MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Domino's uses technology to woo millennials.

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MARCH MADNESS

The college basketball tournament begins this Tuesday with 64 teams competing to win it all.

Page 1C

Theory of peak oil demand has doubters

■ ConocoPhillips views demand as 'strong and robust, economist says

By James Osborne
Houston Chronicle

When Haitham Al-Ghais, the director of market research for the Kuwait Petroleum Corp., was asked about peak oil demand, he smiled broadly and responded quizzically, "what demand?"

Even as some oil companies like Royal Dutch Shell and BP predict oil demand will peak before 2040 — as electric vehicles hit the road and governments worldwide work to cut greenhouse gas emissions — there are plenty within the oil industry who view such predictions with a healthy skepticism.

Helen Currie, the chief economist at ConocoPhillips, said her company had modeled electric car demand and other factors and "struggled with finding a peak," "anytime within the next 20 to 30 years," during a panel at the IHS Markit CERAWeek energy conference in Houston March 5.

"We readily acknowledge it's plausible, but we really tend to see oil demand being fairly strong and robust," she said.

The concept of peak oil demand has overtaken the oil world since last summer when Shell CEO Ben van Beurden predicted oil demand would peak within a decade.

BP joined the chorus last month, though predicting it would take 20 years.

"I don't think there is any knowledge center in the world that isn't running a study or workshop on peak demand," said David Hobbs, head of research at the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center in Saudi Arabia.

The difference in how oil companies predict the future largely boils down to whether or not they are bullish on electric vehicles and governments' commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, said Neil Atkinson, the head of the International Energy Association's oil industry and markets division.

Atkinson is one of the skeptics, predicting petroleum-powered vehicles will continue to be sold in large numbers well into the future.

But he held back from dismissing the other side.

"Everyone has a very plausible explanation of why they hold that view," he said. "We are verging more into art than science. And demand growth is much harder to predict than supply."

Rattlesnake roundup

Charlie Blalock/ Special to the Express-News

Kirk Lawrence looks into the rattlesnake pit on Friday in Sweetwater.

As other rattlesnake roundups fade, Sweetwater's event is going strong

By John MacCormack
San Antonio Express-News

SWEETWATER — It's not likely that many mothers come to the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup to encourage their teen's involvement with the deadly pit vipers, instead of other modern diversions.

But standing outside a pit containing at least 40 large menacing snakes, Wendy Beard, 41, of Lovington said she's happy her 15-year-old son, Jamin, collects rattlers instead of being immersed in computer games and online temptations.

"He hunts them and is interested in learning more about them. I'd much rather have him doing that than being involved in electronics and destroying his life," she said.

"It's desensitizing, numbs the mind and suppresses creativity," she added.

Now in its 61st year, the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup has thrived while others have faded, despite being anathema to biologists and animals rights advocates.

Except for the very gory part, the world's largest roundup somewhat resembles a Texas county fair with pit vipers instead of livestock, and snake handlers replacing ranch kids.

There's cotton candy and turkey legs, beauty queens and evening dances, cookouts and eating contests, a gun and knife show and plenty of souvenirs.

For three days, the Nolan County Coliseum, normally used for rodeos and horse shows, is dedicated to all things rattlesnake.

There are tanned skins, key chains, freshly cut rattlesnake heads in jars of alcohol and even tall, snake-proof boots.

But the real attractions are found buzzing in the round white enclosures beneath signs that read "Skinning Pit," "Milking Pit" and "Safety, Handling Demonstration."

By the end of the weekend, thousands of snakes will have been handled, milked, skinned and butchered before the public eye.

"This is my first time. I've been wanting to come since I was 16. It's amazing to see so many rattlesnakes," said Stephan Becker, 50, a visiting German businessman.

A few minutes later, at the Skinning Pit, he stared into a plastic garbage can of headless snakes, some of which still coiled defensively. In a nearby bloody bucket, the severed heads tongued the air.

"That's just crazy. The head is off, and they are still moving," he muttered.

Almost every part has a buyer. While venom prices are depressed, rattlesnake gall bladders go for $5 each for the Asian market. Fresh skins go for $5 a foot. Heads, too, are sold.

On Friday, Cyera Pieper, 17, the newly crowned Miss Snake Charmer, was making the rounds in her silver tiara.

"It's a huge honor. It's such a big deal in Sweetwater. It's way bigger than the prom queen," she said, posing for pictures with fans.

Pieper grew up with the roundup, doing all the dirty and bloody jobs, including skinning the headless snakes.

"They don't feel pain like humans because they are coldblooded. Once I learned that, I didn't have any sympathy," she noted.

IN THE EARLY DAYS

The first organized rattlesnake roundup was apparently held in Okeene,

Please see SNAKES/4A

Blue wave didn't happen in Texas

■ But Democrats' turnout was largest in non-presidential primary in decades

By Anna M. Tinsley
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Maybe it was a ripple.

The blue wave many thought could hit Texas this primary election clearly didn't materialize, but Democrats did turn out to vote, drawing their largest turnout in a non-presidential primary — more than 1 million voters — in decades.

As Democrats hold out hope that the wave will still sweep some in the majority party out of office come November, Republicans say it's not going to happen, at least not here.

"There is no wave, not in the state of Texas," said Tim O'Hare, who heads the Tarrant County Republican Party. "It's wishful thinking or reading something into something that isn't there.

"It's really simple. Texas is a pro-life state, it's a pro-God state, it's a pro-jobs state and a pro-gun state," he said. "Democrats are the antithesis of all those things and people in Texas know that. That's why they are going to continue to vote Republican."

Deborah Peoples, Tarrant County Democratic Party Chair, disagrees.

Yes, fewer Democrats than Republicans voted in the primary this year, despite growing activism and continued frustration with Republican President Donald Trump.

But the Democratic turnout this year was double what it was in the last midterm election in Texas and in Tarrant County, one of the reddest areas in the country.

And even larger crowds should turn out in November.

"I absolutely think a blue wave is coming," Peoples said. "I think the first step is making Democrats believe. We had such a long time where we didn't get folks out to vote.

"The bump we had this year is the first part about getting ready for November," she said. "I think we are going to see some nice things in November."

Texans in both parties have a chance to head to the polls May 22 for runoff elections.

Many across the country watched Texas this year to see what happened in the first primary in the country.

Democrats gained an edge in early voting, as more turned out to vote than did Republicans, giving many the idea that a blue wave could be on the way.

"There is no doubt right now the extreme left is energized," Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said. "They are angry. They

Please see BLUE WAVE/2A

Visit us on social media

Did you know? Microsoft wants to put Internet access on school buses. Page 1B

The big number 15 police officers placed on desk duty while two shootings are investigated. Page 2A

Word of the Day kaiso Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 2A.

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Evan Vucci/AP file photo

Republican Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, left, walks offstage after introducing presidential candidate Donald Trump during a campaign rally on Nov. 1, 2016, at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. Once the voice of a Midwestern conservative revolution, Wisconsin, Walker is now a Republican voice of concern. Walker is pointing to a big Democratic win this year in a Wisconsin Senate special election in a district that Trump won easily in 2016. He says it's a sign that voters are unhappy and Democrats are motivated.

GOP crusader reaches to center in volatile Wisconsin

By Thomas Beaumont and Scott Bauer
Associated Press

JANESVILLE, Wis. — Not long ago, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was the voice of a conservative revolution in the heartland, a Republican at the vanguard and a possible future president. Today, he's the voice of concern, warning his party — at home and nationally — that change is coming again.

In private meetings, public forums and his own policy moves, Walker has made clear he sees worrisome signs for the GOP and the hard-line conservatism that's marked his eight years in office.

Wisconsin, which helped hand the White House to Republicans, is looking for something different, Walker has said, and Democrats are motivated.

A recent local election should be a "wake-up call" to the changes afoot in the rural and exurban pockets that 17 months ago voted enthusiastically for President Donald Trump, he recently told a group of GOP donors and activists.

Walker is acting on his own advice. As he seeks a third term in office, he's embraced a bipartisan tone and a strikingly moderate set of policy proposals. The man who eight years ago set out to dismantle public employee unions is now backing efforts that mirror aspects of former President Barack Obama's health care law and describing his policy differences with Democrats as modest.

"We heard from people across the state. These aren't Republican or Democrat issues. These are things people care about in Wisconsin," Walker told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "As a Republican, I might have a slightly different angle about how to address it. But these are (about) just me listening to people across the state."

Walker's concerns about the mood of white working-class voters resonate beyond Wisconsin and could easily translate to Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania — Rust Belt states that Trump won and that could go a long way toward determining who controls Congress next year.

As a battle-tested Republican from such a state, and who shares the ballot this fall with Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Walker is worth heeding, said Matt Brooks, executive director of the national Republican Jewish Coalition.

"There are a lot of winds aloft that could have impacts on the broader electoral outlook," Brooks said.

Walker knows something about misjudging the resilience of a political moment.

Riding the tea-party wave and anti-union fervor, Walker got national attention for his push to strip public employee unions of bargaining power, in a state that first encoded such rights 50 years earlier.

Tens of thousands of teachers, prison guards and other public employees demonstrated in the Capitol, and Walker beat back a recall effort, receiving 200,000 more votes than he did in his election win less than two years earlier. Walker tried to use the platform to launch a presidential bid, but his campaign quickly fizzled. By early November 2016, he was at Trump's side at a campaign stop in northwest Wisconsin.

Walker sounded different at the Republican Jewish Coalition meeting in Las Vegas last month.

Behind closed doors, he pointed to a special election upset in Wisconsin this year in the typically Republican, small-town lake lands of northwest Wisconsin, members attending later described. Trump had carried the state Senate district by 17 percentage points.

Walker attributed the stunning reversal in a district of middle- and lower-income white voters in the St. Croix River valley northeast of Minneapolis to Democratic anger with Trump, and wider frustration with the largely stalled agenda in the GOP-controlled Congress.

While a crowded field of Democrats is seeking to oust Walker, it's not yet clear whether he faces a difficult re-election path.

But his concerns echo far beyond Wisconsin, said Michael Epstein of Maryland, who was on Walker's presidential finance team and heard Walker's presentation in Las Vegas.

"We're all looking to the midterms with concern," Epstein said.

Months before the January special election in Wisconsin, Walker began preparing for a different political mood in 2018.

Walker, who fought implementation of Obama's 2010 health care law, is now proposing shoring up the private health insurance market.

He also wants to ban policy denials for people with pre-existing conditions, a popular provision of Obama's signature law.

Other Democrat-friendly policies he's promoting include protecting Wisconsin's popular SeniorCare discount prescription drug program, bolstering funding for schools and sending families $100 for each child younger than 18. The money would arrive in late summer, just before the fall election.

In the wake of last month's high school shooting in Florida that left 17 dead, Walker came out against arming teachers, something he previously was open to.

Walker's tack to the middle shows how some swing state Republicans are positioning themselves differently given Trump's low approval and a president's party historically losing seats in the first midterm election.

By contrast, Nevada Sen. Dean Heller has worked to thaw his once-icy relationship with Trump by championing common policy priorities. Heller faces a primary challenge in a state Trump narrowly lost in 2016.

Democrats say Walker is stealing their best ideas, can't be trusted to follow through on them if he is re-elected and hoping moderate voters forget his conservative record.

"In trying to win a third term, Scott Walker is campaigning as if his first two terms did not exist," said Scot Ross, director of the liberal group One Wisconsin Now.

While Walker hasn't abandoned priorities such as cutting taxes and offering big tax breaks to industry, his focus on swing voters stands in glaring contrast to his first presidential campaign video in 2015, in which he said his GOP rivals "haven't consistently taken on the big fights" and boasted, "I know how to fight and win."

Today he doesn't declare victory.

"In the end, we're a blue state and, at best, we made it purple," Walker told AP.

Obituaries

Pablo DeLeon,

Pablo DeLeon, 64 years, was born August 1, 1953. He passed away March 9, 2018 due to complications of diabetes. Pablo was born in Midland County, Texas. He attended Midland public schools, graduating from Midland High School in 1972. He then attended Midland College for Real Estate. He had a passion for recklessness and adventure,that most times was curtailed by whom he referred to as his "big brother"- his twin Pedro- who happened to be 11 minutes older. His love for adventure, led to fast cars and countless hours or working alongside Pedro, which resulted in making their dream come true, as theybuilt not one, but two race cars, both being 1969 Coronet 440's. Soon, along with the above mentioned loves, came his loyal German Shepherd, "Whisky", named after his penchant for drink- and was like no other. Pablo's sense of adventure was continued with working in the West Texas Oil Fields, starting with his first job as a Roustabout at Blackie Blackwell's American Roustabouts. He followed the course going up the ladder becoming a Roughneck, working under the instruction and guidance of good friend, Danny Merriman- this is where Pablo soon learned "the ropes", going on to become a driller himself. He drilled for companies; Sharp Drilling, MGF Drilling, Tri-Service, to name a few. Pablo soon met the "love of his life", Juanita, and spent the next nineteen years beside her and her sons: Rick, Chuck, and Damien, until she passed from this earth in 2004, breaking his heart. This heartache was soon mended as a new love was awakened; he became a father for the first time at age fifty-three, when Alexandro Pablo DeLeon was born March 16, 2007- which ultimately became his last love. Pablo continued to work as a highly respected driller for Patterson-UTI until his career unfortunately came to a halt at the age of sixty years when he suffered injuries resulting from a horrific motor vehicle accident. Pablo is survived by his son, Alexandro Pablo DeLeon of Midland, TX, twin brother Pedro DeLeon and wife Shelley of Midland, TX, brother Danny DeLeon and wife Antonia of Midland, TX, brother Luis DeLeon and wife Janie of Midland, TX, sister Maria Elva Rodriguez DeLeon of Abilene, TX, sister Eloisa Gonzalez and husband Herbeto of Midland, TX, sister Ruth Venegas and companion Fernando of Midland, TX, sister Rebecca DeLeon of Midland, TX, sister Maria Esmeralda DeLeon and companion Freddie Garay of Midland, TX, sister Debra DeLeon Gomez and husband Sergio Midland, TX, numerous Aunts, Cousins, Nieces, and Nephews. Pablo was preceded in death by Joe DeLeon Jr. - Brother, Ray DeLeon -Brother, Rebecca Mejia DeLeon - Mother, Joe DeLeon - Father, and Juanita "Love of his life". Viewing / Visitation will be held on March 12, 2018 from 10:00am-9:00pm at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral service will be held on Tuesday March 13, 2018 at 1:00p.m. also at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens in Midland, TX. Pallbearers are as follows: Christopher DeLeon, Daniel Walker Jr., Gabriel Garay, Andrew Gomez, Sergio Gomez, Roy DeLeon, Damien Washington, Jonathan DeLeon The family would like to express their gratitude towards the Midland County Sheriff's Department- Deputy Cook, Midland Fire Department / Paramedics and the Midland Crisis Intervention Unit. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Funeral service is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: *pipkinfunts-online.net*

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
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BLUE WAVE

From 1A

hate the president."

Many Republicans posted on social media that they were busy working during early voting, but would show up at the polls on Election Day.

And they did — in mass.

By the time the polls closed, Republicans had cast a total of 1.5 million votes, nearly 700,000 of those on Election Day alone, to the 1 million cast by Democrats.

That included nearly 110,000 Republicans and more than 75,000 Democrats in Tarrant County, election records show.

"Democratic enthusiasm was higher than it has been for almost two decades but the number of Republicans is still higher," said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston. "For Democrats, they are still building their base and encouraging non-voting Democrats to vote in the primary.

"The Republicans have hit a ceiling on the number of registered Republicans meaning their growth is modest but their ceiling is higher."

Political observers caution that turnout in March, which may have been impacted by some voters crossing over to vote in the opposite primary, does not determine what happens in November.

"More participation in the primary doesn't mean those candidates will win in the fall," Jim Riddlesperger, a political science professor at TCU, has said. "(March) the time to nominate candidates. They will be elected in November.

"Will the enthusiasm carry over to the fall? Or will it change?"

The 2018 turnout for both parties was greater than it was in the most recent midterm primary four years ago, when 1.3 million Republicans and 510,000 Democrats went to the polls.

This year saw the highest Democratic primary turnout in Texas since 1994, when more than 1 million Democrats headed to the polls.

O'Hare said he believes Republicans will again prevail in November.

"You're not going to see low turnout in November from Republicans," he said. "You will see a huge turnout."

Democrats haven't won a statewide office since 1994, the longest losing streak in the country.

In the meantime, voters will head to the polls in May to weigh in on Republican and Democrat primary runoffs.

After that, they'll head to the polls to pick the final winners in these races in the Nov. 6 general election.

"It's clear that Texas Democrats are fired up, exceeding expectations and charging forward to November," Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said. "If everyone that showed up to vote during the primary brings one or two friends in November, we can win this."

Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick doesn't think that's going to happen.

"We have been hearing for weeks in Texas and across the country that a great 'blue wave' was coming to Texas," he said after the primary election. "But the votes have been counted and we know that so-called 'blue wave' never made landfall.

"We have been assaulted with predictions that our great state is trending Democrat," he said. "Texas is a bright red state with an engaged conservative majority who are committed to keeping Texas on a conservative path."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Court: Suit against energy company can proceed to state court

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A state appeals court has ruled that an antitrust lawsuit against an Oklahoma City-based oil and natural gas company can be heard in state court.

The Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals last week reversed a trial court's earlier ruling that dismissed the state proceedings against Chesapeake Energy Corp. and agreed with the company the lawsuit should go to federal court.

The Oklahoman reports that the appeal court's reversal means the case will be sent back to trial court.

A parallel case is ongoing in Oklahoma City federal court.

Chesapeake admitted in 2016 that it violated federal antitrust law and has cooperated with the U.S. Department of Justice investigation.

Because of the company's cooperation, Chesapeake qualifies for leniency and in federal court is limited to claims of only actual damages.

STATEPOLICEBRIEFS

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN

Fifteen officers on desk duty while shootings investigated

Fifteen police officers have been placed on restricted duty in Austin, after two officer-involved fatal shootings in the last month.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that 15 is an unprecedented number of officers placed on administrative duty while the shootings are investigated.

Police Chief Brian Manley says the officers serve in different units of the almost 1,200-officer force and shouldn't affect security as the city prepares for its SXSW festival starting Tuesday.

Officers fatally shot a man wielding a pickax Wednesday after receiving a report he had killed two people.

No victims were found, but police located a suicide note.

Police fatally shot another man Feb. 19 after he allegedly hijacked a taxi and led police on a high-speed chase ending in a trailer park where he brandished a gun.

LLANO

Half of small city's police force facing charges

A Texas grand jury has handed down more indictments to half the officers in a small city police force, including the chief.

The Llano County grand jury indictments from late February include two previous counts of official oppression and one new count of tampering with a record to defraud against Llano Police Chief Kevin Ratliff.

Three other officers on the eight-person force in the city northwest of Austin, have charges pending related to allegedly wrongful arrests or issues with reports in other arrests.

Ratliff's charges are related to the arrest of a man on a public intoxication charge, which was later dropped.

Prosecutors say he wrongfully entered the man's home to arrest him. Ratliff's attorney says he prevented a use of force incident.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JuanBurrito
kalon
[ka-lon]
noun
plural - s
: the ideal of physical and moral beauty especially as conceived by the philosophers of classical Greece

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TODAYINMIDLAND

Things to do

■ Lunch and Learn: Media and Marketing for Nonprofits, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., the Rose Building, 415 N. Grant Ave., Odessa. Odessa Arts and Humanities hosts a panel of local media to talk about the best practices for nonprofits to reach out. Free for OCAH members, $10 for nonmembers. RSVP by calling 432-337-1492 or emailing asst@odessaarts.org.

■ Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7206, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

■ Open Shop Nights are hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public, 6:30-9 p.m., 602 S. Main St. midlandgemandmineral.org. Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects.

■ Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8585.

■ Monday Mayhem features unlimited bowling for $14.09 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

■ Sidestreet Strutters, 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. liveonstage-pb.com.

Spring Break things to do

■ "Travel Adventure" invites children and families to create using LEGO bricks at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. The exhibition also features creations by LEGO Master Builders along with a photo booth and a life-size adventure vehicle.

■ Think. Make. Spring Break!, 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org. The daily program will feature cartoons, outdoor movement, storytime and crafts.

■ Art Camp is a come-and-go program for children who will make crafts through different art materials, 11 a.m. today through Friday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

■ Princess Ballet Camp is open to children ages 4-6, 1 p.m. today-Thursday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Comfortable clothes encouraged. Ballet shoes provided. Registration not required but space is limited.

■ DIY Mini-notebook Craft for ages 13-19, 4 p.m. today, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

■ Dog Tales, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Children can read to trained assistance dogs.

■ Enchanted Improv, 4 p.m. Tuesday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Guests 13-19 can practice improv skills at this workshop.

■ Video Game Tournament for ages 13-19, 4 p.m. Wednesday, Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 12, the 71st day of 2018. There are 294 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

In 1951, "Dennis the Menace," created by cartoonist Hank Ketcham, made its syndicated debut in 16 newspapers.

In 1980, a Chicago jury found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys. (The next day, Gacy was sentenced to death; he was executed in May 1994.)

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee, who are serving prison terms for kidnapping her.

One year ago: Authorities in Mexico recovered New England quarterback Tom Brady's Super Bowl jersey more than a month after it had gone missing from the Patriots' locker room following the game; a Mexican media executive is suspected of stealing the garment.

Heartland harmonies

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Members of Tullamore perform Saturday during the Scottish Irish Faire at the Horseshoe.

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Weather

Sunday's temperatures
High.....71
Low.....55
Normal high.....69
Normal low.....40

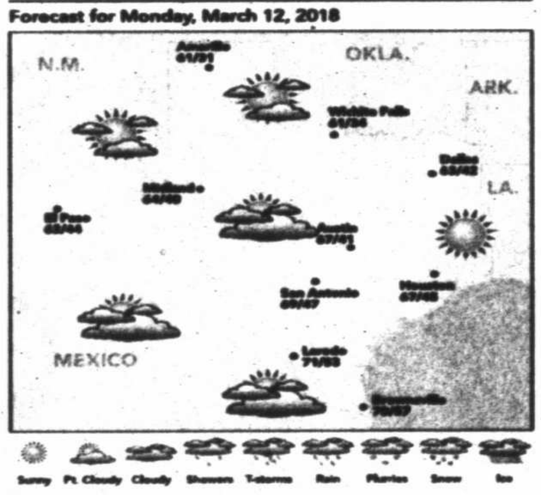
March 11's records
Record high: 91, set in 1989
Record low: 10, set in 1948

Precipitation
Saturday.....0.00 in.
Sunday.....0.00 in.
Month total.....0.00 in.
Year total.....0.05 in.
Normal total (year to date).....1.48 in.

Winds
Wind speed: 30 mph
Gust speed: 44 mph

Today's forecast
High: 62
Low: 40

Forecast for Monday, March 12, 2018



Conditions: Mostly sunny today/partly cloudy tonight
Winds: Northeast 5 mph today/ southeast 5 mph tonight
Chance of rain: None

Sunrise.....8:03 a.m.
Sunset.....7:55 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 Pisces and a Moon in Capricorn if born before 5:44 p.m. Afterward, the Moon will be in Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 12, 2018:

This year you will have greater exposure to other cultures and unique ways of approaching life. Travel could play a major role in the second part of your birthday year. Meeting a foreigner could have a significant impact on your life. If you are single, this person might be the avenue to meeting a potential suitor. Be open to this type of connection. If you are attached, the two of you could start planning a dream vacation. Many of you will opt to take a class together or develop a mutual interest. AQUARIUS understands you better than any other sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Be willing to adapt your schedule. You will take the lead in a key project or idea. Feedback you get will be important in making a future decision. Work with the unexpected. Sometimes you underestimate the possibilities of your talents. Tonight: Attend a meeting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Emphasize the positive, and don't waste your time on an unresolvable situation. Stay upbeat, and be ready to move in a different direction. A new beginning becomes possible. Stay on top of what is going on. The unexpected becomes the expected. Tonight: Among the crowds.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out for information that takes some effort to unearth. You have the energy and the wherewithal to succeed. A friend might shock you with his or her choices. Just accept that you might never be able to walk in this person's shoes. Tonight: Feed your mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ One-on-one relating takes you down a new path. How you handle a personal matter could change radically in the next few days. Your creativity soars, and though some of your ideas appear to be out of touch, many of them could be workable. Tonight: Swap news with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Be more direct in how you handle a personal matter. You are likely to see a fast change in others' responses. Sometimes being blunt is necessary, and diplomacy needs to be tossed out. Remember that every person is different, and so are their reactions. Tonight: Dinner for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Pace yourself, knowing full well what will occur if you relax and simply flow with the moment. You need to have answers. Work through a problem by taking different points of view and working with equally effective solutions. A friend might act out. Tonight: Pace yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ If ever there was a time to express your wild side, it would be today. Your thoughts and ideas stem from an unusually creative moment, and carry several interesting ramifications. You might opt to experiment with one or more of them. Tonight: Be playful with a child.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your frustration might build to the point that you no longer can hold back. Express yourself clearly, but know that words said cannot be taken back. Show your diversity through expressing your more unusual ideas and solutions. Tonight: Above all else, be spontaneous.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ What is obvious is that you need to become more forceful in order to make your terms clear. Your efforts won't come back without reward. You might want to keep your own counsel, but still be sure to listen to what is being shared. Tonight: You have some news to catch up on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You might need to change direction and handle a matter differently. You could turn a loss into a win. Your perspective will help you gain success. Listen to what is going on with a friend who shares some important information. Tonight: Get more of what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You express a resiliency that many people would love to have. Deal with a community issue, as others will respond. You are very fortunate now. Touch base with a loved one who means a lot to you. This person's response could shock you. Tonight: Ask, and you shall receive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your ability to move forward might be restricted in some way. This restriction has more to do with you than it does with the actual situation. Go within yourself to see what is not working. You might discover a resistance to taking the next step. Tonight: At a favorite place.

BORN TODAY

Actress Melina Weissman (2003), singer/actress Lisa Minnelli (1946), singer/songwriter James Taylor (1948)

The Village at Manor Park

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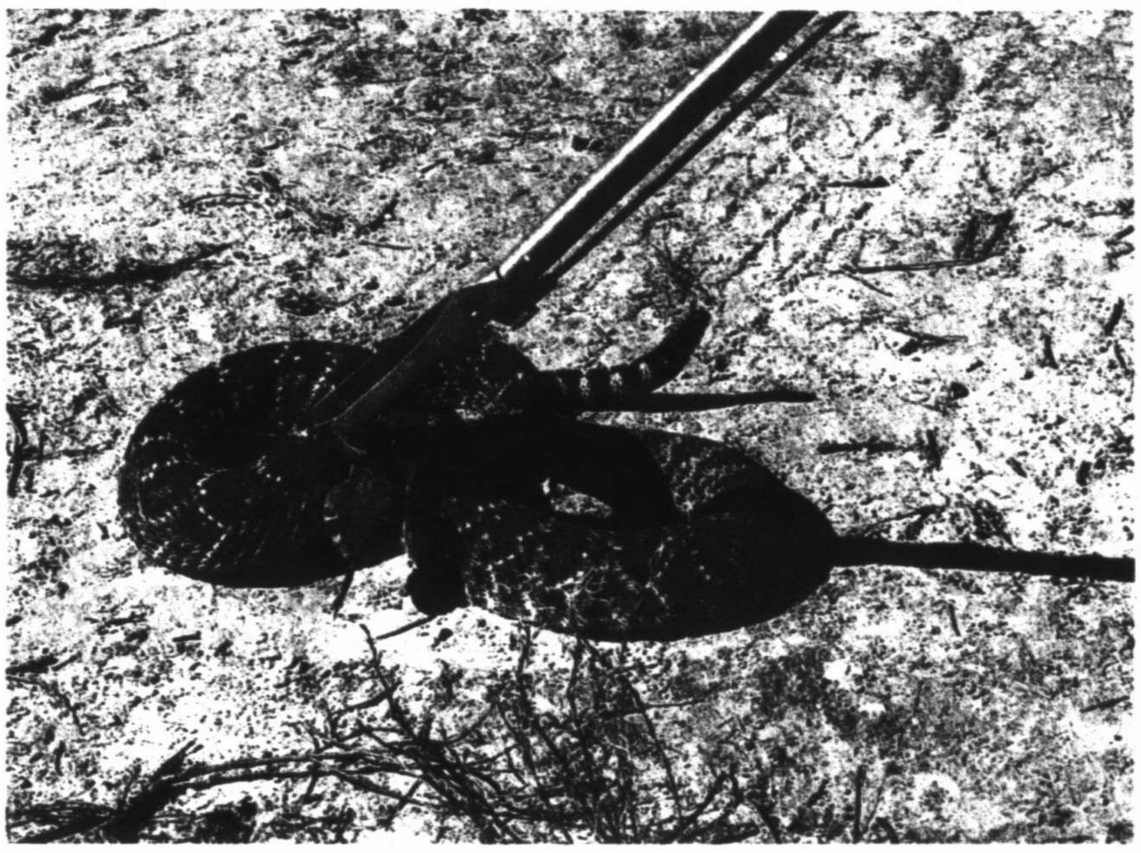
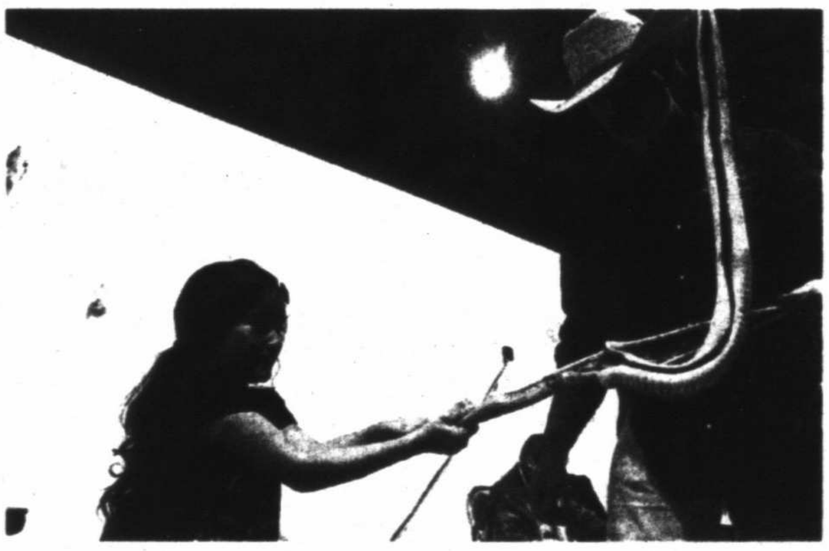


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Cliff Jones demonstrates how to catch a rattlesnake Saturday in Sweetwater. Jason Farmer and his son, J.D Farmer, hunt for rattlesnakes during the annual Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup, Jones shows a rattlesnake's fangs. Attendees at the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup listen to a presentation. Miss Texas 2017, Margana Wood, reacts as she guts a rattlesnake. Hunters round up 4,000 pounds of rattlesnakes. Walter Matschek helps Matailine Brito, 6, skin a rattlesnake.

Charlie Blaiock/ Special to the Express News



SNAKES

From 1A

Oklahoma, in 1939 by a man named Orville Von Gulker, wanted to educate the public about snakes, and reduce snakebites to people and livestock.

It proved popular, and the roundups spread. Some became community carnivals in which "the majority of the snakes were often killed in sensational shows," according to an article in Reptiles Magazine.

Crowd-pleasing stunts such as daredevils kissing rattlesnakes, people handling them without protection or crawling into sleeping bags containing rattlesnakes offered more thrills.

Sweetwater began its roundup in 1958 and has never looked back. It has continued to grow, drawing up to 30,000 visitors a year, according to organizers.

The popularity of its annual snake festival has lent a weird, edgy notoriety to Sweetwater, an otherwise unremarkable West Texas community that once depended on cotton, cattle and oil.

Visitors come from across the country, and overseas. Foreigners, particularly, can't quite get their heads around the crazy Texas custom of collecting and killing thousands of snakes.

"We get visitors from Australia, Japan, China, Germany, and all over Europe. And a lot of foreign media comes," said Rob McCann, 47, the Jaycees spokesman for the event.

"The big question is, are these snakes fake? "Then they ask, 'Are you sewing their mouths shut?' That would be cruel," he added.

McCann said you almost have to be born here to understand the roundup.

"It's something uniquely West Texas. I grew up with it as a kid. We got in free if we skinned snakes. I know all these guys who handled snakes, and they taught us how to hunt snakes at an early age," he said.

The festival is the Jaycees' main fundraiser for its good works, including sponsoring youth sports teams, a Thanksgiving Day "feed" and a community Easter egg hunt.

CRITICS DECRY 'SLAUGHTER'

Over the decades, animal rights groups and others have denounced the roundup as a "barbaric slaughterfest," that subjects the snakes to extreme cruelty and pointless deaths. But such criticism rolls off the backs of local organizers.

"Our roundups are all about safety and education. We don't torture rattlesnakes. We have nothing to hide," said McCann.

"We live with rattlesnakes. Without population control, this area would be seriously overrun with rattlesnakes," he said.

The collecting by competitive snake teams begins in January each year. The price paid for rattlers starts at $5 a pound for the first 2,000 pounds purchased and declines after that.

"We get snakes from all over the state. I'd say three-quarters come from 10 counties centered on Nolan County," McCann said.

The biggest threat to the roundup came when the Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners, following a lengthy study, considered imposing a ban on the practice of "gassing" snakes to force them out of their underground dens.

Snake hunters, who squirt a few drops of gas into the holes, say the practice is essential to catching large numbers but it is banned in 29 other states.

Critics, including biologists, ecologists and herpetologists, say gassing kills rodents and lizards that occupy the underground dens along with the snakes, and causes environmental pollution.

One Texas Parks & Wildlife Department staffer likened it to "fishing with dynamite."

But facing political pushback, the state commissioners tabled the proposal in October 2016.

"We had a lot of science. It took damn close to seven years but it failed," said Andy Gluesenkamp, state herpetologist from 2009 to 2016.

Now director of conservation at the San Antonio Zoo, Gluesenkamp said the rattlesnake roundups deliver the wrong message to the public.

"It saddens me because it glorifies uninformed and hurtful attitudes toward wildlife, in particular rattlesnakes," he said, noting, "There are one or two deaths from poisonous snakebites in Texas each year."

In Sweetwater, however, no one is lowering their guard.

"There are always people out there who want to shut this event down. They don't have snakes in their neighborhood," McCann said.

Trump releases plan on school shootings

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's plan to combat school shootings will include the creation of a new task force and an effort to "harden" schools so they're less vulnerable to attacks, the White House said Sunday.

But it will not include a call on states to increase the minimum age for purchasing assault weapons, as Trump had previously advocated.

Instead, that issue will be left to the task force to discuss, according to a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the plan before they were released.

White House spokesman Raj Shah had said earlier Sunday that "the president has been clear that he does support raising the age to 21."

"I don't want to get ahead of what's going to be announced," Shah said on "This Week" on ABC, "but I will say that will be a component of it, raising the age, as well as mental health."

The long-awaited recommendations are expected to be laid out in more detail by the White House on Sunday evening, nearly a month after the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 students and staff dead.

In the weeks since the massacre, Trump has held listening sessions with lawmakers, survivors of recent school shootings and the families of victims.

He's also met and spoken with the heads of the powerful National Rifle Association.

The NRA on Friday sued Florida over a new gun law signed by Republican Gov. Rick Scott that bans the purchase of firearms by anyone under the age of 21.

Mike Stocker/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP File

Students hold their hands in the air as they are evacuated by police from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14 in Parkland, Fla., after a shooter opened fire on the campus. Emergency calls from parents and students during the Florida high school massacre show 911 operators at first trying to grasp the enormity of the emergency and then calmly trying to gather information to assist arriving law enforcement officers. The officers arrive to find chaos as delays allowed the shooter to flee.

During those meetings, Trump advocated arming certain teachers and school staffers, arguing that gun-free schools are "like an invitation for these very sick people" to commit murder.

"If you had a teacher who was adept at firearms, they could end the attack very quickly," he has said.

The idea, which was panned by Democrats and teachers' unions, but is popular with gun advocates, is expected to be included in the plan.

During the often free-wheeling conversations, Trump also seemed to voice support for "universal" background checks, which would apply to private gun sales and those at gun shows, instead of just from licensed dealers.

He also raised eyebrows by suggesting that law enforcement officials should be able to confiscate guns from those they deem a safety risk even before a court has weighed in.

"Take the guns first, go through due process second," Trump said.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, later walked back both suggestions, saying "Universal means something different to a lot of people." She said the president wanted to expedite the court process, not circumvent it.

Shah said Trump would be reiterating his call for improvements to the National Instant Criminal Background Check through the "Fix NICS" bill, which would penalize federal agencies that don't properly report required records and reward states that comply by providing them with federal grant preferences.

The bill was written in response to a shooting last November by a gunman whose domestic violence conviction the Air Force failed to report to the National Criminal Information Center database.

It has already passed the House.

The White House also supports a second bill that would create a federal grant program to train students, teachers and school officials how to identify signs of potential violence and intervene early.

The Republican-controlled House is expected to vote on the STOP School Violence Act next week.

Trump has also vowed to ban the use of bump stock devices that enable guns to fire like automatic weapons.

The Department of Justice has also been moving forward with that effort.

"There's going to be a series of proposals," Shah said. "Some will be legislative, some will be administrative and some will be recommendations for states as well as a task force to study this issue in more depth and make more additional policy recommendations.

"So it's going to be consistent with what the president has talked about."

Student walkout over guns poses balancing act for schools

By Denise Lavoie
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — As schools around the country brace for student walkouts following the deadly shooting in Parkland, Florida, principals and superintendents are scrambling to perform a delicate balancing act: How to let thousands of students exercise their First Amendment rights while not disrupting school and not pulling administrators into the raging debate over gun control.

Some have taken a hard line, promising to suspend students who walk out, while others are using a softer approach, working with students to set up places on campus where they can remember the victims of the Florida shooting and express their views about school safety and gun control.

Since the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, demonstrations have sprung up on school campuses around the country. But the first large-scale, coordinated national demonstration is planned for Wednesday when organizers of the Women's March have called for a 17-minute walkout, one minute for each of the 17 students and staff members killed in Florida.

National demonstrations are also planned for March 24, with a march on Washington, D.C.; and on April 20, the 19th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado.

No matter how schools decide to deal with the demonstrations, students have been reassured by Harvard, Yale, MIT, the University of Connecticut, UCLA and dozens of other colleges and universities that their participation won't affect their chances of getting admitted.

But for middle-school and high-school administrators, figuring out how to allow the demonstrations during school hours has proven challenging. In some cases, it hasn't gone smoothly.

In Needville near Houston, Superintendent Curtis Rhodes was castigated on social media after he warned that students who leave class would be suspended for three days, even if they get parental permission.

"SHAME, SHAME, SHAME ON YOU," wrote one woman.

In Garretson, South Dakota, administrators canceled a student walkout planned for April 20 after a Facebook posting about the plan drew more than 300 negative comments from adults.

And in Arizona, dozens of students at Ingleside Middle School, near Phoenix, were given one-day suspensions after they left campus on Feb. 27.

Layla Defibaugh, an eighth-grade student at Ingleside, said she wanted to participate in the walkout, but didn't because of the threatened suspensions. She does plan to join the Wednesday walkout, even it means getting suspended.

"It's important for me to speak my mind on this topic," she said. "At the end of the day, they shouldn't be able to punish us for exercising our First Amendment rights."

AASA, The School Superintendents Association, has fielded dozens of calls and emails from school administrators asking for advice, while the American Civil Liberties Union has received hundreds of inquiries from students about what their rights are and if they can be disciplined for participating in the protests.

The answer depends on each school's code of conduct and disciplinary policies. Generally, the ACLU has been advising students that because they are required to go to school by law, administrators can discipline them for unexcused absences. But the ACLU also told students in an online training video that administrators can't punish them more harshly because of the political nature of their demonstrations.

The superintendents association — which is supporting the April 20 walkout — has drafted a list of suggestions for school administrators, including holding a teach-in, a school-led walkout to a spot on campus, or a session on bullying.

"There are ways to engage and harness the students in civic engagement without compromising policies in place on attendance, participation and student safety," said Noelle Ellerson Ng, associate director for policy and advocacy.

Some schools have embraced the walkouts.

In Mooresville, Indiana, administrators met with 10 high-school student leaders to work out a plan. Mooresville High School Principal Brian Disney said the students plan to use the school's public address system to read short statements about mental illness, the importance of kindness and standing up against all school violence before inviting all students to gather in a school hallway for 17 minutes of silence.

In Anne Arundel County, Maryland, administrators are still talking with students about how they can participate without violating school rules.

"I think we all realize that for folks who are teenagers right now, this could well be a defining moment in their lives. We want to very much encourage and empower student voices. That said, it has to be done in ways that are safe and appropriate," said spokesman Bob Mosier.

Some schools are taking a middle ground, neither encouraging nor discouraging students from participating. In Henrico County, Virginia, near Richmond, administrators sent an email to parents saying they are not sanctioning the Wednesday walkout, but feel obligated to manage the event because of its heavy promotion on social media.

Middle-school principals asked parents to sign a Google document stating whether they give their children permission to participate. Schools plan to provide campus locations for the walkout.

Republicans will have to fight to keep majority

■ Any GOP loss now would give Democrats a lift and create momentum for races to come

KATHLEEN PARKER

King Features Syndicate

You may have missed the starting shot, but the midterm races officially began last week with the Texas primaries. This coming Tuesday, voters in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District head to the polls for a special election to fill the seat left vacant by Republican Tim Murphy.

At the risk of sounding hyperbolic -- or downright giddy -- 2018 promises to be as significant, if not more so given the stakes, as 2010 when Republicans wrested the House of Representatives from Democrats amid tea party turbulence and early chants of "repeal and replace."

Whether November will produce a blue wave crashing down on a crimson tide — or an estrogen rout of the testosterone swamp — remains to be seen. But early signs suggest that Republicans will have to scratch and fight to keep their dwindling majorities (41 have left or aren't seeking re-election) in the House and Senate.

Even, perhaps, in Texas.

Republican voters, who are usually more attentive to primaries than Democrats, did outperform in turnout there — 1.5 million to just 1 million. One clear Democratic winner was three-term Rep. Beto O'Rourke, a youngish (45), Kennedy-esque liberal who won a three-way Senate primary to face Republican incumbent Ted Cruz in the fall.

Cruz is up for re-election following a dramatic first-term in Washington, which has included the 2013 government shutdown that he essentially engineered (even on the House side) and, memorably, a 21-hour floor speech against Obamacare that detoured into a reading of "Green Eggs and Ham." Cruz's attachment to childlike expression seems stable. In an attempt to deflate O'Rourke's primary victory, Cruz released a country-song radio ad that croons:

I remember reading stories liberal Robert wanted to fit in, So he changed his name to Beto and hid it with a grin.

Cruz's insinuation that O'Rourke changed his name to appeal to Latino voters is true only if you count the Democrat's toddler years as predictive of future shape-shifting. Apparently, Beto, short for Roberto, became his nickname when, as a small child, he lived among mostly Latino neighbors in El Paso. To put an end to this silliness, O'Rourke produced a photo of himself as a tyke wearing a sweater emblazoned with "Beto." One would think Cruz would be more sympathetic to a child just trying to fit in, especially since he tweaked his own given middle name, Edward, to become Ted.

If this were a race between Robert O'Rourke and Rafael Cruz, who knows?

The upcoming Pennsylvania race is a sorta sordid affair, thanks to the previous occupant of the seat in play. Murphy, a professed abortion opponent seemed to suggest that a woman with whom he'd had an affair should seek an abortion when the two thought she might be pregnant. Incensed when she spotted a March for Life posting on his public Facebook account, she texted him: "And you have zero issue posting your pro-life stance all over the place when you had no issue asking me to abort our unborn child just last week ..."

If Republicans were looking for an undramatic candidate to replace him, they succeeded with the lackluster Rick Saccone, whose campaign has failed to bestir enthusiasm and even prompted a scolding from GOP leadership. The potential embarrassment of losing in a district Donald Trump won by 20 percentage points is bad enough. Worse would be the conclusion that Trump's support is a deficit rather than a plus, as was the case in Alabama's special Senate election last year when Roy Moore lost to Democrat Doug Jones.

Meanwhile, Saccone's Democratic opponent, Conor Lamb, could have significant crossover appeal. An Ivy League-educated Marine veteran and former prosecutor, Lamb reportedly likes shooting machine guns and has suggested that he wouldn't support Nancy Pelosi as House speaker should Democrats win control in November.

In 2010, Republicans hailed their triumphant sweep as a referendum on President Obama and the Affordable Care Act. Tuesday's election may not foretell the future — and the Lamb/Saccone match is, indeed, a special circumstance — but any Republican loss now would give Democrats a lift and create momentum for races to come.

As Trump marches on to his own very-special drummer, lending status to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by agreeing to meet with him and slapping allies with punitive tariffs, it couldn't come at a better time.

OPINION EXTRA

Americans have right to know about Trump campaign

I couldn't care less whether in 2006 Donald Trump had a sexual affair with pornographic film actress Stephanie Clifford — known professionally as Stormy Daniels — only months after his wife, Melania, gave birth to their son, Barron.

Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, says Trump has denied the affair. But even if it did occur, the relationship would have taken place years before the 2016 presidential election. Thus, it is a private matter between citizen Donald Trump and his wife and none of my business.

I do care, however, if within one month of the presidential election, Republican candidate Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, paid hush money to Clifford/Daniels to keep the affair secret. True, the porn star is not, at least to the best of my knowledge, a public official. She has no public or legal duties to discharge. A payment of hush money to her, therefore, is unlikely to be illegal.

But campaign finance laws are there to ensure the integrity of our elections and the democratic process. And I do care about those things very much. I have written reams about endruns around our election laws, primarily here in our nation's capital. I care just as much about those provisions at the federal level.

Hush-money negotiations and payments to Clifford, as described in the Wall Street Journal and other publications, ought to draw the attention — and anger — of anyone concerned about the conduct of candidates in the 2016 presidential campaign.

The allegations are detailed in a complaint that watchdog Common Cause filed with the Justice Department and the Federal Election Commission. Essentially, they boil down to this: In October 2016, a few weeks before voters went to the polls, Cohen arranged the payment of $130,000 to Clifford to not speak about any alleged encounter she had with Trump. That payment, Common Cause alleges, was an unreported in-kind contribution to the Trump campaign because it was "paid for the purpose of influencing the 2016 presidential general election;" and, if so, it was required to be publicly reported. Furthermore, if the source of the $130,000 was the Trump Organization — which Cohen has denied — the money would represent an impermissible corporate contribution.

Lawyers will argue about whether the payment has any legal implication for the Trump presidency — did he know about, was he the source of, or did he direct the payment to Clifford? The Common Cause complaint is designed to get at those questions.

But there is more to this than the potential trespassing of campaign finance rules. It is about the possibility that the candidate who was elected president of the United States paid or ordered to be paid money to someone to conceal something he privately did -- payoff money to keep information about him secret from the voters.

Trump's alleged stifling of information about his behavior is profoundly relevant to the broad issues raised by special counsel Robert Mueller III's investigation into interference in the 2016 election.

We have been learning a lot about the 45th president of the United States and undoubtedly will be learning more in the coming weeks and months -- things he doesn't want us to know about him, facts, pesky and shameful facts he doesn't want to come out about how he landed where he is and with whose help, either foreign or domestic.

And unlike what may or may not have happened with Stormy Daniels, what has already emerged and may yet be disclosed about Trump's campaign through the special counsel's investigation will be very much in the public interest and is clearly the American people's business.

And I care very much about that.

— Colbert I. King, The Washington Post

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Trump is lying to steelworkers

■ Instead of telling employees that tariffs will bring back their jobs, government should be helping prepare them for the inevitable

DANA MILBANK

Washington Post Writers Group

The steel industry, shedding workers, shutting plants and bleeding red ink, pleaded with the federal government for tariffs on imports. As the government obliged, a young reporter on the steel beat for the Wall Street Journal cautioned that tariffs could "ultimately do the industry more harm than good" because the real threat to big steel wasn't foreign competition but changing technology.

That was 1992. The administration that imposed the trade barriers was George H.W. Bush's. And the young steel reporter was me.

Twenty-six years later, what's old is new again. The industry's fortunes have waxed and waned with the economy and the price of steel. Trade protections came and went. But steel jobs continue to vanish. That's because the job loss has almost nothing to do with imports.

President Trump, playing the charlatan, is telling steelworkers he'll protect their jobs with his 25 percent tariff, made official Thursday, on all imports but those from Canada and Mexico. "We're going to have a lot of great jobs … coming back into our country," Trump promised.

Then he yielded the lectern to Scott Sauritch, a local union president from Pennsylvania, who said his father, Herman Sauritch, had been a steelworker, but "during the '80s, he lost his job due to imports coming into this country."

"Well," replied Trump, "your father, Herman, is looking down. He's very proud of you right now."

"Oh, he's still alive," Scott Sauritch said.

Not only did Trump kill off poor Herman Sauritch, but he's also dooming the dreams of another generation of steelworkers. The elder Sauritch probably didn't lose his job because of foreigners. Nor do today's steelworkers.

The United States has been a net importer of steel for six decades. It imported more than 20 percent of steel through much of the 1980s, and imports of finished steel today remain in that ballpark, about 25 percent of the market. Imports in 2017, $29.1 billion, were nearly identical to 2011's $30.5 billion..

What has changed is that Americans consume far less steel — little more than half as much per capita compared with in the 1970s -- as improved technology means automobiles and other applications require less of it. At the same time, improved steelmaking productivity means the industry requires dramatically less labor. Steel production is down by a third since the 1970s, but employment is down by about three-quarters.

These changes were well underway when I arrived in Pittsburgh in 1990 for my first job after college. At other newspapers, cub reporters might be assigned the cops beat; at the Journal, the joke went, they put you on the copper beat. I was assigned nonferrous metals and worked my way up to steel by way of machine tools and rubber.

There was still enough steel production in the area back then that when I left the windows open in my apartment, a film of black soot coated the sill. I toured the hulking industrial remains of the Monongahela Valley, and I still have over my desk a framed panorama, circa 1910, of mighty Homestead Steel Works, its furnaces blackening the sky. I visited steelworkers' bars and wrote about the plight of a lost generation of industrial workers.

I also wrote about what was displacing them: "Minimills," with their electric-arc furnaces that melted scrap steel, used only a third as many workers to produce a ton of steel as the old "integrated" producers, with their iron ore and coke blast furnaces.

"Big steelmakers everywhere are finding that the economies of scale that helped them prevail since Andrew Carnegie's day no longer favor them," I wrote in February 1993, noting that some expected Nucor, the leading minimill, to replace U.S. Steel as the nation's largest producer by the year 2000.

Nucor did become the largest U.S. steelmaker, and the entire industry has become less labor-intensive. The Associated Press reported (last) week that U.S. steel producers require only 1.5 person-hours to make a ton of steel, down from more than 10 in the 1980s. Electric furnaces make about 70 percent of this country's steel, up from less than 30 percent when I covered the industry.

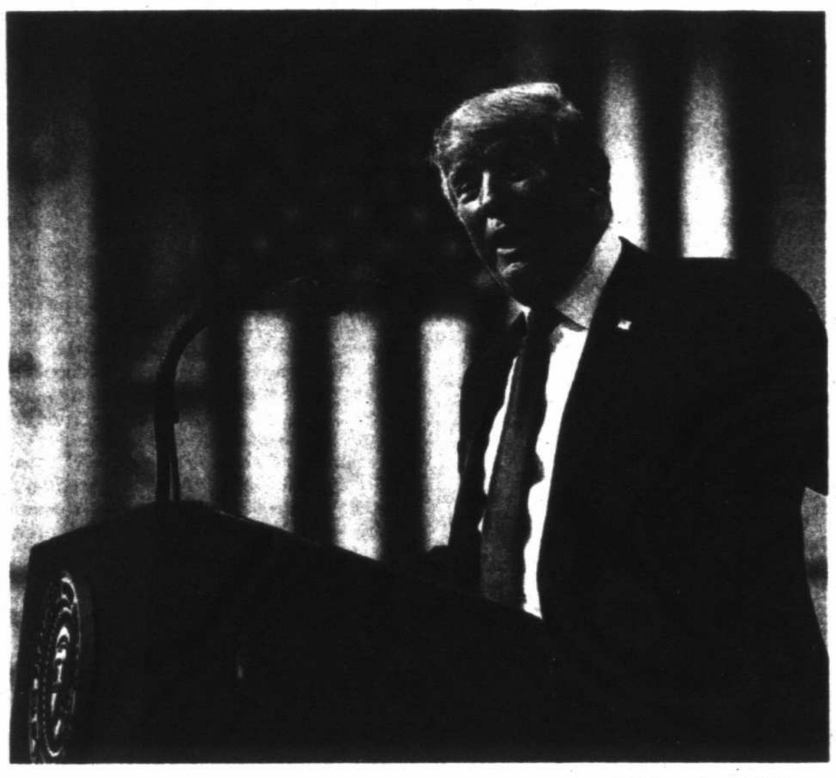
As a result, the radical shrinking of the steel labor force has continued despite the various attempts to restrict imports: voluntary agreements in the 1980s, duties in the 1990s, more tariffs in 2002. None was effective, because imports weren't the problem.

The better answer, all along, has been for government to help steelworkers (and coal miners and other industrial workers who face a similar situation) to retrain and otherwise adapt to the inevitable.

Instead, 26 years after I first walked among the ruins of the Mon Valley, Trump continues to lie to steelworkers by telling them their jobs are coming back.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at Atlantic Aviation on Saturday in Moon Township, Pa.

Rally shows free-wheeling, media-bashing Trump here to stay

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He urged his audience not to jeer North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un while goading the crowd to boo the press.

He called an African-American congresswoman a "very low-IQ individual" and bashed the moderator of NBC's "Meet the Press" as a "sleeping son of a b—."

If it wasn't crystal clear already, President Donald Trump's roaring rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday night underscored the fact that, more than a year into the job, Trump has no interest in leaving behind the vulgar insults or biting attacks on the free press that defined his 2016 Republican campaign.

"You'd be so bored," Trump said as he brushed off criticism that he should change his ways.

"Don't forget, this got us elected," he told the crowd outside Pittsburgh. "If I came like a stiff, you guys wouldn't be here tonight."

Instead, Trump repeatedly lashed out at the "fake, fake media" and insulted reporters, prompting the crowd to break into a round of a favorite 2016 chant, "CNN sucks."

But when it came to the North Korean leader, Trump was more restrained.

"No, it's very positive," Trump said after his mention of Kim's name prompted boos and jeers. Trump, who last week agreed to a historic one-on-one meeting with Kim, motioned with his arms for the crowd to calm. "After the meeting you may do that, but now we have to be very nice."

Later, he held up China and Singapore as examples of countries that had successfully tackled their drug problems and suggested mandating the death penalty for drug dealers in the United States.

Trump critic Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said the president's comments were setting a dangerous precedent.

"Words matter," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press," whose host, Chuck Todd, had been the subject of some of Trump's most virulent tongue-lashing, including being called a "sleeping son of a b—."

Flake, who has hinted he might challenge Trump in 2020, said: "We had a record number of journalists being jailed overseas, some on false news charges, echoing the phrases that he uses. So I don't think it's a responsible thing to do."

But Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, also appearing on Todd's show, brushed off Trump's vulgar language, including his description of Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, the ranking member of the House Committee on Financial Services, as a "low IQ" person.

"These are campaign rally issues," Mnuchin said. "That is at a campaign rally. And the president likes making funny names."

Mnuchin also argued the press should pay less attention to Trump's rally speeches and more attention to his policies, such as his announcement on tariffs last week.

"He's using these vulgarities in the context of a campaign rally, and obviously there were a lot of funny moments on that rally," he said.

Todd, whom Trump derided throughout the campaign as "sleepy eyes Chuck Todd," responded to Mnuchin with a deadpan tone. "Yeah, they were hilarious," he said.

Anti-tariff Republican should challenge Trump in 2020

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A prominent Republican critic says President Donald Trump should be challenged in 2020 by a candidate who opposes tariffs and objects to Trump's full-throated attacks on political opponents and the media.

Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona holds those views and he says he is aware that such a campaign "would be a tough go" because the GOP "is the Trump party right now."

But Flake says "that's not to say it will stay that way." He is retiring from the Senate and has not ruled out a run for president.

Flake also chided Trump for attacking the press at a political rally Saturday night in Pennsylvania.

Flake was speaking Sunday with NBC's Chuck Todd on "Meet the Press." Trump used a vulgar phrase to describe Todd at the rally.

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BREAKING NEWS...

CoQ10's Failure Leaves Millions Wanting

Use this pill to supercharge your brain and think better than ever.

BREAKING NEWS: Millions of Americans take the supplement CoQ10. It's the "jet fuel" that supercharges your cells' power generators, known as mitochondria.

As you age, your mitochondria begin to die. In fact, by age 67, you lose 80% of the mitochondria you had at age 25.1 But if you're taking CoQ10, there's something important you should know.

As powerful as CoQ10 is, there is a critical thing it fails to do. It can't create new mitochondria in your cells.

Taking CoQ10 is not enough

"There's a little-known NASA nutrient that multiplies the number of new power generators in your cells by up to 55%," says Dr. Al Sears, owner of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. "Science once thought this was impossible. But now you can make your heart, brain and body young again."

"I tell my patients the most important thing I can do is increase their 'health span.' This is the length of time you can live free of disease and with all your youthful abilities and faculties intact."

Medical first: Multiply the "power generators" in your cells

Al Sears, M.D., recently released an energy-boosting supplement based on this NASA nutrient that has become so popular, he's having trouble keeping it in stock.

Dr. Sears is the author of over 500 scientific papers on anti-aging and recently spoke at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people listened to Dr. Sears speak on his anti-aging breakthroughs and attended his book signing at the event.

Now, Dr. Sears has come up with what his peers consider his greatest contribution to anti-aging medicine yet — a newly discovered nutrient that multiplies the number of tiny, energy-producing "engines" located inside the body's cells, shattering the limitations of traditional CoQ10 supplements.

Why mitochondria matter

A single cell in your body can contain between 200 to 2,000 mitochondria, with the largest number found in the most metabolically active cells, like those in your brain, heart and skeletal muscles.

But because of changes in cells, stress and poor diet, most people's power generators begin to malfunction and die off as they age. In fact, the Mitochondria Research Society reports 50 million U.S. adults are suffering from health problems because of mitochondrial dysfunction.

Common ailments often associated with aging — such as memory problems, heart issues, blood sugar concerns and vision and hearing difficulties — can all be connected to a decrease in mitochondria.

Birth of new mitochondria

Dr. Sears and his researchers combined the most powerful form of CoQ10 available — called ubiquinol — with a unique, newly discovered natural compound called PQQ that has the remarkable ability to grow new mitochondria. Together, the two powerhouses are now available in a supplement called Ultra Accel II.

Discovered by a NASA probe in space dust, PQQ (Pyrroloquinoline quinone) stimulates something called "mitochondrial biogenesis" — a unique process that actually boosts the number of healthy mitochondria in your cells.

In a study published in the Journal of Nutrition, mice fed PQQ grew a staggering number of new mitochondria, showing an increase of more than 55% in just eight weeks.

The mice with the strongest mitochondria showed no signs of

Dr. Al Sears with fellow physician Dr. Oz at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival held in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

aging — even when they were the equivalent of 80 years old.

Science stands behind the power of PQQ

Biochemical Pharmacology reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants.

"Imagine 5,000 times more efficient energy," says Dr. Sears. "PQQ has been a game changer for my patients."

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears' patients. "I am in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearer, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

It works right away

Along with an abundance of newfound energy, users also report a sharper, more focused mind and memory, and even younger-looking skin and hair. Jerry M. from Wellington, Florida, used Ultra Accel and was amazed at the effect.

"I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry. "My endurance almost doubled. But it's not just in your body. You can feel it mentally, too," says Jerry. "Not only do I feel a difference, but the way it protects my cells is great insurance against a health disaster as I get older."

Increase your health span today

The demand for this supplement is so high, Dr. Sears is having trouble keeping it in stock. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling or looking older than their age... or for those who are tired or growing more forgetful."

"My favorite part of practicing anti-aging medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. Ultra Accel sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies... and they actually feel young again."

Where to find Ultra Accel II

Right now, the only way to get this potent combination of PQQ and super-powered CoQ10 is with Dr. Sears' breakthrough Ultra Accel II formula.

To secure bottles of this hot, new supplement, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-877-353-0593 within the next 48 hours. "It takes time to get bottles shipped out to drug stores," said Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to the customer."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, he offers a 100%, money-back guarantee on every order. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I'll send you your money back," said Dr. Sears.

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock.

Call 1-877-353-0593 to secure your limited supply of Ultra Accel II. You don't need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code NPUAFEB18190 when you call in.

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Digital ads, social media hide political campaign messaging

By Nicholas Riccardi
Associated Press

The main events in a political campaign used to happen in the open: a debate, the release of a major TV ad or a public event where candidates tried to earn a spot on the evening news or the next day's front page.

That was before the explosion of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube as political platforms. Now some of a campaign's most pivotal efforts happen in the often-murky world of social media, where ads can be targeted to ever-narrower slices of the electorate and run continuously with no disclosure of who is paying for them. Reporters cannot easily discern what voters are seeing, and hoaxes and forgeries spread instantaneously.

Journalists trying to hold candidates accountable have a hard time keeping up.

"There's a whole dark area of campaigns out there when, if you're not part of the target group, you don't know anything about them," said Larry Noble of the Campaign Legal Center in Washington, which seeks greater transparency in political spending. "And if reporters don't know about it, they can't ask questions about it."

The problem came to widespread attention during the 2016 presidential race, when Donald Trump's campaign invested heavily in digital advertising, and the term "fake news" emerged to describe pro-Trump propaganda masquerading as online news. Russian interference in the campaign included covert ads on social media and phony Facebook groups pumping out falsehoods.

The misinformation shows no sign of abating. The U.S. Senate election in Alabama in December was rife with fake online reports in support of Republican Roy Moore, who eventually lost to Democrat Doug Jones amid allegations that Moore had sexual contact with teenagers when he was a prosecutor in his 30s. Moore denied the accusations.

Politicians also try to create their own news operations. U.S. Rep. Devin Nunes' campaign funded a purported news site called The California Republican, and the executive director of Maine's Republican party last month acknowledged that he runs an anonymous website that is critical of Democrats.

Phony allegations are nothing new in politics. But they used to circulate in automated phone calls, mailers that were often tossed in the trash or, as far back as the 1800s, in partisan newspapers that published just once a day, noted Garlin Gilchrist, executive director of the Center for Social Media Responsibility at the University of Michigan.

The difference now is how quickly false information spreads.

"The problem is something that's always existed ... but social media is a different animal than news distribution in the past," Gilchrist said.

A study released this past week found that false information spreads faster and wider on Twitter than real news stories. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology traced the path of more than 126,000 stories on Twitter and found that the average false story takes about 10 hours to reach 1,500 users compared with about 60 hours for real ones. On average, false information reaches 35 percent more people than true news.

A data analysis by Buzzfeed's news site after the 2016 election found that the most popular fake stories generated greater engagement on Facebook than the top real stories in the three months before Election Day.

Because it's increasingly easy to fabricate videos, which are viewed as the most reliable evidence available online, reporters "need stronger tools" to weed out frauds, Gilchrist said.

Social media also upends campaign advertising practices. Federal regulations require a record of every political advertisement that is broadcast on television and radio. But online ads have no comparable requirements.

Earlier this month, Twitter Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey announced that the platform would take new steps to try to stop harassment and false information. Facebook has partnered with media organizations, including The Associated Press, to flag false information on its platform. It recently announced plans to reform its political advertising, including making all ads on a page visible to all viewers, regardless of whether they were intended to see the spots. It also will require a line identifying the buyer on every political ad and create a four-year archive.

Still, because there are so many candidates for office in the U.S., Facebook is limiting itself to federal races at first.

"Facebook is moving faster than regulators are around the world toward some better stuff," said Sam Jeffers of the UK-based group Who Targets You, which pushes for better online campaign disclosure.

He cited three recent elections in which underdog campaigns invested heavily in online ads and beat the polling expectations to win: the 2015 parliamentary races and the Brexit vote and the U.S. presidential race the following year.

Who Targets You designed an online tool that will collect Facebook political ads and deposit them in a database.

'Fake news' smear takes hold among politicians at all levels

By Ryan J. Foley
Associated Press

An Idaho state lawmaker urges her constituents to submit entries for her "fake news awards." The Kentucky governor tweets #FAKENEWS to dismiss questions about his purchase of a home from a supporter. An aide to the Texas land commissioner uses the phrase to downplay the significance of his boss receiving donations from employees of a company that landed a multimillion-dollar contract.

President Donald Trump's campaign to discredit the news media has spread to officials at all levels of government, who are echoing his use of the term "fake news" as a weapon against unflattering stories.

It's become ubiquitous as a signal to a politician's supporters to ignore legitimate reporting and hard questions, as a smear of the beleaguered and dwindling local press corps, and as a way for conservatives to push back against what they call biased stories.

"When Trump announced he was going to do his fake news awards, a group of us conservative legislators said, 'We need to do that, too,'" said Idaho state Rep. Priscilla Giddings, who has urged supporters to send examples of "biased, misleading and fake news" and plans to announce her awards March 18. "We need people to wake up to the fact that just because it's on the front page of the Boise newspaper doesn't mean it's 100 percent true."

The winners of the contest, it turns out, will be announced at the end of Sunshine Week, an annual focus by the nation's news media on government transparency and the importance of a free press.

Rhonda Prast, editor of the Idaho Statesman in Boise, said it was ridiculous for anyone to assert that it would publish a story it knew contained falsehoods.

"The Statesman has a longstanding reputation as a reliable paper of record — going back 154 years — and our standards for accuracy and fairness have never changed," she said in a statement. "The allegations of 'fake news' are unjust attacks on a free press."

Giddings used the term herself last year to dismiss a report from another newspaper suggesting she may have been unqualified to run for office because she was claiming a homeowner's exemption outside of her district. She said she's submitting paperwork to prove the break was legitimate.

Experts on the press and democracy say the cries of "fake news" could do long-term damage by sowing confusion and contempt for journalists and by undermining the media's role as a watchdog on government and politicians. They say it's already exacerbated the lack of trust in media by conservatives and contributed to hostility that sometimes turns violent.

In the last year, at least three political figures have been implicated in physical assaults on reporters asking questions, while journalists have been attacked in dozens of other incidents by protesters, according to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker.

"I worry about the ongoing attack on the legitimacy of the media by President Trump and some of his supporters. The press is hardly perfect, of course, but it is also an important mechanism of accountability for people in power," said Brendan Nyhan, a professor of government at Dartmouth College. "This kind of rhetoric is potentially corrosive to trust in the media and to people's willingness to accept information that is critical of politicians they support."

Nyhan was among the authors of a recent study for the Poynter Institute that found partisan divisions in the public's attitudes toward the press. More Democrats now have more faith in the press, while Republicans have far more negative views and are "more likely to endorse extreme claims about media fabrication, to describe journalists as an enemy of the people, and to support restrictions on press freedom," the study found.

The routine labeling of factual reporting as "fake news" comes as actual fake news proliferates on the internet.

Media researcher Craig Silverman helped popularize the term in 2014 as a label for completely fabricated stories written and spread by individuals seeking profit. Now the news media editor at BuzzFeed, he wrote recently that he cringes when he hears anyone use the term, which he said became a partisan weapon after Trump's election in 2016.

Silverman wrote that political figures are manipulating social media to "literally brand real things as fake" and manufacture reality for their followers.

Politicians who have used the term in recent months in response to news reporting include the governor of Maine, a New Mexico congressional candidate, the Georgia secretary of state and the vice chairman of Trump's now-disbanded voter fraud commission. A California school board president repeatedly used the term to attack a journalist investigating the area's high rate of teenage pregnancy and its sex education policies.

The cries of "fake news" create a quandary for reporters, who want to defend their stories while also not giving credence to the charge.

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DIGITAL LIFE

Study: False stories travel faster than truth

Researchers looked at more than 126,000 stories tweeted millions of times between 2006 and 2016

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twitter loves lies. A new study finds that false information on the social media network travels six times faster than the truth and reaches far more people.

And you can't blame bots; it's us, say the authors of the largest study of online misinformation.

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology looked at more than 126,000 stories tweeted millions of times between 2006 and the end of 2016 — before Donald Trump took office but during the combative presidential campaign. They found that "fake news" sped through Twitter "farther, faster, deeper and more broadly than the truth in all categories of information," according to the study in Thursday's journal Science.

"No matter how you slice it, falsity wins out," said co-author Deb Roy, who runs MIT's Laboratory for Social Machines and is a former chief media scientist at Twitter.

Twitter funded the study but had no say in the outcome, according to the researchers.

The scientists calculated that the average false story takes about 10 hours to reach 1,500 Twitter users, versus about 60 hours for the truth. On average, false information reaches 35 percent more people than true news.

While true new stories almost never got retweeted to 1,000 people, the top 1 percent of the false ones got to as many as 100,000 people.

And when the researchers looked at how stories cascade — how they link from one person to another like a family tree — false information reached as many as 24 generations, while true information maxed out at a dozen.

Concern over bogus stories online has escalated in recent months because of evidence that the Russians spread disinformation on social media during the 2016 presidential campaign to sow discord in the U.S. and damage Hillary Clinton.

Social media companies have experimented with using computer algorithms and human fact-checkers to try to weed out false information and abuse online. Twitter earlier this month said it is seeking help from outside experts to better deal with the problem. And Facebook (last) week announced a partnership with The Associated Press to identify and debunk false and misleading stories about the midterm elections.

"We have witnessed abuse, harassment, troll armies, manipulation through bots and human-coordination, misinformation campaigns and increasingly divisive echo chambers," tweeted Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey. "We aren't proud of how people have taken advantage of our service, or our inability to address it fast enough."

Please see FALSE/4B

Inside

Facebook's CTO: Election integrity is 'huge'

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HUMAN-LABELED DATA

AP file photo

Jessica McShane, an employee at Interactions Corp., monitors person-to-computer communications, helping computers understand what a human is saying, in the "intent analysis" room Nov. 8, 2017, at the company's headquarters in Franklin, Mass. When a computer can't make out a customer call to the Hyatt Hotels chain, an audio snippet is sent to AI-powered call center Interactions. There, while the customer waits on the phone, an analyst transcribes everything from misheard numbers to profanities and quickly directs the computer how to respond.

AI has a secret: It's powered by people

By Ryan Nakashima
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — There's a dirty little secret about artificial intelligence: It's powered by hundreds of thousands of real people.

From makeup artists in Venezuela to women in conservative parts of India, people around the world are doing the digital equivalent of needlework — drawing boxes around cars in street photos, tagging images, and transcribing snatches of speech that computers can't quite make out.

Such data feeds directly into "machine learning" algorithms that help self-driving cars wind through traffic and let Alexa figure out that you want the lights on. Many such technologies wouldn't work without massive quantities of this human-labeled data.

These repetitive tasks pay pennies apiece. But in bulk, this work can offer a decent wage in many parts of the world — even in the U.S. And it underpins a technology that could change humanity forever: AI that will drive us around, execute verbal commands without flaw, and — possibly — one day think on its own.

For more than a decade, Google has used people to rate the accuracy of its search results. More recently, investors have poured tens of millions of dollars into startups such as Mighty AI and CrowdFlower, which are developing software that makes it easier to label photos and other data, even on smartphones.

Venture capitalist S. "Soma" Somasegar said he sees "billions of dollars of opportunity" in servicing the needs of machine-learning algorithms. His firm, Madrona Venture Group, invested in Mighty AI. Humans will be in the loop "for a long, long, long time to come," he said.

Accurate labeling could make the difference between a self-driving car distinguishing between the sky and the side of a truck — a distinction Tesla's Model S failed in the first known fatality involving self-driving systems in 2016.

"We're not building a system to play a game, we're building a system to save lives," said Mighty AI CEO Daryn Nakhuda.

Marjorie Aguilar, a 31-year-old freelance makeup artist in Maracaibo, Venezuela, spends four to six hours a day drawing boxes around traffic objects to help train self-driving systems for Mighty AI.

She earns about 50 cents an hour, but in a crisis-wracked country with runaway inflation, just a few hours' work can pay a month's rent in bolivars.

"It doesn't sound like a lot of money, but for me it's pretty decent," she said. "You can imagine how important it is for me getting paid in U.S. dollars."

Aria Khrisna, a 36-year-old father of three in Tegal, Indonesia, said that adding word tags to clothing pictures on websites such as eBay and Amazon pays him about $100 a month, roughly half his income.

And for 25-year-old Shamima Khatoon, her job annotating cars, lane markers and traffic lights at an all-female outpost of data-labeling company iMerit in Metiabruz, India, represents the only chance she has to work outside the home in her conservative Muslim community.

"It's a good platform to increase your skills and support your family," she said.

The benefits of greater accuracy can be immediate. At InterContinental Hotels Group, every call that its digital assistant Amelia can take from a human saves $5 to $10, said information technology director Scot Whigham.

When Amelia fails, the program listens while a call is rerouted to one of about 60 service desk workers. It learns from their response and tries the technique out on the next call, freeing up human employees to do other things.

When a computer can't make out a customer call to the Hyatt Hotels chain, an audio snippet is sent to AI-powered call center Interactions in an old brick building in Franklin, Massachusetts. There, while the customer waits on the phone, one of a roomful of headphone-wearing "intent analysts" transcribes everything from misheard numbers to profanity and quickly directs the computer how to respond.

That information feeds back into the system. "Next time through, we've got a better chance of being successful," said Robert Nagle, Interactions' chief technology officer.

Researchers have tried to find

Please see PEOPLE/4B

Microsoft wants to put internet access on school buses

By Brian Fung
Washington Post

Microsoft is looking to turn ordinary school buses into internet-enabled hotspots, in an experiment that's aimed at helping students in rural Michigan do their homework.

The company wants to use empty TV airwaves to beam high-speed internet signals to buses in Hillman, Michigan, as they travel to and from school, according to regulatory filings submitted Wednesday to the Federal Communications Commission.

"The proposed deployment would help … by providing high-speed wireless internet access on school buses as they complete their morning and afternoon routes," the filing reads. "This will allow students without suitable connections at home to complete assignments that require broadband internet access while they are on their way to and from school."

Microsoft needs special government permission for the demo, because it plans to operate wireless equipment at a power level that could otherwise interfere with other communications. But, it said, the equipment will shut off automatically if the buses stray outside of the designated test area.

Hillman is a community of roughly 700 people, according to census figures. Of the region's three satellite internet providers, only one offers services that meet the federal definition of broadband. And cable internet is virtually nonexistent in the area.

Partnering with a regional internet provider to place broadband base stations along the bus routes, Microsoft said it plans to install special radio antennas on the buses that can communicate with the base stations over the empty gaps between TV channels. If approved, the project would become the company's eighth pilot for the so-called "TV white spaces" technology in as many months.

Other regions in which Microsoft has launched experiments include Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Virginia and Washington state spanning a range of applications that covers farming and education.

Microsoft's TV white spaces initiative has attracted opposition from broadcasters, who argue the computing giant has circumvented the conventional process for securing access to airwaves. Rather than purchase the rights to airwaves at auction as many other companies do, the National Association of Broadcasters has alleged, Microsoft

Please see BUSES/4B

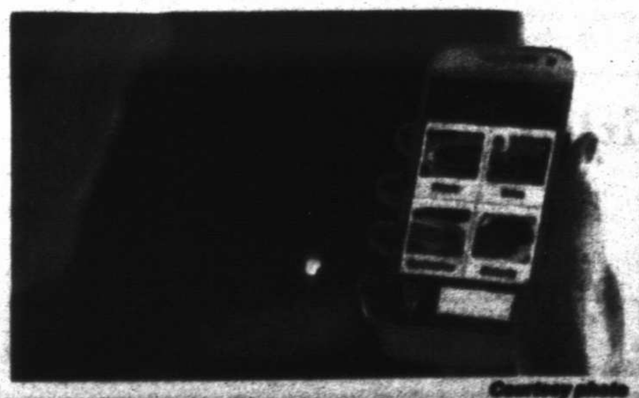
Domino's uses technology to woo millennials

By Frank Witsil
Detroit Free Press

Domino's Pizza spent a good part of the last decade chasing what seemed like every digital doodad to deliver pizza — sometimes to the scorn of observers who pointed out that the business was, after all, popping topping-covered dough in an oven and delivering it.

Why, the skeptics asked, do you need a digital voice-recognition app on your phone to order a pizza, when you can just call and speak to an actual person?

Please see DOMINOS/4B



Courtesy photo

Domino's Pizza spent a good part of the last decade chasing what seemed like every digital doodad to deliver pizza. But now, as Domino's claims the title of burger and pizza chain by global revenue, the company's relentless pursuit of digital technology appears to be quite prescient.

Facebook's CTO: Election integrity is 'huge'

By Ryan Nakashima
Associated Press

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — Under fire for Russian abuse of its service during the 2016 presidential election, the spread of fake news and more, Facebook has promised to right the ship this year.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg has stated his personal goal for 2018 is "fixing" problems like these at Facebook, rather than taking on something more personal like learning Mandarin or reading 25 books.

Facebook is also opening up, at least a little. The Associated Press recently spoke with Mike Schroepfer, Facebook's chief technology officer, about changes in the way Facebook handles fake news and foreign influence. Questions and answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: A big challenge is fake news. How do you detect it? Where are the battle lines and how are things going on a technological front?

A: The first thing you want to do is detect. That's when we work with partners like you and others to try and evaluate whether this is truthful or not. (The Associated Press helps fact-check stories that appear on Facebook.)

Once we figure out something is truly bad, obviously fake, usually those are by someone who's trying to do this for bad reasons. So we dramatically reduce the distribution or move it where people don't see it. If I'm trying to make money by scamming people, I'm not making so much money doing that.

Q: Does fact-checking actually work? By the time it's flagged and a journalist looks at it and does all the research, a piece may have already gotten a huge run on Facebook.

A: Sometimes these things have a longer shelf life than you'd expect. They get re-shared or reconstituted. And that's where, once you decide that this is another fake version of this, you can detect that and you can get there sooner.

Q: Can you measure the monetary impact you've had on fake news purveyors?

A: At some point later in the year we'll share some of that. We've seen a marked decrease.

Q: There's another election happening pretty soon. How do you feel about steps you've taken to combat foreign influence?

A: Election integrity is huge. Keeping the community safe, making sure that bad actors aren't misusing the platform, is the focus. A lot of this boils down to people who are inauthentic. They claim they're advocating for this social movement in the U.S. Really, they're not in the country at all, don't represent it and they have a fake profile or a fake page.

Q: Can you tell someone isn't where they say they are?

A: These folks are smart. They know that you're looking at IP (internet protocol) addresses, so they'll take over a machine with malware in the U.S. and post from there instead. People say, "Why don't you just check the currency or the IP address?" And as soon as you do that, literally that afternoon, they will change tactics.

So, I think we've got to be even smarter. We said we're hiring another 10,000 people to help us review content. We've put the best people we have in the company working on these problems, and I think we've made good progress, but there's lots more to do.

How phone is held could distort selfies

■ Many people seek plastic surgery to look better in smartphone photos

By Travis M. Andrews
Washington Post

How many times have you taken a selfie, only to hate how you looked?

You aren't the only one. It's common problem, but not everyone is picking a new Instagram filter as a quick-fix.

Some people are resorting to expensive surgery in hopes of snapping a better picture, according to a recent survey by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

But that might be a big mistake. A new study found that for many, the problem is not in the nose. It's in the distortion of the image created by the way they hold their smartphone cameras.

Selfies don't work like mirrors. Instead, they're completely distorted — especially when it comes to the nose, according to new research published in the medical journal JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery.

"Selfies make your nose look wider and thicker when it really isn't, and people like a smaller nose," Boris Paskhover, a facial plastics and reconstructive surgeon at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the study's lead author told CNN. "My fear is that the generation out there now doesn't know. All they know is the selfie."

The researchers looked specifically at selfies taken from 12 inches away — a common distance for someone snapping a selfie without the assistance of a selfie stick. In a selfie taken from that distance, men's noses appear 30 percent wider and women's noses appear 29 percent wider than they actually are.

A photo taken from the standard portrait distance of 5 feet, meanwhile, has no discernible distortion.

Paskhover hopes this will give people pause when considering a nose job, which he told CNN can run upward of $15,000 and might be one expensive disappointment. "If you go to someone who's inexperienced, aesthetic outcomes are variable," he told the network.

Any surgery also carries risks.

The American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery survey found that 55 percent of facial plastic surgeons treated patients who "want to look better in selfies" in 2017. And that's a 13 percent increase from 2016.

"Consumers are only a swipe away from finding love and a new look, and this movement is only going to get stronger," AAFPRS President William H. Truswell said in a news release.

Paskhover fears these self-snapped pictures are becoming a public health risk.

"Young adults are constantly taking selfies to post to social media and think those images are representative of how they really look, which can have an impact on their emotional state," Paskhover said in a news release. "I want them to realize that when they take a selfie they are in essence looking into a portable funhouse mirror."

The number of elective cosmetic procedures has risen along with the proliferation of smartphones, increasing by nearly 200 percent since 2000, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. And last year, more than 200,000 Americans went to the doctor for a rhinoplasty — otherwise known as a nose job.

Houzz via AP

This March 2018 photo provided by Houzz shows their View in My Room 3D, an augmented reality tool in the Houzz app that lets people preview over 1 million furniture and decor products from the Houzz Shop in 3D, within their homes, before they buy.

Apps can help with home, landscape design

By Katherine Roth
Associated Press

Planning out how to arrange furniture in your home — or plants in your garden — used to involve a pencil, graph paper, a measuring tape and a lot of imagination.

The process has gotten easier — and way more streamlined — thanks to a burgeoning selection of home and garden apps.

Furniture companies, interior design firms and even landscapers have been rolling out a new generation of apps and online programs to make the process more foolproof for novices and pros alike, often using virtual and augmented reality technology.

"Design apps are really great for generating ideas, and deciding on materials and sources for do-it-yourself projects," said Margaret Mayfield, an architect in Los Osos, California. "And they're also very helpful for communicating design ideas to contractors and architects."

The technology allows you to see what furniture would look like in your home before you buy it, using just the camera on your phone, for example, instead of dealing with the hassle — and back pain — involved in returning, say, an ill-chosen sofa.

And the design apps do not stop at the door. With spring around the corner, there are landscaping apps to help take the guesswork out of deciding what to plant and where and when.

Among the most popular home apps is Houzz , a free app with 40 million users around the world each month, according to Liza Hausman, vice president of industry marketing for Houzz. Features include a huge database of design photos — searchable by style, country or color, for example — to create a personalized "idea book."

The site's "Visual Match" feature allows visitors to order furniture and other products that are the same or similar to those seen in the magazine-type photos. You can work with a friend by using the "Invite a Collaborator" feature, or, through "Directory," contact local designers, architects or landscapers.

One of the newest features is "View in My Room 3D," which invites you to look at your room through your phone and then — using augmented reality technology — place a selected piece of furniture there to see what it would look like.

Other indoor design apps include Hutch, Home Design 3D and interior design apps from stores such as IKEA and Overstock.com.

For outdoors, Houzz features articles and advice from gardening pros, and a forum where home gardeners can share ideas and suggestions.

Another popular landscaping app is iScape , which helps you visualize your garden, save and share ideas and buy gardening products.

As with all technology, though, the apps have a learning curve that in some cases is far greater than the old graph paper and pencil method of laying out things. And professionals warn that for major jobs, it's still best to seek out a pro.

Just don't be surprised when your landscaper or designer pulls out their phone to consult an app.

Matt McMillan, a landscape designer in Pound Ridge, New York, said, "My designs are very focused on drawing nature into the garden. So I frequently consult the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Merlin app. I also have apps for dragonflies, butterflies and mushrooms. I can't live without the 'Toolbox' app in general, and specifically its compass."

Samsung S9 offers super-slo-mo video

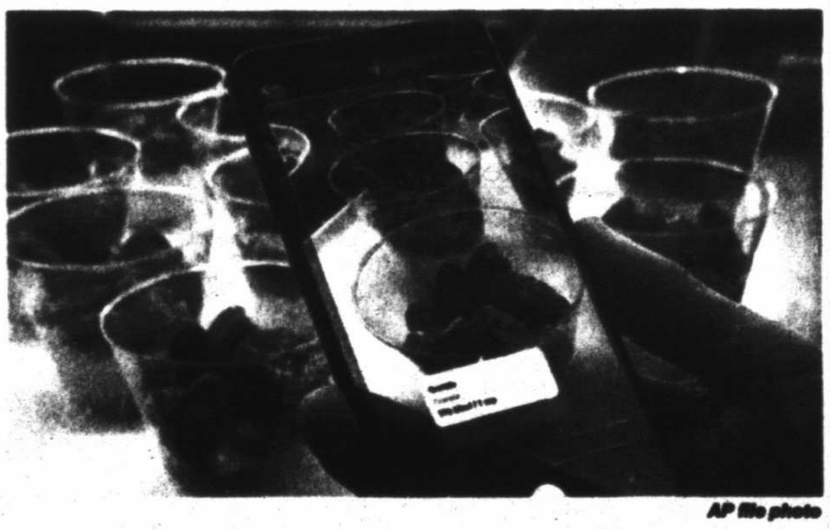
By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Samsung says its new Galaxy S9 phone features a "reimagined" camera, and it is indeed pretty darned good. But you might not want to shell out $720 or more for one just yet unless your current phone is already close to death.

That's because other high-end phone cameras — nowadays, one of the major differentiators between phones — are also pretty darned good. If your phone is recent, it probably already has a decent camera. Technology has improved to the point that it's really hard to tell the difference between them.

In many of our test shots, the S9 outperformed the best of its rivals — Apple's iPhone X, Google's Pixel 2 XL and Samsung's own Galaxy Note 8. Photos had more detail and less distortion. But unless you magnify images for closer inspection, usually there's little obvious difference beyond color variation, which comes down to personal preference. In a few cases, the S9 performed worse than all three.

The phone comes out Friday with a U.S. starting price of $720 through Samsung and T-Mobile and nearly $800 through other major U.S. carriers. Here's a look at what the S9 offers.



AP file photo

The Bixby virtual assistant software of a Samsung Galaxy S9 Plus mobile phone identifies food and displays its calorie content during a product preview in New York. The Galaxy S9 phones will be available Friday.

See the light

In a first for a major smartphone, the S9 camera has an adjustable aperture, or lens opening, to let in more or less light. Low-light shots are also improved with software tricks that automatically take 12 shots in quick succession and blend the best of each.

These changes produce small improvements in shots: The evening sky tends to be darker, with less distortion. A statue of Abraham Lincoln doesn't look as grainy. Many S9 shots also have better contrast between dark and light areas.

But these differences are very subtle. What's more likely to affect picture quality is the steadiness of your hands.

Freezing motion

The most distinctive feature in Samsung's new camera is super-slow-mo video. People appear frozen as they jump. Waterfalls seem at peace as drops trickle down. The feature offers a fresh perspective on that time-honored prank of having fake snakes pop out of a can — not so scary when the snakes float in thin air.

It's a gimmick, but loads of fun.

The camera can process only a fifth of a second of video at a time — stretched into six seconds when viewing — so auto detection is key to capturing the right moment. It's fun to see people jump up at this speed, but less so when the super-slow-mo part doesn't kick in until they're almost back on the ground. There's a lot of trial and error involved.

And compared with still images and regular video, super-slow-mo video tends to be darker and blurrier, particularly with close-ups. The feature is at its best outdoors, when lighting is good and the subject in motion is far enough away.

Say what?

Samsung's Bixby digital assistant taps the camera for instant translations. Just point the phone at a sign and see it in English (or your chosen language) with similar fonts and colors.

Bixby was more reliable at picking up text than a similar Google Lens feature on Pixel phones. But stop signs in Thai, Portuguese and French were translated as "first," "shield," and "crazy." Bixby got Indonesian right, though. And it can deal with long passages in posters and documents.

You are what you eat

Point the camera at food for nutritional information. It gave me close-enough calorie counts for a burger and onion rings, but a roast beef sandwich was misidentified as either a pastrami or a cubano sandwich, depending on the angle.

All counts are based on single servings, which isn't as useful as Bixby telling me the mac and cheese I had was actually three servings, or triple the calories. Unreported calories don't contribute to weight gain, right?

What else?

The larger S9 Plus model has a second lens with twice the magnification. Though I didn't test this model, a similar feature in other phones is essential for producing better close-ups.

Both S9 models have a feature for turning selfies into personal emojis for sharing in messages. Some people will love this; I found no use for it. Next!

The new phone is easier to unlock by looking at it. Past Samsung phones scan your iris, but they don't work reliably in bright sunlight. The S9 supplements that with facial recognition, which isn't as secure. For that reason, Samsung won't let banking and other sensitive apps use just the face, but it's OK for unlocking the phone (you can disable it if you're concerned). In any case, glasses can still be challenging, but there's a fingerprint sensor on the back as a backup. It's moved slightly to reduce smudges on the camera lens.

Beyond that, the phone's design hasn't changed much from last year's S8. But that's OK. No need to fix what isn't broken. What matters is what the phone does — and shoots.

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Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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MONDAY PRIME TIME — MARCH 12, 2018

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

BROADCAST		G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	American Idol "Auditions" The auditions continue in New York and Los Angeles. (N)				The Good Doctor "Pain" (N)		News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Kevin Can Wait	Man With a Plan (N)	Superior Donuts	Mentally (N)	Scorpion "Dirty Secret, Done Dirt Cheap"		CBS 7 News (N)	(:35) The Late Show		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Mama's Family	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Moesn "The Case of the Weary Watchdog"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lucifer "Let Pinhead Sing!" (N)		The Resident "The Elopement" (N)		Fox 34 News (N)	WWE	Mom	Modern Family	Modern "Arrested"	Mid Your Mother
KMLM	IND	11	12	12	11	11	Odds for Families	The Wings of Tenth	Update News	Maud Edon	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Update News	Memorial	Magic Course	Sounds of Shofar
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Newsfirst 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 Now	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Part Five" (N)				Good Girls "Bookseller" (N)		Newsfirst 9 (N)	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour (N)		Mister Rogers: It's You I Like		Little Women: A Timeless Story		PBS Previews		Amanpour (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Stories
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		El Rico y Lazaro		Papa a Toda Madre		Por Amar Sin Ley		Noticias Telex	Noticiero noche.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	SVU "A Single Life"		Law & Order: S.V.U.		Hillbillies	Hillbillies	Anger M.	Anger M.	News	Game
FLIX		340	329		185		(5:00) 'PG' Return to Me		'PG' ★★ Assassination Tango Robert Duvall,						'PG' ★★ Autumn in New York		(:45) 'PG' ★ Sunshine Cleaning	
HBO		300	306	14	91		Last Week	Last Week	(:15) 'PG' Kill the Irishman						Here and Now	Last Week		'PG' ★★ The Great Wall
HBO2		302	308	15	109	29	(5:00) 'R' Split		Here and Now (N)		Hillbillies	Notes From the Field						'R' King Arthur: Legend of the Sword
HBOS		304	312	16	110		(5:30) 'R' ★★ Sidemen Fast Glowski				'PG' ★★★★ Get Out			Walking		'R' Willy Wonka (:15) Gene Wilder, Jack		
MAX		310	307	17	120	24	(5:00) 'R' Shots of Play		'R' ★★ The Medallion							'R' ★★ The Core (:15) Hilary Swank,		(:45) 'R' ★★★ U.S. Marshals
MAX2		312	309	18	122		(:20) 'R' ★★ Vaxi (N), Cont	Queen Latifah,					'R' Bully (:15) Nick Nolte,			(:20) 'R' ★★ S.W.A.T. Samuel L. Jackson,		Movie
PLEX					96		(5:00) 'R' Lock Nuns		'R' Clueless Gamer				(:20) 'R' ★★ Big Fat Liar			(:20) 'R' ★★ Babe's Kids		(:10) 'R' Earthquake
SHOW		320	340	19	140	25	Movie	Cartoon	Homeland				The Chi		Homeland		The Chi	Cartoon
TMC		350	339	22	150	26	(5:00) 'R' Sniper: Reb...		'R' ★★ Assault on Precinct 13				(:20) 'R' ★★ Charlie Wilson's War				'R' ★★ Ron Howard	
A&E		27	58	28	35	47	BKRAP "Allentown, Pennsylvania"		BKRAP Dallas "Portland, Oregon"		BKRAP Dallas "Idaho, Kansas" (N)		BKRAP Dallas "Europe" (N)		(:20) BKRAP Dallas		(:20) BKRAP Dallas "Portland, Oregon"	
AMC		40	74	23	42	51	(5:00) 'R' ★★★ The Departed (06, Thrill	Leonardo DiCaprio,							McMillio (N)		(:10) McMillio	Movie
BET		58	-		40		'R' Tyler Perry's Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor								'R' Good Deeds (12, Comedy) Wesley Snipes, Tyler Perry,			
BRAVO		65	76		41		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump R. (N)		Summer House (N)		Watch (N)	Vanderpump Rules		Atlanta
CNBC		46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed (N)		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN		48	50	51	30	56	Outfront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC		50	60	31	24	42	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Past W Lived (N)		Guns "Scout 65" (N)		Fast N Loud "Hot Car"		(:10) Guns "Scout 65"	
DISNEY		56	64	36	25	36	Duck'd	Duck'd	Duck'd	Duck'd	Duck'd		Gravity	Gravity	Duck'd	Mixed	Duck'd	Raven's
ESPN		32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Selection (L)		NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Houston Rockets (L)						NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Portland Trail Blazers (L)			
ESPN2		34	36	49	32	31	SportsCenter (N)		Your. Chil. (L)		Your. Chil. (L)		Your. Chil. (L)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
FNC		45	48	53	23	55	No Spin		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson	
FOOD		64	70	27	60	54	Spring Baking Champ		Spring Baking		Spring Baking		Cakes (N)	Cakes	To Be Announced		Spring Baking	
FREEFORM		53	63	34	42	33	(5:00) 'R' ★★★ The DUFF		'R' ★★ Witch (15, Com	Evo Mendes, Will Smith,					The 700 Club		'R' She's All That	
FSSW		37	38	50	45	29	Power of Sports	UFL Champ. (N)	Texas A&M National Signing Day Show		MLB Baseball Spring Training Texas Rangers vs. Kansas City Royals Site: Surprise Stadium -- Surprise, Ariz. (L)						Video Wrap (L) Jump	UFC "Diaz vs. Miller"
FX		31	56	59	64	69	(5:30) 'R' Men in Bla...		'R' ★★★ Minions: Despicable - Gru on Hidden Tom Cruise,						'R' ★★★ Men in Black 3 Will Smith,			
HALLMARK		54	71	58		34	Movie	Full House	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie
HGTV		63	69	26	48	44	Love It or List It		Hunt	Hunt	Home Town (N)		Hunt	House (N)	Hunt	House	Home Town	
HISTORY		71	59	29	59	43	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers (N)		(:05) Pawn	(:05) Pawn	(:05) Como "Intrepid"		(:05) Amer. Pickers	
LIFETIME		28	30	25	28	40	'R' I Am Elizabeth Smart (17, Cit	Jennifer Carpenter, Alana Dubo,			Mary Kills People "The Means" (N)		UnREAL "Clarity" (N)		(:05) Mary Kills People "The Means"		Mary Kills People "The Means"	
MSNBC		47	53		40	73	Rachel M. (N)		All In (N)		Rachel Maddow (N)		The Last Word (N)		The 11th Hour (N)		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN		38	43				Ochoa	Ochoa	Ochoa	Ochoa	PyeongChang 2018 Winter Paralympic Games (L)							
NICK		55	-	30	34	37	Paradise	Thunder	J.House	J.House	J.House	J.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE		30	-	55	53	50	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
SYFY		66	82	41	57	67	'R' ★★ Lara Croft: Tomb Raider				'R' ★★★ Predators (10, Sci-Fi) Adrien Brody,						'R' ★★★ The Rundown	
TBS		25	33	44	66	41	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	Final Space (N)	Conan Has Funches		Final Space	Conan
TCM		41	75	34	63	66	(5:00) 'R' A Date Wit...		'R' ★★★★ National Velvet (44, Fam	Elizabeth Taylor,							'R' ★★★★ Life With Father William Powell,	Movie
TBLE		29	-	19	29		Cake overdo (N)		Food Fest, el pr (N)		All Ohio Lada del (N)		Domingo Milano (N)		Al rojo	Thickens	All Ohio Lada del	
TNC		51	61	32	38	52	Craighead Twins: Miracle Separation		Craighead Twins: Separation Anxiety		Count On "Kendra's Birthday Surprise" (N)		(:20) People "When It Rains It Pours"		(:20) Counting On		(:10) People "When It Rains It Pours"	
TNT		24	34	40	26	50	(5:00) 'R' ★★★ Avengers: Age of Ultron (15,				The Alienist		(:20) The Alienist		(:20) Law & Order "Fame"	(:20) Law & Order "Avatar"		(:20) NCIS: New O.
TVLAND		49	-	35	54	35	M*A*S*H		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Mom	Mom	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA		26	35	42	27	49	American Ninja "Qualifying Episode 2"		WWE Monday Night Raw						(:20) Modern	(:20) Modern	(:20) Modern	(:20) Modern
WGN		19	05												Messengers "I Shall Be Released" (N)	Dateline "The Man Behind the Curtain"		Messengers "I Shall Be Released"

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Parents blame teen's friends for underage drinking episode

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.

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old daughter, "Jenny," went to a sleepover with her two best friends from school last Friday, "Penny" and "Ginger." Penny's parents went out and left the girls alone. They drank some beer. Jenny and Ginger were sober, but Penny also drank some hard liquor and got very drunk. I found out about it the following Monday after Penny texted my daughter and Ginger to tell them how upset and disappointed her parents were and that they were demanding letters of apology from all three girls.

I thought it was over the top, but realized Jenny was in the wrong. That same day Jenny wrote them an email with a heartfelt apology for disrespecting everyone by drinking in their house, for drinking their beer without permission and for allowing their daughter to get drunk (not being a true friend and trying harder to stop her).

Now, the fifth day after the email was confirmed received, my daughter is disappointed that it was never acknowledged. Penny's parents have been known to be dramatic in past dealings with other students and parents. Will you advise me on what I should do? I feel I should let it go and let Jenny figure out how she should choose her friends. She has ditched a friend who wasn't a good influence on her without us forcing her to. — JENNY'S MOM IN CANADA

DEAR MOM: There is plenty of blame to go around. Penny's parents shouldn't have left three teenagers alone with liquor available. While I can't blame them for being upset after coming home and finding their daughter smashed and the other two "tiddly," they were wrong to expect Jenny and Ginger to have prevented their daughter from misbehaving.

I do not agree that asking for a written apology was over the top. And under the circumstances, I don't think your daughter's letter needed acknowledgment. Let it go, with a firm lecture to your daughter about underage drinking and the consequences that will follow if you find out it happens again.

DEAR ABBY: A couple of years ago, I ran into "John," an old friend who was going through a divorce. We began a wonderful relationship, although he was having a hard time emotionally. I was John's confidante and best friend. About six months after the divorce was final, his ex-wife found out he was with me. She decided she wanted him back, and he reconciled with her.

John and I still talk, and since then they have broken up three or four additional times. I want him back, but only if she's completely out of the picture. She's a master manipulator and uses their adult kids and grandchildren to control him. How can I get it through John's head that if he stands his ground, she will go away and find someone else? — STAYING WITH IT IN OHIO

DEAR STAYING: If you think John's wife (ex?) will ever be completely out of the picture, you are mistaken. She will always be there in some capacity because of the children and grandchildren. If you can't accept that fact, you should end the relationship before you waste any more time.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠K ♡AK983 ◇A87 ♣AJ62

Right-hand opponent opens one diamond. What call would you make?

A — This hand is strong enough to double and bid hearts next, but there is a danger. Partner might have a distributional hand with long spades and get excited thinking that you have a spade fit. Bid one heart.

Q2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠AQ93 ♡10963 ◇107 ♣AKQ

At duplicate, what call would you make?

A — This is a balanced 15-17, and there is only one opening bid with this hand in standard bidding. Bid one no-trump. Don't worry that your values are concentrated in two suits.

Q3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠K 1063 ♡KJ ◇A8762 ♣K3

Partner opens three hearts and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

A — Bid four hearts and don't think about anything more. Indeed, partner might have trouble taking 10 tricks with this dummy.

Q4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠AQ7 ♡A 1075 ◇A642 ♣K10

Right-hand opponent opens one club. What call would you make?

A — It is usually a poor idea to bid no-trump when your distribution is suitable for a takeout double. Double.

TOPS@ iTUNES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending March 4:

Top Paid iPhone Apps:
1. Minecraft, Mojang
2. Pocket Build, MoonBear LTD
3. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
4. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
5. Sky Guide AR, Fifth Star Labs LLC
6. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
7. iSchedule, HotSchedules
8. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
9. Facetune, Lightricks Ltd.
10. NBA 2K18, 2K

Top Free iPhone Apps:
1. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
2. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
3. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
4. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
5. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
6. Bitmoji, Bitstrips
7. Helix Jump, Voodoo
8. Google Maps - GPS Navigation, Google, Inc.
9. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
10. Gmail - Email by Google, Google, Inc.

Top Paid iPad Apps:
1. Minecraft, Mojang
2. Procreate, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd
3. Pocket Build, MoonBear LTD
4. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
5. SpongeBob Moves In, Nickelodeon
6. Notability, Ginger Labs
7. My Town : Airport, My Town Games LTD
8. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon
9. GoodNotes 4, Time Base Technology Limited
10. Terraria, 505 Games (US), Inc.

Top Free iPad Apps:
1. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
2. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
3. ROBLOX, Roblox Corporation
4. The Weather Channel, The Weather Channel Interactive
5. Rules of Survival, NetEase Games
6. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
7. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
8. Kick the Buddy, Chill Fleet
9. Amazon Prime Video, AMZN Mobile LLC
10. Gmail - Email by Google, Google, Inc.

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Movies

iTunes Movies U.S. charts for week ending March 4:

iTunes Movies US Charts:
1. Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
2. Coco (2017)
3. Lady Bird
4. Darkest Hour
5. Murder On the Orient Express
6. The Shape of Water
7. Pitch Perfect 3
8. Thor: Ragnarok
9. I, Tonya
10. Ferdinand

iTunes Movies US Charts - Independent:
1. Lady Bird
2. Darkest Hour
3. The Florida Project
4. Just Getting Started
5. The Disaster Artist
6. My Friend Dahmer
7. Home Again (2017)
8. Ex Machina
9. Loving Vincent
10. The Square

Music

iTunes Official Music Charts for the week ending March 8:

Top Songs
1. God's Plan, Drake
2. Top Off (feat. JAY Z, Future &..., DJ Khaled
3. No Excuses, Meghan Trainor
4. The Middle, Zedd,Maren Morris & Grey
5. Meant to Be (feat. Florida Georgia Line), Bebe Rexha
6. Whatever It Takes, Imagine Dragons
7. The Champion (feat. Ludacris), Carrie Underwood
8. Perfect, Ed Sheeran
9. You Make It Easy, Jason Aldean
10. Pray For Me, The Weeknd & Kendrick Lamar

Top Albums
1. The Greatest Showman (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
2. Hope World, j-hope
3. MEMORIES DON'T DIE, Tory Lanez
4. Black Panther The Album Music From And Inspired By, Kendrick Lamar,The Weeknd & SZA
5. Planet (Deluxe Edition), Tech N9ne
6. Evolve, Imagine Dragons
7. Coco (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
8. ZOMBIES (Original TV Movie Soundtrack), Various Artists
9. Hamilton, Original Broadway Cast of Hamilton
10. ÷, Ed Sheeran

Source: Apple Inc.

Windows 10 S OS is changed into 'S mode'

By Hayley Tsukayama
Washington Post

Less than a year after introducing Microsoft Windows 10 S, a lightweight version of Microsoft's operating system marketed to students and businesses, the company is now folding the separate systems' main features into every version of Windows.

Windows 10 S will now become "S mode" in Windows 10 Home, Windows Pro PC and Windows 10 Enterprise, according to a Wednesday blog post from Microsoft corporate vice president Joe Belfiore. The change is prompted, in part, by feedback that having so many versions of Windows was confusing, Belfiore said.

The system, which lets people run apps only from Microsoft's app store, was introduced last May and seen as a close competitor to Google's Chrome OS. It was particularly marketed to elementary, middle and high school students — a market Google dominates in the United States — as a more streamlined and secure system, ideal for parents and teachers looking for a way to limit their children's computers.

Windows 10 S users always had the option to switch to the normal version of Windows, for $49. Now, any Windows user will be able to switch in and out of S mode free. The announcement follows reports from the tech blog Thurrott earlier this month that 10 S would merge into Windows 10.

Google, Apple and Microsoft have all worked hard to get their devices into classrooms. The education market is strategically important to tech companies, which see a foothold in the classroom as a way to familiarize kids with their technology.

That strategy doesn't always translate into making lifelong customers. Analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights noted that Apple, which held the education market for years, has never overtaken Windows in offices.

Still, the education market is a focus for Microsoft. It's made some gains against Google, which still dominates the sector with 58.3 percent of market share, according to a Wednesday report from the analysis firm FutureSource. Apple, which has worked to get iPad tablets into schools, saw its share slip slightly, the report said.

FutureSource estimated that, overall, the market grew 11 percent last year, to a total of 29.2 million units in the United States.

Making Windows 10 S into a mode for all versions of Windows is a good move for Microsoft, Moorhead said, and could give the company an easier path into schools. If schools, for example, want to use virtual reality on classroom computers, it's now free and easy to convert a locked-down laptop into a full-featured one.

"This is just different packaging; it's simpler," he said.

False

From 1B

The MIT study took the 126,285 stories and checked them against six independent fact-checking sites — snopes.com, politifact.com, factcheck.org, truthorfiction.com, hoax-slayer.com and urbanlegends.about.com— to classify them as true, false or mixed. Nearly two-thirds were false, just under one-fifth were true, and the rest were mixed.

The six fact-checking websites agreed with each other on classification at least 95 percent of the time, plus two outside researchers did some independent fact-checking to make sure everything was OK, said co-author Sinan Aral, an MIT management professor.

Lead author Soroush Vosoughi, an MIT data scientist, said the three false stories that traveled the farthest and fastest were about a Muslim guard called a hero in the Paris bombings of 2015; an Iraq war veteran finishing as runner-up to Caitlyn Jenner for an ESPN courage award; and an episode of "The Simpsons" that had a story line in 2000 about a Trump presidency. (It was in 2015.)

University of Pennsylvania communications professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a co-founder of factcheck.org, had problems with the way the study looked at true and false stories. The MIT team characterized a story's truth on a 1-to-5 scale, with 1 being completely false. Factcheck.org looks more at context and does not label something either true or false, Jamieson said.

She also suggested that calling this bogus information "false stories" does not capture how malignant it is. She said it would "better be called viral deception, VD, And treated as analogous to venereal disease."

The researchers looked at obvious bots — automated accounts — and took them out. While the bots tweeted false information at a higher rate than humans, it wasn't that much of a difference, and even without bots, lies still spread faster and farther, Roy said.

David Lazer, a political and computer scientist at Northeastern University who wasn't part of the study but wrote an accompanying report, praised the MIT research but said the scientists may have missed a lot of bots and cyborgs — sort of in-between humans. His ongoing, not-yet-published research has found that about 80 percent of false stories come from just one-tenth of 1 percent of users.

The researchers dug deeper to find out what kind of false information travels faster and farther. False political stories — researchers didn't separate conservative versus liberal — and stuff that was surprising or anger-provoking spread faster than other types of lies, Aral said.

"Falsehood was significantly more novel than the truth," Aral said. "It's easy to be novel when you make things up."

That fits perfectly with previous research on the psychology of fake information, said Yale University's Dan Kahan and Dartmouth College's Brendan Nyhan, scientists who study the phenomenon.

"The more strange and more sensational the story sounds, the more likely they are going to retweet," Kahan said.

Nyhan and Lazer said that while more fact-checking and education of people on how to tell fake from real can be helpful, the more effective solution will have to come from the social media platforms themselves.

Roy said the study results reminded him of the often-cited quotation that essentially says a lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth can get its boots — or pants — on. It's been attributed to Mark Twain and Winston Churchill. But that would be misinformation. Politifact traced a version of it back to Jonathan Swift in 1710.

Dominos

From 1B

But now, as Domino's claims the title of largest pizza chain by global revenue — edging out its longtime rival Pizza Hut — the Ann Arbor, Michigan-based company's relentless pursuit of digital technology appears to be quite prescient.

And it's working on automated pizza delivery with drones and driverless cars.

"We used to be a pizza company that sells online and we needed to become an e-commerce company that sells pizza," Dennis Maloney, Domino's chief digital officer, said recently in an interview. "That was one of the big aha moments that caused a lot of conversation within the company."

One question that retail analysts are asking, though, is whether this is part of an effort to eliminate jobs.

Among the company's innovations:

- An app to track a pizza is while en route to you.
- A Siri-like voice recognition system, nicknamed Dom.
- The ability to order on just about any digital device and platform.

Not only has Domino's managed to bring in more than 60 percent of its business through digital channels, it convinced a generation of pizza lovers — many of them so-called digital natives — that the company really does get them.

"Oh totally!" said Laura Khalil, 37, of Detroit, who has used the iPhone app. "They understand people's desire to have things when they want it, how they want it — and get it through the channels they use. It's genius."

Khalil — who said she loves Domino's pizza but is now trying to eat healthier — said the company caters to a quick fix.

"If I can just send a pizza emoji, I don't have to think a lot," she said. "And their pizza is really good. I don't think any of this would work if their product was disgusting. What I love most about their app is it answered the No. 1 question I always had: Where is my pizza?"

A decade ago, Domino's started its digital transformation with its Pizza Tracker, a system to track pizzas on their way to their destination. Over the years, it rolled out all sorts of innovations.

At first, there was skepticism — and even some ridicule.

Some of it was even within the company.

"There was a lot of pushback across the board from a lot of folks," Maloney said.

In 2013, Domino's put a camera in a kitchen and live-streamed it. It called the feature "Domino's Live." It was not quite reality TV. There was just video, no audio, and it was only in one store in Salt Lake City. Domino's officials said they hoped the behind-the-scenes show would be entertaining to watch.

To many, it really wasn't.

But, the video made headlines and gave the company a chance to tout its commitment to technology.

Then, the next year, Domino's created an app that let you order — and pay — from your Ford vehicle.

At the time, Domino's president and CEO said, it was "one of the coolest in a long list of recent technology innovations for Domino's," and added that about 40 percent of its sales were generated by online orders.

He may have been exaggerating about it being cool.

But, again, it was an innovation that made headlines. By the end of the year, Domino's offered yet another technological advance: Dom, the company's Siri-like order-taking voice aimed at making online ordering a more conversational experience and putting Domino's in the company of tech innovators such as Apple.

"What'll ya have?" Dom could ask.

Domino's, however, kept investing in new ways to order pizzas online — and to appeal to customers who were eager to use digital technology. It also went a step further by trying to innovate delivery.

In 2015, Domino's unveiled a retrofitted subcompact named DXP after a code for its delivery driving experts. It was designed to keep up to 80 pizzas warm from store to door and cost between $20,000 and $25,000 each for a franchise.

It also added a feature that let customers order via Twitter using a pizza emoji.

That led, in 2016, to the AnyWare campaign: Order from your phone by calling, texting, tweeting, using Facebook messenger; from your smartwatch; from your computer and tablet using the company website, Slack; from your car, from a button on your Samsung TV remote, and by using clicks, characters or voice commands to Dom, Alexa, Echo and Google Home.

But, the technology didn't always work.

Executives said the company was learning, improving — and using the innovation to not just sell pizzas, but also market the company to customers — and its investors — hungry for that kind of technology. Maloney called the tech "fantastic public relations stories" in a Wired magazine article.

By 2017, the company had enhanced its technology. It also began offering a pizza wedding registry — and even tried drone delivery in New Zealand, and driverless car deliveries in Ann Arbor, with future tests set in Florida's Miami-Dade County.

Domino's said it believes driverless-car delivery is "where the industry is going"

Automated delivery seems inevitable.

"It probably won't come as fast as everybody is saying, but faster than anybody believes," Maloney said. "We are well past the conversation now if autonomous vehicles are coming. Now, it's a question of when and how."

So far, he added, the company has learned that customers are open to the technology.

Ken Nisch, chairman of the retail design firm JGA in Southfield, Mich., points out that while Domino's technology tells a good story, it also, ultimately, may be aimed at reducing its future operating expenses by cutting labor costs.

The company — and others like it — are trying to build a runway to artificial intelligence and automation, he said. To do that, it has to get customers comfortable with technology and get the company ready for a digital interface instead of a human one.

"It takes the biggest variable out, which is labor," he said.

Retailers are moving in a direction that uses more voice recognition and activation that makes it easier for customers to make purchases and gives the company more information about the buyer, Nisch said.

He said it looks like Domino's is putting their investment in technology.

In response, Domino's said that a high-tech future may mean fewer jobs to take phone orders or deliver pizza, but it also means more jobs in tech to keep the innovations — and orders — coming in, and the company's website promises that more technology is "coming soon."

If only Dom could tell us what it is.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

People

From 1B

workarounds to human-labeled data, often without success.

In a project that used Google Street View images of parked cars to estimate the demographic makeup of neighborhoods, then-Stanford researcher Timnit Gebru tried to train her AI by scraping Craigslist photos of cars for sale that were labeled by their owners.

But the product shots didn't look anything like the car images in Street View, and the program couldn't recognize them. In the end, she said, she spent $35,000 to hire auto dealer experts to label her data.

Trevor Darrell, a machine-learning expert at the University of California Berkeley, said he expects it will be five to 10 years before computer algorithms can learn to perform without the need for human labeling. His group alone spends hundreds of thousands of dollars a year paying people to annotate images.

Buses

From 1B

has simply requested that the FCC set aside special channels for its new technology.

Microsoft has said that a mix of its TV white spaces technology, satellite internet and other connection methods could prove economically transformative for rural Americans who lack reliable access to broadband.

healthy living

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Chaps look to continue strong play at own tourney

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Midland College sophomore golfer Michael Salazar hasn't been surprised with the way the Chaparrals have played this year.

Despite a coaching change and some new faces, the Chaps have won five of the seven tournaments they have played this year and are ranked No. 3 in the latest NJCAA Division I men's golf rankings.

MC looks to continue their strong play when it hosts the Omega Treating Chemical/Green Tree Invitational today and Tuesday at Green Tree Country Club. The teams will play 36 holes today and then the final 18 holes on Tuesday.

Other teams participating will be fellow Western Junior College Athletic Conference teams No. 10 Odessa College, No. 17 New Mexico Junior College and New Mexico Military Institute, as well as No. 18 Ranger College, Jacksonville College and McMurry University.

So far this spring, the Chaps tied for first at a tournament in Victoria and then won the Sonny Wiggington Intercollegiate Tournament in Roswell, New Mexico, late last month.

Bruce

"I think we've been playing well. We've been putting up good (scores) in the first round and in the second round, and we've been consistent," said Salazar, a returning NJCAA All-American. "I think the freshman that we have are really talented, and we're all focused on trying to make to nationals this year and win it."

First-year MC coach Walt Williams, who took over the program after the retirement of Delnor Poss, said a key to his team's success has been the steady play of his top two players in freshman Callum Bruce and Salazar. Bruce has won four individual titles this year, while Salazar has won one of his own and has been consistently in the top 5.

Salazar

"The top two guys have played really, really well," Williams said. "Callum Bruce is one of the top players in the country. He's been really steady this season. He hasn't had one round where he's shot above 75. He's just a really nice competitor and a nice young man.

"The guys are working really hard, and it's been a lot of fun."

Bruce, who is from Scotland, is ranked fourth the NJCAA, while Salazar is ranked sixth according to Golfstat.

Bruce said consistency has been key for him.

"If I play well, I will have a chance this week," he said. "We've been playing really well. We tied for first place in one, and we won our second tournament this spring. All the guys are focused, and we get along really well. We like our chances to win at nationals this year."

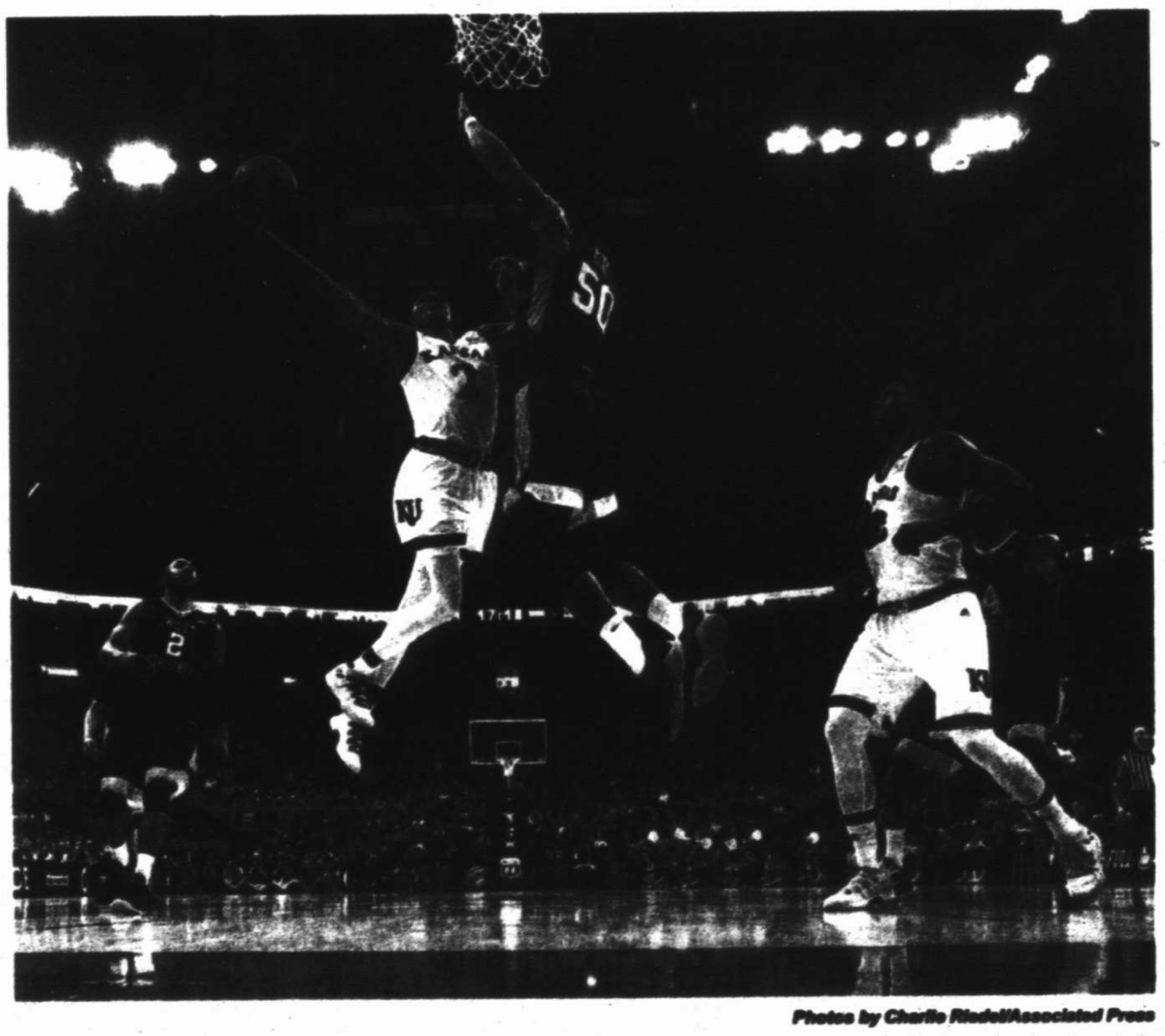
The Chaps should like their chances this week, especially because they're playing at a course they know so well.

"Playing here is a major advantage," Bruce said. "We've all played the course numerous times so we all know how putts break, the pins, and we know what to expect from the course."

Added Salazar: "I think we all feel comfortable playing here. We all know where to miss the ball, and things like that. We're

Please see CHAPS/4C

Tournament in controversy



Photos by Charlie Riedel/Associated Press

ABOVE: Kansas' Lagerald Vick (2) puts up a shot under pressure from West Virginia's Sagaba Konate (50) during the second half of the Big 12 men's championship game Saturday in Kansas City, Mo. Kansas won 81-70. BELOW: Kansas' Lagerald Vick falls to the floor after his shot was blocked by Sagaba Konate (50).

Virginia gets top billing for March Madness

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

From the top seed in the NCAA Tournament — Virginia — to those that barely made it into the bracket — Arizona State and Syracuse — it feels as though everyone involved in March Madness is on the bubble this year.

College basketball is in trouble.

The brackets came out Sunday, replete with the usual fanfare. Villanova, Kansas and Xavier joined Virginia as No. 1 seeds, but they, along with the other 64 contenders, will play against the backdrop of an investigation-riddled season in which bribes and payoffs made bigger headlines than 3s and layups.

The tournament begins Tuesday with opening-round games featuring a matchup of bubble teams UCLA and St. Bonaventure, then kicks into full swing Thursday and Friday at eight sites around the country.

The Final Four is March 31 and April 2 in San Antonio. Shortly after that, a commission led by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is expected to deliver recommendations from an investigation triggered by an FBI probe that

Please see VIRGINIA/3C

UTPB prevails over Regis in 4OTs, next plays WT

By Jaydon Hart
MRT Correspondent

CANYON— It took four overtimes, but the No. 19-ranked UTPB men's basketball team defeated No. 22-ranked Regis, 130-124, in a second-round game of the NCAA Division II Tournament's South Central Regional, Sunday at First United Bank Center.

With the come-from-behind win UTPB (26-6) advances to Tuesday's 7 p.m. region final against West Texas A&M (30-3), which beat the Falcons in the Lone Star Conference Tournament championship game last Sunday in Frisco.

In one of the best basketball games in Division II all season, UTPB struggled to get things going against Regis (27-6) in the first half, allowing them to make five 3-pointers to open on a 19-4 run in the first four minutes.

During the run, Regis did not miss any of it 3-point attempts and held UTPB to 3-of-10 shooting from the field.

Francis

The Falcons fought back in the first behind the leadership of senior guard Dazshon Francis, who helped UTPB cut into the Regis lead to eight points at one point, before Regis went on a 9-2 run to add to their lead.

At halftime Regis led UTPB 55-37, in large part from the team's excellent outside shooting.

Led by Jarrett Brodbeck, Regis shot 62.5 percent from 3 in the first half.

Brodbeck accounted for 6 of 10 made 3s and had 22 points going into halftime.

The teams trades blows throughout the second half with the Falcons slowly cutting into Regis' lead.

Things really started to pick things up at the ten-minute mark when UTPB went on a 9-1 run.

After fighting its way back, UTPB took the lead over Regis with one minute to go on a Sammy Allen jumper, 89-88.

Regis drove right down the floor and Christian Little was fouled to have an opportunity to retake the lead at the free-throw line.

Little made his first attempt but missed his second leaving the score tied, allowing the Falcons an opportunity to win the basketball game with 2.5 seconds remaining.

Please see UTPB/2C

Casey wins at Innisbrook, Woods comes up short

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — A long victory drought on the PGA Tour finally ended Sunday, just not the one a raucous crowd was expecting.

Paul Casey closed with a 6-under 65 and won the Valspar Championship, but only after watching from the locker room as Tiger Woods came up one putt short of forcing a playoff. It was the closest Woods has come to winning in nearly five years.

Casey, who started the final round five shots behind, ran off three straight birdies early on the back nine at Innisbrook to take the lead, and he closed with four par saves to post at 10-under 274.

No one caught him, giving him his second PGA Tour title and his first since the Houston Open in 2009.

Patrick Reed was tied for the lead and appeared headed for a playoff at worst until his approach to the 18th came back down the slope, and his 45-foot birdie putt was so weak that it rolled all the way back to his feet. He three-putted for bogey and a 68.

Woods and his massive following went dormant after an opening birdie to briefly share the lead. He went 15 holes without a birdie until he brought Innisbrook to life with a birdie putt from just inside 45 feet that died into the cup at the par-3 17th, leaving him one shot behind with one hole to play.

Woods played conservatively with an iron off the 442-yard, uphill closing hole on the Copperhead course. From 185 yards, his approach came up some 40 feet short, and his birdie putt to force a playoff was 2 feet short.

He closed with a 70 — the first time since The Barclays in 2013 that he posted all four rounds under par on the PGA Tour — and tied for second. That was his best finish since he tied for second at that Barclays tournament, right about the time his back started to give out.

Casey had gone 132 starts on the PGA Tour since winning in Houston, though he had won five times worldwide, including the European Tour's flagship event at the BMW PGA Championship. He had seven top 5s in the FedEx Cup playoffs over the last three years.

Someone always played better — until Sunday.

Corey Conners, the Canadian rookie who started the final round with a one-shot lead, fell back quickly after opening with a bogey on the easiest hole at Innisbrook. He shot 77 and tied for 16th.

Woods looked closer than ever to winning in his remarkable return from fusion surgery on his lower back last April. Each week has been a little better. He has been a factor on Sunday the last two tournaments, and a gallery that stood 10-deep around just about every green could sense it.

He just couldn't deliver after a two-putt birdie on the par-5 opening hole.

"I didn't feel that sharp with my iron game," Woods said. "I played conservatively into the green because I wasn't as sharp as yesterday. It was one of those days I kept getting half-shots."

He missed birdie chances on both par 5s on the back nine, pulling a wedge into the rough at No. 11 and three-putting from 80 feet on No. 14. He missed a couple of putts in the 15-foot range. And right when it looked as though he was out of chances, he ran into the 45-foot birdie putt to keep everyone guessing.

Next up for Woods is the Arnold Palmer

Please see VALSPAR/4C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

College Softball

Georgia at Arkansas, 6 p.m., SEC

Hockey

AHL: Laval at Toronto, 1 p.m., NHL

Major League Baseball

Spring Training: Washington at Detroit, Noon, MLB

Spring Training: Cincinnati at LA Angels, 3 p.m., MLB

Spring Training: Texas at Kansas City, 8 p.m., FSSW

Men's College Basketball

CIT: Central Michigan at Fort Wayne, 11 a.m., CBSSN

CIT: Abilene Christian at Drake, 1 p.m., CBSSN

CIT: North Carolina A&T at Liberty, 5 p.m., CBSSN

CIT: Hartford at San Diego, 9 p.m., CBSSN

National Basketball Association

San Antonio at Houston, 7 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP, FSSW+

Miami at Portland, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

Paralympics

Alpine Skiing: Men's & Women's Super Combined; Biathlon; Sled Hockey: USA vs. Korea, 8 p.m., NBCSN

Tennis

ATP/WTA: BNP Paribas Open, 1 p.m., TENNIS

Women's College Basketball

NCAA Women's Selection Show, 6 p.m., ESPN

RADIO

National Basketball Association

San Antonio at Houston, 7 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

JC Golf

Midland College Omega Treating Chemical Green Tree Invitational, Green Tree CC

JC Softball

Midland College at Central Arizona (DH), noon

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Optioned LHPs Jalen Beeks and Williams Jerez and RHPs Ty Buttrey and Chandler Shepherd to Pawtucket (IL). Reassigned C Austin Rei, INFs Michael Chavis and Esteban Quiroz, OFs Jeremy Barfield and Steve Selsky and RHPs Kyle Martin and Fernando Rodriguez Jr. to minor league camp.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned RHP Jesus Reina to Salt Lake (PCL).

MINNESOTA TWINS — Released RHP Anibal Sanchez.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Released RHP Tony Zych. Optioned RHPs Nick Rumbelow and Andrew Moore to Tacoma (PCL).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned RHP Brent Honeywell to Durham (IL).

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with 2B Luis Mendez on a minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Optioned 1B Rowdy Tellez to Buffalo (IL).

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned LHP Jared Miller and RHP Jake Bamett to Reno (PCL).

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Adbert Alzolay, Eddie Butler, Oscar De La Cruz, Carl Edwards Jr., Luke Farrell, Cory Mazzoni, Dillon Maples, Alec Mills, Jen-Ho Tseng and Duane Underwood Jr.; LHPs Mike Montgomery, Randy Rosario and Rob Zastryzny; Cs Victor Caratini and Wilson Contreras; INFs Javier Baez and David Bote; and OFs Albert Almora Jr., Kyle Schwarber and Mark Zagunis on one-year contracts.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Assigned RHP Ricardo Pinto to Lehigh Valley (IL).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

ATLANTA HAWKS — Signed G Jaylen Morris to a second 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NEW YORK GIANTS — Released CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ARIZONA COYOTES — Assigned D Andrew Campbell to Tucson (AHL). Recalled F Dylan Strome from Tucson on an emergency basis.

BOSTON BRUINS — Reassigned G Dan Vladar from Providence (AHL) to Atlanta (ECHL).

BUFFALO SABRES — Assigned Fs Justin Bailey and Danny O'Regan to Rochester (AHL). Reassigned F Vaclav Karabacek from Rochester to Cincinnati (ECHL).

CALGARY FLAMES — Terminated the emergency recall of G Jon Gillies and assigned him to Stockton (AHL). Activated G Mike Smith from injured reserve.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled G Callum Booth from Florida (ECHL) to Charlotte (AHL).

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled F Matt Iacopelli from Indy (ECHL) to Rockford (AHL).

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Reassigned F Vladislav Kamenev to San Antonio (AHL). Recalled G Spencer Martin from San Antonio.

American Hockey League

BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS — Assigned D Mike Connell to Worcester (ECHL).

HARTFORD WOLF PACK — Returned G Jeff Jakaitis to South Carolina (ECHL).

PROVIDENCE BRUINS — Released F Tanner Pond from his professional tryout agreement. Reassigned F Lindsey Sparks to Atlanta (ECHL).

ROCHESTER AMERICANS — Assigned Fs Daniel Mustio Bagenda and Alex Kile to Cincinnati (ECHL).

SAN JOSE BARRACUDA — Returned G Jeremy Brodeur to Allen (ECHL). Recalled G Stephon Williams from Allen.

ECHL

ECHL — Suspended Rapid City F Andrew Miller indefinitely.

ADIRONDACK THUNDER — Traded F Andrew Radjenovic to Rapid City for F Kenton Miller.

ATLANTA GLADIATORS — Released G Carmine Guerriero.

FLORIDA EVERBLADES — Released D Vincent Muto.

FORT WAYNE KOMETS — Released D Brandon Lubin.

SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS — Signed F Tyler Whitney to an amateur tryout agreement. Released G Brett Epstein as emergency backup.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	48	17	.742	—
x-Boston	46	21	.687	3½
Philadelphia	36	29	.554	12½
New York	24	43	.358	25½
Brooklyn	21	46	.313	28½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	38	29	.567	—
Miami	36	31	.537	2
Charlotte	29	38	.433	9
Orlando	20	47	.299	18
Atlanta	20	47	.299	18

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	38	27	.585	—
Indiana	39	28	.582	—
Milwaukee	35	31	.530	3½
Detroit	30	36	.455	8½
Chicago	23	43	.348	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	52	14	.788	—
New Orleans	38	28	.576	14
San Antonio	37	29	.561	15
Dallas	21	46	.313	31½
Memphis	18	49	.273	34

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	40	26	.606	—
Minnesota	39	29	.574	2
Oklahoma City	39	29	.574	2
Denver	37	30	.552	3½
Utah	37	30	.552	3½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	51	16	.761	—
L.A. Clippers	38	29	.564	14
L.A. Lakers	29	38	.446	21
Sacramento	21	46	.313	30
Phoenix	19	49	.279	32½

x-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's Scores

Toronto 132, New York 108
Chicago 129, Atlanta 122
Minnesota 109, Golden State 103
Utah 116, New Orleans 99
Denver 130, Sacramento 104
Houston 105, Dallas 82
Indiana 99, Boston 97
Philadelphia 120, Brooklyn 97
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, late

Today's Games

Milwaukee at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 7 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 9:30 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	69	46	17	4	100	259	191
Boston	67	43	16	8	94	235	172
Toronto	69	40	22	7	87	239	197
Florida	66	34	25	7	75	202	207
Detroit	65	28	31	11	67	177	205
Montreal	68	25	31	12	62	173	214
Ottawa	67	23	33	11	57	181	233
Buffalo	68	22	35	12	56	165	234

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	70	49	28	4	84	232	211
Washington	68	39	23	7	85	205	200
Philadelphia	69	35	23	11	81	205	202
New Jersey	69	35	28	6	76	204	205
Columbus	68	35	28	5	77	183	183
Carolina	68	30	27	11	71	181	205
N.Y. Islanders	68	30	29	10	70	202	245
N.Y. Rangers	69	30	32	7	67	185	221

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	68	44	14	10	98	222	172
Winnipeg	68	41	18	9	91	227	179
Minnesota	69	39	23	7	85	216	188
Dallas	69	36	25	8	80	189	189
Colorado	68	36	24	8	80	215	202
St. Louis	68	36	27	5	77	197	189
Chicago	70	30	32	8	68	199	237

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	69	44	19	5	93	232	185
San Jose	68	38	23	9	85	189	168
Anaheim	69	34	23	12	80	189	189
Los Angeles	68	37	25	6	80	197	173
Calgary	70	34	28	10	78	197	208
Edmonton	68	30	34	4	64	189	221
Vancouver	68	28	34	6	62	189	224
Arizona	67	21	35	11	53	162	219

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's Games

Chicago 3, Boston 1
N.Y. Islanders 5, Calgary 2
Pittsburgh 3, Dallas 1
Vancouver at Arizona, late

Today's Games

Vegas at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Winnipeg at Washington, 6 p.m.
Montreal at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Anaheim, 9 p.m.
Detroit at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SOUTH

Georgia St. 74, Texas-Arlington 61
Kentucky 77, Tennessee 72

EAST

Davidson 59, Rhode Island 57
Penn 69, Harvard 65

MIDWEST

Cincinnati 59, Houston 55

FAR WEST

Cal St.-Fullerton 71, UC Irvine 55

MLB SPRING TRAINING GLANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Houston	12	5	.706
New York	11	5	.688
Cleveland	10	7	.588
Minnesota	8	6	.571
Oakland	8	6	.571
Baltimore	8	8	.500
Boston	8	8	.500
Chicago	8	8	.500
Toronto	8	8	.500
Kansas City	7	7	.500
Detroit	7	8	.467
Tampa Bay	7	8	.467
Los Angeles	7	9	.438
Seattle	6	10	.375
Texas	5	10	.333

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Chicago	11	4	.733
Milwaukee	10	5	.667
Los Angeles	10	6	.625
San Francisco	9	6	.600
San Diego	9	7	.563
Arizona	8	7	.533
Atlanta	8	8	.500
St. Louis	8	8	.500
Pittsburgh	7	7	.500
Washington	7	8	.467
Philadelphia	6	9	.400
Colorado	6	10	.375
New York	5	10	.333

Sunday's Games

Detroit 6, Atlanta 2
Baltimore 7, Boston 6
Minnesota 4, Tampa Bay 4
Miami 7, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 4, Washington 3
Pittsburgh 6, Toronto 0
Houston 5, N.Y. Mets 2
Chicago White Sox 6, Arizona 5
Oakland 7, Chicago Cubs 2
Cleveland (ss) 5, Kansas City 1
Milwaukee 5, Cleveland (ss) 4
Cincinnati 6, Seattle 5
L.A. Dodgers 10, Colorado 7
L.A. Angels 4, Texas 3
San Francisco 5, San Diego 4
Baltimore 4, Philadelphia 0

Today's Games

Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Washington vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Boston vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla., 1:07 p.m.
San Diego vs. Kansas City (ss) at Surprise, Ariz., 2:05 p.m.
Milwaukee vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Texas (ss) vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Colorado vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Philadelphia vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 5:05 p.m.
Minnesota vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 5:05 p.m.
Texas (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 5:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 5:40 p.m.

Lady Chaps split against Phoenix College

From staff reports

PHOENIX — The Midland College softball team split a doubleheader at Phoenix College on Sunday, losing the first game 2-0, before rallying for a 3-2 win in the second game.

Phoenix College got all the runs it needed in the first game on a two-run home run by Hanna Krosky in the first inning.

That was enough for PC pitcher Kianna Carr, who scattered three hits, walked one and struck out eight in the complete-game victory.

MC's Crystine Kistner took the loss after she allowed the two runs on three hits, eight walks and six strikeouts.

MC (17-9) trailed 2-1 in the second game until it rallied for two runs in the top of the sixth inning.

Shaye Simms was 2-for-3 with a walk and an RBI, Rayla Jacobs-Kea was 2-for-3 with a triple, RBI and a run scored, and Mackenzie Hoots scored two runs for the Lady Chaps.

Kistner came in relief of Taylor Laing and got the win after she allowed one unearned run on two hits, two walks and three strikeouts over three innings of work.

MC next plays a doubleheader at Central Arizona College at 1 p.m. today.

GAME 1
PHOENIX COLLEGE 2, MIDLAND COLLEGE 0

Midland	000	000	0	-0	3 0
Phoenix	200	000	x	-2	3 0

Crystine Kistner and Mackenzie Hoots. Kianna Carr and Kaitlyn Dennis. W – Dennis. L – Kistner. 2B – MC: Shaye Simms. HR – PC: Hanna Krosky.

GAME 2
MIDLAND COLLEGE 3, PHOENIX COLLEGE 2

Midland	010	002	0	-3	7 1
Phoenix	100	001	0	-2	3 3

Taylor Laing, Kistner (5) and Hoots. Krosky and Sabrina Ebanan and Chanish Pastinelli (7). W – Kistner. L – Krosky. 2B – MC: Shayeslynn Hoohuli; PC: Heather O'Kelly. 3B – PC: Rayla Jacobs-Kea.

Record: Midland College 17-9

Next: Midland College at Central Arizona College (DH), 1 p.m. today

Gordon, Paul lead Rockets past Mavericks

By Dave Jackson
Associated Press

DALLAS — When the Houston Rockets' MVP candidate needs a night off, they can simply elevate the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year to the starting lineup.

Or turn the ball over to an eight-time all-NBA point guard.

That's why they have the best record in the league — as Houston showed without James Harden on Sunday night. Eric Gordon scored 26 points and Chris Paul had 24 points and 12 assists as the Rockets beat the Dallas Mavericks 105-82.

Harden sat because of a sore left knee, but the team had plenty of 3-point shooting even without him.

"What's that? Thirty points a night?" Paul said of Harden's absence. "But it just gave other guys an opportunity to step up."

Houston, which had its 17-game win streak snapped Friday in Toronto, broke the game open in the third quarter after leading by only one at the break. The Rockets hit their first six 3s of the period amid a 22-10 run. They finished 17 for 45 from beyond the arc, with Gordon going 6 for 11.

Paul either scored or assisted on the first 20 points of the quarter and finished the quarter with 12 points and five assists as Houston outscored Dallas 32-16.

"He orchestrated a great game, but he has done that for about 15 years," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Houston clinched a playoff spot with the win. When asked about that achievement after the game, Gordon said: "I'd much rather have that No. 1 seed."

On that front, the Rockets moved 1 ½ games ahead of Golden State for the best record in the NBA after the Warriors lost to Minnesota earlier Sunday. Houston also holds the tiebreaker on Golden State should the teams finish with identical records.

Houston also swept the four-game season series from the Mavericks for the second year in a row.

Dwight Powell led the Mavericks with 20 points, one short of his career high, on 9-of-11 shooting. Harrison Barnes added 14. Dallas shot just 35 percent from the field, a figure that looks even worse in the context of Powell's night.

A ton of bricks

Dallas finished 33 for 94 from the field. Barnes shot 4 of 16, Dennis Smith was 2 of 12, and J.J. Barea was 2 of 9, though he had 13 assists.

From 3-point range, the Mavericks made a season-low five shots on 31 attempts, and even Dallas' normally reliable free-throw shooting was off. The team averages 77 percent from the line but hit just 11 of 18 (61 percent) Sunday.

"They are a great team, even without Harden," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "They did what they had to do, and we just couldn't make enough shots."

Matthews sits out

Mavericks guard Wesley Matthews sat out Sunday because of a right leg injury suffered in the first half of the Mavericks win over Memphis on Saturday night. He said he played through it and was ready to go Sunday, but was advised to sit out. Carlisle said Matthews wouldn't travel, at least initially, on the team's upcoming four-game road trip.

"I'm going to get an MRI tomorrow, and we'll know more then," Matthews said. "It took three heads to pull me off the court tonight."

Tip-ins

Rockets: D'Antoni said Harden should be available Monday against San Antonio. The Rockets are 5-3 without him in the lineup. ... Houston used its 13th different starting lineup of the year. ... D'Antoni was on hand in nearby Frisco, Texas, to watch his alma mater, Marshall, coached by his brother Dan, win the Conference USA Tournament final Saturday. The Thundering Herd beat Western Kentucky 67-66 for their first NCAA Tournament berth since 1987.

Mavericks: Barea assisted on nine of the Mavericks' first 10 field goals. ... Dallas signed F Jameel Warney to a 10-day contract. Warney has averaged 20 points in 40 games for the Mavericks' G-League affiliate, the Texas Legends. Warney entered in the fourth quarter and scored five points. ... In addition to Matthews, Dorian Finney-Smith and Salah Mejri sat out for the Mavericks. Finney-Smith had played Saturday after missing 51 with a quadriceps injury.

Oleksiak's late goal helps Penguins defeat Stars

By Dan Scifo
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jamie Oleksiak scored a goal against his former team to help the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Dallas Stars 3-1 on Sunday night.

Oleksiak scored his fifth of the season, while Evgeni Malkin got his 39th and added an assist. Patric Hornqvist scored a power-play goal, his 20th, to help the Penguins win for the fourth in five games.

Malkin, now with 919 points, moved past Pavel Datsyuk for fifth on the NHL's all-time points list among Russian-born players. He also equaled a season-high six-game points streak.

Pittsburgh, which rebounded from a 5-2 loss at Toronto one night earlier, jumped past Washington for first place in a tight Metropolitan Division. The Penguins, who lost six of their previous seven against Dallas, have won 14 of their last 15 overall at home.

Casey DeSmith made 17 saves for the Penguins with starter Matt Murray out for his seventh game with a concussion.

Alexander Radulov scored a power-play goal, his 25th of the season, for the Stars, who started a critical late-season stretch of six road games in 10 days with a loss against the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions. Dallas, the first wild card in the Western Conference, is 14-15-3 on the road and has just two wins in its last six games.

Kari Lehtonen, making his third straight start, stopped 27 shots.

Hornqvist opened the scoring with a first-period power-play goal.

The final pick of the 2005 NHL Draft, he has scored at least 20 goals in eight of 10 NHL seasons, including the last five. The Penguins had two goals in their last 18 power-play chances prior to Hornqvist's goal.

Oleksiak gave Pittsburgh a 2-0 lead with 3.7 seconds left in the first. The Stars drafted Oleksiak in the first round of the 2011 NHL Draft and Pittsburgh acquired the 6-foot-7, 25-year-old defenseman from Dallas on Dec. 19 for a 2019 conditional fourth-round draft pick.

Radulov scored a second-period power-play goal on a five-on-three for the Stars' first goal.

Hornqvist thought he had his second power-play goal of the game, and a 3-1 lead for Pittsburgh later in the period.

But the Stars challenged the play and the goal was overturned because Malkin went offside earlier in the sequence.

UTPB

From 1C

The Falcons put the ball in their best player's hands and Francis shot a half-court shot, but missed sending the game into overtime.

Both teams battled back in forth in the first, second, and third overtimes with UTPB having an opportunity at the end of each to win but coming up short.

Going into the fourth overtime the Falcons took control with a strong performance from Andres Villa off the bench.

Josh Morris, the Falcons' starting center, fouled out with time still left in regulation and his replacement Zeldric King fouled out in the third overtime, allowing Villa to step in and score six crucial points.

The Falcons ultimately prevailed and completely the comeback defeating Regis in what UTPB head coach Andy Newman said was one of the best basketball games he had been a part of his in his career.

"They played their hearts out, we played our hearts out, and it was one of those games it was an ashame that a team had to lose," Newman said.

"All the credit to Regis and the great season they had, what a great team, players, and coach."

Francis scored a game high 43 points, while adding 10 rebounds for a double-double. Allen grabbed his second triple double of the season finishing with 19 points, 13 rebounds, and 11 assists in the Falcons' win.

"It was win or go home, the thought of the last game with these guys motivated us to explode like we did," Francis said. "We've been through so much together and I felt like it was not time to end yet

"We knew that anything was possible in a basketball game."

The game was the seventh NCAA Division II Tournament game to go to four overtimes, tying the longest in history.

Follow Jaydon on Twitter: @JaydonHart

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4/05 6:30-8:30 Microchip Clinic at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour
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Defense lifts No. 8 Cincinnati over Houston in AAC final

By Fred Goodall
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Mick Cronin doesn't have a catchy sales pitch for the stingy brand of basketball No. 8 Cincinnati played to claw its way to the top of the American Athletic Conference.

Stellar defense was a big part of the team's drive to the league's regular-season championship.

It also served the top-seeded Bearcats well while they were winning three games in three days to capture the American's conference tournament title.

Now they'll see how far it can carry them in the NCAA Tournament.

"I can sit here and tell you about the culture and try to sell you on everything that we build at Cincinnati," Cronin said after Sunday's 56-55 victory over No. 21 Houston in the AAC final.

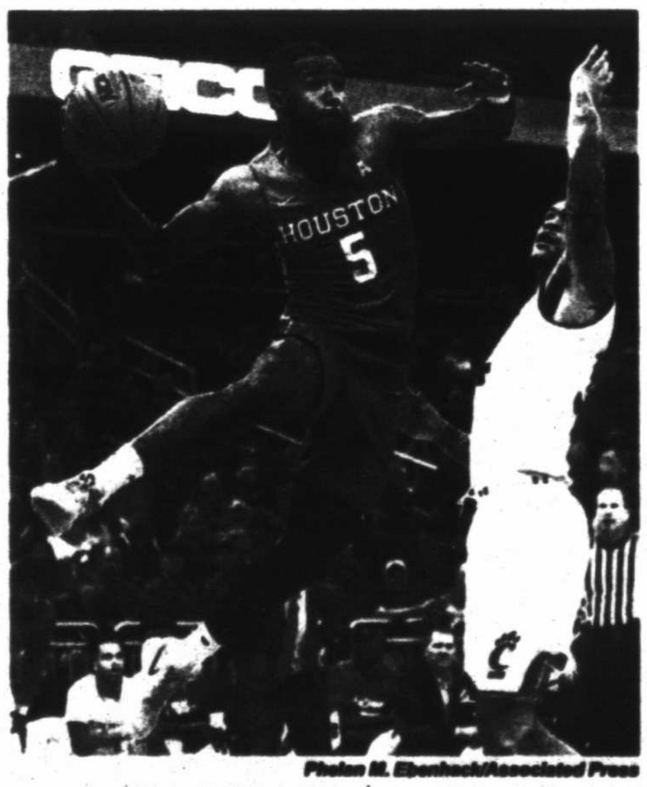
Conference player of the year Gary Clark shrugged off three free throws down the stretch to put the Bearcats (30-4) ahead for good from the foul line with 4.3 seconds remaining.

The last of his 12 rebounds provided the opportunity, with Houston's Nura Zanna being whistled for a foul for making contact on the play.

Clark finished with 20 points and the Bearcats rescued themselves for the second straight day with suffocating second-half defense, limiting Houston — one of the league's best offensive teams — to 18 points on 20 percent shooting, including 0-for-10 on 3-point attempts, after halftime.

"You can do all the talking you want, your kids got to want to win, and they have got to be willing to do the things that go into winning that do not show up in a stat sheet, that people don't text message them about, that's not going to get them on 'SportsCenter,'" Cronin said.

"You have to have talent," the Cincinnati coach added. "But you've also got to have guys that are willing to do the uncomfortable things that go into winning."



Photos M. Ebenhack/Associated Press

Houston guard Corey Davis Jr. (5) passes the ball in front of Cincinnati guard Jarron Cumberland, right, during the first half of an NCAA basketball championship game at the American Athletic Conference tournament Sunday in Orlando, Fla.

Cincinnati earned the AAC's automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament with its first conference tournament championship since winning Conference USA in 2004.

The Bearcats landed the No. 2 seed in the South Regional and will face No. 15 seed Georgia State (24-10) in Nashville, Tennessee, on Friday.

Houston (26-7), which split a pair of games against Cincinnati during the regular season, lost for just the third time in its last 15 games and is headed to the NCAA Tournament, too.

The Cougars are the No. 6 seed in the West and will play their opening game Thursday against San Diego State (22-10) in Wichita, Kansas.

Rob Gray led Houston with 17 points but missed a long 3-pointer in the closing seconds, then had a turnover that cost Houston a chance to try to win the game after Clark made one of two free throws after rebounding Gray's miss.

Cougars coach Kelvin Sampson thought Zanna shouldn't have been charged with a foul as Clark came down with the rebound.

"I would like to have had that last play decided by the players on the floor," Sampson said.

Corey Davis Jr., who had 15 points for Houston, went scoreless after helping the Cougars to a 37-35 halftime lead. Devin Davis added 13, including a jumper and layup that turned a one-point deficit into a 55-52 lead with 1:34 remaining.

Kyle Washington's 3-pointer tied the game for the final time, setting the stage for a suspenseful finish.

Houston made just 6 of 30 shots in the second half.

Davis missed all four shots attempted in the second half after going 5 of 7 on 3-pointers and helping the Cougars erase an early 10-point deficit to lead at the half.

Gray finished 6 of 22 after scoring 33 in the Cougars' victory over Wichita State in the semifinals.

His unforced error, a wild pass behind teammate Galen Robinson Jr., sailed out of bounds with 1 second left.

Sampson attributed his team's poor shooting to fatigue, noting both teams were playing their third game in three days.

"I don't care about the stats. ... Writing about stats in not the story of this game," Sampson said.

"Both these teams' kids were exhausted. ... You're going to have games like that on three games in three days," Sampson added.

Cincinnati didn't shoot the ball much better after halftime, going 6 for 18. But that didn't stop the Bearcats from getting it done on the other end of the floor.

The Bearcats rallied from a 13-point halftime deficit to beat Memphis 70-60 in Saturday's semifinals, outscoring the Tigers 41-18 in the final 20 minutes.

Cincinnati is making eighth straight to the NCAA tournament under Cronin, who is in his 12th season with the Bearcats.

Houston becomes the fourth team Sampson has led to the NCAA Tournament, joining Washington State, Oklahoma and Indiana. The Cougars appeared in the NIT the past two seasons.

Sunday's defeat was disappointing but didn't put a damper on a breakthrough season.

"Twenty-six wins. I'm not going to sit here and find something wrong with them right now," Sampson said. "They fought their hearts out. Just came up a little bit short. But they're still champions in my eyes."

VIRGINIA

From 1C

led to charges last fall against assistant coaches, agents, employees of apparel companies and others.

No fewer than a dozen of the 68 teams in the tournament have been named either in the FBI investigation or in media reports that allege coaches and others have directed payments and improper benefits to recruits and players — thus, breaking rules that go to the core of the amateur-sports code that defines and regulates both the NCAA and the "student-athletes" who make this billion-dollar business run.

They range from teams that made it into the tournament off the so-called bubble — Alabama — to one of the best teams in the country. Arizona, a No. 4 seed in the South, has been roiled by a report that wiretaps caught coach Sean Miller discussing a $100,000 payment to freshman Deandre Ayton. Miller has strongly denied the accusation, though the story line figures to follow the Wildcats through what could be a long run in the tournament.

The chairman of the NCAA selection committee, Bruce Rasmussen, has said the investigations played no part of the bracket-filling process.

And yet, it's hard to imagine there weren't some sighs of relief in the NCAA offices when some bubble teams' names were left out of the field. For instance, Louisville has lost its coach (Rick Pitino), athletic director (Tom Jurich) and latest national title (2013) in the culmination of scandals that have slammed that program for the better part of this decade.

Still, given the widespread nature of this corruption, there's at least a chance that whoever cuts down the nets in San Antonio could suffer the same fate as the Cardinals.

More certain is that once this party is over, change of some sort will be coming.

"I don't think it's just going to be a little blip on the radar," said John Tauer, the coach at St. Thomas in Minnesota, who doubles as a social psychology professor. "I think this runs deep enough and involves enough people in programs that something's got to change."

Harvick races to 3rd straight NASCAR Cup victory

By John Nicholson
Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Kevin Harvick raced to his third straight NASCAR Cup Series victory Sunday, holding off Kyle Busch for his record-extending ninth win at ISM Raceway.

Harvick patted the back window of the No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford in celebration, a nod to penalties in part fueled by social media photos last week of his buckled rear window after his victory in Las Vegas.

"I've been mad as all get out because this team does a great job," Harvick said. "This organization does a great job and we've got fast race cars. And to take that away from those guys just really (ticked) me off last week.

"To come here to a race track that is so good for us is a lot of fun and everyone was just determined this week, and we just wanted to just go stomp them. We didn't stomp them, but we won. That's all that really matters. Just proud of this team. Put a fire in our belly."

Also the winner in Atlanta after crashing and finishing 31st in the season-opening Daytona 500, Harvick is the first driver to win three straight Cup races since Joey Logano in 2015.

Harvick got in front of Busch on the last series of pit stops on the mile oval.

Rick Scuteri/Associated Press

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver Kevin Harvick (4) celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race on Sunday in Avondale, Ariz.

Busch's team dropped the jack and had trouble with the right rear tire on his stop with 53 laps left, allowing Harvick — who pitted three laps earlier — to slip ahead en route to his 40th Cup victory.

Harvick took the lead with 22 laps left when Ryan Newman finally made his last stop on the sunny afternoon after morning rain. Busch finished 0.774 seconds back.

Chase Elliott was third, followed by Denny Hamlin, pole-sitter Martin Truex Jr., Clint Bowyer, Aric Almirola, Eric Jones and Kurt Busch.

Harvick broke a tie with Busch with 14 NASCAR national-series victories at the track, also winning an Xfinity event and four Truck races. In 31 Cup starts in Phoenix, the California driver has 15 top-five finishes.

Harvick was extra motivated following the NASCAR penalties from Las Vegas.

"Actions speak louder than any words I can come up with," Harvick said.

NASCAR said Wednesday that inspectors at its research and development center in North Carolina found the Ford violated a rule requiring rear window support braces holding the glass rigid, and another requiring the right rocker panel extension to be aluminum. Harvick was penalized the seven playoff points he earned for winning the Las Vegas race and the first two stages. He was docked 20 regular points and the team lost 20 owners' points. Crew chief Rodney Childers was fined $50,000, and car chief Robert Smith suspended two races.

Harvick regained the points lead Saturday, moving 12 ahead of Busch.

Kyle Busch won the first 75-lap stage, and brother Kurt Busch took the second in a one-lap shootout after a caution period.

NASCAR Monster Energy Cup-TicketGuardian 500 Results
Sunday
At ISM Raceway
Avondale, Ariz.
Lap length: 1.00 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (10) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 312 laps, 53 points.
2. (7) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 312, 52.
3. (3) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 312, 39.
4. (8) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312, 40.
5. (1) Martin Truex Jr, Toyota, 312, 41.
6. (19) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 312, 32.
7. (22) Aric Almirola, Ford, 312, 30.
8. (15) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 312, 29.
9. (9) Erik Jones, Toyota, 312, 29.
10. (20) Kurt Busch, Ford, 312, 40.
11. (13) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 312, 26.
12. (11) William Byron, Chevrolet, 312, 25.
13. (4) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 312, 24.
14. (17) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 312, 23.
15. (25) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 312, 35.
16. (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 311, 21.
17. (16) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 311, 20.
18. (2) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 311, 27.
19. (5) Joey Logano, Ford, 311, 20.
20. (21) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 311, 17.
21. (29) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 311, 16.
22. (18) David Ragan, Ford, 311, 15.
23. (29) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Ford, 311, 22.
24. (28) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 311, 15.
25. (38) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 311, 12.
26. (8) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 310, 11.
27. (38) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 310, 0.
28. (27) David Wallace Jr, Chevrolet, 309, 9.
29. (24) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 309, 8.
30. (23) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 309, 12.
31. (34) DJ Kennington, Toyota, 309, 6.
32. (31) Michael McDowell, Ford, 309, 11.
33. (35) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, 306, 0.
34. (32) Gray Gaulding, Toyota, 304, 3.
35. (37) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 292, 2.
36. (14) Paul Menard, Ford, accident, 169, 1.
37. (33) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, engine, 23, 1.

Race Statistics
Average Speed of Race Winner: 108.079 mph.
Time of Race: 2 hours, 53 minutes, 13 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 0.774 seconds.
Caution Flags: 6 for 36 laps.
Lead Changes: 15 among 9 drivers.
Lap Leaders: M.Truex 0; K.Larson 1-59; M.Truex 31-32; K.Larson 34-57; KyBusch 58-122; B.Keselowski 124-128; KyBusch 129-147; Ku.Busch 149-159; KyBusch 164-178; K.Harvick 179-194; W.Byron 195-209; D.Hamlin 210-242; KyBusch 243-309; B.Keselowski 291-297; R.Newman 299-299; K.Harvick 291-312

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): KyBusch, 4 times for 124 laps; K.Larson, 2 times for 62 laps; K.Harvick, 2 times for 36 laps; D.Hamlin, 1 time for 32 laps; R.Newman, 1 time for 22 laps; W.Byron, 1 time for 14 laps; B.Keselowski, 2 times for 10 laps; Ku.Busch, 1 time for 5 laps; M.Truex, 2 times for 2 laps.

Wins: K.Harvick, 3; A.Dillon, 1.

Top 10 in Points: 1. K.Harvick, 168; 2. KyBusch, 156; 3. M.Truex, 156; 4. R.Blaney, 152; 5. J.Logano, 152; 6. D.Hamlin, 137; 7. B.Keselowski, 134; 8. K.Larson, 131; 9. C.Bowyer, 125; 10. A.Almirola, 122; 11. Ku.Busch, 117; 12. A.Dillon, 114; 13. R.Newman, 101; 14. P.Menard, 97; 15. E.Jones, 93; 16. A.Bowman, 91.

PRO GOLF SCORES

Champions Tour-Toshiba Classic Scores
Sunday
At Newport Beach CC
Newport Beach, Calif.
Purse: $1.8 million
Yardage: 6,604; Par 71
Final

Vijay Singh, $270,000	68-68-66—202
Scott McCarron, $132,000	67-68-68—203
Tom Pernice Jr., $132,000	64-70-69—203
Tommy Tolles, $132,000	67-71-65—203
David Toms, $66,400	72-66-67—205
David Frost, $61,200	67-71-68—206
Steve Jones, $61,200	68-69-69—206
Rocco Mediate, $61,200	71-68-67—206
Fran Quinn, $61,200	67-70-69—206
Joe Durant, $45,000	69-66-72—207
Carlos Franco, $45,000	71-69-67—207
Stephen Ames, $30,000	72-67-69—208
Tom Byrum, $30,000	68-71-69—208
John Huston, $30,000	73-70-65—208
Jeff Sluman, $30,000	72-68-68—208
Kevin Sutherland, $30,000	72-67-69—208
Scott Verplank, $30,000	67-69-72—208
Lee Janzen, $24,615	71-70-68—209
José María Olazábal, $24,615	69-70-70—209
Corey Pavin, $24,615	73-71-65—209
Esteban Toledo, $24,615	70-69-70—209
Miguel Angel Jiménez, $16,576	70-71-69—210
Brandt Jobe, $16,576	75-65-70—210
Kent Jones, $16,576	69-73-68—210
Tim Petrovic, $16,576	72-69-69—210
Woody Austin, $16,576	69-70-71—210
Jay Don Blake, $16,576	74-71-65—210
Paul Broadhurst, $16,576	75-67-68—210
Todd Hamilton, $16,576	70-70-70—210
Mark O'Meara, $16,576	69-70-71—210
Gene Sauers, $16,576	75-69-66—210
Jerry Smith, $16,576	71-67-72—210
Michael Allen, $10,665	69-70-72—211
Billy Andrade, $10,665	72-67-72—211
Michael Bradley, $10,665	71-70-70—211
John Cook, $10,665	72-69-70—211
Paul Goydos, $10,665	71-70-70—211
Scott Parel, $10,665	67-71-73—211
Joey Sindelar, $10,665	67-72-72—211
Ken Tanigawa, $10,665	69-72-71—211
Tommy Armour III, $9,280	70-74-68—212
Clin Browne, $9,280	71-69-72—212
Steve Flesch, $9,280	69-73-70—212
Fred Funk, $9,280	69-72-71—212
Mark Calcavecchia, $7,920	69-68-75—213
Billy Mayfair, $7,920	74-67-72—213
Tom Watson, $7,920	73-72-68—213
Jeff Brehaut, $6,120	71-69-75—214
Jeff Maggert, $6,120	70-72-72—214
John Daly, $4,545	71-70-74—215
Marco Dawson, $4,545	71-71-73—215
Glen Day, $4,545	69-73-74—215
Scott Dunlap, $4,545	71-70-74—215
Jay Haas, $4,545	73-70-72—215
Tom Lehman, $4,545	69-73-74—215
Larry Mize, $4,545	71-74-70—215
Wes Short, Jr., $4,545	72-70-73—215
Bernhard Langer, $3,600	70-70-76—216
Russ Cochran, $3,240	76-71-72—217
John Flaggor, $3,240	71-75-71—217
Duffy Waldorf, $3,240	72-72-73—217
Mark Brooks, $2,700	73-71-74—218
Bob Gilder, $2,700	75-70-73—218
Colin Montgomerie, $2,700	75-75-68—218
David McKenzie, $2,340	70-69-72—219
Brad Faxon, $1,980	73-71-76—220
Rod Spittle, $1,980	73-72-75—220
Kirk Triplett, $1,980	70-71-79—220
Steve Lowery, $1,638	76-73-74—221
Steve Pate, $1,638	73-76-72—221
Blaine McCallister, $1,422	71-73-79—223
Jesper Parnevik, $1,422	72-76-75—223
Greg Bruckner, $1,260	76-76-72—224
Dan Forsman, $1,188	77-75-74—226
Bob Tway, $1,116	79-75-74—228
Tom Jenkins, $1,008	76-79-77—230
Tom Purtzer, $1,008	81-71-78—230

Nare Indian Open Leading Scores
Sunday
At DLF Golf & Country Club
New Delhi
Purse: $1.70 million
Yardage: 7,417; Par: 72
Final
Wallace won on first playoff hole

Matt Wallace, England	69-70-70-69—277
Andrew Johnston, England	72-69-73-63—277
Simon Yim, United States	70-70-72-69—280
Pablo Larrazabal, Spain	67-71-74-69—281
Matthias Schwab, Austria	71-72-68-70—281
Emiliano Grillo, Argentina	68-69-70-73—280
Stephen Gallacher, Scotland	72-71-67-74—284
Shubhankar Sharma, India	73-66-73-72—284
Choi John, South Korea	70-71-72-71—283
Joost Luiten, Netherlands	71-69-74-72—286
Aaron Rai, England	71-73-69-73—286
Keith Horne, South Africa	69-73-69-69—280
Robert Rock, England	70-73-74-67—284
Clement Sordet, France	72-72-71-72—287
Hideto Tanihara, Japan	74-69-72-73—287
Shaun Norris, England	74-71-70-73—288
Jens Dantorp, Sweden	74-71-70-73—288
Ricardo Gouveia, Portugal	69-73-71-75—288
Gavin Green, Malaysia	69-73-75-71—288
James Morrison, England	70-72-77-69—288
Poraphol Pittayarat, Thailand	69-70-76-73—288
Others	
Casey O'Toole, United States	74-69-77-72—292
Paul Peterson, United States	67-73-73-77—290
Josh Teske, United States	72-74-70-75—291
Kurt Kitayama, United States	72-71-69-79—290
M. Lauren Shin, United States	73-73-77-75—298

CHAPS

From 1C

all excited for this tournament."

In addition to seeing how the Chaps stack up against quality competition like Odessa and NMJC, Williams said he would like to solidify the back of his lineup prior to some of season's biggest tournaments.

"We've been sharp for most of the year," Williams said. "As we start getting closer to the most important (tournaments) -- the state, regional and national tournament, I want to establish a solid Nos. 3, 4 and 5 spots. We've been shuffling in and out for most of the year. All of the guys have contributed, all have them played well. It's about seeing who can nail down those spots."

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

Bourdais snatches IndyCar victory on streets of St. Pete

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Sebastien Bourdais wept as he crossed the finish line Sunday for his second consecutive victory at St. Petersburg. The win was a milestone for him in his recovery from serious injuries suffered in a crash at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Across the paddock, Robert Wickens fumed at the disastrous turn of events that had cost him a victory in his IndyCar debut. He dominated the season-opening event and had the win in his grip until contact with Alexander Rossi on a restart took him out of contention.

"It would have been a fairy tale to finish that well, but sometimes it's just not meant to be," Wickens said.

Wickens led a race-high 69 of the 110 laps.

Even Bourdais, overcome with emotion after winning again on his hometown track, understood that the race had been Wickens' to win.

"I was really happy for Robert and I'm heartbroken for him," Bourdais said.

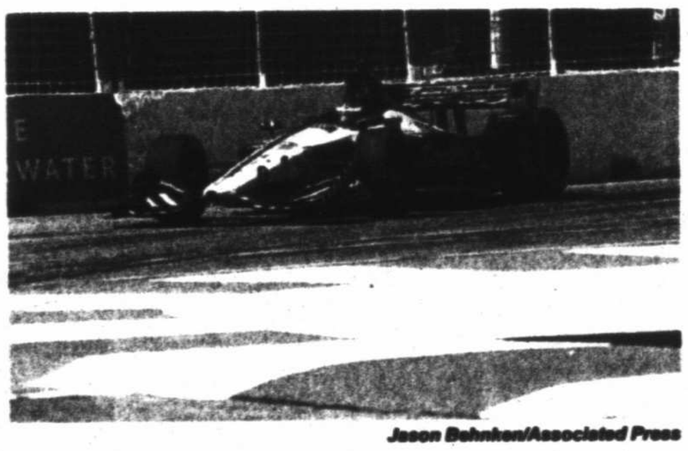
Wickens was a star in touring cars in Germany but defected to IndyCar this year at the coaxing of good friend James Hinchcliffe. Although he was one of seven rookies in the 24-car field Sunday, he is 28 and a proven winner.

He is part of an all-Canadian lineup at Schmidt Peterson Motorsports, and he and Hinchcliffe were strong the entire weekend. Wickens was only the third driver since 1993 to win the pole for his IndyCar debut — Nigel Mansell did it in '93 in Surfer's Paradise and Bourdais at St. Pete in 2003 — and the victory would have been a firm announcement of his arrival in the American open-wheel series.

Instead, two late cautions gave Rossi a chance to take it away.

On a restart with two laps remaining, Rossi tried to dive inside of Wickens entering the first turn. The two cars made contact and Wickens spun off course.

"I didn't get the best restart in the world," he said. "I defended it a little bit, I told myself that if Alex wants to go there, go for it, but he's not going to make the corner. I gave him space on the inside and I guess he just couldn't keep it and slid into me. It's a shame."



Jason Behnken/Associated Press

Sebastien Bourdais (18) races into Turn 10 before winning the IndyCar Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg on Sunday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Rossi was not penalized for the contact and finished third.

"He defended the position, which he has the right to do, but in doing so, in moving the reaction, he put me into the marbles pretty late into the corner," Rossi said. "I feel bad because I feel like I could have won and he could have gotten second.

"They made it very clear in the drivers' meeting that the rule on blocking was you can't move in reaction. If he defended the inside ... and then I continued to go to the inside down the white line, then yeah, that's my decision and that's putting my car in danger. But there's no reason why I can't pop and stay next to him. I don't have to be all four wheels in the part of the track that nobody goes on."

The American, who recently appeared on the reality TV show "The Amazing Race," said he not spoken to Wickens but imagined that Wickens was upset with him.

Wickens said he wanted to speak to series officials because he said the pace car procedure differed on the final restart from the previous one, and he didn't feel he was in control of the field.

Bourdais, meanwhile, slid by both cars from third for the victory.

"We didn't have the fastest car today, but we had consistency to get podium," Bourdais said.

He acknowledged that his tears came at the realization of how far he's come since May, when he suffered several fractures to his pelvis and a fracture to his right hip when he crashed during qualifying for the Indianapolis 500.

"This one is emotional because we had to overcome a few bumps and a ball of fire and a few broken bones to come back to this victory circle," said Bourdais, who completed his rehabilitation months ahead of schedule and was able to return to the IndyCar at the end of last season although doctors had said he'd be out until 2018.

Bourdais said he never considered not returning to racing.

"When I got the verdict of what was broken, it was never a question in my mind if I was going to continue," he said. "I guess I'm glad I did continue."

It was the 37th career victory for the Frenchman, who ranks sixth on IndyCar's all-time list. Bourdais trails Al Unser by two wins for fifth on the list.

It was the sixth victory for Dale Coyne Racing, the first since Bourdais won at St. Petersburg last year. The team this year has been bolstered by the ownership group of Jimmy Vasser and James Sullivan, which reunited Bourdais with his former bosses.

Wickens finished a heartbreaking 18th.

The race debuted IndyCar's sleek new race car that is designed to improve competition, level the playing field and cut costs. Sunday saw a race-record 366 on-track passes, breaking the mark of 323 set in 2008.

Among other happenings at St. Pete:

Sloppy start

There was some consternation about the rookies in the field, particularly three at the front at the start of the race, because of the potential for a messy start.

The slot was, indeed, not very clean. But it was the veterans who made the mistakes and IndyCar reviewed three incidents in the first nine laps of the race.

Will Power spun as he raced Wickens for the lead in the first turn of the first lap. After the Power spin, Tony Kanaan spun in an incident with Zach Veach that was reviewed.

Ryan Hunter-Reay also had to go immediately to pit road when his car wouldn't accelerate at the start of the race.

Spiderman

Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves was the grand marshal for Sunday's race, his first out of IndyCar. He gave the command to start the engines while partially hanging off one of the fences in his trademark move of celebrating wins by climbing fences like Spiderman.

Castroneves was moved by Team Penske this year from IndyCar to its new sports car program, but he will race in the Indy 500 in May.

Not being part of the IndyCar opener was difficult for Castroneves, who found himself with odd idle time at the racetrack. Although his mood was upbeat, he was most certainly disappointed not to be racing.

VALSPAR

From 1C

Invitational at Bay Hill next week, which he hasn't played since winning five years ago. He is an eight-time winner at Bay Hill, and the euphoria over his return is sure to reach even higher decibels.

"I keep getting a little bit better," Woods said. "I had a good shot at winning this golf tournament. A couple putts here and there, it could have been a different story."

Reed will look back on one putt.

He opened with a 60-foot eagle putt that slammed into the pin on No. 1 and was never far from the lead, tying Casey with a bold fairway metal onto the fringe at the 14th that set up birdie. He was in the middle of the fairway on the 18th. He twirled his club when the ball was in the air.

And then it all went wrong.

The putt up the hill never had a chance, and when it started rolling back at his feet, Reed beckoned it with his right hand. He used a wedge on the fourth shot, knowing he had to hole it for par to force a playoff.

That left Casey the winner, finally.

The 40-year-old from England had reason to believe his hopes ended on Saturday when he hit into the water on the 16th and made double bogey, falling five shots behind. He answered Sunday with all eyes on someone else — Woods — by going out in 33, and then getting rewarded for aggressive play. He got up-and-down from a bunker short of the green at No. 11 for birdie, stuffed his approach to a foot on No. 12 and then holed a 20-foot birdie from just off the green at No. 13.

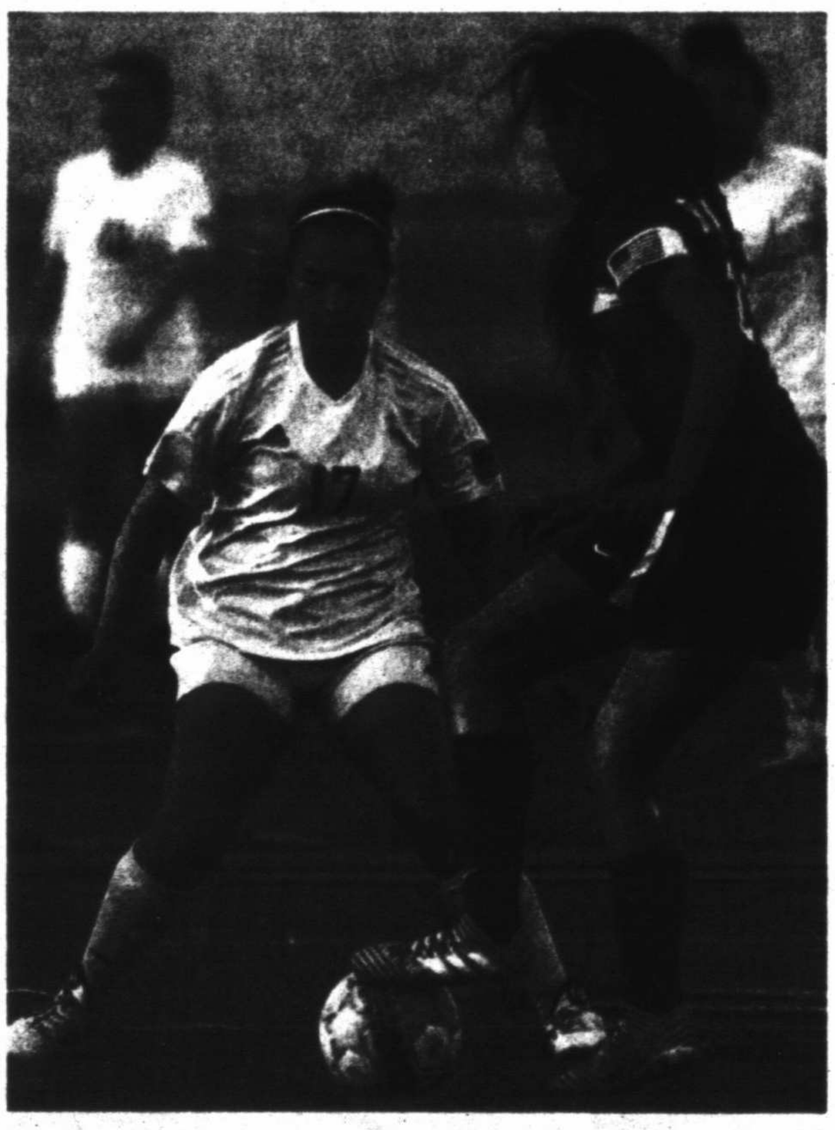
Justin Rose, among six players who had a share of the lead at some point in the final round, had back-to-back bogeys on the back nine and never atoned for his mistakes. He closed with a 72 and finished three shots behind.

PGA Valspar Championship Scores
Sunday
At Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead Course)
Palm Harbor, Fla.
Purse: $7.0 million
Yardage: 7,340; Par: 71
Final

More from this weekend

CLOCKWISE FROM-TOP: Midland High goalie Allison Robinson grabs the ball as Lee's Zoey Evans tries to get a foot on the ball Friday at Grande Communications Stadium. Midland High's Amaris Portillo looks to block a pass by Lee's Amber Luna. Greenwood's Brooks Lundgren slides safely into third beating the throw to Big Spring's Deryk Renteria on Saturday in a game at Christensen Stadium as part of the March Classic. Midland High's Brian Natividad looses control of the ball as Lee's Joseph Fontana gets a foot in Friday at Grande Communications Stadium. Midland College's Frainyer Chavez gets the force out at second on Howard College's Jaxon Williams and makes the double play to first Friday in the first game of a double header at Christensen Stadium.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram



AP sources: Free agent ace Arrieta, Phillies reach 3-yr deal

By Rob Manddi
Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Two people familiar with the deal tell The Associated Press that free agent ace Jake Arrieta and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed to a three-year deal.

Both people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Sunday because the contract is pending a physical. The deal is reportedly worth $75 million.

NBC Sports Philadelphia first reported the agreement.

The 32-year-old righty was among several top free agents who didn't get a deal for six or seven years in a changing market. The Phillies, who have plenty of money to spend, waited until the price was right for them.

Arrieta won the 2015 NL Cy Young Award with the Chicago Cubs and helped them win the World Series the next season. He was 14-10 with a 3.53 ERA in 30 starts last year.

Arrieta was 68-31 with a 2.73 ERA in five seasons in Chicago. He'll join Aaron Nola atop the Phillies' rotation on a team that finished last in the NL East.

The Phillies haven't had a winning season since 2011, but now have added veteran slugger Carlos Santana, Arrieta and quality relievers to a young nucleus that could show considerable improvement over last season's 66-96 mark.

Federer opens BNP Paribas Open with 2-day match win

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Roger Federer completed a rain-delayed debut match at the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday with a 6-3, 7-6 (6) win over Federico Delbonis of Argentina.

On Saturday, Federer led 6-3, 2-2 when the match was delayed by a heavy drizzle 56 minutes after it began. Federer saved a set point in the second-set tiebreaker and advanced to face Filip Krajinovic on Monday.

Taro Daniel, a 190th-ranked qualifier, upset five-time Indian Wells champion Novak Djokovic 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-1.

Djokovic was making his first appearance since being stunned by Hyeon Chung at the Australian Open. Djokovic sprinted out to a 5-2 lead against the 25-year-old from Japan, but his mistakes began to add up and he finished with 58 unforced errors.

It was the earliest loss for Djokovic at Indian Wells since a first-round exit in 2006.

Gael Monfils upset No. 15 seed and 2012 runner-up John Isner 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3), 7-5.

On the women's side, American Amanda Anisimova took down two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-4 in a match lasting just over an hour to become the first 16-year-old to move into the fourth round at Indian Wells since Viktoriya Kutuzova in 2005.

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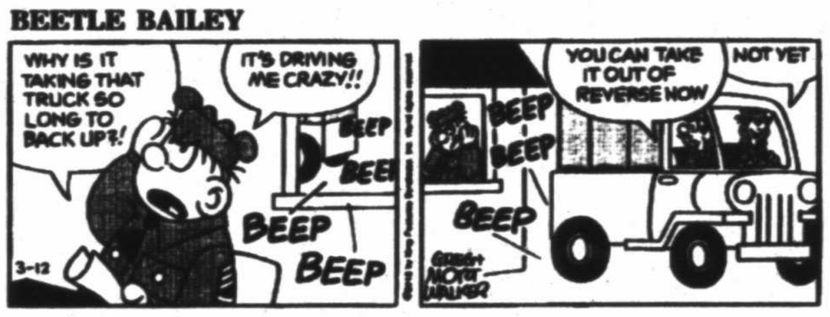


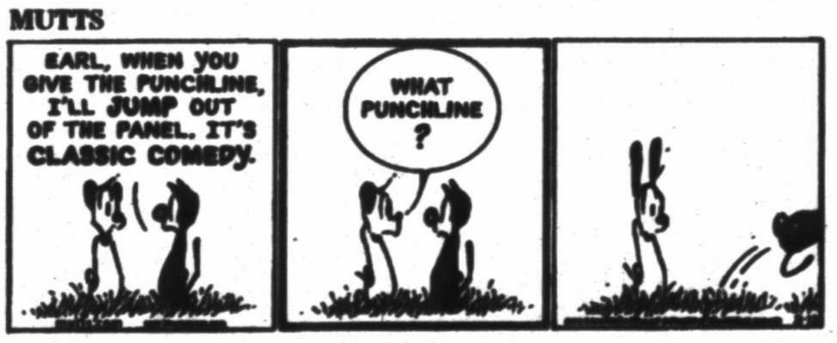
ZITS

CLASSIC PEANUTS

BABY BLUES

SHOE

MUTTS

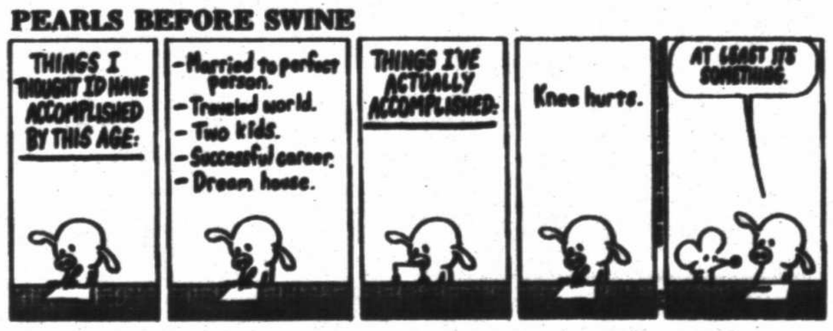


GARFIELD

CLOSE TO HOME

DENNIS THE MENACE

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

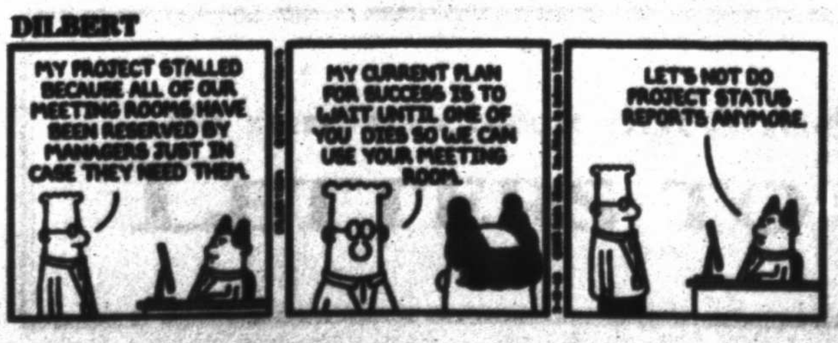


FAMILY CIRCUS

WIZARD OF ID

LOCKHORNS

DILBERT



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

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

3/12/18

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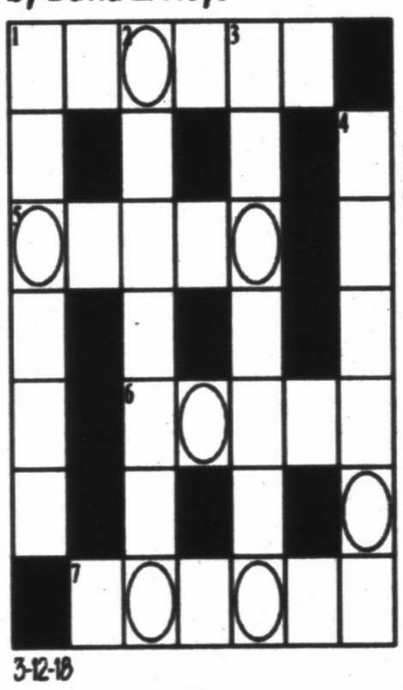
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Boundaries	MLITSI
5. Green ___	VEOIL
6. Oven feature	METRI
7. Deer ___	TLEARN

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. ___ up	OSLNEO
2. Baste	IOETNSM
3. ___ radiation	RMTLHEA
4. Point maker	CSRREO

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

3-12-18

CLUE: This is equal to 1,760 yards.

BONUS ( ) ( )

©Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

ANSWERS: 1A-Limbo 5A-Olive 6A-Timer 7A-Aisler 1D-Loosen 2D-Maestro 3D-Thermal 4D-Scorer 5-One mile

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

JUMBLE

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

INOON

UNDOR

TEGRAH

FLUREF

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: NEWLY PLAID WEAKEN VISUAL
Answer: The winery's grapes were finally ready to pick. They described the taste as — DIVINE

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Medicare section for doctors' services
6 Number of sides on most game cubes
9 Fit of __: irritated state
14 Western neighbor of Wyoming
15 Omelet meat
16 Finnish hot spot
17 Deck
18 Some Little League eligibility rules
20 "Samsung Galaxy, e.g.
22 Aberdeen native
23 Salty waters
24 Eastern neighbor of Wyoming: Abbr.
26 Sewn loosely
29 Put together, as IKEA furniture
33 Pale
34 Urge forward
35 Curtain holder
36 Reggae relative
37 "Trick that's "pulled"
39 Bit of energy
40 Capek sci-fi play
41 Jerk
42 Taxi meter amount
43 Tickle the fancy of
45 Puts up with
47 Big name in banking
48 "So that's it!" cries
49 Heavy hammer
51 "Optimist's perspective
57 Barbra with Oscars
59 Ballet skirts
60 Donates
61 NHL surface
62 Layered cookies
63 With 21-Down, dictation taker's need
64 Bobbsey girl
65 Group described by the starts of the answers to starred clues

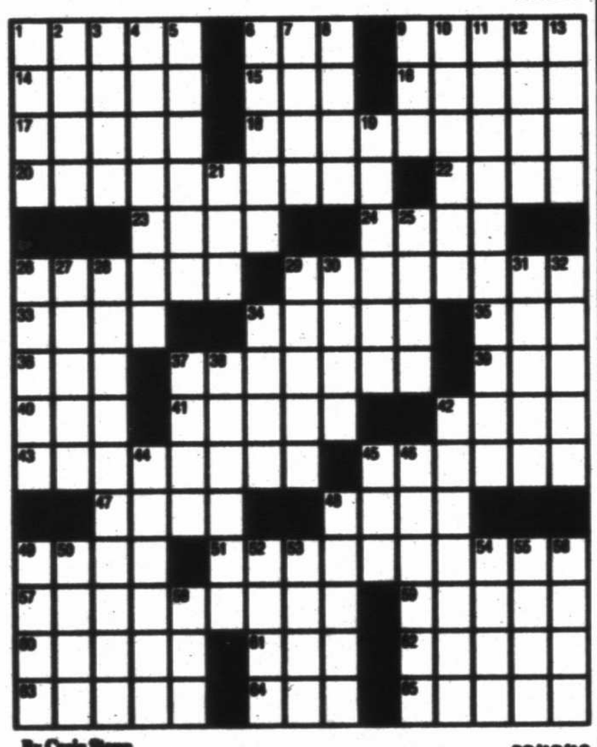
DOWN

1 Apple seeds
2 "The Voice" judge Levine
3 Pro __: in proportion
4 Needing a drink
5 Crocheted baby shoe
6 Persian monarchs
7 "Othello" villain
8 Marvel Comics mutants
9 Pitchfork-shaped Greek letter
10 Sean Penn film with a Seussian title
11 "Yeast-free bakery product
12 "Do __ others ..."
13 Dawn direction
19 Reduce
21 See 63-Across
25 What a stet cancels
26 Iraqi port
27 Invite to one's penthouse
28 "Hairpin turn, e.g.
29 "Are not!" response
30 Dalmatian mark
31 Sitcom producer Chuck
32 Boundaries
34 "__ just me ... ?"
37 Royal decree
38 Goes off script
42 Narrow crack
44 Astronaut Collins
45 "That feels good!"
46 Inning half
48 Poet Nash
49 Inbox list: Abbr.
50 Going __: fighting
52 Reason to roll out the tarp
53 Peruvian native
54 Cal.-to-Fla. highway
55 Couples
56 She, in Sicily
58 Prefix with -bar or -tope

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

03/12/18



By Craig Stowe
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WUZZLES®

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

3 WUZZLES BOOKLETS

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1.

PURSE ALITY

2.

OF he he THINGS

Print Your Answers Here:

1. ( )
2. ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

Today's Answers:

1. Personality
2. He's in the thick of things

3-12

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzleking.com

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WUZZLES® Answers

1. Personality
2. He's in the thick of things

3-12

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebrate With Us At MCM Ice!

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Party Room · Decorations · Skating Packages

WE CATER TO YOU!

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AUTÉNTICA

HOMEMADE MEXICAN FOOD!

MONDAY LUNCH

ALL PLATTERS $5

WITH PURCHASE OF BEVERAGE

Quesadillas (Beef or Chicken)
Served with guacamole, sour cream, & side of salsa.

Chile Relleno
Two chile rellenos (cubed or battered) smothered with our red sauce or queso. Your choice of beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Asado
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Grande Nachos
Includes beans, cheese, beef or chicken, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, sour cream, & jalapeños.

Shredded Brisket
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Combo Tex Mex
Two choices of beef, cheese, sour cream, & your choice of beef or chicken. Served with rice & beans.

Enchiladas
Choice of red or green sauce, beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice & beans.

Fajitas
Four chicken fajitas, rice, beans, guacamole, & sour cream.

Chile Verde con Carne
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Fajitas (Beef or Chicken)
Rice, beans, pico de gallo, guacamole, sour cream, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Crispy Tacos
Your choice of beef or chicken. Served with rice & beans.

Grand HOTEL FUNDome
6201 W Hwy 80 E | Odessa | (432)362-2311

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11 am-2pm

Authentic homemade Enchiladas, Chile Rellenos, Asado, Tortillas, Refried Beans, fresh made Guacamole, Salsa, Sopapillas, and more

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mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

OTHER JOBS

Endeavor Energy Resources LP

DOT Driver II

JOB DESCRIPTION: Job responsibilities include local (within Midland City 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 frigid 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.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Instructor-Transportation Trainer

Midland College is seeking a Instructor- Transportation Trainer
Job Summary: The Transportation Trainer will provide instruction and train students in the classroom as well as in driving. The students will be provided with training and experience to obtain a Commercial Driver License.

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
- Three years' experience driving "over the road" (OTR) or local
- Experience in pre-trip/post trip inspections, coupling and uncoupling of equipment
- Computer literacy
- Knowledge of rules and regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- Knowledge of Double Clutching techniques and how to teach it as required by TXDPS
- Knowledge of air brake testing procedures and be able to instruct and execute
- 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, stooping, and repetitive bending
- Must successfully pass a DOT physical and DOT drug test

EOE

Gas Measurement/ Communications Tehnician

HELP WANTED -GAS MEASUREMENT/ COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN. Duties include Installation, Calibration, Maintenance, Troubleshooting and Repair of Electronic Meters, Gas Sampling Systems and Radio Communications System. Excellent record keeping, communication and computer skills necessary. Salary DOE. Competitive wages and benefits. Mail resume to: Measurement Technician Position, 2873 FM 829, Stanton, TX or Fax to: 432-458-3423 or email to: vmccormach@eticgas.com.

Inventory Control Manager

Manager at our Odessa Facility This position will maintain receiving, warehousing, and distribution operations by initiating, coordinating, and enforcing program, operational and personnel policies and procedures.

You will control inventory levels by conducting physical counts; reconciling with data storage system. You will also have responsibilities to maintain warehouse staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training. Duties also included compiling warehouse operational requirements by scheduling and assigning of employees; following up on work results. 5 years of oilfield warehouse experience and management experience preferred. Our employees enjoy a great work environment with excellent benefits. Pay is dependent on experience If this career opportunity sounds like the right fit for you please send your resume to employment@eggj.com or you can apply in person at 12301 W CR 128, Odessa, TX 79765.

Shop/ Yard/ Field Help

Pay based on experience. Submit resumes to: PRODUCTION LIFT, Box 9423, Midland, TX 79708 or mwilhelm@productionlift.com. Apply at # 14 E Industrial Loop, Midland, TX, 79701. (432) 699-1200. www.productionlift.com

Warehouse Clerk

Odessa Warehouse Clerk, Inventory, shipping, and receiving Forklift, Microsoft Excel, Computer skills, Oilfield equipment knowledge helpful. Send resume to LHamblin@nationaloilfield.com

Warehouse Customer Service Associate

Griffin Oil Company 3010 S. FM 1788, Midland, Texas 79706
Warehouse Customer Service Associate, Duties Include:
• Answer phones • Take customer orders • Coordinate deliveries
• Maintain inventory • Encourage safe work habits • Keep all files current
•Needs computer skills/telephone etiquette. Good pay, Good benefits, Let's discuss. Resume to: pgilbert@griffinoilco.com for an interview

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MIDLAND Texas

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 control systems
- Manage and perform warrant studies for traffic signals, stop signs, crosswalks, school zones, speed units and others
- Review commercial and residential development requests
- Review all phases of the platting process for commercial and retail development
- Prepare analysis and recommendations in support of geometric, roadway, intersection, and other infrastructure improvements
- Prepare analysis and recommendations for the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices within the city

Qualifications:
- Bachelors 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:
- Heathcare Plans
- Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Employee Wellness Program
- Tuition Reimbursement

apply online at www.midlandtexas.gov/jobs

Male Specimen Collector

Now hiring Male Drug Screen Collector. Please apply online at www.drug-screen.com or in person at 711 W. Indiana Ave, Midland or 635 N. Grandview, Odessa.

Technologist

Performance Improvement, Point of Care Safety Technologist. Medical Center Hospital is seeking qualified applicants for its Odessa, TX Location. Provides appropriate support systems for POCT performed on nursing units and outpatient facilities / units. Assists with PI/Safety responsibilities in the department. Assures proper test results by adhering to the quality control program. Requires a Bachelor's Degree or foreign equivalent in medical technology, laboratory science, chemical, physical, or biological science and 3 years of clinical laboratory experience. Must possess Medical Technologist Certification from ASCP, AMT or be eligible for certification. Please send resume to: Medical Center Hospital, HR - Job #MT 001, P.O. Box 7239, Odessa, TX 79760.

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, w/tanker for water truck driver.

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

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

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 resumes to P-110 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be helo later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person.
$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email jmartin@reportertelegram.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Daytime & Overnight Caregiver

Experienced overnight caregiver & 1 daytime caregiver for elderly mother needed. 1 bedroom apartment all bills paid and salary included. Must pass background check. 432- 296-0873

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 6pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.
$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email jmartin@reportertelegram.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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682-6222

OTHER JOBS

Endeavor Energy Resources

Now hiring for a Field Technician.

he Field Technician will provide advanced refueling 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
- Proper pre and post trip of equipment
- Consistently demonstrate safe unloading of fuels while handling, hooking and unhooking hoses and operating pumps while following directions and standard operating procedures
- Safely using pipe wrenches, crescent wrenches and other hand tools
- Immediate reporting and cleaning of any spills during shift
- Maintain professionalism through working courteously with supervisors, despatchers, 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 frigid 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 60 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.

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 Drivers 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 79761

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

Restaurant Positions

Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Would you like to make $15 to $20 an hour, depending on position?
Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Come apply in person: 11am-2pm at 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.my-osaka.com

SALES JOBS

Multi-Media Sales 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 Multi-Media Sales Executives 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.

Multi-Media Sales Executives maximize advertising sales potential, through the development of quality business relationships and promotion of new/existing advertising products. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-development with local businesses. We pride ourselves on simplifying the marketing process for our customers, while helping advertisers track the impact of their campaigns and understand their advertising options. In short, we help our customers grow their business.

Responsibilities include:
- Consistently meets/exceeds all print and digital revenue goals.
- Understanding the clients' advertising needs, and develop the ideal marketing solution for them
- Delivering customized sales presentations in person, or by phone/web-demos
- Generating new leads by making cold calls and maintaining an awareness of new businesses opening in the area
- Be the face of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and ensure a superior customer experience

The Ideal Candidate:
- You're self-motivated and results oriented
- 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:
- 2+ years of sales experience with a proven record of successfully exceeding goals
- Passion to educate clients in their marketing options 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@hearstrp.com
No Phone Calls Please.

Manager & Cashiers

Smoker's Outlet has SIGNING BONUS for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS
Full-time & Part-time position must have own transportation
Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-5
5000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa,Tx

Accounting Clerk

Accounting Clerk must have experience with Microsoft Office/ QuickBooks and a good understanding of Accounting. Pay based on experience. Benefits Pkg. Send resume to: Production Lift Cos. P. O. Box 9423, Midland, TX. 79708 or mwilhelm@productionlift.com

MIDLAND Texas

NOW HIRING
System Administrator

Performs network and system support functions on segments of the computer environment, including planned and emergency maintenance; performance and security analysis; and monitoring, testing, and implementing new products and procedures. Analyzes emerging technology and makes recommendations for constant improvements to network and infrastructure services and capabilities.

Job Duties:
- Designs and coordinates segments of the IT architecture
- Manages server applications, including but not limited to social media, Active Directory, operating systems, and email.
- Produces and maintains IT design, architecture, and specifications documentation, as identified.
- Monitors information storage systems, schedules, and tools, including backup and recovery tasks, as identified.
- Provides research, development, and planning of the IT infrastructure.
- Is responsible for the validating, building, and testing 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.
- Subject to on-call 24/7

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science plus two years of experience in a related field is required.
- Four years 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.midlandtexas.gov/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

Plumber Apprentices

Plumber apprentices needed for new commercial projects. Must possess valid DL. Experience preferred. Good work environment with competitive pay and standard benefits. Call 432-697-3998.

SKILLED LABOR

MIDLAND Texas

NOW HIRING
Fleet Technician

Diagnoses, repairs and maintains city trucks and heavy equipment.

Job Duties:
- Diagnoses equipment and vehicle malfunctions such as ignition, steering, emission control, electrical, and heating and air conditioning. Estimates costs and rebuilds to specifications.
- Determines the appropriateness of off-site repairs such as oil and filter changes, tires and mufflers.
- Inspects vehicles for state stickers.
- Determines readiness and fitness of new vehicles. Installs special equipment.
- Employee must provide own hand tools. City supplies major equipment including power tools, computerized analyzer, and other diagnostic equipment.
- Reads blue prints, electrical diagrams, manuals and other specifications in order to make repairs.
- Performs emergency repairs for various departments.
- Maintains records of work performed such as work orders, logs, historical information, and special written requests.

Qualifications:
- High School graduate or GED
- Knowledge of proper tools used in welding and fabrication
- Three years training as a mechanic or in a related field
- Valid Texas Class A CDL Driver's License within 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.midlandtexas.gov/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

Field Service Techs, Shop Techs & Machinist

J&W Services and Equipment Company is seeking Field Service Technicians, Shop Technicians and Machinist. Experience preferred. However, we are willing to train. Hourly pay and overtime with benefits of group health, dental, life insurance and vacation pay. There is an opportunity to earn commissions and be awarded bonuses. Participation in matching 401k plan after one year of employment. You can stop by 3510 E. Hwy 158 in Midland or go online to www.jandwservices.com for application and submit to jobs@jwwellheads.com.

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Instrumentation & Electrical Technician

Maintains all electrical equipment used to monitor and control oil well services equipment. Home nightly.

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- 6 months experience maintaining and repairing electronic instrumentation and automation equipment.
- Valid operator's license with clean driving record

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Local Drivers

Local truck drivers needed. Home nightly, local routes, scheduled shifts 8am - 5pm (14/7 rotational) never on call, optional overtime.

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- Valid operator's license.
- Clean driving record.
- DOT compliant

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Transportation Truck Driver

Responsible for driving Water, Dump, and/or Belly Dump Truck and hauling water/solids to drill rigs, fracturing crews, etc. Hauls water/solids from well locations to proper disposal facilities.

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- Experience can range from commercial truck driving experience preferred to one year as a water truck driver required.
- Valid Class A CDL with Tanker endorsement.
- Clean driving record.
- Salary competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call
432-682-6222

TECHNOLOGY

Solaris Oilfield Infrastructure has immediate openings for full time Control Systems Support Specialist. This position will be responsible for working closely with the manager to ensure proper functioning of the controls systems for our silo operations. Essential functions will include: Maintain and troubleshoot the systems in the field • Develop and manage the internal assembly of the control systems • Continuously improve the performance and manufacturing costs of the systems • Ensure scheduled generation of upgrades and timely implementation • Consult with Control Systems Developer, Control Systems Manager and Senior engineer to ensure proper functioning of system • Work closely with the assembly team and FAT • Perform related work as require • Work with Field Services closely for proper system maintenance • Skills and experience • BS or BA degree preferred • Strong technical skills • 480 VAC three phase competency • 24 VDC competency • Computer literacy
If interested please send resume to kerrie.green@solarisoilfield.com

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

CDL Driver

CDL Driver needed. Slover Roofing Supply. Apply in person at 3010 W. Front Street, Midland Texas. Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm.

CDL DRIVERS

As a rapidly growing concrete manufacturing company, Ingram Concrete is currently seeking CDL DRIVERS for our Midland facility. Excellent benefits with pay rates and compensation based on driving experience. Paid weekly and home daily/weekends. Guaranteed hours year round and bonus potential. New pay rates. Come be a part of our family style atmosphere.

Please apply at 2808 N. FM 1788 in Midland or call (432) 561-8922 for additional information.

Ingram Concrete is an EOE. M/F/D/V

INGRAM CONCRETE LLC

Delivery Driver

Wanted: DELIVERY DRIVER for local oilfield chemical service company. Good pay, good benefits. Requirements: • High School Diploma or GED • CDL • Must be willing to acquire or currently possess: Hazmat endorsement, Tanker endorsement.
Call Tim (405) 380-4181

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Classifieds

Call or go online to browse, buy or sell!

Midland Reporter-Telegram
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sellittexas.com • 432-682-6222

OTHER JOBS

Endeavor Energy Resources

Now hiring for a Field Technician.

he Field Technician will provide advanced refueling 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
- Proper pre and post trip of equipment
- Consistently demonstrate safe unloading of fuels while handling, hooking and unhooking hoses and operating pumps while following directions and standard operating procedures
- Safely using pipe wrenches, crescent wrenches and other hand tools
- Immediate reporting and cleaning of any spills during shift
- Maintain professionalism through working courteously with supervisors, despatchers, 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 frigid 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 60 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.

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 Drivers 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 79761

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

Restaurant Positions

Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Would you like to make $15 to $20 an hour, depending on position?
Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Come apply in person: 11am-2pm at 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.my-osaka.com

SALES JOBS

Multi-Media Sales 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 Multi-Media Sales Executives 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.

Multi-Media Sales Executives maximize advertising sales potential, through the development of quality business relationships and promotion of new/existing advertising products. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-development with local businesses. We pride ourselves on simplifying the marketing process for our customers, while helping advertisers track the impact of their campaigns and understand their advertising options. In short, we help our customers grow their business.

Responsibilities Include:
· Consistently meets/exceeds all print and digital revenue goals.
· Understanding the clients' advertising needs, and develop the ideal marketing solution for them
· Delivering customized sales presentations in person, or by phone/web-demos
· Generating new leads by making cold calls and maintaining an awareness of new businesses opening in the area
· Be the face of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and ensure a superior customer experience

The Ideal Candidate:
· You're self-motivated and results oriented
· 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:
· 2+ years of sales experience with a proven record of successfully exceeding goals
· Passion to educate clients in their marketing options 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@hearstrp.com
No Phone Calls Please.

Manager & Cashiers

Smoker's Outlet has SIGNING BONUS for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS
Full-time & Part-time position must have own transportation
Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-5
5000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa,Tx

Accounting Clerk

Accounting Clerk must have experience with Microsoft Office/ QuickBooks and a good understanding of Accounting. Pay based on experience. Benefits Pkg. Send resume to: Production Lift Coo. P. O. Box 9423, Midland, TX. 79708 or mswihart@productionlift.com

MIDLAND Texas

NOW HIRING
Systems Administrator

Performs network and system support functions on segments of the computer environment, including planned and emergency maintenance; performance and security analysis; and monitoring, tuning, and implementing new products and procedures. Analyzes emerging technology and makes recommendations for constant improvements to network and infrastructure services and capabilities.

Job Duties:
- Designs and coordinates segments of the IT architecture
- Manages server applications, including but not limited to social media, Active Directory, operating systems, and email.
- Produces and maintains IT design, architectural, and specifications documentation, as identified.
- Monitors information storage systems, schedules, and tests, including backup and recovery tasks, as identified.
- Provides research, development, and planning of the IT infrastructure.
- Is responsible for the validating, building, and testing 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.
- Subject to recall 24/7.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science plus two years of experience in a related field is required.
- Four years 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.midlandtexas.gov/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

Plumber Apprentices

Plumber apprentices needed for new commercial projects. Must possess valid DL. Experience preferred. Good work environment with competitive pay and standard benefits. Call 432-682-2888.

SKILLED LABOR

MIDLAND Texas

NOW HIRING
Fleet Technician
Diagnoses, repairs and maintains city trucks and heavy equipment.

Job Duties:
- Diagnoses equipment and vehicle malfunctions such as ignition, steering, emission control, electrical, and heating and air conditioning. Estimates costs and rebuilds to specifications.
- Determines the appropriateness of off-site repairs such as oil and filter changes, tires and mufflers.
- Inspects vehicles for state stickers.
- Determines readiness and fitness of new vehicles. Installs special equipment.
- Employee must provide own hand tools. City supplies major equipment including power tools, computerized analyzer, and other diagnostic equipment.
- Reads blue prints, electrical diagrams, manuals and other specifications in order to make repairs.
- Performs emergency repairs for various departments.
- Maintains records of work performed such as work orders, logs, historical information, and special written requests.

Qualifications:
- High School graduate or GED
- Knowledge of proper tools used in welding and fabrication
- Three years training as a mechanic or in a related field
- Valid Texas Class A CDL Driver's License within 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.midlandtexas.gov/jobs
Equal Opportunity Employer

Field Service Techs, Shop Techs & Machinist

J&W Services and Equipment Company is seeking Field Service Technicians, Shop Technicians and Machinist. Experience preferred. However, we are willing to train. Hourly pay and overtime with benefits of group health, dental, life insurance and vacation pay. There is an opportunity to earn commissions and be awarded bonuses. Participation in matching 401k plan after one year of employment. You can stop by 3510 E. Hwy 158 in Midland or go online to www.jandwservices.com for application and submit to jobs@jwoilfieldsolutions.com.

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Instrumentation & Electrical Technician

Maintains all electrical equipment used to monitor and control oil well services equipment. Home nightly.

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- 6 months experience maintaining and repairing electronic instrumentation and automation equipment.
- Valid operator's license with clean driving record

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Local Drivers

Local truck drivers needed. Home nightly, local routes, scheduled shifts 5am - 5pm (14/7 rotational) never on call, optional overtime.

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- Valid operator's license.
- Clean driving record.
- DOT compliant

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pxd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW HIRING
Transportation Truck Driver

Responsible for driving Water, Dump, and/or Belly Dump Truck and hauling water/solids to drill rigs, fracturing crews, etc. Hauls water/solids from well locations to proper disposal facilities.

Qualifications:
- High school education or equivalent.
- Experience can range from commercial truck driving experience preferred to one year on a water truck driver required.
- Valid Class A CDL with Tanker endorsement.
- Clean driving record.
- Salary competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Comprehensive Benefits package!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

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Let Classifieds Work for You! Call
432-682-6222

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Call or go online to browse, buy or sell!

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Who's Who For Service

You can advertise your business for as little as $47.00 monthly.

Call 682-6222 for details.

Svcs-Professionals

Cleaning Services

Home Cleaning

Call the cleaners!! Dusting, Organizing,Sweeping, Mopping, Tile, Bathrooms, Windows, Make Ready! One Time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, & Monthly services available. Deep Cleaning & Free Estimates! Joey & Ashley Ball (432)-296-2942

ESMERALDA'S HOUSE CLEANING Honest, independent, responsible, references available. Call 432-254-4334

HOUSEKEEPING 18 years experience. References available. Elva @ 432-553-0628

Home Cleaning

PROFESSIONAL HOUSE CLEANER. Excellent references, trustworthy, & honest, hard worker. Reasonable rates. Call Nelfa 432-559-0809.

Computer Services

Repair-Replacement

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✓Your PLACE at Your PACE. ☆Call Karen 432-553-2488 (leave msg).

Hauling

HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1316

Concrete

For all your concrete needs, driveways, sidewalks, new slabs house or garage additions. Call Danny @ 432-894-0702

Fences

ABC CONSTRUCTION Wood, chain link, block, gates & repairs are my specialty. Native Midlander building since 1979. Call Lonnie 432-528-5282

Fences

AMH FENCING A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. Local for 12 years. 432-254-9207

Heat-Air Conditing

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2879. TALCB005482.

Painting-Wallpaper

CRC Interior and Exterior Painting Remodeling, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-6595. 1st ESTIMATE FREE.

Painting-Wallpaper

DOUBLE TT PAINTING Interior and Exterior Texture, tape & bed Low Prices. Work gauranteed. References Available. 432-288-7849 or 352-4833.

Painting-Wallpaper

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

Accounting-Financial

APPLIANCE REPAIR

REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278

Painting-Wallpaper

PRECISE PAINTING FEMALE PAINTER: Interior/exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4843

Remodeling-Repair

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permian Maintenance 432-697-5417

Roofing

J&J ROOFING All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs, Metal roofs. 25 years experience. Free Estimates Call Juan, 432-631-6881

Sprinkler Systems-Repair

PATIO CLEANING

UPSCALE PATIO & CLEANING SERVICE Professional Patio, Window & Gutter Cleaning. Crete Surface Restoration. Will haul off old patio furniture. Spring Clean Your Patio's Now. Free estimate with an appointment. Call Rick Sanders @ 432-296-0723 email: upscalepatiocleaning@gmail.com web: www.upscalepatiocleaning.com

Tree Service

AAAAA PROFESSIONAL tree pruning, tree & stump removal. Over 20 years experience. Senior discounts. 432-889-3318.

AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Williams Tree Lawn Sprinkler 561-8802, 638-6163.

Arbor Max Solutions Professional Landscape & TreeCare. Call to Schedule nut reduct applic. Taylor Maxwell Degreed Horticulturist Certified Arborist TX3808A 432-528-1737

Lawn and Garden

LAWNGEVITY

30 Years experience. All your lawn care needs. I dont send a crew, I'm one of the crew! We show up!!!!!! 432-661-9518

DAVID'S TREE & LAWN SERVICE Trimming trees & shrubs, leaf clean ups, mowing and more! Please call to make appointment 432-349-0804 www.facebook.com/davidstreeslawnservice

LEYVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient 432-250-9470 Free Estimates.

M & M Landscape 22 years experience. Grass sodding. Xeriscaping, tree & shrub removal. Native Midlander 432-230-3372.

LONE STAR HANDYMAN Lawn care service and flower bed clean up,trim hedges , raking leaves, wood fence & gates reparis,and planting flower beds Call 432-889-9233 after hours Mon-Sat 11:30 a.m-6:30 p.m.

MURPHY'S LAWN CARE Mowing, edging, trimming. Hedge/ shrub trimming, clean-ups. Bill or Maryann. (432)687-2131

STRACENER IRRIGATION Sprinkler Systems Repairs & Installations License #4933 Call (432) 561-6826

Miscellaneous Services

WATER TREATMENT

Culligan of West Texas Residential & Commercial FREE WATER ANALYSIS 563-2690

We buy homes in any area in any condition. Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.

BLUE'S SPRINKLER SYSTEM Installs and repairs. Backflow assembly tester. Lic. 8285 432-889-8983 432-704-2847

Landscaping

RAINBOW LANDSCAPING We do it all! Mowing, edging, beds, flower pot, junk hauling. Free estimates, 20+ years experience, friendly service. Call Bryan at 432-301-1788

SPRING CLEANUP Lawns. mow, edge. trim, flowerbed, trees etc. Cleanup, hauling. 432-599-1777

WILL TRIM, prune or uproot just about any tree, very reasonable prices. Call Norman 432-296-1424.

Personal Services

IRMA'S UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERY. 20 yrs exp. 432-352-4833.

Classified CAN 682-6222

Events and Notices

General Announcement

Thank You! Jesus! Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Autos For Sale-Lease

4WD and SUV

1974 FJ-40 Toyota Landcruiser, originally owned by 1970's/80's singer-songwriter icon, and used on his Colorado ranch. Runs well enough for a hunting vehicle, but it'd be a shame not to restore. $7,500. Serious inquiries only, please. 432-559-4389.

Motorcycles

2012 Prowler 700 Series Arctic Cat, blue 2-seater 4X4. Garage kept Must see asking $6,500. 432-349-0041.

Recreation Vehicles

Houseboat-Stardust cruiser Super Nissi 55FT, Powered with two 350 Chevy engines, low hours, central h/a, upper deck & waterslide, Kohler generator, sleeps 9. Lake Amistad, Del Rio, TX. $65,000 OBO (432)-661-6095.

LEGACY 1994 5TH wheel, good condition. $3,000. 432-250-3907

Get Framed See how this ad caught your eye with its effective use of a border as a frame? Ask your Rep. about framing your ad today! 432-682-6222 or fax to 432-682-6999

Merchandise

Miscellaneous For Sale

For Sale McElroy Fusion Machine Ready To Work For More Info Please Call 956-740-4197

Musical Instruments

1950'S GIBSON Hollow body electric guitar, model # ES-140 3/4 with case. Collectors item. $2,800. No text. Please call 432-352-8419

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Sporting Goods

Permian Basin Gun Show - Ector County Colliseum, Odessa TX, Building G. Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 20th, 9am-5pm Jan. 21st, 9am-5pm Bought, Sold or Traded Sponsored by: John and Shirley Pokorny

Pets-Animals

Other Pets

Free to good home rescued cats and kittens. Call Brian 432-661-1817.

Get Framed See how this ad caught your eye with its effective use of a border as a frame? Ask your Rep. about framing your ad today! 432-682-6222 or fax to 432-682-6999

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

2 BEDROOM 2 bath, mobile home in Greenwood. Fenced yard, clean and ready to go. $800 month, $800 deposit. 432-559-5081.

2 BEDROOM house near Midland Memorial Hospital. Wood floors, fenced yard. $1,200 monthly. Please call 432-230-9867

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

FSBO 2805 Basing, 3 bedroom 2 bath, 2 car garage. Old Midland. Owner financing. $225,000, 10% down plus closing cost. Call 432-631-4974.

HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER ON FAIRWAY OAKS 4bdr/3.5 bath Completely remodeled including new appliances. Home sits on the 16th green of Fairway Oaks Golf Course in Abilene, Texas Mansion on the Golf Course 214-797-0785 Email eashley@yahoo.com Sharron Ann Sibley

Vacation Rentals

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

4410 Crockett Ave. 2 master bedroom, 2 bathrooms, large living area, backyard, close to school, and waterpark, no pets allowed, $1,400 a month 1,100 sq ft For more info call (602)-432-6868

Room Rent Unfurn

1 BEDROOM furnished duplex, upstairs near Midland Memorial Hospital. $700 month bills paid. Please call 432-230-9897

Lots and Land

Acreage

22.10 AC. COKE COUNTY. NEAR ROBERT LEE. WELL, ELECTRICITY. LEVEL, MESQUITE, CEDAR COVER. GREAT FOR RETIREMENT OR WEEKEND CABIN. WHITETAIL, QUAIL, DOVES & TURKEY. $9,933 DOWN, $651/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-870-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

40 AC. N. OF COMSTOCK. NEAR LAKE AMISTAD. W. TX BRUSH COUNTRY. DEER, JAVELINA, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. $2,000 DOWN, $331/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-280-0199 ranchenterprisesltd.com

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

LIQUIDATION OF 2 divorced homes in Midland, TX. 1008 W. Kansas & 2812 N. Garfield. Call for price. 214-358-6244 Realtor

Vacation Rentals

LOT OR Building site Lake Leon (Eastland, TX.) on deep water out of flood plain, storage building & carport, lots of trees. Call 254-488-0299 for more infomation.

Lots and Land

Acreage

49.16 Acres WCR-113 Just South of I-20 off Midkiff $624,000 Gary Luna The Real Estate Co. (432)-682-1873

2 spaces avalble in the Devotion Garden, of Rest Haven North. Valued at $2,400 a piece, will sale for $2,000 a piece. Call (432)-559-0610

6 LOTS on Lake Buchanan, Donell Estates, a restricted subdivision on Hwy 2341 POA amenities include boat launch, fishing pier, etc. Priced 12% below assessed value. Phone (817) 408-7728 for information.

LAKE FRONT ACRES, Lake Brownwood gated community, 4.65 acres located on deep water can be divided into 5 lots of just less than 1 acres, or 2 lots of 1.8 acres, 1 lots of approximately .90 acres. Single lots $78,500. More than 1 lot price negotiable. 806-789-5209

Land For Sale On the north truck route Kermit,Tx Call (432-631-6822)

Lots and Land

Acreage

85 AC. ROCKSPRINGS. ELECTRICITY, LIVE OAK, CEDAR COVER. AXIS DEER, WHITETAIL, HOGS & TURKEY. $2,550/AC. FIXED RATE 30 YEAR OWNER FINANCING, 5% DOWN. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-870-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

Commercial

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 5 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALICHED. $2300/MONTH JUST EAST OF MIDLAND 432-684-7764

Current Pre-School space available Vicky Garrett Real Estate One (432)-425-8888

Midland Industrial Whse, 2703 W Industrial, 1000-4500 s.f. Dock High storage units. 830-388-0210

Classified CAN 682-6222

READY-RANCH RR WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- East County
- *11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 homes, pens/grazing acres, 600 ft. elev., creek, lakes. Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
- *4,212 ac. Mavaric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $625/ac
- *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $650
- Haskell County
- *245 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, deer/turkey crops, cedar/mesquite $2,500/ac
- *565 ac. Paint Creek, Rice Lidge/Stasa, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, whitetail $4,425/ac
- Howard County
- *642 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some cultivated fields $700/ac
- *150 ac. big canyon, SOLD mule, cedar/mesquite, great deer, turkey, pvt $695/ac
- Shackelford County
- *135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, mulet deer $1,100/ac

(432) 684-7764 or (432) 894-7777 No Realtors - Buy Direct!!! Deal with Landowners that know the County!!! ***Owner Financing Available***

CLASSIFIEDS

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

MRT MEDIA GROUP

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 300,000 readers through mrt.com, and can target millions of consumers on thousands of web and social media sites anywhere across the nation. Or we can help you reach your target market right here at home easily 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, first rate 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

Is your website properly optimized and marketed?

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

HEARST corporation mrt.com SELL TEXAS MRT TRUE PRECISION