MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

52 FACES

Anne Bates is one of 52 Faces of community.

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SERGIO SURGES

After nearly two decades of heartache, Sergio Garcia overcame a two-shot deficit with six holes to play and beat Justin Rose in a sudden-death playoff Sunday to win the Master's.

Page 1C

What to watch: House defies Senate, decries vouchers, again

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Texas' leading "school choice" proponent, got the House floor vote on vouchers he demanded — but not his desired result.

During last week's marathon state budget debate, the House voted 103-44 to prohibit using taxpayer funding for private schools, expressly forbidding vouchers.

That should doom a Senate bill approved days earlier that creates education savings accounts allowing parents to remove children from struggling public schools and send them to private alternatives, and sanctions tax breaks for businesses offering donations to help youngsters pay for private schooling.

Text ban

State Sen. Don Huffines has committed to voting for a statewide ban on texting while driving.

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Patrick, who oversees the Senate, had tried publicly to force the House's hand on vouchers, fearing the Senate bill might not otherwise make it to a floor vote. Now he knows for sure: Much of the House hates vouchers as much as most of the Senate supports them.

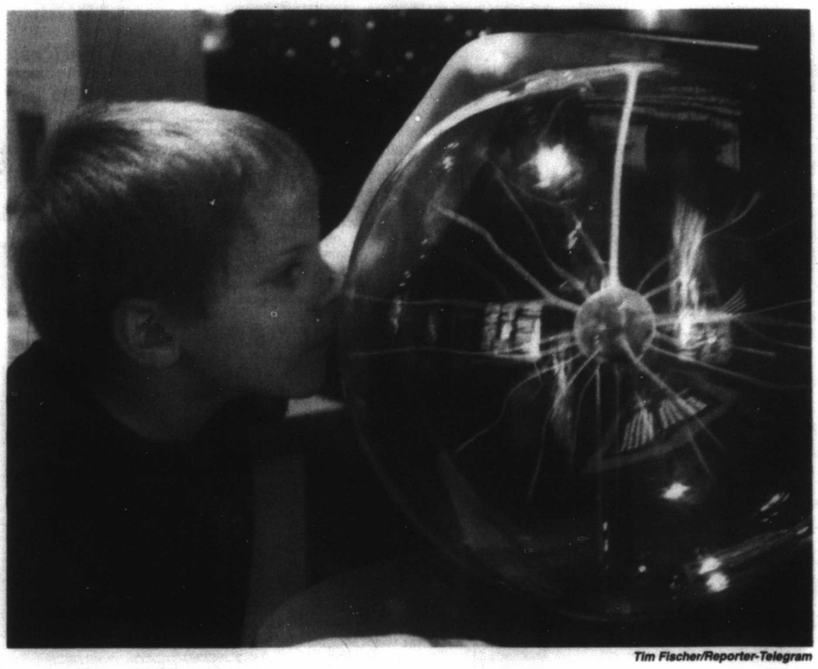
Last session, the Senate approved a larger voucher bill that didn't reach the House floor. In 2015, the House passed a budget amendment declaring that public funding should stay with public schools.

Both chambers are Republican-controlled. They find common ground on other thorny policy issues like abortion restrictions, sanctioning strict voter ID rules and cracking down on immigration. So, why not on vouchers?

House Democrats are strong supporters of teachers, their unions and the public schools where they work. And Democrats typically team with Republicans from rural communities, where private schools are scarce and public ones are top employers as well as social centers. Hoping for a bill the House could stomach this time, the Senate approved vouchers that wouldn't apply to communities of 285,000 residents or less. But House opposition remained as staunch as ever. Many Republicans say they worry about having to explain votes supporting vouchers to school superintendents in their districts. Exceptions for rural areas doesn't make that easier since voucher plans in other states often started small only to eventually expand to nearly

Please see **WATCH**/2A

Plasma attack



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Andrew Stubbs plays with a plasma ball before he and others fill the planetarium Friday for SciFriday Family Night with a showing of "Wall-E" in Blakemore Planetarium.

Downtown Odessa hotel, convention center cost rises

■ Odessa mayor: "Our neighbors (Midland) haven't even decided what they are going to do yet and we are entering construction"

By Corey Paul
Odessa American

The latest cost estimate of the downtown hotel and conference center shows the city-backed project ran over budget, with the Odessa City Council signaling support to cover about $1.8 million in unexpected costs for the facility aimed at sparking a broader revitalization of the area.

City leaders say the overage resulted from parking spaces and convention space added since the initial design, and they expect to recoup the extra cost through hotel/motel tax money the downtown facility generates and by selling naming rights for the convention center. If approved, the additional expense would bring the city's contribution to the project to about $31.6 million.

"Our fund balance is healthy and you can afford it if you want to do it, but again, you are getting a beautiful facility for the dollars."

Richard Morton, City Manager

Meanwhile, the private investors in the project initially projected to cost about $77 million are also facing unexpected costs and say they will look for ways to trim more than $2 million.

The city is investing in the roughly 74,000-square-feet convention center, a 365-car parking garage and a remodeled Ector Theatre. Another architect is working on the theater renovations. City leaders said the city's share of the increase stemmed from a redesign earlier this year that added 65 spaces from what was initially planned, and more than 7,300 square feet added to the conference center.

"We can, if you want, go through some value engineering and talk about things we can cut," City Manager Richard Morton said to City Council members this week. "But I'm asking you not to cut anything from it at this point."

To pay for the added costs, Morton wants to draw from two funds. He recommended asking the city's Odessa Development Corp. to pay more than $1 million in economic development sales tax toward the parking structure, which the City Council would have to ratify. And he recommended the City Council to pay about $813,000 in additional

Please see **ODESSA**/2A

Fossil fuels should fear this battery visionary

■ COMMENTARY

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

Most people can't imagine a world that relies solely on the sun's energy, whether it is from the rays, wind or ocean waves, but John Goodenough can.

And while many may say Goodenough is just a dreamer, he's also the scientist who made random access memory possible for computers in the 1950s, co-invented the lithium-ion battery in the 1970s and announced a major breakthrough in battery technology this year.

"I'm interested in putting the oil and gas industry out of business," Goodenough, emeritus professor at the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, said with a laugh. "I believe that modern society has to find a way to free itself from its dependence on fossil fuels."

More inside

Railroad commissioner defends accepting energy industry's money.

Page 2A

Goodenough studied mathematics at Yale and nuclear physics at the University of Chicago, where he wrote a doctoral thesis on solid-state physics. His deep understanding of materials is what led him into computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the 1950s, where researchers needed an alternative to magnetic tape for digital storage. Goodenough delivered the solution.

From 1976 to 1986, he worked at the University of Oxford leading the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, where he developed the basis for the lithium-ion battery. Many companies ignored his invention, until Sony Corp. commercialized the battery that is now used in almost every mobile phone and laptop computer. President Barack Obama awarded him the National Medal of Science, the highest U.S. honor for scientists, engineers and inventors. "I'm old enough at 94 to know that you don't just dismiss something without investigating it a little bit." "One of the things that I am most pleased about is that I was able to participate and contribute to bringing the concepts of physics and the concepts of chemistry together in the service of engineering," said Goodenough, who has taught at UT since 1986. "Electrochemistry is only now coming in to its own, and it will bring

Please see **FOSSIL**/2A

Weather
Mostly Sunny
78/54
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Did you know?
The movie "The Boss Baby" grossed $26.3 million in theaters this past weekend. Page 6A

The big number
Suicide bombers killed 44 people at Palm Sunday services in Egypt. Page 8A

Word of the Day: gyve
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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Huffines' support of texting-while-driving ban tips Senate balance

By Ben Wear
Austin American-Statesman

State Sen. Don Huffines has committed to voting for a statewide ban on texting while driving, the Dallas Republican said Friday, giving the legislation the magic 19th vote it will need to come up for a vote in the full Senate.

Huffines made his announcement days after state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, also declared her support for the bill. Both had opposed similar legislation in 2015.

Their backing comes in the wake of the March 29 tragedy on U.S. 83 near Uvalde, where 13 members of the First Baptist Church of New Braunfels died in a head-on collision. Witnesses said the driver of the pickup that hit the church bus saidhe had been texting just before the accident.

That dramatic incident, given its timing, could influence lawmakers on the texting ban.

A vote on the ban is likely at least two weeks away. Under legislative tradition, House Bill 62, authored by state Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, will become the vehicle for the texting ban, and it must first clear the Senate Committee on State Affairs to get to the full Senate. Sen. Judith Zaffirini's Senate Bill 31 has already passed that committee on a 6-3 vote, but has lingered awaiting action on the House bill.

Craddick's bill passed the House March 16 on a 114-32 vote, but hasn't yet been officially sent to the State Affairs Committee, which is still clearing from its calendar bills introduced by senators.

Zaffirini, a Laredo Democrat, has beenattempting since 2009 to pass a bill making it illegal to use a hand-held phone to text, email or otherwise use the internet while behind the wheel of a moving vehicle. Craddick joined her in the effort in the 2011 session. Their legislation passed both chambers that year, only to be vetoed by then-Gov. Rick Perry because, he wrote in a veto message, it constituted "a government effort to micromanage the behavior of adults."

A texting ban passed the House in 2015, but Zaffirini could corral only 18 votes in the Senate and the bill died. Nineteen votes, under rules in the 31-member Senate, are needed to bring a bill up for debate and then vote on it.

Gov. Greg Abbott's office declined Friday to say what he might do about the pending legislation. But other media outlets have reported that Craddick and Zaffirini have said their bills have his support.

Seventeen of Zaffirini's previous texting ban supporters — all 11 Democrats and six Republicans — either returned to the Senate this session or were replaced by others who favor the legislation. The added support of Campbell and Huffines would push the bill to passage in the Senate, assuming no senators change their minds before the bill comes up for a Senate floor vote.

"Since last session, I have listened carefully to constituents and the many families who have been impacted by distracted driving," Huffines said in a statement. "They deserve an answer. Senate Bill 31 and House Bill 62 will save lives, and I will vote for the bills."

Campbell wasn't available for comment Friday, but her communications director Nathan McDaniel' confirmed her support of the texting ban.

"She entered this session with renewed interest to protect her safety, and her daughter's safety, and that of her constituents," McDaniel said, adding that Campbell weeks ago had told Zaffirini of her change of heart.

Statewide texting-while-driving bans are already law in 46 states, and more than 100 Texas cities have similar bans. Many go further: Austin, for instance, prohibits drivers from talking on a hand-held phonewhile a car is in motion.

Zaffirini told the Statesman this week that she planned to make minor amendments to her bill in the Senate, at the request of other legislators, clarifying that the statewide law would supercede local laws on texting, emailing and Internet use (but not on phone conversations), and that use of a global positioning system on a cellphone while driving would still be legal.

Railroad commissioner defends accepting energy industry's money

By Ryan Handy
Houston Chronicle

The campaign contribution practices of railroad commissioners who regulate state's oil and gas industry have long come under fire from some lawmakers and government watchdog groups.

The concern is that the three members of the Railroad Commission accept political donations from the companies they regulate, and not just a few contributions here and there. Oil and gas interests typically account for at least half the commissioners' campaign contributions.

Understandably, that creates the impression that the industry gets special treatment from its regulators — which commissioners vehemently deny. Every legislative session, some lawmaker tries to pass a bill that would place modest limits on the money flowing from oil and gas companies to the political coffers of commissioners, who serve six-year terms.

Those bills ultimately get nowhere in a Legislature where plenty of state representatives and senators also take campaign contributions from oil and gas companies.

This session, Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, is taking a crack at the issue. His legislation, House Bill 464, aims to prevent commissioners from building campaign war chests in the years they are not up for re-election; it would restrict political donations to 17 months before an election and 30 days after. But like the bills that have gone before it, the chances of its passage are slim.

A story I wrote this month looked at a case involving ranchers in Jackson County and an oil company seeking permits to inject chemical-laced water and carbon dioxide into an aging field nearby to force oil to the surface.

The ranchers, whose cattle and livelihood depend on clean water, asked the commission to require Houston-based Hilcorp Energy to pay for independent groundwater monitoring as a condition of the permits. The company, whose executive frequently donated to commissioners, opposed that condition.

The commission approved the project and turned down the ranchers' request. The ranchers suspected why.

Commissioner Ryan Sitton declined to comment for my story, as did Commissioners Christi Craddick and Wayne Christian. But Sitton met with a group of editors and reporters and the Houston Chronicle last week, and he said he decides cases based on facts, not political donations. He also said he supports Anchia's bill.

Sitton said he won't take campaign contributions from companies when he thinks those donations are not appropriate — last year, he turned down a total of about $10,000 from three companies that had cases pending before the commission, according to his spokesman. He also pointed to an instance in November when the commission rejected a project proposed by Pioneer Natural Resources of Irving, noting that Pioneer executives frequently donate to commissioners' campaigns.

We asked him why he accepts campaign contributions from the industry, even if it means he working under an ethical cloud. Sitton's response: He needs the money to get elected.

"In other words, I need resources to go out and communicate with the potential voters and tell them about my background, tell them why I am qualified for the job, tell them why I am the best person to serve them," he added. "The people who care enough and want to have a good Railroad Commission, and who have the resources to help fund that, are people in the industry."

Obituaries

Florence Marie Hall

The philanthropic world lost a shining star with the passing of Florence Marie Hall on Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Midland, Texas.

A private interment will be at Mount Olive Cemetery, Big Spring, Texas.

Florence Marie Hall was born March 11, 1937 in Big Spring, Texas to Dr. Granville Tatum Hall and Mrs. Florence Thelma Free Hall. Miss Hall attended Big Spring ISD and graduated high school at the Hockaday School, Dallas Texas.

After receiving a B.A. degree at Southern Methodist University and a secretarial certificate at Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in New York City, Miss Hall acquired knowledge of banking and law through her work experience.

Marie's interest in philanthropy originated with her volunteerism at Children's Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, where she trained volunteers, led tours, and sponsored the first pediatric international psychiatry seminar. She chaired the inaugural Sealy Society Weekend (1995) and initiated the Mustard Seed Award both for The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas (UTMB).

A quintessential West Texas lady with creative vision, Miss Hall was analytical and inquisitive when researching potential projects. Her passions were to *"incubate and nurture the practice of excellence and innovation."* An involved and committed donor and friend, Marie's sapphire eyes would twinkle brightly and her quick wit would emerge as she learned the core components of an agency's mission. Marie always concluded these sessions with *"What's on your Wish List?"* One of her favorite quotes was: *"The secret of joy in work is contained in one word: excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it."* (Pearl S. Buck)

Although a private person, she touched the heart and soul of so many Texans. Her philanthropy embraced medicine, nursing, health sciences, rural health care, rehabilitation, fine arts, higher education, research, architecture, interior design, sports, law, and urban forestry. In addition to establishing multiple endowments, she provided generous scholarships, established endowed chairs, purchased state-of-the-art medical equipment and supported building and renovation projects.

In 2011, she established the FMH Foundation and served as President until her death. Miss Hall's mantra for her foundation is *"To further a vision toward a reality."* Her legacy of giving back to her beloved West Texas will be continued through the Foundation she created to *"foster collaboration, innovation, creativity, excellence, synergy, and development."*

Marie received numerous honors including the Turner Award at the Museum of the Southwest; an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; Kleinschmidt Award from the Texas Tech University College of Architecture; 2003 Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Permian Basin Chapter; Mustard Seed Special Award at UTMB; James E. West Fellow by the Buffalo Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America; and Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce 1987 Woman of the Year Award.

Miss Hall's memberships included Midland Memorial Foundation Board of Governors; Howard College Department of Nursing Advisory Board; Midland College Foundation Board; Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health National Advisory Board; Permian Basin Area Foundation Advisory Governor; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Permian Basin at Odessa Advisory Council; University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston Development Board, Honorary Life Member of the School of Nursing Advisory Council, Member Emerita of the School of Allied Health Sciences Advisory Council, and Open Gates Dyslexia Program. Her Big Spring, Texas civic affiliations included The State National Bank Board of Directors, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Rotary Club, Big Spring Main Street, and the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of St. Mary The Virgin.

Miss Hall is survived by dear friends too numerous to name; however, special recognitions are made to her dearest friends, Joyce Crooker and her late husband, Bill Crooker, of Big Spring, Texas who along with Miss Hall met various personal and civic challenges. Also Betty Lewis, of Midland, Marie's personal secretary and "right arm" who retired in 2013, organized her business office and assisted her in the formation of the FMH Foundation.

Miss Hall is preceded in death by her father (1965) and her mother (1982).

During her lifetime, Miss Hall always expressed her gratitude toward the following individuals who positively impacted her life: Beatrice Banks, Shirley Barnes, Ann Lunsford, Shirley Lauderdale, the FMH Foundation Board of Directors, the staff of Nurses Unlimited especially Delores, Lola, Maria, Marva, Matida, Mattie, Melania, Patricia, Rosa. and Toywanda, Donald E. Crockett, Jr., M.D., David DeShan, M.D., Pedro Ramirez, M.D., and the interdisciplinary health care teams at MD Anderson Center, Midland Memorial Hospital and Continue CARE Hospitals of Texas.

Memorials can be directed to the FMH Foundation, PO Box 51310, Midland Texas 79710 or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at *www.npwelch.com*.

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Death Notices

Ralph D. Ward

Ralph D. Ward, 85, of Midland, Texas, passed away Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Big Spring.

Graveside service will be 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at Old Town Cemetery, Mt. Calm, Texas.

Visitation will be 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland.

Survivors include wife, Dolores Ward; daughter, Leigh Ann Ward-Weidner; and sons, Brian Ward and Keith Ward.

Watch

From 1A

ally expand to nearly every student.Patrick insists he's playing the legislative long game and wants to see groundwork laid now pay off with voucher approved during future sessions. It may have to be a very long game, though, since last week's House budget vote was so similar to the one from four years ago. Maybe 2021 could be different?

Here are other issues to watch in the Texas Legislature:

Rape kit tracking

The House votes Tuesday on Austin Democratic Rep. Donna Howard's bill creating a statewide electronic tracking system for evidence collected in sex offense cases. Howard says a rape kit testing backlog has made it difficult for victims to track their cases. She is proposing collecting information from around the state for an online database making cases easier to follow. It's expected to cost about $1.5 million during Texas' 2018-2019 budget cycle.

Refusing gay marriage

A bill allowing county judges and other officials to refuse to issue licenses for same-sex marriages because of religious objections could soon hit the Senate floor.

Sen. Brian Birdwell's proposal only applies in cases where other, willing officials can issue marriage documents. If those substituting are located outside the county where the marriage license is being sought, documents could be sent electronically. Opponents say that sanctions discrimination and defies the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of gay marriage. Birdwell, a Granbury Republican, says he's protecting the religious liberties of judges, county clerks and justices of the peace.

Campus sexual assault

A proposal by Austin Democratic Sen. Kirk Watson that sought to require Texas universities to adopt "affirmative consent" standards in their campus sexual assault polices is set to clear the Senate — but only after its original aim was alerted dramatically. "Affirmative consent" means consent for sexual contact occurs through verbal or physical cues and doesn't require victims to have objected, or demonstrated resistance, when alleging assault. But that language was contentious enough to cause the bill to bog down in committee. Instead, Watson revised it to require that private universities draft sexual assault policies and promote them via public information campaigns — meeting similar rules already in place for Texas' public universities. Removing the "affirmed consent" mandate helped the now far less controversial proposal to reach the Senate floor, where it's eligible for passage next week.

Fossil

From 1A

tion."

Goodenough's new lithium- or sodium-glass battery technology promises to speed that process. Working with Maria Helena Braga, an engineering professor at the University of Porto in Portugal, his team has built a battery that can hold three times more energy, charges in minutes rather than hours, works in hot and cold weather, can last for more than 1,500 charging cycles and poses no fire hazard, as current lithium-ion batteries do.

The breakthrough came from an alkali-doped glass developed by Braga that replaces the liquid electrolyte currently used in batteries to separate the positive and negative poles. The researchers published their peer-reviewed findings in the U.K. Royal Society of Chemistry's journal, and Goodenough promises there are more breakthroughs to come.

"We believe that this can give you the volumetric energy density that is the maximum that you can get and is still cheap," he said in interview. "We're in the process of demonstrating and patenting how we can do that. The patent is being typed today."

If the technology can be commercialized, these batteries will easily compete with internal combustion engines. They could also store wind and solar energy and truck electricity from place to place.

For those who may doubt that battery technology can replace coal, oil and natural gas, Goodenough says: "One has to be careful of one's prejudices."

"Ninety-nine and 44/100ths of the things people do or think about are not practical. I quite agree with that," he said. "But I'm old enough at 94 to know that you don't just dismiss something without investigating it a little bit."

That open mind is what led Goodenough to consider Braga's glass as a possible electrolyte. It was the product of a failed experiment to solve a different engineering problem, but she recognized that its unique qualities could help with batteries.

"Every once in a while, manna comes from heaven and you're able to keep going with a new tack, and that's what we've done," he said.

The new technology is attracting attention. Donald Sadoway, a pre-eminent battery researcher at MIT, told the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers magazine Spectrum: "When John Goodenough makes an announcement, I pay attention."

Google CEO Eric Schmidt tweeted: "John Goodenough, inventor of the lithium battery, has developed the first all-solid-state battery cells. Promising!"

Goodenough says he's too old to worry about making money from the invention. Instead, he's only interested in launching humanity on the path to clean energy.

"We have to move toward emancipating ourselves from fossil fuels, and that will go in steps," he said. "Electricity is the cleanest form of energy, but you don't want to generate that energy with combustion."

Goodenough said the university is negotiating with battery manufacturers, and his new batteries could be on the market in as little as two years.

For all of his dreaming, though, Goodenough is realistic about changing the world, something he's done twice before.

"That will take time, so the people in Houston can relax," he said. "Because they will still make a lot money from fossil fuels until their retirement."

Odessa

From 1A

costs for the convention center.

That money could come from $1 million set aside for a public plaza that is no longer included in the plans or from the city's general fund reserve. Council members Tuesday signaled support for the former.

"Our fund balance is healthy and you can afford it if you want to do it, but again, you are getting a beautiful facility for the dollars," Morton said.

If the City Council opts against using the general fund, as council members

Please see COSTS/7A

WORD OF THE DAY
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Gyve
[jahyv]
noun
1. a shackle, especially for the leg; fetter.

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New York derailment highlights US infrastructure concerns

By David A. Lieb and Joan Lowy
Associated Press

AP file photo

This June 30, 2008, file photo shows the Casicano Memorial Bridge at center and the Manhattan, New York skyline in the background as a passenger airplane lands at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J. Improving the nation's roads and bridges would require $120 billion a year through 2020, according to a recent U.S. Department of Transportation estimate. But annual spending at all levels of government is just $88 billion. And the nation's mass transit systems have over a $90 billion backlog of maintenance and repair needs.

When a train jumped the tracks this past week at New York's Penn Station, the seemingly minor accident led to a cascade of exasperating delays for hundreds of thousands of commuters.

When a flood forced authorities to condemn a one-lane, century-old bridge in rural Ozark, Missouri, it was no less frustrating for the residents and business owners cut off from their shortest route into town.

The two episodes highlight a reality about the U.S. transportation system — it is aging, congested and so vital that when things go wrong, big and costly disruptions can result for which there is no quick fix.

Though President Donald Trump has promised a $1 trillion infrastructure-rebuilding program, not all of that may go toward transportation. Even then, it would fall well short of the many trillions needed to fix the country's web of roads, bridges, railways, subways and bus stations.

The commuter train in New York derailed because of a weakened railroad tie. No one was seriously injured. But the incident shut down eight of the station's 21 tracks, disrupting Amtrak service in the Northeast from Boston to Washington, as well as delaying commuter trains in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for the better part of a week.

Business meetings were canceled, ballgames, dinners and doctor's appointments missed, and commuters fumed.

Lawyer Dominic Boone, who travels into New York from New Jersey, complained that because he arrived late to the office and had to leave early to catch a different train, he lost 10 hours of work for which he could have billed clients.

"They should have been working on Penn Station forever ago," Boone said. "As a nation, we should be spending more on our crumbling infrastructure."

The disruption was only a brief example of the frustration travelers could face if the region can't find a way to replace a pair of deteriorating, overcrowded, century-old rail tunnels that run under the Hudson River and connect New York and New Jersey.

The tunnels, which were severely damaged in Superstorm Sandy in 2012, could cost more than $20 billion to replace. But the money has yet to be lined up. And construction, whenever it begins, may take more than a decade.

The Penn Station derailment came less than two weeks after another one there, caused by a misaligned track.

And it happened just days after motorists in Atlanta were forced to begin taking long, bumper-to-bumper detours because a fire collapsed an Interstate 85 overpass linking the city to some of its biggest suburbs. Arson — not aging steel and concrete — is suspected there. It could take until mid-June to repair the highway.

Earlier this year, a cracked steel beam forced the closing of a major bridge between Pennsylvania and New Jersey for 1 1/2 months.

Improving the nation's roads and bridges would require $120 billion a year through 2020, according to a recent U.S. Department of Transportation estimate. But annual spending at all levels of government is just $88 billion. And the nation's mass transit systems have over a $90 billion backlog of maintenance and repair needs.

The capacity of the nation's transportation system is lagging behind population growth, leading to ever greater congestion. By 2040, nearly 30,000 miles of the nation's busiest highways are expected to be clogged on a daily basis.

Rural communities also face challenges, partly because they have fewer residents over whom to spread the cost of transportation improvements. Grant County, Oklahoma, for example, has more than 3,500 bridges with a population of about 4,500 and an economy based on agriculture and energy production.

"While this infrastructure was ideal 70 years ago for transporting livestock and crops, it is inadequate to support today's heavier trucks, increased traffic and higher operating needs," county commission chairwoman Cindy Bobbitt told U.S. senators at a recent hearing.

The complexities of government can sometimes slow down improvements, as cities, counties, states, port authorities, special taxing districts and federal agencies all have a say in which projects get built, when to do the work and how to pay the bills.

Plans for wider roads and new rail lines can also face opposition from the communities they pass through because of concerns about noise, pollution and diminished property values.

"Of course I believe there needs to be more" infrastructure investment, said Martin Wachs, a retired professor of civil and environmental engineering and urban planning at the University of California, Los Angeles. "At the same time, political decisions have to be made that weigh that against investments in education and health care and so forth."

At least 20 states have raised taxes or fees for transportation over the past five years.

California became the latest to do so Thursday, as legislators passed a bill to raise $5 billion annually through higher fuel taxes and vehicle fees to pay for road and bridge repairs, public transit and pedestrian trails.

The plan tackles part of a $137 billion backlog of deferred maintenance on state highways and local roads. It came together after a destructive winter in which flooding caused nearly $600 million in damage to highways.

Indiana and Tennessee are among other states considering raising fuel taxes and fees for transportation this year.

In Ozark, a town of fewer than 20,000 people in Missouri, voters approved a transportation sales tax Tuesday of three-eighths of a cent, with some of the proceeds going toward a new, $3 million two-lane bridge to replace the narrow structure that has been closed since it was damaged by flooding in 2015.

The bridge closing has forced 75-year-old Gary Jenks to drive an extra 10 minutes along a circuitous route every time he needs to go the doctor or pharmacy or visit his family on the opposite side of town.

"It's just been a total inconvenience and a burden," Jenks said.

Music legend Chuck Berry remembered in rock 'n' roll style

By Jeff Roberson
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Family, friends and fans paid their final respects to the rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry on Sunday, celebrating the life and career of a man who inspired countless guitarists and bands in the only way possible: with music.

The celebration began with a public viewing at The Pageant, a music club in Berry's hometown of St. Louis where he often played. Hundreds of fans filed past Berry, whose beloved cherry-red Gibson guitar was bolted to the inside of his coffin's lid.

"I am here because Chuck Berry meant a lot to anybody who grew up on rock n' roll," said Wendy Mason, who drove in from Kansas City, Kansas, for the visitation. "The music will live on forever."

Another fan, Nick Hair, brought his guitar with him from Nashville, Tennessee, so he could play Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" while waiting in line outside.

After the public viewing, family and friends packed the club for a private funeral service and celebration of Berry, who inspired generations of musicians, from humble garage bands up to The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. The service was expected to include live music, and the Rev. Alex I. Peterson told the gathering they would be celebrating Berry's life in rock 'n roll style.

When Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards spoke about Berry at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's 1986 induction ceremony — Berry was the first person inducted from that inaugural class — he said Berry was the one who started it all.

That sentiment was echoed Sunday by David Letterman's former band leader, Paul Shaffer, who spoke to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch outside the club.

"Anyone who plays rock 'n' roll was inspired by him," Shaffer said.

Berry's standard repertoire included about three-dozen songs, including "Johnny B. Goode," "Sweet Little Sixteen" and "Roll Over Beethoven." His songs have been covered by country, pop and rock artists such as AC/DC and Buck Owens, and his riffs live on in countless songs.

The head of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Greg Harris, said "anybody who's picked up a guitar has been influenced by him."

Well before the rise of Bob Dylan, Berry wedded social commentary to the beat and rush of popular music.

"He was singing good lyrics, and intelligent lyrics, in the '50s when people were singing, "Oh, baby, I love you so,'" John Lennon once observed.

"Everything I wrote about wasn't about me, but about the people listening," Berry once said.

Police say gunman had just been fired from fitness center

By Kelli Kennedy
Associated Press

The man who shot and killed two managers at a Florida gym before turning the gun on himself had just been fired from the fitness center for workplace violence, police said Sunday.

The Miami-Dade Police Department said in a statement Sunday that 33-year-old Abeku Wilson of Miami was let go Saturday as a fitness trainer at the Equinox gym in Coral Gables "due to workplace violence and was escorted off the premises."

Authorities didn't elaborate on what that violence involved.

Shortly after his dismissal, Wilson returned to the gym with a handgun and fired multiple shots at both managers before fatally shooting himself. Police said the managers were deliberately targeted and that the shooting wasn't random.

Equinox issued an email statement Sunday that it was "deeply saddened" by the deaths of the two employees, 35-year-old Janine Ackerman of Miami and 42-year-old Marios Hortis of Miami Beach. Ackerman was the gym's general manager and Hortis the fitness manager.

"Our love, prayers and condolences are with both families during this terrible time. The collective Equinox community will always keep Janine and Marios in our hearts," the statement said.

Marc Sarnoff, who previously trained with Wilson for two years, saw him at the gym before Saturday's shooting and noticed something was wrong.

Wilson typically was "very buttoned up, very proper, very appropriate," Sarnoff said in a phone interview. But on Saturday, Wilson physically bumped into Sarnoff and his current trainer. The usually adept Wilson seemed noticeably off-kilter.

"He wasn't clean-shaven ... and he seemed to be slurring his words," said Sarnoff. "He said, 'I'm sorry I'm just off balance this morning'."

An Instagram account in his name is filled with shirtless, muscly photos talking about body building competitions that he was preparing for. In December, a posting said he had gotten a blue belt in martial arts.

The shooting happened about 1 p.m. Saturday at the upscale Shops at Merrick Park. Shoppers, diners at mall restaurants and people in workout gear ran to safety or took cover after reports of gunfire.

"Five gunshots," Ovi Viera, who was in the men's locker room, told The Miami Herald. "It was too loud for it to have been a weight dropping. Within two seconds, people just started running out."

Wilson trained Eveliny Bastos-Klein shortly before Saturday's shooting. She told The Miami Herald that he didn't seem distracted and that she didn't notice anything unusual during their session.

The mall is a few miles from the University of Miami campus. Ackerman studied on a field hockey scholarship at Florida

Please see GUNMAN/4A

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

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

■ Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 432-682-8595.

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

Community calendar

■ The Permian Basin Geological and Geophysical Auxiliary is hosting "Texas Wildflowers - Nature's Beauty & Bounty" 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Scharbauer Student Center Carrasco Room at Midland College. Speaker is to be LaShara Nieland, co-author of "Lone Star Wildflowers: A Guide to Texas Flowering Plants."

Cost is $15 per person, and advance payment is required. To make reservations, call Jeanine Stanfield at 683-1766. Reservations must be made by noon Monday.

Passover begins at sundown

Passover (Pesach) marks the Israelites' liberation from slavery and their exodus from Egypt around 3000 years ago. Passover generally lasts for eight days in the United States. Many Jewish people spend the Passover period with family members or close friends.

Source: www.timeanddate.com

Meetings

Commissioners' Court
■ 9 a.m.
■ Midland County Courthouse auxiliary courtroom.
■ 500 N. Loraine Ave.

MISD
■ 5:30 p.m.
■ Bowie Fine Arts Academy
■ 805 Elk

Greenwood ISD
■ 7:30 p.m.
■ Distance Learning Center, Greenwood High School.
■ 2700 Farm-to-Market Road 1379

4B forums

The 4B election is scheduled for May 6. Before the election, there will be forums where residents can get more information about the proposal involving the quarter-cent sales tax.

The following are upcoming 4B election forums:

Wednesday: Midland County Republican Women, 11:30 a.m., Midland Country Club. Contact www.mcrw.us for more information.

April 24: League of Women Voters, 7:30 p.m., Scharbauer Student Center Carrasco Room at Midland College. Contact http://lwv.org/local-league/lwv-midland

Note: To add your event to the calendar, please send your information to news@mrt.com.

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What's on the radio

News talk
■ KCRS (AM 550)
Local programming
6-9 a.m. The Morning Drive with Kris Moore
5-6 p.m. Local News with KOSA

■ KWEL (AM 1070, FM 107.1)
Local programming
6-10 a.m. The Morning Show with Craig Anderson
1 p.m. One-on-One w/ R.J. Pase

Other options
■ Sport talk: KMND (AM 1510)
■ Contemporary Christian: KFRI (FM 88.7), KLVW (FM 90.5)
■ NPR: KXWT (FM 91.3)

How sick are you?

Midland Memorial Hospital offers a nurse triage program "68-NURSE."

The program is designed to help people determine whether their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773.

The program is free and available 24 hours a day-365 days a year. Local nurses are available to help you determine the best place to receive care for your situation. 68-NURSE can help you save time and money by directing you to the most appropriate healthcare option, whether it's a neighborhood clinic, urgent care center, emergency room … or just staying home.

Today in history

On this date:

In 1790, President George Washington signed the first United States Patent Act.

In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.

In 1925, the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel "The Great Gatsby" was first published by Scribner's of New York.

In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey purchased the contract of Jackie Robinson from the Montreal Royals.

In 1957, Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to all shipping traffic. (The canal had been closed due to wreckage resulting from the Suez Crisis.) The jury-deliberation film drama "12 Angry Men," starring Henry Fonda, premiered in Los Angeles. John Osborne's play "The Entertainer," starring Laurence Olivier, opened in London.

In 1967, at the Academy Awards, "A Man for All Seasons" won best picture of 1966; its star, Paul Scofield, was named best actor; Elizabeth Taylor received best actress for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

Nuclear plant owners expand search for rescue to more states

By Marc Levy
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The natural gas boom that has hammered coal mines and driven down utility bills is hitting nuclear power plants, sending multi-billion-dollar energy companies in search of a financial rescue in states where competitive electricity markets have compounded the effect.

Fresh off victories in Illinois and New York, the nuclear power industry is now pressing lawmakers in Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania for action. Lobbying efforts are bubbling up into proposals, even as court battles in Illinois and New York crank up over the billions of dollars that ratepayers will otherwise foot in the coming decade to keep nuclear plants open longer.

Perhaps nuclear power's biggest nemesis is the cheap natural gas flooding the market from the northeast's Marcellus Shale reservoir, the nation's most prolific gas field. Meanwhile, electricity consumption hit a wall after the recession, while states have emphasized renewable energies and efficiency.

"You put all of this together and it's a perfect storm," said John Keeley, a spokesman for the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry group.

Opposition to a so-called nuclear bailout is uniting rivals and the natural gas exploration industry. The potential for a hit to utility bills is drawing pushback from the AARP and manufacturers.

Subsidizing nuclear power could chill investment in lower-cost energy sources and erode competitive markets, critics say, and, with natural gas prices expected to stay low for some time, shutting down nuclear plants may have no impact on electricity bills.

For steel companies, paper companies, food processors and pharmaceutical makers whose electric bill might be their biggest expense, "a mil of an increase in a kilowatt hour turns into a lot of money," said David Kleppinger of the Industrial Energy Consumers of Pennsylvania.

In Pennsylvania, the nation's No. 2 nuclear power state after Illinois, it could mean propping up five nuclear plants to help feed the sprawling mid-Atlantic power grid that stretches from New Jersey to Illinois.

The owners of the 11 nuclear plants in Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania are no small potatoes: Exelon, PSEG, FirstEnergy and Dominion, among them.

The plant owners' strategy is similar to that in Illinois and New York: give nuclear power megawatts the kind of preferential treatment and premium payments that are given to renewable energies, such as wind and solar.

The industry's pitch is part economic, part environmental. A plant shutting down would devastate a local economy, they say. And, nuclear waste and water consumption issues aside, zero-carbon nuclear plants are better suited than natural gas or coal to fight climate change, they say.

The claim to environmental credentials has drawn jeers from nuclear power's traditional critics.

"When did highly carcinogenic toxic waste become green?" said Eric Epstein, a longtime nuclear power watchdog in Pennsylvania.

The most vulnerable nuclear plants are those with just one unit — such as Exelon's Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, where a second unit was destroyed in a partial meltdown in 1979 — or those in need of expensive upgrades, analysts say.

FirstEnergy says it could decide next year to sell or close its three nuclear plants — Davis-Besse and Perry in Ohio and Beaver Valley in Pennsylvania — unless states make them more competitive.

Exelon is warning that it could close Three Mile Island and PSEG says it won't operate nuclear plants — it owns all or parts of all three in New Jersey and part of Peach Bottom station in Pennsylvania — that are long-term money losers.

Should nuclear power disappear, it can be replaced.

"The question is, at what cost and whether or not you can find other resources that have the same emission characteristics," said Joe Dominguez, an Exelon executive vice president.

In the mid-Atlantic grid, it likely would be natural gas. Some 190 natural gas power projects comprising roughly 59,000 megawatts are being studied or built, according to PJM Interconnection, the grid operator. That dwarfs the grid's nuclear capacity.

The closure of nuclear plants would not necessarily drive up costs in the mid-Atlantic grid and Swami Venkataraman, a Moody's Investors Service analyst, said he did not foresee it having a noticeable impact on electric bills.

But propping up more expensive sources of energy, like nuclear, could discourage the entry of lower-cost power sources into the competitive market, said Stu Bresler, PJM Interconnection's senior vice president of operations and markets.

In Illinois, where consumer advocates feared a jump in utility bills, Exelon won billions of dollars in subsidies to prop up two unprofitable nuclear plants in a heavily negotiated package that included money for energy efficiency measures.

The Chicago-based nonprofit Citizens Utility Board estimated it would shave $15 a year from the average residential electric bill, executive director David Kolata said.

"Our advice for other states is you have to get into the details," Kolata said. "Energy issues are holistic, and you have to make sure that what you do is best for consumers."

Family members who died in plane crash had zest for life

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Ore. — The three members of a California family killed in an Oregon plane crash are being described as fun-loving go-getters with a zest for life.

The crash on Friday killed John A. Zitting, 42; his wife, Karen Blackmore Zitting, 37; and their 17-year-old son, John "Brendan" Zitting. Also killed was the pilot, Mark Aletky, 67, of Acton, California.

Mark Zitting of Heber City, Utah, described his brother John as a man who lived life to the fullest, loved to travel and loved the ocean. He told the Los Angeles Daily News that the family members from Thousand Oaks, California, were good people and set great examples for others.

The crash occurred as the family was flying to Eugene, Oregon, so that Brendan, their only child, could tour the University of Oregon.

The plane crashed just before 11 a.m. Friday near an airport about 2 miles north of Harrisburg, Oregon, which is just north of Eugene, according to Linn County sheriff's officials.

"We were definitely not expecting this because (John) lived life to the fullest," said brother told the newspaper. "He had a yacht, and they spent a lot of time on the ocean when they could. They were all great examples and good people."

The single engine six-seat 1984 Piper PA-46-310P was flying from Van Nuys, California, to Eugene, the sheriff's office said. All four occupants were pronounced dead at the scene.

"Brendan was a great student, top of his class, on the swim team," Mark Zitting said. "He was a very smart, fun young man to be around and know."

The family moved from Utah to Southern California about seven years ago, and John Zitting started TruNorthe LLC, a Simi Valley-based construction management company, Mark Zitting said.

John Zitting was one of 12 siblings, his brother said.

Meanwhile, Aletky's son Joseph told OregonLive that his father was a professional drummer in California before deciding at the age of 45 that he wanted to be a pilot. Mark Aletky was the father of three children, Joseph said.

He said his father had flown thousands of hours in many aircraft and received training specific to the Piper PA-46-310P that crashed.

"He was extraordinary in his ability," Joseph Aletky said. "He's not the type to panic."

Witnesses reported seeing the plane flying low before turning and crashing into a grass field.

Federal authorities are investigating.

NATIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

RHODE ISLAND

Deaf patrons complain movie theater won't turn on captions

WARWICK, R.I. — Some deaf and hearing-impaired moviegoers say a Rhode Island theater refused to switch on the captioning so they could follow along with Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

The Providence Journal reports 18 hearing-impaired people tried to see the film at the Showcase Cinemas at Warwick Mall on Saturday.

Organizer Tim Riker says the group arrived unannounced and requested theater employees activate the captioning. But a manager refused, suggesting it wouldn't be fair to other patrons who had not paid to see a subtitled movie.

The group left without seeing the film.

WISCONSIN

Churches on alert amid hunt for gun theft suspect

JANESVILLE — Authorities are stepping up patrols around southern Wisconsin churches as a precaution as they search for a man suspected of stealing firearms from a gun store after threatening to carry out an unspecified attack.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office says 32-year-old Joseph Jakubowski expressed anti-religious views in a 161-page manifesto he sent to the White House. Police were increasing patrols near Janesville churches Sunday, although investigators say there is no specific threat.

Police in Sun Prairie, about 48 miles north of Janesville, say a man who entered Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Thursday and asked about church services was not Jakubowski.

Wisconsin takes aim at outdoors magazine, subscribers erupt

By Todd Richmond
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Twenty years of back issues in Jim Stroschein's attic attest to his love of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' magazine. Since 1919, the publication has featured stories and photos highlighting Wisconsin's natural splendor, from where to hunt, fish, hike and camp to what it's like to own a north woods cabin.

If Republican Gov. Scott Walker gets his way, this will be the magazine's last year. Even though it is sustained entirely by subscribers — it had nearly 84,000 as of December — Walker's proposed budget would end it next February. He argues that the state shouldn't be in the publishing business and that the DNR can reach more people through social media.

The proposal has outraged subscribers, particularly older ones who don't rely on the internet for news, and has Democrats wondering if the pro-industry governor wants to pull the plug because the publication promotes science.

"To take away this tremendous communication tool, which costs them nothing, is really short-sighted," said Stroschein, 54, of Mineral Point. "I don't understand it."

At least a dozen states publish magazines detailing their environmental and wildlife agencies' work, regarding them as a public relations vehicle. Wisconsin's, which comes out every two months, typically runs articles by agency staff and freelancers accompanied by gorgeous photographs of wildlife and the outdoors. The April issue has a list of outdoor trips for the public, a staff story on a state nature preserve, and contributor pieces on kids' efforts to build better birdhouses and how a ruffed grouse followed a man's aunt around in 1950.

DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp, a Walker appointee, told legislators last month that DNR employees lose time from core duties when they work on articles and that subscription revenue doesn't make up for the lost hours. Echoing her boss, she said the agency could reach more people through social media.

That's the same argument that former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley made when they eliminated their states' magazines in the last few years. Like Walker, they are both Republicans.

Some Wisconsin conservationists and Democrats aren't buying the explanation. They believe the move reflects the de-emphasis of science and education at the DNR under Walker. The DNR recently scrubbed language from an agency webpage that stated human activity was a major cause of climate change, despite overwhelming evidence that it is, and replaced it with language that said the causes of global warming are still being debated. That move came after the state budget Walker signed in 2015 cut half the positions in the DNR's science bureau.

Natasha Kassulke, who used to edit the DNR magazine, said agency executives began vetting content after a story on climate change ran in 2013. She said they spiked a story she wrote on the endangered American pine marten because it included a map showing that the creature inhabits an area near Lake Superior that had been slated for a contentious iron mine project. She said they also killed a story she wrote on how mammals will cope with climate change, telling her the terms "climate change" and "global warming" were forbidden.

"I do not like looking at a screen," Shavlik said. "I just like a piece of paper in front of me. If they have a good reason (for eliminating the magazine), I can live with it. So far I haven't heard a good reason."

Jim Shavlik, subscriber

Kassulke said she quit last summer because the editing had become so draconian.

"There are things in the magazine Walker hasn't liked," said state Sen. Jon Erpenbach, a Middleton Democrat who sits on the budget committee. "People like to sit down with something in their hand and read it outside of their smartphone or their tablet. It pays for itself. It's not a waste of staff time. It's more a matter of Scott Walker trying to control the message."

Walker included the elimination.

DNR spokesman James Dick declined to comment, saying the agency stands by Stepp's testimony to the budget committee.

Legislators could save the magazine as they revise Walker's budget. Nearly 3,000 people have subscribed and another 1,200 have renewed since Walker released the budget in February. The committee's Republican members say they have heard from many constituents asking to spare the magazine.

Louisiana's current governor, Democrat John Bel Edwards, decided last year to bring back the "Louisiana Conservationist" in a limited format. Rather than mail magazines to subscribers, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries places 7,500 free issues in its field offices.

"Everybody seems to like it, especially those old-timers, who seemed to miss it," said agency spokesman Rene LeBreton.

Jim Shavlik, 80, of Crivitz, said he's subscribed to the Wisconsin magazine for more years than he can remember. He sent an email to legislators warning them if the magazine dies he'll quit volunteering to sample area water quality for the DNR.

"I do not like looking at a screen," Shavlik said. "I just like a piece of paper in front of me. If they have a good reason (for eliminating the magazine), I can live with it. So far I haven't heard a good reason."

GUNMAN

From 3A

International University.

University Vice Provost Steve Moll, who taught Ackerman while she was working on a master's degree in hospitality, described her as "the whole package."

"She was smart, she was athletic, she was charming, she was determined," he said in a phone interview.

He said she was a hard worker who shined at everything she set her mind to. The New Jersey native was once chosen out of more than 1,000 students as the student leader for the prestigious South Beach Wine & Food Festival and later went to work at the Fontainebleau hotel, he added.

She'd been promoted to general manager of the upscale gym in August.

"My initial reaction was, 'No, this can't be. Why would anybody want to hurt such a lovely person'," he said.

Friends and colleagues described Hortis as a beloved spinning instructor with a generous spirit and warm demeanor. A photo of Hortis clad in black workout clothes, sitting on a bike while leading a class circulated online.

'Boss Baby,' 'Beauty' outshine 'Smurfs 3' at box office

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

Associated Press

This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows characters Tim, voiced by Miles Bakshi, left, and Boss Baby, voiced by Alec Baldwin in a scene from the animated film, "The Boss Baby."

LOS ANGELES — The Smurfs are feeling a little blue this weekend.

The third installment in Sony's animated series, "Smurfs: The Lost Village," made its box-office debut in third place, with $14 million — far behind family-friendly holdovers "The Boss Baby" and "Beauty and the Beast," according to studio estimates Sunday.

Featuring the voices of Demi Lovato and Joe Manganiello, "Smurfs," which reportedly cost $60 million to make, has not charmed critics either. Its earnings were worse than the 2013 opening of "Smurfs 2," which went on to gross $347.5 million worldwide despite a $17.5 million debut and a heftier $105 million price tag.

But the fate of the third "Smurfs" is not necessarily sealed, says ComScore's senior media analyst, Paul Dergarabedian.

"There are other revenue streams for films like this," Dergarabedian said, noting international profits and home video potential that could recoup production costs.

In first place, "The Boss Baby" added $26.3 million in its second weekend in theaters, bringing its North American total to $89.4 million. Sufficient buzz and the benefit of voice star Alec Baldwin's popular portrayal of President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live" likely helped the film succeed, Dergarabedian said.

Meanwhile, "Beauty and the Beast" earned $25 million to take second place at the box office. In four weeks, Disney's live-action fairy tale has brought in $432.3 million domestically.

Although the family films dominated, moviegoers had other options on a relatively quiet weekend. The tepidly reviewed buddy comedy "Going in Style," starring Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin, opened in fourth place, with $12.5 million.

The faith-based drama "The Case for Christ" also launched with $3.9 million from 1,174 theaters.

In limited release, the Chris Evans drama "Gifted" took in $476,000 from 56 theaters, while the World War II drama "Their Finest" grossed $77,000 from four screens in New York and Los Angeles.

The relative quiet at the box office is ending soon. "The Fate of the Furious," the eighth installment in "The Fast and the Furious" franchise, speeds into theaters next weekend, followed by "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" a few weeks later.

"There are a lot of box-office heavyweights looming on the horizon," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released today.

1. "The Boss Baby," $26.3 million ($37.5 million international).
2. "Beauty and the Beast," $25 million ($36.1 million international).
3. "Smurfs: The Lost Village," $14 million ($22 million international).
4. "Going in Style," $12.5 million ($4.3 million international).
5. "Ghost in the Shell," $7.4 million ($41.3 million international).
6. "Power Rangers," $6.2 million ($6.1 million international).
7. "Kong: Skull Island," $5.8 million ($16 million international).
8. "Logan," $4.1 million ($2.7 million international).
9. "Get Out," $4 million ($2 million international).
10. "The Case for Christ," $3.9 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Ghost in the Shell," $41.3 million.
2. "The Boss Baby," $37.5 million.
3. "Beauty and the Beast," $36.1 million.
4. "Smurfs: The Lost Village," $22 million.
5. "Kong: Skull Island," $16 million.
6. "The Devotion of Suspect X," $9.1 million.
7. "Power Rangers," $6.1 million.
8. "Life," $5.8 million.
9. "Going in Style," $4.3 million.
10. "Extraordinary Mission," $3.6 million.

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On sanctuary cities, conservatives distort facts

■ It's an argument that's hard for them to win because the facts aren't on their side

RUBEN NAVARRETTE

Washington Post Writers Group

Retired Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz would tell his students the oft-repeated secret to good lawyering.

"When the law is on your side," Dershowitz would say, "pound the law into the table. When the facts are on your side, pound the facts into the table. And when neither the law nor the facts are on your side, just pound the table."

In attacking so-called sanctuary cities, conservatives don't have either the facts or the law on their side. So they pound the table. They oversimplify, contradict themselves and talk in circles. The issue makes them crazy, which is how they sound.

Do they support states' rights? It depends.

California lawmakers are advancing a "sanctuary state" bill that would keep state and local police out of the immigration enforcement business. SB 54 — which cleared the state Senate last week— prohibits police from asking people about immigration status, allowing federal immigration agents to interview someone in custody, or assisting those agents in the enforcement of immigration law.

Conservatives are furious. They say California has gone rogue and that it has to be reined in.

Yet just a few years ago, in defending Arizona's racist immigration law, they argued in favor of states' rights and commended localities for challenging the federal government.

How about the independence of local police departments? Do conservatives support that? It depends.

Recently, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered a review of consent decrees between the Justice Department and local police departments accused of abuse. Championing the autonomy of local authorities, Sessions wrote in a staff memo: "Local control and local accountability are necessary for effective local policing. It is not the responsibility of the federal government to manage non-federal law enforcement agencies."

Except, it seems, when those local law enforcement agencies refuse to cooperate with federal immigration agents. At that point, it is the "responsibility" of the federal government not just to manage the localities but to crush them.

The very idea of sanctuary cities has turned conservatives into a hot mess. So they've created an alternate reality.

Imagine a scenario where illegal immigrants flood unchecked across the U.S.-Mexico border and prey on Americans at will — robbing, raping, assaulting and killing. Then they flee to these sanctuaries where they live out the rest of their days without fear of federal authorities. And, on the rare occasion that one of these predators winds up in the county jail, they're coddled by local law enforcement officials. When Immigration and Customs Enforcement asks that local authorities hold them there so they can be questioned about their immigration status, that request is ignored and the scofflaw is released into society.

Indeed, you have to imagine it. Because it's not real. No matter what conservatives say, this isn't what's happening across America.

If you're an illegal immigrant, there are no places where federal immigration statutes are null and void and where federal agents can't find, arrest and deport you.

When I tell this to opponents of sanctuary cities, they change the subject and talk about how the sheriff's departments that run the jails don't "cooperate" with federal agents.

But local police are not legally required to be errand boys for federal authorities. They may cooperate if they like, out of professional courtesy. By the way, that is something in short supply coming from the other direction. Ask any cop and they'll tell you: Federal agents are notoriously uncooperative with local police.

When I tell this to conservatives, they change the subject again and accuse local police, mayors, city councils and county boards of supervisors of actually "aiding and abetting" the undocumented by shielding them from federal immigration agents.

But that's not true either. The local authorities say they just want to see a warrant with the individual's name on it before they hand him over; of course, that means convincing a judge that the person is in the country illegally, and that takes evidence which the feds usually don't have.

Besides, if the federal government is truly interested in cracking down on those who "aid and abet" the undocumented, why not go after the people who give them money? They're called employers. And they're likely to put up some resistance.

When attacking so-called sanctuary cities, conservatives push arguments that dissolve like cotton candy in a rainstorm. Which explains why they cling so desperately to falsehoods and fake narratives. What else is there? Reality and truth are not so kind.

GUEST VIEW

Attack against Syria was justified, what comes next will be the hard part

Dallas Morning News

President Donald Trump drew his own line in the sands of Syria on Thursday night by authorizing the U.S. missile attack against an airfield where days before, U.S. officials say, Syrian government forces launched a chemical weapons attack against a rebel-held province near the Turkish border.

That barbarous attack, eyewitness accounts confirm, left 86 civilians dead, including children who simply burned up from the inside after breathing the savage sarin gas. After seeing photos of the attacks' gruesome toll last week, a shocked Trump told reporters Wednesday that a response was coming.

Thursday night, the world saw that he meant it.

In making good on his threat, Trump did more than predecessor Barack Obama, who allowed congressional fecklessness to scuttle his own plans to strike Syria after a much larger sarin attack in 2013.

But one thing Obama did understand — and we must hope Trump knows, too — is that launching the missiles was the easy part.

The hard part? Almost everything that comes next.

One goal of the strike, of course, was to convince Syria to not use chemical weapons again. But a minor strike like this one is unlikely to deter rogue behavior by itself, not with the Syrian regime fighting for its very survival.

To do that, as with so much else in this chaotic world, the United States must strengthen its diplomacy. Only if the opposition to chemical weapons is seen as an international, rather than just an American, priority will the legal prohibitions against their use have any teeth.

This is the kind of internationalist approach Trump often mocked as a candidate and has opposed even as president.

Will Thursday's attacks mark a turning point in Trump's understanding of America's role in the world? We hope this muscular shake-up of the American posture in Syria will spark new discussions in the region, and lead to new commitments from current and potential allies.

America is going to need those allies and all its diplomatic strength to see progress in Syria. Our priorities there, for now, remain unchanged: defeating ISIS and other terrorists that have footholds in Iraq and Syria, and ending the disastrous civil war that has already claimed 450,000 lives and displaced millions of refugees.

The administration must ensure that the success of a quick-strike attack on Syria doesn't make success on those long-term goals more difficult. And if Trump decides a more direct use of our own military is warranted, his next step must be to seek authorization from Congress.

Until then, the challenge remains one for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and his diplomats. This airstrike may prove a useful bit of leverage. Reconsidering America's wrong-headed ban on Syrian refugees could be another, signaling to an already burdened international community that our compassion for these victims goes beyond military strikes.

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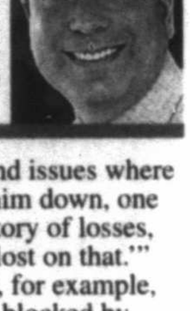
Mitch McConnell broke America

■ No man has done more in recent years to undermine the functioning of U.S. government



DANA MILBANK

Washington Post Writers Group

"No majority leader wants written on his tombstone that he presided over the end of the Senate," the minority leader said. He continued: "Breaking the rules to change the rules is un-American. I just hope the majority leader thinks about his legacy, the future of his party and, most importantly, the future of our country before he acts."

Are these the words of Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., as the Republican majority changed Senate rules last week to do away with filibusters of Supreme Court nominations?

Actually, they were uttered in 2013, by then-Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, when Democrats pushed through a similar filibuster change for lesser nominations.

That McConnell did a 180 on the topic — going from the institutional defender of the filibuster to the man who destroyed it — is unsurprising. He has frequently shifted his views to suit the needs of the moment. But in this case, McConnell was correct in 2013, and what he just did last week was even more ruinous than what he accused the Democrats of doing then.

By rights, McConnell's tombstone should say that he presided over the end of the Senate. And I'd add a second line: "He broke America." No man has done more in recent years to undermine the functioning of U.S. government. His has been the epitome of unprincipled leadership, the triumph of tactics in service of short-term power.

Back in 1994, McConnell lamented to the conservative Heritage Foundation that Republicans hadn't used the filibuster enough: "I am a proud guardian of gridlock. I think gridlock is making a big comeback in the country."

For the next quarter-century, he made sure of it. Back then, he was fighting all attempts at campaign-finance reform and spending limits, championing disclosure of contributions as the antidote. But when the Supreme Court allowed unlimited "dark money" in campaigns without disclosure, McConnell reversed course and has fought all attempts to enact disclosure.

McConnell famously declared in 2010: "The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president."

ProPublica's Alec MacGillis, author of a McConnell biography, "The Cynic," reports former Republican Sen. Robert Bennett's account of what McConnell told fellow Republicans after Obama's election: "Mitch said, 'We have a new president with an approval rating in the 70 percent area. We do not take him on frontally. We find issues where we can win, and we begin to take him down, one issue at a time. We create an inventory of losses, so it's Obama lost on this, Obama lost on that.'"

And that's what he did. By 2013, for example, 79 of Obama's nominees had been blocked by filibusters, compared to 68 in the entire previous history of the Republic.

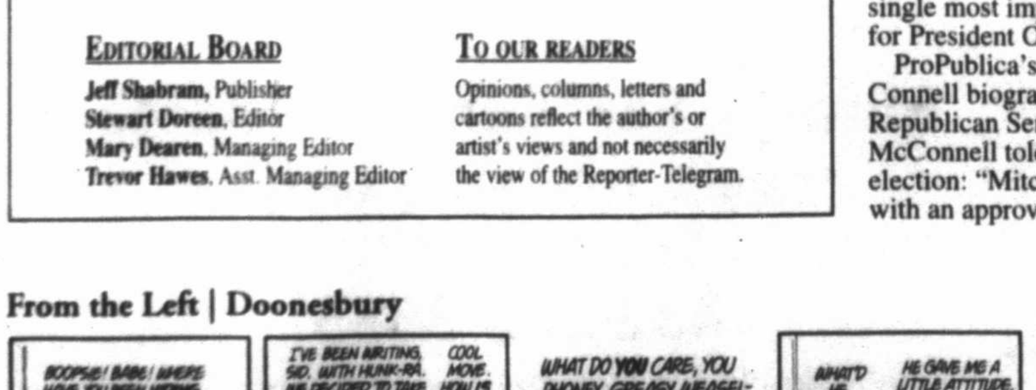
After Justice Antonin Scalia's death was confirmed last year, it took McConnell less than an hour to say that the vacancy should be filled by the next president. He called keeping Obama's nominee off the court "one of my proudest moments."

While other Republicans have, at times, been willing to criticize Donald Trump's outrages, McConnell has been conspicuously quiescent. Although his predecessors at least attempted collegiality, McConnell practices no such niceties (recall his "nevertheless, she persisted" silencing of Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren). But most characteristic of McConnell is his tendency to shift his views to suit current exigencies (on the minimum wage, withdrawal from Iraq, earmarks, abortion, labor and civil rights) and his adroitness at gumming up the works: forcing clerks to spend hours reading a bill aloud on the floor; opposing immigration legislation he'd encouraged; asking for a vote on a debt-ceiling proposal and then trying to filibuster it; urging the Obama administration to support a bipartisan debt commission and then voting against it.

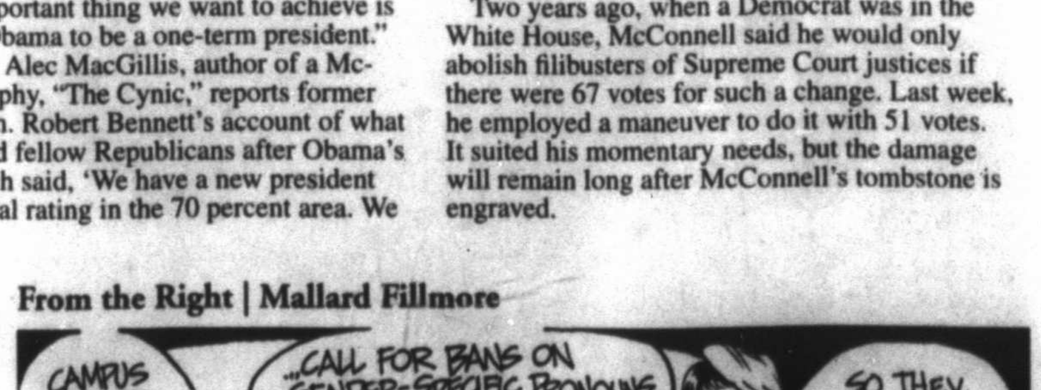
Now comes the filibuster's demise. In the current cycle of partisan escalation, it's only a matter of time before the filibuster is abolished for all legislation, killing the tradition of unlimited debate in the Senate dating back to 1789. The founders did this so minority rights would be respected and consensus could be formed — and McConnell is undoing it.

Two years ago, when a Democrat was in the White House, McConnell said he would only abolish filibusters of Supreme Court justices if there were 67 votes for such a change. Last week, he employed a maneuver to do it with 51 votes. It suited his momentary needs, but the damage will remain long after McConnell's tombstone is engraved.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Trump and taxes: Back to drawing board, seeks GOP consensus to overhaul tax system

By Josh Boak and Stephen Ohlemacher
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has scrapped the tax plan he campaigned on and is going back to the drawing board in a search for Republican consensus behind legislation to overhaul the U.S. tax system.

The administration's first attempt to write legislation is in its early stages and the White House has kept much of it under wraps. But it has already sprouted the consideration of a series of unorthodox proposals including a drastic cut to the payroll tax, aimed at appealing to Democrats.

Some view the search for new options as a result of Trump's refusal to set clear parameters for his plan and his exceedingly challenging endgame: reducing tax rates enough to spur faster growth without blowing up the budget deficit.

Administration officials say it's now unlikely that a tax overhaul will meet the August deadline set by Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. But the ambitious pace to figure out a plan reflects Trump's haste to move quickly past a bruising failure to broker a compromise within his own party on how to replace the health insurance law enacted under President Barack Obama.

The White House is trying to learn the lessons from health care. Rather than accepting a bill written by the lawmakers, White House officials are taking a more active role. Administration officials have signaled that they want to pass tax legislation with only Republican votes, yet they've also held listening sessions with House Democrats.

White House aides say the goal is to cut tax rates sharply enough to improve the economic picture in depressed rural and industrial pockets of the country where many Trump voters live. But the administration so far has swatted down alternative ways for raising revenues, such as a carbon tax, to offset lower rates.

Trump, who brands himself as a deal-maker, has not said which trade-offs he might accept and he has remained noncommittal on the leading blueprint, from Rep. Kevin Brady, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Brady, R-Texas, has proposed a border adjustment system, which would eliminate corporate deductions on imports, to raise $1 trillion over 10 years that could fund lower corporate tax rates.

But that possibility has rankled retailers who say it would lead to higher prices and threaten millions of jobs, while some lawmakers have worried that the system would violate World Trade Organization rules.

Brady has said he intends to amend the blueprint but has not spelled out how he would do so.

Other options are being shopped on Capitol Hill.

One circulating this past week would change the House Republican plan to eliminate much of the payroll tax and cut corporate tax rates. This would require a new dedicated funding source for Social Security.

The change, proposed by a GOP lobbyist with close ties to the Trump administration, would transform Brady's plan on imports into something closer to a value-added tax by also eliminating the deduction of labor expenses. This would bring it in line with WTO rules and generate an additional $12 trillion over 10 years, according to budget estimates. Those additional revenues could then enable the end of the 12.4 percent payroll tax, split evenly between employers and employees, that funds Social Security, while keeping the health insurance payroll tax in place.

This approach would give a worker earning $60,000 a year an additional $3,720 in take-home pay, a possible win that lawmakers could highlight back in their districts even though it would involve changing the funding mechanism for Social Security, according to the lobbyist, who asked for anonymity to discuss the proposal without disrupting early negotiations.

Although some billed this as a bipartisan solution, and President Barack Obama did temporarily cut the payroll tax after the Great Recession, others note it probably would run into firm opposition from Democrats who loathe to be seen as undermining Social Security.

The White House would not comment on the plan, but said a value-added tax based on consumption is not under consideration "as of now," according to a White House statement.

The lack of detail about how to significantly rewrite tax laws for the first time in 30 years may provide Trump some time to build consensus among Republicans. But without Trump laying down his hand, lawmakers appear reluctant to back a plan that will likely stir controversy.

"Because there are tradeoffs, congressmen need cover from the president to withstand the lobbyists and constituents who are going to complain," said Bill Gale, an economist at the Brookings Institution who worked at the White House Council of Economic Advisers during President George H.W. Bush's administration.

The Trump administration appears to have shut out the economists who helped assemble one of his campaign's tax overhaul plans, which independent analyses show would have increased the budget deficit.

"It's a little frustrating that they feel they have to write a new tax plan when they have a tax plan," said Steven Moore, an economist at the conservative Heritage Foundation who helped formulate tax policy for the Trump campaign.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, said that all of the trial balloons surfacing in public don't represent the work that's being done behind the scenes.

"It's not really what's going on," Portman said. "What's going on is they're working with on various ideas."

Investors are beginning to show some doubts that Trump can deliver. Stocks rallied after his election on the promise of lower taxes and fewer regulations, but the Dow Jones Industrial Average has dipped 1.2 percent over the past month as the path for health care and tax revisions has become muddied.

"The White House is going to need its own clear direction, or it's going to need to defer to Congress, but saying that your plan is forthcoming and then not producing a plan kind of puts everything in stasis," said Alan Cole, an economist at the conservative Tax Foundation.

Democratic congressman announces run for Colorado governor

By James Anderson
Associated Press

DENVER — Six-term Democratic U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter is entering Colorado's race for governor in 2018, saying he can do more for Colorado at home than he can in Washington. Perlmutter formally announced his candidacy at a rally Sunday in Golden, Colorado, and quickly established himself as the front-runner in the Democratic primary. Colorado's Democratic governor, John Hickenlooper, is stepping down because of term limits. Perlmutter, whose competitive Jefferson County district is home to private aerospace firms and federal research laboratories, said it's getting tougher to get things done in the nation's capital.

"The Trump administration, coupled with the gridlock that exists in Congress, really is causing things to go backward," Perlmutter said in an interview. "I feel I can provide more service and leadership at home than I can in Washington." "The Republican Party can't agree with itself right now. When the majority party is kind of in a chaotic state, nothing moves," he said. Perlmutter cited Trump administration rollbacks of environmental rules and protections as well as possible cutbacks in climate change and renewable energy research at the federal labs in his district. "I think that there is a check and balance that the state of Colorado and other states can provide in contrast to this administration," he said. Perlmutter, 63, said his priorities as governor would include public education, affordable housing, modernizing state highways and expanding the economic growth of metropolitan areas straddling the Interstate 25 corridor to other parts of the state. His candidacy creates the possibility that a Republican could capture Colorado's 7th Congressional District, though two Democratic state lawmakers already have indicated they will run. Republicans have a 4-3 edge in Colorado's congressional delegation. Democrat Michael Bennet and Republican Cory Gardner hold its Senate seats. An attorney and former state senator, Perlmutter was first elected to Congress in 2006. His district, which incorporates Denver's western and northern suburbs, was once solidly Republican but is now considered a bellwether on how Colorado votes — a place where independent voters outnumber both Democrats and Republicans.

Tillerson's Russia trip highlights emergence from shadows

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Criticized for his low-profile diplomacy, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is emerging from the shadows with a leading public role in shaping and explaining the Trump administration's missile strikes in Syria. And, he's set for an even higher-profile mission, heading to Moscow under the twin clouds of Russia's U.S. election meddling and its possible support for a Syrian chemical weapons attack.

Since taking office in February, the former Exxon Mobil CEO has admittedly shunned the spotlight and the press. Yet, Tillerson was surprisingly visible during last week's announcement of the response to the gruesome chemical attack, fielding questions from reporters on and off camera, and then captured in an official White House photo seated next to President Donald Trump as they heard the result of the 59 cruise missiles that struck a Syrian military base.

Tillerson was a prominent fixture during the most important foreign policy period in Trump's young presidency: a two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping that coincided with the strikes against Syria. He was by Trump's side during his meetings with Xi and spoke publicly multiple times to address both issues.

It was Tillerson who delivered the Trump administration's first blistering condemnation of Russia in the hours after the strikes. Standing in a cramped conference room alongside national security adviser H.R. McMaster, Tillerson said Moscow had "failed" to live up to its obligations under a 2013 agreement to strip Syria of its chemical weapons stockpiles. "Either Russia has been complicit or Russia has simply been incompetent in its ability to deliver on its end of that agreement," he said.

On Sunday, he made his first network television interview appearances. In one interview, Tillerson said he sees no reason for retaliation from Russia for the U.S. missile strikes. Russia maintains a close political and military alliance with President Bashar Assad's government and has been accused of supporting its attacks against Syrians opposed to Assad's rule — something Moscow adamantly denies.

Tillerson said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that Russians were not targeted by the strikes. He also said the top U.S. priority in the region hadn't changed and remained the defeat of Islamic State militants.

Then he headed to Europe to gather with the foreign ministers of the other major industrialized nations before venturing on eastward to become the first Trump Cabinet member to visit Moscow — and possibly meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The criticism from the foreign policy establishment's left and right that has dogged Tillerson's tenure is dying down. Tillerson had faced questions about whether he understood that his new position meant he was now the face of the United States to the world, that he had to answer no longer to a small group of top shareholders but to more than 320 million Americans. The secretary of state must be "the spokesman for American foreign policy," said Eliot Cohen, a senior State Department official during George W. Bush's presidency. "This is the administration's first crisis but it won't be their last by a long shot, so he's going to have to get used to this."

Joining Trump at the president's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, Tillerson was supposed to focus on the informal summit with Xi. Instead, he was thrust to the forefront after photos of the bodies piled in heaps in Idlib, Syria, dramatically altered the agenda.

Only a week earlier, Tillerson had alarmed U.S. allies by indicating the U.S. was no longer interested in pushing for Assad's removal from power.

In the hours leading up to Trump's decision to order the strikes, Tillerson was among the most forward-leaning of Trump's top aides in suggesting the U.S. would deliver an "appropriate response." He challenged Russia publicly in a way Trump appeared scrupulously to avoid and said of Assad early Thursday: "It would seem that there would be no role for him to govern the Syrian people."

After the cruise missiles crashed down in Syria, Tillerson was calm and commanding in a question-and-answer session with journalists.

Cohen, a conservative critic of Trump's foreign policy who has chided Tillerson for his reticence, said he saw Tillerson growing into the job. "I suspect you'll see more of him as he grows more comfortable in dealing with the press and in his relationship with the president and the administration's national security team," Cohen said.

The challenge will be greater in Russia's capital this week. Tillerson is arriving at a fragile point in U.S.-Russia relations, where he will have to confront the Kremlin's anger over the missile strikes in Syria along with suspicion at home that Moscow may have been complicit in the Syrian government's chemical weapons attack. Senior U.S. military officials have said they are looking into whether Russia provided drone surveillance and helped Syrian forces try to cover up what they'd done.

"I think that there will be a lot of answers that come out of that meeting. And I think that's when the president will make his decisions," Haley said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." Beyond Syria are disputes over Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and support for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

At the same time, Tillerson carries to Moscow the weight of FBI and congressional investigations into Russia's interference in last year's presidential election. The Trump campaign's possible ties to the presumed Russian meddlers are also under scrutiny.

"This is going to be Tillerson's biggest test to date," said Julianne Smith, a National Security Council and Defense Department official under President Barack Obama.

When he goes to Russia, keeping a low profile would likely be impossible, even if it were his goal.

Costs

From 2A

suggested they would, they will later need to approve funding for a fountain planned across the street from the hotel.

Odessans Toby and Sondra Eoff agreed last year to invest about $47 million through their company Eofficial Enterprises in a high-end Marriott hotel with more than 200 rooms and about 150,000 square feet, after selling their business Odessa Pumps in 2015. And their accountant, Peggy Dean, said the couple remains committed to investing at least $47 million.

Council members April 4 said they were mostly supportive of the city paying the additional costs. A contracted real estate advisor to the city, Stephen Moffett, has said selling sponsorships could generate millions. And he prepared projections that estimated the city could take in about $6.95 million by selling naming rights for the conference center, various meeting rooms and the parking garage. Once the hotel opens, the city will begin to receive state and local hotel/motel taxes that Morton said could be used for the project unless the hotel loses money during the first few years. The city's agreement with Eofficial Enterprises calls for the revenue to be used to offset an operating loss in that time. Still, city leaders plan to use the hotel/motel tax money for more downtown development. The increase in the hotel cost resulted from several changes, Dean said: the addition of an outdoor Starbucks, a larger pool, adding about 9,500 square feet to the hotel and taking over what had initially been planned as a city-operated plaza after a redesign requested by Marriott.

Sondra Eoff said the couple is prepared to invest an additional $1 million and will explore "what we can shave down without compromising quality." An example, she said, could be moving the hotel's fitness center to a different area or other minor tweaks that would not be apparent to people. Dean told city officials that more than $2 million added hotel cost "will not be the city's responsibility, even if you had the money to work on our shortage." "We are committed to the project," Dean said. "We may have to reduce some of our wow factors for the other million." Any changes to cut costs should not delay construction, Morton said. A groundbreaking ceremony for the downtown hotel and convention center is scheduled for April 18, with actual construction set to begin by early May.

The City Council on Tuesday will vote on whether to agree to a guaranteed maximum price for the project with the building contractor, UEB Builders, that should lock in costs unless the city or the Eoffs request changes to the project. "Once that's agreed to, the risk of the project goes over to UEB to deliver it for that price," Morton said. "So there shouldn't be any surprises after that. There won't be any surprises after that." Mayor David Turner touted the imminent construction while Midland officials weigh developing their own hotel and convention center.

"Our neighbors haven't even decided what they are going to do yet and we are entering construction," Turner said.

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And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;
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Tie them around your neck.
When you walk about, they will guide you;
When you sleep, they will watch over you;
And when you awake, they will talk to you."

Suicide bombers kill 44 at Palm Sunday services in Egypt

By Hamza Hendawi
Associated Press

TANTA, Egypt — Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 44 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage at the government that led the president to call for a three-month state of emergency.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the violence, adding to fears that extremists are shifting their focus to civilians, especially Egypt's Christian minority.

The attacks in the northern cities of Tanta and Alexandria that also left 126 people wounded came at the start of Holy Week leading up to Easter, and just weeks before Pope Francis is due to visit.

It was the single deadliest day for Christians in decades and the worst since a bombing at a Cairo church in December killed 30 people.

Late Sunday night, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi called for a three-month state of emergency. According to Egypt's constitution, parliament must vote in favor of such a declaration — a virtual certainty since it is packed with supporters of the president. It cannot exceed six months without a referendum to extend it.

The army chief-turned-president also dispatched elite troops across the country to protect key installations and accused unidentified countries of fueling instability, saying that "Egyptians have foiled plots and efforts by countries and fascist, terrorist organizations that tried to control Egypt."

The attacks highlighted the difficulties facing el-Sissi's government in protecting Christians, who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's population.

"Where is the government?" screamed an angry Maged Saleh, who rushed to the church in the Nile Delta city of Tanta where his mother escaped the carnage. "There is no government!"

The first bomb exploded inside St. George's Church in Tanta, killing at least 27 people and wounding 78, officials said, overturning pews, shattering windows and staining the white-washed walls with blood.

Video from inside the church broadcast by CBC TV showed people gathered around what appeared to be lifeless, bloody bodies covered with papers. Several doors had been blown off. Women wailed outside.

"After the explosion, everything became dark from the smoke," said Edmond Edward, attending Mass with his brother, Emil, who suffered head wounds and leaned on him for support at a nearby hospital.

"There was a clear lapse in security, which must be tightened from now on to save lives," he told The Associated Press. The blast appeared to be centered near the altar, he said.

Susan Mikhail, whose apartment balcony across the street has a clear view of the church and its front yard, said the explosion violently shook her building.

"Deacons were the first to run out of the church. Many of them had blood on their white robes," she told the AP. The more seriously wounded then were carried out by other survivors and taken to hospitals in private cars, she said.

Hundreds of residents gathered in the area, and church members blocked people from entering the church as police cordoned off the area.

A few hours later, a suicide bomber rushed toward St. Mark's Cathedral in the coastal city of Alexandria, the historic seat of Christendom in Egypt, killing at least 17 people and wounding 48.

CCTV images showed a man with a blue sweater tied over his shoulders approaching the main gate to St. Mark's and then being turned away by security and directed toward a metal detector. He passed a female police officer talking to another woman, and entered a metal detector before an explosion engulfed the area.

The Health Ministry said six Muslims were among the dead in Alexandria.

Pope Tawadros II, the Coptic church leader, had held Palm Sunday services at the cathedral, but his aides said he had escaped unharmed. The timing of the attack raised the question of whether the bomber had sought to assassinate him.

Pope Francis, who is due to visit Egypt on April 28-29, marked Palm Sunday in St. Peter's Square by expressing "deep condolences to my brother, Pope Tawadros II, the Coptic church and all of the dear Egyptian nation."

Magdy George Youssef, a deacon at St. George's, said the church was almost full when the blast occurred and threw him under a pew.

"All I could think of was to find my wife, and all I could see was smoke, blood and completely charred bodies," the distraught 58-year-old said. Youssef, who suffered only an injured ear, later found his wife at home, with burns to her face.

IS said in a statement that two Egyptian suicide bombers named Abd Ishaq al Masri and Abu al Baraa al Masri carried out the church attacks and vowed to continue attacks against Christians.

"What happened is a dangerous indicator that shows how easy it is to attack a large gathering of people in different places," said researcher Ishaq Ibrahim with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. "There is a complete government failure in taking the IS threat seriously."

El-Sissi said in a statement that Sunday's attacks would only strengthen the resolve of Egyptians against "evil forces." He held an emergency meeting of the National Defense Council, which includes the prime minister, the defense and interior ministers, the speaker of parliament and top army commanders and security chiefs.

Regional police chief Brig. Gen. Hossam Elddin Khalifa was fired over the Tanta bombing, with Maj. Gen. Tarek Hassouna replacing him, state-run newspaper al-Ahram reported.

President Donald Trump tweeted that he is "so sad to hear of the terrorist attack" against the U.S. ally but added that he has "great confidence" that el-Sissi "will handle the situation properly." The two leaders met at the White House on April 3.

Grand Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, head of Egypt's Al-Azhar — the leading center of learning in Sunni Islam — also condemned the attacks, calling them a "despicable terrorist bombing that targeted the lives of innocents."

Both Israel and the Islamic Hamas movement ruling neighboring Gaza condemned the bombings as well.

An Islamic State affiliate claimed the December bombing as well as a string of killings in the northern Sinai that forced hundreds of Christians to flee to safer areas. The militants recently vowed to step up attacks against Christians, whom they regard as infidels.

Egypt has struggled to combat a wave of Islamic militancy since the 2013 military overthrow of an elected Islamist president.

The Sinai-based IS affiliate has mainly attacked police and soldiers, but has also claimed bombings including the downing of a Russian passenger jetliner in the Sinai in 2015, which killed all 224 people aboard and devastated Egypt's tourism industry.

Egypt's Copts are one of the oldest Christian communities in the Middle East and have long complained of discrimination and that the government does not do enough to protect them.

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HOLY WEEK 2017
ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY
Saturday, April 8 • Mass at 5:00 pm

Sunday, April 9
Masses at 8:30 am, 10:45 am
1:00 pm (Spanish), and 5:00 pm

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
Tuesday, April 11
Confessions beginning at 7:00 pm
(visiting priests available)

HOLY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 13 • Mass at 7:00 pm
Washing of Feet • Presentation of Sacred Oils
The Lord's Supper and Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY
Friday, April 14
Stations of the Cross at 12:00 pm
Good Friday Liturgy at 7:00 pm
Liturgy of the Word • Veneration of the Cross
Holy Communion

HOLY SATURDAY
Saturday, April 15
Easter Vigil at 8:30 pm
First Mass of the Resurrection

EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday, April 16 • Masses at 8:30 am, 10:45 am
1:00 pm (Spanish), and 5:00 pm

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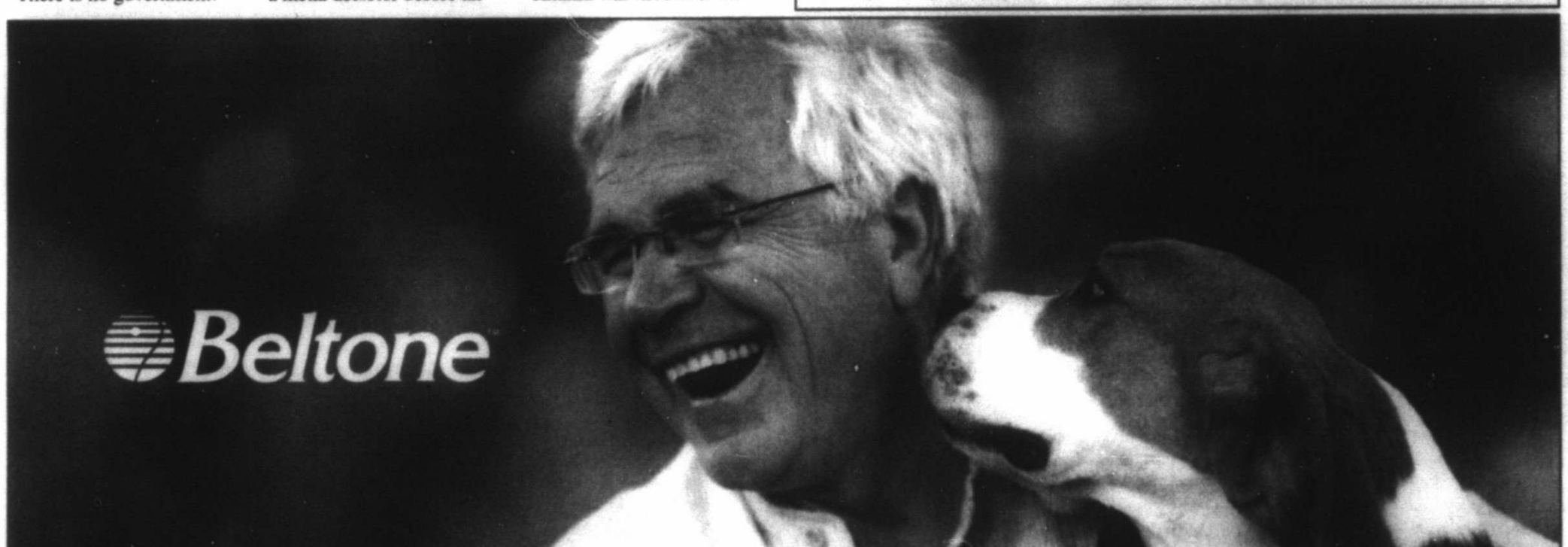
(Nursery will be provided for all services, except Tuesday's Penance Service)



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RECOGNIZING MIDLAND'S UNSUNG HEROES & VOLUNTEERS

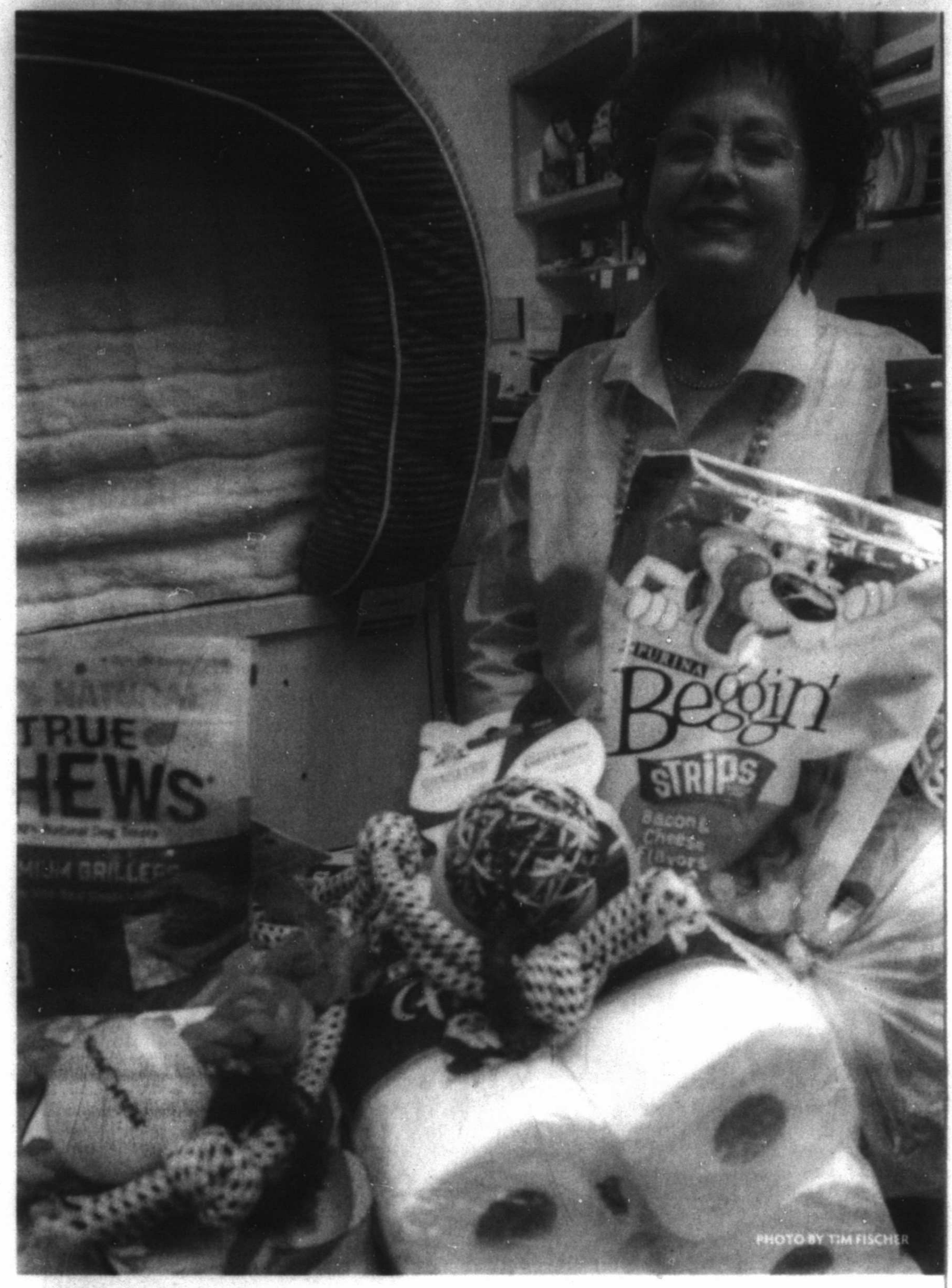

PHOTO BY TIM FISCHER

ANNE BATES

LONE STAR SANCTUARY FOR ANIMALS

Professional and community involvement: Throughout my time in Midland, I have been involved in many different organizations. I have enjoyed each and every one of them and have learned so much. Right now, I stay pretty busy with work and helping out at church.

How did you decide to get involved with Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals? Well, I have always had a soft spot in my heart for animals. Growing up, we always had cats, dogs and whatever else of God's creatures we dragged home and Mom and Dad let us keep. Twelve years ago, I went to Lone Star to look for a companion for my dog, Maggie. (I got Maggie at animal control). That's when Marley came into my life. They didn't know much about her because she had been dumped over the fence one night. She was such a loving dog and very much loved in return. She passed away in January. It was then I decided to do the drive for Lone Star to be able to give back to them for having Marley and for all the other fur babies that need homes. I have volunteered the past three years at their Yappy Hour.

What talents and skills do you share with the community? I don't know that I have any particularly special talents, other than a desire to help where I'm needed.

What unexpected lesson have you learned while working with Lone Star? If I've learned a lesson from working with Lone Star, it has been that no donation, no amount of money and no time commitment is too small to make a difference in a life. They are so appreciative of every bag of dog or cat food, every bed, every treat and every bottle of bleach. It doesn't take much to pick up something extra when you are at the store and drop it off for the hundreds of fur babies they take care of. You can even bring it to my store (The Canopy), and we'll take it for you.

Why is it important for local businesses to step up and help nonprofit organizations? I think it's very important for local businesses to give back to our community. Our community is what keeps us in business. Nonprofits work so hard to stretch their donations to fit all of their needs. When you see someone who needs you, you just step up.

How long has Midland been your home, and why have you stayed? My dad was transferred here in 1971 (with Shell Oil Co.). I graduated from Lee High School in 1973. When my husband graduated from Baylor Law School in 1980, we moved back here. My son was born here and graduated from Trinity in 2004. I've stayed because this is my home. I don't have any family here — just many wonderful friends and a business that I love.

What else would you like our readers to know about you? Because the donation drive was such a success, we have decided to continue to do it. So, please continue to bring in your donations and "shop small." Thank you.

"ANNE'S GIVING SPIRIT REALLY SHOWS THROUGH"

Anne Bates, longtime Midlander and owner of The Canopy, adopted Marley, a lovable 2-year- old mix, from Lone Star Animal Sanctuary 10 years ago. Marley quickly became part of the family, and for 10 years brought much happiness to Anne, her son, daughter-in-law and grandson.

Marley was 12 when she died in January. Anne wanted to honor her in a very special way and started a food and supply drive for Lone Star in memory of Marley.

For the month of March, she offered a 50 percent discount on any one item purchased at The Canopy in exchange for a donation of food, bedding, cleaning supplies or toys for Lone Star. The drive was more than successful and has provided much relief to a budget-strapped program.

Anne has always supported the rescue movement for abandoned and unwanted animals, especially dogs and cats. Anne's giving spirit really shows through with this wonderful, heartfelt effort.

Christa Bolger, *customer and friend*

"WHEN WE NEED FEET ON THE GROUND AT SPECIAL EVENTS, WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ANNE"

When Anne Bates came to Lone Star about 12 years ago to adopt her best friend, Marley, she adopted more than Marley. She adopted the shelter, too. Over the years, she has dedicated much of her time and resources to help the animals at the sanctuary have better and more fulfilled lives.

When you visit Anne's store, The Canopy, she always has a section of "pet-lover" items. A portion or all of the proceeds of the sale of these items are donated to the shelter. And when we need feet on the ground at special events, we can always count on Anne.

She recently sponsored a very successful supply drive at The Canopy. Lots of treats and cleaning supplies were collected for the shelter, and we can never have too many of those.

We were saddened when Anne lost Marley earlier this year due to complications of old age. But we thank Anne for giving Marley a wonderful home with all the love a dog could want. Thank you, Anne, for all you do for Lone Star's animals that are still waiting for their forever homes. We appreciate you more than words can say.

Barbara French, *secretary/treasurer, Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals*

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DIGITAL LIFE

How Apple, Microsoft are keeping desktop off deathbed

By Hayley Tsukayama
The Washington Post

Apple last week announced some minor upgrades to its Mac Pro desktop computer, which it says will be followed by a major overhaul of its high-end Mac. It's been four years since Apple announced any sort of update for the computer, leading some to worry that the company — which famously worked to usher in a "post-PC" era — was letting mobile overshadow the humble desktop.

But as Apple's announcement proves, we may not see desktops die completely, even in an era when mobile devices are our most-used gadgets. What may happen, however, is that desktop computers take on a new form. Judging by what companies have been trying lately to keep excitement alive in desktops, consumers may see the companies shift from affordable computers that can work in every home to higher-end, more specialized machines.

There's no denying desktops have been on the decline. Sales growth for computers, particularly desktops, has been sliding since 2012, according to consulting firm IDC. A recent study showed that Android overtook Windows as the world's most-used operating system overall. A similar thing happened with Apple in 2012 when its mobile operating system, iOS, was logged as getting more usage than Apple's desktop operating system as consumers turned more to their iPhones, iPads and iPods.

Basically, desktops have seen their main functions eroded by an army of new devices. Need a big keyboard on which to type? There's a cheap laptop, or a Bluetooth keyboard, for that. Want to stream an online movie? You can do that straight from your TV.

But the truth is that we may never go truly "post-PC" — or post-Mac, as the flurry of breathless articles over Apple's plans for the Mac Pro indicated.

There's always going to be things for which we need a computer. In fact, Deloitte last year claimed in a study that even the youngest of millennials, those ages 18 to 24, are still relying on desktops and laptops a lot for specific tasks, including shopping, banking, watching video and creating text and image files.

On top of that, companies are working to create desktops that fit into a world where mobile devices are increasingly doing most of the heavy lifting.

For Apple, part of the solution seems to be making the Mac Pro more customizable, and therefore more flexible when it comes to fitting people's needs. It's also more closely marrying the mobile and desktop experiences. Craig Federighi, Apple's senior vice president of software engineering, said that the company is working on making the iPad Pro work better with the desktop as a way to convince people that they still need both devices.

Microsoft appears to be dealing with PC shifts by taking the best of mobile technology and bringing it to the desktop, often in big, beautiful fashion. The Surface Studio, a 28-inch touch screen desktop computer that's also $3,000, lets you use a stylus as well as a dial that Microsoft designed just for this touch screen.

Samsung is trying to make your desk completely mobile-based. The company this month showed off a desktop mode for its upcoming Galaxy S8 phones, which lets you plug your phone into a $150 dock and use it with a monitor, keyboard and mouse for a more desktop-like experience. It's the kind of product that, in theory, that could kill the desktop as a widespread device. But it will take some time for mobile solutions like this to take off because they're still a little bit rough around the edges, said Gartner analyst Mikako Kitagawa.

"The reality of putting your small device onto your large screen is that you have to adjust screen size and applications to fit. Those little subtle changes are

Please see DESKTOP/4B

NO TIPPING REQUIRED

Domino's handout photo

Starship Technologies, the London-based company that has created six-wheeled self-driving delivery robots, will begin taking customers Domino's pizzas in Germany and the Netherlands.

Robots to deliver Domino's pizzas in Europe

By Jeremy Kahn
Bloomberg

Starship Technologies, the London-based company that has created six-wheeled self-driving delivery robots, will begin taking customers Domino's pizzas in Germany and the Netherlands.

Starship, launched in July 2014 by two former Skype co-founders, Ahti Heinla and Janus Friis, will whisk pizzas to customers' doors if they live within a one-mile radius of certain Dominos pizza shops in "select German and Dutch cities," the company said in a statement.

Domino's Pizza Enterprises, the world's largest franchise licence owner of Domino's Pizza, with operations in markets across Asia and Europe, has formed a group called Domino's Robotic Unit to oversee the project.

Domino's has tested ground-based autonomous vehicles for pizza delivery in Australia and New Zealand in 2016. In November, it also delivered a pizza — peri-peri chicken — by drone in New Zealand.

"With our growth plans over the next five to 10 years, we simply won't have enough delivery drivers if we do not look to add to our fleet through initiatives such as this," Domino's Pizza Enterprises Chief Executive Officer Don Meij said in a statement.

Starship's battery-powered robot is designed to operate autonomously on sidewalks, not roads, and has a maximum speed of four miles per hour carrying loads up to 20 pounds. Its cargo hold, which customers unlock with a code sent to their mobile phones, is insulated and the pizzas will also be placed inside a special hot or cold bag similar to the ones used for motorcycle-based deliveries.

"Dependent on size, we can carry up to eight pizzas on a delivery or a variety of combinations of pizzas, sides and cold drinks or dessert products," the company said.

Starship is already delivering food orders for Just Eat Plc in London, in the upmarket neighborhood of Greenwich. It also has partnerships for food, grocery and parcel deliveries with Postmates, DoorDash, Hermes Parcel Delivery Service, Swiss Post and Wolt in the U.S., U.K., Germany, Switzerland and Estonia.

Mercedes-Benz Vans, a unit of Daimler AG, invested $17.2 million in Starship in January. Mercedes-Benz has created prototype vans that could serve as a kind of "mothership" or logistics hub for a small fleet of autonomous sidewalk drones like Starship's. These vans could one day be self-driving too.

Google brings fake news fact-checking to search results

By Mark Bergen
Bloomberg

First fact-checking came to Facebook. Now it's coming to Google.

The world's largest search engine is rolling out a new feature that places "Fact Check" tags on snippets of articles in its News results. The Alphabet unit had already run limited tests. On Friday, it extended the capability to every listing in its News pages and massive search catalog.

This is the latest sign Google is responding to mounting pressure to police content it hosts online after criticism the company, and other internet firms, help spread misinformation.

Google isn't entirely giving up its usual hands-off approach: The company is letting others do the fact-checking. The approach is meant to legitimize or question claims online, Google said in a blog post. Checked search results list the name of the person or group making the assertion and the determination of the fact-checker.

Although Google is working with established fact-checking organizations, like PolitiFact and Snopes, it's also opening up the system to publishers including The Washington Post and The New York Times. In theory, media organizations could use the new feature to fact-check each other. Or publishers could give different verdicts on the veracity of the same article.

"These fact checks are not Google's and are presented so people can make more informed judgments," Google said. "Even though differing conclusions may be presented, we think it's still helpful for people to understand the degree of consensus around a particular claim and have clear information on which sources agree."

While any publisher can apply to add fact-check labels to content, Google search algorithms will determine whether they appear in results, a spokeswoman said.

The company plans to reserve the label for search results about addressable public claims of fact, rather than opinion. Publishers can write the labels that appear next to results. Examples include "True," "Mostly False," or "Pants on Fire!" (a favorite of PolitiFact).

Outcry over the influence of misinformation, or "fake news," began after the U.S. presidential election. Facebook, a leading driver of online traffic to publishers in the U.S., took the brunt of criticism. On Thursday, the company introduced new features in its flagship social network designed to show users how to detect false news.

But Google has not been immune to scrutiny. Critics have pointed to several instances of inaccurate and misleading articles surfacing in search results. Such examples are particularly stark when Google delivers what it finds in the form of tiny snippets, a priority for the company in recent years.

"From our perspective, there should just be no situation where fake news gets distributed, so we are all for doing better here," Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai told BBC News shortly after the U.S. election.

Google is not paying publications or fact-checking organizations. A spokeswoman for Google said articles that used the new fact-check label would not be ranked differently in search results.

Comcast enters wireless business

By Gerry Smith and Scott Moritz
Bloomberg

Comcast Corp. unveiled a wireless service that offers unlimited data on Verizon Communications Inc.'s network for cheaper than plans from nearly every other competitor.

While the subscriptions have some strings attached and are available to Comcast's internet and TV customers, they're likely to further escalate a price war that has ravaged the mobile-phone business in the U.S.

Comcast, the largest cable operator in the U.S., is looking to create new sources of revenue as consumers ditch traditional TV packages and competitors like AT&T and Charter Communications get bigger through acquisitions. The Philadelphia-based company is using the new service, called Xfinity Mobile, to entice its 29 million subscribers to stick around as more options become available to watch shows and movies online.

"The more products you add, the lower the churn," said Greg Butz, president of Comcast Mobile, using the industry term for monthly subscriber defections.

Comcast's current high-speed internet customers can get the unlimited mobile voice and data plan for $65 a month. It's $45 a month for those who already subscribe Comcast's premier "double" or "triple" play packages. That's a steep discount to the cheapest plans offered by Verizon and AT&T, the nation's No. 1 and No. 2 wireless carriers, respectively.

Comcast's service will work off of both Wi-Fi and cellular networks, meaning connections will be made using Comcast's 16 million Wi-Fi hotspots and Verizon's cellular network as a backup. Comcast can resell Verizon's wireless-network services as part of a deal the companies made in 2011.

Comcast will sell both Apple's iPhone and Samsung and LG phones. For now, customers won't be able to use their old devices on Xfinity Mobile.

Comcast enters the wireless market amid a four-year price war, which has depressed sales and led carriers to consider mergers and acquisitions. Every major wireless provider now lets users stream and download at will with no costly overage charges, a shift in the battle that shows no signs of abating.

The market may soon get even more crowded. Charter Communications, which has the same resale agreement with Verizon, plans to launch a wireless service in 2018. The company is still working out purchase contracts with phone makers and determining whether its 700 stores nationwide can support an influx of consumers seeking wireless deals, Charter Chief Executive Officer Tom Rutledge said earlier this year.

The cable operators may ultimately have trouble turning a profit in the wireless business. It will cost Comcast $20 to $30 a month per customer to provide cellular data from Verizon's service, Philip Cusick, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase, wrote in a January research note.

But Comcast says each wireless subscriber will be profitable

Please see COMCAST/4B

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	C	A	F	V	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!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (N)				Quantico "ODYOKE" (N)		Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	Kevin Can (N)	Man With a Plan (N)	Donuts (N)	2 Broke Girls (N)	Scorpion "Rock Block" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) The Late Show	(:35) J.Corden
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H "The Gun"	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	MacGyver "The Eraser"		Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Ice-Cold Hands"	Twilight Zone
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	24: Legacy "10:00 PM – 11:00 PM" (N)		APB "Strange Bedfellows" (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
KMLM	IND	11	12	12	11	11	Faith for Families	The Wings of Truth	Update News	Mani Erfan	Light of the Southwest "Part 1"		Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Update News	Housecall	Restore Zion	Sounds of Shofar
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	The Voice "Knockouts" The 'knockouts' continue in front of the coaches. (N)				Taken "Solo" (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show	(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Antique "Salt Lake City (Hour Two)" (N)		American Experience "The Great War" WWI changed the US through stories of soldiers. (N)				Charlie Rose (N)	Newsline	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe				Vino el amor		La piloto		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	Law&O: SVU "Crush"		SVU "Liberties"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
FLIX		340	575		165		(5:15) Glengarry G...		School for Scoundrels		(:45) National Lampoon's Van Wilder ...				Phat Beach			
HBO		300	550	14	14		LastWeek	Vice News	Girls	Goodbye	Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising		Crashing	(:10) Keanu			(:50) Syria	
HBO2		302	551	15	101	23	(5:25) Ice Age: Co...		VICE (N)	Crashing	(:05) Dallas Buyers Club			(:05) The Big Lebowski				
HBO5		304	552	16	102		(:55) Joy Jennifer Lawrence.				Be Kind Rewind		1stLook	Girls	How to Be Single			
MAX		380	557	17	120	24	(5:00) RocknRolla		Wanted James McAvoy.		(:50) The Exorcist ('73, Hor) Linda Blair.			(:55) Lights Out				
MAX2		382	558	18	122		(:55) Everest ('15, Adv) Jake Gyllenhaal.				Ghost ('90, Rom) Patrick Swayze.			(:10) Jem and the Holograms				
PLEX				96			(5:15) Memories o...		Elizabeth: The Golden Age				(:55) The Journey of August ...		The Fortune Cookie			
SHOW		320	565	19	140	25	Movie	TheCircus	Homeland		Billions		Homeland		Billions		TheCircus	StevByrn
TMC		336	573	22	155	26	(5:30) The Ladies...		Meet the Browns D. Mann.				Fifty Shades of Black		(:35) Who's Your Caddy?			
A&E		27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "Ringside Seat"		The First 48 "Murder in Treme"		The First 48 "Fatal Mistake"		Bates Motel "The Body" (N)		(:05) The First 48		(:05) The First 48 "Murder in Treme"	
AMC		40	74	23	42	51	CallSaul	(:50) Better Call Saul "Nailed"			(:55) Call Saul "Klick"		Call Saul (SP) (N)		(:10) TalkSaul (SP) (N)		(:10) Better Call Saul	
BET		58	-		40		Movie	Brotherly Love (2015, Drama) Cory Hardict, Romeo Miller, Keke Palmer.							Martin	Martin	Daily S.	Insider
BRAVO		65	76		41		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump R. (N)		Southern Charm (N)		Sweet OK	Sweet OK	Watch (N)	Vanderpump Rules		S. Charm
CNBC		46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN		43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC		50	60	31	24	42	Street Outlaws				Street Outlaws (SP) (N)				Street Outlaws			
DISNEY		56	64	36	25	36	AndiMack	Good Luck	StuckMid	GoodLuck	LivMad	LivMad	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie	Girl M.	Friends
ESPN		32	35	48	31	30	Baseball Tonight (L)		MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs (L)						SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2		34	36	49	32	31	SportsCenter		NCAA Basketball				30 for 30		NFL Live		Tonight	Featured
FNC		45	48	53	23	55	The First 100 Days		The O'Reilly Factor		TuckerCarlsonTon		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		TuckerCarlsonTon	
FOOD		64	70	27	68	54	Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins (N)		Yelp (N)	Diners	Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins	
FREEFORM		53	63	34	42	33	(4:30) Grease		Young (N)	Daddy (N)	Twins: Happily (N)		(:05) Young	Daddy	The 700 Club		Mean Girls 2	
FSSW		37	38	50	45	29	SportsDay OnAir	Champio. "Wrestling"	H.S. Basketball UIL State Championship				H.S. Basketball UIL State Championship		UFC UFC Fight Night Arena		Site: Saitama Super	
FX		31	56	59	64	69	(4:00) Snow Whit...		World War Z ('13, Act) Mireille Enos, Brad Pitt.						World War Z ('13, Act) Mireille Enos, Brad Pitt.			
HALLMARK		54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV		63	69	26	48	44	Renovation		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		H.Hunt	House	House	House	Love It or List It	
HISTORY		71	59	29	50	43	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers (N)		(:05) Pawn	(:35) Pawn	(:05) Pawn	(:35) Pawn	(:05) Amer. Pickers	
LIFETIME		28	30	25	28	48	(4:00) Madea's Witness Protection		Mr. and Mrs. Smith ('05, Act) Brad Pitt. A husband and wife, leading double lives as assassins, become each other's target.						Little Women: LA "Big Little Lies"		Mr. and Mrs. Smith Brad Pitt.	
MSNBC		47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball	Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN		38	43				Cycling Paris-Roubaix						Curling World Championship Gold Medal Site: Northlands Coliseum					
NICK		55	-	39	34	37	Thunder	Thunder	Nicky	GShakers	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE		30	-	55	53	58	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Adam Carolla (N)	Cops	Cops	
SYFY		66	82	41	57	67	(5:00) Independence Day Will Smith.				Jupiter Ascending ('15, Sci-Fi) Mila Kunis.			(:40) Resident Evil: Extinction				
TBS		25	33	44	66	41	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad (N)	Tribeca (N)	Conan Jenna Elfman, Dave Koechner (N)		Angie Tribeca	Conan
TCM		41	75	24	63	66	(5:15) Happiness...		Tales of Manhattan Charles Boyer.				(:15) O.Henry's Full House ('52, Bio) Fred Allen.				Movie	
TELE		20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		La Doña		La Doña		El Capo		Al rojo	(:30) Titular.	La Doña	
TLC		51	61	32	38	52	My 600-lb Life "Cynthia's Story"				My 600-lb Life "Nicole's Story" Nicole is on the verge of leaving her kids motherless.				My 600-lb Life "Cynthia's Story" Cynthia is a 610-lb single mother raising five kids.			
TNT		24	34	40	26	50	Bones "The Purging of the Pundit"		NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Detroit Pistons Site: Palace of Auburn Hills -- Detroit, Mich. (L)				NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)					
TVLAND		49	-	35	54	35	MASH	(:35) MASH	(:10) MASH	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA		26	55	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw						(:05) Friday N "Grow Up and Be Men" (N)	(:15) Modern	(:45) Modern	
WGN		19	85				Troy ('04, Act) Orlando Bloom, Brad Pitt. The Prince of Troy starts a war when he leads the Queen of Sparta away from her husband.						Underground "Whiteface"		(:05) Troy (2004, Action) Orlando Bloom, Eric Bana, Brad Pitt.			

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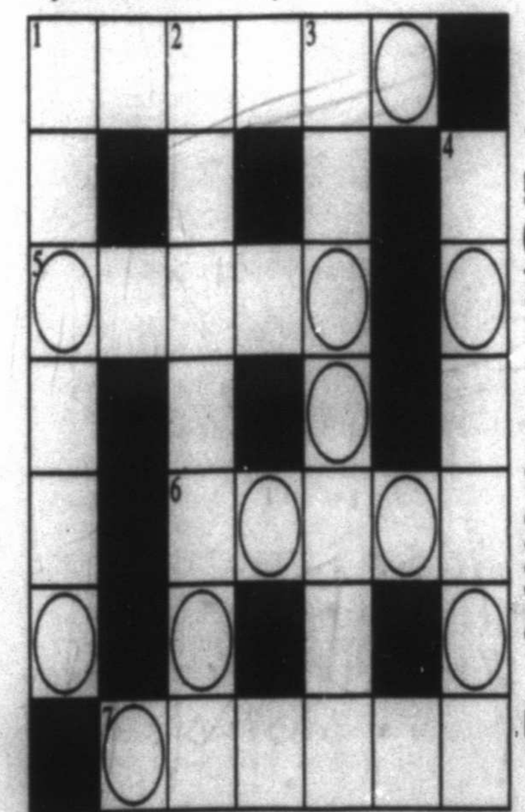
JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Instant ___	ELYRPA
5. Match ___	NTOPI
6. Dull	ULTBN
7. You, now	RRAEDE

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Reimbursed	PDARIE
2. Malleable	BLIPELA
3. Shock	DNSTUAO
4. Minister	APOTRS

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.

4-10-17 **CLUE:** This person said, "Most country songs, certainly all the stuff I've written, are stories driven by characters."

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Replay 5A-Runs 6A-Blunt 7A-Reader 1D-Repaid 2D-Plaque 3D-Asteroid 4D-Pastor Today's Tartan

Send comments to TMS - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MERIG

OHDUN

PITPEO

LHITPG

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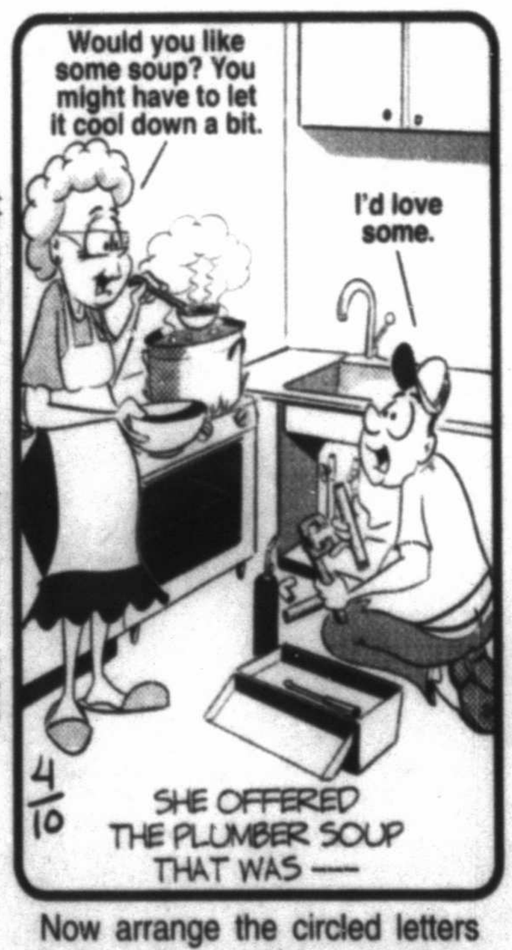
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ____ ____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DROOP DITCH AWAKEN BREEZY
Answer: After reaching Everest's summit, he felt that his mountain-climbing career — HAD PEAKED

TOPS@ iTINES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Movies

iTunes Movies U.S. charts for week ending April 2:

iTunes Movies US Charts:
1. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
2. Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
3. Why Him?
4. Patriots Day
5. Hidden Figures
6. Sing
7. Moana (2016)
8. Passengers (2016)
9. Lion
10. Assassin's Creed

iTunes Movies US Charts - Independent:
1. Don't Think Twice
2. Moonlight
3. 20th Century Women
4. Manchester By the Sea
5. The Dressmaker
6. Neruda
7. Fittest On Earth: A Decade of Fitness
8. The Blackcoat's Daughter
9. Here Alone
10. Under the Skin (2014)
Source: Apple Inc.

Apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending April 2:

Top Paid iPhone Apps:
1. Minecraft: Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
3. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
4. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
5. Facetune, Lightricks Ltd.
6. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
7. NBA 2K17, 2K
8. The Escapists, Team17 Software Ltd
9. iSchedule, HotSchedules
10. Enlight, Lightricks Ltd.

Top Free iPhone Apps:
1. MLB Tap Sports Baseball 2017, Glu Games Inc
2. Ballz, Ketchapp
3. Bitmoji - Your Personal Emoji, Bitstrips
4. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
5. Google Maps - Navigation & Transit Google, Inc.
6. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
7. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
8. YouTube - Watch, Upload and Share Videos, Google, Inc.
9. Chicken Scream, Perfect Tap Games
10. Gangstar New Orleans: Online Open World Game, Gameloft

Top Paid iPad Apps:
1. Minecraft: Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Toca Kitchen 2, Toca Boca AB
3. The Escapists, Team17 Software Ltd
4. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
5. Mickey Mouse Clubhouse - Color & Play, Disney
6. Bloons TD 5 HD, Ninja Kiwi
7. R.B.I. Baseball 17, MLB.com
8. Terraria, 505 Games (US), Inc.
9. Five Nights at Freddy's: Sister Location, Scott Cawthon
10. Dinotrux: Trux It Up!, Fox and Sheep GmbH

Top Free iPad Apps:
1. Gangstar New Orleans: Online Open World Game, Gameloft
2. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
3. Club Penguin Island, Disney
4. YouTube - Watch, Upload and Share Videos, Google, Inc.
5. Power Rangers: Legacy Wars, nWay Inc.
6. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
7. Super Mario Run, Nintendo Co., Ltd.
8. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
9. MLB Tap Sports Baseball 2017, Glu Games Inc
10. Rolling Sky, Cheetah Technology Corporation Limited

Books

iBook charts for week ending April 2
(Rank, Book Title by Author Name, ISBN, Publisher):

iBooks US Bestseller List - Paid Books
1. The Black Book by David Ellis & James Patterson - 9780316464147 - (Little, Brown and Company)
2. Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty - 9780698138636 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
3. The Villa by Nora Roberts - 9781101146347 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
4. It by Stephen King - 9781501141232 - (Scribner)
5. The Widow by Fiona Barton - 9781101990469 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
6. Dirty Filthy Rich Men by Laurelin Paige - 9781942835165 - (Paige Press, LLC)
7. The Girl Before by J.P. Delaney - 9780425285053 - (Random House Publishing Group)
8. Mississippi Blood by Greg Iles - 9780062311191 - (William Morrow)
9. The Shack by William P. Young - 9780964729292 - (Windblown Media)
10. The Melody Lingers On by Mary Higgins Clark - 9781476749136 - (Simon & Schuster)

YouTube TV has nifty features, big drawbacks

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

■ REVIEW

NEW YORK — YouTube TV, Google's new streaming package of about 40 television channels, is the tech industry's latest bid to get cable-shunning millennials to pay for live TV over the internet. It offers intriguing advantages over rivals, but it remains hobbled by a limited channel selection.

Don't confuse the YouTube service, which debuted Wednesday, with Netflix, Amazon Prime and other streaming offerings. Like similar efforts from Sony, Dish and AT&T's DirecTV, YouTube TV primarily aims to let you channel surf over the internet, not to stream from an online library of shows and movies. So these internet-cable services can offer live programming, especially sports.

But they also come with some serious drawbacks. While these services are typically cheaper than traditional cable or satellite services, people haven't been signing up in droves. Google is targeting viewers who have never subscribed to cable or satellite TV and are just as happy to get all their video from the internet; getting them to cough up $35 a month could be a hard sell.

Google aims to lure subscribers with more sophisticated program search, personalized recommendations and a more fully featured online DVR than rival services offer. But it faces many of the limitations its rivals have.

YouTube TV, for instance, features staples such as ESPN and major broadcast networks, but lacks key networks such as PBS, CNN and Comedy Central. And it will initially be only available in a handful of major U.S. cities because media rights are still stuck in the 20th century.

WHAT YOU GET ... AND WHAT YOU DON'T

YouTube TV offers plenty of live sports, one of the chief reasons people stick with cable. Pick a team, and the service automatically records all the televised games it can find. Available channels include ESPN, Big Ten and sports networks from Comcast, Fox and CBS — but not Turner networks such as TBS and others that aired the bulk of March Madness. New York Mets fans won't get baseball games on SNY.

YouTube also has the youth-oriented Freeform and CW networks; its rivals lack The CW. AMC is coming in a few weeks, so you'll have to wait to catch up on the just-ended season of "The Walking Dead."

Because most channel numbers and names are meaningless in a digital world, YouTube TV arranges live channels by topic, starting with broadcast networks, sports, youth-oriented channels, then everything else. Subscriptions are initially limited to New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and the San Francisco Bay Area — all locations where YouTube could get rights to local ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC stations.

SEARCH PARTY

As you'd expect from Google, search is one of YouTube's big selling points. Its rivals already offer search by shows and sometimes by actors; YouTube adds topical searches, such as "aliens" or "road trips."

Unfortunately, it's still a work in progress.

COMCAST

From 2B

once the company reaches a critical mass of users, a number it didn't disclose. It says it'll save money by marketing only to existing subscribers.

For now, Comcast will target subscribers within its regional footprints, which include Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston — a market that could mean 130 million wireless lines.

Comcast says its new service will compete not just on price but also by making it seamless to switch between cellular and Wi-Fi and by giving customers more flexibility than other carriers, like letting family members choose different plans or switch between plans depending on which one saves more money. Customers will automatically be signed in to Comcast apps like Stream, a TV service that will come pre-loaded on phones.

"We're taking the friction away from logging on to Wi-Fi and logging on to other apps," said Sam Schwartz, chief business development officer for Comcast Cable.

The cable provider sees an opportunity to offer lower prices because most people use their phones on Wi-Fi at home or at work. Comcast says up to 80 percent of smartphone data in the U.S. travels over Wi-Fi, not cell networks, so Comcast won't have to pay Verizon as much for the data.

Comcast's entry into wireless comes at a crucial moment for the cable giant. AT&T has moved aggressively onto its turf, offering low-cost TV packages that can be watched on-the-go and don't count toward monthly data limits. And advances in wireless 5G technology could make surfing the web on phones as fast and reliable as high-speed internet connections at home — a service that has been a major growth area for Comcast.

Depending on its success in wireless, Comcast could get more ambitious and pursue an acquisition of a wireless carrier such as T-Mobile US Inc., according to some analysts. For now, Comcast insists that selling wireless through Verizon's network is the long-term strategy.

"We do think we have a sustainable model here," Butz said.

DESKTOP

From 2B

hectic, and it's not realistic to use them," she said.

So, judging by how the desktop market has evolved over the past several years — and where it's headed — the upshot seems to be that you'll probably be spending more for a desktop, but possibly using it for fewer things.

Kitagawa said that, in her opinion, desktops will settle at around the $800-$1,000 range for consumers who don't want the high-end machines that you'd see in a professional setting, but want the power for gaming, video and photo editing or other hobbies.

"That's going to be the sweet spot," she said.

healthy living

PAID CONTENT

To appear here call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

AUDIO ACOUSTICS

You can't remember what you never heard

By Orland Purcell, Au.D. CCC-A

ORLAND PURCELL, AU. D.

Let's face it, we've all misunderstood what someone said from time to time—whether it was the fault of a noisy environment or we just weren't paying attention to the speaker.

In music it's called a mondegreen. For example, Creedence Clearwater's "There's a Bad Moon on the Rise" has been misheard so many times as "There's a Bathroom on the Right," that John Fogerty has been known to actually sing it that way in concerts.

That's because our brain is the main organ in the hearing process. It interprets incoming sounds into language and communication. So when the input is stifled by hearing loss, the brain's work gets much harder. And the listener, according to many studies, literally gets tired faster.

We like to name things, and this condition has a name. It's called hearing loss fatigue.

Okay, it's not all that clever, but at least it's very descriptive. Symptoms include exhaustion and low energy.

They also include apparent forgetfulness. Someone says, "I told you that yesterday." The response may be, "I forgot," but it may more accurately be, "I only heard what I thought you said, and that wasn't it."

A recent article on the website healthyhearing.com, stated, "What's more, untreated hearing loss can also lead to increased irritability, anxiety, depression and a greater risk for developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease. In a February 2016 issue of The Guardian, Frank Lin, an otologist and epidemiologist at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, said he believes at least 36 percent of dementia risk is related to untreated hearing loss. He and his colleagues have begun clinical trials to study if access to hearing aids could help fight cognitive decline"

The good news is that most people with sensorineural hearing loss, the most common kind, can benefit significantly from hearing devices such as hearing aids or cochlear implants.

A 2013 Vanderbilt University study involving adults aged 47-69 who had hearing loss showed this. Researchers found that individuals using clinically-fit hearing aids spent less effort in the listening process. They also were less susceptible to mental fatigue than those without hearing help.

The challenge is that the longer hearing loss goes untreated, the harder it becomes to regain understanding of speech. So if you feel you might have hearing loss it's important to get your hearing evaluated as soon as you can.

Regaining speech understanding can happen—with patience and practice. You'll want to become an active listener so the person you're talking to knows you're engaged.

I always tell patients that I'm not in the hearing aid business, I'm in the communication business. When a hearing aid can help, we can supply that. But as we've discussed here, there's no one magic bullet that fixes everything instantly. Regaining hearing is a process of re-learning to understand and retraining friends and family members that they no longer have to worry about repeating, speaking louder or stifling a smile when you misquote them.

It's also about rejoining society. That's the best part. No longer will you decide to stay home from a party or outing because you're afraid it will be too tiring. You can hear the radio. You can listen to the birds. You can converse about your interests. You can hear the world sing.

And you'll feel like singing along.

Audio Acoustics, a full-service hearing center owned by Orland Purcell, Au. D., has been in business since 1975. Ginger Peugh, Au. D., is his associate. They offer industrial hearing conservation, diagnostic audiology and a wide variety of hearing aids. They are located at 2101 North Midland Drive, Suite Four. The phone number is 689-4327.

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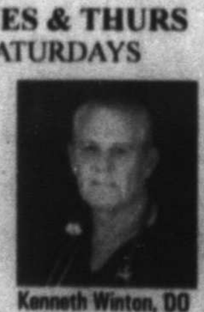
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Family Care Clinic

Local teams aim for success at TAPPS state tourney

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

Midland Christian seniors Madelyn Hammond and Kristal Wight are capable girls singles players, but the two are hoping to create some momentum on the court as a tandem.

Hammond and Wight will be competing in the TAPPS 5A State Tennis Championships as a girls doubles team, Wednesday and Thursday at Waco Regional Tennis Center in Waco.

Following her high school days, Hammond will continue her tennis career at Hardin-Simmons University.

Wight qualified for the state tournament as a freshman at MCS, before moving to Marble Falls for her sophomore and junior seasons.

Midland Christian coach Jon Lanier believed pairing Wight and Hammond together was the best chance for the two to go far at state.

The change to doubles made sense because MCS had three nationally ranked girls singles players on opposing teams in its TAPPS 1-5A district, and Wight was coming off a devastating knee injury that made it difficult for her to play several matches in a two-day span.

As a junior, Wight underwent a full knee reconstruction surgery after tearing her medial collateral ligament and meniscus.

"She was already back this past summer taking lessons," Lanier said. "It's amazing how fast she came back. She's a real hard worker and tough kid."

Lanier says Wight and Hammond have made a lot of progress in their practice sessions these past two weeks after playing together sparingly during the fall and spring.

"They have doubles skills," Lanier said. "They volley well."

Wight isn't the only MCS state qualifier battling back from a serious injury as junior Joshua Ramos will compete in boys singles after missing the 2016 tennis postseason due to a stress fracture in his lower spine.

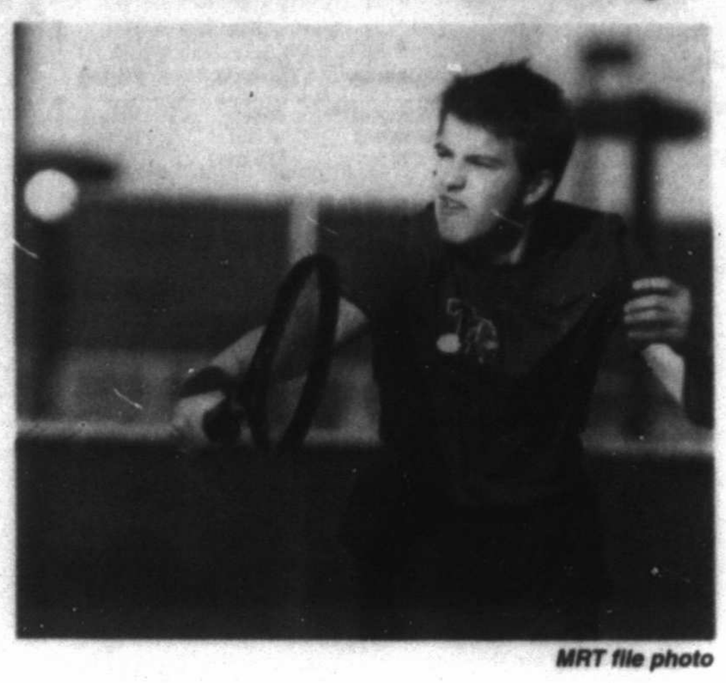
"He has worked really hard," Lanier said of Ramos. "That wasn't easy to come back from. He was in a back brace for three months."

Ramos reached the state tournament as a freshman in boys singles, and finished runner-up at the TAPPS 1-5A Tournament on March 30.

Trinity brothers return to state

Trinity brothers Justin Hofman and Dylan Hofman will compete in boys doubles at the TAPPS 4A State Tennis Championships today and Tuesday in Waco.

Please see **TOURNEY**/4C



MRT file photo

Justin Hofman, with Trinity School, returns a shot March 24 during doubles play with Dylan Hofman at the TAPPS 1-4A semifinals at Bush Tennis Center.

ENDING THE DROUGHT

Associated Press

Sergio Garcia holds the winning trophy after the Masters golf tournament Sunday in Augusta, Ga.

Sergio Garcia finally wins the Masters

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Sergio Garcia finally showed he has what it takes to win a major, and he has a green jacket to prove it.

Needing his best golf on just about every shot in the final hour at the Masters, Garcia overcame a two-shot deficit with six holes to play and beat Justin Rose in a sudden-death playoff Sunday for his first major after nearly two decades of heartache.

No one ever played more majors as a pro — 70 — before winning one for the first time.

Garcia got rid of the demons and the doubts with two big moments on the par 5s — one a par, the other an eagle — in closing with a 3-under 69. It was never easy until the end, when Rose sent his drive into the trees on the 18th hole in the playoff, punched out and failed to save par from 15 feet.

That gave the 37-year-old Spaniard two putts from 12 feet for the victory, and his putt swirled into the cup for a birdie. He crouched in disbelief, and shouted above the loudest roar of the day.

Rose, who also closed with a 69, lovingly patted Garcia's cheek before they embraced. Rose then tapped Garcia on the heart, which turned out to be a lot bigger than anyone realized.

"Ser-gee-oh! Ser-gee-oh!" the delirious gallery chanted to Garcia, who couldn't contain his emotion.

Garcia turned with his arms to his side, blew a kiss to the crowd and then crouched again and slammed his fist into the turf of the green.

All that Spanish passion was on display, raw as ever, this time sheer joy.

Garcia became the third Spaniard in a green jacket, winning on what would have been the 60th birthday of the late Seve Ballesteros. And it was Jose Maria Olazabal, who won the Masters in 1994 and 1999, who sent him a text on the

Please see **MASTERS**/4C

MISD teams face tall task at district tourney

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Competing against a top-heavy field, the Lee and Midland High boys golf teams will both face a tall task in earning a bid to the Class 6A Region I tournament at the District 2-6A tournament.

The first round of the district tournament tees off at 9 a.m. today at Diamondback Golf Course in Abilene. The final round commences at 9 a.m. Tuesday again at Diamondback.

The top two teams will advance to the region tournament to be held April 26-27 at Texas Star Golf Course in Euless. In addition, the top two medalists on non-qualifying teams will also earn a regional bid.

In an effort to reduce costs for each of the district teams and to play at a neutral location, the tournament will be held on consecutive days at Diamondback.

Both the Rebels and Bulldogs will be looking to build off their performances at the District 2-6A preview tournament two weeks ago on the same course.

In that tournament, the Lee boys placed fourth with a two-round score of 332-330—662, 33 strokes behind second-place San Angelo Central and a hypothetical regional qualification.

Senior Jared Arras led the way for the Rebels and finished third in the medalist standings with a score of 74-77—151, two strokes behind champion Tripp Wallace of Wolfforth Frenship.

Arras, who led the field by one stroke after the preview tournament's first round, will be aiming for his second trip to regionals after qualifying last year as a medalist.

He critiqued his preview performance objectively and said he'll need to be better today and Tuesday to advance. But he added that he's confident he can cut strokes from his score and help the Lee boys compete for a team bid to regionals.

"I was in the lead after the first day and gave it away," Arras said. "But (my performance) gives me confidence that I can go to regionals again. I feel like we can come together as a team, go out there and have fun."

Meanwhile Midland High, which finished seventh out of seven teams with a two-day total of 387-382—769 at the preview, seems a long shot for a regional berth. But the Bulldogs have improved their individual scores as the season has progressed.

Sebastian Cruz will spearhead the Bulldogs' effort over the next two days in Abilene. He carded an 87-93—180 score at the preview tournament.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

Changed track, same result at Texas with Jimmie Johnson win

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Jimmie Johnson still knows how to get to Victory Lane at Texas, even from the back of the field on a track that had changed significantly since his first six wins there.

Johnson

And while heating up in the cockpit because of an issue with getting fluids during the race.

"I'm not feeling the best, but we got into Victory Lane," Johnson said before going to the infield care center to get treatment for apparent dehydration after his 81st career victory.

Crew chief Chad Knaus said there was some kind of malfunction with the system in the car, but wasn't sure what the problem was.

"Jimmie felt like it was an isolated situation," Knaus said. "We got him cooled off and he's looking good. He's ready to go have a weekend off like the rest of us.

Johnson, who last year won his record-tying seventh NASCAR Cup Series season championship, charged under Joey Logano with 16 laps to go to take the lead. The Hendrick Motorsports driver kept his No. 48 Chevrolet in front.

"I guess I remembered how to drive; and I guess this team remembered how to do it," Johnson said. "I'm just real proud of this team. What a tough track and tough conditions. We were really in our wheelhouse and we were just able to execute all day."

This was the first Cup race in Texas since the 1 1/2-mile facility was completely repaved and changes made to Turns 1 and 2 earlier this year. It was Johnson's seventh victory at Texas, six in the last 10 races there.

Kyle Larson, the season points leader, finished second for the fourth time this year, but also won at California. Logano, polesitter Kevin Harvick and Dale Earnhardt Jr. rounded out the top five.

Johnson had to start at the back of the 40-car field because of a tire change after a spin in qualifying. He had qualified 24th.

"Oh, probably on the second or third run I knew we were in good shape. From there, off we went," he said. "It was so tough those first 23 laps in traffic. The air was very turbulent, the track wasn't very clean."

Johnson's only top-10 finish in the first six races this season

Please see **JOHNSON**/2C

'HOUNDSWATCH

SUNDAY'S SCORE
Springfield 6, Midland 3

TODAY'S GAME
Springfield at Midland, 6:30 p.m.

INTERNET
www.milb.com

RECORDS
Midland 2-2
Springfield 3-1

Sunday	Today	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Springfield 6, Midland 3	Springfield at Midland, 6:30 p.m.	Springfield at Midland, 6:30 p.m.	Midland at Tulsa, 7:05 p.m.	Midland at Tulsa, 7:05 p.m.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Duke at Miami, 6 p.m., ESPNU

HOCKEY
KHL Gagarin Cup Finals, Gm 2: SKA at Metallurg MG, 11 a.m., ELVN
WHL: Regina at Swift Current, 8 p.m., NHL

MLB
Tampa Bay at NY Yankees, Noon, MLB
Arizona at San Francisco or Oakland at Kansas City, 3:30 p.m., MLB
Houston at Seattle, 4 p.m., ROOT
LA Dodgers at Chicago Cubs, 7 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

MEN'S SOCCER
La Liga: Real Sociedad vs. Sporting Gijon, 1:40 p.m., beIN2
PL: Crystal Palace vs. Arsenal, 2 p.m., NBCSN

NBA
Washington at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m., TNT
San Antonio at Portland, 9 p.m., FSSW+
Houston at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

TENNIS
Match for Africa, 1 p.m., TENNIS
ATP: Grand Prix Hassan II, 5 a.m., TENNIS

ON RADIO

MLB
Houston at Seattle, 4 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

NBA
San Antonio at Portland, 9 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

TEXAS LEAGUE BASEBALL
Springfield at Midland, 6:30 p.m., KCRS 97.5 FM/550 AM

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

BOYS BASEBALL
MCA vs. Trinity, 7 p.m., Christensen Stadium

BOYS GOLF
Lee, MHS at District 2-6A Tournament, Abilene
District 4-4A tournament, Hogan Park Golf Course

GIRLS GOLF
District 4-4A tournament, Hogan Park Golf Course

TENNIS
TAPPS 4A state tournament

Junior college

GOLF
Midland College at Southwest Junior College Championship, Pottsboro

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Placed OF Joey Rickard on the 10-day DL. Reinstated LHP Wade Miley from the 10-day DL. Agreed to terms with RHP Edwin Jackson on a minor league contract.

BOSTON RED SOX — Optioned RHP Noe Ramirez to Pawtucket (IL). Reinstated RHP Matt Barnes from the bereavement list.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Mike Pelfrey and OF Ryan Raburn on minor league contracts.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Sent 2B Jason Kipnis to Akron (EL) for a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Recalled C Kyle Higashioka from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

TEXAS RANGERS — Sent RHP Tanner Scheppers to Round Rock (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed LHP J.P. Powell on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Saturday. Optioned RHP Dominic Leone to Buffalo (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Casey Lawrence from Buffalo. Transferred RHP Bo Schultz to the 60-day DL.

National League

COLORADO ROCKIES — Optioned RHP German Marquez to Albuquerque (PCL). Reinstated LHP Chris Rusin from the 10-day DL.

MIAMI MARLINS — Placed SS Adeiny Hechavaria on the 10-day DL. Recalled SS J.T. Riddle from New Orleans (PCL).

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Designated RHP Damien Magnifico for assignment. Optioned LHP Brent Suter to Colorado Springs (PCL). Selected the contract of RHP David Goforth from Colorado Springs.

NEW YORK METS — Selected the contract of RHP Paul Sewald from Las Vegas (PCL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Placed RHP Trevor Cahill on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Thursday. Recalled RHP Zach Lee from El Paso (PCL).

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Designated RHP Jeremy Guthrie for assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Matt Albers from Syracuse (IL).

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

CALGARY FLAMES — Assigned D Rasmus Andersson and G David Rittich to Stockton (AHL).

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Reassigned D Anton Lindholm and Duncan Siemens and F Rocco Grimaldi to San Antonio (AHL).

DALLAS STARS — Announced coach Lindy Ruff will not return next season. Reassigned D Julius Honka and Fs Jason Dickerson, Remi Elie, Denis Gurianov, Mark McNeill and Gemel Smith to Texas (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled G Magnus Hellberg from Hartford (AHL) on an emergency basis.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled Fs Garrett Mitchell and Chandler Stephenson from Hershey (AHL).

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	51	29	.638	—
x-Toronto	50	31	.617	1½
New York	30	51	.370	21½
Philadelphia	28	52	.350	23
Brooklyn	20	60	.250	31

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Washington	48	32	.600	—
x-Atlanta	42	38	.525	6
Miami	39	41	.488	9
Charlotte	36	44	.450	12
Orlando	28	52	.350	20

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	51	29	.638	—
x-Milwaukee	41	39	.513	10
Indiana	40	40	.500	11
Chicago	39	41	.488	12
Detroit	37	43	.463	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	61	19	.763	—
x-Houston	54	26	.675	7
x-Memphis	42	38	.525	18½
New Orleans	33	47	.413	28
Dallas	32	48	.400	29

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Utah	49	31	.613	—
x-Oklahoma City	46	34	.575	3
Portland	40	40	.500	9
Denver	38	42	.475	11
Minnesota	31	48	.392	17½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Golden State	66	14	.825	—
x-L.A. Clippers	49	31	.613	17
Sacramento	31	49	.388	35
L.A. Lakers	24	55	.304	41½
Phoenix	24	57	.296	42½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Scores and schedule

Sunday's Scores
Toronto 110, New York 97
Atlanta 126, Cleveland 125, OT
Oklahoma City 106, Denver 105
Detroit 103, Memphis 90
Houston 135, Sacramento 128
Phoenix 124, Dallas 111
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, late

Today's Games
Indiana at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Brooklyn at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland, 9 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.
Utah at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Montreal	82	47	26	9	103	226	200
x-Ottawa	82	44	28	10	98	212	214
x-Boston	82	44	31	7	95	234	212
x-Toronto	82	40	27	15	95	251	242
Tampa Bay	82	42	30	10	94	234	227
Florida	82	35	36	11	81	210	237
Detroit	82	33	36	13	79	207	244
Buffalo	82	33	37	12	78	201	237

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Washington	82	55	19	8	118	263	182
x-Pittsburgh	82	50	21	11	111	282	234
x-Columbus	82	50	24	8	108	249	195
x-N.Y. Rangers	82	48	28	6	102	256	220
N.Y. Islanders	82	41	29	12	94	241	242
Philadelphia	82	39	33	10	88	219	236
Carolina	82	36	31	15	87	215	236
New Jersey	82	28	40	14	70	183	244

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Chicago	82	50	23	9	109	244	213
x-Minnesota	82	49	25	8	106	288	208
x-St. Louis	82	46	29	7	99	235	218
x-Nashville	82	41	29	12	94	240	224
Winnipeg	82	40	35	7	87	249	256
Dallas	82	34	37	11	79	223	262
Colorado	82	22	56	4	48	166	278

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Anaheim	81	45	23	13	103	219	197
x-Edmonton	81	46	26	9	101	242	210
x-San Jose	82	46	29	7	99	221	201
x-Calgary	82	45	33	4	94	226	221
Los Angeles	81	39	35	7	85	198	201
Arizona	82	30	42	10	70	197	260
Vancouver	81	30	42	9	69	180	238

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Scores and schedule

Sunday's Scores
N.Y. Islanders 4, Ottawa 2
Detroit 4, New Jersey 1
Tampa Bay 4, Buffalo 2
St. Louis 3, Colorado 2
Columbus 3, Toronto 2
Carolina 4, Philadelphia 3, SO
N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2
Florida 2, Washington 0
Los Angeles at Anaheim, late
Vancouver at Edmonton, late

MLS GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	3	2	1	10	9	7
Orlando City	3	1	0	9	4	3
Atlanta United FC	2	1	2	8	13	5
Chicago	2	1	2	8	6	7
New England	2	2	1	7	9	6
New York City FC	2	2	1	7	8	5
New York	2	3	1	7	5	9
D.C. United	2	2	1	7	4	8
Toronto FC	1	0	4	7	6	4
Montreal	0	2	3	3	5	8
Philadelphia	0	3	2	2	5	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	4	1	1	13	16	8
FC Dallas	3	0	1	10	6	2
Houston	3	2	0	9	11	9
Sporting Kansas City	2	0	3	9	5	2
San Jose	2	2	1	7	7	7
Los Angeles	2	3	0	6	7	8
Seattle	1	1	3	6	7	6
Real Salt Lake	1	3	2	5	6	8
Colorado	1	2	1	4	4	6
Vancouver	1	3	1	4	6	10
Minnesota United	1	3	1	4	10	22

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Scores and schedules

Sunday's Scores
Orlando City 1, New York 0
Sporting Kansas City 3, Colorado 1

Friday's Games
New York City FC at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Seattle at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
FC Dallas at San Jose, 10 p.m.

Hinchcliffe grabs 1st victory since 2015 accident

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — James Hinchcliffe raced to his first victory since his near-fatal accident in 2015 by hanging in a three-lap shootout to the finish Sunday on the streets of Long Beach.

Hinchcliffe had two strong late restarts to win in a Honda for Schmidt-Peterson Motorsports. It was the Canadian's first victory since 2015 at New Orleans, a month before he nearly bled to death in an accident during practice for the Indianapolis 500.

Hinchcliffe wrecked during a May practice at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and his life was saved by the at-track safety crew that smartly pinched off the blood flow and raced him into surgery. He missed the remainder of the 2015 season, returned to IndyCar last year and then capped it with a runner-up finish on "Dancing With the Stars" during the offseason.

Never did he doubt any of his accomplishments were in jeopardy after his accident.

"Absolutely, I knew from day one I had the best support," said Hinchcliffe, who considers winning at Long Beach a crown jewel event. His sights are now set on the Indianapolis 500 and his home race in Toronto.

Sebastien Bourdais followed his season-opening victory at St. Pete with a second-place finish to give Honda a 1-2 podium finish.

Josef Newgarden was the highest finishing Team Penske driver and was third in a Chevrolet.

Scott Dixon was fourth in a Ganassi Honda, and defending race winner Simon Pagenaud, from Penske, drove from last to fifth.

It was a miserable day for Andretti Autosport, which seemed to have a shot at putting at least one driver on the podium. Instead, Marco Andretti retired early with an issue. Then, in the final 17 laps, the remaining three Andretti cars all had race-ending problems.

Alexander Rossi slowed on the front stretch to bring out a full course caution, and Hinchcliffe took the lead as Dixon pitted.

Hinchcliffe still had to hold off Andretti driver Ryan Hunter-Reay, but he stopped on course with a mechanical problem to bring out another caution. Moments earlier, Andretti driver Takuma Sato also came to a stop on the course.

It set it up for Hinchcliffe to have to race Bourdais to the finish, but Bourdais was focused on the big picture in the closing laps. Hinchcliffe had gotten off to such a great start when racing resumed, that Bourdais tried only to maintain his running position.

"We played to our strengths and I've always been comfortable saving fuel," Bourdais said. "We lost balance a little bit, and I was really thinking about saving second place. I was thinking championship."

GRAND PRIX OF LONG BEACH RESULTS

Sunday
At Long Beach Street Circuit
Long Beach, California
Lap length: 2 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (4) James Hinchcliffe, Dallara-Honda, 85 laps, Running
2. (12) Sebastien Bourdais, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85 laps, Running
3. (8) Josef Newgarden, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85 laps, Running
4. (2) Scott Dixon, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85 laps, Running
5. (21) Simon Pagenaud, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85 laps, Running
6. (13) Ed Jones, -, 85 laps, Running
7. (14) Carlos Munoz, Dallara-Honda, 85 laps, Running
8. (19) Spencer Pigot, Dallara-Honda, 85 laps, Running
9. (1) Helio Castroneves, Dallara-Chevrolet, 85 laps, Running
10. (6) Graham Rahal, Dallara-Honda, 85 laps, Running
11. (15) JR Hildebrand, Dallara-Chevrolet, 84 laps, Contact
12. (16) Mikhail Aleshin, Dallara-Honda, 84 laps, Running
13. (9) Will Power, Dallara-Chevrolet, 84 laps, Running
14. (20) Max Chilton, Dallara-Chevrolet, 84 laps, Running
15. (11) Tony Kanaan, Dallara-Chevrolet, 84 laps, Running
16. (17) Conor Daly, Dallara-Honda, 84 laps, Running
17. (3) Ryan Hunter-Reay, Dallara-Honda, 79 laps, Off Course
18. (18) Takuma Sato, Dallara-Honda, 78 laps, Off Course
19. (5) Alexander Rossi, Dallara-Honda, 62 laps, Mechanical
20. (10) Marco Andretti, Dallara-Honda, 14 laps, Off-Course
21. (7) Charlie Kimball, Dallara-Chevrolet, 1 laps, Contact

JOHNSON

From 1C

had been ninth at Phoenix. Earnhardt, his Hendrick teammate, had his first top-five finish since a runner-up at Pocono last June, not long before he missed the last half of the season because of lingering concussions symptoms.

Ryan Blaney won the first two stages and gave Wood Brothers Racing, the oldest active team in NASCAR, its longest front-running car in a race in 35 years. The 23-year-old Blaney finished 12th after leading 148 of 334 laps, the first time the team led more than 100 laps in a race since 1982.

Blaney first got the lead on the second early restart on lap 16, with a somewhat bold move around the outside of Harvick going through the reconfigured Turns 1 and 2, where the banking was reduced and the track widened.

During a caution on a few laps before the end of the second stage on lap 170, Blaney stayed on the track for a shot to win the stage while other cars pitted. Blaney restarted 20th after that stage and his stop, but after working back into the top 10, he overslid his pit on the last caution.

"That last pit stop was pretty discouraging," Blaney said. "I don't know what it was there at the end of segment two and that made everybody have split strategies, and we got in the back and couldn't pass anybody. It was terrible to try to pass people."

Can't hold on

Logano regained the lead after not pitting on the final caution, but just didn't have enough to hold off Johnson. "I needed a 15-lap run instead of a 30-lap run," Logano said. "Or a couple cautions in there and we would be standing in Victory Lane with a 12th-place car, and that would have been something."

Dry but windy

Both Cup races at Texas last year had lengthy rain delays, and the November race was cut 41 laps short by more rain after starting nearly six hours late. There was no threat of rain Sunday — good thing the race wasn't a day later, when storms are in the forecast — but there were wind gusts of 30 mph or more through the race.

Wood century

The Wood Brothers team was formed in 1950, and its last driver to lead at least 100 laps in a race was Neil Bonnett at Rockingham on Oct. 31, 1982. The team's last victory was Trevor Bayne in the 2011 Daytona 500. The team hadn't even had more than 100 laps led in a full season since Elliott Sadler's 125 in 2001. Since the start of 2002 until this week, the team had only 161 laps led total, including two for Blaney in the season-opening Daytona 500 this year.

O'REILLY AUTO PARTS 500 RESULTS

Sunday
At Texas Motor Speedway
Fort Worth, Texas
Lap length: 1.50 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (24) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 334 laps, 0 rating, 49 points.
2. (32) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 334, 0, 47.
3. (4) Joey Logano, Ford, 334, 0, 36.
4. (1) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 334, 0, 44.
5. (37) Dale Earnhardt Jr, Chevrolet, 334, 0, 34.
6. (5) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 334, 0, 40.
7. (6) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 334, 0, 46.
8. (7) Martin Truex Jr, Toyota, 334, 0, 39.
9. (33) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 334, 0, 34.
10. (10) Kurt Busch, Ford, 334, 0, 32.
11. (3) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 334, 0, 30.
12. (2) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 334, 0, 45.
13. (12) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 334, 0, 24.
14. (11) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Ford, 334, 0, 26.
15. (34) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 334, 0, 23.
16. (8) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 334, 0, 21.
17. (14) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 334, 0, 20.
18. (18) Aric Almirola, Ford, 334, 0, 19.
19. (20) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 334, 0, 18.
20. (16) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 334, 0, 17.
21. (38) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 333, 0, 16.
22. (36) Erik Jones, Toyota, 333, 0, 15.
23. (13) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 333, 0, 14.
24. (19) Daniela Patrick, Ford, 333, 0, 13.
25. (17) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 333, 0, 12.
26. (9) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 332, 0, 11.
27. (27) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, 330, 0, 0.
28. (21) David Ragan, Ford, 329, 0, 9.
29. (15) Landon Cassill, Ford, 329, 0, 8.
30. (28) Cole Whitt, Ford, 327, 0, 7.
31. (29) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 327, 0, 6.
32. (23) Corey LaJoie, Toyota, 326, 0, 5.
33. (25) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 322, 0, 4.
34. (29) Gray Gaulding, Toyota, 322, 0, 3.
35. (30) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 318, 0, 2.
36. (22) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 314, 0, 1.
37. (40) Derrike Cope, Chevrolet, 313, 0, 1.
38. (35) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 303, 0, 1.
39. (39) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, engine, 194, 0, 0.
40. (31) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, accident, 9, 0, 1.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ROCKETS 135
KINGS 128

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — It was another vintage triple-double game for James Harden. The only number the Houston Rockets superstar seemed concerned about, though, was 54 — the number of wins the Rockets have this season.

Harden had 35 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds, leading the Rockets to a 135-128 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Sunday. It was the 21st triple-double this season for Harden, second behind Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, who broke Oscar Robertson's 56-year record with his 42nd in a victory over Denver.

SUNS 124
MAVERICKS 111

PHOENIX — When both teams went with youngsters for the second half, the Phoenix Suns knew they had an advantage over the Dallas Mavericks.

The Suns have been giving quality minutes to their rookies and younger players for months. It showed, as Phoenix turned a three-point halftime lead into a 124-111 victory Sunday night in its home finale.

T.J. Warren and Devin Booker each scored 21 points, and Tyler Ulis added 20 points and 10 assists. Warren made all eight of his shots.

"You get a chance to see how much further along our young guys are compared to other teams," Suns coach Earl Watson said. "The confidence, the playmaking, everyone's talking, everyone's moving, protecting the rim, and just the way we play is really so far out from guys their age."

THUNDER 106
NUGGETS 105

DENVER — First, Russell Westbrook broke Oscar Robertson's record for most triple-doubles in a season. Then, he broke the Denver Nuggets' hearts.

Westbrook's 36-foot dagger at the buzzer gave Oklahoma City a 106-105 victory, eliminating the Nuggets from playoff contention and capping an historic Sunday afternoon in which he scored 50 points to go with 15 rebounds and 10 assists.

Westbrook's 42nd triple-double is one more than the "Big O" had for the Cincinnati Royals in 1961-62, a mark that many in the NBA had considered unbreakable until Westbrook's incredible run.

PISTONS 103
GRIZZLIES 90

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Detroit's reserves used some sharp accuracy from long range in the fourth quarter to gain a victory.

The Pistons shot 6 of 7 on 3-pointers in the final period and defeated the playoff-bound Memphis Grizzlies 103-90 Sunday night.

"We were playing hard," Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy said. "The ball just has to go in, and we finally started making some shots. The game looks a lot different when the ball starts going in the basket."

Reggie Bullock and Boban Marjanovic each scored 14 points to lead the Pistons. Marjanovic also had 10 rebounds.

HAWKS 126
CAVALIERS 125

ATLANTA — Another day, another shocking loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Even so, LeBron James isn't too concerned about the Cleveland Cavaliers with the playoffs about to start.

"Obviously, the last 10 games we've been 5-5," he said. "We had some good moments and we had some not-so-good moments today. The best thing for our team is we want to go down the stretch, be healthy and put a game plan together."

Paul Millsap scored 22 points and the Hawks took advantage of Cleveland's fourth-quarter collapse to overcome a 26-point deficit and stun the Cavaliers 126-125 on Sunday.

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4/6 6:30-8:30 Microchipping at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour
4/10 6:00-8:00 Volunteer Orientation at MHC's Adoption Center
4/22 9:00-12:00 Shot & Chip Clinic at MLK Center
6/24 3rd Annual Hot Dog Run 5K and 1K
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Associated Press

Texas Rangers' Rougned Odor (12) and Ryan Rua, right, celebrate after scoring on a hit by Joey Gallo as Oakland Athletics catcher Josh Phegley (19) is near in the sixth inning of a baseball game Sunday in Arlington.

Gallo's career-high 5 RBI back Perez as Rangers top A's 8-1

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Joey Gallo homered and had a career-high five RBIs to back left-hander Martin Perez, and the Texas Rangers beat the Oakland Athletics 8-1 on Sunday.

Still playing third base on the first day Adrian Beltre (right calf) was eligible to come off the disabled list, Gallo hit a three-run homer for the last of three straight hits in the second inning — the only three allowed by Sean Manaea (0-1).

The Oakland lefty struck out six straight and finished with a career-high 10 strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings. But he gave up six runs, five earned, and hit two batters, including Nomar Mazara with a glancing blow to the batting helmet. Mazara stayed in the game.

Robinson Chirinos had a two-run homer and another RBI on a bases-loaded walk.

Perez (1-1) allowed six hits and three walks with six strikeouts in 5 1/3 scoreless innings to improve to 7-0 with a 1.48 ERA in eight home daytime starts since the beginning of 2014.

Leading 3-0 in the fifth, Perez escaped a bases-loaded jam with one out, getting Ryon Healy on an infield fly and striking out Khris Davis.

After Mark Canha doubled off Perez to end an 0-for-25 drought and put runners at second and third with out in the sixth, reliever Jose Leclerc struck out Josh Phegley and got pinch-hitter Matt Joyce on a deep flyout to right.

Gallo had a two-run single in the sixth to help the Rangers avoid their first 1-5 start since 2006. The 23-year-old slugger has two homers while starting all six games in place of Beltre, who needs 58 hits for 3,000 in his career.

Matt Bush's wild pitch in the eighth gave Oakland its only run.

Early sub

Oakland right-hander Jesse Hahn will take rookie righty Raul Alcantara's spot in the rotation Thursday at Kansas City after Alcantara gave up eight runs over two innings in a 10-5 loss to Texas in the series opener. Hahn replaced him and allowed two runs in six innings. A's manager Bob Melvin didn't say it was permanent. "One start and out of the rotation, that's kind of difficult," Melvin said. "We're trying to play a hot hand."

'HOUNDSREPORT

COMPILED BY WILL KORN

CARDINALS 6, ROCKHOUNDS 3
at Security Bank Ballpark

TOP HITTERS: Richie Martin was one of five RockHounds with at least two hits as he was 2-for-4 with a home run, two RBI and a run scored. ... Nick Martini was 2-for-5 with a double, two RBI and a run scored for Springfield.

TOP PITCHERS: Blake McKnight picked up the win for the Cardinals after he pitched 2 1/3 shutout innings with two hits, no walks and two strikeouts.

HIGHLIGHTS: Martin's two-run inside-the-park home run to right field in the sixth inning gave Midland a 4-2 lead in the sixth. ... However, that lead was short-lived when Springfield scored four runs in the top of the seventh. The Cardinals scored a run off an error by pitcher Kyle Friedrichs, Martini had a two-run double, and Jacob Wilson added a sacrifice fly.

NOTES: The RockHounds have now lost two straight after winning their first two home games. ... Springfield only out-hit Midland 11-10 but the RockHounds were just 1-for-11 with runners in scoring position. ... The second game of the three-game series is at 6:30 p.m. today.

TODAY'S PROBABLES: Springfield - RHP Matt Pearce (0-0, 0.00 ERA); Midland - LHP Brandon Mann (1-0 0.00)

CARDINALS 6, ROCKHOUNDS 3

Springfield	ab	r	h	bi	Midland	ab	r	h	bi
Garcia rf	5	1	1	1	Boyd rf	5	0	2	0
Alvarez 2b	2	2	1	0	Mercedes 2b	5	1	2	0
Martini lf	5	1	2	2	Schrock dh	4	0	2	0
Caldwell 3b	1	0	1	1	Marincov lf	5	0	0	0
Wilson dh	4	0	0	1	Bennie 1b	4	0	0	0
Grayson 1b	4	0	1	0	Raga c	4	0	0	0
Mejia ss	5	1	2	0	Vertigan cf	3	1	2	0
Cruz c	4	0	1	0	Martin ss	4	1	1	2
Mercado cf	4	1	2	0	Tarsovich 3b	3	0	0	0
Totals	34	6	11	5	**Totals**	37	3	10	2

Springfield .... 001 100 400 —6
Midland .... 100 002 000 —3

E - Caldwell (1), Marincov (1), Friedrichs 2 (2). DP - Midland 2. LOB - Springfield, Midland. 2B - Mejia (4), Martini (1), Mercado (1), Vertigan (1). HR - Martin (1). SB - Caldwell (1). SF - Wilson.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Springfield						
Hudson	5.2	7	3	2	2	7
McKnight W, 1-0	2.1	2	0	0	0	2
Baker S, 1	1.0	1	0	0	0	1
Midland						
Bracewell	3.0	4	1	1	3	2
Friedrichs	3.1	6	5	4	1	3
Trivino	1.2	1	0	0	1	2
Sanchez	1.0	0	0	0	1	2

PB - Raga 2. HBP - by Friedrichs (Caldwell 2), by McKnight (Vertigan).
T - 3:07. A - 3,260.

TL standings

First Half
North Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Springfield	3	1	.750	—
Arkansas	2	2	.500	1
Tulsa	2	2	.500	1
Northwest Arkansas	1	3	.250	2

South Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Corpus Christi	3	1	.750	—
San Antonio	2	2	.500	1
Midland	2	2	.500	1
Frisco	1	3	.250	2

Sunday's Scores
Arkansas 8, San Antonio 2
Springfield 6, Midland 3
Corpus Christi 7, Northwest Arkansas 3
Tulsa 8, Frisco 4

Today's Games
Springfield at Midland, 6:30 p.m.
Corpus Christi at Northwest Arkansas, 7:05 p.m.
Tulsa at Frisco, 7:05 p.m.
San Antonio at Arkansas, 7:10 p.m.

Astros top Royals 5-4 on Gattis' bases-loaded walk in 12th

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jake Marisnick hit a tying home run off Kelvin Herrera in the ninth inning and Evan Gattis drew a bases-loaded walk from Matt Strahm in the 12th, helping the Houston Astros beat the Kansas City Royals 5-4 Sunday and stop a three-game losing streak.

George Springer hit his 12th leadoff homer and third in seven games this season.

Brandon Moss homered against Chris Devenski (1-0) in the ninth to give the Royals a 4-3 lead, but Marisnick sent a Herrera slider into the left field Crawford Boxes.

Springer reached on an infield single leading off the 12th against Strahm (0-2), Alex Bregman sacrificed, Jose Altuve was intentionally walked and Carlos Correa hit into a forceout that advanced Springer to third.

Brian McCann walked on 10 pitches, and Gattis took a high-and-inside, full-count pitch for ball four.

Devenski struck out seven in four innings, allowing one run and three hits. The Astros, who started 3-0 for the first time since 2001, moved back over .500 at 4-3.

Nathan Karns, making his first start and second appearance for the Royals, gave up one run and six hits in 5 2/3 innings. Karns was acquired in an offseason trade from Seattle for outfielder Jarrod Dyson.

Astros starter Lance McCullers struck out 10 in seven innings, allowing three runs and six hits.

Salvador Perez tied the game in the second when he became Kansas City's first player to homer in four straight games since Billy Butler in 2011. The franchise record of five was set by Mike Sweeney in 2002.

Paulo Orlando avoided McCann's tag to score on Raul Mondesi's bunt in the fifth, and Mike Moustakas homered in the sixth for a 3-1 lead. Marwin Gonzalez's two-run homer off Travis Wood tied the score 3-3 in the seventh.

MLBROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

American League

ANGELS 10
MARINERS 9

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Albert Pujols hit his 592nd homer and a tying, two-run single in the ninth inning before Cliff Pennington's drive to the wall capped the Los Angeles Angels' rally from a six-run deficit for a 10-9 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Sunday.

Pennington's single drove in Mike Trout to end a preposterous comeback by the Angels, who trailed 8-1 in the seventh and 9-3 before Pujols homered to lead off the ninth against Casey Fien.

TWINS 4
WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO — Miguel Sano and Jorge Polanco homered to back Ervin Santana's six scoreless innings as Minnesota beat Chicago for its best start since 2010.

Santana (2-0) held the White Sox to two singles and lowered his ERA to 0.69. Minnesota, which finished with the worst record in the majors last season, has the top mark in the American League at 5-1 after taking two of three from Chicago.

Jose Quintana (0-2) regrouped from a rough opening day start to allow two runs and strike out seven in 6 1/3 innings. Quintana, who has been the subject of trade speculation for the rebuilding White Sox, gave up six runs and three homers against Detroit in his season debut.

RED SOX 7
TIGERS 5

DETROIT — Sandy Leon broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-run single, part of a four-run rally that lifted Boston over Detroit.

The Red Sox rallied four times from one-run deficits, finally taking the lead against the Detroit bullpen. The Tigers led 4-3 in the eighth when Bruce Rondon (0-1) allowed a leadoff walk to Mookie Betts and a single by Chris Young. A throwing error on Young's single by left fielder Justin Upton left runners at second and third. After an intentional walk, Kyle Ryan came in and walked pinch-hitter Brock Holt to force in the tying run.

YANKEES 7
ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE — Aaron Judge hit a tying home run, Starlin Castro's RBI single keyed a four-run ninth inning and New York rallied to defeat Baltimore and avert a three-game sweep.

It was the first loss of the season for the Orioles, who started the day as the only unbeaten team in the majors at 4-0. After pulling off comeback victories in the first two games of the series, Baltimore blew a three-run lead in the finale.

New York avoided its first 1-5 start since 1989.

National League

PIRATES 6
BRAVES 5, 10 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH — Starling Marte hit a two-run homer off Jose Ramirez in the 10th inning to lift Pittsburgh over Atlanta.

The Braves took the lead in the top of the inning on an RBI groundout by Tyler Flowers, but Pittsburgh wasted little time getting to Ramirez (0-1).

Adam Frazier doubled leading off the 10th and Marte drove the next pitch into the visitors' bullpen beyond the center field fence as the Pirates completed their first three-game sweep of Atlanta since 1994.

PHILLIES 4
NATIONALS 3

PHILADELPHIA — Cesar Hernandez hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning to give Philadelphia a victory over Washington.

Pinch-hitter Ryan Zimmerman delivered a tying, three-run homer with two outs in the top of the ninth off closer Jeanmar Gomez (1-0), but the Phillies immediately answered to take two of three from the defending NL East champions.

CUBS 7
BREWERS 4

MILWAUKEE — Kyle Schwarber and Ben Zobrist homered, Jake Arrieta threw seven strong innings and Chicago took the weekend series from Milwaukee.

The Cubs scored four runs in the first off Brewers starter Zach Davies (0-2) on a two-run double by Addison Russell and a two-run triple from Jason Heyward.

Arrieta (2-0) allowed three hits and struck out 10, the only blemish on his line a three-run homer by Ryan Braun. The right-hander retired 13 of the next 14 batters, including a stretch of five consecutive strikeouts.

REDS 8
CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS — Scott Feldman permitted four hits and struck out six in six-plus innings as Cincinnati beat St. Louis to take two of three from the Cardinals.

Adam Duvall had three hits, including a home run, and two RBIs for the Reds, who have won just five of their last 40 series at Busch Stadium.

St. Louis went 2-4 on its opening homestand and heads out on a six-game trip to Washington and the New York Yankees.

COLLEGE BASEBALL SCORES

SOUTHWEST
Baylor 10, Texas Tech 9
New Mexico St. 15, Texas Rio Grande Valley 5
Texas A&M 3, Auburn 1

SOUTH
Alice Lloyd 4, Hiwassee 3
Austin Peay 10, Belmont 8
Campbellsville 4-5, Georgetown (Ky.) 1-2
Charlotte 11, Florida Atlantic 5
Chowan 24-18, Lincoln (Pa.) 4-6
Cincinnati-Clermont 15, Berea 10
Clemson 8, Virginia Tech 3
Cumberlands (Ky.) 4-4, Lindsey Wilson 2-2
Cumberland (Tenn.) 11, Georgia Gwinnett 7
Hendrix 10, Centre 7
High Point 9, Campbell 7
Lincoln Memorial 19, Carson-Newman 7
Lipscomb 8, North Florida 1
Louisville 7, Wake Forest 5
Md. Eastern Shore 7, Coppin St. 4
Miami 1, Duke 0
Middle Tennessee 17, Old Dominion 6, 7 innings
Milligan 4, Bluefield South 3
NC State 8, Florida St. 4
North Greenville 14, King (Tenn.) 3
Notre Dame 9, Georgia Tech 6
Rhodes 13, Sewanee 6
Rose-Hulman 7, Transylvania 2
SC Aiken 6, Augusta 1
St. Andrews 9, Montreat 6
Tampa 7, Tusculum 4
Union (Tenn.) 6, Lee 5
UT-Martin 18, Morehead St. 6
Virginia 4, Pittsburgh 3
W. Carolina 11, ETSU [illegible]

MLB GLANCE

Standings

American League
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	4	1	.800	—
Tampa Bay	5	2	.714	—
Boston	3	2	.600	1
New York	2	4	.333	2½
Toronto	1	5	.167	3½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	5	1	.833	—
Detroit	3	2	.600	1½
Cleveland	3	3	.500	2
Chicago	2	3	.400	2½
Kansas City	2	4	.333	3

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	5	2	.714	—
Houston	4	3	.571	1
Oakland	3	4	.429	2
Texas	2	4	.333	2½
Seattle	1	6	.143	4

National League
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	—
New York	3	3	.500	—
Miami	3	3	.500	—
Washington	3	3	.500	—
Atlanta	1	5	.167	2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	4	2	.667	—
Chicago	4	2	.667	—
Pittsburgh	3	2	.600	½
St. Louis	2	4	.333	2
Milwaukee	2	5	.286	2½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	6	1	.857	—
Colorado	5	2	.714	1
Los Angeles	4	3	.571	2
San Diego	3	4	.429	3
San Francisco	2	5	.286	4

Scores and Schedules

American League
Sunday's Scores
Boston 7, Detroit 5
Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 2
N.Y. Yankees 7, Baltimore 3
Houston 5, Kansas City 4, 12 innings
Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 1
Texas 8, Oakland 1
L.A. Angels 10, Seattle 9
Arizona 3, Cleveland 2

Today's Games
Tampa Bay (Cobb 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Pineda 0-1), 12:05 p.m.
Boston (Sale 0-0) at Detroit (Verlander 1-0), 12:10 p.m.
Oakland (Cotton 0-1) at Kansas City (Kennedy 0-1), 3:15 p.m.
Houston (Morton 0-0) at Seattle (Paxton 0-0), 4:10 p.m.

National League
Sunday's Scores
Philadelphia 4, Washington 3
Pittsburgh 6, Atlanta 5, 10 innings
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 4
Cincinnati 8, St. Louis 0
L.A. Dodgers 10, Colorado 6
Arizona 3, Cleveland 2
San Francisco 5, San Diego 3
N.Y. Mets 5, Miami 2

Today's Games
Arizona (Walker 1-0) at San Francisco (Moore 0-1), 3:35 p.m.
Cincinnati (Finnegan 1-0) at Pittsburgh (Glasnow 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 0-0) at Philadelphia (Eickhoff 0-1), 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Wainwright 0-1) at Washington (Roark 1-0), 6:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Wood 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
San Diego (Lee 0-0) at Colorado (Chatwood 0-1), 7:40 p.m.

Texas boxes

RANGERS 8, ATHLETICS 1

Oakland	ab	r	h	bi	Texas	ab	r	h	bi
Semien ss	5	0	1	0	C.Gomez cf	4	0	0	0
Ra.Dvis cf	3	0	0	0	Andrus ss	4	0	1	0
Healy 1b	5	0	0	0	Mazara rf	3	1	0	0
K.Davis dh	4	1	2	0	Napoli dh	4	0	0	0
Lowrie 2b	3	0	0	0	Odor 2b	4	1	0	0
Plouffe 3b	4	0	1	0	Rua 1b	3	3	2	0
Canha rf-lf	3	0	1	0	Chirinos c	3	2	2	3
Phegley c	4	0	2	0	Gallo 3b	4	1	2	5
Rosales lf	1	0	1	0	DShelds lf	4	0	0	0
Joyce ph-rf	2	0	0	0					
Totals	34	1	8	0	**Totals**	33	8	7	8

Oakland .... 000 000 010—1
Texas .... 030 003 02x—8

E—Manaea (1), Semien (1), Healy (1). DP—Texas 1. LOB—Oakland 11, Texas 8. 2B—Canha (1). HR—Chirinos (1), Gallo (2). SB—DeShields (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Oakland						
Manaea L,0-1	5 1-3	3	6	5	2	10
Montas	1 2-3	1	0	0	2	1
Coulombe	1	3	2	2	1	1
Texas						
Perez W,1-1	5 1-3	6	0	0	3	6
Leclerc	2-3	0	0	0	0	1
Jeffress	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bush	1	2	1	1	0	3
Dyson	1	0	0	0	1	1

HBP—by Manaea (Gomez), by Manaea (Mazara), by Bush (Canha). WP—Manaea, Bush.
T—3:16. A—36,905 (48,114).

ASTROS 5, ROYALS 4, 12 INNINGS

Kansas City	ab	r	h	bi	Houston	ab	r	h	bi
A.Grdon lf	5	0	2	0	Sprnger cf-rf	6	2	2	1
Mstakas 3b	5	1	2	1	Bregman 3b	5	0	0	0
L.Cain cf	5	0	0	0	Altuve 2b	5	0	2	0
Hosmer 1b	5	0	1	0	Correa ss	5	0	2	0
S.Perez c	5	1	1	1	B.McCnn c	4	0	1	0
Moss dh	5	1	1	1	Gattis dh	3	1	2	1
Orlando rf	4	1	1	0	Reddick rf	1	0	1	0
A.Escbr ss	5	0	1	0	Y.Grrel ph-1b	3	0	0	0
Mondesi 2b	3	0	0	1	Ma Gnza 1b-lf	4	1	1	2
Cthbert ph-2b	1	0	0	0	Aoki lf	2	0	0	0
Beltran ph	1	0	0	0					
Mrsnick cf	2	1	1	1					
Totals	43	4	9	4	**Totals**	41	5	12	5

Kansas City .... 010 011 001 000—4
Houston .... 100 000 201 001—5

DP—Kansas City 3. LOB—Kansas City 5, Houston 11. HR—Moustakas (3), S.Perez (4), Moss (1), Springer (4), Ma.Gonzalez (3), Marisnick (1). SB—Altuve (1). CS—Reddick (1). S—Mondesi (1), Bregman (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kansas City						
Karns	5 2-3	6	1	1	2	3
Wood	1	1	2	2	1	0
Young	1 1-3	2	0	0	1	1
Herrera	1	1	1	1	0	1
Soria	2	1	0	0	1	2
Strahm L,0-2	2-3	1	1	1	3	0
Houston						
McCullers	7	6	3	3	0	10
Harris	1	0	0	0	0	0
Devenski W,1-0	4	3	1	1	0	7

HBP—by Karns (Correa), by McCullers (Orlando). WP—Wood.
T—3:49. A—32,411 (42,060).

Sunday's linescores

AMERICAN LEAGUE
RAYS 7, BLUE JAYS 2

Toronto .... 200 000 000 —2 3 1
Tampa Bay .... 004 100 02x —7 9 0

Estrada, Tepera (6), Loup (7), Lawrence (7) and Martin; Odorizzi, J.Diaz (7), Hunter (9) and Sucre. W—Odorizzi 1-1. L—Estrada 0-1. HRs—Toronto, Donaldson. Tampa Bay, Dickerson, Souza Jr., Sucre.

RED SOX 7, TIGERS 5

Boston .... 011 000 140 —7 11 1
Detroit .... 110 100 101 —5 13 1

Porcello, M.Barnes (7), Kimbrel (9) and Leon; Norris, A.Wilson (7), Rondon (8), Ryan (8), A.Sanchez (9) and Avila. W—M.Barnes 1-0. L—Rondon 0-1. Sv—Kimbrel (2). HRs—Detroit, Castellanos.

YANKEES 7, ORIOLES 3

New York .... 000 002 014 —7 9 0
Baltimore .... 020 010 000 —3 6 2

Sabathia, Clippard (7), Betances (8), Chapman (9) and Au.Romine; Miley, T.Wilson (6), Givens (7), Hart (8), O'Day (9), Nuno (9) and C.Joseph. W—Betances 1-1. L—O'Day 0-1. HRs—New York, Judge.

TWINS 4, WHITE SOX 1

Minnesota .... 001 000 120 —4 8 0
Chicago .... 000 000 010 —1 5 0

E.Santana, Rogers (7), Pressly (7), Belisle (8), Kintzler (8) and J.Castro; Quintana, N.Jones (7), Jennings (8), Dav.Robertson (9) and Narvaez, Soto. W—E.Santana 2-0. L—Quintana 0-2. Sv—Kintzler (3). HRs—Minnesota, Polanco, Sano.

ANGELS 10, MARINERS 9

Seattle .... 103 030 110 —9 7 0
Los Angeles .... 010 000 207—10 11 2

Iwakuma, Vincent (7), Rzepczynski (8), Altavilla (8), Fien (9), Diaz (9) and Ruiz, Shoemaker, Morin (5), Parker (8), Bailey (9) and C.Perez, Maldonado. W—Bailey 2-0. L—Diaz 0-1. HRs—Seattle, Cano, Haniger. Los Angeles, Simmons, Pujols.

INTERLEAGUE
DIAMONDBACKS 3, INDIANS 2

Cleveland .... 000 000 101 —2 7 1
Arizona .... 000 201 00x —3 8 3

Kluber, A.Miller (7), Allen (8) and Gomes. Corbin, Chafin (7), Bradley (7), Rodney (9) and Herrmann. W—Corbin 1-1. L—Kluber 0-1. Sv—Rodney (2). HRs—Arizona, Owings.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
PIRATES 6, BRAVES 5, 10 INNINGS

Atlanta .... 200 010 1001—5 13 2
Pittsburgh .... 000 200 0112—6 11 0

Teheran, Vizcaino (8), Johnson (9), Jose Ramirez (10) and Flowers; Cole, Bastardo (7), Williams (8), Rivero (10) and Stewart, Cervelli. W—Rivero 1-0. L—Jose Ramirez 0-1. HRs—Atlanta, Swanson, Freeman 2. Pittsburgh, Marte.

PHILLIES 4, NATIONALS 3

Washington .... 000 000 003 —3 6 0
Philadelphia .... 010 020 001 —4 7 0

Strasburg, Solis (8), Glover (9) and Lobaton, Wieters; Hellickson, Benoit (6), Neshek (7), Neris (7), J.Gomez (9) and Knapp. W—J.Gomez 1-0. L—Glover 0-1. HRs—Washington, Zimmerman.

REDS 8, CARDINALS 0

Cincinnati .... 010 014 101 —8 11 0
St. Louis .... 000 000 000 —0 6 3

Feldman, B.Wood (7), Cingrani (9) and S.Turner; C.Martinez, Cecil (6), Socolovich (7), Tuivailala (8), Oh (9) and Molina, Fryer. W—Feldman 1-1. L—C.Martinez 0-1. HRs—Cincinnati, Duvall, Votto.

CUBS 7, BREWERS 4

Chicago .... 410 000 200 —7 11 0
Milwaukee .... 003 000 001 —4 4 2

Arrieta, Edwards (8), Rondon (9), W.Davis (9) and Montero; Davies, C.Torres (6), J.Barnes (7), Goforth (9) and Bandy. W—Arrieta 2-0. L—Davies 0-2. HRs—Chicago, Zobrist, Schwarber. Milwaukee, Braun, Santana.

DODGERS 10, ROCKIES 6

Los Angeles .... 220 101 301—10 15 1
Colorado .... 002 020 002 —6 9 2

Maeda, Fields (6), Avilan (6), Romo (8), Jansen (9) and A.Barnes; Ty.Anderson, Oberg (6), Lyles (7), Rusin (8) and Wolters. W—Maeda 1-1. L—Ty.Anderson 1-1. HRs—Los Angeles, Seager. Colorado, Blackmon.

GIANTS 5, PADRES 3

San Francisco .... 023 000 000 —5 8 0
San Diego .... 000 002 010 —3 7 1

Cueto, Law (8), Melancon (9) and Posey; Richard, Stammen (7), J.Torres (9) and Hedges. W—Cueto 2-0. L—Richard 1-1. Sv—Melancon (1). HRs—San Francisco, Pence, Posey. San Diego, Solarte, Myers.

So close: Justin Rose comes up short in bid for green jacket

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — As soon as the putt slipped past the cup on the first playoff hole, Justin Rose knew it was over.

He took off his cap and stood to the side of the green, resigned to his fate.

Not two hours earlier, it looked like the Masters was his for the taking.

Now, all Rose could do was watch as Sergio Garcia curled in a 12-foot birdie to finish off a dramatic duel at Augusta National .

"It was a wonderful battle with Sergio," Rose said Sunday evening, "I just needed one or two putts coming in."

He grimaced a bit, no doubt remembering the little 6-footer that skidded by the cup on No. 13, when he had a chance to put Garcia away after the Spaniard drove one under an azalea bush.

Or perhaps he was thinking of the 7-footer at the 17th, the one he just didn't hit hard enough, resulting in a bogey that sent him to the 72nd hole tied with Garcia.

And he'll never forget that final hole of regulation, his first crack at No. 18, where another 7-footer burned the edge of the cup. It really stung when Garcia missed an even shorter putt.

But Rose isn't going to beat himself up too much.

"I would say this one probably is one that slipped by, for sure," the 36-year-old Englishman said, quickly adding: "I can't pick holes in my performance. I felt fantastic out there. I felt cool, calm and collected."

In the end, it wasn't enough.

Garcia, generally recognized as the best player never to win a major championship, finally removed that stigma against someone who knew a bit about how that felt before his breakthrough victory at the 2013 U.S. Open .

"If there's anyone I had to lose to, it's Sergio," Rose said. "He's had his fair share of heartbreak."

Indeed, Rose seemed genuinely happy for a player he considers both a rival and a friend. The sudden-death playoff was a bit anticlimactic, pretty much decided when Rose drove behind a towering magnolia tree right of the fairway, forcing him to punch out and hope he could somehow make par.

He had a shot, hitting his approach to about 14 feet. But the putt missed to the right this time, and Garcia made it a moot point by rolling in his birdie.

As soon as it was over, Rose walked out to embrace Garcia in the middle of the green. The runner-up said a few words, patted the new Masters champion on the chest and walked away, leaving Garcia to bask in a moment he'd been chasing for nearly two decades.

"It's always nice to be a part of history," Rose said. "I would have liked to be on the right part of it."

What a final round it was.

Rose and Garcia started out tied for the lead. Garcia quickly pulled ahead by three shots, thanks to his pair of birdies and a bogey by Rose, but his playing partner erased that deficit before the turn with three straight birdies.

MASTERS

From 1C

eve of the Masters telling Garcia to believe and "to not let things get to me like I've done in the past."

He didn't get down after missing a 6-foot putt on the 16th hole, or missing a 5-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole in regulation.

His chin was up and he battled to the end.

"If there's anyone to lose to, it's Sergio. He deserves it," Rose said. "He's had his fair share of heartbreak."

This was shaping up as another, especially after Garcia watched a three-shot lead disappear as quickly as it took Rose to run off three straight birdies on the front nine.

Tied going to the back nine, Garcia immediately fell two shots behind with wild shots into the pine straw bed under the trees. Rose was poised to deliver a knockout on the par-5 13th when Garcia went left beyond the creek and into a bush. He had to take a penalty shot to get out and hit his third shot 89 yards short of the green. Rose was just over the back of the green in two, on the verge of turning a two-shot lead into four.

Everyone figured this was coming, right? Garcia himself had said, in a moment of self-pity, that he didn't have what it takes to win a major. Four times he was runner-up. This was his third time playing in the final group.

But right when it looked to be over, momentum shifted to Garcia.

He hit wedge to 7 feet and escaped with par. Rose rolled his chip down to 5 feet and missed the birdie putt. The lead stayed at two shots but not for long. Garcia birdied the 14th. His 8-iron into the par-5 15th landed inches in front of the hole and nicked the pin, and he holed the 14-foot eagle putt to tie for the lead.

Rose took the lead with an 8-foot birdie on the 16th and gave it back by missing a 7-foot par putt on the 18th.

Not since 1998 have the last two players on the course gone to the 18th tied for the lead, and both had their chances to win. Rose's approach hit off the side of the bunker and kicked onto the green, stopping 7 feet away. Garcia answered with a wedge that covered the flag and settled 5 feet away.

Both missed.

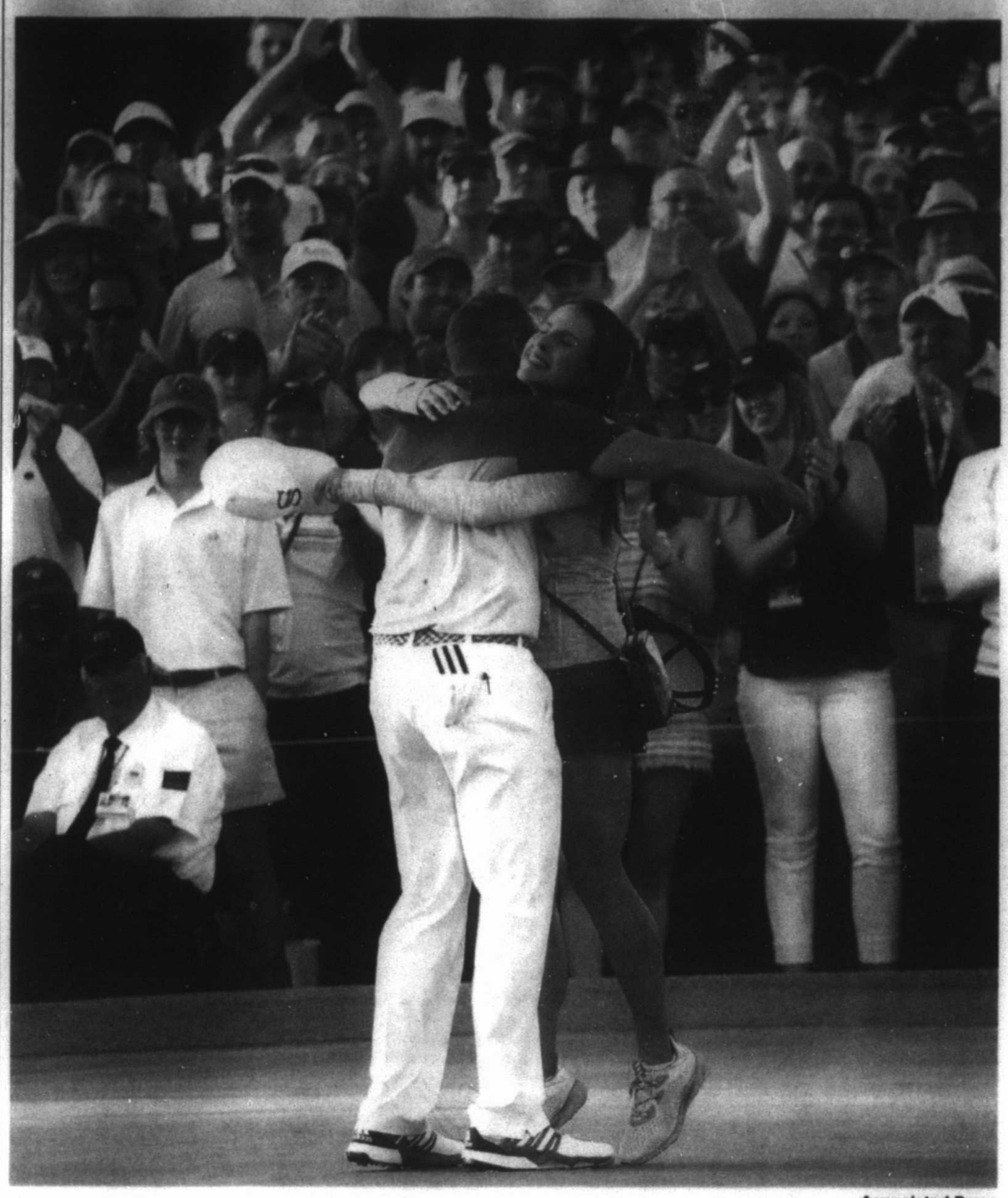
The playoff didn't last long. Rose was in trouble from the start with an errant tee shot, and Garcia didn't waste the opportunity.

Former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel birdied the 18th for a 68 to finish third. Matt Kuchar made a hole-in-one on the 16th that gave him hope but not for very long. He tied for fourth with Thomas Pieters, who ran off four birdies on the back nine.

Jordan Spieth, starting the final round only two shots behind, put another tee shot into the water on No. 12 long after it mattered. He had to birdie three of his last four holes for a 75. Also an afterthought was Rickie Fowler, who started one shot behind and shot 76.

All that mattered was Garcia and Rose, who delivered a final hour as compelling as any at Augusta National.

END OF HEARTBREAK



Associated Press

Sergio Garcia reacts with his fiancee Angela Atkins on the 18th hole after a playoff at the Masters golf tournament Sunday in Augusta, Ga.

Sergio finally learns how to make his own breaks

JIM LITKE
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — He couldn't catch a break. Sergio Garcia said that so often at majors like the Masters you were sure it would be etched into his tombstone someday.

He always had an alibi ready. Bunkers that weren't raked until after he played out of them. Putts that curled around the hole only to spin away. Tee times that put him on the course in the teeth of a storm while rivals like Tiger Woods always drew blue skies and sunshine.

Garcia seemed so certain that fate had it in for him that like Pigpen from the cartoon strip "Peanuts," he didn't dare look up. There was always going to be a cloud of dirt and dust following him around.

No more.

On a picture-perfect Sunday, on what would have been the 60th birthday of his countryman and idol, Seve Ballesteros, the 37-year-old Spaniard made a birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff to beat Justin Rose.

"Obviously this is something I wanted to do for a long time but, you know, it never felt like a horror movie," Garcia said afterward. "It felt like a little bit of a drama maybe, but obviously with a happy ending."

The final putt rolled only 12 feet, but it felt like 12,000. It took seconds, but it felt like years. He and Rose have been butting heads since they were 14, but the distance between them grew as wide as a gulf when the Englishman notched his first major in 2013 at the U.S. Open.

"Any time one of those guys gets that huge monkey off their back," Rose said graciously, "I think it makes it a poignant major championship. ...

"It's always a nice to be a part of history," he added a moment later. "I would have liked to be the right part of it, but nevertheless I hope it's a good one."

Any talk about Garcia's history before this Masters would have been a tale filled with anguish. He was a bona fide star at 16, a prodigy whose promise went unfulfilled, first by the emerging dominance of Woods and later by forces only he seemed to see.

The one thing everyone else focused on were his sad-sack results in golf's big events until that last putt rattled at the bottom of the cup: 0 for 70 in his pro career.

Barely five years ago, after Augusta National got the better of him yet again, Garcia stormed off and said he'd had enough. "I will try to be second or third," he said.

No more.

He was the only player in the field to break par all four days. He started the back nine a combined 31-over par in 18 previous appearances and played it 1 under the one time it mattered most. The centerpiece was a scrambling par at No. 13 that required the kind of grit even he must have doubted he had.

Up until then, the long-running duel between Garcia and Rose seemed bound to end badly for the Spaniard. Rose already owned a two-shot cushion and Garcia's drive off the par-5 tee hooked left and into an azalea bush along the left side of the fairway. He took an unplayable lie and punched out only to see Rose knock his second shot just behind the green.

Garcia's fourth shot, a wedge, left him with a 6-footer for par; Rose's third, a chip, stopped at 7 feet for birdie. Garcia made his, Rose missed and what could have been the deciding blow turned out to be a draw.

"You know, the par on 13 obviously was big. ... In the past, I would have, I would have started going, you know, at my caddie, and oh, you know, why doesn't it go through and whatever," Garcia said, laughing.

That line was funny because in the past, not everybody laughed along.

What changed this year is that Garcia caught some breaks and finally had the maturity to acknowledge that's how it's been all along — the good AND the bad. Most memorably, perhaps, was the 4-iron that landed on the bank on that same hole a day earlier. Instead of trickling into the creek, it stayed stuck in place as though the grass was Velcro.

He parlayed that unexpected good bit of fortune into a 70 Saturday that put him alongside Rose in the final pairing. When Garcia stood at the same hole in the final round staring at trouble on the bank above the creek, he decided to fight back instead of folding up.

He carried that attitude all the way to the 18th and when he missed a 5-footer that would've given him a win in regulation, he simply redoubled his effort.

"I think the problem is, because where my head was at sometimes, I did think about, am I ever going to win one?" Garcia said. "I've had so many good chances and either I lost them or someone has done something extraordinary to beat me. So it did cross my mind.

"But lately, you know, I've been getting some good help and I've been thinking a little bit, a little bit different, a little bit more positive. And kind of accepting, too, that if it for whatever reason it didn't happen, my life is still going to go on. It's not going to be a disaster.

"But," he said finally, a wide smile stuck in place, "it's happened."

MASTERS SCORES

Sunday
At Augusta National Golf Club
Augusta, Ga.
Purse: $11 million
Yardage: 7,435; Par: 72
(a-amateur)
(x-won on first playoff hole)
Final

x-Sergio Garcia	71-69-70-69—279
Justin Rose	71-72-67-69—279
Charl Schwartzel	74-72-68-68—282
Matt Kuchar	72-73-71-67—283
Thomas Pieters	72-68-75-68—283
Paul Casey	72-75-69-68—284
Kevin Chappell	71-76-70-68—285
Rory McIlroy	72-73-71-69—285
Adam Scott	75-69-69-73—286
Ryan Moore	74-69-69-74—286
Hideki Matsuyama	76-70-74-67—287
Russell Henley	71-76-71-69—287
Brooks Koepka	74-73-71-69—287
Rickie Fowler	73-67-71-76—287
Jordan Spieth	75-69-68-75—287
Martin Kaymer	78-69-74-68—289
Steve Stricker	75-73-72-68—288
Pat Perez	74-74-70-71—289
Fred Couples	73-70-74-72—289
Jimmy Walker	76-71-70-72—289
Lee Westwood	70-77-68-74—289
Jason Day	74-76-69-71—290
Justin Thomas	73-76-71-70—290
Phil Mickelson	71-73-74-72—290
William McGirt	69-73-74-74—290
Charley Hoffman	65-75-73-76—290
Brendan Steele	74-73-75-69—291
Daniel Berger	77-73-72-65—291
Brandon Grace	76-74-71-70—291
Brandt Snedeker	75-74-69-73—291
Jon Rahm	73-70-73-75—291
Matthew Fitzpatrick	71-78-73-70—292
Byeong-Hun An	76-73-74-70—293
Francesco Molinari	78-72-71-72—293
Jason Dufner	71-76-70-76—293
Adam Hadwin	75-74-75-70—294
a-Stewart Hagestad	74-73-74-73—294
Brian Stuard	77-70-74-73—294
Bill Haas	75-72-71-76—294
Soren Kjeldsen	72-73-71-78—294
Louis Oosthuizen	77-71-76-71—295
Ross Fisher	76-74-74-71—295
Marc Leishman	73-74-78-71—296
Bernd Wiesberger	77-72-76-71—296
Kevin Kisner	74-75-74-73—296
a-Curtis Luck	78-72-75-72—297
Daniel Summerhays	74-75-75-73—297
Andy Sullivan	71-78-76-73—298
James Hahn	75-75-75-73—298
J.B. Holmes	78-72-73-76—299
Emiliano Grillo	79-70-73-78—300
Larry Mize	74-78-79-76—305

TOURNEY

From 1C

The Hofman brothers lost in the semifinal round at the 2016 TAPPS state tournament.

"Playing with my brother is pretty awesome because we have grown up together and we know each other pretty well," Justin Hofman said. "It's easier to play with him than another person. It also can like be negative because he's my brother."

This will be the last time the brothers compete at state as Justin is a senior and Dylan is a junior.

2016 state champ MCA sends 4 entries

The Midland Classical girls tennis team, which won the 2016 TAPPS 3A state title, will be represented by girls singles players Beth Sanders and Paige McAninch, and girls doubles teams Makenna Beattie-Laura Kate Sparks and Elleri Haest-Tracy Fu during the TAPPS 3A State Tournament today and Tuesday.

In 2016, Fu teamed with Beth Ann Holmes to defeat teammates Haest and Alissa Beattie in the girls doubles state championship.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

TAPPS STATE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
At Waco Regional Tennis Center, Waco
Monday-Thursday
Midland qualifiers
TAPPS 5A
Boys singles
Joshua Ramos, Midland Christian
Boys doubles
Shawn Ohlsen-Garrett Bushman, Midland Christian
Girls doubles
Kristal Wight-Madelyn Hammond, Midland Christian
TAPPS 4A
Boys singles
Curtis Wong, Trinity
Boys doubles
Ashwin Guru-Porter Hankins, Trinity; Justin Hofman-Dylan Hofman, Trinity
TAPPS 3A
Girls singles
Beth Sanders, Midland Classical; Paige McAninch, Trinity
Girls doubles
Elleri Haest-Tracy Fu, Midland Classical; Makenna Beattie-Laura Kate Sparks, Midland Classical

Female athletes get a trio of wins in equality fight

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press

In a matter of days, female athletes around the globe scored a trio of wins in their fight for equality after decades of work.

The U.S. women's national soccer team struck a new collective bargaining agreement with their federation, ending more than a year of at times contentious negotiations, with players seeking comparable compensation to the men's national team.

It followed the U.S. national hockey team's deal with USA Hockey after players threatened to boycott the women's world championships over wages.

The quest for better pay and conditions even extended across the Atlantic to Ireland, where the women's national soccer team there threatened to sit out of an exhibition match this week.

"It's pretty incredible what the women's hockey team did and they were courageous in their fight. There were differences between our battle and their battle, but they were inspirational," U.S. midfielder Megan Rapinoe said. "For us and them, we were able to inspire other teams."

The actions of these teams highlight the struggle for female athletes to achieve fair compensation for their efforts, even if that doesn't mean identical paychecks to their male counterparts. 'Fair' can include even simple items like access to changing rooms, in the case of the Irish players.

It is not a new fight.

Back in 1995, a group of high-profile players including Michelle Akers, Julie Foudy, Mia Hamm and Kristine Lilly were locked out of a pre-Olympic training camp because of a disagreement over bonus pay with the U.S. Soccer Federation. The dispute was quickly settled and women's soccer made its debut at the 1996 Atlanta Games. The United States won the gold.

Following the team's victory on penalty kicks in the 1999 World Cup final against China, the players boycotted a tournament in Australia. They eventually came to terms on a deal with the federation that extended through the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Inspired by the soccer players, Olympian Cammi Granato pushed USA Hockey in 2000 for better conditions and pay. The hockey team was coming off a gold-medal-winning run in the 1998 Nagano Games, the first Olympics that included the women's game as a sport.

With the help John Langel, the same lawyer who helped the soccer team strike its deal, the players sent a letter to the federation outlining their concerns. Lacking leverage to move the effort forward, it failed and the issue was largely dropped — until this year.

Langel also helped the team reach its current agreement before the world championships. This time, a social media hashtag, #BeBoldForChange, helped make the cause an international sensation.

"I think that this is just the beginning, and I think you're going to see more of this. We are reaching the next level of women's sports," said U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota. "At the beginning it was just allowing women to play, then it was making sure they got funded in the schools so they could play, and now we're reaching that biggest pinnacle, which is really getting them to the point where people are watching them as much as they watch men. And we're not quite there yet, but the only way we get there is by using examples like what just happened with hockey and moving it out into other sports."

Ireland's national team, made up mostly of amateurs with day jobs, wasn't getting even basic financial support for things like compensation for time off from work while on international duty. Players said they'd been forced to dress in public restrooms and had to share team-branded apparel with the junior national teams.

The women held a news conference decrying the conditions. It won the team public sympathy and helped force the Football Association of Ireland to work out an agreement with the women.

Goalkeeper Emma Byrne posted to Twitter: "Victory! Thank you for all your support. It proves unity is a powerful force."

US, Mexico and Canada to make joint bid for 2026 World Cup

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The United States, Mexico and Canada are going to announce a joint bid for the 2026 World Cup on Monday, a person familiar with the decision said.

Montagliani

The Confederation of North and Central America and Caribbean Association Football is moving ahead with the bid that was widely expected before Donald Trump was elected president. There has been concern the plan was unworkable under Trump's anti-immigrant policies, but even if he serves a second term Trump would not be president in 2026.

The confederation made the final decision to go ahead with the bid at its meeting Saturday in Aruba, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the bid will not formally be announced until Monday in Manhattan. In a news release, CONCACAF said the countries will be making a "historic announcement."

The hosting rights are set to be decided in May 2020 — during Trump's potential re-election campaign.

CONCACAF has not hosted the World Cup since the tournament was played at nine U.S. venues in 1994, and the region appears to be the leading contender for 2026, when soccer's premier event expands from 32 nations to 48.

"I think now that there is the potential of 48 teams then a three-nation tournament can happen," former U.S. forward and ESPN analyst Taylor Twellman said. "Does the U.S. need the other two? No, they don't but it does make for a unique opportunity for North America to host the tournament."

A successful North American bid appears possible. FIFA barred Europe and Asia from entering the 2026 race because those continents will have hosted the previous two tournaments. South American soccer leaders are hoping to host a centenary World Cup in 2030. And bidding experts say privately that Africa is not a realistic option this time around.

Of potential concern to other soccer federations is how many automatic bids would be awarded to the three-way host.

FIFA is considering a plan in which CONCACAF would have six automatic berths, and the three co-hosts would get three of those under the proposal. CONCACAF currently gets three automatic slots and its fourth-place team advances to a playoff for another.

In 2010, the United States lost in bids to host the 2018 (Russia) and '22 (Qatar) World Cups, a process discredited by corruption allegations linked to the bidding.

The fallout from the two FIFA executive committee votes included the ouster of president Sepp Blatter and the criminal indictments in the U.S. of more than 40 people. Probes of FIFA corruption are still underway in the U.S. and Switzerland.

The 2026 bid vote will be taken by the entire FIFA membership.

Sunil Gulati, a FIFA executive committee member who is also president of the U.S. Soccer Federation, had said the U.S. would have to see changes in the bidding process before participating again.

More should be known in May. FIFA has said it "defined a set of principles for countries to bid" with new emphasis on human rights compliance and inclusion of only bidders that meet technical requirements.

The rules should be announced around its annual congress, on May 11 in Manama, Bahrain.

Davis Cup: Australia clinches quarterfinal win over US

Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — Australia advanced to the Davis Cup semifinals after Nick Kyrgios beat late substitute Sam Querrey of the United States 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-4 in the first reverse singles match on Sunday, clinching the quarterfinal 3-1 with a match to spare.

On a hard court at Pat Rafter Arena, Kyrgios and his singles partner Jordan Thompson gave Australia a 2-0 lead on Friday before the Americans staved off elimination on Saturday when Jack Sock, who lost to Thompson on Friday, and partner Steve Johnson beat Sam Groth and John Peers 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Querrey was supposed to be Johnson's doubles partner, but American captain Jim Courier, who said it would take "monstrous effort" for the Americans to win the tie, pulled a swap, putting Sock into doubles and allowing Querrey to be fresh for Kyrgios.

That worked for a while Sunday during an evenly-played first set, but Kyrgios gradually overpowered the American with his strong serves and backhand. Querrey broke Kyrgios' serve in the fourth game of the third set, and held to lead 4-1.

But Kyrgios stepped it up a notch and won the last five games of the match, jumping up and hugging Australian captain Lleyton Hewitt and his teammates when the match ended.

The often-volatile Kyrgios was mostly at his best behavior and won both his singles matches in straight sets, although the final two sets against John Isner on Friday were in close tiebreakers, 7-5 each time, after Kyrgios prevailed in the opening set 7-5.

> *"I'm trying to get better every day, and it's a massive difference. I just feel like I'm becoming a bit more of a professional."*
>
> Nick Kyrgios

"I haven't been going back to the hotel hating the game or trying to just get through every day," Kyrgios said. "I'm trying to get better every day, and it's a massive difference. I just feel like I'm becoming a bit more of a professional."

Isner beat substitute Groth 7-6 (5), 6-3 in the meaningless second reverse singles on Sunday, in a match reduced to best-of-three, to make the final score line 3-2.

"It was a tough third set there, I was down a break and obviously a lot of emotions, I was close to the finish line," Kyrgios said of his Sunday match. "There were a lot of ebbs and flows, and I knew I hit a bit of a flat patch at the start of the third set.

"But with Lleyton on the side telling me to compete for every point, and obviously the crowd, it's easy to get up out here."

Australia will play either Belgium or Italy in September's semifinals, with Belgium leading that quarterfinal 2-1 ahead of Sunday's reverse singles. If Belgium wins, they will host the semifinal, if Italy comes back to claim victory, they will have to travel Down Under.

The U.S. has won the title a leading 32 times, with Australia second with 28. But the U.S hasn't won the Davis Cup since 2007, and Australia not since 2003, which was when they last made the semifinals.

Dunn scores twice to lead US to 5-1 win over Russia

Associated Press

HOUSTON — After dropping two straight at the SheBelieves tournament, the U.S. women's national team rebounded with two dominant performances.

Crystal Dunn had two goals for the second straight game, helping the U.S. cruise to a 5-1 win over Russia in an international friendly Sunday.

"It's important for us to regroup," Dunn said. "We were all disappointed with SheBelieves results, but it's all about the journey into World Cup, so 2018 is what we are setting out for."

Dunn scored in the 38th minute off a pass from Meghan Klingenberg before opening the second half with her fourth goal in the two Russian friendlies off a pass from Mallory Pugh.

"She's been fantastic," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said of Dunn.

Carli Lloyd and Rose Lavelle also scored in the United States' dominant performance. The Americans had a 21-2 advantage in shots and attempted 15 corner kicks to one by Russia.

Lloyd, who plays in Houston for the NWSL's Dash, opened the scoring in the 20th minute with her 97th career national team goal, converting a penalty kick inside the near post. Dunn set up the PK after being taken down in the box going for a loose ball.

Lavelle followed with her first career national team goal in fourth cap in the 37th minute, taking a cross-field forward pass from Pugh on the far side for a short breakaway and scoring inside the near post. Pugh's two assists were her first multi-assist game as a member of the women's national team.

"We wanted to rec[...] ourselves," Lavelle s[...] "SheBelieves didn't go the way we would have liked to. We were hungry to get back on the field and prove ourselves and get some in the back of the net."

The U.S., ranked second in the world behind Germany and playing its last friendly until traveling to Sweden on June 8, also beat Russia 4-0 on Thursday at the home of MLS' FC Dallas in suburban Dallas.

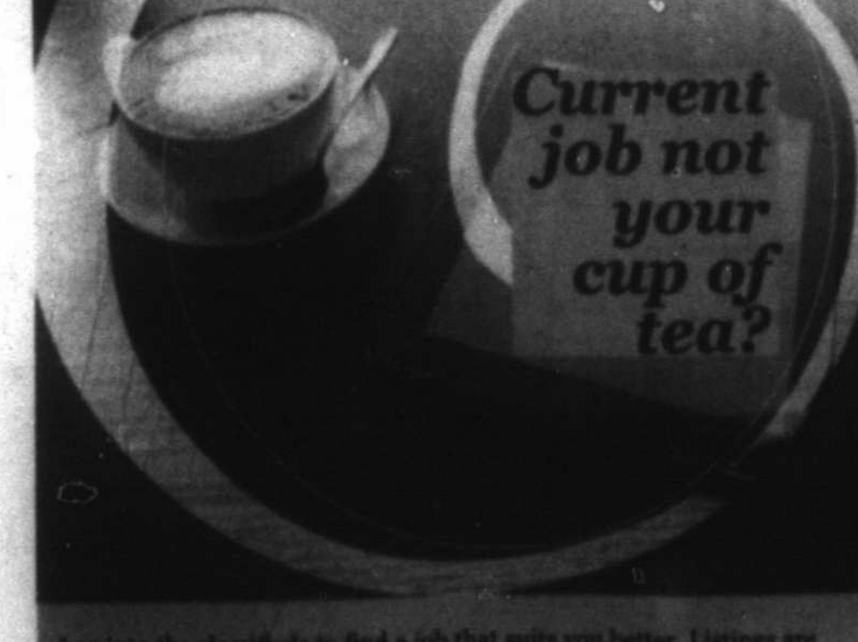
Overall, Ellis said she was pleased with the camp and the response from the team following the two straight losses.

"Anytime you lose, the next game you're looking for a response and to see where people are at," Ellis said. "This team doesn't [...]ry much so people [...] 'Oh.' Yes, the results are there and they make you feel good, but what answers do you get and how do you get tested? Those are important pieces for me."

Russia cut the lead to 3-1 with a Nadesha Karpova penalty kick in the 42nd minute, but the Americans regained the three-goal advantage when Lloyd's header off Lavelle's corner kick went off Ksenia Kovalenko's leg for an own goal.

THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYMENT

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com



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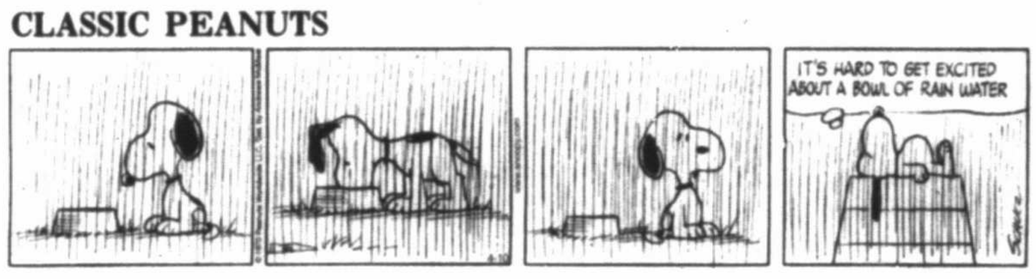
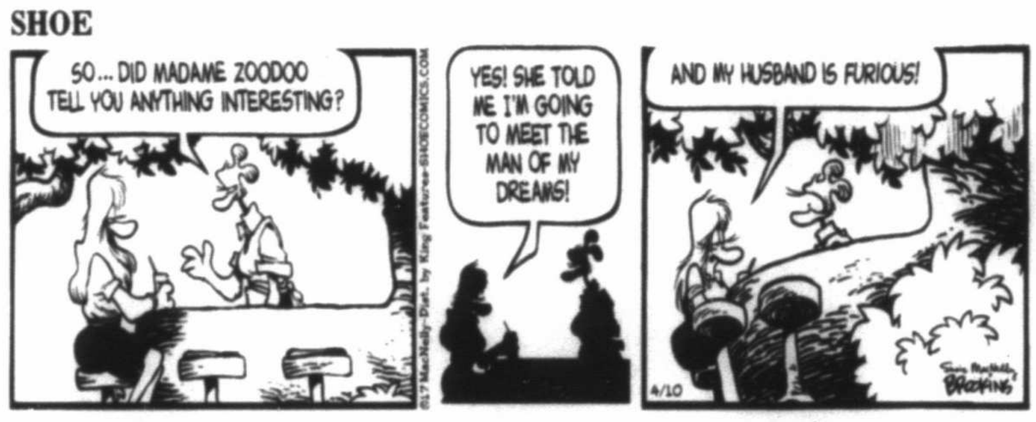
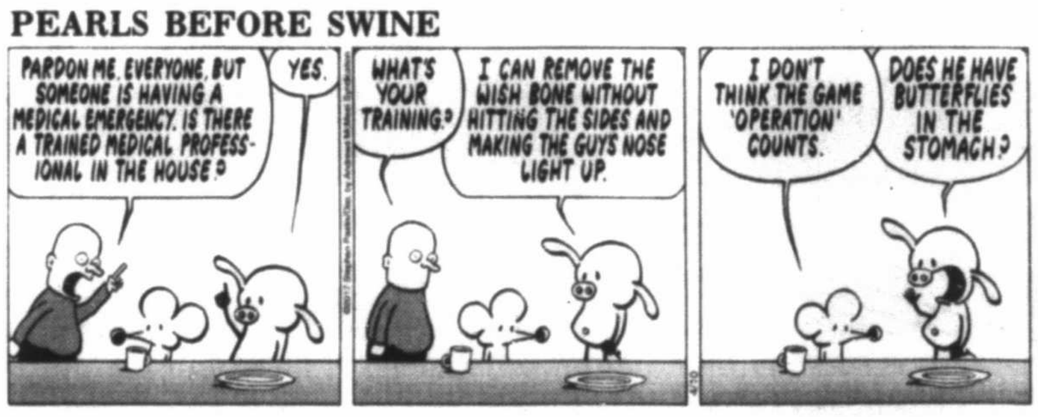


SHOE



GARFIELD

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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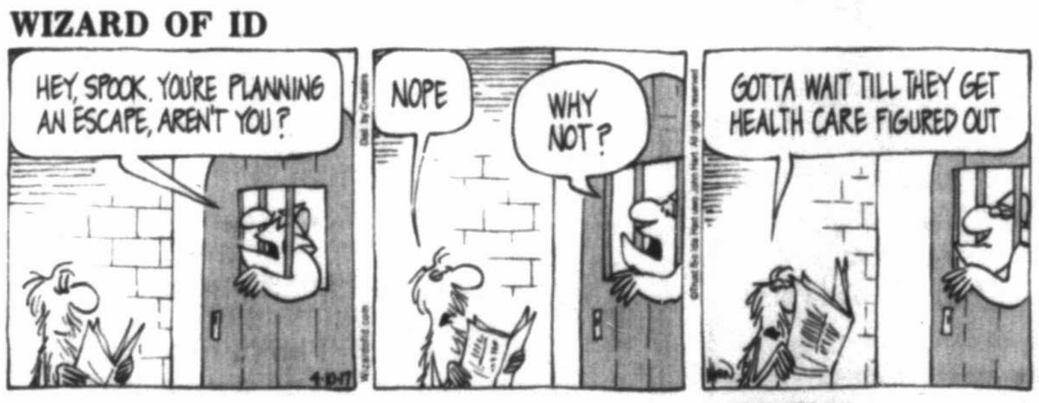


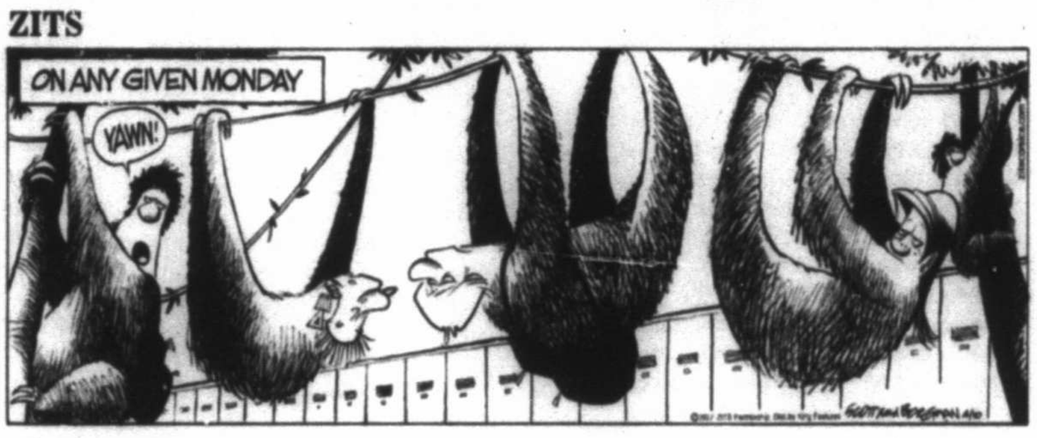
DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

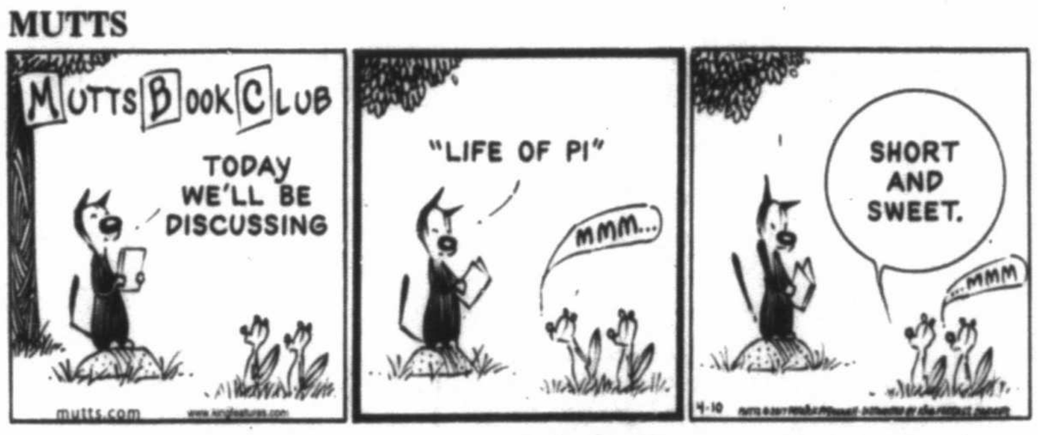
MARY WORTH

ZITS

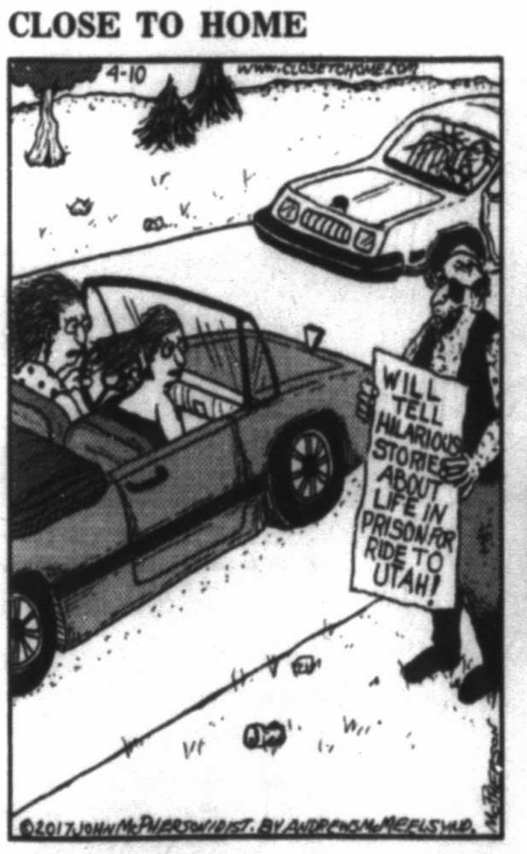


BABY BLUES

MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE

FAMILY CIRCUS

LOCKHORNS

TODAY: Mostly sunny	TUESDAY: Partly sunny	WEDNESDAY: Showers	THURSDAY: Partly sunny	FRIDAY: Mostly sunny	SATURDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 78 Low: 54	High: 74 Low: 60	High: 74 Low: 60	High: 75 Low: 59	High: 81 Low: 60	High: 85 Low: 61

Local forecast

The National Weather Service is calling for high temperatures closer to average for this time of year and the chance of showers. On Wednesday, that chance of showers is supposed to reach 50 percent.

The record high for April 9 is 95, set in 2011. The record low is 20, set in 1973. On April 9 of last year, the high was 80 and the low was 54.

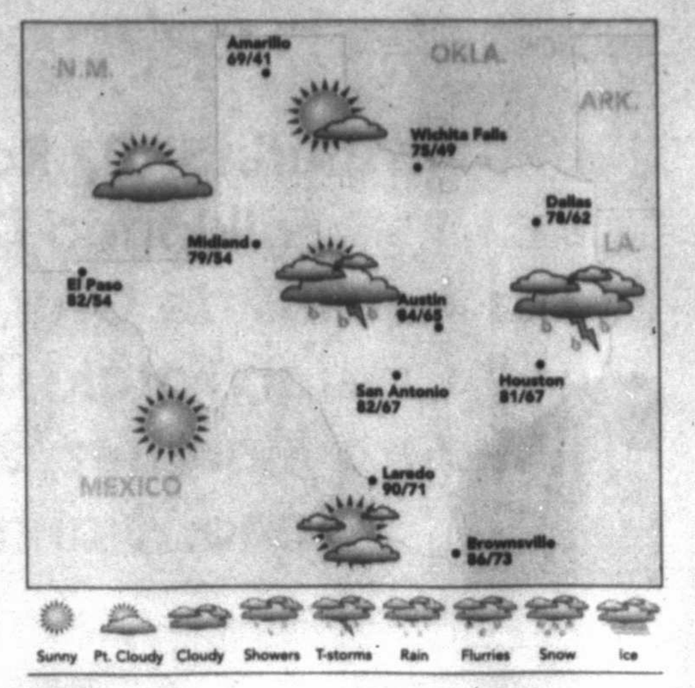
Weather brief

OKLAHOMA

Storms with winds, hail, possible tornadoes in US midsection

NORMAN — Strong thunderstorms with high winds, large hail and a slight possibility of tornadoes is forecast for much of the nation's midsection.

The Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, says the storms are expected from late Sunday afternoon through the evening hours from southern Oklahoma to a portion of Michigan and could impact 13.3 million people. The chance for hail is highest in Oklahoma and Kansas.



Precipitation

Saturday	0.00 in.
Sunday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.98 in.
Year total	3.30 in.
Normal total (year to date)	2.07 in.

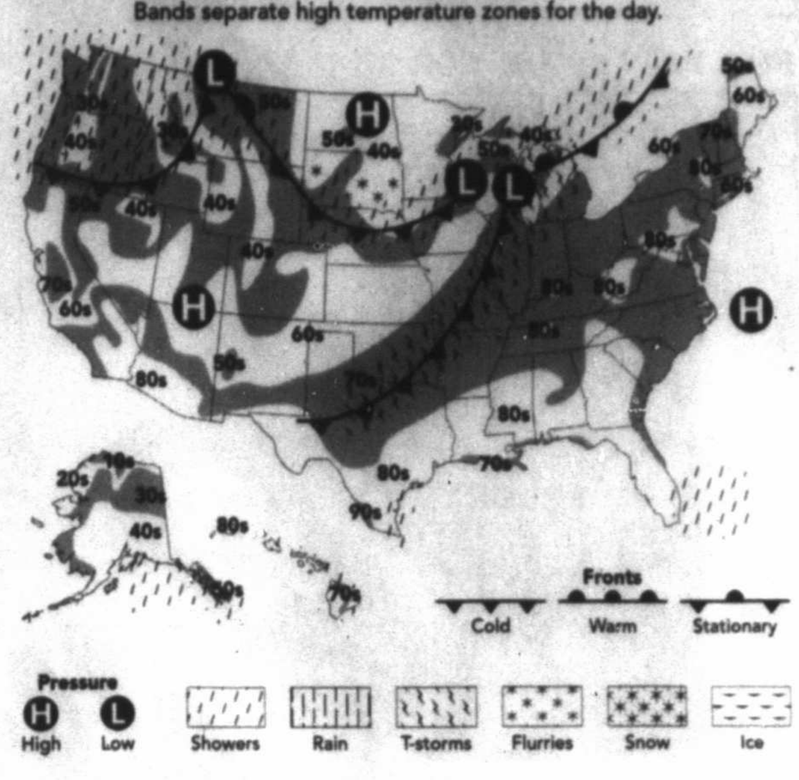
Sunday's temperatures

High	92
Low	63
Normal high	77
Normal low	47
Sunrise	7:26 a.m.
Sunset	8:15 p.m.

National weather AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Monday, April 10, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Long-distance relationship may be too far to overcome

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 boyfriend and I have been together off and on for more than two years. We have been in a long-distance relationship the entire time. I live in California, and he lives in the Midwest. I've been trying to get him out here because I have a job I love, and he could easily get a job in his sector out here.

His issue is that this area has "too many people and is too fast-paced" for him. I'm not sure what to do. I don't want to quit my job and move there. Finding a job there wouldn't be easy since construction is not booming as much. What do I do? Do I just give up my job, or keep trying to convince him to move? Or should I cut my losses and start over? — LONG-DISTANCE DATING

DEAR LONG DISTANCE: I don't think you should give up a job you love in an environment you enjoy on the chance that this two-year relationship might become permanent. If it goes nowhere, where does that leave you? It's time to ask yourself whether you really want to tie your future to someone who prefers a different way of life. Once you answer that question, you will know what to do.

DEAR ABBY: My son has his master's degree in international relations, so he travels to places I will never see. He's in Italy now, and he asked me what I would like for a souvenir. I said I wanted his memories.

I asked him to get a bag and put in it menus, train tickets and bar napkins, and to jot down at night on hotel stationery what he did, saw, how the weather was. I asked him to mention anything different or unusual and collect coasters, valet stubs, anything that would help him share his experiences with me when he gets back.

I said that when we go through all the stuff, I will get my vicarious thrill then — better that than some "tchotchke" I'd have to dust. Good idea? — PROUD MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR PROUD MOM: Great idea! As the years go on, those "memory joggers" will let you both relive the adventures he's having now, and they will become increasingly precious. I know it from experience.

DEAR ABBY: I am sure this issue affects many people, but I have not seen it addressed in your column. Oftentimes married partners are separated by many years in age. Eventually the older of them has to enter a long-term care facility due to a mental/physical defect.

Even though the bond and love that kept them together over the years still exists, the younger still has physical and emotional needs that can no longer be met by the older spouse. What are the ethics in the younger one having a "friend with benefits" to address those needs, if it's done discreetly without causing embarrassment and humiliation to the older spouse? — FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

DEAR FRIENDS: This is a highly personal decision that no one can make for anyone else. While many readers may disagree, I see nothing wrong with taking care of yourself as long as you remember you have a moral obligation to support your spouse "'til death do you part." To me that means visiting and spending time with your spouse every day to ensure his/her needs are taken care of in a compassionate and diligent manner, and to let the person know he or she is loved.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: It's time to hide the matzo again — Passover begins at sundown. Happy Passover, everyone!

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K 7 5 4 ♡ A 8 ◇ K 10 8 7 ♣ K Q 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass

What call would you make?

A — This hand is a minimum, but with excellent cards. Unless partner also has a doubleton heart, game should have good play. Bid four spades.

Q 2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K Q J 9 7 6 2 ♡ 10 ◇ Void ♣ A 9 6 5 3

As dealer, what call would you make?

A — Opening one spade will work well if partner has a good hand. There are two opponents, however, and only one partner, and we don't know who has a good hand. Open four spades and let everyone else guess what to do.

Q 3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 9 6 5 4 ♡ A 10 ◇ K 8 4 ♣ K 9 6

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	?	

*Drury, 10-11 points with at least three spades

What call would you make?

A — We always accept invitations when we have 14 points, and these are great cards. Bid four spades.

Q 4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A Q J 10 9 ♡ J 9 3 ◇ 8 ♣ A 7 6 3

Right-hand opponent opens three diamonds. What call would you make?

A — Double might work well, but we prefer to let partner know where we live. Bid three spades.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, April 10, 2017:

This year you have the gift of being able to identify with both sides of an issue. Others might not be sure which point of view you are more likely to agree with. You have much more compassion for others than in the past. If you are single, you could meet a potential suitor in the next six months. Just remember to stay open-minded! If you are attached, your compassion and understanding will benefit your bond. Stop causing disagreements between you and your sweetie, and allow greater closeness to build. LIBRA teaches you how to keep the peace.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Positive moments surround a vivid discussion, which encourages you to embrace a change in the status quo. You realize that you can resist all you want, but eventually you will need to bend. Be aware that mixed messages mark the next few days. Tonight: Try not to be provocative.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You shoulder a lot of responsibilities that you don't necessarily have to. Honor a fast change of pace. You might judge a partner as being inordinately pushy. Find out what this person's intentions are, and then respond accordingly. Tonight: Refuse to get caught up in a power play.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You might not be in the mood for serious matters, and it will be obvious to those around you. Allow more lightness and humor into your life. Help others to understand that it is up to them to decide how they behave and what choices to make. Tonight: Let the sunshine in!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Pressure builds around the homefront. So many offers come forward that you could be overwhelmed by your choices. Know what you want, and don't hesitate to ask for just that. You might be overwhelmed by someone else's stubbornness. Tonight: Hang in there!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You have the right words to drive a very hard bargain. Your actions follow your thinking. You are unlikely to take anyone's attitude, especially if it is not supportive. You have a strong sense of knowing whether you are on the right path. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Know that you might be overly optimistic about a personal matter. Use caution if this attitude is affecting your finances. Be aware of your limits. Question your ability to fulfill a child's or friend's request. Tonight: Make no promises unless you are 100 percent confident.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You walk a fine line between reality and a distorted vision. A roommate or family member won't hesitate to tell you what he or she thinks. You initially could have a negative reaction. Look at the big picture. Tonight: Try to make a long-term desire a possibility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ You know when enough is enough, but others might not be able to hear your warning. Act on what you know to be true, despite others' reactions. Display your innate intelligence and intuition. This combination of traits works well for you. Tonight: Follow a hunch.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You are full of get-up-and-go. Follow through on a long-term desire. Friends are likely to support you in a meeting where you present a unique idea. Recognize others for supporting you, and let them know how much you appreciate it. Tonight: So what if it is Monday night?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision and head in a more appropriate direction. Recognize how many choices you have. Assess whether you need to choose the path that is the most realistic. Listen with care when following through on a decision. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Look at the big picture. Consider what is going to happen next. What are you going to push for? You play a major role in today's events. When you detach, you'll see many different routes to your desired destination. Don't be too set in your ways. Tonight: Follow the music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Deal with a partner directly, regardless of whether you want to. Remain secure in your judgment of what is going on. A friend might be displaying some excessive or outlandish behavior. Stay on course, and feel secure about your decision. Tonight: Where the action is.

BORN TODAY

Actor Steven Seagal (1952), actor Omar Sharif (1932), publisher Joseph Pulitzer (1847)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "__ Noon": Gary Cooper classic
5 Tippy watercraft
10 "Make it snappy," in memos
14 Length-times-width calculation
15 Take place
16 Pleasant
17 *Niña and Pinta's sister ship
19 Camper's quarters
20 Like some rye bread
21 Number of little pigs, in a fable
22 Decorative theme
24 Crystal ball reader
25 Up to now
28 *Leader of the pack
32 Surfing at one's desk, say
34 Places for studs
35 Fellow
36 Rod's fishing partner
37 "__ you go again!"
39 Like Solomon
40 Aunt, in Argentina
41 Fashionably smart
42 Crusty roll
44 *Yale, for five U.S. presidents
47 "SNL" host's monologue, e.g.
48 Door-to-door cosmetics seller
49 Cavalry sword, in Sussex
51 Kitchen cover-up?
53 Granola alternative
56 Luau torch type
57 Coffee break time ... and a hint to an abbreviation aptly placed in each answer to a starred clue
61 Opinion column, for short
62 Unfamiliar (to)
63 Director Preminger
64 Baseball's "Amazins"
65 Bamboo lover
66 Karate award

DOWN

1 "__ it been that long?"
2 Tax-sheltered plans: Abbr.
3 Heredity unit
4 Venomous letters
5 Cleaner sold in green canisters
6 National park in Maine
7 ATM maker
8 Avignon assent
9 Division of history
10 "O Canada," e.g.
11 *Renamed lemon-lime soft drink
12 Clearasil target
13 Rose of baseball
18 Festoon
21 Lipton products
23 Takes for a sucker
24 Princess Fiona's beloved ogre
25 Somewhat, informally
26 NBC newsman Roger
27 "Spot for bargain hunters
29 Golfer's goal
30 Surgical beam
31 January, in Mexico
33 Hawke of "Boyhood"
38 Triple or homer
39 One who scoffs at boxed Merlot, say
41 "Hurry up, will ya?"
43 TV network, e.g.
45 Sidesteps
46 Smashed into
50 "__ sera": Italian "Good evening"
51 Proton's place
52 Plumbing unit
54 Calorie-friendly
55 Not domestic, flight-wise: Abbr.
57 Travel guide
58 Dockworker's gp.
59 Clamorous noise
60 Understood

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

H	A	S				A	N	D	R	O	M	E	D	A
A	V	E	R	T		S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S
D	A	V	I	S		P	E	A	C	E	N	I	K	S
A	L	E	P	H	S			M	O	R	A	L	E	
T	A	N	K	I	N	G		S	N	O	P	E	S	
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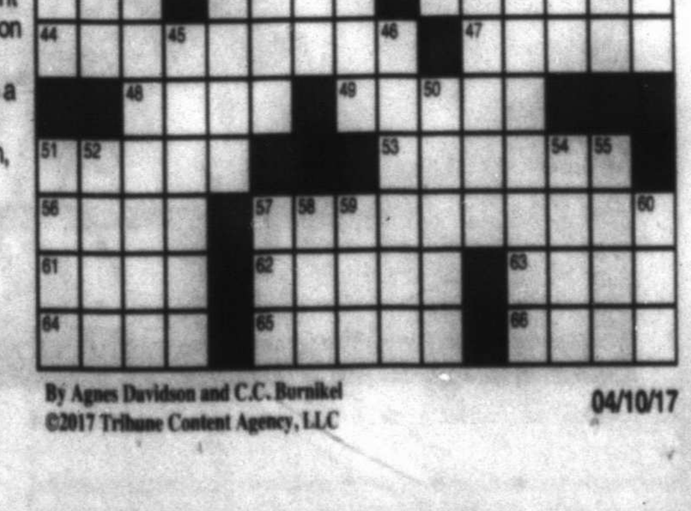
xwordeditor@aol.com 04/10/17



By Agnes Davidson and C.C. Burnikel
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04/10/17

Featuring: DJ Robert Torres,
Folklórico Dancers
Las Aquilas de Oro, Brianna Chavez,
Crystal Garcia, Brianna Rios,
Maritza Marquez, JoAnna Herrera,
Nana, Diana Morales

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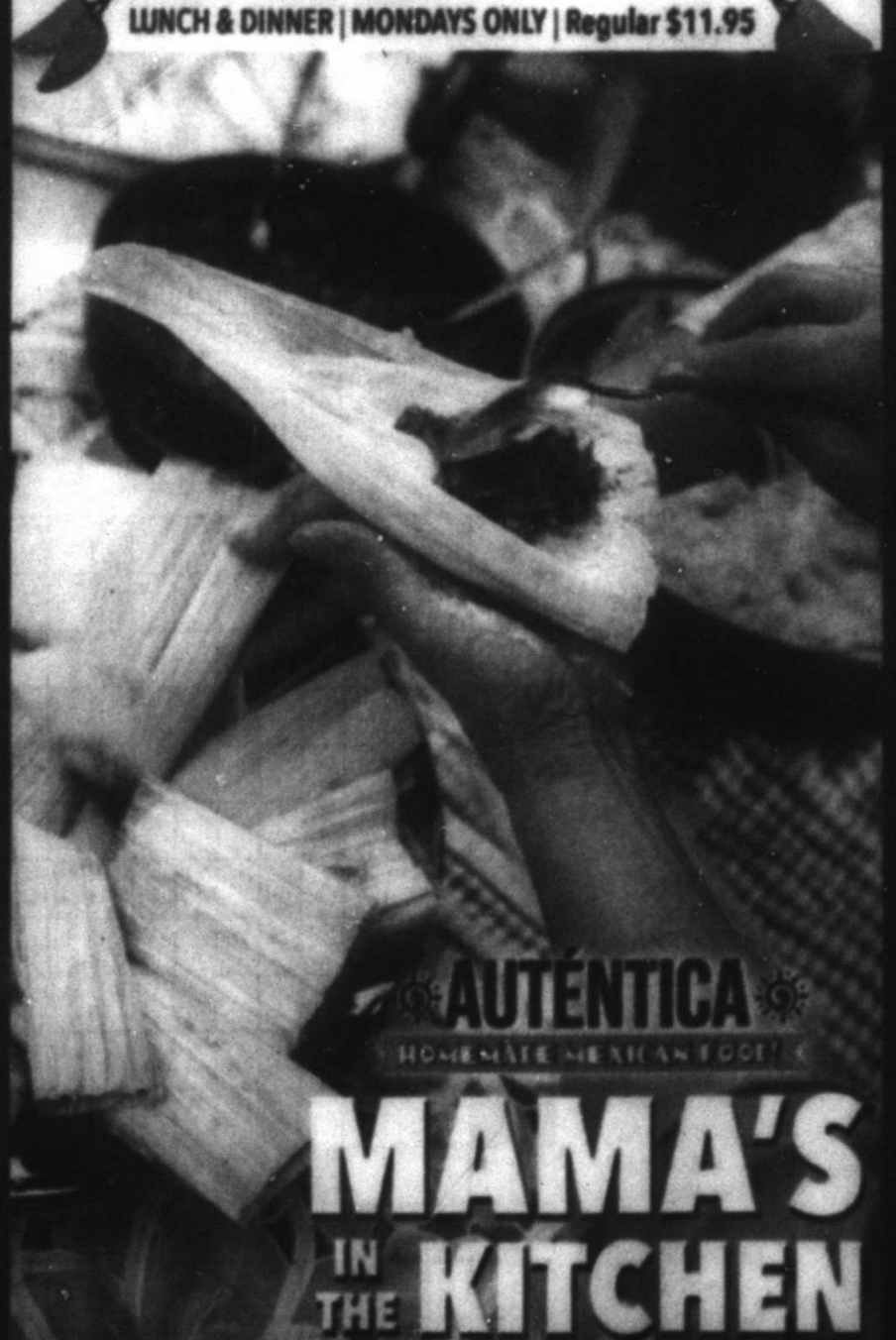

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Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

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DODGE 2005 Ram 1500, 103 K miles, single cab, white, new tires & more. Good condition 1 owner. $6,000. 432-269-8680

Ford 2015 F250 Super Duty, Turbo diesel, 37K miles. $40,000. 432-687-5952

TOYOTA 2012 Tundra Crew Max, 4x4 pick-up, silver, w/toolbox one owner, excellent condition. 147K barely broke in for Toyota. $21,000. Call 432-889-6073.

4WD and SUV

2014 F-350 King Ranch Dually, excellent condition, white, navigation, sunroof, loaded, factory 5th wheel, 24,000 miles. $53,000 OBO. 432-889-7889

CHEVY 2011 Tahoe LTZ, fully loaded, diamond ext, tan int, 107K miles, very good condition, $20,000. Call Jesse 432-853-2355. Also have '98 JEEP Wrangler for sale.

Motorcycles

HARLEY 2011 Ultra Classic, two tone metallic root beer. Looks new, too many extras to mention. 26K miles, all services up to date and verifiable. Lots of spare parts & accessories. Must see, firm at $13,500. 230-4122 for Mike

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2013, Road King Classic. Two-tone red/merlot. 380 miles. Garage kept. Mint condition. Asking $15,750. 432-254-0025.

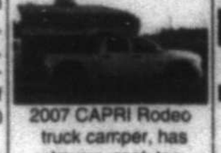
REDUCED HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $6,500 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

RV Vehicles

2001 Polaris Ranger Clean, Excellent condition, low hours. $4,800. Call 432-889-6073

Recreation Vehicles

2003 POLARIS Magnum (4 wheeler) 3.30 4x4 w/front & rear racks. Runs great. $2,800. Call 432-889-6073



2007 CAPRI Rodeo truck camper, has shower, cook top, sink, hot water heater, water storage with water pump, propane compartment, microwave, refrigerator, & A/C. All works great & in very good condition. $4,700.00 Call 432-413-9190.

☆ 2014 ROYAL Traveler 5th wheel, 42', 3 slide outs, 2 AC's, tri axle, rollout awning, 2 bedrooms, sleeps 6, washer & dryer. Loaded. No pets, non smoking, located in Odessa. Must sell $32,500 OBO. 303-944-4160

2015 36' trailer, 2 slides, fairly new, washer & dryer, 2 A/C's. Never had pets, children or smoking. $23,000. 817-846-7675

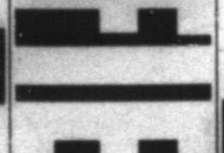
FIBERGLASS 2016 5th wheel 45ft. self contained, 2 BD, 5 slide outs, washer dryer, dishwasher, large refrigerator & freezer. 2 hide a bed couches, 1 in the living room, the other in the 2nd bed room. , Table & chairs garden tub w/optional shower, 2 a/c, Winterized. Lots of living/storage space has a large living room. Very comfortable, like new. Asking $42,777 (obo) will deliver. 505-307-1954

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2011 Limited. Super low miles. $13,500. 432-770-7086

KAWASAKI 2015 Mule, Pro FXT-LE, 4x4, windshield, hardtop, comes w/ 2011 Century UT. $15,000. Call Stacey Haines 940-765-5828

MY PARENTS ARE GROUNDED! For sale 1999 Monaco Dynasty Motor home. 38 Foot diesel. Washer & dryer. Large refrigerator. 2 TV's. 65,000 Miles. 1 Slide. Lots of wood! $60,000. Great shape. Please call Terry at 432-230-7213.

Find it fast in the Midland Reporter-Telegram



CondoThomeRentUnfurn

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Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

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311 Sunset 3 bedroom 2 bath, New paint, new carpet, nice backyard. Close to hospital. $1,500 month $1,000 deposit. Non smoking. **Call 432-803-7051.**

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Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

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DEER LEASE White Tail Mule deer at Best, Texas. Need 7 hunters. Contact 940-284-1518 or 940-665-3212

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

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  - 4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
  - 1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
- **Nolan County**
  - 646 ac. over 1 mile **SOLD** creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak $3,550/ac
  - 665 ac. Pecan Creek. New Living/Shop. 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill. $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - 642 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
  - 150 ac. big canyon. **SOLD** anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
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4602 LANHAM, 3 bedroom 2 bath duplex. All tile floors, $1,300 month $1,300 deposit. Pets permitted with deposit. Background & credit check required. 12 month lease minimum. 432-557-0018

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House Rent Unfurn

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THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

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

4/10/17

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