

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018

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DIGITAL LIFE

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SPEEDING TO VICTORY

Harvick raced to his second straight NASCAR Cup win with a dominant performance in Las Vegas on Sunday, earning his 100th career win across the three national series.

Page 1C

Shale continues to be problem for OPEC

■ UAE oil minister thinks U.S. producers should show gratitude toward cartel

By Javier Blas
Bloomberg

In front of the Petroleum Club of Midland — capital of the booming Permian shale region — an electronic display flashes two crucial pieces of information:

■ COMMENTARY

the oil price and the number of drilling rigs.

For the past year, both figures have been climbing as OPEC oil production cuts led to higher prices, spurring added drilling activity in the U.S.

But the rise in the latter inevitably threatens the former. With the number of rigs up almost a third over the last year,

U.S. production has surged above 10 million barrels a day, surpassing the all-time high set in 1970. That, in turn, puts downward pressure on crude prices, disrupting OPEC's plans. And a lot more shale oil is coming, both in 2018 and beyond, executives and traders said.

"At current prices, the market is incentivizing U.S. shale companies to produce more," said David Garza, a veteran oil executive who runs the Houston office of energy trading house Gunvor Group Ltd.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has been struggling with U.S. shale for almost a decade now. For the first few years, it downplayed the production as a mere blip. Then, in 2014, with the market oversupplied, it decided to fight head-on, opening the spigots and sending oil prices to below \$30 a barrel in a war of attrition. After a two-year pump-at-will period, OPEC blinked first and cut

Please see SHALE/2A

BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

The moon rises over an active oil and gas exploration site near Interstate 20 in Midland on Thursday.

Proposed steel tariffs could hammer oil industry

By Collin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

Max Tejeda hoped his oilfield pipe business would find some financial relief in bigger paychecks this year as drillers recuperate from the worst downturn in decades.

But the owner of Houston-based Tejas Tubular Products said the Trump Administration could dash his hopes for a recovery if it follows through on a proposal made last week to impose a 25 percent tariff on imported steel, a high cost for an industry that buys most of its metal from overseas.

"We're going to be less competitive than we were before," Tejeda said. "I'm wearing my red 'Make America Great Again' hat. But he blew it on this one."

President Donald Trump's plan to protect U.S. steel makers and squeeze foreign rivals, announced on Thursday, would almost certainly hike costs for Houston's oil companies, which use thousands of tons of steel in drilling, refining and pipeline operations to literally make the local economy go. In the West Wing on Thursday, Trump said he planned to sign executive orders imposing the steel tariffs and a 10 percent tariff on imported aluminum this week. He can do so without approval from Congress after the Commerce Department established in a recent study that steel imports are a threat to national security because, investigators said, they are "weakening our national economy."

In Houston, the steel tariffs could complicate the so-called second wave of chemical plant construction expected in coming years across east Houston and the Gulf Coast, after some \$60 billion in local petrochemical projects wind down.

Eighty-nine iron and steel mills, foundries and nonferrous metal producers with 2,200 employees in Houston would benefit from American steel protectionism. But that's less than a tenth of 1 percent of the region's workforce. More than 2,200 manufacturing companies in Houston, with over 88,000 employees, buy metals to make hardware,

Please see TARIFFS/2A

Riddick: All MISD stipends are under review

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Midland ISD spends about \$2.7 million on stipends, according to Superintendent Orlando Riddick, and the district has told the Reporter-Telegram that all stipends in the district are going through the review process.

Last month, Riddick told teachers at the district's three magnet schools — Bowie Fine Arts Academy, Peace Communications and Technology Academy and Washington STEM Academy — they would not be receiving their \$3,000-a-year stipends next school year.

"No matter what the after-school changes are, magnet campuses will be known for what they do during the day."

Patrick Jones, Chief Academic Officer

Chief Academic Officer Patrick Jones told the Reporter-Telegram last week that changes will take place to make sure the district is being efficient and effective with its dollars. The district also is reviewing "extra duty pay," overtime paid to staff and teachers for work above and beyond normal duties. That includes

current after-school activities.

Jones addressed the magnet stipend and reiterated that from the district's point of view, with a change in the district schedule and the addition of 15 minutes to the elementary school day, there is no need to absorb costs that don't provide any benefit to the student.

"I would think the taxpayers want us to be good stewards of their dollars and not pay for work that is not being done," Jones said.

At the recent meeting about performance and programs, district officials were asked about the magnet situation,

Please see STIPENDS/2A

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Did you know?
Sam Rockwell won best supporting actor at the Oscars. It is his first nomination and win. Page 5A

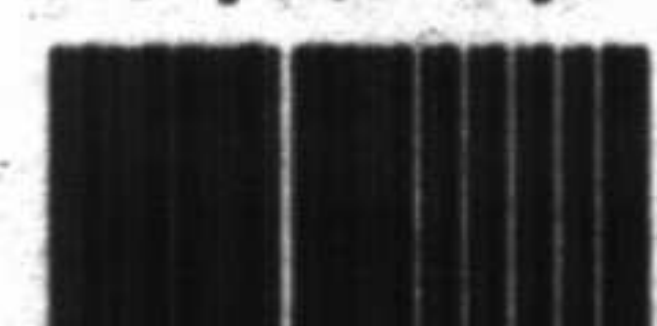
The big number
the number of years a man spent in prison after being wrongly convicted of a crime. Page 7A

Word of the Day:
discretion
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 5A.

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TARIFFS

From 1A

industrial machinery, turbines, parts for vehicles and other tools, and all would see raw materials costs surge under Trump's plan.

The cost of manufacturing equipment, building construction, automobiles and appliances made with steel could ultimately fall on consumers, and be absorbed by manufacturers in the form of smaller profits.

"It'll affect a lot of people and businesses in Houston," said Patrick Jankowski, senior economist at the Greater Houston Partnership.

In the U.S. oil patch, drillers spent about \$8.5 billion last year on hundreds of tons of pipe that go into the earth to pull up oil and gas. The same 11,300 oil and gas wells would cost \$10.5 billion if steel prices were 25 percent higher, said Art Berman, a geological consultant at Labyrinth Consulting Services in Houston.

Higher costs could mean the oil companies that dominate Houston's economy may have to cancel drilling projects or slow the development of major U.S. ventures, possibly slowing hiring or, in the worst case scenario, even cut jobs, analysts said. On average, a U.S. shale well uses about 390 tons of steel, according to one estimate.

"We're going to kill jobs in steel-using sectors, particularly in energy," said

Bob McNally, president of energy research firm Rapidan Energy Group in Washington D.C. "That's economics 101. There's no upside to this whatsoever, especially if you're trying to build infrastructure. It's a huge cost increase."

Jack Gerard, chief executive of the trade group American Petroleum Institute, warned the steel and aluminum tariffs could wreak havoc on global supply chains, raise costs of expensive U.S. oil and gas projects and threaten jobs.

"The U.S. oil and gas industry, in particular, relies on specialty steel for many of its projects that most U.S. steelmakers don't supply," Gerard said in a statement.

President Trump tweeted on Friday that the United States is losing billions in trade with other countries, and that "trade wars are good, and easy to win." The Trump Administration recently raised tariffs on solar panels and washing machines. One country long-considered one of Trump's targets in his protectionist rhetoric is China.

But China doesn't have as much to lose in Trump's looming steel trade war as its closest trading partners. The United States only accounts for 1.4 percent of China's steel exports of almost 83 million tons. And the United States only buys 2.9 percent of its \$33.6 billion in

imported steel from China. But U.S. companies buy about half of their steel from Canada, Mexico and Brazil, according to research firm Wood Mackenzie.

The president's talk of an international trade war comes as the United States, Canada and Mexico renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, the 24-year-old agreement that has created closer ties between the three countries, particularly in border states like Texas and cities like El Paso, Laredo and Houston, which benefits from bustling international trade.

The Port of Houston imported and exported 3.7 million short tons of steel in 2017, up 68 percent from the year before, when crude prices sank to a dozen-year low and hampered the oil industry's demand for steel products.

But Houston's international trade could get hit by the tariffs, as well, port officials said. Roger Guenther, executive director of the Port of Houston Authority, said a 25 percent tariff on steel would cut into the volume of goods shipped in and out of North America's most active port for steel. And that could hit the local job market and slow economic growth.

"Our history shows that steel cargo immediately declined following a tariff increase," he said in a statement.

Oil field service companies that employ the bulk of Houston's energy workforce may have to eat much of the increase in steel prices. Even though U.S. oil prices have risen above \$60 a barrel, the service industry still isn't in a position to demand much higher prices for their equipment and crews, after sharply cutting prices and laying off thousands of workers during the two-year oil downturn.

"Oil field service companies have been taking it on the chin for the past three years," Berman said. "Things are still awfully competitive out there. If you have all this equipment sitting around, you're going to be willing to work at a loss as long as you've got the cash to service your debt and keep people employed."

Tejeda's 28-year-old company has already seen raw materials costs rise 38 percent since October as steel prices rose to \$800 per ton, buoyed by increased oil prices and rising demand. In his business, foreign pipe makes up 70 percent of the market. Steel tariffs would increase his costs 13 percent, and hamper demand for his pipes as drillers slow down projects.

"It's possibly the worst decision Trump could have made," Tejeda said. "There are more jobs related to making things out of steel than there is in steel-making."

pleasantries.

But if anyone expected that shale would help the cartel, it's now clear that U.S. oil barons are fine with remaining free riders as OPEC seeks to instill market discipline. Since the salad-and-chicken dinner last March, U.S. oil production has risen roughly 1.1 million barrels a day — the equivalent of OPEC member Libya.

Barkindo plans to meet his shale frenemies again for dinner during CER-AWeek, which begins today and brings thousands of oil executives, traders, bankers and investors in Houston. "One of the lessons learned from this oil-price cycle is that, as producers, we are all in the same boat," he said in an interview.

Others inside OPEC are sounding exasperated as

the resurgence in shale output could force the cartel to prolong its output cuts beyond the end of 2018.

Suhail Al Mazrouei, the United Arab Emirates oil minister, believes shale producers should show gratitude. "If you are a shale oil producer, who brought you back? It was OPEC," he said at a recent industry conference in London. "Without OPEC there'd be chaos in the market."

In Houston, it's unlikely shale producers will bow to OPEC.

Instead, more discipline may come from pressure brought by company shareholders. Investors, tired of losses, are demanding shale companies focus on returns, rather than just growth. Moreover, the boom is hitting natural limits: drilling costs are rising,

Obituaries



Glenda Joy Frantz

Glenda Joy Frantz was called home to be another Angel for God on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. She was born in Gatesville, Texas to Buddy and Estelle Roberts on July 28, 1948, becoming the seventh of what would be 11 kids in total.

On February 1, 1975, Glenda married George "Pat" Patrick Frantz. Later that year in December, they would welcome the first of two sons, George Patrick Frantz, Jr.; then in 1978, their second son, Robert Roe Frantz, would be born.

Pat and Glenda spent most of their lives as longtime residents of Midland, Texas, raising their sons and enjoying family and friends. Glenda was a secretary as a career. She worked as a Meals on Wheels secretary as the most recent until stomach cancer had taken her off work 12 years ago.

Glenda was preceded in death by husband, George "Pat" Frantz; parents, Buddy and Estelle Roberts; brothers, Bobby and Kenneth Roberts; and sisters, Rose Klutts, Nancy Franks, Terry Huckabee, and Brenda Ribordy.

Glenda is survived by her two sons, George Frantz and husband, Lynn, and Robert Frantz, both of San Antonio, Texas; adopted daughter, Melissa Reed of Midland; one sister, Wanda Bishop and husband Junior of Midland; three brothers, Jerry Roberts and wife, Connie of Bangs, Texas; Royce Roberts and

wife, Lena, and Ronnie Roberts and wife, Carol, both of Talihina, Oklahoma; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Lynn Frantz, R.J. Frantz, Bob Bishop, Travis Lawrence, Cody Ringener, and Gene Hutchison.

Honorary pallbearers will be George Frantz, Robert Frantz, Tammy Huckabee, Melissa Reed, and Donnie Dyke.

Funeral service will be Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Chapel. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery with Bother Mike Vestal officiating.

The family will receive friends on Monday, March 5, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home & Crematory
(432) 558-5806

Death Notices

Carolina Pirela Rodriguez

Carolina Pirela Rodriguez, 51, of Midland, passed away on Saturday, March 3, 2018.

Viewing will be on Monday, March 5, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., with a rosary starting at 7:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral Mass is set for Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at American Heritage Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Carlos Troconis; four daughters, Carin Troconis, Carla Troconis, Catherine Troconis, and Catuska Troconis; her parents, Ramon de Jesus Pirela and Valadina del Carmen Pirela; and by one brother and two sisters.

If U.S. government forecasts prove right, the industry will add another million barrels a day of extra oil production this year.

"U.S. shale production is going to continue growing strongly," said Mike Loya, the Houston head of Vital Group, the world's top independent oil trader.

SHALE

From 1A

production in 2016 in an effort to revive prices.

"Shale oil, I don't know how we are going to live together," former OPEC Secretary General Abdalla Salem El-Badri told U.S. oilmen in 2016.

After downplaying and then attacking OPEC has spent the last year making nice with its U.S. shale adversaries, in an effort to understand the magnitude of the problem and perhaps convince the rival producers to show restraint.

But despite dinner invitations and behind-closed-doors conversations, shale continues to increase output and grab market share.

Rising global oil demand has so far absorbed the extra U.S. crude barrels, limiting the impact on

prices. But for the cartel, shale remains as intractable as in the past.

"OPEC is struggling to understand shale," said Daniel Yergin, the oil historian and vice-chairman of consultant IHS Markit Ltd.

In part, OPEC created its own nemesis. After it flooded the market in 2014, oil prices crashed, forcing shale producers to reshape themselves into fitter, leaner and faster versions that can thrive with oil at \$50 a barrel. As oil prices recovered, so did drilling.

A year ago, Mohammad Barkindo, the current OPEC secretary-general, invited his shale rivals for dinner in Houston during the annual CERAWEEK industry conference. It was a first-of-its-kind event and both sides exchanged

STIPENDS

From 1A

including that Midland ISD would no longer fund after-school programs at those campuses. A request for proposal (RFP) has been put out to find a company to operate the programs, Jones said.

Parents of students attending the programs will pay for it, not the district, he said. Still, the campus leader will have "complete control" over what the extension offered by the company will be — whether it is related to fine arts, academics or day care, according to Jones.

"We want our magnet schools to be known for what they are doing during the day," Jones said. "Our campuses do a tremendous job during the day. That is not changing at all."

Jones said magnet campuses will operate using zero-based budgeting. He said magnet and other choice schools receive extra funds because of their specialty, and ultimately, principals will be able to use those additional dollars based on what the needs are.

"If a principal wants a teacher to work an extended day, they have the dollars to do so," Jones said.

In that respect, what is taking place at magnets will be consistent at other campuses across the district, Jones said. As Midland ISD goes from managed instruction to a theory of great schools, campus leaders — and not central office — will make more decisions about what is needed on their campuses.

Midland ISD Salary Supplements 2017-18
ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS:
Varsity Coordinator \$8,000
Varsity Assistant Football \$8,000

J.V. Assistant Football
\$7,000

Freshman Football \$4,500
High School \$3,000
Head Baseball \$6,500
Assistant Baseball \$3,700
Soph Baseball \$3,500
Head Baseball \$8,500
Assistant Baseball \$6,800
Soph Baseball \$5,800
Freshman Baseball \$2,500

Head Cross Country \$5,500
Asst Cross Country B/G \$3,000

Golf B/G \$7,000
Asst B/G B/G \$4,000
Powerlifting \$3,800
Asst Powerlifting \$1,000
Head Soccer \$6,500
Assistant Soccer \$3,700
Head Softball \$6,500
Assistant Softball \$3,700
Soph Softball \$3,500
Head Swimming/Diving (LHS/MHS) \$8,500
Asst Swimming/Diving \$3,000

Head Tennis \$7,500
Assistant Tennis \$5,000
Freshman Tennis \$2,500
Head Track \$6,500
Assistant Track \$3,700
Freshman Track \$2,500
Head Volleyball \$8,500
Assistant Volleyball \$6,800
Soph Volleyball \$5,800
Freshman Volleyball \$4,500
Athletic Trainer \$5,500
Equipment Manager \$1,500
Facility Manager \$3,000
Freshman Coordinator \$600
Safety & Compliance Director \$2,000

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS:
Head Coach \$5,000
All other Coaches \$4,000
Jr High Cross Country \$1,200
Asst Jr High Swimming/Diving \$800
Jr High Tennis \$2,333
Jr High Swim \$1,200
Junior High Soccer \$400

FINE ARTS SUPPLEMENTS
BASED:
High School Director \$8,000
High School Assistant \$7,000
Freshman High \$7,000
Junior High \$7,000
Junior High Assistant \$5,000

CHOIR:
H SCHVP/Elem Honors \$7,500
High School Assistant \$3,500
Freshman High \$3,000
Junior High \$3,000

ORCHESTRAS/TRUMPETS:
High School \$6,000
Freshman High \$3,500
Junior High \$3,500

THEATER ARTS:
High School \$4,500
Freshman High \$2,500
Junior High \$2,500

DEBATE AND FORENSICS:
High School \$3,000
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
ACADEMIC SPONSORS:
High School Decathlon \$3,500
High School Decathlon Assistant \$1,000

CHEERLEADER:
High School JV w/class \$2,000
Freshman High w/class \$2,100
Freshman High w/class \$1,500
Junior High w/class \$2,100
Junior High w/class \$1,500

CLASS SPONSORS:
7th - 10th Grade \$600
11th - 12th Grade \$1,150
Early College \$300
DRILL TEAMS:
High School \$2,800
MOAS (MHS & LHS) \$3,500
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:
High School \$1,000

Life Skills Teacher \$3,000
BILINGUAL/ESL SUPPLEMENTS
Bilingual Classroom Teacher (PK-5) \$2,500
Bilingual/ESL Supervisor \$2,500
Bilingual Newcomer Interventionist \$2,500
ESL/ELA Teacher (PK-6) \$2,500
ESL/ELA Teacher (7-9) \$1,500
LPAC Facilitator \$2,500
Newcomer Teacher - Sec \$3,500
Occupational Therapist \$8,000
Physical Therapist \$8,000
Special Svcs Lead Teacher (Sec) \$2,500
Special Svcs Lead Teacher \$3,000
Special Svcs Program Specialist \$2,500
Special Svcs Supervisor \$4,000
Speech Pathologist - Licensed \$8,000
Speech Pathologist - Assistant \$4,000
Transition Coordinator \$4,000

Junior High \$600
Early College \$600
NEWSPAPER & PUBLICATIONS:
Freshman High \$1,300
Junior High \$1,300

ROBOTICS:
High School \$2,100
STUDENT COUNCIL:
High School \$3,000
Freshman High \$1,300
Junior High \$1,300
Early College \$300

YEARBOOK:
High School \$3,000
Freshman High \$1,300
Junior High \$1,300
Early College \$700

SPECIAL SERVICES SUPPLEMENTS
ARD Facilitator \$4,000
Autism Support \$1,000
Behavioral Adjustment Teacher \$1,000
Behavior Program Specialist \$2,500
Behavior Interventionist \$2,500
Diagnostician \$8,000
LSP \$8,000
Life College \$1,000
Life Skills Specialist \$4,000

Life Skills Teacher \$3,000
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Special Svcs Supervisor \$4,000
Speech Pathologist - Licensed \$8,000
Speech Pathologist - Assistant \$4,000
Transition Coordinator \$4,000



HELP US FIND A CHILD

Each year, Midland Independent School District provides the community with a "Child Find" service, which is designed to locate students who are not in school or not receiving special education services while in school. Students who range in age from three through 21 years and are determined to be orthopedically impaired, other health impaired, mentally retarded, learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, speech impaired, multiply disabled, autistic, visually impaired, deaf-blind, auditory impaired or have traumatic brain injury may be eligible for services. If you know of any children who fit these criteria, the school district is here to help and provide services to best meet their needs. Please refer students for special services or obtain additional information by calling Dawn Miller, Executive Director of Special Services for Midland Independent School District.

432-240-1401

AYUDENOS A ENCONTRAR A UN NIÑO

Cada año, el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Midland provee a la comunidad un servicio llamado "Child Find", que está diseñado para localizar estudiantes con necesidades especiales que no asisten a la escuela o no reciben servicios de educación especial mientras están en la escuela. Los estudiantes que tienen entre 3 y 21 años de edad y se determina que tienen impedimentos ortopédicos, otros problemas de salud, retrasados mentales, discapacidades del aprendizaje, trastornos emocionales, impedimentos del habla, discapacidades múltiples, autistas, discapacidades visuales, sordos-ciegos, problemas auditivos o lesión cerebral traumática, puede ser elegible para servicios. Si conoce algún niño que cumple con estos criterios, el distrito escolar está aquí para ayudarlo y proveer los servicios que mejor se adapten a sus necesidades. Por favor refiera a los estudiantes para servicios especiales o obtenga información adicional llamando a Dawn Miller, Directora Ejecutiva de Servicios Especiales para el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Midland.

432-240-1401

WORD OF THE DAY

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discretion

(dis-cre-tion)

- 1 a:** individual choice or judgment left to the decision to his discretion
b: power of free decision or latitude of choice within certain legal bounds reached by the age of discretion
2: the quality of having or showing discernment or good judgment: the quality of being discreet: circumspection, especially: cautious reserve in speech
3: ability to make responsible decisions
4: the result of separating or distinguishing



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Things to do

AUDITIONS: "His Girl Friday"
 Roles for four women and nine men.
 7 p.m. at Dee's Bistro and Grill, 622
 N. Lee Ave., Odessa.

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

Bridge game play: 6:45 p.m.
 Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley
 Ave. \$8. For more information call
 682-8595.

Midland Community Band's
 weekly meeting and rehearsal at Mid-
 land College Fine Arts Building Band
 Hall. 7-9 p.m. New members welcome
 and some instruments are available
 for use at the college. Contact 553-
 0632 for more information.

Bingo: 6 p.m. at the Tall City
 VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave.
 Children welcome.

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

Election Day

Tuesday is Election Day for the
 Texas primary. Voting centers will be
 open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. The centers are:
 ■ Midland County Annex, 211
 N. "A" St.
 ■ Centennial Library, 2503 W.
 Loop 250 N.

■ Cogdell Learning Center, 211
 W. Florida Ave.
 ■ Fellowship Community Church,
 5208 N. Midland Drive

■ Manor Park (Cordon Club-
 house), 5212 Sinclair Ave.
 ■ Cotton Flat Baptist Church,
 6409 State Highway 349

■ Fairmont Park Church of Christ,
 3813 N. Midland Drive
 ■ Golf Course Road Church of
 Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road

■ Greater Ideal Baptist Church,
 301 S. Tyler St.
 ■ Greater Ideal Baptist Church,
 301 S. Tyler St.

■ Greenwood Baptist Church,
 10808 FM 307
 ■ MLK Jr. Community Center,
 2300 Butternut Ave.

■ Midland Lutheran Church,
 2705 W. Michigan Ave.

■ Odessa Country Club, No. 1
 Fairway
 ■ St. Paul's Methodist Church,
 4501 Thomson Drive

■ Stonegate Fellowship, 6000 W.
 Wadley Ave.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Customers at IHOP on Loop 250 enjoy breakfast and free pancakes Tuesday in honor of National Pancake Day. Donations were accepted for the pancakes to benefit Children's Miracle Network hospitals. Local donations from IHOP are going to Medical Center Hospital in Odessa.

Today in History

Today is Monday, March 5, the
 64th day of 2018. There are 301 days
 left in the year.

Today's highlight
 On March 5, 1868, the impeach-
 ment trial of President Andrew
 Johnson began in the U.S. Senate,
 with Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase
 presiding. Johnson, the first U.S.
 president to be impeached, was
 accused of "high crimes and misde-

meanors" stemming from his attempt
 to fire Secretary of War Edwin M.
 Stanton; the trial ended on May 26
 with Johnson's acquittal.

On this date
 In 1833, in German parliamen-
 tary elections, the Nazi Party won
 44 percent of the vote; the Nazis
 joined with a conservative nationalist
 party to gain a slender majority in the
 Reichstag.

In 1946, Winston Churchill
 delivered his "Iron Curtain" speech at
 Westminster College in Fulton, Mis-
 souri, in which he said: "From Stalin
 in the Baltic, to Russia in the Adri-
 atic, an 'Iron Curtain' has descended
 across the continent, allowing power
 governments to rule Europe."

In 1953, Soviet dictator Josef Sta-
 lin died after three decades in power.

In 1953, country music performer
 Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas and
 Hawkshaw Hawkins died in the crash
 of their plane, a Piper Comanche,
 near Camden, Tennessee, along
 with pilot Randy Hughes (Cline's
 manager).

In 1966, BOAC Flight 911, a
 Boeing 707, crashed into Japan's
 Mount Fuji after breaking up in severe
 turbulence; all 124 people on board
 were killed.

In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-
 Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
 went into effect after 43 nations
 ratified it.

In 1982, comedian John Belushi
 was found dead of a drug overdose
 in a rented bungalow in Hollywood;
 he was 33.

In 1993, Patsy Macdonald

Airlines Flight 301, a Fokker 100,
 crashed after taking off from Stoppie
 (SNOWP) Airport, killing 83 of the
 97 persons aboard.

Ten years ago: John McCain,
 having won up the Republican presi-
 dential nomination, got a White House
 embrace from President George W.
 Bush, who praised the Arizona sena-
 tor's "incredible courage and strength
 of character and perseverance."

Five years ago: Venezuelan
 President Hugo Chavez (OO'-goh
 CHAW'-vay), Latin America's most
 vocal and controversial leader, died
 in Caracas at age 58 after a struggle
 with cancer.

Today's birthdays: Actor Dean
 Cain is 82. Pro Football Hall of
 Famer Michael Irvin is 52.

Weather

Sunday's temperatures

High..... 59
 Low..... 38
 Normal high..... 67
 Normal low..... 38

March 4's records

Record high: 87, set in

2009
 Record low: 19, set in
 1989

Precipitation
 Sunday..... 0.00 in.
 Saturday..... 0.00 in.
 Month total..... 0.00 in.
 Year total..... 0.05 in.
 Normal total
 (year to date) 1.35 in.

Winds

Wind speed: 28 mph
 Gust speed: 35 mph

Today's forecast

High: 67
 Low: 37

Conditions: Mostly sunny
 today/mostly clear tonight

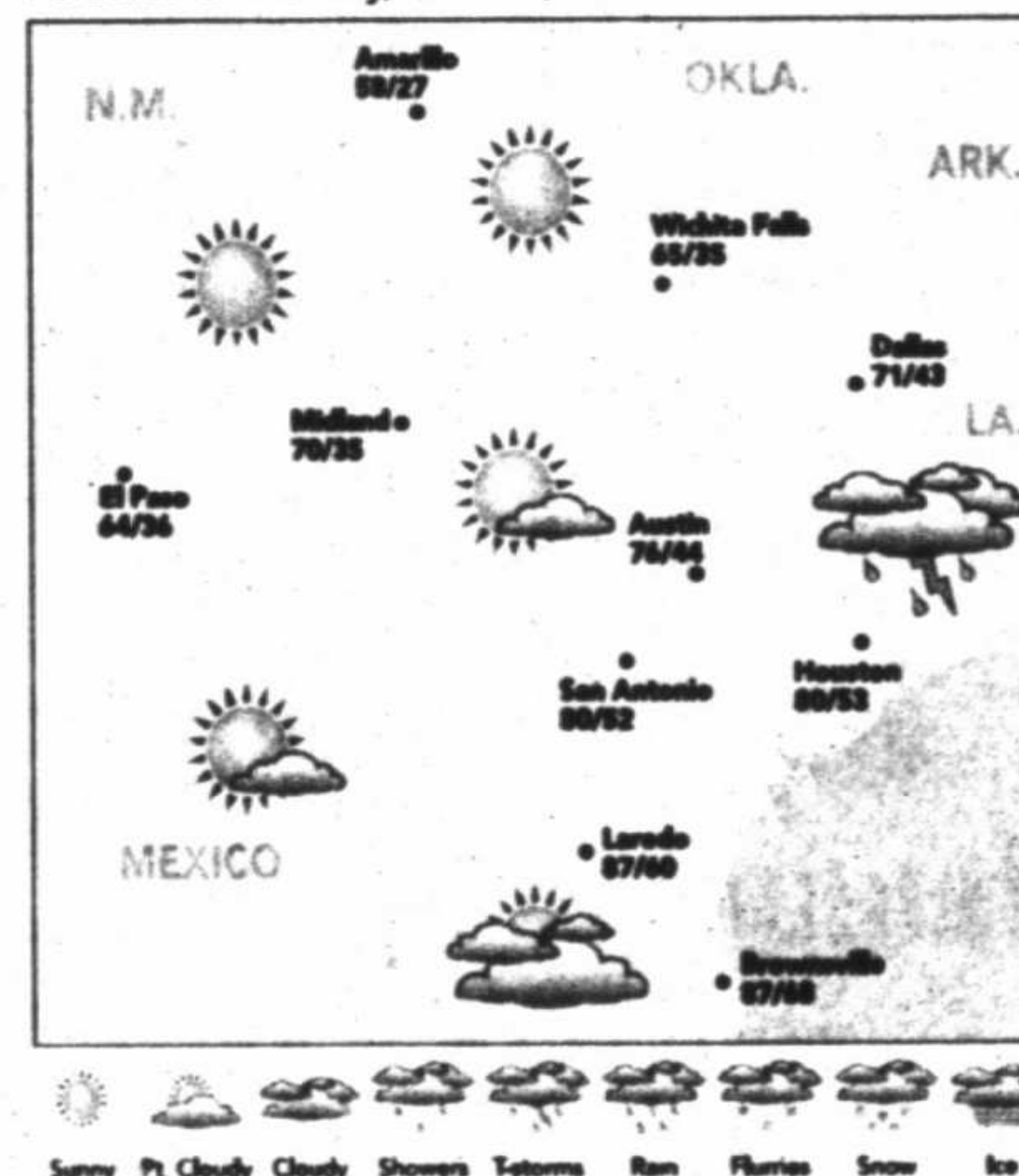
Winds: Northeast 5-15
 mph today/east 5 mph
 tonight

Chance of rain: None

Sunrise..... 7:11 a.m.
 Sunset..... 6:50 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

Forecast for Monday, March 5, 2018



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun
 in Pisces and a Moon in Libra
 if born before 8:29 a.m. (ET).
 Afterward, the Moon will be in
 Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Monday, March 5, 2018:

This year you embrace an
 unusual open and creative
 style. You relate well on an in-
 dividual level in nearly all types
 of situations. You express and
 manifest the ability to lead an
 intense one-on-one talk. If you
 are single, you identify well with
 many different types of people.

You need to decide what type of
 bond you want, because you will
 meet many people with ease. If
 you are attached, the two of you
 often can be found chatting over a
 candlelight dinner or walking
 hand in hand. This year might be
 a great one to schedule a special
 trip together. SCORPIO encour-
 ages you to break out of the box.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★☆☆ You might wake up
 feeling tired and less energized
 than usual because of a bad
 night's sleep. Your tendency is to
 defer to others more frequently
 than you have been in the past.
 Take a break at a certain point in
 order to squeeze in a power nap.
 Tonight: Use the night well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★☆☆ You will be focused
 on what's happening on the
 horizon. The unexpected
 occurs when dealing with new
 information. You might get a re-
 action that you did not anticipate.
 As a result, you might need to
 work longer than you originally
 had thought you would. Tonight:
 Get late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★☆☆ Your upbeat nature
 helps you clear up any problems
 you might run into. You see
 ways to bypass a problem that
 others can't even fathom. Others
 will be rather right with their
 money and other forms of giving
 right now. Tonight: Be willing to
 put in some extra time with a
 project.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★☆☆ Your abundant
 energy and upbeat mood might
 surprise you. Dealing with an
 older and respected person could
 test your patience and willing-
 ness to come to a solution. You
 work from a solid base of values,
 which is very clear right now.
 Tonight: You deserve a little fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★☆☆ You will be focused
 on what's happening on the
 horizon. The unexpected
 occurs when dealing with new
 information. You might get a re-
 action that you did not anticipate.
 As a result, you might need to
 work longer than you originally
 had thought you would. Tonight:
 Get late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★☆☆ Focus on what is

happening. Your creativity
 surges, which allows greater
 give-and-take between you and
 others. Open up to change,
 and let go of the status quo.
 However, use caution with any
 spending. Help a loved one to
 open up. Tonight: Let out your
 inner child.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★☆☆ Smile, and know
 that others will respond quickly
 to you because of the nature of
 your communication and their
 need to be involved. You could
 find some of your associates to
 be quite excitable and unpre-
 dictable. Just go with the flow.
 Tonight: Do whatever makes
 you smile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★☆☆ You might look
 around and wonder what is go-
 ing on. Lie low, and try to steer
 clear of controlling people. Your
 sense of humor emerges when
 you walk into a similar situation
 with someone you consider to be

profoundly logical. Tonight: Get
 as much sleep as you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-
 Dec. 21)
 ★★☆☆ Focus on communi-
 cation between you and others. A
 child or loved one could be quite
 disruptive, at least to your sched-
 ule. You would prefer to have a
 more relaxed and easygoing
 bond with this person, but he or
 she is not able to grasp that fact
 right now. Tonight: All smiles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.
 19)
 ★★☆☆ You could be in a
 situation where you need to
 focus on what is happening
 between you and someone else.
 This person's reaction could be
 quite dynamic if you start asking
 serious questions. Postpone
 making any serious decisions
 for now. Tonight: Be near good
 music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.
 18)
 ★★☆☆ You could be
 excited about a situation that is
 developing around you. It seems
 as if there are some twists and
 turns on the way, but know that
 everything will work out. You
 might feel somewhat drained or
 discouraged at times today.
 Tonight: You are a force to be
 dealt with.

PISCES (Feb.
 19-March 20)
 ★★☆☆ Keep reaching
 out to someone you care about.
 You might be concerned about a
 personal matter involving your
 finances. Take a step back from
 the situation in order to gain a
 full perspective. Emphasize your
 long-term needs and desires.
 Tonight: Touch base with a
 loved one.

BORN TODAY
 Actress Eva Mendes (1974),
 magician Penn Jillette (1955),
 singer Andy Gibb (1958)(1923)

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'Old Man with a Sign' hits the road with his message

By Gale McCray

I'm Old Man with a Sign whose photograph was on the front page of the March 1 Midland Reporter-Telegram. I was shown holding the sign that says "TRUMP THAT BOY DON'T ACT RIGHT." So why was I in Midland with the sign?

Well, I'm on my way to spring training in the Phoenix area and the sign goes with me wherever I go. A friend who is a successful business consultant told me how to maximize the message of the sign and that's why I contact local media when I go to different towns.

This is all new to me. I sure didn't think I would be doing this when I first made the sign.

I'm 75 years old and not real savvy about social media so I thought I would just stand at an intersection about six blocks from where I live in Fort Worth whenever the mood hit me and that would be that.

Boy, was I wrong. I knew it had become more than I ever imagined when a morning radio talk show in New Zealand contacted me about a short interview. It was fun but after I heard it, I thought to myself, "Gale, you are a total hick." When I told that to one of my cousins, he replied, "You are a hick. You grew up in Apache, Oklahoma." Dang, he was right. So now I embrace my hickness. If you're one, embrace it.

So why do I travel all over the USA with the sign, from Fort Worth to North Dakota to Washington, D.C., to Greenville, Mississippi, and points in between? That's easy, Trump was elected president. I'm not going to list all the different things us snowflake progressives don't like about him. You've heard them all before. I'll cut to the chase. I think he's a flim-flam man.

They've always been around selling their snake oil and he is a dang good one.



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

TOP: Gale McCray shares a laugh with Midland Police Department officers while protesting with a sign on Wednesday at the corner of Andrews Highway and Midland Drive. McCray is a retiree who lives in Fort Worth and has become a small internet sensation for making appearances across the country holding a sign that states "TRUMP THAT BOY DON'T ACT RIGHT." BOTTOM LEFT: Gale McCray, center, poses for a photo with supporters while protesting with a sign. BOTTOM RIGHT: McCray passed through Midland with his sign and spent about 2 hours standing at the corner of Andrews Highway and Midland Drive.

The problem is, a lot of people can't spot a flim-flam man and now he is the leader of the free world. Did you cringe when you read that? I sure did when I wrote it.

You may think I'm a longtime activist but I'm not. I really and truly am just an Old Man with a Sign. I'm not a George Soros operative.

I'm not an "astute observer of the political landscape." I've really had minimal involvement in politics, but Trump winning the election changed it for me. I had to do something. Contacting my representative proved she couldn't care less what I thought; thus, the sign. Heck, I wouldn't be doing this if another Republican had been elected. I wouldn't have liked it, but I sure wouldn't be doing this thing with the sign.



The Democratic Party better get its act together, too, because they ain't smelling like roses. No sir.

I don't do what I do to try to change people's minds. I may or may not but I doubt it. I do it mainly to

let people know that we are here and we're not going away. I'll close with what I tell

people when they say to me, "Get a job!" I tell them, "I'm retired! It's America! And I can do what I want!"

Mexican voters are wooed with gift cards, washing machines, cheap tortillas

By Kate Linthicum
Los Angeles Times

NEZAHUALCOYOTL, Mexico — It's election season in Mexico, which means the hijinks have begun.

Vote-buying, illegal spending and other forms of cheating are so common here that major political parties sometimes reference the phenomenon in their slogans ("Take what the others give, but vote National Action Party!"). Past candidates have been caught wooing voters with handouts of gift cards, eyeglasses, building supplies and even washing machines.

This year, in a rough-and-tumble suburb of Mexico City, it's all about tortillas.

In Nezahualcoyotl, a working-class city of 1 million, several dozen tortillarias associated with a left-leaning political party have been selling corn tortillas for half the normal price. On the weekends, many go even further, selling two kilos of tortillas for one — in exchange for the buyer's name and contact information.

The rest of the city's tortilla-makers are incensed. They say the party is trying to illegally win over voters, and is hurting their business at the same time.

"It's impossible for us to compete with this situation," complained Sergio Jarquin Munoz, a hearty man who owns three tortillarias in "Neza," as Nezahualcoyotl is known.

It was a cool weekday morning at Jarquin's small tortilla factory, and members of his staff were pulling perfect round tortillas off a silver conveyor belt. "It's not fair," he said, passing a hunk of corn

meal, or dough, between his hands like worry beads. He said declining profits have already forced him to let go three

employees.

In recent months, Jarquin and other tortillarias owners have spoken out about what they see as unfair competition, organizing protests and toting signs that warn: "Nezahualcoyotl's tortilla industry is at risk of bankruptcy!"

The man Jarquin blames for it all is Armando Soto, a congressman from the left-leaning Party of the Democratic Revolution, or PRD, who is running for mayor of Neza in elections to be held July 1. It's a crowded ballot; voters will also choose new members of Congress as well as a new president.

Soto's name and picture are featured on large banners hung outside some of the shops offering discount tortillas, along with the phrase: "2018 — let's do it better." The shops are painted yellow and black — the PRD's colors — along with the party's logo of a rising sun.

Soto insists he is not paying the stores to sell cheaper tortillas and advertise on his behalf. He said he would never try to win over voters with something as basic as a tortilla.

"You don't play with hunger," he said. But the owner of the stores selling discount tortillas, Roberto Samano, said a foundation Soto helped create has been providing the tortillarias with support, including upgrading and maintaining equipment. Samano said he is able to offer such cheap prices because of the help, because he buys ingredients in bulk, and because he is content making profits of cents, instead of pesos, on every kilo of tortillas he sells.

"This has always been a project aimed at helping people who have less," he said.

Whether or not the tortilla scheme is illegal

all comes down to whether the discount tortillarias are designed to influence voters on Soto's behalf.

Under Mexican election law, political parties and politicians are allowed to give voters gifts as long as the gift is not meant to influence their votes. The cost of such gifts must be reported to election authorities, and can't exceed campaign spending limits.

Polling done by University of Texas professor Kenneth Greene, who researches Mexican elections, found that 21 percent of Mexicans were approached with an offer to illegally buy their vote in the 2012 presidential elections.

"I think the practice is increasing," he said. Greene said the pressure to hand out things to voters often comes from the ground up, in part, he said, because voters are disappointed with elected officials' performance in office.

"Nobody has been able to seriously deliver," he said, so "people have been asking for stuff. People say: 'What are you gonna give me?'"

The government has created several mechanisms to check vote-buying and other illegal election tactics, even creating a special prosecutor for electoral crimes. But violations of those rules are usually punished with fines, and in the past have not been considered grounds for annulling elections.

International observers are worried about the possibility of vote-buying and other fraud in the highly contested presidential election, in which Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, is going up against several opposition parties, as well as at least three independent candidates. Pena Nieto fired the electoral prosecutor last fall

after he spoke out about an ongoing bribery investigation related to the PRI.

Back in Neza, tortilla-makers say they don't care whether the tortilla scheme is legal, they just want it to stop.

"They're playing dirty," said Sophia Cruz, who owns a corner store called Tortillaria Mexico. She has refused to lower prices for her airy, delicate tortillas, which are famous in these parts. On market days such as today, when street vendors sell their wares on her street, she used to have a line down the block. Now customers come only every few minutes.

It was already a hard time for tortilla-makers thanks to hikes in gas and electricity, she said. They've also had to compete with the changing diets of Mexicans, who are increasingly choosing foods such as pizza, hamburgers and sushi.

While the going rate for tortillas is about 75 cents for 2.2 pounds, the discounted stores have been selling them for as little as 37 cents for 2.2 pounds.

That may not sound like a huge cost difference to some, but it is to many in Mexico, where the minimum wage is only about \$4.70 a day.

Customer Cynthia Carina Hernandez Contas, 29, said she had tried the discounted tortillas. She wasn't turned off by the political connections — she's used to parties trying to woo her with giveaways — but she didn't like the taste. She said she has remained loyal to Cruz's tortillas even if they're twice the cost.

"They're thinner than the others," she said. "It's worth it."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Piano students perform in annual competition

The annual Mary Alice Knox Piano Competition was hosted by the Midland Music Teachers' Association on Saturday at Midland College.

Close to 150 students from Midland, Odessa, Andrews and Hobbs, and Roswell, New Mexico, competed. First-place winners performed at a recital Sunday afternoon.

■ First place: Kristin Gibbons, Brinda Pothuri, Sarah Lilley, Caden Bair, Mahathi Chudalavada, Nat Barnard, Michael Herrera, William Dorman, Melissa Fu, Lawson Bell, Claire Xu, Sammy Setiadarma, Connor Garcia, Sammy Setiadarma, Connor Garcia, Shreyas Konduru, Glenda Klasson, Jay Chen, Claire Coble, Hannah Lee, Courtney Cross, Eshan Bonmisetty, Elijah Baltazar, Hannah Bynum, Kloi Watkins, Lucy Harvey, Ashlin Brown, Andrew Chen, Shwetha Jayakumar, Elijah Catungal, Kristan Legaspi, Emme Gomez, Sophia Johnson, Eunice Koo, Peter Mourik, Danielle Sorenson, Nayeli Onate, Nicole Lopez, Hannah Lilley, Luke Bell, Nicole Lopez, Ella Hobbs, Miranda Yang, Ella Fields, Maryann Yang, Mary Brown, Jaiden Catalansan, Amulya Ganta, Olivia Tang, Emma Hobbs, Lydia Lee, Reid McKelvy

■ Second place: Grace Koo, Hannah Woolf, Josie Reed, Keerthana Bere, Liliann Anderson, Jina Catalansan, Lucas Kim, Morgan Crutchfield, Leon Samaniego, Ann Marie Williams, Julian Reyes, Mollan Massey, Lili DeGroot, Dalvik Reddy, Curtis Wong, Jenna Young, Raylene Moore, Rachel Swannell, Will Coble, Ezekiel Catungal, Sophie Chen, Tripp Arnold, Richard Black, Lucas Tang.

Sylvia Muniz, Shayne Thompson, Kohen Gallardo, Joseph Kim, Ethan Harris, Aaliyah Valdiviezo, Pranav Ganta, Wilson Doonan, Macy Luke, Maggie Guo, Matthew Baltazar, Sybella Underwood, Sophie Sharum, Dessa Snyder, Mia Johnson, Landri Todd, Lucas Todd, Erynn McKelvy, Hallie Doonan

■ Third place: Michaela Rusert, Blake Hollis, Grace Von Krosigk, Lily Scogin, Cenzie Pyatt, Laura Wong, Kelton Chesshire, Vivienne Dragun, Maggie Lannom, Alyssa Vasquez, Max Pressler, Cotton Harvey, Andrew Keeler, Regan Corral, Emily Stuard, Ethan Novicio, Socha Kessavan, Lola Mestas, Joanna Thomas

■ Honorable mention: Yussaf Ben Yacoub, Regina Kodom, William Cole, Sarah Blackshear, Krish Patel, Diya Reddy, Anthony Woolf, Amelia Morris, Farah Ben Yacoub

■ Participating teachers: Midland, Midland, Jo Ann Collett, Natalie Eustace, Joy Finley, Ellen Gossett, Ruth Ann Griffin, Kristi Law, Linda Lindell, Joan Lucas, Phyllis Mason, Shari Santorelli, Julie Holleman Wingfield and Steven Hopp (who is a not an association member); Odessa, Debbie Butler and Barbara Tyler; Hobbs, Jon Hines and Michele Walton; and Roswell, Michael Lively.

Judges for the competition were Gayle Bizzle of Odessa and Ruth Holmes and Carol Maunon, both of Lubbock.

Source: Midland Music Teachers' Association



Eric Gay/AP Photo

Kerry Ledford mans a booth at a Republican congressional candidate forum on Feb. 13 in New Braunfels, Texas holds the nation's first 2018 primary elections Tuesday and the campaign is providing a vivid exhibition of the Trump effect in GOP politics.

In Texas GOP primary, it's who can love Trump the most

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas — George P. Bush's campaign flyers in Texas declare that he's "standing beside our president" — the one who called his dad, Jeb, an embarrassment to his family and a pathetic person.

At a political forum outside San Antonio, another Republican candidate brags about his "bigly" wins over Democrats. Another hopeful in Houston, just days after a mass shooting at a Florida high school killed 17 people, sent voters a photo of herself holding an assault rifle — below the words "Kathaleen Wall stands with Trump."

Texas holds the nation's first 2018 primary elections Tuesday, and the campaign is providing a vivid exhibition of the Trump effect in GOP politics. Some races are playing out in a roadshow of one-upping emulation of the combative president, in which there's no such thing as cozying up too close or too ardently, regardless of his rough edges or low approval ratings nationwide.

"I'm Robert Stovall, and like President Trump, I realize the swamp is the problem," begins a campaign ad for Stovall, a San Antonio Republican Party leader now running for Congress. He stands in a literal swamp wearing a "Make American Great Again" hat and cocks a shotgun at the end.

It's like nothing seen before in Texas politics, even when a Texan was in the White House. Love of George W. Bush's style of big government

conservatism wasn't a staple of campaigns here. A decade later, his nephew George P. Bush, the Texas land commissioner, is thanking President Donald Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. for endorsing him in his bid for re-election.

Texas candidates aren't alone in courting Trump diehards who make up the GOP base — and who can be counted on to show up in typically low-turnout primary elections. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, who is running for governor, has trumpeted Trump's endorsement, while an outside group accuses his GOP rival of "abandoning" the president. In Indiana, three Republicans running for Senate are all portraying themselves as his most steadfast ally.

The impression of a Trump White House at war with its enemies is stoking the atmosphere. "It's about 'he's our Republican president and if we don't stand together and we don't defend the party and conservative ideas, no one is,'" said Brendan Steinhauser, an Austin-based Republican strategist. A Quinnipiac University survey in late February put Trump's approval rating at 86 percent among Republicans but just 37 percent overall.

As Republicans brace for a difficult election this November — the president's party typically loses congressional seats in the midterm cycle — they could not have asked for a gentler warm-up than Texas, where the GOP holds such a commanding edge that most election-year drama dissolves once the primaries are done.

Democrats haven't won a statewide race since 1994 and are not seen as favored to flip any of six congressional seats opened up by GOP retirements on Capitol Hill.

Among those leaving is U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, who in January lauded Trump's physical fitness and said Americans were better off getting their news straight from Trump than from the media. Some of the 18 Republicans trying to replace him don't stop there: Outsider candidate Mauro Garza says he is running because "Donald Trump said I could be here." Chip Roy, a former top aide to Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, opens rallies by rhetorically asking how much better citizens' lives were a year into a Trump presidency.

Congressional candidate Francisco Canseco cast the alternative in dark terms to one crowd in Comal County, which is sandwiched between Democratic-leaning San Antonio and liberal Austin and went more than 70 percent for Trump in 2016. "If Hillary had won last election, America would be gone. Our Republic as we know it would be lost. But we are blessed to have Donald Trump," he said.

It was just what Al Torres, an undecided 64-year-old retired federal worker wearing a CIA jacket, needed to hear. His friends blame the news media for not giving Trump a fair shake and want a candidate on board with his agenda.

"That was important to hear somebody say that they're not going there and fighting him, but supporting him," Torres said.

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PARIS Rangers look into shooting outside jail

Texas Rangers continue an investigation Friday of an officer-involved shooting at the Red River County Jail.

The officer was unharmed but the man injured later died of his injuries at Paris Regional Medical Center, according to Red River County Chief Deputy Quinton Wallace.

"The shooting took place near the salty port outside the jail this morning about 11:30 a.m.," Wallace said Friday. "Because the shooting involved one of our officers, we have turned the investigation over to the Texas Rangers."

As of press time Saturday, the deceased had not been identified.

HOUSTON Party-goer dons bulletproof vest, gets fatally shot

Houston police say a man who put on a bulletproof vest at a party has

been killed after another man attending the party fired a shot at him.

Police are searching for the man who fired the fatal shot early Sunday. Investigators say forensics tells will determine if the gunshot went through the vest or struck an uncovered area.

Police believe about six to eight people were attending the party. Houston Homicide Sgt. Mark Holbrook says while it's unusual for people to put on body armor and play with guns at a party, "these things happen sometimes."

The name of the victim hasn't been immediately disclosed.

SAN MARCOS Shot fired at Texas State University dorm; no injuries

Police at Texas State University say one person is in custody after a gun was fired at a residence hall.

Authorities say the bullet hit a window early Sunday at Angelina Hall on the

campus in San Marcos, about 30 miles south of Austin.

No one was hurt. Officials say the gun was fired from outside the building and the person in custody is not a student.

Texas State has about 38,000 students.

MARSHALL Man sought for double slaying at his duplex

A 46-year-old man is being sought for a double slaying in Marshall in East Texas.

Marshall police say Jesus Molina Delatorre has been named in a warrant charging him with capital murder for the slayings of 31-year-old Leon Bowman and 30-year-old Justin Williams. Both men were found dead Friday in a duplex where Delatorre is listed as the sole tenant.

The bodies were discovered by police who were summoned to the home to do a welfare check.

Other details haven't been immediately disclosed by police.

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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, March 5, 2018 | Page 6A

Polls are misleading on guns, immigration

■ Results can lead to overestimation of how firm people's views really are

Americans tell pollsters that they want tougher gun laws and legal status for illegal immigrants who came here as minors — the so-called Dreamers. So why haven't such laws been enacted?

Catherine Rampell writes in The Washington Post that it's a mistake to blame "Washington dysfunction." The real culprits, she says, are Republican politicians who are out of step with public opinion, even among Republican voters.

She stacks the deck a little in making her case. It's not just Republicans who defeated a proposed ban on assault weapons in 2013. Sixteen Democrats (counting Angus King of Maine, an independent who caucuses with the Democrats) joined them in voting it down. It's misleading to say that Republicans have made it easier for people "with mental illness" to buy guns; as the ACLU pointed out, the regulation in question concerned people who have a mental impairment that leads them to have others help them manage their government benefits.

Rampell's reference to "NRA-funded Republican politicians" implies that the

RAMESH PONNURU

Bloomberg



group's clout comes mainly from its donations, when most people who have looked at the question think its sympathizers' votes are more important.

These are quibbles. Rampell's basic observation is correct. There does seem to be a disconnect between several poll findings and the behavior of Republican politicians. But the explanation may lie in the limitations of polling as a guide to what the public really thinks.

Start with immigration. Rampell cites a Quinnipiac poll that found that 81 percent of respondents, including 68 percent of Republicans, favor "allowing undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children to remain in the United States and eventually apply for citizenship."

That's probably why most Republican politicians, including President Donald Trump, say that they favor it, too. But Trump says he wants a law that provides

for that amnesty and also makes other changes to immigration laws. It's disagreement over what a deal should include that has so far prevented action.

Does the public think that the amnesty should be passed on its own, or combined with some or all of Trump's immigration priorities? The Quinnipiac poll didn't ask. Other pollsters haven't either, probably because it is implausible that most people have an opinion at that level of detail. But the Harvard-Harris poll asked registered voters if they favor a deal that combined an amnesty with some Trump proposals, including an end to the diversity-lottery visa. It found 63 percent approval.

Quinnipiac has also found that 95 percent of respondents support "requiring background checks for all gun buyers." As Rampell points out, that includes huge majorities of Republican voters. But that poll wording leaves out the causes of controversy: whether private gun sales and gifts should be covered, and whether the checks should be used to form a registry. When the arguments have been aired in referendums, expanded background checks have not generated that nearly universal support. Washington state passed a background-check law with 60 percent of the vote, Nevada with a razor-thin 50.45 percent majority. In

Maine, a background-check referendum narrowly lost with 48 percent of the vote.

Rampell cites an NPR/Ipsos poll finding that roughly 80 percent of Americans want to ban "assault-style weapons," a number that again includes most Republicans. But polls on this question have been all over the place. Gallup, the CBS News poll and the Washington Post-ABC News poll all found 48 percent to 50 percent support for banning assault weapons; Quinnipiac found 67 percent.

Polling is useful. We can confidently say that the vast majority of Americans want to let people who came here illegally as minors stay and apply for citizenship, because that's what the polls consistently tell us. But seeing poll results can lead us to overestimate how firm a lot of people's views really are.

My point isn't to let Republicans off the hook. If you favor more stringent regulation of guns or passing an amnesty for the Dreamers with nothing else attached, nothing I've written here is meant to change your mind. But if you're angry at Republicans over these issues, you shouldn't be angry at them for failing to follow public opinion. You should be angry at them for failing to lead the country in the right direction.

OPINION EXTRA

Why should 21 be magic number for buying guns?

As various high-schoolers have called for stricter gun control to solve mass shootings, some have naturally become favorites in certain corners of social media. A common sentiment from like-minded adults has been that these kids are so bright that we might be governed better by their generation than by the current Congress.

Lovely compliment. But I'm guessing such fawning would not be extended to high schoolers favoring armed teachers over disarming law-abiding gun owners.

But the point is that whether this admiration is genuine or a product of political opportunism, the suggestion is that there are some high school-age kids out there showing laudable adult wisdom. How curious, then, that so many praising these kids would deny young people a basic constitutional right.

Welcome to the gun-buying age debate. It begins with the basic concept of adulthood. When does it begin? The best answer is the one we know from experience: It varies from person to person, and for some it never really kicks in. But there are many laws that apply only to adults, so we have to figure out when we become one. Any number we choose will be arbitrary, giving too much credit to some and too little to others.

The additional problem is, we have grown uncomfortable with establishing a single moment that opens the doors of adulthood. After the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1971, various states began to roll back their drinking ages from 21, on the logic that anyone who can choose our leaders ought to be able to drink a beer.

There was, of course, a fairly immediate increase in drunken driving deaths, leading to states swinging back to drinking ages of 21. Voting age and virtually every other vestige of legal adulthood remained at 18. If curbing DWI is our only motivator, we can raise the drinking age to 30, and death tolls would drop at once. We will never do that, of course, because we would never strip driver's licenses from all Americans in their 20s.

But we gladly tell adults between the ages of 18 to 20 that they cannot drink. And we may be about to tell them they cannot buy a gun, either. The difference is that there is no constitutional right to drink. Prohibition failed, but it was not unconstitutional.

The lunge toward telling law-abiding Americans that they do not have Second Amendment rights until they turn 21 must be rejected on its face. This overreaction is sadly happening with the assistance of some Republicans (like Florida Gov. Rick Scott and maybe even President Donald Trump) who think caving on this core value earns them points as reasonable people. They need to rethink.

We are understandably mortified by the prospect of a 19-year-old shooting up a school, yet we salute and encourage the 19-year-old with even heavier armament if he is deployed with the military. The weapon is not the issue in this comparison, it is the 19-year-old.

Some 19-year-olds should not be able to buy guns. Some 50-year-olds should not be able to buy guns. But if we have decided that the 18th birthday is when the mantle of adulthood applies, there is no argument that can be made for denying those Americans one of our most basic rights.

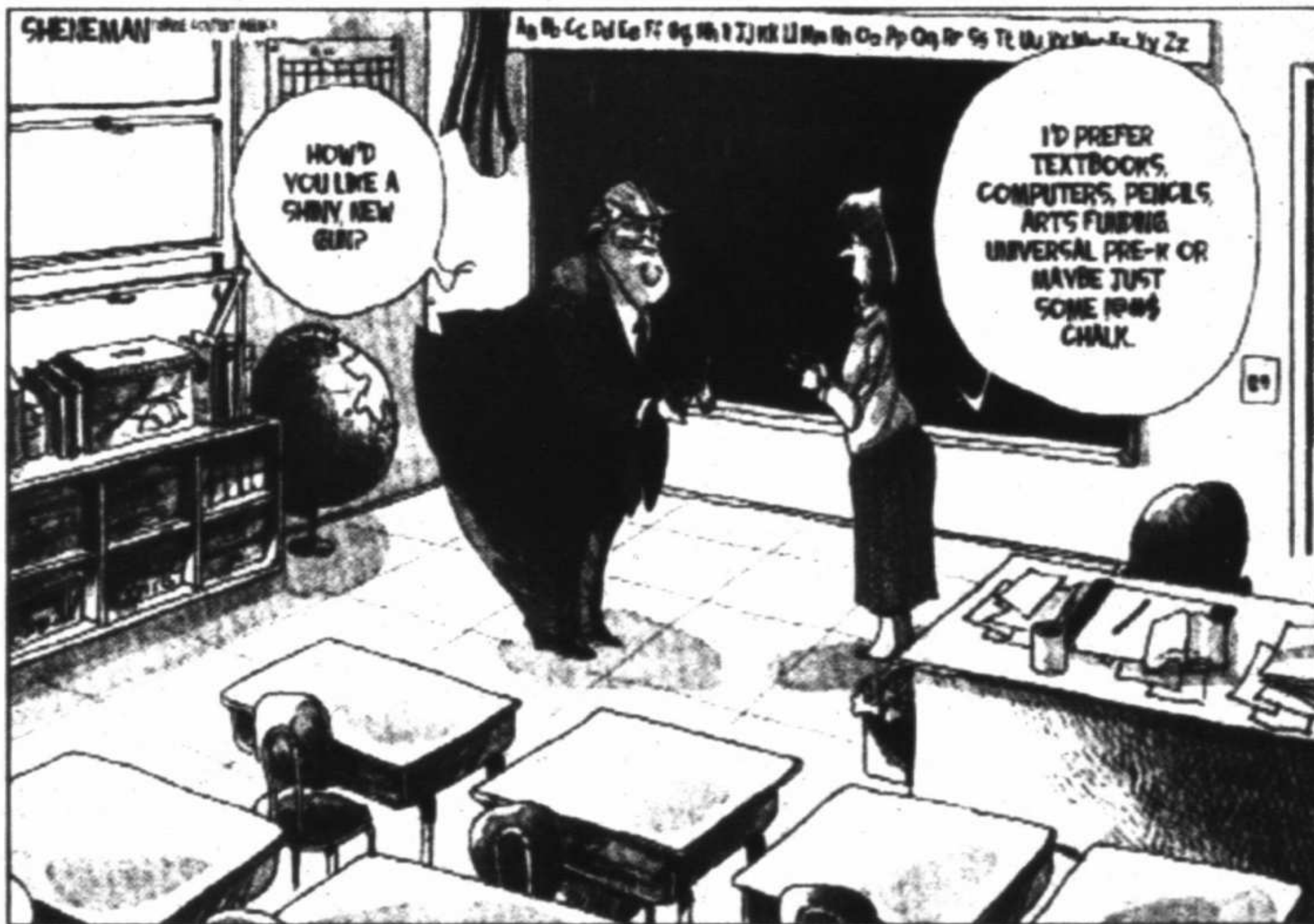
If there is an unshakable American will to establish a gun-buying threshold of 21, there is only one way to justify make that change: return the voting age to 21 as well.

Since that won't be happening, let's stop punishing responsible, law-abiding young Americans for the evils of a tiny few.

— Mark Davis, Dallas Morning News

Midland Reporter-Telegram

A Herald newspaper



It must be agonizing to be Sessions

■ The former Alabama senator is not the ideological conscience of the Trump administration and a close partner of the president, as one would expect

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has been attacked and belittled by President Donald Trump more than Vladimir Putin has.

Trump has had rough patches with most of his top officials at one point or another, but there is a particular poignancy in his humiliating treatment of his own attorney general, who got on board the Trump Train early and supports the president's policy instincts as much as anyone.

But Sessions is not personally loyal, at least not in the way Trump expects, and so the man who looked past Trump's erratic temperament when he decided to support him now routinely feels the brunt of it.

There are many ways for a president to communicate with his attorney general. He could make a phone call. He could have him over to the White House for a dressing-down. He could send an emissary to the Justice Department. Instead, Trump bangs on Sessions in public, the only purpose of which seems to be venting his own spleen and personally discrediting Sessions as much as possible.

This is assuredly the first time a president has ever trolled his own attorney general on Twitter. It's another example of how Trump, bizarrely, often treats his administration as something he has no authority over, except insofar as he has commenting privileges.

For Sessions, a dignified man who would never treat anyone else the way the president treats him, it has to be painful, and all the more so because of the irony of it.

Just a few short years ago, Sessions was the odd man out in the U.S. Senate. He fought rear-guard actions on immigration (successfully), inveighed against free-trade orthodoxy and argued the GOP should be a party of workers when few were inclined to listen.

Endorsing Trump was a crazy gambit to effect a revolution in the party, and it worked. You would have expected Sessions to be the ideological conscience of the administration and a close partner of the president, the Ed Meese of the Trump administration.

Instead, he is assiduously at work implementing the Trump agenda and gets beaten about the head and shoulders for his trouble.

RICH LOWRY

King Features Syndicate



Sessions' recusal in the Russian investigation set in motion events leading to the appointment of Robert Mueller, and Trump probably will never forgive him. He considers his attorney general weak and disloyal on the one question that matters most to him — protection of himself and his family.

His anger toward Sessions isn't leavened with institutional knowledge, hence his strange blast at Sessions over the fact that, appropriately, the DOJ inspector general is going to look at allegations of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act abuse. Sessions felt compelled to push back against the president in a public statement, and yet again, the civics textbooks will have to be revised to account for how government works in the Trump era.

We have all gotten used to it, but if you take a step back, that Trump as president would attack his Cabinet officials via Twitter would have seemed one of the more lurid fears of his critics before he was elected. But here we are.

The ongoing spat with Sessions is another reason the administration gives off a sense of teetering on the edge of a crisis, not because of exogenous events (we're experiencing peace and prosperity), but because of the ultimate endogenous factor — the president of the United States, without whom the administration wouldn't exist in the first place.

If Trump were to fire Sessions, which seems unlikely, or to eventually push him over the edge into quitting, he probably wouldn't be able to get another attorney general confirmed who would be acceptable both to Trump, who wants more personal loyalty, and to the Senate, which isn't going to approve a crony? And what graybeard with independent credibility would sign up to serve?

So, Sessions isn't going anywhere. Whether the attorney general considers that a reprieve or a punishment, only he knows.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Democrats seek to help wealthy in response to tax changes

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

CHERRY HILL, N.J.—Resistance to the Republican tax overhaul comes with an ideological twist for some Democratic state officials: They've styled themselves as champions of the working class but are pushing hard for measures that would reduce taxes mostly for the wealthy.

Democratic governors and lawmakers in a handful of high-income, high-tax states are promoting policies that are intended to spare their residents the pain of the new \$10,000 cap on deductions for state and local taxes. Connecticut, New Jersey and New York are even planning to sue the federal government over the new cap, which was a key provision of the Republican tax overhaul adopted in December.

The legislative work-arounds have moved swiftly through state Senate chambers in California and New Jersey. A bill with similar components passed the Oregon Senate and House in the last two weeks. The concept is under consideration in Connecticut, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia.

Proponents say the cap on state and local tax deductions disproportionately affects states controlled by Democrats and raises the cost of living. They say that has the potential to drive well-off residents to other states.

California state Senate

President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, a Democrat sponsoring the bill there, said the state budget would take a big hit if wealthier residents flee California because they pay the bulk of the taxes.

"We have to offer services like schools, like health care, like resources for senior citizens who have Alzheimer's," he said.

John Moorlach, a Republican state senator, finds irony in the Democrats' efforts.

Last year, a Democratic colleague sarcastically thanked him for taking a stance that would protect yacht owners. This year, Moorlach had a retort: "It's rich that you guys are trying to help the wealthy now in California," he said at a January committee meeting. "So welcome aboard."

De Leon, who is running for U.S. Senate, said it's the first time he's ever been criticized for helping the wealthy.

Republican critics say the states should be reassessing their taxes instead of trying to circumvent the new tax law.

"What's worse?" asked New Jersey state Sen. Joe Pennacchio, a Republican who voted against the work-around measure there. "Not being able to take the tax deduction or having high taxes to begin with?"

Under the deductions, known as SALT for state and local taxes, money paid to state and local governments is not counted as taxable income by the federal government in many cases. The higher a taxpayer's state and local taxes, the

bigger the benefit the federal deduction can be.

The new law caps the deduction while also lowering tax rates. Overall, it's expected to result in reduced tax bills for most Americans, with the biggest savings going to high earners.

But in California, New Jersey and New York, a much larger share of the top 1 percent of earners — 24 to 43 percent of them — actually would see their federal taxes rise under the GOP tax law, according to an analysis from the non-partisan Tax Policy Center. That is largely because they would lose most of the benefit of the SALT deduction.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy's office describes the push for a work-around to the new cap on local taxes as a matter of fairness, especially if many of the federal tax breaks expire as scheduled in 2027.

"If you eliminate the cap on tax deductions, rich people who are already getting a tax break would be getting a bigger tax cut," said Steve Wamhoff, a senior fellow at the progressive Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

His organization found that the average federal tax savings from eliminating the cap would be well under \$1,000 per tax filer in every state for every income group, except the highest 20 percent of earners. But it would add up to tens of thousands in annual tax savings for the top 1 percent in most states — and more than \$100,000 in California.

Michigan man cleared of murder now fights for compensation

By Ed White
Associated Press

DETROIT — David Gavitt spent 26 years in prison for the deaths of his wife and two daughters before a prosecutor agreed that the evidence behind his arson conviction was no longer credible. The case helped inspire a Michigan law aimed at compensating the wrongfully convicted.

Yet the state now is vigorously resisting Gavitt's request for money, going so far as to question whether he's really innocent. He would qualify for more than \$1 million.

"My reaction? I don't know how to put this — anger," said Gavitt, 59, who works the midnight shift at a tub manufacturer. "It's like a slap in the face. ... I thought we lived in America where the accused doesn't have to prove innocence. They're judging me all over again."

Gavitt's claim under Michigan's Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act — \$50,000 for each year in prison — would seem like a slam dunk. The

evidence used to convict him was thoroughly discredited through major advances in fire science, and Ionia County prosecutor Ron Schafer in 2012 declined a second trial.

But Schafer's successor and the Michigan attorney general's office aren't convinced he should be paid.

"Although Mr. Gavitt is no longer guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of the crime initially charged, there certainly is circumstantial evidence that supports he is not innocent of wrongdoing," prosecutor Kyle Butler said in a letter to Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Michigan is among 32 states and the District of Columbia that provide money to people who are rebuilding their lives after being wrongfully convicted. Perjury, bad evidence, sloppy police work — all have led to reversals, sometimes after decades in prison.

Gavitt was convicted of arson and murder in 1986 in a tragedy that stunned the small town of Ionia, 130 miles northwest of Detroit. His wife, Angie, and their daughters, ages 3

and 11, died. Wearing only jeans, Gavitt was rushed to a hospital where he spent weeks recovering from severe burns.

He insisted the fire in the living room was an accident. Gavitt and his wife were smokers, and an ashtray was in the room. Angie also collected lamps that burned oil.

But experts testified that burn patterns in the living room were typical of an intentional fire and that traces of gasoline were detected.

Gavitt's appeals failed until the Innocence Clinic at University of Michigan law school took his case in 2010. By then, the science of fire investigations had dramatically changed. Different experts examined the evidence from the 1985 blaze and refuted the arson theory presented at trial.

In agreeing to drop the convictions and life sentence, Schafer said an intentional fire caused by gasoline could no longer be verified. But at the same time he also noted there still were a "great deal of questions" about what Gavitt did during that chaotic night.

Putin: Russia will 'never' extradite citizens accused by US

By Josh Lederman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russia will "never" extradite any of the 13 Russians indicted by the United States for election-moddling, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, even as he insisted they didn't act on behalf of his government.

Putin's comments in an NBC News interview airing Sunday illustrated the long odds that the Russian operatives will ever appear in U.S. court to answer charges of running a massive, secret social media trolling and targeted messaging operation to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. The United States has no extradition treaty with Moscow and can't compel it to hand over citizens,

and a provision in Russia's constitution prohibits extraditing its citizens to foreign countries.

"Never. Never. Russia does not extradite its citizens to anyone," Putin said.

Even if the Russians never face justice in the United States, the sweeping indictment served the added purpose of increasing the public's awareness about the elaborate foreign campaign to meddle in American democracy, legal experts have said. For years, the Justice Department has supported indicting foreigners in absentia as a way to shame them and make it harder for them to travel abroad.

The detailed, 37-page indictment from special counsel Robert Mueller last month alleges Russian operatives working for the Internet Research Agency

used fake social media accounts and on-the-ground political organizing to exacerbate divisive political issues in the U.S. Posing as American activists, the operatives tried to conceal the effort's Russian roots by purchasing space on U.S. computer servers and using U.S. email providers.

Yet Putin argued his government has little to answer for until the U.S. provides "some materials, specifics and data." He said Russia would be "prepared to look at them and talk about it," while repeating his government's insistence that it had no role in directing the operatives to act against the United States.

"I know that they do not represent the Russian state, the Russian authorities," Putin said. "What they did specifically, I have no idea."

America is Hungry for Martha Stewart's New 30-Minute Dinner Kits

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Consumers rushing to get Martha's delicious recipes and seasonal ingredients delivered to their doorsteps

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Fast-growing Martha & Marley Spoon is shipping thousands of meals every week to hungry customers across the country.

Over 4 million dishes have been sold, and sales continue to skyrocket for the meal kit delivery service Martha & Marley Spoon.

"My kits make it possible for even the busiest of us to make delicious and easy meals. Customers love the fresh ingredients and the amount of time they save," said Martha Stewart.

A closer look at this convenience-enabling phenomenon suggests it was just a matter of time before sales took off.

A simple solution for Americans of all ages — seniors in particular — Martha & Marley Spoon is perfect for those who want to enjoy healthy, nutritious and fresh dinners in just 30 minutes a day. Martha & Marley Spoon sends Martha Stewart's trusted recipes and fresh, pre-portioned ingredients directly to your door.

Unlike other meal kit companies, Martha & Marley Spoon works with award-winning producers and purveyors so that you get fresh, healthy, and delicious ingredients in every meal.

Best of all, ingredients go from the farm to your table (instead of spending 2 weeks in a truck traveling to local supermarkets), food waste is reduced (Americans waste 187 pounds of fresh produce annually), and you can save hundreds of dollars per year (Americans throw away \$24 billion in produce alone each year).

Martha-Approved Meals in 30 Minutes A Day

The Martha & Marley Spoon culinary team is led by 14-year industry veteran Jennifer Aaronson, who earned her chops in the test kitchens of Martha Stewart Living.

Aaronson has condensed decades of experience into a once-weekly "meal kit" that lets consumers make delicious, restaurant-quality meals in just 30 minutes a day and at a fraction of the cost of eating out — without planning, shopping, or kitchen stress.

With Martha & Marley Spoon, consumers eat delicious dinners, break bread with loved ones, and feel better about what they're eating.

Best of all is the simplicity of the service.

First, consumers choose from Martha's delicious 30-40 minute recipes. There are 7 new dishes and 3 customer favorites available each week, many of which come from the thousands of recipes Martha Stewart has shared through her television shows, books, magazines, and website over the years.

The team sends the recipes, along with all of the pre-portioned ingredients needed to cook them, directly to customers' doors in a chilled, insulated box. By delivering the exact quantities, there's never

any food waste or half-used ingredients rotting in the back of the fridge.

Fans of the product love that all they have to do is cook, relax, and enjoy the experience. Each recipe takes around 30 minutes, which enables households to eat well and have plenty of time for other important things.

As Martha says, "Save time to make time for everything else you want to do."

Why Americans Are Raving About This "Dinner in a Box"

The Associated Press calls Martha & Marley Spoon "the best meal kit," and the company has been featured in the New York Times, USA Today, Fortune, The Today Show, and more. In June alone, news of the service was covered by over 157 media outlets, seen and heard more than 600 million times.

What sets this meal kit service apart? We've boiled it down to 7 simple reasons:

- 1. Trusted, time-tested recipes.** While other companies offer unproven meal options, Martha & Marley Spoon sends you the best of Martha's 18,000+ recipes, so every meal you cook is a winner.
- 2. Time-saving cooking techniques.** Martha & Marley Spoon meals use Martha's smart cooking techniques so you can enjoy a delicious meal in as little as 20 minutes, with no planning or shopping whatsoever.
- 3. Choice and variety.** Martha & Marley Spoon offers 7 new recipes and 3 customer favorites to choose from weekly, with plans for both couples and families. It is the only service in America that provides total choice of what to cook for both families and 2-person households.
- 4. Thoughtfully-sourced ingredients.** Martha & Marley Spoon works with local suppliers to bring the very best to your table, including organic produce, artisanal cheeses and condiments, and ethically-sourced meats and seafood.
- 5. Timeless recipe cards.** Every box comes with beautifully-designed, sturdy recipe cards that are easy to follow and reuse.
- 6. Wholesome, balanced meals.** Recipes are designed for healthy weeknight cooking and eating, quick preparation, and they're a clear winner over take-out and frozen meals.
- 7. The freshest food around.** Martha & Marley Spoon focuses on fresh, local food that is sourced as little as 24 hours before shipping,

meaning that your food arrives at its best.

"I Absolutely Love What You Are Doing For Me"

Rod, one of thousands of happy customers says, "I just wanted to thank all at Martha & Marley Spoon. Quality, value, convenience. I could go on. Amazing, delicious, healthy, wonderfully orchestrated meals with a 1, 2, 3 cooking approach. By the way, I started by ordering this for my college daughter who never boiled water prior to December. She is now making herself amazing, healthy, fresh food. Yay!"

Another email writes "Praise to all, I love my meals. The Moroccan Spiced Chicken with Vegetables — delicious. The spinach tortilla cannelloni — spectacular! But the best so far is the Chicken Soup with Sweet Potato, Collards and Quinoa. I would describe it as light, sweet, and satisfying. I thank you once again for the exceptional standards."

And yet another says, "You are the best! I am amazed at how perfect your service is for me. I enjoy the offerings and quality put into each box, always easy and fun to prepare. I love the special gifts. This level of service is exceptional. I can't imagine life without Martha & Marley Spoon."

Martha & Marley Spoon's success — and glowing customer reviews — make it easy to see why sales are booming nationwide and why people can't stop talking about it.

How To Get 3 Free Martha & Marley Spoon Meals In Texas

Initial shipments of Martha & Marley Spoon have been snapped up after being featured on *The Today Show* and in *The New York Times*, *Associated Press*, and *The Washington Post*. With thousands of customers across the nation, and the 283,000+ global followers, it's clear households are "liking" what they see.

Starting at 7am today, local Texas residents can get 3 free meals, plus free 2-day shipping, as part of any order. Simply visit special.marleyspoon.com and order using code NEWS47 in the next 48 hours. Orders will be served on a first-come, first-serve basis and are subject to warehouse capacity limits.

Order online to beat the rush. If you have urgent questions, call toll-free 1-800-381-3617 on weekdays from 9AM - 9PM EST. Operators do not take orders by phone, but can walk you through ordering on your own computer or mobile device.

Get your free meals now at special.marleyspoon.com using code NEWS47. Consumers who miss this 48-hour window to try Martha & Marley Spoon may be placed on backorder until a future delivery date is available.

'Shape of Water' triumphs at an Oscars full of change

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The 90th Academy Awards crowned Guillermo del Toro's monster fable "The Shape of Water" best picture at an Oscars that confronted the post-Harvey Weinstein era and sought to pivot to a vision of a more inclusive movie business.

A sense of change was palpable at the ceremony Sunday at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, where winners made impassioned arguments for gender equality and diversity.

Guillermo del Toro's monster fable "The Shape of Water," which came in with a leading 13 nods, took a leading four awards, including best production design, best score and best director for del Toro.

He became the third Mexican-born filmmaker to win the award, joining his friends and countrymen Alejandro Inarritu and Alfonso Cuarón — who once were dubbed "the Three Amigos."

"The greatest thing that art does, and that our industry does, is erase the lines in the sand," said del Toro, alluding to his international career.

Jordan Peele won for his script to his horror sensation "Get Out," becoming the first African-American to win for best original screenplay. Peele said he stopped writing it "20 times," skeptical that it would ever get made.

"But I kept coming back to it because I knew if someone would let me make this movie, that people would hear it and people would see it," said Peele. "So I want to dedicate this to all the people who raised my voice and let me make this movie."

In a year lacking a clear front-runner the awards were spread around. Christopher Nolan's World War II epic "Dunkirk" landed three awards, all for its technical craft: editing, sound editing and sound design.

Things went expected in the acting categories, where Frances McDormand won her second Oscar for her performance in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." McDormand asked all the attending female nominees stand up in the theater.

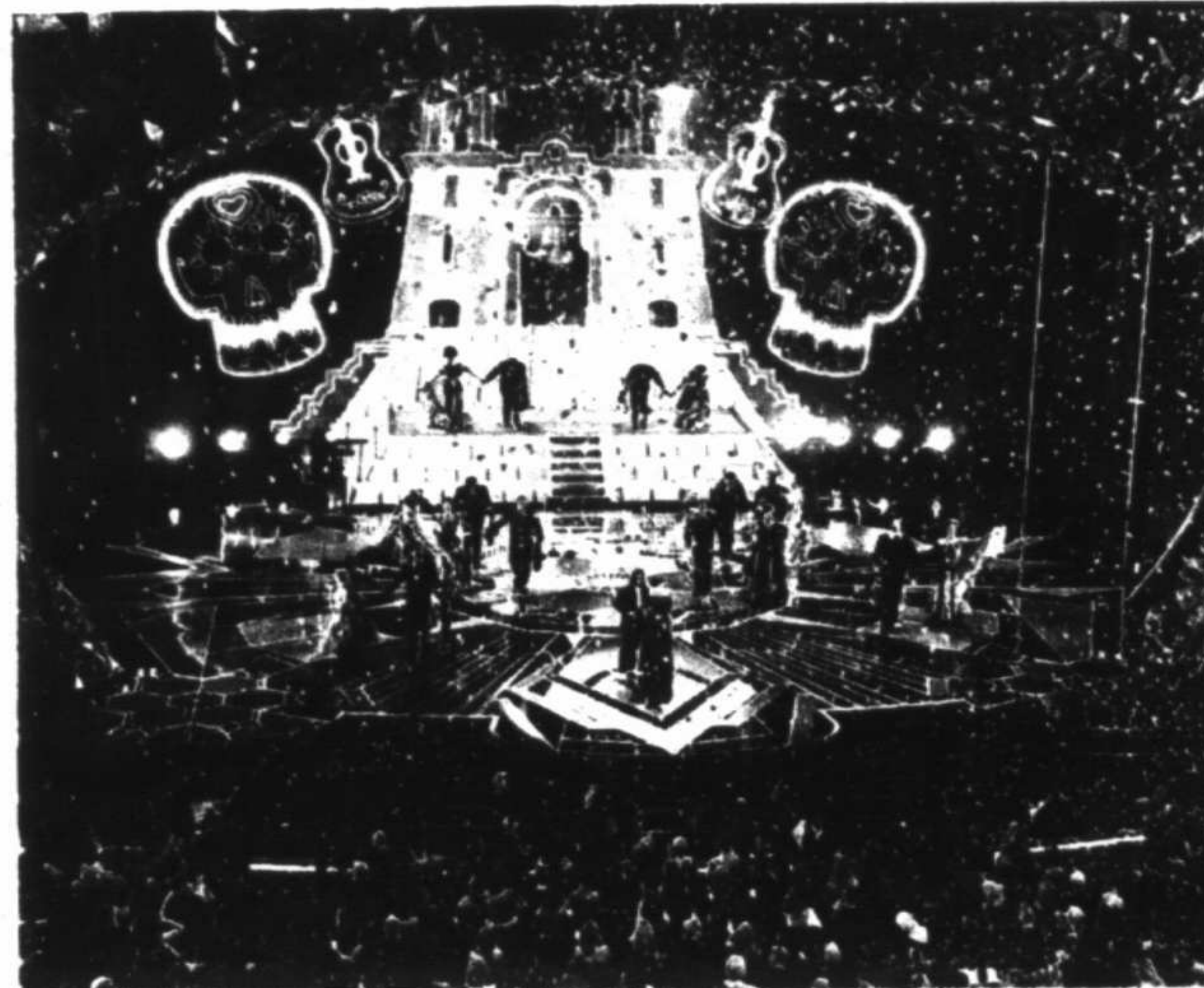
"Look around, ladies and gentlemen, because we all have stories to tell and projects that need

financing," declared McDormand. "I have two words to leave with you tonight, ladies and gentlemen, Inclusion Rider."

Subbing for last year's best-actor winner, Casey Affleck, in presenting the best-actress award were Jodie Foster and Jennifer Lawrence. "It's a new day in Hollywood," said Lawrence.

Three widely admired veteran actors won their first Oscars. Gary Oldman won for his Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour." Allison Janney ("I, Tonya") took best supporting actress, and Sam Rockwell ("Three Billboards") won best supporting actor. Oldman thanked his "99-years young" mother. "Put the kettle on," he told her. "I'm bringing Oscar home."

But many of the show's most powerful moments came in between the awards. Ashley Judd, Anabella Sciorra and Salma Hayek — who all made allegations of sexual misconduct against Weinstein — together assembled for a mid-show segment dedicated to the #MeToo movement that has followed the downfall of Weinstein, long an Oscar heavyweight. They were met by a standing ovation.



Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP

Miguel Laforcade, left, and Natalie Laforcade perform "Remember Me" from "Coco" at the Oscars on Sunday at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

(Midland, TX) - New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by the Midland Central Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and is of value to select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons who are age 65 or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or a taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws," said Jerry Bundick, Chief Appraiser of the Midland Central Appraisal District. "You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide you the most complete, accurate and up-to-date available information to assist you." This includes information about the following programs.

- Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed in action.

- Property Tax Exemptions - Non-profit organizations** that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their county appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

- Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local county appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.

- Appraisal Notices** - Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local county appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.

- Property Taxpayer Remedies** - This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.

- Homestead Exemptions** - A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the Midland Central Appraisal District.

- Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to the Midland Central Appraisal District for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value.

- Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** - Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed, but not cancelled, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

- Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled Homeowners** - Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

- Notice of Availability of Electronic Communication** - In appraisal districts located in counties with a population of more than 200,000 or that have authorized electronic communications, and that have implemented a system that allows such communications, chief appraisers and ARBs may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically instead of mailing.

- Protecting Property Appraisal Values** - Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's ARB.

For more information about these programs, you may contact the Midland Central Appraisal District, 4831 Andrews Hwy., Midland, Texas 79703, Telephone (432) 699-4991. Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxhelp/property-tax/.

Rockwell takes supporting actor Oscar for 'Three Billboards'

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sam Rockwell continued his awards season dominance, winning best supporting actor at the Academy Awards on Sunday for his portrayal of the dimwitted, racist cop Jason Dixon in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." It is the first nomination and win for the 49-year-old actor.

"I want to thank the Academy," Rockwell said. "Never thought I'd say those words."

On the Oscars stage Sunday Rockwell talked about how his father instilled in him a love of movies. He said when he was 8, he was called to the principal's office where his father told him they had to go.

"It's Grandma," Rockwell recalled his father saying.

Later Rockwell asked, "What's wrong with Grandma?"

"Nothing," his father said. "We're going to the movies."

As the music played him off Rockwell said the award is, "For my buddy Phil Hoffman" referring to the late Philip Seymour Hoffman who died in 2014.

"He was an inspiration to me and all of my peers," Rockwell said backstage. "He was a good friend and a huge, huge inspiration on me."

Both Rockwell's co-star Frances McDormand and his partner Leslie Bibb could be seen wiping tears away after his win.

Rockwell beat out Willem Dafoe ("The Florida Project"), Christopher Plummer ("All the Money in the World"), Richard Jenkins ("The Shape of Water") and his "Three Billboards" co-star Woody Harrelson for the award.

McDormand gave a long hug to Harrelson during the commercial break.

Much of the divisiveness surrounding the film centered around Rockwell's character, with many troubled by the thought that the story redeemed him by the film's end. Director Martin McDonagh has said, however, that he doesn't think Jason is redeemed.

Backstage Rockwell told reporters that the backlash presented a complicated issue. "For me, the whole thing is they have a lot of work to do, Mildred (McDormand's character) and Dixon. They're not all of a sudden redeemed at the end of the movie," Rockwell said.

He recommended Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's essay in The Hollywood Reporter on race and redemption as a nuanced take on the film.

"It's also a movie and it's a dark fairy tale of some sort," Rockwell said. "In real life, we probably would have gone to prison, both of our characters."

Lupita Nyong'o and Kumail Nanjiani honor dreamers at Oscars

By Kate Feldman
New York Daily News

the dreamers out there, we stand with you."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Lupita Nyong'o and Kumail Nanjiani celebrated their international roots at the Oscars Sunday night. Nyong'o, from Kenya, and Nanjiani, from Pakistan, joked that they're two Hollywood actors who have their names misspelled.

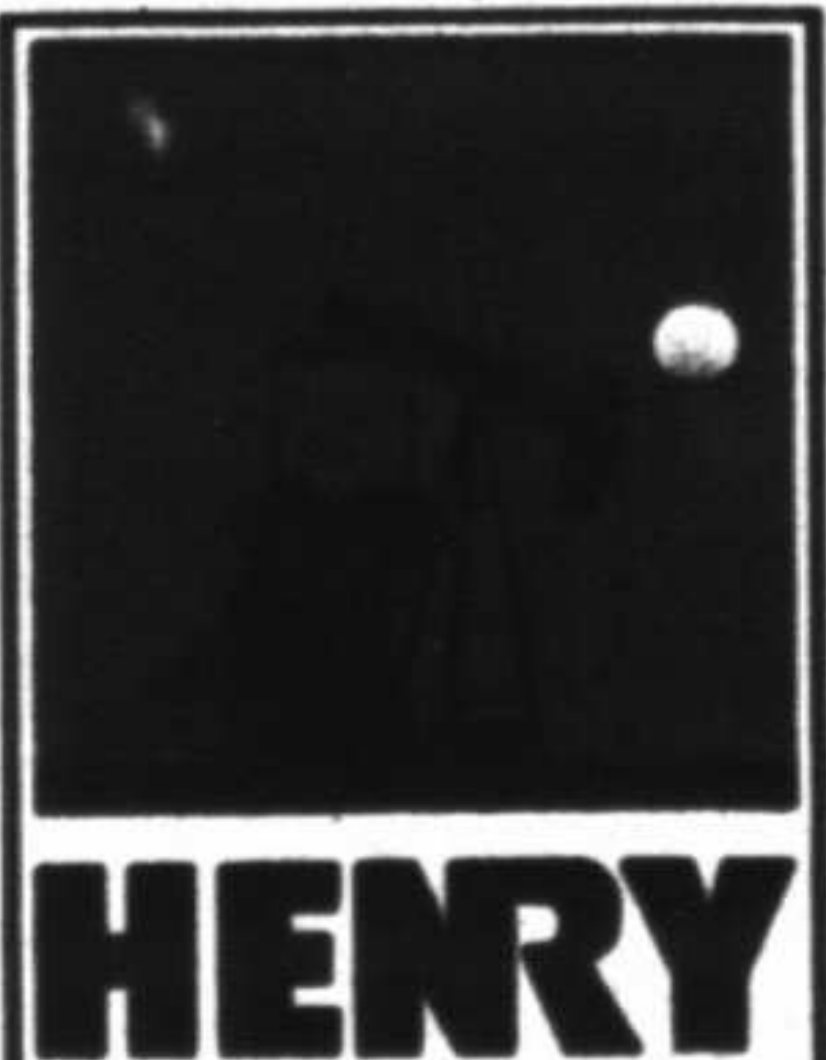
"Actually, I have to come clean. Kumail Nanjiani is my stage name," the "Big Sick" actor joked.

"My actual given Pakistani name is Chris Pine. So, you can imagine how annoyed I was when the other, when the white Chris Pine showed up. The real Chris Pine."

Before presenting the award for best production design, the two honored fellow immigrants.

"And like everyone in this room, and everyone watching at home, we are dreamers," Nanjiani. "We grew up dreaming of one day working in movies. Dreams are the foundation of Hollywood. And dreams are the foundation of America. And so, to all

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DIGITAL LIFE

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, March 5, 2018 | Section B

Odds are against striking it rich on YouTube

Reaching top 3.5 percent of most-viewed channels is worth between \$12,000 and \$16,000 in ads, study finds

By Todd C. Frankel
Washington Post

One of the main attractions of YouTube is that anyone can become a star. There are no gatekeepers. No talent agents or television executives need to be won over. Stars can come from anywhere. And they do.

Forbes' recent list of the richest YouTubers is proof: It's filled with people who post clips about playing video games or kids playing with toys. The top spot went to Daniel Middleton, known as DanTDM.

He's a 26-year-old British gamer — and he earned \$16.5 million last year.

But a new study finds that the odds of striking it rich on Google-owned YouTube — or even making a modest living — are vanishingly small.

Reaching the top 3.5 percent of YouTube's most-viewed channels — which means at least 1 million views a month — is worth only about \$12,000 to \$16,000 a year in advertising revenue, according to Mathias Bartl, a professor at the Offenburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany, whose study is one of the first to probe YouTube data for clues

about how it works for creators.

Bartl found that it's gotten harder for new creators to reach the top, as YouTube alone adds 300 hours of video every minute and the biggest stars become more successful. The median views per video has plummeted to 89 in 2016 from 10,262 a decade earlier. At the same time, YouTube's biggest channels are gobbling up more eyeballs. The top three percent of channels got 64 percent of all views in 2006. A decade later, the top channels took 90 percent.

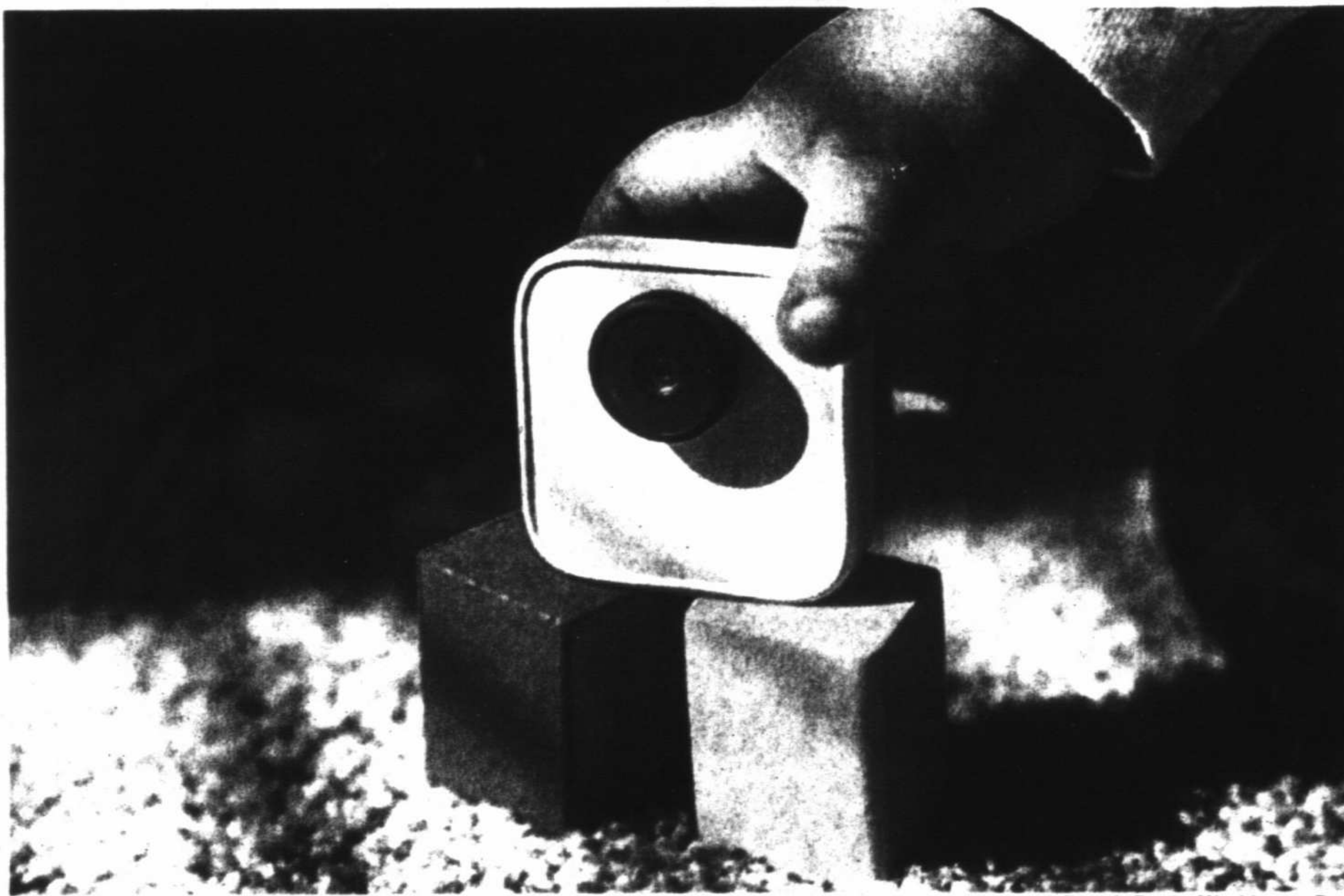
YouTube did not immediately respond to a request to comment on the study.

What's happening on YouTube is occurring across the Internet, where creators are finding that long odds of success in the online world are not so different from IRL (internet-speak for "in real life").

In fact, they might be worse. In music, song streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music have mostly benefited superstar acts. No one needs to fight a music label to get their songs distributed, but getting listeners is a different problem. Less than 1 percent of songs represented 86 percent of the music

Please see YOUTUBE/4B

GOOGLE'S CANDID CAMERA



Jeffrey A. Fowler/Washington Post

A baby plays with the Google Clips camera.

Clips hunts for cute, interesting shots

By Geoffrey A. Fowler
The Washington Post

The very idea of the first camera from Google causes people to freak out.

The tiny Clips camera, which arrived in stores Tuesday, decides on its own what to record. Whenever it's on, artificial intelligence inside is watching. "This doesn't even 'seem' innocent," tweeted Elon Musk after Google announced Clips in October. When I first saw one, I couldn't shake the feeling Google had created the creepy surveillance contraption in Dave Eggers' Silicon Valley horror "The Circle."

So in the interest of science and averting dystopia, I've been using a \$250 Clips for the past two weeks. I turned its eye on a toddler playgroup. I wore it in the subway. I clipped it onto a feather toy at a cat cafe.

And I learned Google's candid camera isn't an evil all-seeing eye. In fact, it's not even good enough to replace the need for your camera on your phone. But it tells us a lot about where technology is heading.

COMMENTARY

for better and worse.

Clips is like a GoPro with a mind of its own. It's the first camera that seeks to use AI to replace the main job of photographers: pressing the shutter button. It's not hard to imagine the appeal to helicopter parents and anyone who spends too much time operating a smartphone camera. You set this thing near your baby (human, feline or canine) and it will sift through all the boring moments to record seven-second video bursts of some of the interesting ones. Many of us record far more than we ever edit, or even look at. To Google that looks like a problem AI might solve.

What's just as remarkable as Google's AI advances is that the tech giant seems to have understood it makes people uncomfortable. In a number of notably un-Googley ways, Clips plays it extra careful with how it handles data that could easily become yet another privacy nuisance.

At least on this first version. And Clips

is definitely just the beginning for AI in cameras and all sorts of everyday things.

Getting the shot — sometimes

From the moment you twist the lens on the Clips to turn it on, the camera starts hunting for interesting shots. Its wide-angle lens can see a bit more than most phones, though it captures scenes at a lower quality and without any sound.

But how does Clips know what's interesting? Google says it spent three years studying what people do with cameras. Then it hired three professionals — a documentary filmmaker, a photojournalist and a fine arts photographer — to train its camera how to pick good shots when they happen.

Good: Stability with a little bit of motion.

Bad: Fingers obscuring the lens. They taught it to look for joyous faces.

Please see CLIPS/4B

Vero is alternative to Instagram

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Instagram users fed up with the service becoming more and more like Facebook are flocking to a hot new app called Vero.

Vero lets you share photos and video just like Instagram, plus it lets you talk about music, movies or books you like — or hate. Though Vero has been around since 2015, it surged to popularity in recent days, thanks in part to sudden, word-of-mouth interest from the cosplay community — comic book fans who like to dress up as characters. That interest then spread to other online groups.

There's also a growing frustration with Instagram, with a flood of ads, dearth of privacy options and a recent end to the chronological ordering of posts. Instagram users have been posting screenshots of Vero, asking their friends to join.

But don't ring Instagram's death knells just yet: Hot new apps pop up and fizzle by the dozen, so the odds are stacked against Vero. Remember Ello? Peach? Thought so. "Young people are super fickle and nothing has caught on in the way that Snapchat or Instagram has," said Debra Aho Williamson, an eMarketer analyst who specializes in social media.

Here's a look at Vero, how it's become so hot — and whether it can last:

Sudden interest

From 2015 until this past week, Vero was little known with fewer than 200,000 users, according to CEO Ayman Hariri. Then cosplay members started posting photos of elaborate costumes and makeup. Photographers, tattoo artists and others followed. As of Thursday, Vero was approaching 3 million users, Hariri said.

Vero has gotten so popular in recent days that some users have reported widespread outages and error messages. Vero says it's working to keep up in response "a large wave of new users."

How it works

Vero works on Apple or Android mobile devices and is

Please see VERO/4B

Teach your robots well: Human tutors will be needed for the job

■ The key to learning how to work with machines, not against them

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

Everyone knows about child rearing, but the big career of the future may be computer rearing.

Machines with artificial intelligence cannot teach themselves, even with the advent of neural networks and machine learning. They will still need tutors to steer them to accomplish a given task efficiently.

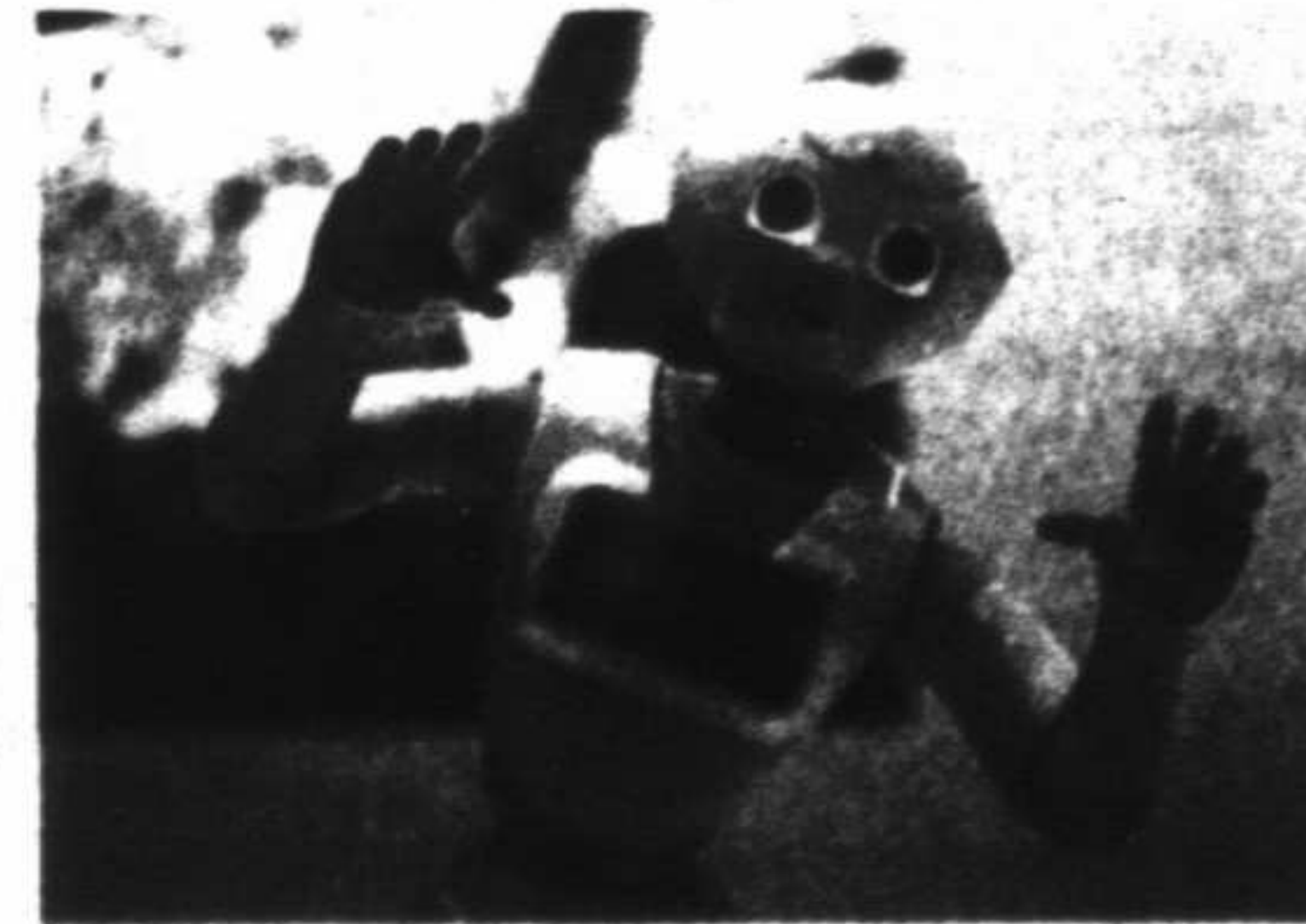
The growing human-machine symbiosis — think smartphones — will

change every aspect of our lives and how our children make their living. The time to prepare is now.

Two-thirds of business and information technology executives plan to invest in artificial intelligence, or AI, this year, according to a global survey of 6,300 senior managers by consulting firm Accenture. About 75 percent of Houston executives said they would invest in AI next year, and they expect machines to operate alongside humans at their organization as a co-worker, collaborator or trusted adviser.

"We want to augment folks so that they are focusing on the highest-value task, that they are taking the

Please see ROBOTS/4B



Simon Dawson/Bloomberg

A SoftBank Group Corp. Pepper humanoid robot stands on display Feb. 27 during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain.



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Apple plans release of iPhone with large screen

By Mark Gurman and
Debby Wu
Bloomberg

Apple is preparing to release a trio of new smartphones later this year: the largest iPhone ever, an upgraded handset the same size as the current iPhone X and a less expensive model with some of the flagship phone's key features.

With the new lineup, Apple wants to appeal to the growing number of consumers who crave the multitasking attributes of so-called phablets while also catering to those looking for a more affordable version of the iPhone X, according to people familiar with the products.

Apple, which is already running production tests with suppliers, is expected to announce the new phones this fall. The plans could still change, say the people, who requested anonymity to discuss internal planning.

Despite months of breathless hype, the iPhone X hasn't sold as well as expected since its debut last year. Apple sold 77.3 million iPhones in the final quarter of 2017, below analysts' projections of 80.2 million units. Some consumers were turned off by the iPhone X's \$1,000 price despite liking the design even as they wanted something more cutting-edge than the cheaper iPhone 8.

With its next lineup, Apple is seeking to rekindle sales by offering a model for everyone.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment.

With a screen close to 6.5 inches, Apple's big new handset will be one of the largest mainstream smartphones on the market. While the body of the phone will be about the same size as the iPhone 8 Plus, the screen will be about an inch larger thanks to the edge-to-edge design used in the iPhone X. (Apple is unlikely to refer to the phone as a phablet, a term popularized by Samsung.)

The larger screen should



Luke MacGregor/Bloomberg

A customer tests an iPhone X smartphone at the Apple store on Regent Street in London on Nov. 3.

especially appeal to business users, letting them write emails and manage spreadsheets on a screen about as big as a small tablet. Like the iPhone 8 Plus, the new handset will probably enable split-screen modes for certain apps. Still, the larger phone could cannibalize iPad sales, a category that recently started growing again.

The phablet is code named D33, a person familiar with its development says, and at least some prototypes include a screen resolution of 1242 x 2688. That would make the screen about as sharp as the one on the 5.8-inch iPhone X. Apple also plans to use OLED technology, the same, more expensive type of screen in the regular iPhone X.

Like the iPhone X, the larger model will include a Face ID scanner that unlocks the device and enables payments. Apple is also preparing an update to the regular-sized iPhone X that is internally dubbed D32, people familiar with the product said. Both of these phones are expected to use next-generation A12 processors and will continue to include stainless steel edges, they say, and will be Apple's high-end smartphone offerings.

Apple is considering a gold color option for the update to the iPhone X and the larger model. The company tried to develop gold for the current X handset, but abandoned it because of production problems. All new iPhones since the 5s came in

gold, including the iPhone 8. The gold option is especially appealing to consumers in Asia and may help boost sales in the region. Still, Apple may ultimately decide not to proceed with the color.

In at least some regions, Apple is considering offering a dual-SIM card option for the larger model. That would let people use their phones in countries with different carrier plans without having to swap out cards. Such a feature has been growing in importance and popularity, especially in Europe and Asia where business people routinely visit multiple countries.

Apple hasn't made a final decision on including the feature and could choose to wait for E-SIM

technology, which will connect phones to multiple networks without the need for a removable chip. Apple has wanted to offer E-SIM technology, but some carriers are resistant to the idea and Apple needs their support. A dual-SIM capability would provide a compromise.

The phones will have an updated operating system, probably called iOS 12 and code named Peace, which will include upgraded augmented reality capabilities, deeper integration of the Siri digital assistant, digital health monitoring and the ability to use Amojis in FaceTime.

Apple's decision to also build a cheaper phone is an acknowledgment that the current entry-level 8 models too closely resemble the iPhone 6 introduced back in 2014. With their thick bezels and lack of edge-to-edge screens, they seem dated next to the iPhone X and the latest Samsung devices. The new lower-cost model will feature the same edge-to-edge screen as the iPhone X as well as Face ID instead of a fingerprint sensor.

To keep costs down, the cheaper phone will use LCD screen technology similar to the type employed in the iPhone 8. It will also have aluminum edges and a glass back like the iPhone 8, not the flashier stainless steel used in the iPhone X.

Apple has tried selling cheaper phones in the past with poor results. In 2013, the company debuted the iPhone 5c, which had a polycarbonate body and came in various colors. Consumers quickly discovered that for a mere \$100 more they could buy a 5s, which had an aluminum body, a slow-motion video camera and a fingerprint scanner. Apple soon discontinued the 5c.

This time, the company is trying something different: using a cheaper body but including the features — Face ID and an edge-to-edge screen — that consumers most prize.

Company seeks to improve voice-shopping feature

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When the world shifted from personal computers to smartphones, websites had to slim down to work on smaller screens and slower wireless connections. A similar shift to voice-centric services is again forcing businesses to rethink how they present information to consumers — and spurring new efforts to help them do so.

The software company Adobe, for instance, announced on Tuesday a new suite of tools that could help airlines, retailers and other companies create simple voice interfaces for travel and shopping. It's not a simple task, since a voice-based digital assistant can't really list dozens of flight options or hundreds of products.

That means companies have to figure out how to winnow down those choices to the travel options or products people are most likely to want — an inherently fraught undertaking.

The technology is still in its infancy, and Adobe doesn't have any actual corporate partners to showcase yet. But its announcement, made in conjunction with a tech show in Barcelona, Spain, shows that voice assistants are becoming important channels for reaching consumers.

Amazon's voice-shopping feature already boils down shopping requests to one or two options and makes buying easy because it already has payment and shipping information for voice-eligible customers. But smaller businesses don't have the computing resources and expertise to match that, which is where companies like Adobe come in.

Analyst Carolina Milanesi with Creative Strategies says she's not aware of another service trying to help companies improve how they reach their customers through voice.

In practice, making voice capabilities useful means anticipating what customers want. Travel sites, for instance, let people limit a search to, say, nonstop flights, but that's more cumbersome when they're talking to a service. Adobe promises to help narrow those options automatically, so that someone who earns points on United and likes early-morning flights might hear only those matches.

Adobe's new voice service will work with all major voice assistants, not just Amazon's. It will limit its analysis to data provided by the particular company people are shopping at, instead of trying to pull together a more comprehensive personal profile from multiple sources.

That will limit the accuracy of its personalization compared to what Adobe says it could provide. But the company believes consumers aren't going to be comfortable with that broader profiling yet.

HomePod is nice entry into connected-speaker market

By Jim Rossman
Dallas Morning News

If you follow Apple, you probably know the company rarely jumps into any product market first.

Apple was not the first company to offer the personal computer, MP3 player, smartphone or smartwatch, but with each product, it waited for the right time to swoop in with its own version that came to dominate the market.

The connected-speaker market began with the Amazon Echo in 2014, and Google followed with Google Home in 2016. I'm also including the Alexa-enabled Sonos One, which debuted in 2017.

Apple has taken the familiar route of not entering a market until it feels its product could dominate.

The Apple HomePod (\$349.99, apple.com) is certainly a great-looking speaker, but is there enough on the inside to pull customers from the more established competition?

Enter HomePod

When Apple executive Phil Schiller introduced the HomePod at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in June, the first thing I noticed was the price.

Apple has never been one to enter a market at the low end on price.

At \$349, the HomePod is not the most expensive connected speaker — that honor belongs to the \$399 Google Home Max — but it's still pretty expensive. For \$349, I can buy two Sonos One speakers with Amazon Alexa built in.

Features

HomePod is absolutely full of components, including a high-excursion woofer and a custom seven-tweeter array.

The speakers are designed to work with an Apple A8 processor and advanced software to "analyze the music, dynamically and continuously tuning the low frequencies and automatically adapting the acoustics for the best sound experience."

The woofer faces upward, while the seven beamforming tweeters are placed in a ring facing outward around the

REVIEW

HomePod

An array of six microphones is positioned around the body of the HomePod to pick up your voice when you speak to Siri.

The HomePod is covered in a seamless fabric mesh (space gray or white), and there is a touch surface on top to allow for manual control of volume, music playback and Siri.

Setup

You'll need an iOS device (iPhone or iPad) to set up HomePod.

You plug it in and bring your iPhone over, and the setup wizard will appear on your phone's screen. You'll want to have your iOS device already connected to your home's Wi-Fi network.

You'll be asked to give the HomePod a name (probably the name of the room it will live in) and whether you'd like to enable Personal Requests, which enables features like setting reminders, sending texts with your voice or having Siri read incoming texts. Personal Requests require your phone to be on the same Wi-Fi network as the HomePod.

You'll then be asked for your permission to transfer some settings to the HomePod, including your Apple ID and Siri voice and location preferences, as well as your Wi-Fi network login credentials. You'll also be asked for your Apple Music login. You can set up a free trial from the setup screen if you are not an Apple Music subscriber. It all happens in a few seconds.

Playing music

The HomePod is designed to play music via Siri voice control from Apple Music, uploaded iTunes Match songs, your iCloud Music Library or your iTunes purchases.

To play those sources, the HomePod pulls the music straight from the internet.

If you'd like to play from other sources, like Pandora or Spotify or even music stored on your phone or computer, you'll have to use AirPlay, which means the phone or computer needs to be on the same Wi-Fi network as the HomePod.

Apple has announced that HomePod will work with AirPlay 2, which will allow different songs to play to each room. This functionality is coming later this year.

Controlling music with your voice is great. HomePod's microphones are really magic.

You can give voice commands even if the HomePod is playing at full volume. In fact, you don't even need to raise your voice.

Simply say, "Hey Siri," in a normal voice, even from across the room or the next room, and the music volume lowers so you can speak the command.

I was amazed at how low I could speak to HomePod and have it recognize the command.

Apple is far ahead of Amazon when it comes to giving commands when music is playing.

Sound quality

I have several Sonos Play:1 speakers at home, which is what we use to play music throughout our house. I have several Amazon Echo Dots around the house that can control the Sonos playback via voice.

So naturally I wanted to test the HomePod against the Sonos.

I set up a test with the HomePod and a single Play:1 side by side on my kitchen counter. I queued up a few songs from Apple Music and played the same songs through each speaker, alternating between them. At first I was more pleased with the Sonos, but I realized that was because the Sonos app allows the user to tweak treble and bass.

When I set those controls to neutral, the Play:1 and HomePod sounded pretty similar.

The HomePod had more on the low end, but with my treble dialed back up on the Sonos, I liked Sonos a tad better.

Then I brought the HomePod into my living room, where I have two Sonos Play:1 speakers in a stereo pair. In a not-very-fair comparison, I liked the Sonos pair better than the single HomePod.

When Apple enables stereo pairing on the HomePod, I'll be happy to retest.

Spatial awareness

One of the benefits of hav-

ing the A8 processor is the HomePod's ability to adjust the music for optimal sound wherever you place it.

According to Apple, "When freestanding in a room, HomePod beams consistent 360-degree audio throughout the room. When against a wall or on a bookshelf, the A8 chip analyzes the music and appropriately beams direct energy and center vocals into the middle of the room, while reflecting the ambient reverb and backup vocals against the wall for dispersion in the room."

Every time you move the HomePod, it'll realize the change and make the proper adjustments.

The sound from the HomePod is very full and a bit heavy on the bass for my taste. There are no treble/bass adjustments available.

Musicologist

There is a feature called Musicologist that uses Siri's intelligence and data from Apple Music to learn your preferences and play music that you'll enjoy.

Apple keeps track of what you choose to play to learn your tastes. During playback you can say, "Hey Siri, I like this" to give a song a verbal thumbs-up.

After a few weeks of gathering your listening data, asking Siri to play some music will likely result in her playing music you like.

Still

Pretty much anything you can do with Siri on your phone, you can also do from HomePod.

You can listen to podcasts and news, set alarms and timers, get stock quotes and sports scores, find local weather and traffic updates, and ask Siri general questions.

If you have Personal Requests enabled, you can interact with messages and reminders.

There are some things you can't do, such as setting up calendar events.

You can also use HomePod as a speakerphone. You start the call on your iPhone and then transfer it to the HomePod with the phone's audio source selector on the phone's

Please see HOMEPD/4B

Get ready for the weekend by reading

WEEKENDER

Thursdays in the Reporter-Telegram



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MONDAY PRIME TIME					MARCH 5, 2018					Fox Complete Information Please Check Move Times							
	C	S	A	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMD ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jessie (R)	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (R)	Ent. Tonight	Kevin Can (H)	Man With a Plan (H)	Donuts (H)	Biblically (H)	Scorpion "Don't Day Afternoon" (H)	CBS 7 News (R)		100 The Late Show	100 The Late Show	100 The Late Show
KWTV CW	5	14	5	14	5	M*A*S*H (R)	M*A*S*H (R)	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Mama's Family	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Perry Mason	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone
KPEI FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lucifer "Internal Corona Film" (R)	The Resident "No Matter the Cost" (R)			Fox 24 News	TMZ	Mon	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
KMLN HD	11	12	11	11	11	Faith for Families	The Wings of Trust	Updates News	Mind Erban	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Updates News	Housecall	High Country	High Country
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 Now	NewsWest 9 Now	The Voice	The Blind Auditions Part Three (R)			Goodfellas "My Money No Problems" (R)	NewsWest 9 Now		100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
KPFI PBS	13	13	13	13	13	PBS NewsHour (R)	Great Performances	Moody Blues: Days of Future Passed Live				The British Band (BBC) Travel to where the British beat was born.			News (R)	Shark	Shark
KUPH UNH	4	16	4	16	4	La rosa de Guadalupe	El Rico y Lazaro	Papa a Toda Madre				Por Amor Sin Ley	Noticias Tejas	Noticias Tejas	Contacto Deportivo	Contacto Deportivo	Contacto Deportivo
KOSA MTW	16	16	16	16	16	Last Man	Last Man	Law & Order: S.V.U.	Law & Order: S.V.U.			Millican	Millican	Anger M.	Anger M.	News	Game
FLIX	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
HD	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
HD2	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
HD5	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
MAK	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
MAK2	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
PLEX	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
SHOW	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
TMC	240	275	105	240	275	Liberty Street	Liberty Street	W. West Peter Wilson				W. West Peter Wilson			100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show	100 The Tonight Show
ARE	27	58	28	35	47	Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
BET	55	76	40			Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
BRavo	55	76	40			Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
CNN	46	52	30	39	72	Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
CBS	43	50	51	30	52	Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
CH	50	60	31	24	42	Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game
ESPN	56	64	36	25	38	Jeopardy!	Wood of Fortune (R)	The Bachelor (R)				The Good Doctor	News (R)		100 Money Game	100 Money Game	100 Money Game

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Man's choice of wedding day steals spotlight from stepmom

DEAR ABBY: I'm struggling because my stepson has chosen to get married on my birthday. I have been his stepmom for 18 years. It feels like a punch in the chest. My in-law family members are saying things like "OMG, how do you feel about that? I can't believe you're going to let that happen. It will no longer be YOUR special day." My feelings are deeply hurt. My husband says it's no big deal and I shouldn't let it bother me. But every time someone asks me about it, I feel hurt, and when I'm finally by myself, I cry. I don't know what to do. I need someone's help. Is what my stepson is doing bad etiquette, a slap in the face or no big deal? — **BIRTHDAY GIRL IN IL** I ENJOYS

DEAR BIRTHDAY GIRL: That your stepson would be married on your birthday isn't a slap in the face; it's a compliment. If you like his fiancée, consider her to be the ultimate birthday present. I'm surprised anyone would imply, as your in-laws have, that their anniversary would create any kind of conflict. Think of it this way: Your stepson and his new wife will never forget your birthday.

DEAR ABBY: As a single man, I have been on a few dating websites, and I'd

like to say something to the women I have encountered: What is it about you that makes you worth my time to pursue? Many women show a lot of pictures, but reveal very little about themselves. Then some of them say in their last sentence that they "want more than 10 words to say hello." These women seem well-educated but unable to write more than a short paragraph about who they are.

Ladies, if you want more than a hi or hello, write something about yourselves beyond your likes and dislikes. Describe who you are, what your hopes and dreams are, and say something that I, as a man, would respond to in my introduction. If you did, it would help me to determine whether I should pursue you.

—IN THE DARK

DEAR IN THE DARK: You make a valid point. I'll be sure to reread your letter if I ever need to join a dating site, and so, I am sure, will my "sisters" out there. Thanks for

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law has had an incredible amount of cosmetic work done, particularly on her face. She is constantly looking for the next new thing to try to look younger — "push this up, tighten that up, erase these marks," etc.

She is a pretty girl, and she thinks this is making her better-looking, but it's making her look worse. Should I let her know how I feel about what she's doing or leave it alone? — AGING GRACE

FULLY: **DEAR AGING GRACEFULLY:** What your sister-in-law does with her face and body is her business, just as what you are doing — or not doing — with yours is your choice. Much as you are tempted to tell her that her attempts to look better are futile, if you want a cordial relationship with her, keep your opinion to yourself.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

Q1 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠Q9♥Q98763♦6♣AJ92
Partner opens one no-trump, 15-17,
and right-hand opponent bids two
clubs. What call would you make?

A—Should you play Texas transfer where you transfer to your major at the four level, the convention still applies over two-level overcalls. Bid four diamonds. Otherwise, bid four hearts.

Q2—Neither vulnerable, as South
you hold:
♠AK2♥J74♦K♣AKQ96
 With both opponents passing, you
 one club and neither remains one.

Q 3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q10532♥K7♦AJ85♣J4
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
10	Pass	10	Pass	
INT	Pass	20*	Pass	
2NT	Pass	?		

*New Minor Game

What call would you make?
A — Partner's one no-trump rebid showed 12-14 and your "new minor" bid promised at least invitational values. Partner could have bid three no-

Q4—Both vulnerable, as South, you bid:
♠A♥J954♦KQJ32♣QJ3
Partner opens one heart and right-hand

A—Slam is in the air and there is much to do. Start by bidding two diamonds. That will sound like a potential source of tricks when you support hearts later.

VERO

From 1B

free — at least for now. The company eventually wants to charge a subscription fee.

There are no ads, and the service promises “no data mining. Ever.” That means it won’t try to sell you stuff based on your interests and habits, as revealed through your posts. Of course, Facebook started out without ads and “data mining,” and it’s now one of the top internet advertising companies. Facebook bought Instagram in 2012 and started showing ads there the following year.

Instagram’s privacy settings are all-or-nothing: You either make everything available to everyone on Instagram, or make everything visible only to approved friends. Vero lets you set the privacy level of individual posts. If you don’t want something available to all users, you can choose just close friends, friends or acquaintances.

Another big difference: Vero shows friends’ posts in chronological order rather than tailored to your perceived tastes, as determined by software. Instagram got rid of chronological presentations in 2016, a change that hasn’t gone well with many users.

Who is behind it?

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg became a billionaire after starting the service. Vero’s founder was already one.

Hariri is the son of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and helped run the family’s now-defunct construction company in Saudi Arabia. He got a computer science degree from Georgetown and returned to Saudi Arabia after his father was assassinated in 2005. His half-brother, Saad, is Lebanon’s current prime minister.

Hariri’s ties with the family business, Saudi Oger, have come into question. The company has been accused in recent years of failing to pay workers and stranding them with little food and access to medical care. Vero says Hariri hasn’t had any operational or financial involvement with the business since late 2013. Hariri said he started the service not to replace Instagram but to give people “a more authentic social network.” Because Vero doesn’t sell ads, he said it isn’t simply trying to get people to stay on longer. More important, he said, is “how you feel when you use (it) and how you feel it’s useful.”

Will Vero fizzle out?

Newcomers like Ello and Peach can quickly become popular as people fed up with bigger services itch for something new. But reality can set in when people realize that their friends are not on the new services or that these services aren’t all they promised to be.

Williamson, the eMarketer analyst, said it’s difficult for a new service to become something people use for more than a few weeks.

A rare exception is Snapchat, which was founded in 2010, the same year as Instagram. Unlike Instagram, it has remained an independent company and is still a popular service among younger people. But even Snapchat is having trouble growing more broadly.

EMarketer recently published a report that predicted 2 million people under 25 leaving Facebook for other apps this year. But that means going to Snapchat and the Facebook-owned Instagram, not necessarily emerging services like Vero.

TOPS@iTUNES

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending Feb. 25:

Top Paid iPhone Apps:

1. Minecraft, Mojang
2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
3. Alto’s Odyssey, Snowman
4. Pocket Build, MoonBear LTD
5. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
6. NBA 2K18, 2K
7. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
8. Facetime, Lightbulb Ltd.
9. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB

ROBOTS

From 1B

optimum route, and they have the most information and insight that is possible,” Brian Richards, head of Accenture’s Innovation Hub in Houston, told me.

“As a business, your ability to consume AI, and train your workforce to consume it and deploy it and use it to improve your competitive position isn’t something that’s going to last only the next few years. It’s going to go on for decades.”

Every day a new machine hits the market that can replace a human employee, spreading anxiety across the workforce. And those concerns are valid. The McKinsey Global Institute, the consulting firm’s think tank, found that up to 800 million people, including a third of Americans, could lose their jobs to machines by 2030.

CLIPS

From 1B

especially of children, and to recognize dogs and cats.

When I took it into the real world, Clips captured about half of what I would have chosen — and some of what I would not. Google says AI isn’t about finding the needle in a haystack as much as it is clearing away some of the hay.

I brought one to a San Francisco cat cafe to see if it would suffice in a setting literally bursting with cute. It got some like-worthy shots, but didn’t replace my phone. I had to keep moving Clips to where the action was in view and in focus, ideally within 3 to 8 feet. (Warning: Cats and dogs also think Clips, which is not waterproof, looks like a chew toy.) The camera seems like something one might wear, but it doesn’t work well when you’re moving around. And good luck clipping one on a cat.

With Clips, in AI you must trust. There is a button you can use to force it to capture, but if you’re using that, you might as well get out your phone. There’s no screen on the back to show you what it sees. It can learn which faces are important if you take a three-second closeup or give it permission to learn from shots in an existing Google Photos library.

If you’re in the market for a camera to record anything other than kids or pets — from recitals to scuba trips — you’re better off with an equally tiny

While many of those jobs are blue-collar, such as truck driver, white-collar professionals such as lawyers and bankers will see the rote aspects of their jobs performed by machines that can better analyze data and generate recommendations.

Artificial intelligence is already in our lives. Machines decide the best way to navigate a city during rush hour using the latest traffic data. Digital assistants on kitchen countertops allow consumers to order exotic items from every corner of the world with a voice command.

In the workplace, AI is intended to augment human employees. It will allow a company to sell more products and services, employ fewer workers or do both.

AI, though, will need to be trained and managed, like any other employee,

creating new jobs and new opportunities, said Mike Redding, managing director of Accenture Ventures, the consulting firm’s investing arm.

“We have to make sure it is making good decisions, appropriate decisions. We’re suggesting that you should think of it as a child, and to have it play an appropriate role, the organization has to be the parent,” Redding said.

“There is good parenting and bad parenting. You really need to think about the concept of raising it to know between right and wrong, what to do when it encounters structured situations, and what to do the first time it encounters something it’s never seen before.”

Computers can teach themselves to identify patterns, such as learning to read traffic signs, and then

act accordingly. But context is important. Redding described an AI that analyzed millions of photos and ultimately concluded that every person who stands next to a stove is a woman because that’s the pattern it discovered.

Companies need to teach and test their machines to make sure they don’t draw the wrong conclusions.

“Now you have to have a learning division for your bots. It’s a new job: bot trainer,” Redding said.

AI could also help displaced workers transition to new careers. A worker wearing a headset with an earphone and an augmented reality display will be able to access expert knowledge instantly.

“The net result is that we can take someone who has done one thing their whole life, and we can pivot it and take those core

capabilities and reapply them,” Redding said. “Through augmentation, we can make people more adaptable.”

Companies will also need more cybersecurity personnel because hackers will not only steal data but replace it with harmful data.

More than 80 percent of Houston executives agree that business organizations are not prepared for AI using bad data and behaving badly.

The real question is whether our schools and culture will produce a workforce prepared to leverage AI and capture the potential boost in productivity and economic activity.

The key to a bright future is to learn how to work with machines, not against them.

\$400 GoPro Hero 6 Black.

But is it evil?

Even with a narrow focus on kids and pets, Clips raises thorny questions. The first one that came to my mind: Does it find black and brown children as appealing as white ones? Google Photos algorithms did, infamously, identify black faces as gorillas in 2015.

I tested Clips with a half dozen kids who were Asian, African American and white, and the software seemed equally interested in them all. Google says it is now more sensitive to building inclusive AI, but its algorithms are still a black box — and are only going to get more complicated from here.

And forget missed shots: If I’m going to let a product peer into my life, who gets to see what’s going on? Just because Clips wasn’t trained to recognize images other than faces and pets doesn’t mean it won’t witness some more eyebrow-raising life moments.

Here’s where Google surprised me with some unusual — at least for Google — privacy concessions. Clips doesn’t connect to the Internet: Its intelligence lives on the camera hardware, not in the cloud. (That required some leaps in hardware, it says, that only recently became available.) Google already uses AI to look and analyze people’s shots in a far more aggressive way with its popular Photos service, but Clips

debuted an AI home security camera that’s

smart enough to alert you if the kids are running late coming home from school. I guarantee that improving your cat videos is just the beginning of Google’s ambitions.

Google deserves a high five for showing there’s a way to design AI-powered products that doesn’t require beaming data about our lives over the Internet. The risk is that could make us a little more numb if (or when) Google decides to

update its terms of service and connect Clips to the cloud. Or puts out a new version that acts more like a surveillance camera. Google spokeswoman Emily Clarke said Clips does not connect to the Internet for both privacy reasons and to prioritize fast transfer data via a phone. As to whether that would change in the future, she said, “We don’t speculate.”

While you may have control over your own camera, what kind of consent do you need from the people you’re recording? Clips does have a blinking light, but it is small.

This camera is also an additional beachhead in our playpens and cat palaces for a company that already has way too much data about us. There are plenty of digitally savvy consumers who aren’t comfortable with devices like the Google Home speaker, or its rivals Amazon Echo and Apple HomePod. (Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos also owns The Washington Post.)

A Deloitte survey last year found 40 percent of respondents worried smart home gadgets reveal too much about their personal lives. Clips may be a first for a point-and-shoot camera, but it tells us a lot about how AI is arriving in our lives. Amazon is using AI to judge how we dress, with its Echo Look camera. Last month, a startup called LightHouse debuted an AI home security camera that’s

bottom. The company recently said channels need to reach 1,000 subscribers and 4,000 hours of watch time over the last 12 months before they can start to earn money from ads. YouTube said the change is aimed at discouraging videos with objectionable or offensive content and that it would “affect a significant number of channels.”

Bartl’s study did offer some hope for YouTube aspirants — hints on how to boost the chances of financial success. YouTube offers 18 genre-like categories, and selecting the right one “is a highly significant predictor of channel success,” Bartl wrote. The most popular categories over a decade were entertainment videos, which took in 24 percent of all views, followed by music and gaming categories.

But the chance of a channel making into the rarefied top three percent was best for comedy;

That said, it will fill even the biggest room in your house with high-quality sound.

Everyone who listened to the HomePod at work and at home said it sounded better than they thought it would. I have to agree.

Pros: Good sound, small footprint, Siri and HomeKit integration.

Cons: Expensive.

Bottom line: Nice entry into the connected speaker market. I wish it were \$100 cheaper.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

YOUTUBE

From 1B

streamed last year, according to the market research firm Nielsen.

And since no one buys music these days, making even a little money from streaming requires songs to be played millions of times. That’s hurt the music industry’s middle-of-the-road acts the most, the kind of musician who once could eke out a decent living selling several thousand albums a year and touring the nation without ever breaking into the mainstream. Increasingly, such acts face the pressure of going viral or going home.

In television, so many new shows are being made that no one can watch them all; nearly 500 scripted original series were aired last year. The traditional networks are being challenged by cable outlets and streaming services. That’s led to plenty of new opportunities for actors and writers. But the new era

has some distinct challenges, including shorter seasons and less predictable schedules that make it harder for many to make ends meet.

Competition among creators on YouTube is fierce, and that’s also led to trouble.

In February, YouTube suspended all advertising on channels run by Logan Paul, one of its biggest stars, after a series of controversies, including videos he made showing his visit to a so-called suicide forest in Japan and jokes about eating Tide detergent pods.

Another star, Felix Kjellberg, known as PewDiePie, was found to have used a racial epithet and made anti-Semitic jokes in some of his gaming videos. He was dropped from Google’s lucrative ad service for high-performing videos, and his planned series on the pay channel YouTube Red was canceled.

Now, YouTube is taking steps that make it even harder for creators at the

HomePod

From 2B

call screen.

Do you need one?

If you are ensconced in the Apple Music ecosystem and don’t have a significant investment in Alexa or Sonos, you are just the target market for the HomePod.

I have gone down the road with Sonos, so I haven’t found the killer feature that would make me run out and buy the HomePod. I simply have all the functionality from any other devices.

healthy living

PAID CONTENT

MIDLAND FAMILY CARE

Low-fat vs low carb—and the winner is...

By Lyden Odukwu MD

I don’t know how long ago the first weight-loss diet was introduced, but as soon as someone offered a second diet plan, it started a seemingly unending competition. It seems everyone wants to declare their plan “the best.”

In recent years we’ve seen a lot of discussion over whether someone can lose more weight by restricting carbohydrates (carbs such as wheat, sugar, potatoes) or fats (mostly from meat).

To see if they could determine a winner, Stanford professor Christopher Gardner and others tracked roughly 600 adults (60%-40% female to male mix) over a year’s time. Half were told to embark on a low-carb diet and the other half were told to restrict fat intake.

While there were outliers—some actually gained as much as 20 pounds while others shed up to 60 pounds—the average weight loss was 13 pounds for the low-carb group and 12 pounds for the low-fat side.

In most sports a difference of one gets you a clear winner. In a study like this, it’s pretty much a tie.

Knowing that different diets may suit certain people more than others, Gardner and his team had hoped to find a way to know who responded better to low-carb versus low-fat. This study gave them no clear conclusion on that, either.

But one might draw this conclusion: since the average result for both groups showed weight loss, perhaps those who take control of their life, choosing and sticking with some kind of workable plan is what is most likely to get results.

This could be good news if you’ve postponed addressing weight issues until you could find the “right” diet. And certainly there are crazy ones out there that can do more harm than good. You might ask your physician for a short list of safe diets, then close your eyes and pick one. You’re almost always going to get better results by doing something other than procrastinating!

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SPORTS

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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, March 5, 2018 | Section C

No. 3 Baylor gets past TCU in Big 12 semifinal

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Baylor posted a record-setting performance and earned a chance to return to its usual perch.

Kalani Brown scored 28 points to help the third-ranked Lady Bears roll past TCU 94-48 in a Big 12 semifinal Sunday for its 27th straight victory. Baylor's 46-point win was the most-lopsided Big 12 Tournament game ever, topping Iowa State's 37-point victory over Nebraska in 2000.

Now, Baylor will play No. 7

Texas in the championship. The Lady Bears won six straight conference tournament titles before losing to West Virginia in the final last year. The Lady Bears remember how they felt after last year's defeat.

"It's a huge motivator," Baylor forward Lauren Cox said. "We always want to win. We hate to lose."

Cox had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Alexis Morris scored a season-high 18 points for Baylor. Juicy Landrum had 13 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Lady Bears (30-1), who shot 60 percent

from the floor.

"Baylor played extremely well and we didn't," TCU coach Raegan Pebley said. "They're a team right now that your room for error is slight. If your post play is out because of fouls and your perimeter is unable to see the ball go down the net, it can snowball fast, and that's a bit of what happened for us."

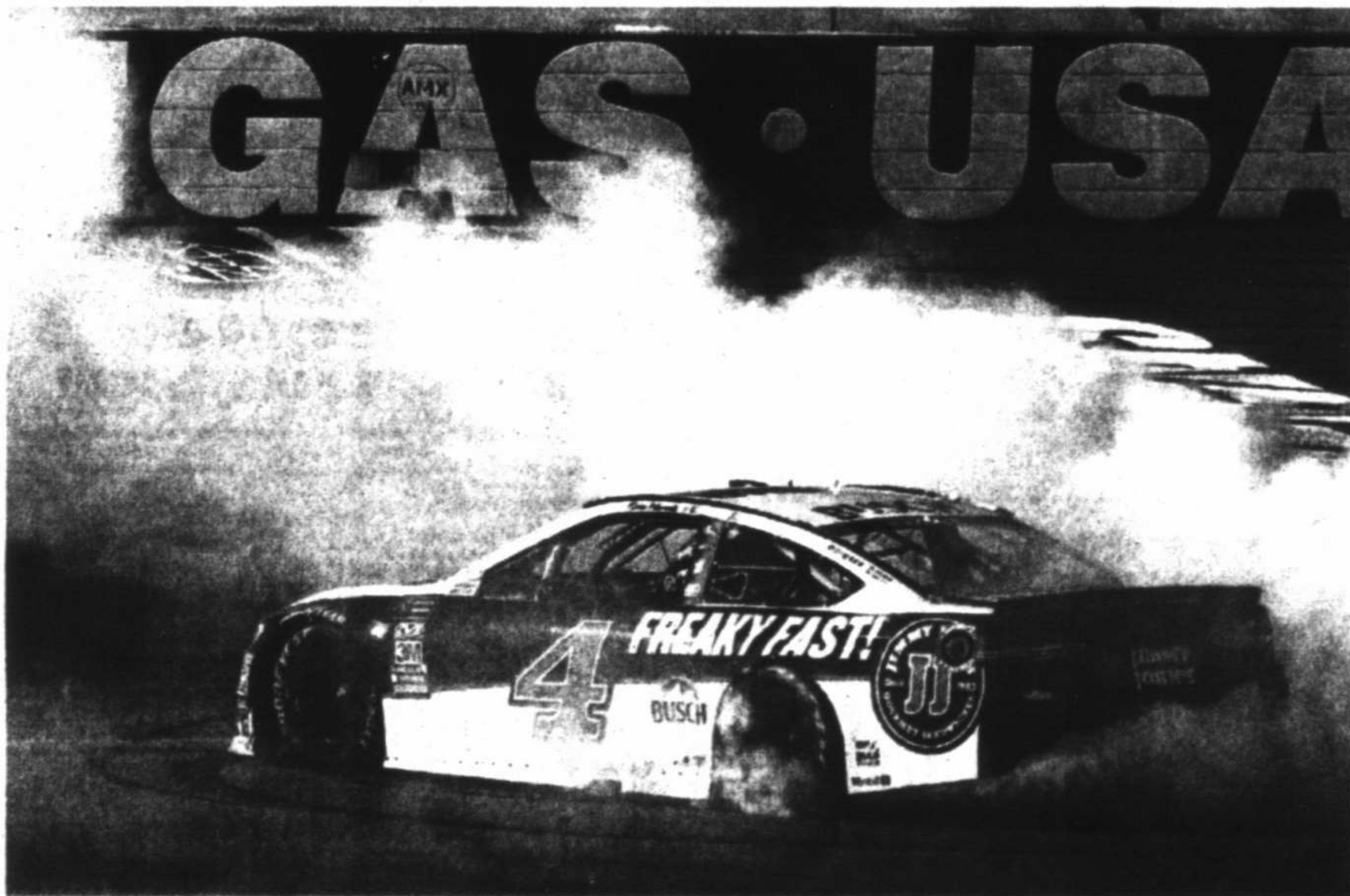
Jordan Moore and Amy Okonkwo each scored 12 points for TCU (19-12). The game went a lot like the regular-season matchups — Baylor won the

Please see BAYLOR/3C



Baylor forward Lauren Cox, left, grabs a rebound in front of TCU center Jordan Moore (22) in the first half of an NCAA basketball game in the semifinals of the women's Big 12 conference tournament Sunday in Oklahoma City. Sue Ogrocki/Associated Press

100TH CAREER WIN



Isaac Brekken/Associated Press

Kevin Harvick performs a burnout after winning a NASCAR Cup series auto race Sunday in Las Vegas.

Kevin Harvick dominates Vegas for back-to-back NASCAR wins

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — From his dynamic opening laps to his comfortable cruise to the checkered flag, Kevin Harvick was the safest bet in Sin City this weekend.

Harvick's air of inevitability increased with each lap around the Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sunday, and the rest of the NASCAR Cup field must be a bit worried about how they're going to catch up this year.

Harvick raced to his second straight NASCAR Cup win with a dominant performance in Vegas on Sunday, earning his 100th career win across the three national series.

"There was no catching that 4 (car)," second-place finisher Kyle Busch said. "He was on rails, and lights out."

Harvick followed up his stellar performance last weekend in Atlanta with another victory in his Stewart-Haas Racing Ford. He led a track-record 214 of the 267 laps, won all three stages and capably held off Busch's late hometown

charge to win in Vegas for the second time in four years.

"These last two weeks, we've just hit on everything we needed to," said Harvick, who cruised home 2.9 seconds ahead of Busch. "My (team) has done their homework on a number of things. Just really proud of everybody."

Busch got close to his second career victory in his hometown with his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, but couldn't overcome the dominant leader. Kyle Larson finished third after winning the Xfinity Series race on Saturday, while defending champion Martin Truex Jr. was in fourth and pole-sitter Ryan Blaney in fifth.

Harvick has already matched his Cup win total from last season in three races — and he's headed to Phoenix, where he has won five times since 2012.

Harvick also took a moment to savor a milestone. Only Richard Petty, Kyle Busch and David Pearson have won more races across the three national circuits than Harvick, the 42-year-old Californian with plenty of good years left on his tires.

"It's been a lot of years accumulated with a lot of great race teams and people and situations," Harvick said. "When you tag that triple-digit number to it, it really lets you realize that you've been fortunate to accomplish a lot of things."

Not many wins are more emphatic than Harvick's 100th.

Harvick led 144 of the first 160 laps and comfortably won the first two stages. He was fourth out of the end-of-stage caution after Stage 2, with Joey Logano getting in front with an exceptional pit stop.

But Harvick reclaimed the lead off another restart with 73 laps to go after Kurt Busch wrecked along with Chase Elliott. Harvick emerged from his last pit stop with a three-second lead on Brad Keselowski, and Busch couldn't catch up.

Here are more things to know about the race on the Strip:

Doing recon: For the first time, NASCAR is returning to Vegas in the

Please see HARVICK/2C

Balanced scoring leads No. 7 Texas past West Virginia

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Texas left West Virginia with no chance an upset this time.

Jatarie White scored 11 points to help No. 7 Texas beat West Virginia 68-55 in a Big 12 semifinal on Sunday.

Last year, No. 6 seed West Virginia stunned No. 2 seed Texas in the semifinals. This time, Texas took charge from the start, running out to a 24-12 lead at the end of the first quarter and remaining in control. Texas shot just 40 percent, but the Longhorns held West Virginia to 32 percent shooting.

"Well, it wasn't the most pleasing to the eye, but I think that's a reflection of West Virginia really, really playing hard," Texas coach Karen Aston said.

Texas will play No. 3 Baylor for the title Monday night. Baylor defeated TCU 94-48 earlier Sunday in the other semifinal. Baylor beat Texas for the tournament titles in 2015 and 2016. This season, Lady Bears defeated Texas 81-56 on Jan. 25 at home and 93-87 on Feb. 19 in Austin, Texas.

Baylor features Big 12 Player of the Year Kalani Brown and Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Lauren Cox.

"We will spend tonight looking at the previous game in Austin and try to see if there are some things that we should have and could have done better," Aston said. "They're bringing the offensive player of the year and the defensive player of the year, so we have our work cut out for us."

Naomi Davenport scored 17 points and Kristina King added 12 for West Virginia (21-11), which was the defending tournament champion.

Texas led 42-28 at halftime, and West Virginia became impatient.

"They got behind there and they got in a hurry, and I couldn't get five people on the same page at that time," West Virginia coach Mike Carey said.

The Longhorns held the Mountaineers to 4 for 17 shooting to take a 58-40 lead into the fourth.

West Virginia made just 2 of 23 3-pointers overall.

"We could have got a three any time in the shot clock," Carey said. "But we were taking it early in the shot clock, and like they said, we were hitting the bottom of the rim, which led to layups for them on the other side."

Big picture

West Virginia: The Mountaineers are on the NCAA Tournament bubble and could have used a win of this caliber. They have an RPI of 61.

"I think they knew this game would sort of be like this because they (West Virginia) were playing with a sense of urgency," Aston said. "I think they knew this would be a win that would help them as far as getting into the NCAA Tournament. Our team was prepared for that."

Texas: The Longhorns got the solid win they needed to get their minds right for the matchup with Baylor. They also got the rest they needed — none of their players played more than 26 minutes.

Depth difference

Texas' bench outscored West Virginia's 25-0.

"They subbed two or three at a time," Davenport said. "We subbed one at a time. Our energy died down."

Up next

West Virginia: The Mountaineers wait to see if their season will be extended. Texas: Will play No. 3 Baylor in the Big 12 title game.

UTPB falls in LSC Tournament championship game

From staff reports

FRISCO — No. 13-Ranked West Texas A&M overcame deficits in both halves to defeat No. 20-ranked UT-Permian Basin, 80-76, in the championship game of the Lone Star Conference championship game on Sunday at Dr Pepper Arena.

With the victory, West Texas A&M (28-3) will host a regional in the NCAA Division II Tournament. WTAMU also won its seventh LSC Tournament title, which is tied for the most in the LSC with Midwestern State.

UTPB (24-6) still had a shot to host the tournament at Odessa College if the Falcons would have won the game.

Both teams had split their two meetings with each team winning on its home court.

To no one's surprise, the game was

competitive even though UTPB had as much as a 28-17 lead with 7:57 left in the first half.

But WTAMU responded with an 11-0 run to tie the game at 28-all with 4:10 left before halftime.

UTPB responded to take a 36-33 lead at the half.

Just like they had done in the previous two games at the tournament, the Falcons had a strong start to the second half and had as much as a 47-38 lead.

But once again, the Buffaloes had a response and eventually tied it at 60 when Jordan Evans drilled a 3-pointer with 8:05 to play. The Falcons were also called for an off-ball flagrant foul on the play, resulting in two more made free throws and a possession, which led to another jumper by Evans. The seven-point play put WTAMU in control and

UTPB had an uphill battle from there.

It got even worse for the Falcons, who lost two-time LSC Player of the Year Daeshon Francis with 6:38 to play.

Francis scored 18 points and had 10 rebounds before fouling out, and was joined on the sidelines by both Josh Morris and Sammy Allen to fouls as well. Allen finished with a double-double of 17 points and 18 rebounds.

Zeldric King added 13 points for UTPB.

David Chavlovich and Evans finished with 21 points for WTAMU. Chavlovich was named MVP of the tournament.

Evans, Allen and UTPB's James McPherson were also named to the all-tournament team.

Notes: With his 18 points, Francis, the former Midland College standout, is now the all-time leading scorer in UTPB history with 1,211 points coming in two seasons.



Allen



Francis

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Men's Soccer
PL: Crystal Palace vs. Manchester United, 2 p.m., NBCSN
BCU

National Basketball Association
Detroit at Cleveland, 6 p.m.,

American Wordplay League
 APL — Suspended Lethal Weapon F Nicolas
 Aubrey-Kalish and Milesites F Harry
 Zolnowsky one game.
 LAMAR ROCKEY — Returned F Jackson Led
 to Brempton (ECLH).
 SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Assigned F
 Thomas Franco to Allen (ECLH).
ISHL
 ATLANTA GLADIATORS — Traded F Alex
 Carter to Allen for F Matthew Aubin.
 BRAMPTON BEAST — Released G T.J.
 Shewmon.
 WHEELING NAJERS — Released G Jason
 Puccinelli as emergency backup.
SOCCER
 Major League Soccer
 LA Galaxy — Signed M Eusebio Alvarez from
 LA Galaxy II.
COLLEGE
 WESTERN CAROLINA — Announced the
 resignation of men's basketball coach Larry
 Hunter.

8:30 a.m. - Strivett West Texas (34-2) vs. Shelbyville (32-4)
10 a.m. - Thorndike (33-3) vs. Moorhead (18-4)
Class 4A Semifinals
1:30 p.m. - Dallas Carter (32-5) vs. Seminole (27-8)
3 p.m. - Stalock (28-6) vs. Somerset (28-9)
Class 6A Semifinals
7 p.m. - South Garland (36-3) vs. Katy Tompkins (31-4)
8:30 p.m. - Austin Westlake (36-3) vs. Allen (32-5)
Saturday
8:30 a.m. - Class 1A Final
10:00 a.m. - Class 3A Final
1:30 p.m. - Class 2A Final
3:30 p.m. - Class 5A Final
7:00 p.m. - Class 4A Final
8:30 p.m. - Class 6A Final

	W	L	P	OT	G
Portland	37	26	587		
Minnesota	38	28	576		
Ottawa City	37	29	569		
Quebec	38	28	568		
Utah	33	30	554		
Pacific Division					
	W	L	P	OT	G
Golden State	38	26	178		
Los Angeles	38	24	541		
L.A. Lakers	28	34	492	26	
Sacramento	19	44	302	26	
Phoenix	19	48	292	31	
Sunday's Scores					
Atlanta 113, Phoenix 112					
Indiana 98, Washington 95					
Toronto 103, Philadelphia 99					
New Orleans 128, Dallas 109					
San Antonio 118, Charlotte 110					
Boston at L.A. Clippers, late					
New York at Sacramento, late					
Today's Scores					
Detroit at Cleveland, 6 p.m.					
Memphis at Indiana, 6 p.m.					
Phoenix at Miami, 6:30 p.m.					
Boston at Chicago, 7 p.m.					
Portland at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.					
Cleveland at Utah, 8 p.m.					
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 a.m.					

St. Louis	66	35	26	5	75	180	1
Chicago	65	28	30	8	64	180	1
Florida (Atlantic)							
Orlando	65	30	47	67	116	6	6
Vero Beach	65	42	18	5	98	225	5
San Jose	65	35	21	9	79	194	1
Amplara	65	38	21	12	78	180	1
Los Angeles	65	38	21	17	77	182	1
Los Angeles	65	37	24	9	75	185	1
Edmonton	65	25	34	4	98	180	1
Vancouver	65	34	28	9	57	176	1
Seattle	64	39	34	19	58	185	1

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

Sunday's Scores

Norwalk 4, Columbus 3, OT
 Florida 4, Philadelphia 1
 Anaheim 6, Detroit 1
 New Jersey 2, Vegas 2
 Minnesota 4, Chicago 1
 Whipping 3, Carolina 2
 Columbus of San Jose, late

Tuesday's Scores

Atlanta of Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
 Toronto at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
 Anaheim at Edmonton 8 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Houston 4, St. Louis 1
 Atlanta 5, Miami 2
 Philadelphia 9, Minnesota 3
 Tampa Bay 6, N.Y. Yankees 1
 Pittsburgh 4, Toronto 5
 Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 3
 Cleveland 6, Milwaukee 2
 Kansas City 16, Cincinnati 5
 L.A. Dodgers 9, San Francisco 5
 San Diego 16 7, Chicago White Sox 6
 Seattle 16, Texas 7
 Atlanta 5, Chicago Cubs 0
 L.A. Angels 7, Colorado 6
 Oakland 12, San Diego 4 4
 Today's Scores
 Atlanta vs. Houston at Miami Palm Beach, Fla.
 12:05 p.m.
 Minnesota vs. Philadelphia at Cincinnati, Fla.
 1:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay vs. Atlanta at Miami Beach, Fla.
 1:05 p.m.
 Washington vs. St. Louis at Arlington, Fla.
 1:05 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox vs. Oakland at St. Louis, Mo.
 1:10 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox vs. Detroit at St. Louis, Mo.
 1:10 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Philadelphia at St. Louis, Mo.
 1:10 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox vs. Detroit at St. Louis, Mo.
 1:10 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.
 5:00 p.m.
 San Francisco vs. Texas at Houston, Ariz.
 5:00 p.m.
 L.A. Angels vs. Cincinnati at Anaheim, Ariz.
 5:00 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs vs. Colorado at Salt Lake City, Utah
 5:00 p.m.
 Atlanta vs. San Diego at Florida, Fla., 7:45 p.m.

White, Service, Odessa Permian; Calcasieu District.
Freeshman, Friendship, Hahnemann White, Sophomore.
Senior, Odessa Permian; Jack Korpelands, Service.
Freeshman, Miami Anays, Service; Odessa High.
Calcasieu District, Service, Amarillo Tascosa; Ozzy
Tascosa, Service, Odessa Permian; J'Sean Miller,
Service, Amarillo Tascosa

Second Team

Jordan Riley, Junior, Midland High; Kaleb
Murry, Junior, Odessa High; Miguel Fonseca,
Senior, Odessa High; Ryan Bland, Senior, Friendship
Freeshman, Odessa Permian; J'Sean Miller, Service;
Danish Wright, Senior, Odessa Permian; B.J. Anderson,
Junior, Amarillo Tascosa; Zhunc Prieto,
Freeshman, Lee; Noble Robinson, Sophomore,
Freeshman; Rayshad Chambers, Freshman, Midland
High; Josh Cabello, Junior, Odessa High; Zach
McClure, Junior, Odessa Permian

**District 3-6A Preview Tournament
at Diamondback Golf Club, Abilene
Friday-Saturday
Final Results**

Team standings — 1. Keller 342-321-653; 2. Midkiff

Team. Dean Wade (Kansas State) and Keenan Evans (Texas Tech) were also chosen to the All-Big 12 First Team along with Graham, Carter and Young. Texas Tech freshman Zhaire Smith was named to the All-Defensive Team, All-Newcomer Team and was an honorable mention selection.

The official All-Big 12 awards are selected by the league's head coaches, who are not allowed to vote for their own players.

injured his hand while preparing for the Vegas race and was sent to a hospital on Sunday morning. Michael Hubert filled in for him on pit road. The injury couldn't keep Frankos down, however: He returned to the track for the race.

Portland	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis United	0	1	0	0	2
Seattle	0	1	0	0	0
Sporting Kansas City	0	1	0	0	0

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

Sunday's Games
 Los Angeles 1, Seattle 0
 Vancouver 2, Montreal 1
 New York City FC 2, Sporting Kansas City 0

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NBA ROUNDUP

Associated Press

PELICANS 126, MAVERICKS 109
DALLAS — On a night when his jumper wasn't falling, Anthony Davis still found a way to do some damage in the paint.

And he had plenty of help. Jrue Holiday scored 30 points, Nikola Mirotic added 24 in a rare start and the New Orleans Pelicans won their eighth in a row, 126-109 over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night.

Davis finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds, scoring most of his points from inside 5 feet. Rajon Rondo added 14 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

New Orleans has averaged 127 points during its streak and cleared 118 in all eight games.

"We are just playing fast," Davis said. "When we play fast, we are able to score in transition and get a lot of easy looks."

Holiday scored 19 in the first half as the Pelicans held a double-digit lead for most of the last three quarters, save for one fleeting Dallas run at the start of the fourth.

"To me, Jrue is probably if not the best two-way player we have in our game," Rondo said. "One through four, he can check those guys. I think people are starting to see what he's doing just because of this win streak, but he's been doing it his whole career."

Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 23 points for the Mavericks, passing Elvin Hayes for eighth all-time in field goals with 10,980.

Dallas opened the fourth quarter on a 9-0 run after scoring the final five in the third quarter to get within 91-87. Kyle Collinsworth scored on a three-point play, and Nowitzki and J.J. Barea hit 3-pointers.

After calling timeout, New Orleans reinscribed Davis and Rondo, and the Pelicans answered with 10 straight points, including 3s by Holiday and Mirotic.

"They've got some answers over there and they're playing well," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said.

Dennis Smith Jr. also scored 23 for Dallas, which has lost three straight and 17 of 21.

HAWKS 113, SUNS 112

ATLANTA — Taurian Prince knew the Atlanta Hawks had the perfect setup for a dramatic 3-point play.

Get Miles Plumlee to set a screen close to the arc, and Prince would take care of the rest.

"It's a great feeling," Prince said. "Hopefully, I'll put up more."

Prince hit the go-ahead 3 with 7.6 seconds remaining and finished with 22 points, helping the Hawks hold off the Phoenix Suns 113-112 on Sunday.

Devin Booker's potential winner for Phoenix, a 15-foot shot from the right baseline, bounced off the rim with Tyler Dorsey defending as time expired.

"I got the shot I wanted," Booker said. "I picked a point on the floor. I got it. I just missed it."

T.J. Warren scored 35 points, 10 rebounds and a season-high 14 assists for the Suns. Booker finished with 20 points, ending a streak of four straight games in which he had at least 30.

In a matchup of two struggling teams, neither led by more than seven points. Prince's basket marked the 24th lead change.

Phoenix has lost 22 of its last 26 games, dropping to 19-46, second-worst in the Western Conference. Atlanta, which had lost five of six, improved to 20-44, worst in the East.

Dennis Schroder had 21 points for Atlanta but did not play in the closing minutes because of what appeared to be a leg injury after he fell hard to the floor on his right side in the third. Schroder said after the game that he felt fine. Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer played Jaylen Morris the rest



Frank Gunn/The Canadian Press via AP

Toronto Raptors forward C.J. Miles (0) collides with Charlotte Hornets guard Jeremy Lamb (0) during the first half of an NBA game Sunday in Toronto.

of the way.

"Just happy a lot of those guys stepped up in situations they're not in a lot," Budenholzer said. "A lot of good stuff for the whole game. We got better."

Warren's layup with 20 seconds remaining gave Phoenix a 112-110 lead. After Prince scored, Suns coach Jay Triano called a timeout and set up a clear-out play for Booker.

"If you bring a screen, they'd probably trap it," Triano said. "But we got the look we wanted on the clear side."

Phoenix finished with 33 assists and outscored the Hawks by 20 in the paint, thanks in part to 17 points from Marquese Chriss.

Atlanta tied a season-high with 17 3s. Prince went 6 for 8 beyond the arc.

Suns' C. Tyson Chandler, starting after he missed the last six games with a sore neck, had six points and five rebounds. The 17-year veteran showed his sense of humor midway through the third, flexing his muscles after Schroder, who's 1 foot shorter and almost 70 pounds lighter, fouled him in the lane. Chandler missed the ensuing free throw.

Hawks: Teams can't say publicly they're vying for a bad record and more chances in the NBA lottery, but G Kent Bazemore, Atlanta's second-leading scorer, had a rest day for the second time in the last six games. Bazemore hasn't otherwise missed a game this season. He was coming off a career-high 29 points in Friday's home loss to Golden State. ... Dorsey started in Bazemore's spot and scored 12 points. ... Malcolm Delaney had 12 points but hurt his ankle late in the game and didn't return.

HEAT 105, PISTONS 96

MIAMI — The playoff spot is a long way from clinched, and it's not Miami's style to be pleased about anything involving being in eighth place.

That being said, the Heat knew what this win meant.

Kelly Olynyk and Josh Richardson each scored 17 points, James Johnson added 14 and the Heat strengthened their grip on an Eastern

Conference postseason berth with a 105-96 over the Detroit Pistons on Saturday night.

Goran Dragic and Justine Winslow each had 13 points, Dwyane Wade added 11 and Hassan Whiteside grabbed 19 rebounds for the Heat — who moved four games clear of Detroit in the chase for the No. 8 spot in the East.

"Two desperate teams going at it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That's what this league is about. ... This win was paramount."

Blake Griffin scored 31 points and Andre Drummond finished with 22 points and 18 rebounds for the Pistons, who were playing their fifth game in seven nights. Reggie Bullock scored 11 points for Detroit, which dropped to 2-8 in their last 10 overall and 1-13 in its last 14 on the road.

"We've got to turn it around somewhere and get this thing rolling," Griffin said.

In Griffin's 36 minutes, Detroit outscored Miami by seven. In the 12 minutes where Griffin sat, the Heat outscored the Pistons by 16.

"We played Blake into exhaustion," Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We just struggled playing without him. He was dominant and every time he was out, we struggled."

Detroit got outscored 47-20 in a 17-minute span of the first half to fall behind by 18. But the Pistons made it very interesting in the fourth, until the Heat found a little spark.

Rodney McGruder's 3-pointer with 7:19 remaining put Miami up by eight, and Wade tried to set him up for another on the next Heat possession. Instead, McGruder made the extra pass to Olynyk for another 3 — and in a span of about 30 seconds, a five-point lead swelled to 94-83.

That was Miami's first double-digit lead of the first quarter, and the Heat kept control the rest of the way.

The night had dual meaning for

He had a special pair of sneakers at his locker before the game, with the logo of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High on the loss and with the name of student Joaquin Oliver — one of 17 victims of that school shooting near Miami last month — printed on

them. The teen was buried in a Wade jersey, and his favorite player met with his family to present them with the shoes and a custom jersey that Joaquin talked about getting in the final days of his life.

Wade said he wanted to express his appreciation to the family, and again vowed to do whatever he can to help raise awareness about the need to curb gun violence going forward.

"It's bigger than basketball," Wade said. "Obviously, I'm back here to do a job. But the timing was perfect for me to come back here for this city and the state. We both needed each other. I'm thankful I can come back and be able to be a leader and a voice in the community, more so than coming back and scoring any baskets. That's more important."

RAPTORS 93, HORNETS 98

TORONTO — After three double-digit losses to Toronto, the Charlotte Hornets finally turned in a strong performance against the Raptors. Unfortunately, it still wasn't enough to beat the Eastern Conference leaders.

DeMar DeRozan scored 19 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 18 points and 13 rebounds and the Raptors beat the Hornets 103-98 on Sunday night, Toronto's 11th win in 12 games.

Ahead by 13 points to begin the fourth quarter, Toronto saw its lead dwindle to two before DeRozan and Lowry made key 3-pointers.

"It wasn't a pretty game," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "Last year we probably would have lost that game, but we were mature enough to make plays, the right plays."

Serge Ibaka scored 17 points and Lowry had 14 points and 10 rebounds as the Raptors completed their first season sweep of Charlotte since 2006-07. Toronto improved to 26-5 at Air Canada Centre, the best home record in the NBA.

"They're playing as well as anyone in our league at this point," Hornets guard Kemba Walker said. "They move the ball really well, they trust each other."

Fred VanVleet and C.J. Miles each scored 12 points for the Raptors, who

have won four straight since an overtime loss to Milwaukee on Feb. 23. Walker scored 27 points and Dwight Howard had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who lost their third straight, all on the road. Charlotte is 10-21 away from home.

Jeremy Lamb scored 16 points, Frank Kaminsky had 15 and Nicolas Batum added 10.

Despite the outcome, Hornets coach Steve Clifford said he liked what he saw in the final quarter.

"Purposeful offense, smart play, and very good defense," Clifford said. "That's what we're capable of. If we are serious about making a run here, that's what we're capable of."

The Hornets are 5.5 games behind Miami for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with 18 games remaining.

"We need to build on what happened here tonight in the fourth quarter," Clifford said.

A downcast Walker wasn't as encouraged as his coach.

"We lost," Walker said. "That's all I'm really looking at right now until we watch the film."

Charlotte's Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored the game's opening basket but the Hornets never led again.

The Hornets cut the deficit to two, 88-86, on a three-point play by Lamb with 5:11 left in the fourth quarter. Lowry answered with a 3 for Toronto and, after Walker split a pair at the line, DeRozan added a corner 3, giving Toronto a 93-87 lead with 3:22 remaining.

"We just tried to do what we could to stay in the game and win it down the stretch but those guys are really good," Walker said. "They just made plays."

BUCKS 118, 76ERS 110

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 34 points and the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a four-game losing streak, scoring 36 points off the Philadelphia 76ers' season-high 26 turnovers in a 118-110 victory Sunday night.

Eric Bledsoe added 22 points, and Jabari Parker had 13 to keep Milwaukee in seventh place in the Eastern Conference — a half-game game behind the sixth-place 76ers.

Dario Saric scored 25 points, Joel Embiid had 19, and JJ Redick 17 for the 76ers.

The Bucks were down 86-72 in the third quarter. Antetokounmpo scored 14 points to spark a 21-0 run to close out the quarter for a 93-86 lead. Milwaukee also capitalized on Philadelphia's nine turnovers, including five during the surge, for 11 points.

Turnovers, fouls and poor shooting by Philadelphia helped the Bucks erase their 20-point first-quarter lead. John Henson's 3-point play with 6:09 left in the second tied it at 51. The 76ers' T.J. McConnell hit a jumper to start a 21-9 run capped by Redick's 3-pointer for a 72-60 halftime lead.

Robert Covington's 3 pulled Philadelphia to 102-98 in the fourth, but the Bucks responded with a 3 by Bledsoe and a jumper by Antetokounmpo to pull away. Philadelphia never got closer.

The Bucks' victory gives them a 2-1 edge in the series. They finish the season against each other April 11 in Philadelphia.

76ers: Embiid banged his left knee in a scramble late in the first quarter. Embiid limped off the court, but returned to start the second. Philadelphia had 2 1/2 sections of boisterous fans in the upper bowl.

Bucks: Tyler Zeller got knocked flat on his back after scoring on a dunk. Embiid sent him sprawling brushing against him. It was a flagrant 1 foul. Zeller eventually got up, made the free throw and then left for the locker room. ... G Tony Snell started after missing the previous two games with a bruised right thigh.

UConn fades down stretch, loses at Houston, 81-71

By Dom Amore
The Hartford Courant

HOUSTON — The Huskies have been talking throughout the season about what they can do, if ...

If they played a full 40 minutes, if they shot the ball better, if they rebounded. It's all reflected in an iffy record.

More of those question marks have gone their way of late, but the Huskies finished the regular season with another what-if game.

UConn came back from a double-digit deficit, led much of the second half and slugged it out, too-to-tee, with 25th-ranked Houston, but didn't have the finishing touch and lost, 81-71, at the H&PE Arena on Sunday.

"It came down to a five-minute game," coach Kevin Ollie said, "and that's what we wanted to put ourselves in, but we didn't execute."

Rob Gray, the Cougar's top player, scored 30 points, winning an individual duel with the Huskies' Jalen Adams, who had 22 points and six assists. Adams owned the middle 20 minutes of the game, but Gray, honored in Senior Day ceremonies before the game, delivered the first punch — and had the last word.

Gray tied the game at 63 with a jumper with 5:43 left, and scored Houston's next nine points.

"We slacked off defin-

sively a little bit," UConn's Terry Larrier said. "Rob Gray, we kept letting him go right, he was going right the whole night and he kind of got into a rhythm. And when a guy like that gets into a rhythm, it's kind of hard to stop him."

The Cougars (24-6, 14-4 in the American Athletic Conference) are heading to the NCAA Tournament no matter what they do in the conference tournament.

UConn (14-17, 7-11) will go in as the eighth seed and need four wins in four days, and at least one major upset, to salvage its season.

"We've got to go to the conference tournament with a clear mind," Adams said, "and just start over."

The Huskies, who outscored Houston 29-15 to finish the first half, and led by five with under 10 minutes to go. Adams' legs began cramping up and he came out for some rehydration, but was limping when he went back in. UConn ultimately wore down and left the game, of all places, at the free throw line, which has generally been a strength. UConn went 16 for 24 from the line, and though Houston missed nine of 34 from the line, the Huskies missed more, especially down the stretch.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Non

SOUTHWEST

Houston 81, UConn 71
Tulsa 78, Temple 69

SOUTH

Col. of Charleston 68, Drexel 59
ETSU 63, Furman 52

Lipscomb 108, Florida Gulf Coast 98
Memphis 98, East Carolina 70

Radford 55, Liberty 52
South Florida 65, SMU 54

UCF 66, Tulane 51
UNC-Greensboro 58, Wakeford 55

William & Mary 58, Tulane 55

SOUTHWEST

Cornell 62, Wichita St. 61
Loyola of Chicago 65, Illinois St. 49

Michigan 78, Purdue 68
Mississippi St. 61, Chicago 58

N. Dakota St. 65, Fort Wayne 62
Oklahoma 62, SIU 55

SOUTHWEST

St. Mary's (Cal.) 68, Pepperdine 66
Stanford 65, Boston 11 59

Cal State 62, Holy Cross 55
Columbia 65, St. Peter's 62

Northwestern 74, Delaware 59
UNC-Wilmington 65, Indiana 68

Top 25 Road

1. Virginia (20-2) best Louisville 67-62; best

Holmes 66-62; best Western 69-62; best

05; best to No. 15 Michigan 75-64;
best to No. 16 Wisconsin 75-64;

best to No. 17-19 best Providence 64-74; best

Duquesne 65-62;

4. Villanova (27-4) best Seton Hall 69-63; best

best Georgetown 67-73;

5. Duke (25-4) best to Virginia Tech 64-62; best

to No. 9-10 North Carolina 74-64;

6. Kansas (24-7) best Texas 70-70; best to

Oklahoma State 62-64;

7. Georgia (25-4) best Loyola Marymount

69-65;

8. Kentucky (21-10) best Mississippi 65-70;

best to Florida State 69-67;

24. Middle Tennessee (24-4) best Western

Northwest 65-64; best to Marshall 70-67;

25. Princeton (24-4) best SMU 69-58; best

UConn 61-71.

UConn

Bayler 64, TCU 49

Louisville 64, West Virginia 55

Louisville 64, West Virginia 55

Marion 64, ETSU 55

SOUTHWEST

Bayler 64, TCU 49

Louisville 64, West Virginia 55

Louisville 64, West Virginia 55

Marion 64, ETSU 55

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Bayler 64, TCU 49

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to No. 9-10 North Carolina 74-64;

Roger Bannister, who broke the 4-minute mile, dies at 88

By Chris Lehouettes
Associated Press

LONDON — Roger Bannister, who as a lanky medical student at Oxford in 1954 electrified the sports world and lifted postwar England's spirits when he became the first athlete to run a mile in under 4 minutes, has died at 88.

Bannister died Saturday in Oxford, the city where he accomplished the feat many had thought impossible. He had been slowed in recent years by Parkinson's disease and, before that, an ankle shattered in a 1975 auto accident.

On a typically cool, wet and blustery English day in May nearly 64 years ago, Bannister put on his spikes and ran four laps around a cinder track in 3 minutes, 59.4 seconds, for one of the defining sporting achievements of the 20th century.

The image of the young Bannister — head tilted back, eyes closed and mouth agape as he strained across the finishing tape — captured the public's imagination, made him a global celebrity and boosted the morale of Britons still suffering through austerity measures.

Bannister soon retired from competition and went on to a long and distinguished career in medicine, and his mark was broken over and over again, with the world record for the mile now at 3:43.13. But he was a national hero to the end.

Prime Minister Theresa May saluted Bannister as a "British sporting icon whose achievements were an inspiration to us all."

While he will forever be remembered for his running, Bannister said he considered his contributions to neurology more satisfying.

"I wouldn't claim to have made any great discoveries, but at any rate I satisfactorily inched forward in our knowledge of a particular aspect of medicine," he said. "I'm far more content with that than I am about any of the running I did earlier."

Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe, president of the IAAF, the international sports governing body, said Bannister's death was a "day of intense sadness both for our nation and for all of us in athletics."

"There is not a single athlete of my generation who was not inspired by Roger and his achievements both on and off the track," Coe tweeted.

On the day he made history, May 6, 1954, Bannister looked up at the white-and-red English flag



AP file photo

Britain's Roger Bannister hits the tape to become the first person to break the four-minute mile May 6, 1954 in Oxford, England. A statement released Sunday on behalf of Bannister's family said Sir Roger Bannister died peacefully in Oxford on Saturday, aged 88.

whipping in the wind atop a church and figured he would have to call off the attempt. But then, shortly after 6 p.m., the wind subsided, and the race was on.

With two friends running with him as pacesetters, Bannister churned around Oxford's Iffley Road track, his long arms and legs pumping, his lungs gasping for air. He put on a furious kick over the final 300 yards and nearly collapsed as he crossed the finish line.

The announcer read out the time:

"3..."

The rest was drowned out by the roar of the crowd. The 3 was all that mattered.

Bannister followed up his milestone a few months later by beating Australia's John Landy in the "Miracle Mile" or "Mile of the Century" at the Empire Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, with both men clocked at

under 4 minutes. Bannister regarded that as his greatest race because it came against his fiercest rival.

"It's amazing that more people have climbed Mount Everest than have broken the 4-minute mile," Bannister said in an interview with The Associated Press in 2012.

Bannister was born on March 23, 1929, in the London borough of Harrow. At the outbreak of World War II, the family moved to the city of Bath, where Bannister sometimes ran to and from school.

His passion for running took off in 1945 when his father took him to a track meet at London's White City Stadium, built to host the 1908 Olympics. He resolved to take up running seriously at Oxford.

At the 1952 Helsinki Games, Bannister was considered the favorite for the gold in the 1,500 meters — the shorter

metric-mile distance run in the Olympics. But the organizers added an extra round of heats, meaning he would have to run on three consecutive days. With his rhythm thrown off, Bannister finished fourth.

Criticized by the British press and disappointed in his own performance, he decided to keep running, dedicating himself to beating the 4-minute mile.

At the time, Bannister was a full-time medical student and had to juggle his studies with his training. By modern standards, his daily half-hour workout was remarkably light.

Sweden's Gunder Hagg came tantalizingly close to breaking the 4-minute mile in 1945, when he ran 4:01.4. But time and again, runners came up short. Hagg's record was still the time to beat nine years later.

Bannister was undaunted. "There was no logic in

my mind that if you can run a mile in 4 minutes, 1 and 2/5ths, you can't run it in 3:59," he said. "I knew enough medicine and physiology to know it wasn't a physical barrier, but I think it had become a psychological barrier."

Bannister, Landy and American miler Wes Santee were all threatening to break the mark.

"As it became clear that somebody was going to do it, I felt that I would prefer it to be me," Bannister said.

He also wanted to deliver something special for his country.

"I thought it would be right for Britain to try to get this," he said in 2012. "There was a feeling of patriotism. Our new queen had been crowned the year before. Everest had been climbed in 1953."

The record lasted just 46 days. Landy ran 3:57.9. The current record has been held by Morocco's

Hicham El Guerrouj since 1999.

Bannister was chosen Sports Illustrated's first Sportsman of the Year in 1954.

Later, as chairman of Britain's Sports Council from 1971 to 1974, he developed the first test for anabolic steroids. In 2012, he edited the ninth edition of a textbook on nervous-system disease.

He said his most treasured trophy was the lifetime achievement award he received in 2005 from the American Academy of Neurology. He was knighted for his medical work in 1975.

Late in life, he walked with crutches inside his home and used a wheelchair outdoors.

Bannister married Moyra Jacobsson, an artist, in 1955. They had two sons and two daughters and lived in a modest home minutes from the track where he made history.

Mickelson ends longest drought with playoff win in Mexico

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The shot through a gap in the trees only he could see. The two birdies he had to have when time was running out.

Phil Mickelson finally looked like the Lefty of old Sunday in the Mexico Championship, especially when a final round of pressure, possibilities and dramatic shots that kept the crowd buzzing finally ended at Chapultepec Golf Club.

He was posing with the trophy.

For the first time in 102 tournaments around the world, dating to the summer of 2013 when he won the British Open at Muirfield, the 47-year-old Mickelson showed he still had the stuff to beat players who weren't even born when he collected the first of his 43 victories on the PGA Tour.

"This is a very meaningful win," Mickelson said after beating Justin Thomas in a playoff. "I can't really put it into words given the tough times over the last four years, and the struggle to get here, and knowing that I was able to compete at this level but not doing it."

"To finally break through and to have this validation

means a lot to me."

Mickelson, who closed with a 5-under 66, was at his best over the back nine with as many as six players still in the mix.

Suddenly two shots behind when Thomas holed out from 119 yards for eagle on the 18th hole, Mickelson played a high-risk shot through the small-est of gaps in the trees to escape with par on the 14th hole. That's when he saw the score, and he followed with a two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th and a 20-foot birdie on the 16th.

Thomas, who won last week in a playoff at the Honda Classic, capped off a 62-64 weekend with more clutch play, no shot bigger than his sand wedge that bounced behind the flag and spun back into the cup on his final hole for eagle.

The playoff — the sixth in the last eight weeks on the PGA Tour — lasted only one hole on the par-3 17th, where Thomas made bogey for the second time.

His gap wedge was too long, his chip too weak. Mickelson's 18-foot birdie putt rimmed around the edge of the cup, and Thomas missed his par from just inside 10 feet.

The disappointment was tempered only by his start — Thomas was 11 shots back going into the

weekend — and by the guy who beat him.

"Man, there's nothing for me to hang my head about," Thomas said. "To even have a chance to win this golf tournament after where I was through 18, through 36 holes, I'm very proud of myself. Obviously, I would have loved to drum him out there in that playoff, but I'm just happy for him. He's playing some great golf."

Mickelson, his confidence higher than the altitude in Mexico City, believes this is just the start.

"I don't think that this is the peak," he said. "I think I'm going to continue to get better."

This was far more than a duel between Mickelson and Thomas, who is 23 years younger. Tyrrell Hatton was right there, stride for stride, putting four straight 3s on his card with a stretch he capped off with an eagle on the 15th to tie for the lead.

But on the final hole, Hatton missed the green to the right, clipped 10 feet by and missed the par putt for a 67 to fall out of a playoff.

"I can't believe that I'm not at least in the playoff," Hatton said, still seething over a par putt on the 18th that started bouncing right after he hit it.

Mickelson won his third World Golf Champion-

ships title and, just a month after being on the verge of falling out of the top 50 in the world for the first time in two decades, moves to No. 18 in the world.

Shubhankar Sharma, the 21-year-old from India who started with a two-shot lead, didn't make his first birdie until the 12th hole. He finished with consecutive bogeys for a 74, six shots behind in a three-way tie for ninth. That will leave him on the bubble at No. 66 in the world for making it back to the next World Golf Championship, the Dell Match Play, in three weeks in Texas. Sharma first flies home for the Hero Indian Open next week.

"A little bit disappointed," Sharma said. "I was leading and I think I couldn't finish it off today. But that's what the game is about. And what I learned today, especially playing with Phil, I'll cherish it forever."

Hatton tied for third with Rafa Cabrera Bello, who holed a bunker shot for eagle on the opening hole and was among six players who had at least a share of the lead during the final round.

World Golf Championships - Mexico
Championship
At Club de Golf Chapultepec
Mexico City
Par: 72
Tied for 1st: 13
Tied for 2nd: 13
Tied for 3rd: 13
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PRO GOLF SCORES

Honda Classic World Championship Scores
At Club de Golf Chapultepec
Mexico City
Par: 72
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ZITS



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SHOE



MUTTS



GARFIELD



CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



LOCKHORNS



FAMILY CIRCUS



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1 2 3 4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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

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DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- The Bounty, e.g.
- Remote control targets
- Landowner's document
- Subtle glow
- Spruce oneself up
- Addresses with forward slashes
- "Kaput"
- "Life in a breakfast bowl, say"
- Move like a crab
- Often-stubbed digit
- Black Russian liquor
- Nivea competitor
- Invalidate, as a law
- Rapper Wayne
- Disney's title lamp rubber
- Sailor's agreement
- Stage designs
- Emulate flowers on a hot day
- Source of linen
- "Dilbert" creator Scott
- "Little Women" woman
- Spongy cake laced with rum
- Scammer's targets
- Step in a flight
- West Coast state
- Everglades waders
- Layer of eggs
- Target practice props
- "... you awake?"
- Software test version
- "M*A*S*H" actor Elliott
- Body covering
- Racetrack shape
- Homer Simpson's wife
- Four-legged companions
- Give a holler
- In the future
- Gratis

DOWN

- Ping-Pong need
- Piece of land
- Instagram upload
- Messy campfire snack
- Firestone competitor
- Pitching stat with a decimal point
- Inventor Whitney
- Broadband option, for short
- Maj. for a future shrink
- "The 18-Down" poet
- Structure with skyboxes
- "Nevermore" speaker
- Dip for chips
- Like the outfield walls at Wrigley Field
- "Oral health care network"
- Negotiations killer ... or, in a way, what each answer to a starred clue is
- Whitewater craft
- Amazon Echo Dof's voice service
- Well-worn
- Harshly criticize
- Octopus' eight
- Deer mom
- Dalmatians, e.g.
- Far from self-effacing
- Inside the foul line
- Dalmatian marking
- Hefty supplies?
- Hard puzzle
- Watched over
- "This could be a problem"
- Christopher of "Superman"
- Done to death
- Sight or smell
- First matchmaker?
- Make better
- Tiny pond growth
- "... in favor, say 'aye'"
- Coppertone letters

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	L	I	M	A	C	G	R	A	W	V	A	L	E
B	A	S	E	S	A	L	A	R	Y	I	T	E	M
B	R	E	A	K	R	A	N	K	S	C	H	A	T
E	D	E	N	D	N	C	S	T	A	L	K	S	
			S	O	R	D	I	D	O	R	E		
S	A	B	I	N	E	D	E	P	O	S	I	T	S
O	N	A	T	E	A	R	N	U	T	S	A	L	
B	I	C	O	D	E	T	M	S	U	P	I		
E	T	O	R	E	V	E	P	I	G	R	A	M	
R	A	N	G	T	R	U	E	H	E	R	E	S	
			M	O	W	E	N	C	A	S	E		
A	V	A	L	O	N	O	O	N	N	O	M	E	
T	I	N	A	A	U	T	O	D	E	A	L	E	R
O	B	I	S	S	T	E	P	L	A	D	D	E	R
M	E	A	T	T	A	S	T	E	T	E	S	T	S

03/05/18

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt

CLUE ACROSS ANSWER

- Blackjack — EADREL
- Wanderer — MDNAO
- Registered — RUESN
- Only just — AYLBER

CLUE DOWN ANSWER

- Small boat — YINDGH
- Pungent gas — IANOMM
- Back — SRONEED
- Cure, solution — DREEMY

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

3-5-18

CLUE: This opened on July 17, 1955.

BONUS

©Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.
ANSWERS: 1-A-Bear 2-A-Honey 3-C-Endless 4-D-Rainbow 5-B-Banana
Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

JUMBLE

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

NIHTK

FARET

MOSTOH

GULJEG

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Krueck

These coarse sheets will work best. How big is the table?

It's about 36 square feet. Maybe more.

HE WASN'T SURE HOW MUCH SANDPAPER HE'D NEED, BUT HE HAD A —

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FRAUD AGILE PIGLET BUNKER
Answer: The team was for sale for about \$800 million. The price was a — BALLPARK FIGURE

WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

3 WUZZLES BOOKLETS

"The Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.00), "More of the Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.50), and "Wuzzles for Kids" (\$4.25) are available, postpaid, from Wuzzles, Box 1141, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

1. **YELASH**

2. **8 4/**

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

Today's Answers:

2. Back and forth

1. Right up his alley

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzles.com

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Answers

2. Back and forth

1. Right up his alley

WUZZLES

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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AUTÉNTICA

HOMEMADE MEXICAN FOOD!

MONDAY LUNCH

ALL PLATTERS \$5
WITH PURCHASE OF BEVERAGE

Quesadilla (Beef or Chicken)

Served with guacamole, sour cream, & side of salsa.

Chile Relleno

Two chile rellenos (stuffed & battered) smothered with our red sauce or queso. Your choice of beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Asado

Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Grande Nachos

Includes beans, cheese, beef or chicken, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, sour cream, & jalapenos.

Shredded Brisket

Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Combo Tex Mex

Two cheese or beef enchiladas, one burrito, & one taco. Served with rice & beans.

Enchiladas

Choice of red or green sauce, beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice & beans.

Flautas

Four chicken flautas, rice, beans, guacamole, & sour cream.

Chile Verde con Carne

Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Fajitas (Beef or Chicken)

Rice, beans, pico de gallo, guacamole, sour cream, & large homemade flour tortilla.

Crispy Tacos

Your choice of beef or chicken. Served with rice & beans.

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mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES

Commercial Construction Project Superintendents
Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wedley Ave. Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@mrtmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 684-9627.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Gas Measurement/Communications Technician
HELP WANTED - GAS MEASUREMENT/COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN. Duties include installation, calibration, maintenance, troubleshooting and repair of Electronic Meters, Gas Sampling Systems and Radio Communications System. Excellent record keeping, communication and computer skills necessary. Salary DOE. Competitive wages and benefits. Mail resume to: Measurement Technician Position, 2673 FM 829, Stenton, TX or Fax to: 432-458-3423 or email to: vincomack@riggas.com.

Warehouse Customer Service Associate

Griffin Oil Company 3910 S. FM 1788, Midland, Texas 79706
Warehouse Customer Service Associate. Duties include:
• Answer phones • Take customer orders • Coordinate deliveries
• Maintain inventory • Encourage safe work habits • Keep all files current
• Needs computer skills/telephone etiquette. Good pay, Good benefits. Let's discuss. Resume to: pgilbert@griffin.com. Good pay, Good benefits. Let's discuss. Resume to: pgilbert@griffin.com.

OTHER JOBS

CDL Drivers Needed

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

- Water truck drivers • Belly Dump drivers

Home every night and new equipment

Requirements: 1 year of driving experience
Valid Texas Class A CDL, w/endorsement for water truck driver
Benefits: Medical, dental/vision, life insurance.
After 1 year of service Paid vacation and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

**Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE
DEPENDABLE**
Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday
from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till
about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on
your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night
occasionally. We will train the right person.
\$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspapers.
Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at:
201 E. Illinois, Lobby
Information Desk • Monday - Friday 9-5
or email: jessica@houston.com
NOPENCALLS PLEASE



OTHER JOBS



Now hiring for a Field Technician.

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

Job Duties:

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

Minimum Qualifications:

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

Work Environment:

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

Physical Demands:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, bend, and occasionally lift/carry/push/pull/move/drag up to 80 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:

This is a full-time position.

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

Field Service Mechanics

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

Field Service Mechanics

Requirements: 3 years mechanic experience.
Must have own tools. Valid Texas Drivers license. Pay will depend on work experience, 50 plus work week.
Benefits: Medical, dental/vision, life insurance. Paid vacation after 1 year of service, and 401K

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

Jewelry Repair Technician

Anderson Bros. Jewelers in Lubbock, Texas is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Jewelry Repair Technician.
Qualified applicants must have:
• 5+ years experience as a jewelry repair technician
• Experience with a laser welder
• Experience with general repairs, setting stones and sizing rings
Email resume to: anderson@anderson.com
Anderson Bros. Jewelers is an equal opportunity employer

MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Lucio Janitorial is hiring 1 garage guy, 3 Floor men and Evening maids.
Hours are 5-8 evening hours. Starting pay is \$10, job is M-F with weekends and major holidays off. Please call me or call me at 805-752-0881.
Must pass a background check

OUT OF CITY DELIVERY DRIVER/ MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

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

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

Please mail resume to P-119 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701



DOT Driver II

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

Essential Functions:

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

Minimum Requirements:

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

Supervisory Responsibilities:

No supervisory responsibilities are associated with this position.

Work Environment:

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

Physical Demands:

Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, and bend is required. Must also be able to occasionally lift, carry, push, pull, move, and drag up to 80 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:

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

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

Moving Company

Moving company looking for furniture moving help. Must be honest and dependable good starting pay. Call Josh at 432-412-9882.

Warehouse

Please apply in person at: Sims Plastics 2700 W. Front Midland, TX 79701

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

**Night time associate - MUST BE
DEPENDABLE**
Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.
\$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspapers.
Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 9-5 or email: jessica@houston.com
NOPENCALLS PLEASE



ESCROW ASSISTANTS

West Texas Abstract & Title Company is currently looking for 1-2 escrow assistants for immediate employment with a thriving company which offers many excellent benefits who has a strong customer service background and who is detail oriented. Must have good communication and problem solving skills with the ability to multi task. The position will be assisting escrow in the last steps of the real estate closing process. This company experience is preferred and/or a strong communication skill to work with clients throughout the closing process. Salary will be DOE. If you are looking for a rewarding career that can take you to any level you want to achieve, please send resumes to West Texas Abstract & Title Company, Attn: HR Department at 3700 N. Big Spring St., Midland, TX 79705. WTA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a part of the FNF family.

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EDUCATION-TRAINING

Instructor-Transportation Trainer

Midland College is seeking a Instructor-Transportation Trainer. Job Summary: The Transportation Trainer will provide instruction and train students in the classroom as well as in driving. The students will be provided with training and experience to obtain a Commercial Driver License.

Required Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Must possess a valid Texas Class "A" Commercial Driver License, good driving record, and be insurable on Midland College's insurance policy
- Three years' experience driving "over the road" (OTR) or local
- Experience in pre-trip/post trip inspections, coupling and uncoupling of equipment
- Computer literacy
- Knowledge of rules and regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- Knowledge of Double Clutching techniques and how to teach it as required by TXDPS
- Knowledge of air brake testing procedures and be able to instruct and execute
- Knowledge of Hours of Service Regulations and be able to log and teach log book entries as well as log book recap
- Ability to manage multiple tasks while providing close attention to detail
- Ability to work in cooperation with others and work a flexible schedule based on training needs
- Maintain a high level of record keeping, utilize creativity, and meet frequent deadlines
- Establish goals and maintain a high level of decision making
- Adaptable to a constantly changing environment
- Ability to move or lift/move up to 75 pounds, capable of climbing stairs, balancing, stooping, and repetitive twisting
- Must successfully pass a DOT physical and DOT drug test

EOE

OTHER JOBS

Farm Manager

B&J AG Inc. needs 1 temp. Farm Manager to manage work of 2 emps & do add'l work on small cotton farm: plowing, churning & haying in Stanton & Midland TX. Must have 3+ months exp. Expected dates: 04/2018 - 12/2018. Tools supplies equip provided. Housing avail @ no cost for any who can't return to residence @ end of day. Will pay! provide transport to farm after 50% of work complete or earlier if approp. Guarantee to offer emp for total # work hrs = % of workdays of period from day worker arrives/contract begins, till expir. specified in the contract and/or extensions. Wage \$12/hr. Apply @ TX Workforce Comm'n's office, contact forelabor@twc.state.tx.us or call 512-475-2571 & refer to Job Order # TX-3050237

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

Restaurant Positions

Osaaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Would you like to make \$15 to \$20 an hour, depending on position?
Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Come apply in person 11am-2pm at 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.my-osaaka.com

SALES JOBS

Multi-Media Sales Executive

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

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

Multi-Media Sales Executives maximize sales potential, through the development of quality business relationships and promotion of new/existing advertising products. This position requires a heavy amount of prospecting and lead-development with local businesses. We pride ourselves on simplifying the marketing process for our customers, while helping advertisers track the impact of their campaigns and understand their advertising options. In short, we help our customers grow their business.

Responsibilities Include:

- Consistently meet/exceeds all print and digital revenue goals
- Understanding the client's advertising needs, and develop the ideal marketing solution for them
- Delivering customized sales presentations in person, or by phone/web-demos
- Generating new leads by making cold calls and maintaining an awareness of new businesses opening in the area
- Be the face of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and ensure a superior customer experience

The Ideal Candidate:

- You're self-motivated and results oriented
- You have an outgoing, resilient personality
- You enjoy the thrill of the hunt by bringing in new business
- You're confident and not willing to accept average

Required Skills & Experience:

- 2+ years of sales experience with a proven record of successfully exceeding goals
- Passion to educate clients in their marketing options and close deals
- Exceptional communication and presentation skills
- Strong computer skills. Digital Sales experience a plus
- Bachelor's degree preferred

What's in it for you?

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

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

SKILLED LABOR

Field Service Techs, Shop Techs & Machinist

J&W Services and Equipment Company is seeking Field Service Technicians, Shop Technicians and Machinist. Experience preferred. However, we are willing to train. Hourly pay and overtime with benefits of group health, dental, life insurance and vacation pay. There is an opportunity to earn commissions and be awarded bonuses.

Participation in matching 401k plan after one year of employment. You can stop by 3510 E. Hwy 158 in Midland or go online to www.jandwservices.com for application and submit to jobs@jandwservices.com.

Laborers and Carpenters

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring laborers and carpenters. Reliable transportation a must. You may apply or leave an application at 5206 W. Wadley Avenue, Midland, Texas.

Plumber Apprentices

Plumber apprentices needed for new commercial projects. Must possess valid DL. Experience preferred. Good work environment with competitive pay and standard benefits. Call 432-957-9995

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SKILLED LABOR

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCESNOW HIRING
Instrumentation & Electrical Technician

Maintains all electrical equipment used to monitor and control oil well services equipment. Home nightly.

Qualifications:

- High school education or equivalent
- 6 months experience maintaining and repairing electronic instrumentation and automation equipment
- Valid operator's license with clean driving record

Comprehensive Benefits package!

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pnd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCESNOW HIRING
Local Drivers

Local truck drivers needed. Home nightly, local routes, scheduled shifts 5am-5pm (14/7 rotational) never on call, optional overtime.

Qualifications:

- High school education or equivalent
- Valid operator's license
- Clean driving record
- DOT compliant

Comprehensive Benefits package!

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pnd.com/careers/job-openings

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCESNOW HIRING
Transportation Truck Driver

Responsible for driving Water, Dump, and/or Bally Dump Truck and hauling water/oil/shale to drill rigs, fracturing crews, etc. Hauls water/oil/shale from well locations to proper disposal facilities.

Qualifications:

- High school education or equivalent
- Experience can range from commercial truck driving experience preferred to one year as a water truck driver required
- Valid Class A CDL with Tanker endorsement
- Clean driving record
- Salary competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience

Comprehensive Benefits package!

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pnd.com/careers/job-openings

Shop/ Yard/ Field Help

Pay based on experience. Submit resumes to: PRODUCTION LIFT, Box 9423, Midland, TX 79708 or mwhart@productionlift.com. Apply at # 14 E Industrial Loop, Midland, TX. 79701, (432) 698-1200. www.productionlift.com

Delivery Driver

Wanted: DELIVERY DRIVER for local oilfield chemical service company. Good pay, good benefits. Requirements: • High School Diploma or GED • CDL • Must be willing to acquire or currently possess: Hazmat endorsement, Tanker endorsement. Call Tim (409) 288-4181


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CLASSIFIEDS

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

JOBS



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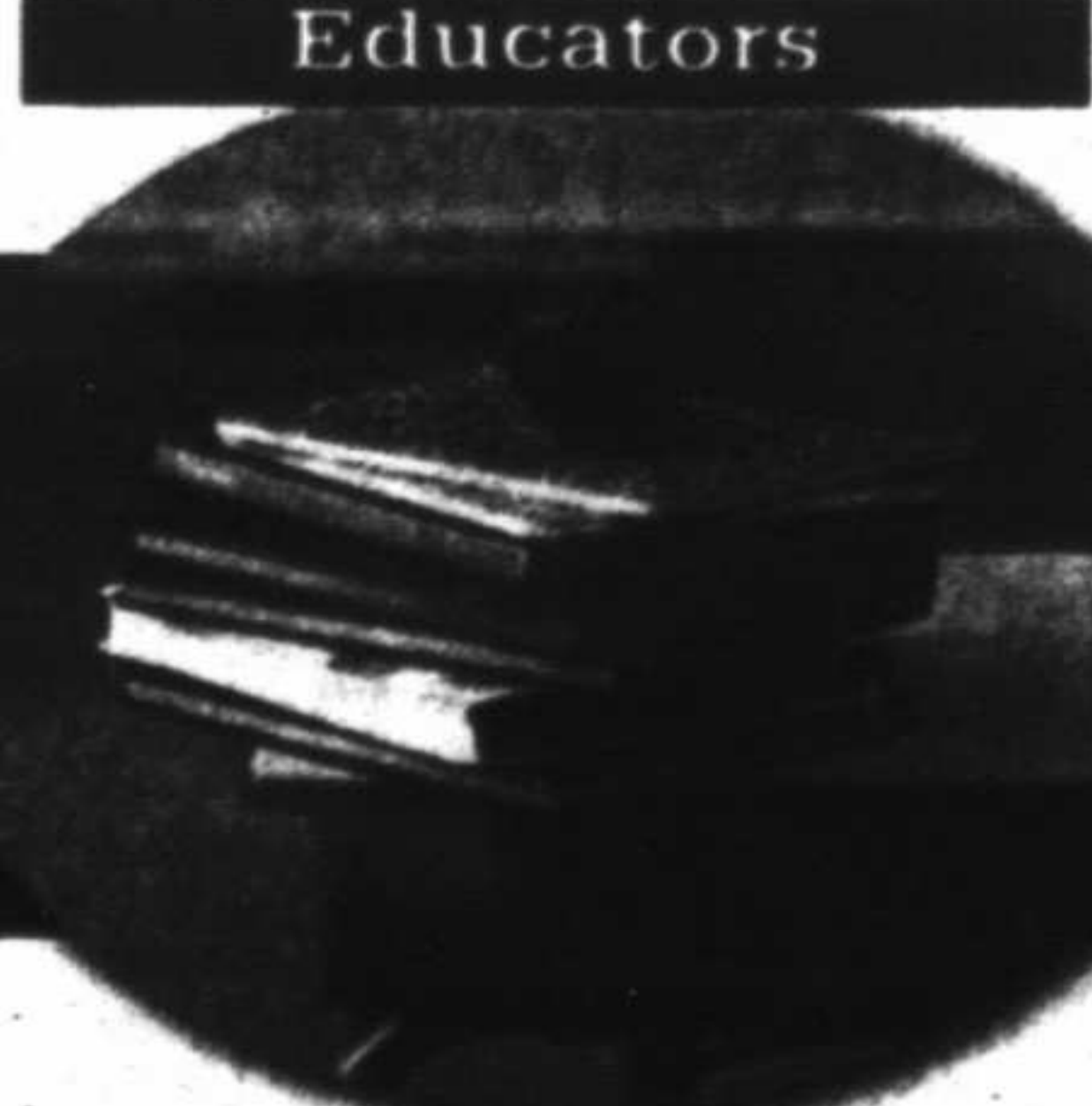
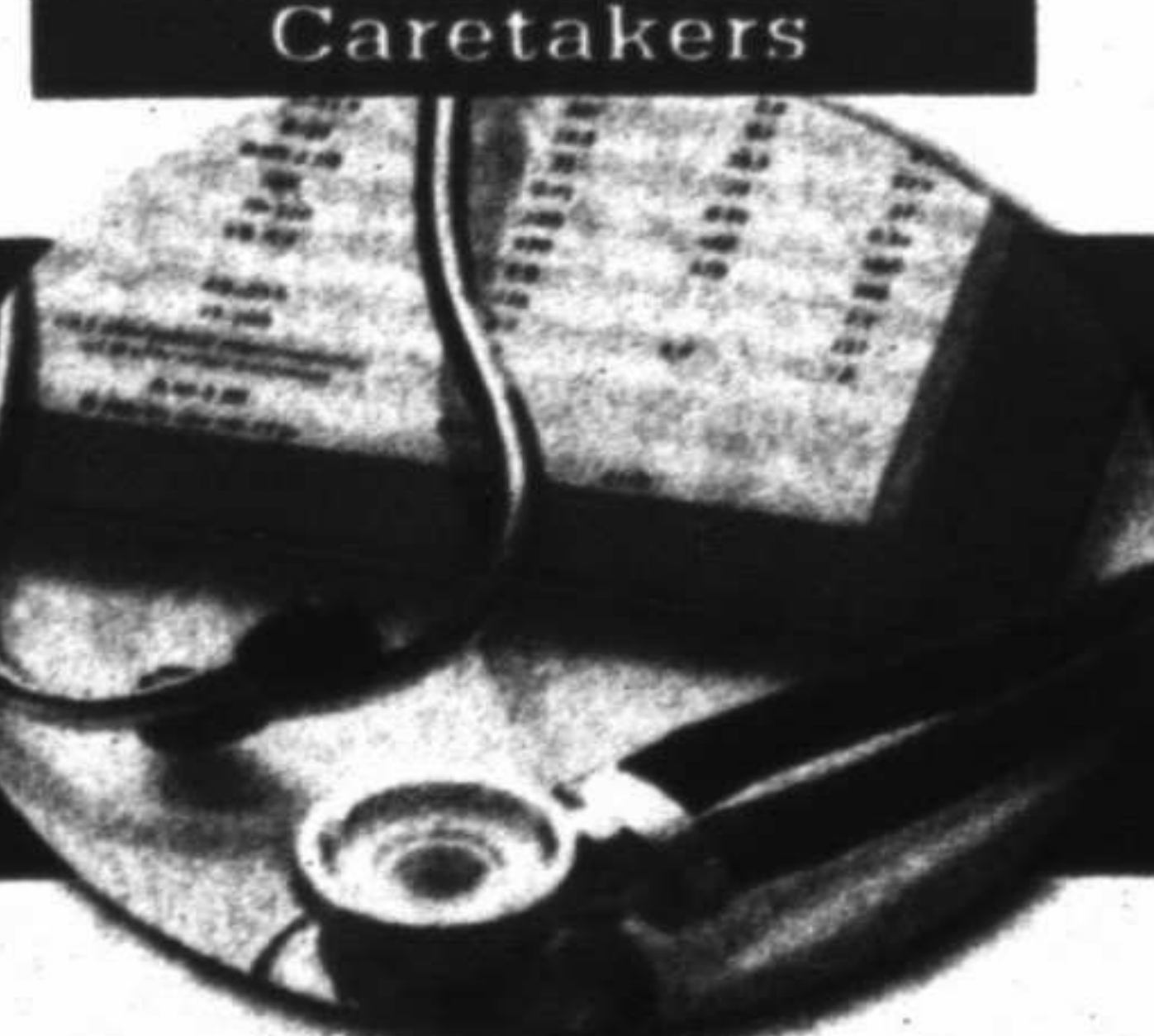
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	Repair/Replacement A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! of Your PLACE at Your PACE. Call Karen 432-553-2488 (leave msg). HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-898-1318 ELLEN'S HOME SERVICES For all your concrete needs, driveways, sidewalks, new slabs house or garage additions. Call Denny @ 432-894-0792 AMN FENCING A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. Local for 12 years. 432-254-9207	Handyman Services Total Handyman Services A through Z and total remodel and room addition by native Midlander Manny Ribera (432) 967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video: https://youtu.be/BLIUKSdQdQg ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 863-2679 TALCB005482. CRIC Interior and Exterior Painting Remodeling, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-8595. 1st ESTIMATE FREE. PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Permin Maintenance. 432-497-5417	Handyman Services PRECISE PAINTING Interior/Exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4843 POOL RENOVATION Pool deck stone, deck, overlay, coping, tile, waterfall & grando. By artist Manny Ribera native Midlander (432) 967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video: https://youtu.be/BLIUKSdQdQg Arbor Max Solutions Professional Landscaping & Tree Care. Call to Schedule. No need to apply. Taylor Maxwell Horticulture Certified Arborist TX9008A 432-528-1737 M & M Landscaping 22 years experience. Grass sodding, Xeriscaping, tree & shrub removal. Native Midlander. 432-230-3372	DAVID'S TREE & LAWN SERVICE Trimming trees & shrubs, leaf clean up, mowing and more! Please call to make appointment. 432-348-0894 www.facebook.com/davidstreeservice LEVYA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient. 432-250-9470. Free Estimates. STRACHER IRRIGATION Sprinkler Systems. Repairs & Installations. License #4833. Call (432) 861-8828

Legal and Public Notices Midland Independent School District Midland, Texas Notice to Vendors Request for Proposal for Portable Building Movers The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for RFP #18-09 Portable Building Movers through the MISD electronic bid system. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposal documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 20, 2018. Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.com/bid44. For any questions, contact MISD Purchasing department at (432) 240-1065.	Legal and Public Notices Midland Independent School District Midland, Texas Notice to Vendors Custodial Paper Products 2018 The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for Bid #18-09 Custodial Paper Products 2018 through the MISD electronic bid system. Bids will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposal documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707, Midland, Texas at 2:00 P.M., on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. Bid documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.com/bid44. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1065.	Real Estate FEATURED RANCHES FOR SALE 34,466 acres located in Midland County, Texas. The ranch is a premier high-end property with a spectacular view of the Big Bend National Park. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. Classified in the 5550 acre. 10,644 acres located in Midland County, Texas. The ranch is a premier high-end property with a spectacular view of the Big Bend National Park. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. Classified in the 5550 acre. 25,785 acres located in Midland County, Texas. The ranch is a premier high-end property with a spectacular view of the Big Bend National Park. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. The property is a true gem with a perfect "land of the living" charm. Classified in the 5550 acre. 14,393 acres located in Midland County, Texas. 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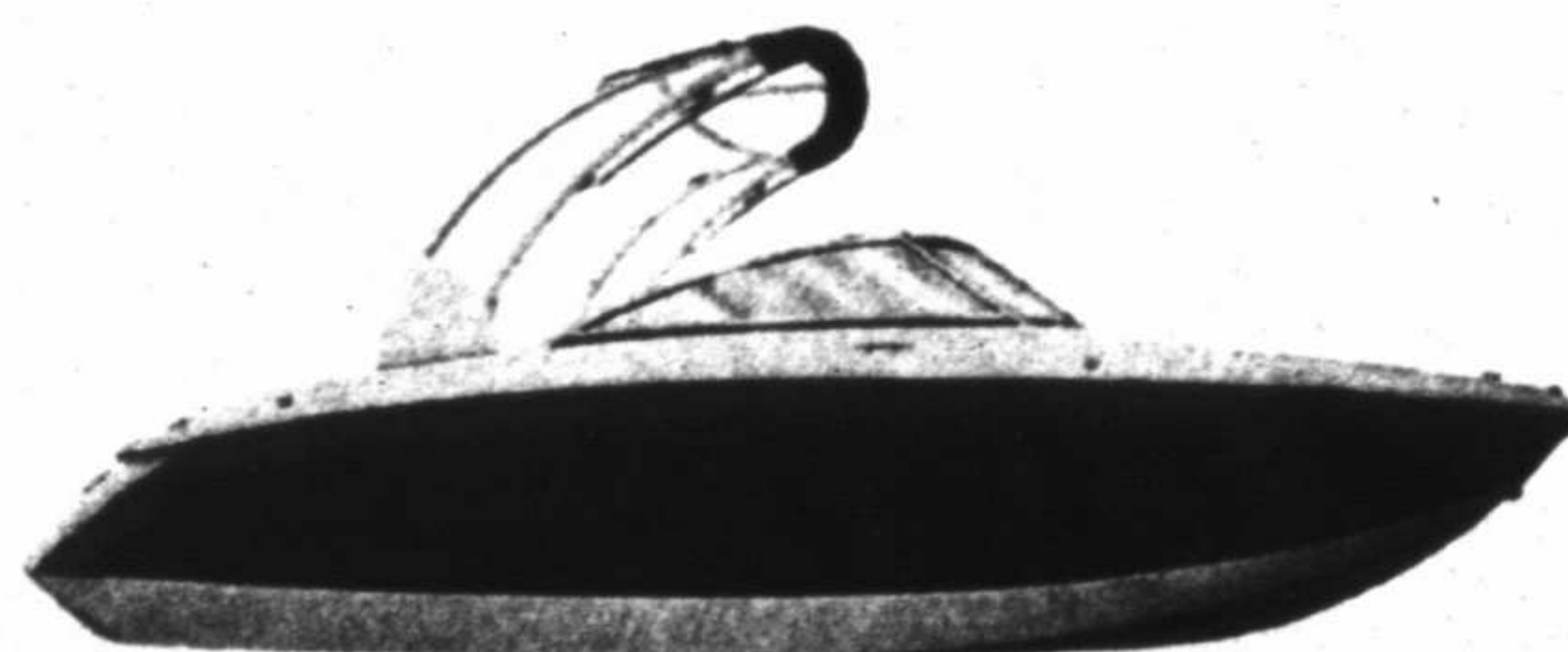
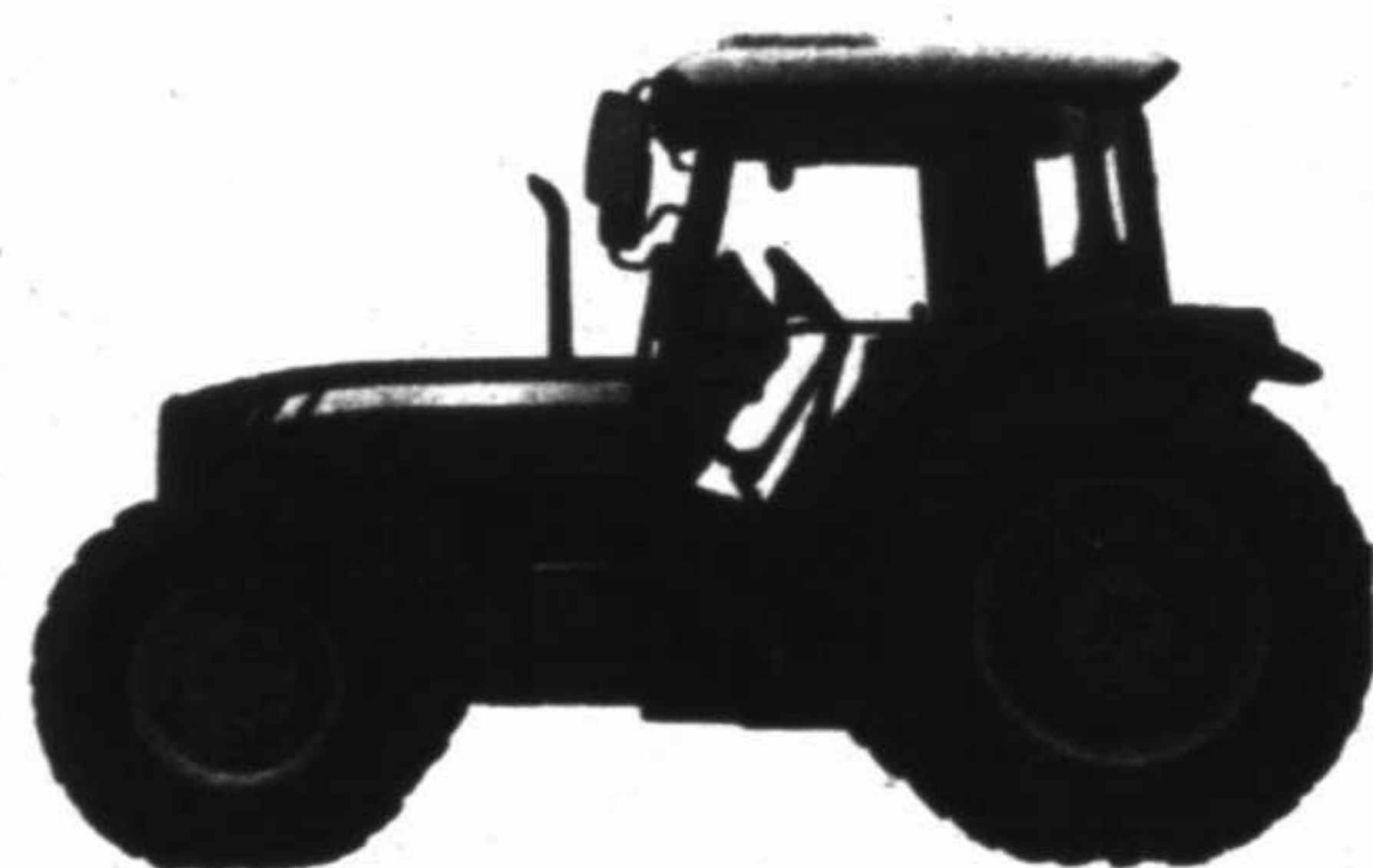
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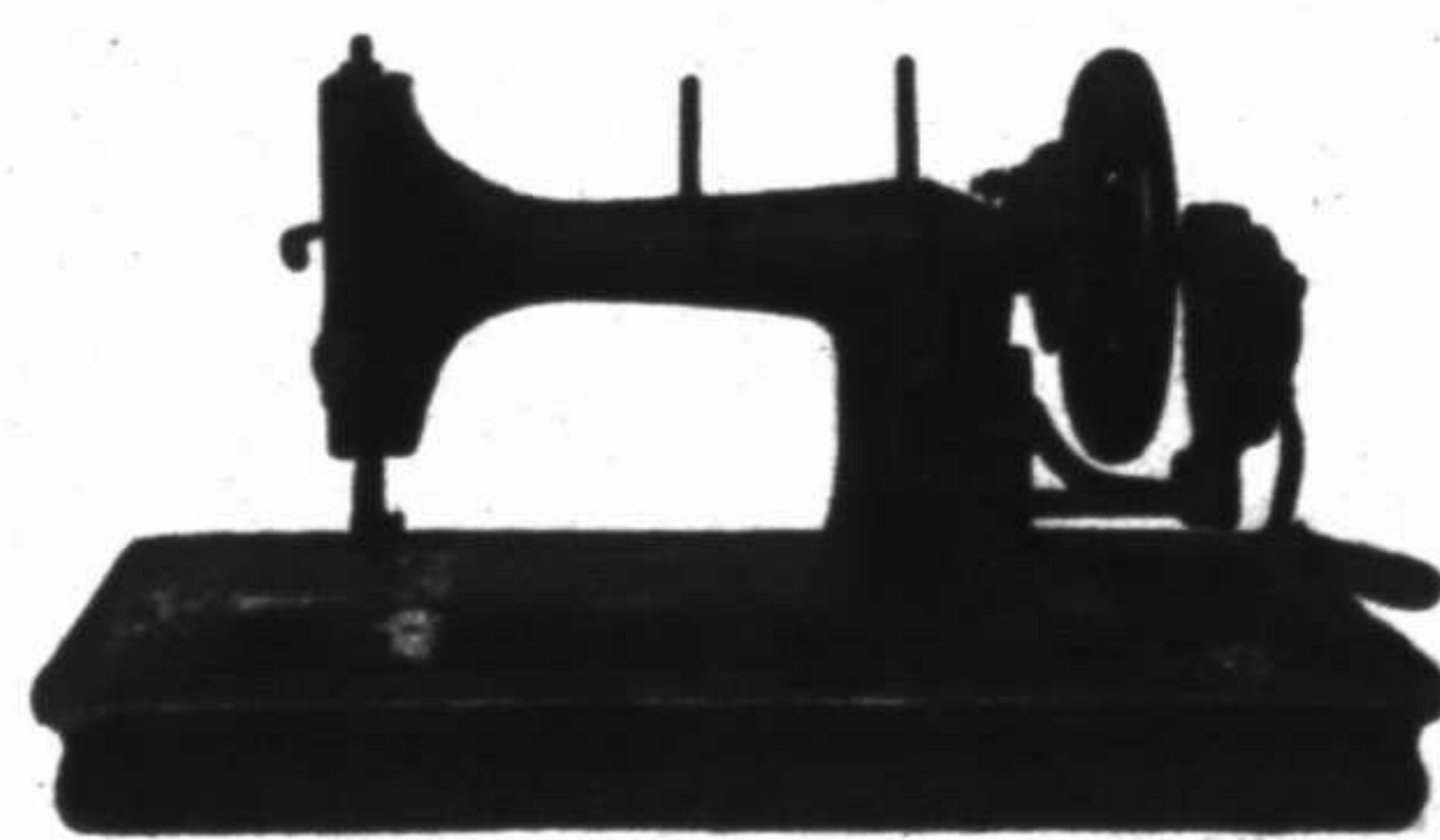
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