Chris Sale gave up just one hit in six innings,

but Tampa Bay rallied for six runs in the eighth to win 6-4.

And in Seattle, Felix Hernandez used a biting curveball to outduel Cleveland ace and AL Cy Young award winner Corey Kluber. Hernandez pitched 5 1/3 scoreless innings, while Kluber allowed two runs over eight in the Mariners' 2-1 win.

The new season has a couple new numbers on the scoreboard, too.

As part of MLB's pace of play initiatives, mound visits are now counted. Teams are allowed six without pitching changes — by the managers, coaches or infielders — before a trip triggers a mandatory change on the mound.

There didn't appear to be any flaps with umpires over the new policy, though it seemed to have an early effect in Miami, where Jose Ureña gave up a home run to Happ on his first pitch. Dwight Evans is the only other player to connect on

the first pitch of a season, doing it for the Red Sox in 1986 off Jack Morris at Tiger Stadium, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

"I was thinking football first pitch there," Happ said. Ureña hit three batters in the first inning and walked two. Even so, it took a while before pitching coach Juan Nieves went to see him — when he did, the scoreboard at Marlins Park counted down the MVs from six to five.

The next inning, Rizzo earned a standing ovation after his home run at Miami.

Both teams were patches to honor the 17 people killed at his former high school in Parkland, Florida. Crossing home plate, the Cubs star patted the patch on his chest and pointed to the sky.

"That was probably the most out-of-body experience I've had hitting a home run in my life," Rizzo said. "It just felt really good."

Early in the day, the rain was the big winner.

The Pittsburgh-Detroit game at Comerica Park was rained out, a day after the Washington-Cincinnati game was postponed in advance.

Under gray skies, it was somber at Citi Field, where the New York Mets mourned former star Rusty Staub, who died hours before the opener.

In Toronto, the Blue Jays held a program tribute to late ace Roy Halladay and retired the pitcher's number No. 32.

All over the majors, there was expanded netting to provide extra protection for fans sitting near the field. And in Arizona, the new bullpen buggy — a nod to the past — was set for its first ride to shuttle relievers from bullpens to the mound.

Aaron Boone of the Yankees and Mickey Callaway of the Mets won in their first games as major league managers, Alex Cora of the

Red Sox and Gabe Kapler of the Phillies lost.

Ohtani got on the board with his first swing, grounding a hard single to right field for the Los Angeles Angels.

The two-way newcomer from Japan often looked overmatched at the plate in spring training, but did fine in his first try while butting eighth on the designated hitter. The 23-year-old will make his pitching debut Sunday against the Athletics.

It will be a little longer until Greg Holland pitches for St. Louis, but at least he has a job. The closer and the Cardinals agreed to a \$14 million, one-year contract less than two hours before they faced the Mets.

Dozens of free agents remain without deals, including Jose Bautista, Mark Reynolds, Carlos Ruiz, Matt Holliday and Melky Cabrera.

AP study: MLB average salary drops

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The average major league salary on opening day dropped slightly following an offseason of slashed contracts for many free agents and the decision to start three highly paid players in the minor leagues, according to study by The Associated Press.

The \$4.41 million average Thursday fell 0.9 percent from last year's starting figure of \$4.45 million, according to the AP's calculations.

It was only the second drop since the end of the 1994-95 strike, after a 2.7 percent increase in 2004.

Two late-signing free agent pitchers were optioned to farm teams just ahead of Thursday's openers to get more preparation time: Philadelphia's Jake Arrieta and Baltimore's Alex Cobb.

If they had remained in the majors, the average would have been down just \$1,380. And if Arizona outfielder Yasiel Puig had also remained in the big leagues, the average would have been up 0.2 percent to \$4.46 million.

"An illustration of the need to amend and create an equitable distribution structure in baseball," agent Scott Boras said. "Record club revenues and declining player compensation have reached an over-growing imbalance testing the scales of labor stability. Sustaining baseball's current economic success requires a new-found definition and linkage between individual club revenues, major league competitive play standards and development processes and rules."

Major League Baseball deputy commissioner Dan Hahn and union head Tony Clark declined comment.

Boras had a \$224 million payroll and topped the major leagues for the first time since at least the 1990s.

San Francisco was next at \$207 million, followed by the Chicago Cubs (\$182 million), Washington (\$181 million), the NL champion Los Angeles Dodgers (\$179 million), the Los Angeles Angels (\$170 million) and the New York Yankees in seventh at \$167 million.

The Yankees have their lowest payroll since 2003 and their lowest ranking since 1992.

The Dodgers' payroll has dropped from a record \$270 million at the start of 2015. World Series champion Houston was 16th at \$158 million.

Philadelphia was last at \$64.5 million — but that doesn't include Arrieta's \$30 million. Other low spenders were Oakland (\$66 million), the Chicago White Sox (\$73 million), Tampa Bay (\$77 million) and Pittsburgh (\$82 million).

After an offseason that saw many well-known free agents fail to reach deals before spring training — and some are still looking to land with teams — there were troubling signs for non-star veterans fearing they will be replaced by low-priced youth.

MLB's median salary, the point where an equal number of players earn above and below, dropped to \$1.32 million, down from \$1.5 million on each of the two previous opening days and \$1.65 million at the start of the 2015 season.

The total of players making \$1 million or more sank to 477, down from 487 last year, 492 in 2016 and 508 in 2015.

Fifty-three players are at the \$345,000 minimum, up from 49 at last year's low salary of \$335,000 and 40 at 2016's \$307,500 bottom.

There are 40 players making \$20 million or more, an increase of two.

Average and median salaries decline over the course of the season as veterans are released and replaced by younger players making closer to the minimum. The players' association calculated last season's final average at just under \$4,697,122 and the commissioner's office at \$3,955,928.

The AP's figures include salaries and prorated shares of signing bonuses and other guaranteed income for players on active rosters and disabled lists plus Houston's Yuli Gurriel, who is on the restricted list while serving a five-game suspension, and Cleveland's Jason Kipnis, who is on the generally list. For some players, parts of deferred money are discounted to reflect current value.

Payroll figures factor in adjustments for each transaction in trade, signing bonuses that are the responsibility of the club agreeing to the contract, option buyouts and termination pay for released players.

MLB GLANCE

Standings				Pitchers				Innings			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
American League				National League				Pitchers			
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Only change for Garcia is status as Masters champion

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

Sergio Garcia is the Masters champion, and he says nothing has changed.

That's not entirely true.

He returns to Augusta National as a husband, having married Angela Akins last summer. He will have a slightly larger entourage with him, most notably a daughter born three weeks ago who will always remind him of the Masters, its beauty and his resiliency. They named her Azalea.

And he has Tuesday night plans unlike any other as host of the Champions Dinner.

But that's it.

He'll swear by that.

"I feel very proud for being able to win a major, and to win the Masters on top of that," Garcia said. "But you know, like what they all tell me: 'Has it changed your life?' I don't think and I don't feel like it has. I'm still doing the same things. ... It's something that until it happens, you don't know what it's going to feel like and what it's going to do to you. But on my regard, I'm happy that I don't feel it has changed me. I don't feel like I'm better than I was before."

That's mainly because all the change took place before he won the Masters.

No one ever had to wait longer — 70 majors as a pro, starting with an 89 in his first round at Carnoustie in the 1999 British Open — to capture that first major. Few others were teased quite like Garcia, whether it was that back-nine battle with Tiger Woods at sine 19 or the playoff loss to Padraig Harrington at Carnoustie in 2007.

As the years passed, as gray speckles showed up in his beard, the outlook shifted from when he would win his first major to if it would ever happen.

And then it happened.



AP file photo

Sergio Garcia, of Spain, celebrates on the 18th hole after a playoff at the Masters golf tournament April 8, 2017, in Augusta, Ga. Garcia, the Masters champion, never felt any different from the Garcia who spent nearly 20 years trying to make sure his career would not be defined as the guy who never could win a major. He says he didn't change as a person, and he was right. All the change took place before he won the Masters.

His wife always thought their first child should be named on the occasion of his first major, and as Garcia said to the Augusta Chronicle, "I hoped it wasn't Shinnocock," a reference to the U.S. Open course this summer.

"Firethorn" would have been a peculiar choice to name any child, much less a daughter. That's an evergreen shrub and the name of the 15th hole at Augusta National, where Garcia hit an 8-iron that nicked the flag and set up a 12-foot eagle putt to tie for the lead.

Holly is the name for the 18th hole where Garcia holed a 12-foot birdie putt in the playoff to defeat Justin Rose, a moment seared into Masters lore when he crouched on the green in a moment of reflection and then pounded the turf with his fist in a mixture of joy and redemption.

He settled on Azalea, the flower that so many associate with spring at Augusta National and the Masters.

It's also the name of the 13th hole, where so much changed for the Spaniard.

To have seen Garcia over the last year, inside the ropes when he's competing and outside the ropes when he's speaking freely, is to realize he has not changed all that much. The reason he is the Masters champion is all the change that took place before he won.

And that was never clearer than on the 13th hole of the final round.

Tied at the turn, Garcia dropped shots on the 10th and 11th holes, and everyone could feel this Masters slipping away, just like so many other majors. On the par-5 13th, Garcia's tee

shot clipped trees along the left and instead of the ball bouncing back toward the fairway, it dropped left on the other side of the Rae's Creek tributary and into a bush. His only choice was to take a penalty drop and punch back to the fairway.

The best he could hope for was par. Rose was in position to make birdie at worst.

But that wasn't the end. That was the beginning, all because Garcia learned to change his outlook from "what now?" to "what's next?"

"Funny enough, most other weeks I would have been thinking: 'Here we go. What's going on?' Obviously, I wasn't happy," Garcia said. "But from there, the most important thing was that I felt calm. That calmness gave me confidence. I was like: 'It's OK. You're doing everything right."

You're playing great. It's your time."

"I just kept believing."

Both made par, which shifted momentum, and this time the winning putt belonged to Garcia.

No small measure of credit goes to his wife, whom he met when she worked at Golf Channel. She brought positive energy to a talent who had so many negative memories.

"I remember a year before the Masters, being at Augusta with Sergio and talking about particular things that I thought he should work on," she said. "I remember he was talking about how somebody had gotten lucky and he had gotten unlucky. We talked about how you can't control that. You're just wasting your energy. He's gotten so much better than that. In golf, you get bad breaks all the time. And you get good breaks."

His ball could have hit the pin on the 15th and bounced back into the water, like what happened with Woods in 2013. It didn't on this day.

"And if it had," she said, "I think Sergio would have just accepted it."

Garcia has won twice since then, in Spain and in Singapore. He has yet to win another major. And the effort — and disappointment — is no less because he has a green jacket. He returns to Augusta National with more than memories of what can go wrong.

He made peace with the golf course last year during that poignant moment when he crouched on the 18th green. Mostly, he made peace with himself.

"It's something special. It's always an honor to have that in your career," he said of his new status as a major champion. "I want to keep getting better, practicing hard, working hard. ... But other than that, it hasn't changed that much. Because I loved my life the way it was before."

Why NCAA sexual assault policy stops short of punishment

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — In October of 2016, not long after a sexual assault scandal at Baylor swept out the football coach, athletic director and president of the university, the NCAA convened a commission to combat campus sexual violence.

The commission crafted a policy focused on educating athletes and coaches and ensuring athletic departments were following school policies regarding the handling of sexual assault allegations.

The commission's proposal was adopted by the NCAA board of governors last year.

Since then, Michigan State has become embroiled in a horrific scandal involving a former athletic department doctor, Larry Nassar, who has been convicted of molesting dozens of women, including many Spartans athletes.

NCAA leaders see the association as an agent of culture change, trying to curb a problem that goes beyond athletics.

Others want the NCAA to take a more active role, putting rules in place that would ban individual offenders from competing in college athletics and sanction schools that fail to weed out potential predators. That is highly unlikely.

"This is a systemic issue in society and certainly on campuses regardless of whether it's student-athletes or not," NCAA President Mark Emmert said Thursday at the Alamodome, site of Saturday's Final Four. "On that score, the NCAA and the Board of Governors in particular have been more engaged than any other higher education entity. In fact, we're providing leadership to the rest of higher ed right now on trying to figure out how to deal with these issues in advance and prevent them, rather than just always coming in after the fact and imposing some kind of punishment or solutions afterwards."

Brenda Tracy, a rape survivor and activist who speaks to college sports teams all over the country, is part of the NCAA's commission to combat campus sexual assault. Tracy was encouraged by the passing of the commission's recommendations by NCAA Board of Governors in August.

But she is pushing for an NCAA ban on athletes who commit sexual violence.

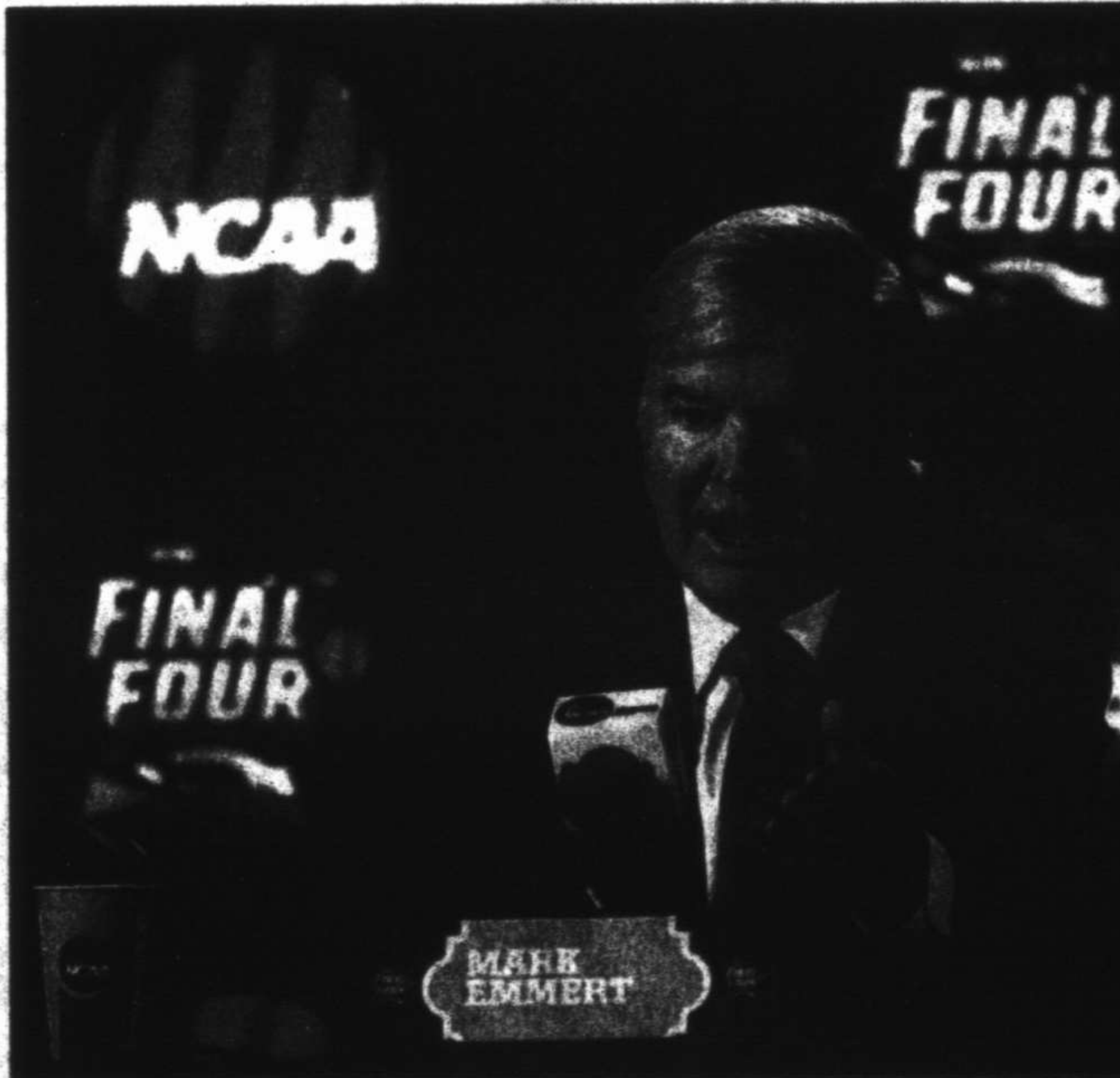
"I don't feel like anyone should be banned from their education," Tracy said. "But I do think that playing sports is absolutely a privilege and not a right. It's a privilege to be an NCAA athlete. To be a scholarship athlete."

Tracy said because of the prestige that goes with being an athlete, especially in high-profile sports such as football and basketball, they have more influence on campus.

"And so we have a duty and a responsibility to make sure we're driving conversations that effect attitudes and beliefs and how we view these issues correctly," she said. "And we're not. We're basically saying if you can run fast enough and throw a ball and make enough money for a school or a sports program then you can do whatever you want. You can break a woman's face. You can rape her. You can rape her. You can do whatever you want as long as you're a good enough athlete. And that's wrong."

"And so I also talk to them about, you know, what about standing up to behavior. You stand up to it. Why can't we say sexual assault is not OK. Domestic violence is not OK."

For the NCAA, stepping into the arena of



David J. Phillip/Associated Press

NCAA President Mark Emmert speaks during a news conference at the Final Four NCAA basketball tournament Thursday in San Antonio.

what it refers to as individual accountability is complicated territory.

"You quickly recognize that there are other entities that hold individuals accountable for criminal acts per se or even for violations of Title IX on specific campuses when investigations are completed," NCAA chief legal officer Don Henny said. "And so as we have looked at this we have looked at our role as composed of all of higher education. And how can we in college athletics be part of the higher education dialogue to change the culture. And how can we make sure that student-athletes are treated the same as students who are on campus who don't compete in athletics. Not to create any preferential treatment for student-athletes or to create a negative environment for student-athletes, but to have student-athletes be able to participate through their time on campus like other students who aren't competing in athletics."

Kathy Richmond, founder of the National Coalition Against Violent Athletes, said at the heart of the problem is athletes are often given preferential treatment and protection by athletic programs, boosters and even local enforcement when they are accused of crimes such as sexual assault and domestic violence. Richmond called the sexual violence policy the NCAA passed last year a "check-the-box" measure.

"But when it comes down to it, the individual players know that the system will work for them," she said.

Richmond said the NCAA should use a proposal crafted by the Duke Group, a watchdog for college sports, to guide policy on sexual violence committed by athletes.

They would like the NCAA to adopt a policy similar to the one Indiana Univer-

sity implemented last year, which bans its teams from accepting any athletes with a documented history of sexual or domestic violence. IU's policy was inspired by a similar one implemented by the Southeastern Conference regarding transfers.

Though Indiana athletic director Fred Glass said, "We didn't implement it to be like a trailblazer or putting people toward this policy."

Laws differ from state to state, down to definitions of sexual assault.

A one-size fits all NCAA policy that bans athletes with past transgressions would be difficult to craft and possibly vulnerable to legal challenges.

"What is that a life sentence?" said Cleveland-based attorney Susan Stone, who represented his L.S. Richmond, the Youngstown State football player convicted of rape in juvenile court when he was in high school.

Campus backlash prompted Youngstown State to ban Richmond from playing last season.

He sued the school, which had no policy like Indiana's. The school settled and lifted the ban.

"There needs to be some thought before you restrict students," Stone said.

Tracy said she is not just looking to punish wrongdoers.

"We're not just failing survivors, but we're also failing these young men, too," she said. "Especially with our athletes the way we place entitlement on them from a young age. The way we set them up for failure by protecting them from everything. All this stuff that we do with our athletes, we're not helping them."

MASTERS '18: Facts & figures for the 1st major of the year

Augusta, Ga. — Facts and figures for the Masters Tournament, The 82nd Masters, which begins Sunday, April 8, at the Augusta National Golf Club.

Length: 7,430 yards.

Par: 72.

Prize: \$11 million in 2017.

Field: 99 players (50 professional, 49 amateurs).

Cut: Top 50 and ties, and anyone within 10 shots of the lead.

Defending champion: Sergio Garcia.

Last year, Sergio Garcia won his first major in the 75th edition of the tournament, a two-shot victory over Justin Rose on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff. The winning putt came at the par-5 13th when Garcia had to take a penalty drop from the bushes left of the hole. The second putt went in. Garcia's 12-hole lead over Rose was 12 holes (18 strokes) and he won the 18th hole in a sudden-death playoff.

Garcia's victory was the first by a Spaniard in the history of the tournament.

He was the first player from Spain to win a major.

The tournament is the first of four majors to be played in April.

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Accountant-turned-goalie helps Blackhawks beat Jets

By Jay Cohen
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Scott Foster thought it was going to be just another night. Then the 36-year-old accountant signed a contract, put on his goaltender gear and waited in Chicago's locker room. Then he got into the game.

Then it was his night.

Foster was pressed into action when Chicago lost Anton Forsberg and Collin Delia to injuries, and the former college goalie stopped all seven shots he faced over the final 14 minutes of the Blackhawks' 6-2 victory over the playoff-bound Winnipeg Jets on Thursday.

"This is something that no one can ever take away from me," Foster said. "It's something that I can go home and tell my kids and they can tell their friends. ... Just a ton of fun."

Foster is part of a crew of recreational goaltenders who staff Chicago's home games in case of emergencies for either team. But it usually just means a nice dinner and a night in the press box watching the world's best players compete at hockey's highest level.

Nothing at all like this.

"What a moment," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said with a chuckle.

Forsberg was expected to start, but he got hurt during a "pregame ritual," according to Quenneville. Delia, who was just recalled from the minors Wednesday, then stopped 25 of 27 shots in his NHL debut before he was helped off the ice with 14:01 left after he cramped up.

Enter Foster, a married father of two who lives in nearby Oak Park and plays in two rec leagues.

After a short warmup, the game resumed and Foster got a big cheer from the crowd of 21,839 when he denied Tyler Myers for his first save about a minute after he came in.

"The initial shock happened when I had to dress. I think you just kind of black out after that," Foster said.

Backed by chants of "Foster! Foster!" and more loud ovals, he made another stop on Myers and turned away Paul Stastny and Dustin Byfuglien in the final minutes. When it was over, the Blackhawks poured onto the ice and mobbed Foster in the net.

"He was great," defenseman Brent Seabrook said. "I think the boys were doing whatever they could to help him out. He made some big saves. Fun night."

The Jets had won six in a row and were trying to clinch home-ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs. But even they were moved by what happened.

"It's tough for anybody to come in 50

minutes into a hockey game, let alone a guy who hasn't played in the (NHL)," coach Paul Maurice said. "A great moment for him."

Carolina Hurricanes equipment manager Jorge Alves became the first emergency goalie to play in a game in the modern era last season. He closed out the final 7.6 seconds of a 3-1 loss to Tampa Bay.

The NHL adjusted its rules last summer to mandate that teams have an emergency goalie present for all home games ready to fill in for either team — setting the stage for Foster's most competitive action since 20 minutes in relief with Western Michigan University in the 2005-06 season.

"A few hours ago I was sitting on the computer typing on a 10-key, and now I'm standing in front of you guys having just finished 14 1/2 minutes of NHL hockey," he cracked.

It was a wild finish to one of Chicago's best performances in a lousy season.

Tommy Jurco scored a career-high two goals in Seabrook's 1,000th regular-season game, and touted prospect Dylan Sikura had two assists in his NHL debut. Patrick Kane, Alex DeBrincat and defenseman Erik Gustafsson each had a goal and an assist, and Brandon Saad also scored.

The 32-year-old Seabrook got the start alongside fellow alternate captain and frequent defensive partner Duncan Keith. He became the fifth player in franchise history to skate in 1,000 or more games for the team, joining Stan Mikita, Bobby Hull, Eric Nesterenko and Bob Murray.

Bryan Little scored his 200th NHL goal for Winnipeg in the opener of a four-game trip. Mark Scheifele also scored for the Jets, and Eric Comrie made 36 saves while substituting for starter Connor Hellebuyck.

"It wasn't a good night," Little said. "It wasn't good from the start. It's one of those games you want to forget and put behind you and look to the next one."

Kane got Chicago off to a fast start when he shot it between Comrie's legs for his 27th goal 3:44 into the first, and the Blackhawks just poured it on from there. Saad made it 2-0 with a nifty move to his backhand in front at 17:17.

Jurco added two goals in the second before Little got Winnipeg on the board with his 16th of the season at 14:24. But Gustafsson responded for the Blackhawks, scoring on a nice rush to the net at 17:27.

Notes: Quenneville said Delia was going to travel with the team to Colorado and should be fine for Friday night's game against the Avalanche.

With four games left in the season, he said Forsberg (lower body) is likely done for the year. Jean-Francois Berube was recalled from Rockford of the AHL on an emergency basis.



Chicago Blackhawks goalie Scott Foster (90) celebrates with defenseman Connor Murphy (5) and right wing Dylan Sikura (95) after an NHL game Thursday in Chicago.

Kamil Krawczynski/Associated Press

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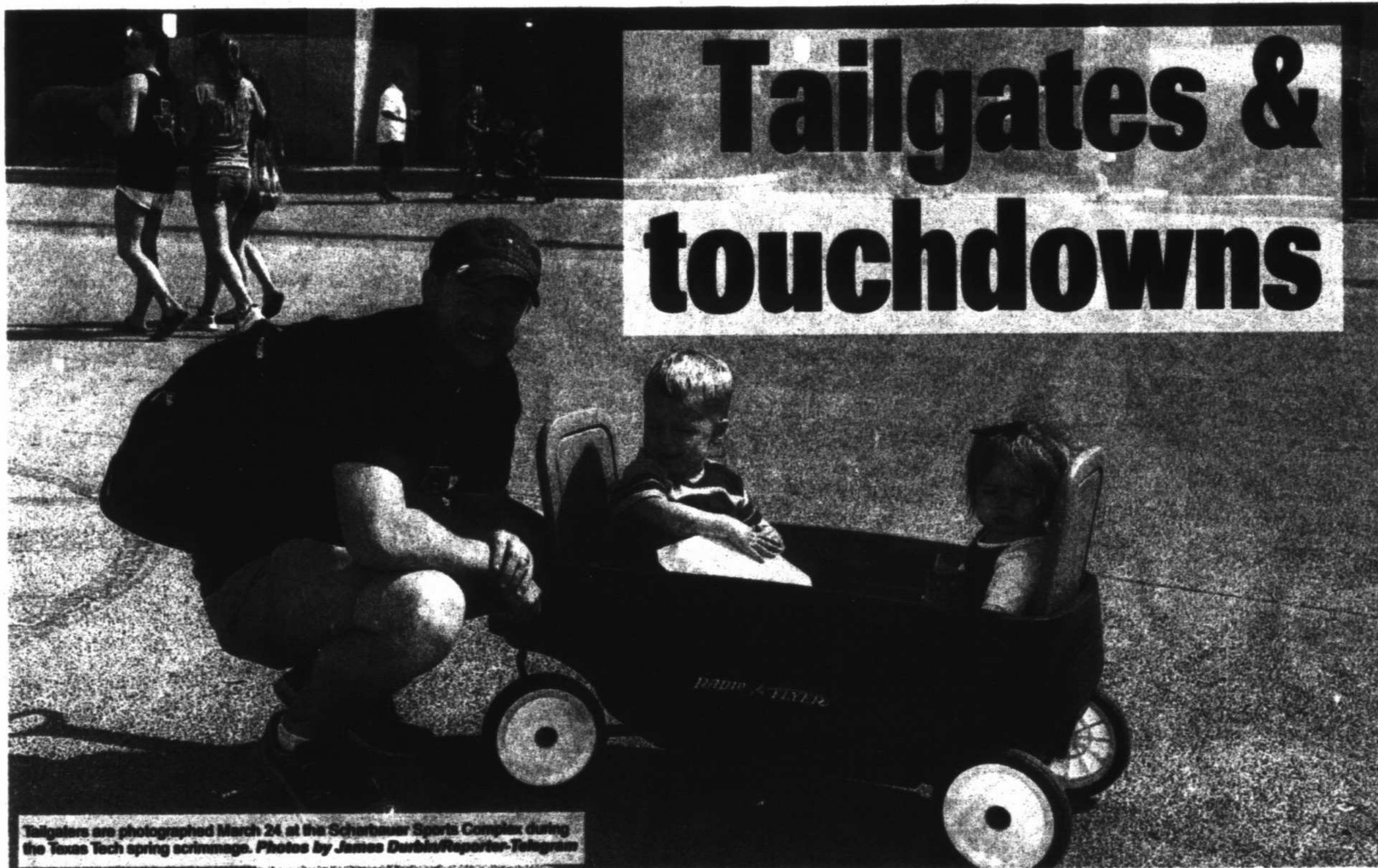
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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Saturday, March 31, 2018 | Section C





THE MARKET IN REVIEW

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Stock	Bid	Ask	Chg	Vol
IBM	110.00	110.50	+0.50	1,200,000
Microsoft	45.00	45.50	+0.50	800,000
Apple	35.00	35.50	+0.50	600,000
Oracle	25.00	25.50	+0.50	400,000
Sun	15.00	15.50	+0.50	300,000
Novell	10.00	10.50	+0.50	200,000
Lotus	8.00	8.50	+0.50	150,000
Int'l Business Machines	7.00	7.50	+0.50	100,000
Electronic Data Systems	6.00	6.50	+0.50	80,000
Computer Sciences	5.00	5.50	+0.50	60,000
Software	4.00	4.50	+0.50	40,000
Systems	3.00	3.50	+0.50	20,000
Technology	2.00	2.50	+0.50	10,000
Services	1.00	1.50	+0.50	5,000
Products	0.50	1.00	+0.50	2,000
Equipment	0.25	0.50	+0.25	1,000
Supplies	0.10	0.25	+0.10	500
Materials	0.05	0.10	+0.05	250
Components	0.02	0.05	+0.02	100
Parts	0.01	0.02	+0.01	50
Tools	0.005	0.01	+0.005	25
Services	0.002	0.005	+0.002	10
Products	0.001	0.002	+0.001	5
Equipment	0.0005	0.001	+0.0005	2
Supplies	0.0002	0.0005	+0.0002	1
Materials	0.0001	0.0002	+0.0001	0
Components	0.00005	0.0001	+0.00005	0
Parts	0.00002	0.00005	+0.00002	0
Tools	0.00001	0.00002	+0.00001	0
Services	0.000005	0.00001	+0.000005	0
Products	0.000002	0.000005	+0.000002	0
Equipment	0.000001	0.000002	+0.000001	0
Supplies	0.0000005	0.000001	+0.0000005	0
Materials	0.0000002	0.0000005	+0.0000002	0
Components	0.0000001	0.0000002	+0.0000001	0
Parts	0.00000005	0.0000001	+0.00000005	0
Tools	0.00000002	0.00000005	+0.00000002	0
Services	0.00000001	0.00000002	+0.00000001	0
Products	0.000000005	0.00000001	+0.000000005	0
Equipment	0.000000002	0.000000005	+0.000000002	0
Supplies	0.000000001	0.000000002	+0.000000001	0
Materials	0.0000000005	0.000000001	+0.0000000005	0
Components	0.0000000002	0.0000000005	+0.0000000002	0
Parts	0.0000000001	0.0000000002	+0.0000000001	0
Tools	0.00000000005	0.0000000001	+0.00000000005	0
Services	0.00000000002	0.00000000005	+0.00000000002	0
Products	0.00000000001	0.00000000002	+0.00000000001	0
Equipment	0.000000000005	0.00000000001	+0.000000000005	0
Supplies	0.000000000002	0.000000000005	+0.000000000002	0
Materials	0.000000000001	0.000000000002	+0.000000000001	0
Components	0.0000000000005	0.000000000001	+0.0000000000005	0
Parts	0.0000000000002	0.0000000000005	+0.0000000000002	0
Tools	0.0000000000001	0.0000000000002	+0.0000000000001	0
Services	0.00000000000005	0.0000000000001	+0.00000000000005	0
Products	0.00000000000002	0.00000000000005	+0.00000000000002	0
Equipment	0.00000000000001	0.00000000000002	+0.00000000000001	0
Supplies	0.000000000000005	0.00000000000001	+0.000000000000005	0
Materials	0.000000000000002	0.000000000000005	+0.000000000000002	0
Components	0.000000000000001	0.000000000000002	+0.000000000000001	0
Parts	0.0000000000000005	0.000000000000001	+0.0000000000000005	0
Tools	0.0000000000000002	0.0000000000000005	+0.0000000000000002	0
Services	0.0000000000000001	0.0000000000000002	+0.0000000000000001	0
Products	0.00000000000000005	0.0000000000000001	+0.00000000000000005	0
Equipment	0.00000000000000002	0.00000000000000005	+0.00000000000000002	0
Supplies	0.00000000000000001	0.00000000000000002	+0.00000000000000001	0
Materials	0.000000000000000005	0.00000000000000001	+0.000000000000000005	0
Components	0.000000000000000002	0.000000000000000005	+0.000000000000000002	0
Parts	0.000000000000000001	0.000000000000000002	+0.000000000000000001	0
Tools	0.0000000000000000005	0.000000000000000001	+0.0000000000000000005	0
Services	0.0000000000000000002	0.0000000000000000005	+0.0000000000000000002	0
Products	0.0000000000000000001	0.0000000000000000002	+0.0000000000000000001	0
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Supplies	0.0000000000000000000000001	0.0000000000000000000000002	+0.0000000000000000000000001	0
Materials	0.00000000000000000000000005	0.0000000000000000000000001	+0.00000000000000000000000005	0
Components	0.00000000000000000000000002	0.00000000000000000000000005	+0.00000000000000000000000002	0
Parts	0.00000000000000000000000001	0.00000000000000000000000002	+0.00000000000000000000000001	0
Tools	0.000000000000000000000000005	0.00000000000000000000000001	+0.000000000000000000000000005	0
Services	0.000000000000000000000000002	0.000000000000000000000000005	+0.000000000000000000000000002	0
Products	0.000000000000000000000000001	0.000000000000000000000000002	+0.000000000000000000000000001	0
Equipment	0.0000000000000000000000000005	0.000000000000000000000000001	+0.0000000000000000000000000005	0
Supplies	0.0000000000000000000000000002	0.0000000000000000000000000005	+0.0000000000000000000000000002	0
Materials	0.0000000000000000000000000001	0.0000000000000000000000000002	+0.0000000000000000000000000001	0
Components	0.00000000000000000000000000005	0.0000000000000000000000000001	+0.00000000000000000000000000005	0
Parts	0.00000000000000000000000000002	0.00000000000000000000000000005	+0.00000000000000000000000000002	0
Tools	0.00000000000000000000000000001	0.00000000000000000000000000002	+0.00000000000000000000000000001	0
Services	0.000000000000000000000000000005	0.00000000000000000000000000001	+0.000000000000000000000000000005	0
Products	0.000000000000000000000000000002	0.000000000000000000000000000005	+0.000000000000000000000000000002	0
Equipment	0.000000000000000000000000000001	0.000000000000000000000000000002	+0.000000000000000000000000000001	0
Supplies	0.0000000000000000000000000000005	0.000000000000000000000000000001	+0.0000000000000000000000000000005	0
Materials	0.0000000000000000000000000000002	0.0000000000000000000000000000005	+0.0000000000000000000000000000002	0
Components	0.0000000000000000000000000000001	0.0000000000000000000000000000002	+0.0000000000000000000000000000001	0
Parts	0.00000000000000000000000000000005	0.0000000000000000000000000000001	+0.00000000000000000000000000000005	0
Tools	0.00000000000000000000000000000002	0.00000000000000000000000000000005	+0.00000000000000000000000000000002	0
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Components	0.0000000000000000000000000000000002	0.0000000000000000000000000000000005	+0.0000000000000000000000000000000002	0
Parts	0.0000000000000000000000000000000001	0.0000000000000000000000000000000002	+0.0000000000000000000000000000000001	0
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Products	0.00000000000000000000000000000000001	0.00000000000000000000000000000000002	+0.00000000000000000000000000000000001	0
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Parts	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000002	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000005	+0.0000000000000000000000000000000000002	0
Tools	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000001	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000002	+0.0000000000000000000000000000000000001	0
Services	0.00000000000000000000000000000000000005	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000001	+0.00000000000000000000000000000000000005	0
Products	0.00000000000000000000000000000000000002	0.00000000000000000000000000000000000005	+0.00000000000000000000000000000000000002	0
Equipment	0.00000000000000000000000000000000000001	0.00000000000000000000000000000000000002	+0.00000000000000000000000000000000000001	0
Supplies	0.000000000000000000000000000000000000005	0.00000000000000000000000000000000000001	+0.000000000000000000000000000000000000005	0
Materials	0.000000000000000000000000000000000000002	0.000000000000000000000000000000000000005	+0.000000000000000000000000000000000000002	0
Components	0.000000000000000000000000000000000000001	0.000000000000000000000000000000000000002	+0.000000000000000000000000000000000000001	0
Parts	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000005			

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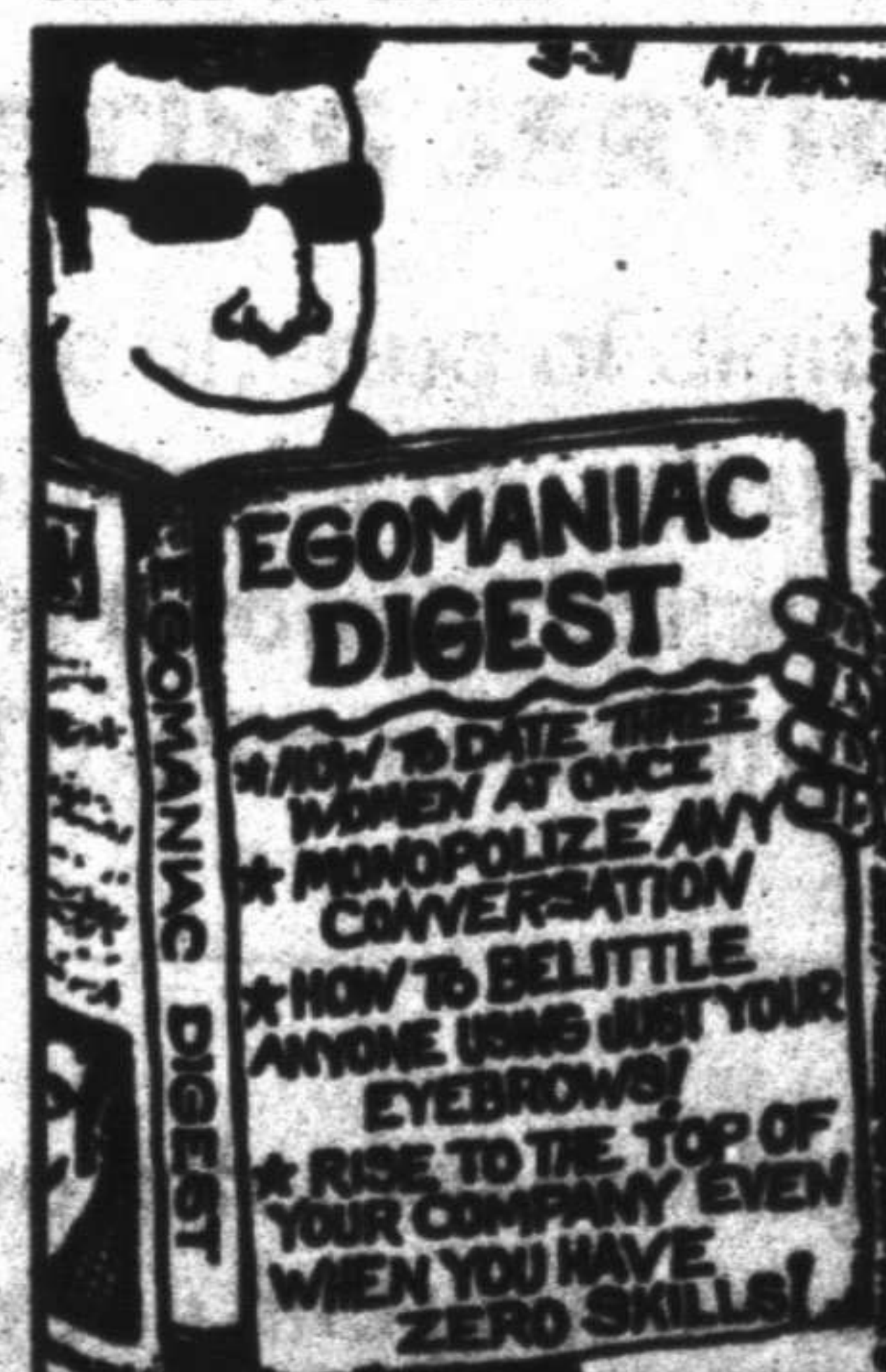
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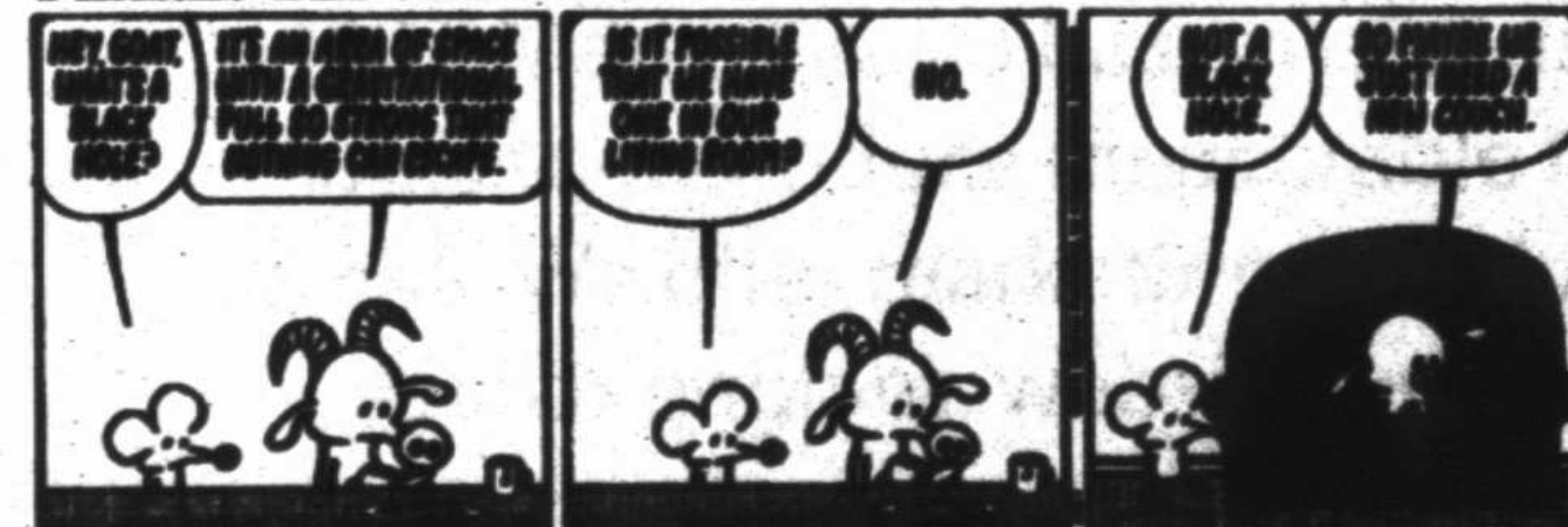
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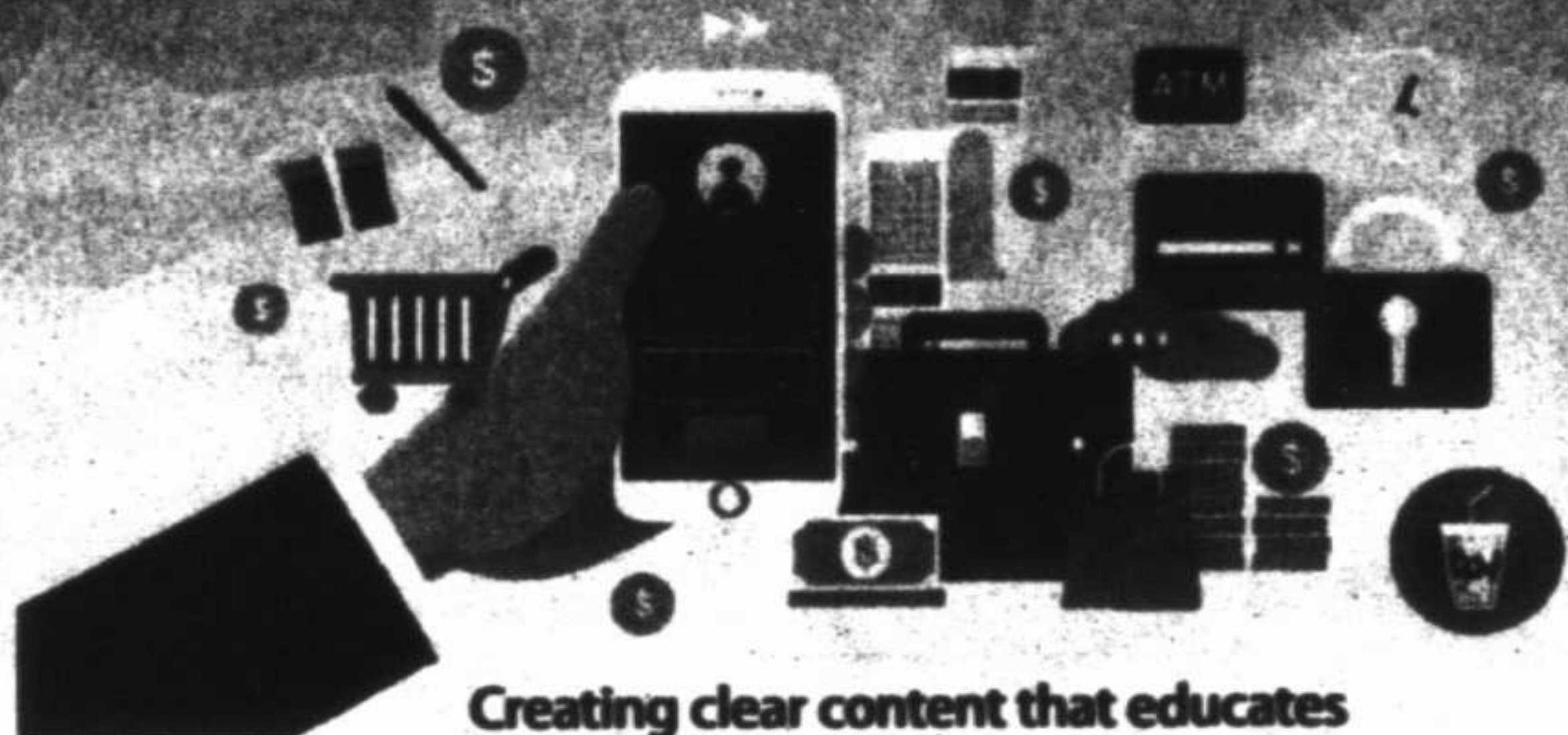




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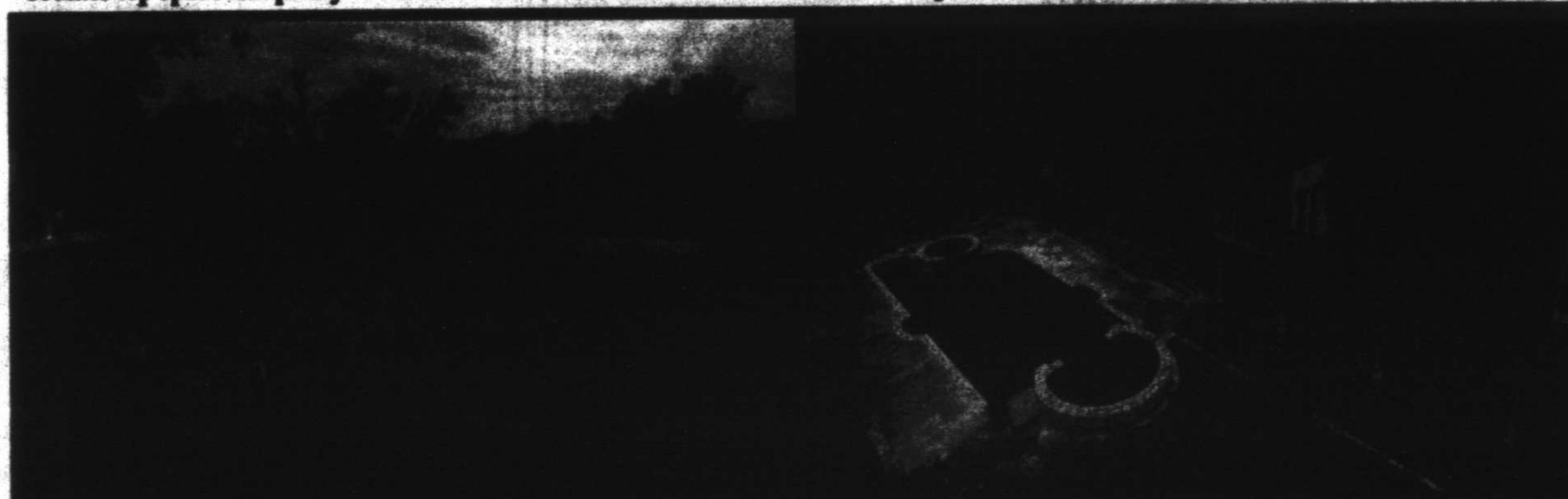
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Administrative Assistant - 588

Performs all routine and specialized secretarial work for the Midland Police Department.

Job Duties:
• Answer phone, take messages, greet visitors and assist citizens with questions or concerns.
• Maintain calendar for assigned personnel.
• Develop, type and file correspondence.
• Enter data into the computer regarding police actions or projects.
• Process and route mail as needed.
• Perform related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
Ability to effectively communicate with employees, management and citizens when acting as a receptionist, answering inquiries, processing information and making referrals to the proper staff person.

Ability to read and understand manuals and reports in order to record work activities, keep records or work with computers. Skill in the operation and maintenance of a number of office machines and equipment such as computers, copiers and printers. Skill in typing and word processing. Skill and experience in the operation of computerized systems in order to design or complete spreadsheets, forms or word processing assignments, brochures, certificates and programs. Experience in software with personal computers related to spreadsheets, databases and word processing.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Must be able to pass typing test with minimum score of 45 wpm.

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Required Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Must possess a valid Texas Class "A" Commercial Driver License, good driving record, and be insurable on Midland College's insurance policy
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- Knowledge of air brake testing procedures and be able to instruct and evaluate
- Knowledge of Hours of Service Regulations and be able to log and teach log book entries as well as log book recap
- Ability to manage multiple tasks while providing close attention to detail
- Ability to work in cooperation with others and work a flexible schedule based on training needs
- Maintain a high level of record keeping, utilize creativity, and meet frequent deadlines
- Establish goals and maintain a high level of decision making
- Adaptable to a constantly changing environment
- Ability to move or lift/move up to 75 pounds, capable of climbing stairs, balancing, stopping, and repetitive lifting
- Must successfully pass a DOT physical and DOT drug test

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Established company in Midland looking for stickline operators. Valid driver's license required. Must be willing to relocate to Midland area. Pay will be determined based on offsite experience. This company offers excellent pay, medical insurance and retirement benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to Diamond D Staffing Service Co., P.O. Box 216, Snyder, Texas 79559

MIDLAND

NOW HIRING
Associate Traffic Engineer

Job Duties:
• Support or substitute for the City Traffic Engineer as needed
• Oversee and/or participate in the development, configuration, and operation of the City's computerized traffic systems
• Monitor and perform manual studies for traffic signals, stop signs, crosswalks, school zones, speed limits and others
• Review commercial and residential development requests
• Review all phases of the planning process for commercial and retail development
• Prepare analysis and recommendations in support of permits, roadway, intersection, and other transportation improvements
• Prepare analysis and recommendations for the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices within the city

Qualifications:
• Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field with a minimum of three years' experience in traffic engineering or related field.
• Master's degree in civil engineering or related field may be substituted for three years' experience.
• Valid Texas driver's license required.
• Certification as an Engineer in Training (EIT) preferred.

- Benefits:**
- Health care Plans
 - Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
 - Paid Holidays
 - Employee Wellness Program
 - Tuition Reimbursement

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MIDLAND

NOW HIRING
GIS Manager

Reporting to the Engineering Services Director, this position oversees the development and management of the City of Midland Geographic Information System (GIS). This includes staff supervision, budgeting, training, etc.

BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Manages the GIS Division budget and recommends budget request for new hardware and software as appropriate.

Job Duties:

- Supervises all phases and implementation of the City Enterprise GIS.
- Supervises GIS Division staff.
- Provides planning and direction for GIS growth to serve the City and Public.
- Provides general customer service; responds to concerns and inquiries related to - Division services.
- Negotiates and reviews contracts provided by consultants for GIS services, e.g., - LIDAR, orthorectified imagery, etc.
- Develops policies and standards for the GIS Division.
- Manages the setting of priorities for projects, software, database, and application development.
- Oversees development of GIS applications, web services, and tools to ensure they are current and viable industry standards and practices.
- Oversees the GIS Division in managing ArcGIS Server installation, maintenance, upgrades and use.
- Provides recommendations to the Director of Engineering Services regarding use of GIS Division budget, priorities for projects, and resources required to complete them.
- Provides user-training services, as requested.
- Independently prepares and delivers reports and presentations to City Councilmembers, City Management, and outside agency officials. Serves as representative of GIS for the City to other departments and outside agencies.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with employees within and outside the department, and with outside agencies; and to respond to questions from Councilmembers, City Management, consultants, vendors, businesses, and other governmental agencies or staff.

Proven ability to plan, organize and manage multiple concurrent projects with strict supervision. Willingness to work in a team environment and learn new skills to help improve systems and procedures. Ability to anticipate and manage other staff with a variety of skills and abilities.

Demonstrated proficiency in the use of ArcGIS software (ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Pro). Self understanding of database design/management and programming is desirable.

Knowledge of land surveying, municipal governmental operations, acquisitions and procedures is desirable.

Bachelor's degree in GIS, Geography, Computer Science, Engineering, or a related technical or business field required. Minimum of five years' experience using GIS software required. Master's degree in a related field preferred. Valid Texas driver's license required.

- Benefits:**
- Health care Plans
 - Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
 - Paid Holidays
 - Employee Wellness Program
 - Tuition Reimbursement

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MIDLAND

NOW HIRING
Planning Division Manager

Manages Planning Division office including professional planners, technicians, and secretarial staff. Reviews items for consideration by appointed boards and commissions and elected officials.

BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Prepares and administers the annual division budget. Monitors expenditures during the year and makes recommendations for budget modifications.

Job Duties:

- Performs staff work including reports, maps and special studies for presentation to Planning Commission and City Council.
- Coordinates, supervises and manages staff time.
- Prepares, administers and monitors annual budget.
- Presents information at public meetings. Participates with other staff members concerning interrelated projects.
- Reviews various questions from general public and develops consulting city services, development reviews, and problem.
- Performs related duties as required.

Qualifications:

Employee communication with other employees in the work group. Communication with the general public, developers, outside agencies and other departments within the organization is required.

Knowledge of planning and zoning process. Skill in observing, reading and interpreting zoning codes. Skill in writing and interpreting history. Ability to write and review reports, memos and other correspondence. Ability to supervise and communicate with employees. Basic comprehension of computer use. Valid Texas Driver License.

Bachelor's degree or equivalent in geography, planning or related field required. Graduate work or advanced degree in planning preferred. Three to five years experience in a related field required, preferably including supervisory experience.

- Benefits:**
- Health care Plans
 - Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
 - Paid Holidays
 - Employee Wellness Program
 - Tuition Reimbursement

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MIDLAND

NOW HIRING
Night-Shift Manager

This position manages the operations, safe, and flow of City rights-of-way and other road property. Oversees the collection of transactions of road property, and administers the issuance of statements and licenses to outside parties for the use of City-owned rights-of-way and property.

Budgetary Responsibilities:

Assist management staff with recommendations and budget data for potential rights-of-way and easement acquisitions for public improvements.

Job Duties:

- Develops policies and procedures for administration of third-party use of City rights-of-way and property.
- Oversees the distribution of various documents for City rights-of-way and other road property including 47 third-party use of City property.
- Oversees and negotiates Surface Use Agreements, Right-of-Way License Agreements, Sublease Agreements, for third-party users of City-owned parcels or rights-of-way, and coordinates with appropriate City Departments or Management.
- Processes and provides reports to City officials, Council members, and representatives of outside agencies.
- Oversees the City's Work, and coordinates changes on basis of interest.
- Coordinates and processes public comments for City projects.
- Coordinates various requests related to collection of road property to ensure compliance with City policies, and legal and regulatory requirements.
- Coordinates preparation of office to purchase, lease, donate, exchange agreements, easements, releases, and related property transaction documents.
- Coordinates with other city and outside engineering plans and plans to determine status of property legal descriptions and boundaries, etc. related, etc.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Proven ability to plan, organize and manage multiple concurrent projects with strict supervision. Willingness to work in a team environment and learn new skills to help improve systems and procedures.

Knowledge of land surveying, all types of public operations, and typical procedures of land use and acquisition is desirable. Knowledge of municipal governmental operations, acquisitions and procedures is helpful.

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with employees within and outside the department, and with outside agencies; and to respond to questions from Councilmembers, City Management, consultants, vendors, businesses, and other governmental agencies or staff.

Demonstrated proficiency in the use of ArcGIS software is desirable.

Bachelor's degree required. Minimum of five years' experience in road and other, land acquisition, or a related field. Valid Texas driver's license required.

- Benefits:**
- Health care Plans
 - Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
 - Paid Holidays
 - Employee Wellness Program
 - Tuition Reimbursement

apply online at www.midlandmrt.com/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

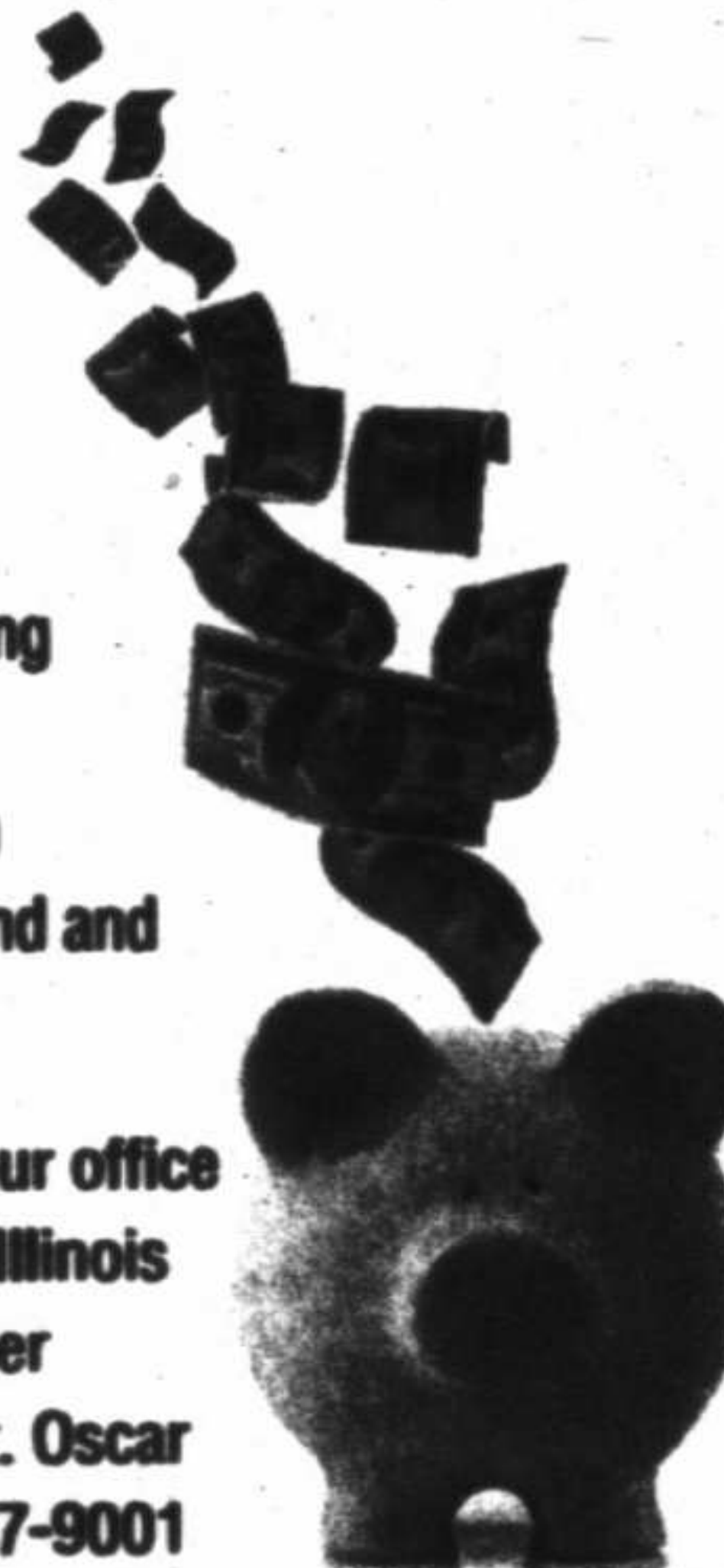
Equipment Positions

Midland College is seeking experienced Equipment Operators & Mechanics. Must be willing to relocate. Please apply to: Equipment Operator - 588 or 589 at 1700 S. 4th Street, Midland, TX.

EARN UP TO \$500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram in the Midland and Odessa areas.

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Oscar Ronquillo 432-687-9001



CDL Drivers Needed

Come Join our family! Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving We want your work experience and your hard work! NOW HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

- Water truck drivers • Belly Dump drivers

Home every night and new equipment

Requirements: 1 year of driving experience. Valid Texas Class A CDL, references for water truck driver.

Benefits: Medical, dental vision, life insurance. Paid vacation after 1 year of service, and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc. 1401 S. Grandview Odessa, Texas 79701

Landscaping/ Irrigation Help

Wanted landscaper and irrigation employee. Please Call (432) 770-2280

Field Service Mechanics

Come Join our family! Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving We want your work experience and your hard work! NOW HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

Field Service Mechanics

Requirements: 3 years mechanic experience. Must have own tools. Valid Texas Driver License. Pay will depend on work experience. 50 plus work week.

Benefits: Medical, dental vision, life insurance. Paid vacation after 1 year of service, and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc. 1401 S. Grandview Odessa, Texas 79701

Groundskeeper

Groundskeepers now hiring Groundskeeper apply Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. 3230 Children Blvd. - Office

OUT OF CITY DELIVERY DRIVER/ MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

- Must have a clean, valid license & acceptable driving history
- Late night/early morning hours
- Obey all traffic laws
- Strong commitment to safety is a must
- Professional communication with management, co-workers and customers
- Ability to lift, push or pull up to 50-lbs
- Must be able to reach, bend, lift as needed
- Must be able to work independently & in a team environment
- Ability to read, understand & follow oral and written instructions
- Perform other duties as delegated or assigned by Supervisor
- Required education: High School or equivalent

This is a full time position that offers paid vacation and full package of benefits.

Please mail resume to P-419 Midland Reporter Telegram 301 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701

MIDLAND

NOW HIRING
Planner

Performs field and office work related to planning and development programs for all types of land and physical facilities in the city.

Job Duties:

- Prepares special studies and reports related to code amendments and rezoning studies. Assists with transportation plan and studies and updates as necessary.
- Prepares statistical reports such as annual population estimates.
- Prepares requests and programs within reports for zone change and proposed subdivisions plat applications and special studies.
- Presents information and recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Oversees various planning applications including temporary land use, special events, public rights of way, etc.
- Responds to public inquiries concerning development of the city in general as well as specific areas.
- Coordinates, completes and analyzes field use and related data.
- Works with the public and develops in extending questions and providing information.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Ability to effectively communicate with developers and citizens in order to provide information and guidance on planning and zoning issues. Ability to work in conjunction with employees from different departments.

Knowledge of current planning processes and procedures. Ability to read and understand technical manuals, reports and journals. Skill in developing related reports and ability to design and present data on land use, population and planning. Ability to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing, to citizens and other government officials.

Bachelor's degree or equivalent in urban planning, engineering or comparable field with 3 years of experience. Valid Texas Driver's License.

- Benefits:**
- Health care Plans
 - Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
 - Paid Holidays
 - Employee Wellness Program
 - Tuition Reimbursement

apply online at www.midlandmrt.com/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

Warehouse Personnel
Competitive Pay, 401K, and Health Benefits Apply in person at Midland 2700 W. First St. Midland or 1101 W. 4th St. Odessa

WAREHOUSE
Looking for experienced warehouse workers, able to operate forklift, and able to lift heavy boxes and bags. Please apply to: Warehouse Manager, 1101 W. 4th St. Odessa, TX 79701. 9am - 5pm. Apply at 1700 S. 4th Street, Midland, Texas.

Fax Your Ad 24-7 682-6999



DOT Driver II

JOB DESCRIPTION: Job responsibilities include local (within Midland and County) transportation by truck for Endeavor Energy completions or production crews. Cargo transport varies depending on driver's licensing.

Essential Functions:

- Follow instructions, and maintain compliance with all DOT, company and customer safety and operational policies and procedures
- Properly load and unload product at various customer locations in a professional, courteous, timely, safe, and efficient manner
- Connect and disconnect hoses, operating pumps and valves for loading and unloading
- Complete all paperwork accurately and timely, if applicable
- Complete other related tasks as assigned by manager

Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's License is required
- Class A CDL and Haz Mat is preferred but not required
- Must be able to pass background screening including MVR and criminal
- Must be able to work nights, weekends, and an extended workweek
- Strong customer service skills, and the ability to effectively prioritize, multi-task, manage time, organize and execute tasks in a high-pressure environment

Supervisory Responsibilities:

No supervisory responsibilities are associated with this position.

Work Environment:

Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from light to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, and bend is required. Must also be able to occasionally lift, carry, push, pull, move, and drag up to 50 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:

This is a full-time position. The ability to work overtime is a requirement to performing this job.

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in regards to race, color, creed, age, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, marital status or disability. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to employment and discrimination will not be tolerated.



Now hiring for a Field Technician.

Our Field Technician will provide advanced refracting services to support the Frac operations on location. Endeavor Energy will provide all necessary training for new employees. This is a non-driving position.

Job Duties:

- Comply with all OSHA and company safety procedures, rules and regulations
- Properly use and maintain equipment
- Consistently demonstrate safe unloading of tanks while handling, hooking and unhooking hoses and operating pumps while following directions and standard operating procedures
- Safety using pipe wrenches, crescent wrenches and other hand tools
- Immediate reporting and clearing of any spills during shift
- Maintain professionalism through working courteously with supervisors, dispatchers, fellow co-workers and customers
- All other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Proven capability to work both independently and collaboratively with different levels of management and individual contributors
- Demonstrated ability to manage work in stressful situations
- High school diploma or GED required, must be at least 18 years of age
- Ability to read, write and communicate effectively required
- Computer proficiency is required
- Valid Texas Driver's License is required
- Experience working on Frac site or similar responsibilities is preferred

Work Environment:

Work is often outdoors. Working conditions range from light to hot temps, high winds, flying dust, slipping hazards and conditions and frequently exposed to loud noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

Physical Demands:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, bend, and occasionally lift/carry/push/pull/move/drag up to 50 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:

This is a full-time position.

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in regards to race, color, creed, age, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, marital status or disability. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to employment and discrimination will not be tolerated.



Public Safety Dispatcher

Directs calls for service for emergency purposes and directs non-emergency inquiries.

Job Duties:

- Answers the phone and assists citizens with requests for emergency and non-emergency services for police, fire, sheriff and emergency medical services.
- Dispatches citizens inquiries and non-emergency calls to the appropriate agency or organization.
- Dispatches law enforcement and fire and rescue personnel and notifies support and other personnel as needed through the use of multi-channel radio system and computer aided dispatch system.
- Prepares and disseminates vehicle registration, driver's license, criminal history information through the use of the Texas National Computer System (TNCS, NCIC).
- Obtains computer information and disseminates to law enforcement officials and investigators. Enters related information into the system.
- Receives and routes telephone information to and from related agencies.
- Maintains records of work performed.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Ability to work with dispatch equipment and communicate with citizens and emergency personnel in highly stressful, possibly emergency situations. Employee communicates with other employees in the work group, citizens and other law enforcement agencies in order to disseminate requests for services and provide critical information. Will also exchange information or request assistance from other agencies and make referrals when necessary.

Ability to read and understand technical and professional manuals in order to record work activities, keep records or work with computer. Skill in the operation and maintenance of a number of office machines and equipment such as specialized computers and related information systems and two-way radio dispatch equipment. Typing speed of 25 WPM.

Will also be required to take and pass ALL tests:

1. Reasoning
2. Data Entry MT
3. Data Entry MT (Audio)
4. Call Simulation
5. Memory Recall (Audio)
6. Map Reading
7. Spelling
8. Sentence Clarity
9. Reading Comprehension

Employees work rotating shifts and gather, organize, translate and process information from various emergency calls.

DAYS & HOURS:

Rotating Shifts; Rotating Days Off - Valid Texas Driver License.

Benefits:

- Health care Plans
- Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Employee Wellness Program
- Tuition Reimbursement

Apply online at www.midlandnowhiring.com
Equal Opportunity Employer



Recycle Supervisor

Supervises and maintains Citizens Collection Station and recycle drivers in day to day operations and projects. Works as a service specialist at the Citizens Collection Station as needed. Acts as a Solid Waste Supervisor as needed.

SUGGESTED RESPONSIBILITIES:

Provides input as to needed equipment and employment positions. Monitors supplies and equipment at the Citizens Collection Station.

Job Duties:

- Oversee and maintain the work of subordinate employees.
- Oversee employees in the use, care, and preventive maintenance of equipment and machinery.
- Provide instructions, manuals, and other specifications in order to determine and make necessary repairs and maintenance.
- Maintain equipment in good working order and keeps records of work performed.
- Ensure the cleanliness and maintenance of facilities, equipment, tools and grounds.
- Acts as the customer service representative of the Recycle Division at the Citizens Collection Station and on recycle trips.
- Keeps records and reports weekly available.
- Coordinates efforts with Solid Waste operations.
- Serves as a Solid Waste Supervisor when necessary.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Ability to effectively communicate with employees and to receive work orders or to coordinate for any project. Interacts frequently with the public, vendors, and government agency representatives.

Ability to read, interpret, and understand local, state, and federal regulations related to disposal of refuse. Knowledge of proper use and disposal of solid waste. Skill in the use of various equipment and machinery such as hand and electrical power tools and heavy equipment utilized in disposal activities. Ability to take others in safe operation of equipment. Ability to work with staff and others in customer service position. Ability to properly evaluate activities and make recommendations for improvement. Good public relation skills as well as verbal and written communication skills.

High school diploma or general education degree required and some college preferred. One to three years of experience in Solid Waste and/or supervising and controlling the work of others preferred. Must possess a valid Texas Driver's License and possess or acquire a valid Texas Class "B" Municipal Solid Waste Operator License within two years of hire date.

Benefits:

- Health care Plans
- Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Employee Wellness Program
- Tuition Reimbursement

Apply online at www.midlandnowhiring.com
Equal Opportunity Employer



Systems Administrator

Performs network and system administration responsibilities of the computer environment, including physical and emergency maintenance; performance and security analysis; and monitoring, testing, and implementing new products and procedures. Analyzes emerging technology and makes recommendations for computer improvements to network and infrastructure services and capabilities.

Job Duties:

- Designs and coordinates upgrades of the IT architecture.
- Manages server applications, including but not limited to email, Active Directory, and other applications.
- Performs and maintains IT design, architectural, and configuration documentation, as identified.
- Maintains information systems, schedules, and tests, including backup and recovery tests, as identified.
- Performs research, development, and testing of IT infrastructure.
- Is responsible for the testing, building, and testing of IT solutions; analyzing IT infrastructure technical issues; and supporting the design, planning, building, and testing of new IT solutions, as assigned.
- Performs related duties as assigned.
- Is subject to audit.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science plus two years of experience in a related field is required.
- Four years of experience may be substituted for the Bachelor's degree requirement.
- Valid Texas Driver's License

Benefits:

- Health care Plans
- Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Employee Wellness Program
- Tuition Reimbursement

Apply online at www.midlandnowhiring.com
Equal Opportunity Employer

Digital Media Account Executive

"We must be alarmingly enterprising and startlingly original. We must be honest and fearless. And we must speak a revolution."
William Randolph Hearst, 1887

The Midland Reporter-Telegram, part of Hearst Communications, is excited to announce that due to our continued growth in the Midland, TX market, we are seeking a Digital Media Account Executive just like you to join our team! Our industry is changing into a digital world, and we are looking for experienced professionals who are eager to facilitate our innovative efforts.

Join Midland's leading media company and become part of the winning sales team that offers advertisers a robust suite of digital and print products to help them achieve their business objectives. We are seeking digital savvy, highly motivated sales professionals to sell our marketing solutions to local businesses. Our ideal candidate will be goal oriented, is a relentless hunter, driving to win new businesses, and has a track record of exceeding monthly goals.

As a Digital Media Account Executive, you can expect the following:

- Drive digital product sales.
- Be the Digital Media Guru with a solid understanding of Digital Media, Marketing and Advertising.
- Ability to conduct sales calls with SMB owners.
- Be in the field and on sales calls, leading by example, to sell our various digital products using the current and evolving sales process.
- Consult and educate clients in Digital Advertising and Marketing.
- Assist sales and marketing in promoting the entire line of digital products.
- Develop coaching plans and track results through sales management team.
- Identify trends, quantify impact, and communicate improvement opportunities to the product team.
- Primary source of sales pitch and strategy development and implementation for digital products.

Requirements:

- Highly knowledgeable with digital media. SEO, SEM, Digital Advertising.
- Confidence in pitching and closing business.
- Strong focus on teamwork and ability to manage relationships across multiple departments.
- Ability to multi-task, meet deadlines, and thrive in a fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment.
- Bachelor's Degree preferred.
- Valid US driver's license and reliable transportation.

The perks:

- A great work environment it's never boring here!
- Paid in-depth sales and product training.
- Competitive base salary, uncapped commissions for unlimited earning potential, and significant opportunity for advancement within the company.
- Collaboration ideas and input are always welcome.
- Health, dental, 401k, paid time off we have you covered.

Send resume to David Robbins at david.robbins@hearst.com
No Phone Calls Please.

Employment Account Executive

The Midland Reporter-Telegram, part of Hearst Communications, is excited to announce that due to our continued growth in the Midland, TX market, we are seeking an Employment Account Executive just like you to join our team! We are looking for an experienced Human Resources executive that wants to help bring managers in Midland and West Texas utilize our advanced hiring platform - TexasRecruitToWork.com. This platform allows hiring managers to access the largest pool of potential job candidates and track them through the recruitment process.

Join Midland's leading media company and become part of the winning sales team that offers advertisers a robust suite of digital and print products to help them achieve hiring results. We are seeking digital savvy, highly motivated sales professionals to sell our marketing solutions to local businesses. Our ideal candidate will be goal oriented, is a relentless hunter, driving to win new businesses, and has a track record of exceeding monthly goals.

The ideal candidate will have experience in the Human Resources area and will maximize advertising sales potential, through the development of quality business relationships with hiring managers. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-development with local and regional businesses. We pride ourselves on simplifying the hiring process for our customers. You will be selling a digital hiring solution to your customers with a regional, statewide and national footprint.

Responsibilities include:

- Consistently meet/exceeds revenue goals.
- Develops relationships with HR departments throughout West Texas to sell and promote Texas Recruit To Work.
- Delivering customized sales presentations in person, or by phone/web-demos.
- Be the face of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and ensure a superior customer experience.

The Ideal Candidate:

- Experience within Human Resources or Employment Agency is preferred.
- You have an outgoing, resilient personality.
- You enjoy the thrill of the hunt by bringing in new business.
- You're confident and not willing to accept average.

Required Skills & Experience:

- Passion to succeed and close deals.
- Exceptional communication and presentation skills.
- Strong computer skills, Digital Sales experience a plus.

Bachelor's degree preferred

What's in it for you?

- Paid training
- Competitive Base Salary & Commissions
- Medical, Dental and Vision Coverage
- Flex spending accounts
- Short & Long-Term Disability Insurance
- 401K with company match
- Paid time off & more!

Send resume to David Robbins at david.robbins@hearst.com
No Phone Calls Please.



Plant Technician

Diagnoses, repairs and maintains city lights and lighting equipment.

- Job Duties:
 - Diagnoses equipment and vehicle malfunctions such as lighting, wiring, electrical control, electrical, and heating and air conditioning. Replaces parts and adjusts to specifications.
 - Diagnoses the malfunctions of all city lights such as all and fiber changes, fiber and optics.
 - Replaces vehicles for state vehicles.
 - Replaces malfunctions and those of new vehicles. Replaces special equipment.
 - Employees must provide own hand tools. City supplies major equipment including power tools, power and hand tools, and other equipment as needed.
 - Replaces the parts, electrical equipment, and other equipment as needed in order to make repairs.
 - Performs emergency repairs for various departments.
 - Maintains records of work performed such as work orders, logs, material information, and special written reports.

Qualifications:

- High school graduate or GED
- Knowledge of power tools used in welding and fabrication
- Ability to work in a confined space and at heights
- Valid Texas Class A CDL, Driver's License and one year of employment
- Texas Department of Public Safety Inspector Certificate required within one year of employment.

Benefits:

- Health care Plans
- Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Employee Wellness Program
- Tuition Reimbursement

Apply online at www.midlandnowhiring.com
Equal Opportunity Employer

Cashier & General Help

KD's Bar-B-Q is looking for cashier & general help. Have a good attitude, love working with others and work hard? Then we want you! Full or part time. Closed Sunday & Monday.

Fun & friendly place to work, family-owned, insurance provided. Must speak English, have great customer skills, be a quick learner, reliable & responsible. Apply in person: 3100 Garden City Hwy, or submit resume.

Server / Host / Bartender

Are you fun, attentive, charming & have a great personality? Do you love making great money while having fun at your job? If so, we want you! We want you!

Apply today in person or at www.kdsbarbbq.com
1100 N. Hwy 170, 79701, Midland, TX 79701, (409) 699-0400

Retail Professional

Join Gold, Midland's premier women's fashion store, to working a full time retail professional to join our sales team. The ideal candidate will have fashion retail experience and be eager to grow in our fast-paced environment.

Merchandising or management experience a plus! We offer great benefits, including paid vacation, insurance and 401K. Applications accepted in store or online - no phone calls, please.

Email resumes to gold@goldmidland.com
2101 W. Wilshire, Ste. 10, Midland, TX 79706

Manager & Cashier

Midland's premier women's fashion store is looking for a Manager & Cashier. The ideal candidate will have fashion retail experience and be eager to grow in our fast-paced environment.

Apply today in person or at www.kdsbarbbq.com
1100 N. Hwy 170, 79701, Midland, TX 79701, (409) 699-0400

Now Hiring Position

Midland's premier women's fashion store is looking for a Manager & Cashier. The ideal candidate will have fashion retail experience and be eager to grow in our fast-paced environment.

Apply today in person or at www.kdsbarbbq.com
1100 N. Hwy 170, 79701, Midland, TX 79701, (409) 699-0400

ROGERS



LINCOLN



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~~Was \$18,995~~
NOW \$16,995

**2017 Ford
Fusion**

26,370 Miles
Stk# 1750051



~~Was \$27,995~~
NOW \$23,995

**2014 Ford
F-150**

50,750 Miles
Stk# 17800831



~~Was \$48,095~~
NOW \$46,995

**2015 GMC
Yukon XL**

41,190 Miles
Stk# 17325721



~~Was \$48,095~~
NOW \$46,995

**2015 GMC
Yukon XL**

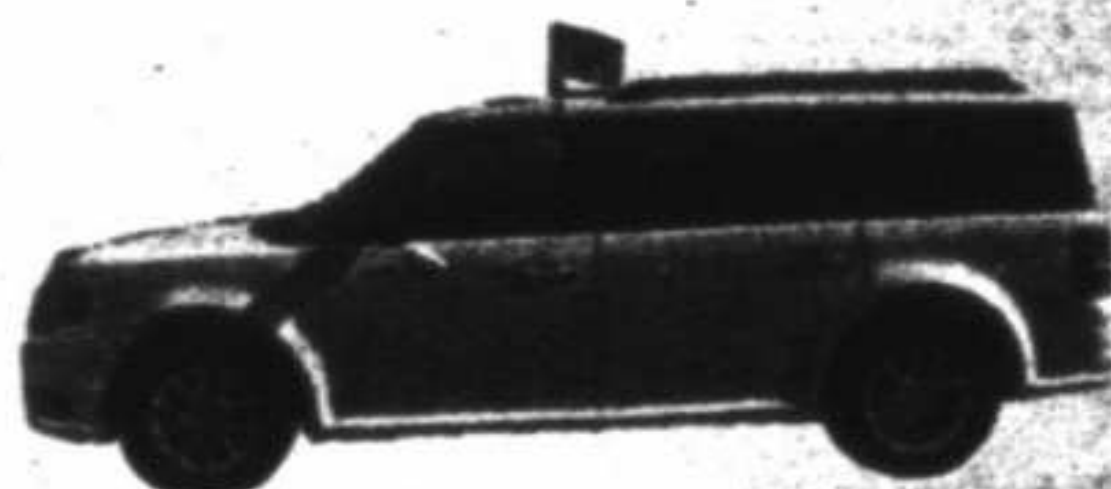
41,190 Miles
Stk# 17325721



~~Was \$22,995~~
NOW \$17,995

**2017 Nissan
Altima**

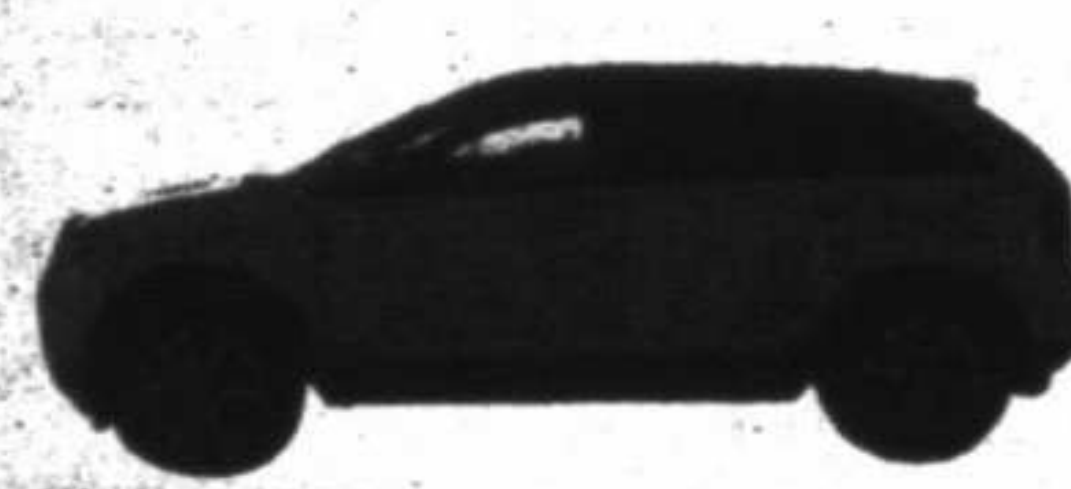
33,436 Miles
Stk# 1740071



~~Was \$21,995~~
NOW \$19,995

**2016 Ford
Flex**

21,840 Miles
Stk# 17320971



~~Was \$22,995~~
NOW \$19,995

**2014 Ford
Edge**

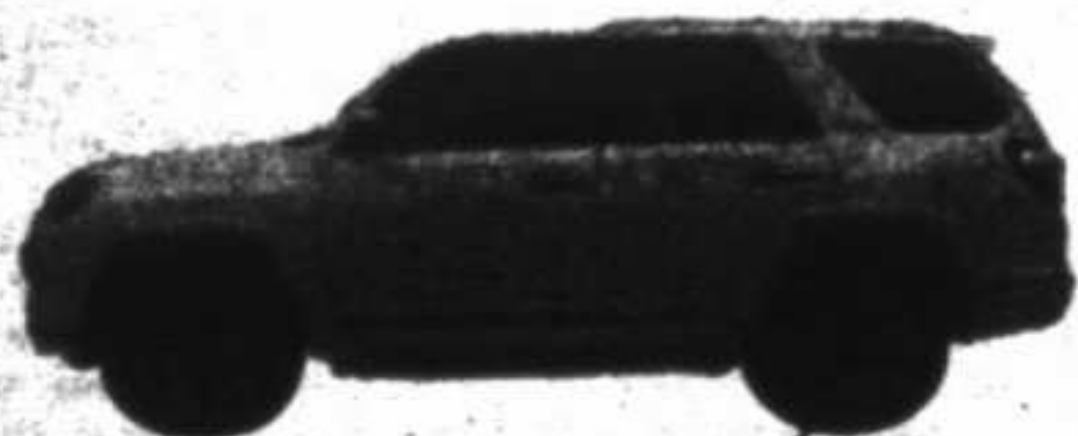
44,448 Miles
Stk# 1750045



~~Was \$14,995~~
NOW \$12,995

**2016 Ford
Focus**

47,700 Miles
Stk# 1750053



~~Was \$37,995~~
NOW \$33,995

**2016 Toyota
4Runner**

49,415 Miles
Stk# 17319411



~~Was \$53,995~~
NOW \$50,995

**2016 Dodge
Ram 2500**

45,973 Miles
Stk# 17321231



~~Was \$29,995~~
NOW \$27,995

**2017 Ford
Flex**

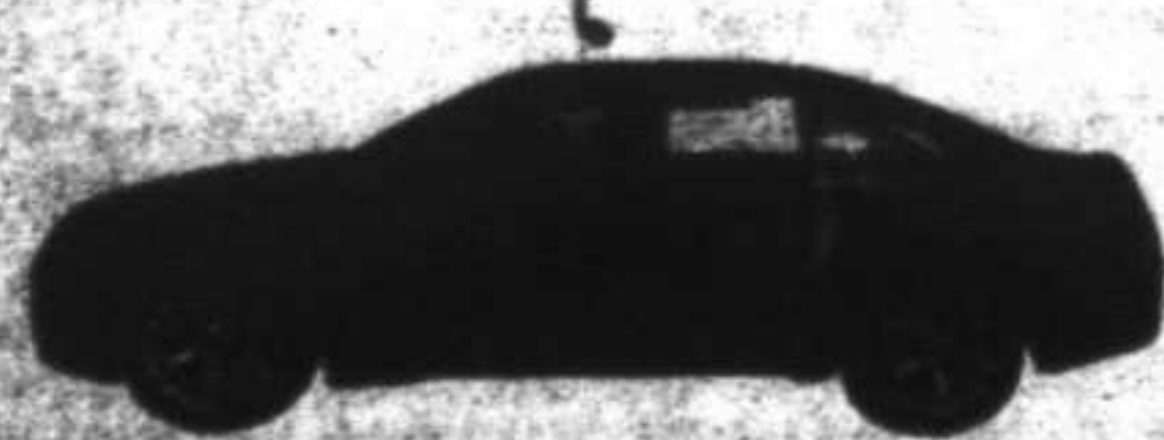
20,309 Miles
Stk# 1750048



~~Was \$26,995~~
NOW \$22,995

**2015 Ford
Edge**

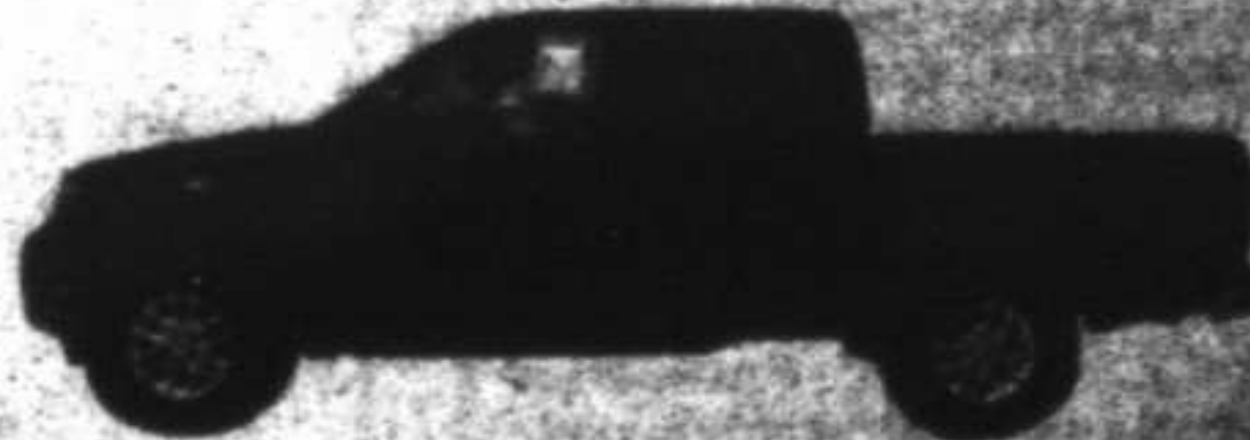
26,312 Miles
Stk# 1750039



~~Was \$23,995~~
NOW \$20,995

**2017 Ford
Taurus**

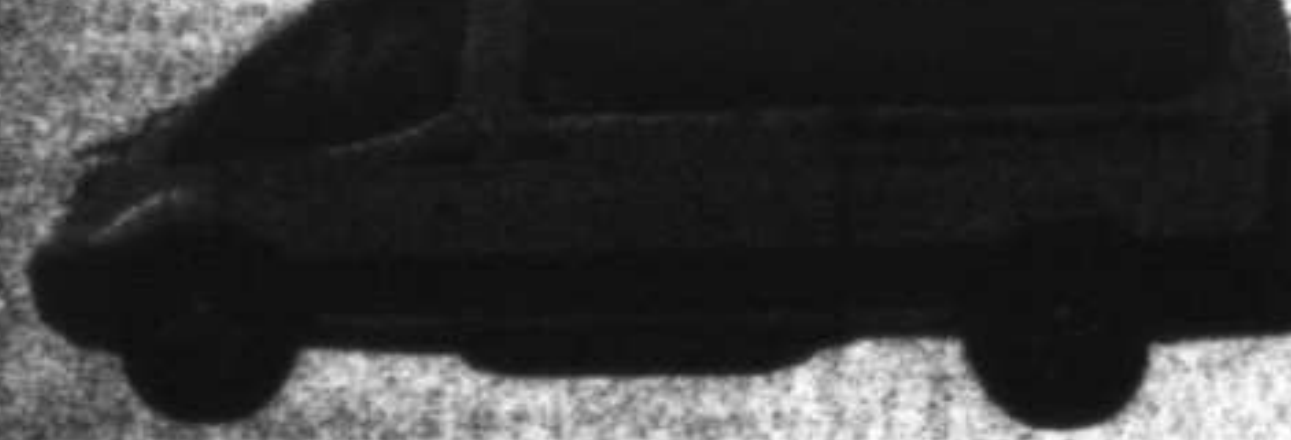
24,372 Miles
Stk# 1740104



~~Was \$21,995~~
NOW \$18,995

**2015 Nissan
Frontier**

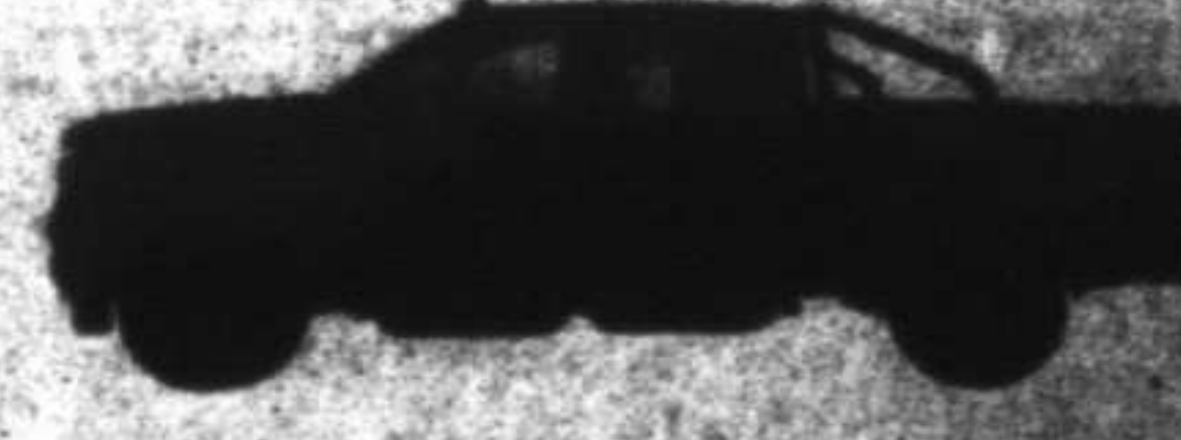
59,493 Miles
Stk# 17314412



~~Was \$28,995~~
NOW \$25,995

**2017 Ford
Transit**

33,025 Miles
Stk# 1750061



~~Was \$43,995~~
NOW \$41,995

**2016 GMC
Sierra 1500**

33,891 Miles
Stk# 17324541

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rogersford.com

MRT MEDIA GROUP, A NAME YOU TRUST.

MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. MRT Media Group reaches over 100,000 readers through mrt.com, and can target millions of consumers on the web and social media anywhere, anytime. Or we can help you reach your target market right here at home early and effectively. Our goal is to be the premier media provider in the community. Let our team of experts work with you to develop a results-driven, targeted digital marketing strategy for your business.

Content Marketing
Creating clear content that educates and inspires your customers

EMAIL MARKETING
Your website isn't going to sell your products and services if you don't have traffic

ONLINE MARKETING
Is your website properly optimized and visible?

Social Media
It's time to take control of your Social Media

DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. We offer marketing solutions through digital channels such as search engines, websites, social media, email, and mobile apps.

We don't sell advertising, we offer marketing solutions!
MRT Digital Services will help you find your customers and engage with them to grow your business!
Contact us today 432-683-5311

BEARBY CORPORATION

MRT



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