

# MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018

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## DIGITAL LIFE

What to look for in a TV and what the acronyms mean

Page 1B



## ASTROS ROUT ROYALS

Yuli Gurriel hit a grand slam in Houston's eight-run second inning, helping Gerrit Cole and the Astros beat the Kansas City Royals 11-3 on Sunday.

Page 1C

## Bill splits I-14 into two West Texas routes

*Conaway: Route would serve more traffic, larger population*

By Trevor Hawes  
thawes@mrt.com

Plans for Interstate 14 have been expanded, and the Texas Department of Transportation will have a say in how a portion of the project is executed.

Rep. Brian Babin of Beaumont, who sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, recently submitted a bill that would extend I-14 to Mississippi and effectively would bring two brand new interstates to West Texas. Under the already-approved plan

known as Ports to Ports, I-14's western terminus would be at I-10 and U.S. Route 190, near Iran. US 190 would be converted to I-14 to Brady, and the project would continue eastward.

The Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance in recent years has lobbied to move the western terminus to the Midland-Odessa area. I-14 would start at West Loop 338 in Odessa and would be in dual-designation with I-20 until it reaches State Highway 158 in Midland, which along with U.S. 87 would be converted to interstate until it meets Brady.

Babin's plan proposes converting both routes into interstate, with the northern route dubbed I-14 North and the southern route named I-14 South.

Rep. Mike Conaway of Midland cosigned the legislation, even though his own bill filed in January calls for changing the I-14 route to Midland-Odessa. However, the congressman isn't entirely keen on turning the southern route into interstate.

"Having it go through a more

Please see SPLITS/4A

## Council to look at changes to personnel policies

Changes called for after former MPD chief received an amount equal to six months' salary

From staff reports

The city of Midland is closer to putting the Steve Henry era in its rearview mirror.

City officials will present language at Tuesday's Midland City Council meeting that expands the list of "no obligation" for the payment of severance.

The move follows the departure of the former police chief earlier this year. Henry was terminated after a city investigation showed he violated two policies or standards of city of Midland Personnel Policies, specifically those dealing with harassment. There was considerable community feedback after it was disclosed Henry received \$72,500 — equal to six months of salary — as directed in the city's current personnel policies.

At the council's workshop this spring, city leaders directed city staff to make changes in the "involuntary separation" language contained in contracts of certain employees. That language is found in the contracts of employees at the director level and above, according to previous Reporter-Telegram articles, and states that a

Please see POLICIES/4A

## CLOSED FOR REPAIRS



Billy Calzada/San Antonio Express-News

A truck carrying equipment rolls along Highway 17 by San Solomon Spring at Balmorhea State Park on June 6. The pool is currently closed because of structural damage.

## Balmorhea learning to live with oil boom

By John MacCormack  
San Antonio Express-News

BALMORHEA — When a section of concrete wall recently collapsed at one of the world's largest spring-fed pools and forced the closure of Balmorhea State Park to swimmers, hearts around Texas skipped a beat.

With the region riding a runaway energy boom, some feared drilling, fracturing or seismic activity related to high-pressure disposal wells had caused the pool failure.

"A lot of people jumped to those conclusions, but as far as we know, it has nothing to do with the oil boom or earthquakes," said Mark Lockwood, regional West Texas parks director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife

Department.

Instead, he said, engineers suspect more mundane forces might have undermined the wall.

"The area where we had the problem is under the high dive, near the main exit spot for the water. We end up with a lot of swirling water that erodes the side of the pool," he said.

Repairs are expected to take months, he said, and until then, the 80-year-old pool, which in the summer draws thousands of guests a week from as far away as Europe, will remain closed. Large flashing road signs now warn arriving tourists of the closure.

Houston-based Apache Corp. shook up the Permian Basin two years ago by announcing its discovery of the Alpine High field in southwestern Reeves

County.

The play may yield 3 billion barrels of oil and 75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, likely making it the largest new field in the nation's hottest oil play.

Over the next 30 years, the company says, it plans to drill about 5,000 wells in an unspoiled region that not only includes freshwater springs but is near the Davis Mountains and the McDonald Observatory. Drilling won't extend to Jeff Davis County, where the observatory is located.

The announcement brought anxiety and uncertainty in Balmorhea, an oasis of emerald-green irrigated fields in an otherwise drab and dusty corner of Texas.

A charming and quaint town of about

Please see BALMORHEA/4A

## City looking for design firm for new fire stations

From staff reports

The city of Midland needs a pair of new fire stations.

The Midland City Council will vote Tuesday to authorize the issuance of a request for qualifications for professional services for both facilities.

On the drawing board are the new Fire Station 11 and the demolition and redesign of Fire Station 5. A city of Midland memorandum indicates the budgeted amount for both fire stations, excluding the cost of professional service fees and any add alternatives, will be \$8.9 million.

Fire Station 11 will be located on five

Please see DESIGN/4A

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**Did you know?**  
A 19-year-old man was arrested for spray-painting graffiti on two historic San Antonio missions. Page 4A

**The big number**  
**23** That's how many seats the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is looking to spend. Page 7A

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

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**Hidden Hearing Loss is Deviously Sneaky!**

You may have hidden hearing loss and not even know it. The condition erodes common hearing tests, leaving the individual that 70% of her ears are functioning just fine...until the silent siren goes at the most inconvenient time.

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## When will North Texas' booming economy come crashing down?

By Jill Cowan  
The Dallas Morning News

It hardly feels like news anymore that North Texas' economy is churning.

The state has been adding tens of thousands of jobs every month. Dallas-Fort Worth's unemployment rate has been below 4 percent for nearly a year and a half. Employers are struggling to fill open jobs, competing against one another for top talent.

All of which has left economists trying to figure out the answer to an increasingly looming question: When will it end?

Steve Cochrane, managing director at Moody's Analytics, and his colleagues have been tracking different metros' progress through the business cycle — from recession to recovery, to mid- and then late expansion.

Cochrane explained that the designation is tied to an index that takes into account four factors: employment, industrial production, house prices and homebuilding activity. Each one serves as a kind of stand-in for some part of the overall economy.

"Employment, because it's the most recent current data we have on the regional economy," he said. Industrial production gets at the manufacturing health, house prices are a proxy for personal wealth because that's where people build most of their equity, and homebuilding serves as an indicator of investment spending.

You can probably guess where Dallas has been in the progression for roughly the past year.

Yep, the Dallas-Plano-

Irving metro division is in a late expansion period, the Moody's business cycle index shows, since May of last year.

That means the area has less slack in the economic line — unemployment can't go much lower because labor is already hard to find, and costs of living are starting to rise.

"Late expansion areas are ones that are facing constraints to growth," Cochrane said. "Lack of labor, lack of resources, lack of ability to build enough homes."

Without those resources, growth starts to flatten out — and that's exactly what Dallas-area real estate experts have been observing in the region's housing market, especially.

What's particularly notable in recent data, Cochrane said, is that in February and March — the two most recent months of data — every major metro area along Texas' Interstate 35 corridor is in late expansion, except Fort Worth.

"That's surprising for Texas," he said. "Texas almost always has room to grow."

Still, Cochrane said he's waiting for other regions of the country to start kicking into economic overdrive before he really gets worried. At the moment, the Southeast includes some metro areas, like in the Carolinas, that are still in mid-expansion territory — as are some metros in the Midwest.

"If those two areas start to get more green on the map, so to speak," he said, "that would be an indication we're getting an ever increasing amount of tightness throughout the

region." If California's non-coastal metro areas start to hit late expansion, too, he said could be a sign that things are getting stretched.

And that's when recession will likely hit. Cochrane said that growing consensus among economists and other observers is that the U.S. won't see a downturn for another year or so.

"Sometime in 2020 seems to be a period where the risks may be at a peak," he said.

Business spending is expected to continue into next year, thanks in part to the federal tax overhaul, Cochrane said. And the job market is projected to remain strong.

However, he said, some of that spending might trail off, and uncertainty about the country's trade relationships could take a toll. Meanwhile, inflation is expected to rise, which could prompt an increase in short-term interest rates.

And this time, Cochrane said, Dallas and its suburbs could be harder hit by a recession, since the region has worked to bring in a wider variety of corporations. The region's financial sector has grown, especially.

Auto loans and mortgages have a particularly large presence, he noted — and, he said, those are the industries that could be hurt if there was a nationwide consumer downturn.

Nevertheless, Cochrane said, "we don't know what will cause the next recession." But whatever it is will determine which areas are hit hardest.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency.

## Texas Democrats OK with 'pot-smoking lesbian coalition' label

By Erica Grieder  
Houston Chronicle

Texas Democrats had high hopes at the beginning of the 2014 midterm cycle. That made their defeat that year all the more ignominious.

And this year — despite the Republican Party of Texas' lurch to the right and the election of Donald Trump — the Texas Democratic Party struggled to recruit a high-profile gubernatorial candidate.

Lupe Valdez is not a political neophyte; she was first elected Dallas County sheriff in 2005. But she's not well-known across the state, and she's at a material disadvantage heading into the general election campaign.

Incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has more than \$40 million on hand, whereas Valdez has a cardboard box of cobwebs and loose change.

The Democratic Senate nominee, U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, has piqued far more interest, but he's from El Paso and isn't seen as part of the party establishment, exactly. And many of the Democrats running down ballot from O'Rourke and Valdez are first-time candidates for office who were spared into action by the election of Trump, a Republican.

So this time around, fairly or not, no one is expecting much from the Texas Democratic Party, which held its state convention in Fort Worth last week.

Abbott's strategist, Dave Carney, dismissed the party as "a pot-smoking lesbian coalition" after Valdez clinched the nomination in last month's primary runoff. The Republican leaders who spoke at their party's convention in San Antonio last week similarly dismissed the Texas Democratic Party as inept, in addition to left-wing.

The latter criticism has never been true. Texas Democrats have always been relatively centrist compared to their national counterparts. And compared to today's Republicans, Texas Democrats are undeniably mainstream; they support NAFTA, public education, and well, families?

That sounds sarcastic; I apologize. Still, according to a new poll from the University of Texas' Texas Tribune, 57 percent of Texans are opposed to separating parents and children who enter the United States illegally; just 25 percent of Texans approve of that idea.

This week, however, Attorney General Ken Paxton defended the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy, which had already led to over 2,000 children being separated from their parents before he issued an executive order halting the separations.

"What he's doing is securing the border, just like he said he'd do," Paxton said last week in an appearance on Fox Business.

Abbott, for his part, sent a letter to the members of Texas' congressional delegation, urging them to do something about the crisis, which was the result of a policy instituted by Attorney General Jeff Ses-

### COMMENTARY

sions, not a law. "You sought your office to do big things," wrote Abbott, who sought his current office in 2014 in order to continue his long-running fight against the federal government.

In retrospect, I think that year was a turning point for both of Texas' major parties.

The Republicans elected that year, including Abbott and Paxton, were the beneficiaries of the other side's ineptitude. What they may not realize was that many Texas Democrats saw it that way, too.

There was a lot of finger-pointing after the 2014 midterms, and plenty of blame to go around. But even in the immediate aftermath of the shellacking, Texas Democratic Party officials were unfazed by the observation that some of it should go to the party itself. They were happy to concede that things needed to change. And things have changed since then.

In 2016, Texas was one of the few states where Democrats made gains. Republicans saw that as a fluke, because Trump was at the top of the ballot — and it's hard to prove that it wasn't.

But in 2010, Democrats didn't even have a candidate for comptroller, which is a powerful statewide office. And they would sometimes get exasperated when I pointed out that you can't win if you literally don't compete.

This year, it's a different ballgame. In addition to having a full statewide slate, Democrats are contesting every congressional district and most of the Texas House and Senate races. And when Carney sneered about "a pot-smoking lesbian coalition," the Texas Democratic Party responded by printing stickers and T-shirts emblazoned with the phrase.

In thinking about the state of these two parties, while traveling between their two conventions, it occurred to me that Carney's phrase was a bit of a Freudian slip.

The Republican Party of Texas claims to want a big tent, of course; all parties claim that. And party leaders, like Abbott, probably do want your vote. But they also want to stifle dissent. While gathered in San Antonio, delegates censured state Rep. Byron Cook under Rule 44 of their platform — the mechanism they added at the 2016 convention and used earlier this year to censure House Speaker Joe Straus.

Texas Democrats, by contrast, have no such role in the platform they adopted last week. And my Democratic sources have asked me for my perspective on various things, even though they know we disagree on some.

They're curious about what Texas Republicans are thinking in the era of Trump. There's room for conservatives in the Texas Democratic Party's coalition, I suspect. And after a week like this one, it would be hard to fault Texas Republicans for joining the fun.

### Obituaries



**Gary Belmont Laughlin**

Gary Belmont Laughlin, 83, was called to heaven June 21, 2018. Visitation service, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, June 25, 2018, Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory. Funeral service will be held 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 26, 2018 in the sanctuary of Alamo Heights Baptist Church, Midland, Texas. Graveside service will be held 2:00 p.m. at Dawson County Cemetery, in Lamesa, Texas.

Born on October 08, 1934 in Rotan, Texas, to Earl Belmont Laughlin and Sammy Bolin Laughlin. Gary and Alvarene (Rene) were married January 28, 1955 in Roaring Springs, Texas.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, two sons, Jay Laughlin, wife Debbie Laughlin of Andrews, Texas and Reny Laughlin, wife Teresa Laughlin of Arlington, Texas. Sister Earlyne and husband Skeet of Mador, Texas. Seven grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Earl Belmont Laughlin and mother, Sammy Lee Bolin.

The family would like to express their gratitude towards Alamo Heights Baptist Church, Midland, Texas, in lieu of flowers, dona-

tions may be made to Alamo Heights Baptist Church, Midland, Texas.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

**Nalley-Pickle & Welch**  
Funeral Home & Crematory  
(432) 558-5868

### Gentilello Mary A. Noe Davis

Gentilello, Mary A. Noe Davis, 74, of Tuckerton, N.J., passed away Thursday, June 21, 2018 at Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune, N.J. She was born in Newark, N.J., residing there prior to moving to South Jersey. She was one of the original hires of Southern Ocean State Bank, Little Egg Harbor, N.J., where she worked her way up, becoming Assistant Vice President. Mary is survived by her husband Louis Gentilello, and were together and married for over 37 years. Also surviving is her son Paul Cieri and wife Wanda, and granddaughter Megan Marie Cieri, sisters Arlene Mancini and husband Joseph, and Eunice Roddermann and husband John, and brother Eric Davis and wife Josie, and extended family in N.J., PA, and TX.

Visitation will be Tuesday, June 26, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. & 7:00-9:00 p.m. at WOOD FUNERAL HOME, 134 EAST MAIN ST., TUCKERTON, N.J. For condolences and more information visit [www.woodfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.woodfuneralhomeinc.com).

**Death Notices**  
**Consuelo Payen de Franco**  
Prayer services for Mrs. Consuelo Payen de Franco of Midland, Texas have been set for Monday June 25, 2018 at

7:00 p.m. and Tuesday June 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will begin Monday at 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services will be held in Ojinaga, Mexico and interment will follow at Panteon Las Colinas.

She passed away Friday June 22, 2018 in Midland.

She is survived by her daughter Diana Franco of Midland, Two sons Angel Franco of Chihuahua, Mexico and Francisco Franco of Midland.

Three Sisters and Three Brothers.

Four Grandchildren and 1 Great Grandchild.

### John Butler Steward

John Butler Steward, 85 of Midland, Texas passed away on June 21, 2018. There will be a funeral service on Monday, June 25, 2018 in the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

### Joseph Marvin Nash

Joseph Marvin Nash, 90, passed away June 23, 2018 in his home. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at Resthaven Memorial Park, Midland, Texas.

He is survived by one daughter, Susan Berry of Midland; 4 grandchildren.

Floral arrangements may be sent to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland, Texas.

All Obituaries must be submitted by 3:30 P.M. prior to next publication day.

## Democrats have their warts and a superstar

By Ken Herman

Austin  
American-Statesman

June 23—FORT WORTH — Some take-aways taken away from three days with 7,500 or so delegates at the Texas Democratic Convention:

In general, the Dems didn't approve a platform with nearly the volume of nutty stuff the Repubs did at their convention. Oh, there's plenty in the Dem platform that some folks won't like, but there's nothing approaching the GOP calls for getting the U.S. out of the U.N., the U.N. out of the U.S. and the fluoride out of the water.

Some of the more radical stuff I heard at the Democratic convention came in comments blurted out in meetings or proclaimed by somebody at the mic on the convention floor.

At a platform session, I heard a woman rail against open carry of weapons by saying, "I don't want to see a gun when I go to Kroger to buy my cottage cheese." It's an interesting notion about one woman's interesting notion about what she has a right not to see when purchasing dairy products.

Also perhaps not helpful to efforts to win Texas elections was El Paso's state Sen. José Rodríguez's declaration that "all immigrants are welcome ... no matter how they got here." All? Really? No matter how?

This next one is a maybe. Former state Rep. Paul Colbert, D-Houston, one of the handful of people who really understand how school finance works, told the platform committee this about the Republicans: "Their goal is to destroy public schools and turn it into a profit center for their friends."

The Dem platform calls for a moratorium on new

### COMMENTARY

charter schools, proclaiming they "have proliferated under lax state oversight, little accountability and great cost to taxpayers."

"Ongoing problems of fiscal mismanagement, self-dealing, increased segregation of students and the inefficiency of public funding a parallel system of schools require a time-out to examine these problems and their impact on students and the state budget," the platform says.

More notes worth noting: In what might or might not have had cosmic meaning, the Saturday platform process started at 8 a.m. when a party staffer entered the room carrying draft versions in a Star Wars box.

And, despite her impressive performance in keeping the platform committee on task, shouldn't Chair Celia Israel, an Austin state rep, have recused herself from the discussion about the two-state solution in the Middle East?

Regardless of your political leanings (or lack of same) you owe it to yourself to catch the Beto O'Rourke show live when it comes to a town near you. This guy is world class on the stump, up there in the rarefied air with the best I've seen in four decades of seeing folks stump. Texaswise, he's in the top echelon with Henry Cisneros and Ann Richards and, I'm sure, some charismatic Republican I'm forgetting. (Actually, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz is pretty good in his unique Cruzian way.)

Fearless prediction: O'Rourke could beat Cruz in November and end up as president someday. Or he could lose to Cruz and never be heard from again.

Either way, go see his show now, even if you're inspired to boo everything

he says.

And while we're talking about unique shows, you also should go see Kim Olson, a retired Air Force colonel and pilot who's challenging GOP Ag Commish Sid Miller. At the convention, she declared herself a "bad-ass woman with class and self-confidence." Seems about right.

Miller and Olson are what many non-Texans think all Texans look and sound like. They deserve each other in a political race. Olson could be one of the few people who can out-Texas Miller. I'd pay semipro money to see these two debate, preferably in someplace really Texan, maybe Muleshoe.

Oh, and Dem lit guy candidate Mike Collier is a funny accountant. OK, so that's a small category. (Memo to accountants, certified and otherwise: Hold your emailed complaints. My brother's a CPA. Ask me some day about a can't-miss joke Dad managed to botch.)

Collier's going to try to get under GOP Lite Gov Dan Patrick's skin with lines like "My hair is real, my name is real, and my Ford F-150 is real."

As Texas Democrats search for a winning formula — more liberal/progressive? less liberal/progressive? — state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, offered this in her convention speech: "I've never been more proud to be a member of a party of a bunch of bleeding-heart liberals."

"In what backward, mean-spirited, unfeeling, soulless world was it decided that the adjective bleeding-heart was an insult when describing a person?" she asked.

It's a world we call "Texas," mm hm.

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WORD OF THE DAY brought to you daily by



Loquacious [loh-KWAY-shus] adjective 1: full of excessive talk: wordy 2: given to fluent or excessive talk: garrulous



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VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

PICES (Feb. 19-March 20)

BORN TODAY

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Keeping cool at Bible school



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Things to do

- Summer Kid's Art Camp: Outer Space Week. For ages 4-13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Kidd's and Canvas Parties, 3300 N. Midland Road, \$45 per day, \$150 all four days. kiddart.com
Grub Burger Bar Profit Share benefiting the Midland Humane Coalition, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., 4400 N. Midland Drive. Inform the cashier you are there for MHC.
SciGirls STEM Camp will screen the "SciGirls" show and feature activities related to engineering, science and more for ages 9-12, 4-5:15 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2511 W. Loop 250 N.
Bringo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1308 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.
Open Shop Nights are hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public, 6:30-9 p.m., 602 S. Main St. Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects. midlandgemandmineral.org
Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Westley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-5095.
Monday Night Jam features unlimited bowling for \$14.09 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com
Death Valley High, 7 p.m., Desert Flower Art Bar and Lounge, 123 S. Main St., Big Spring, \$10-\$33.
"Bandstand the Broadway Musical," 7 p.m., Regal Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$19.45. lishomevents.com
Studio Ghita Fest 2018: "Pam Poik" (satellite), 7 p.m., Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250. \$13.50. lishomevents.com

Meetings

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

Pool hours today

The Doug Russell Aquatic Center, 900 N. Midland Drive, noon to 7 p.m.
Wedington Aquatic Center, 1601 E. Indiana Ave., is closed today.
The entry fee for both pools is \$3 per person. Children under 2 are free.

Vacation Bible school this week

VBS 2018: Bible Boot Camp: The Full Armor of God, 8:30-9:30 a.m. today through Thursday at Namo Heights Baptist Church.

Bella Gonzales, left, and Lilly Conde, right, pass water balloons during vacation Bible school on June 20 at First Christian Church.

1305 N. Midland Drive.
VBS 2018: "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus" for children in pre-kindergarten to sixth grade, 5:30-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday at First Methodist Midland, 300 N. Main St. firstmethodistmidland.com/vbs
VBS 2018: "Game On! Gearing Up For Life's Big Game." Dinner served nightly. Transportation can be provided by calling 432-200-4885, 6-8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Macedonia Baptist Church, 201 S. Carver St.
VBS 2018: "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus" for children in pre-kindergarten to sixth grade, 6-8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at True-Life Christian Fellowship Church, 3001 N. "A" St.
VBS 2018: "A Jaguar" features classes

for children and adults, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Iglesia Bautista Betel, 3225 W. Ohio Ave.
Today in history
Today is Monday, June 25, the 178th day of 2018. There are 189 days left in the year.
On this date:
In 1896, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was enacted.
In 1947, "The Diary of a Young Girl," the personal journal of Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl hiding with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, was first published.
In 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces

from the communist North invaded the South.
In 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that male-only draft registration was constitutional.
In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a five-item veto law as unconstitutional, and ruled that HIV-infected people were protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
In 2006, death claimed Michael Jackson, the "King of Pop," in Los Angeles at age 50 and actress Farrah Fawcett in Santa Monica, California, at age 62.
Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Willie Reed is 76. Singer Carly Simon is 73. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is 64.

Source: The Associated Press

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Sunday's temperatures
High.....108R
Low.....79
Normal high.....94
Normal low.....69

June 24's records
High: 108, set in 1990 and equaled Sunday
Low: 60, set in 1940 and equaled in 1946

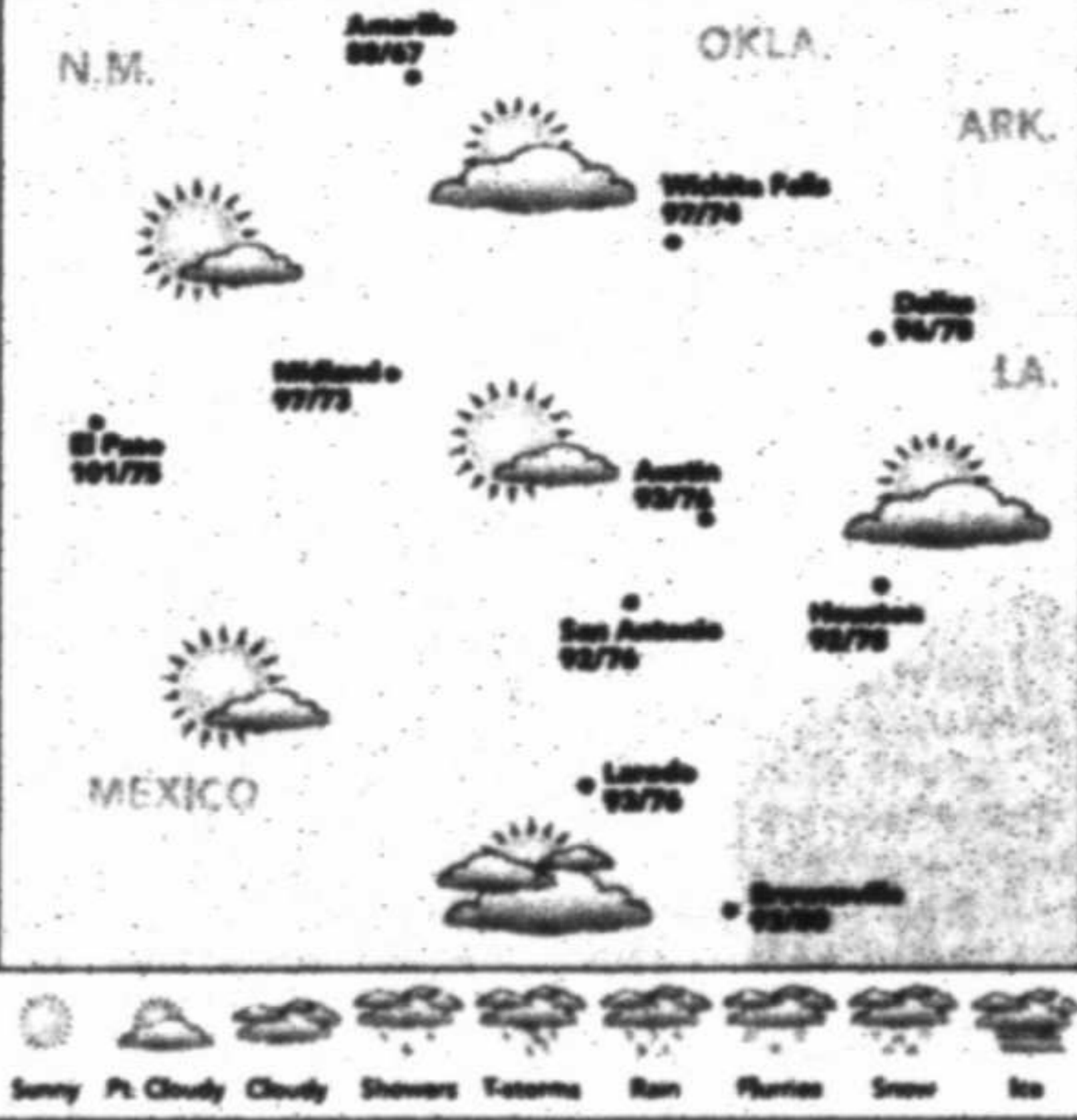
Precipitation
Sunday.....0.00 inches
Saturday.....0.00 inches
Month total.....1.89 inches
Year total.....2.73 inches
Normal total (year to date)...5.71 inches

Winds
Average speed: 20.9 mph
Highest sustained wind

speed: 27 mph
Highest gust speed: 36 mph

Today's forecast
High: 99
Low: 76
Conditions: Mostly sunny during the day/partly cloudy at night
Winds: 15-20 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: 20 percent during the day and night
Sunrise.....6:44 a.m.
Sunset.....8:58 p.m.

Forecast for Monday, June 25, 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 Cancer and a Moon in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, June 25, 2018: This year you might not realize the power of your creativity. You will make your goals and desires happen because of this gift. If you are single, your desirability draws in many different types of suitors. The person you choose could be more significant to your life than you realize. If you are attached, the two of you can't seem to get enough of each other. Your closeness becomes a high priority. SAGITTARIUS seems to always be questioning your decisions.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You have a tendency to be overindulgent energies. You enjoy spending money, but you will need to rein yourself in. You know how much better you feel about the wilder moments if you can hold yourself back. News might be exciting, but still could be a gateway.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
In order to accomplish what you desire, one-on-one relating is necessary. You will find that a friend reveals

a whole new side of his or her personality. Take in all the information that is being released. An issue involving property becomes a high priority. Tonight: A force to behold.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You might not intend to get all the attention today, but somehow you do. Honor a fast change of pace. As a result, you are likely to feel more accomplished. Be more forthright with how you handle a close friend or loved one. Tonight: Remain responsive to someone's request.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Be more in tune with what is happening around you. Your ability to get past a problem marks your day. As a result, others see that the same path might work for them. Your ingenuity sees as well as your responsiveness to others. Tonight: Be willing to pitch in and help a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 23)
Allow your creativity to open up, especially in a discussion with a family member. Your feelings are close to the surface, and you might have difficulty verbalizing them in a way that is

acceptable to this person. Think carefully before you speak. Tonight: Head to a favorite spot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Remain anchored, despite an overwhelming amount of incoming calls. You might choose not to reveal everything you know just yet. Your follow-through makes a big difference in the results. Recognize that others know when you are holding back. Tonight: Listen rather than talk.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Take what is being shared with a grain of salt. Until you know that the other party is anchored in reality, you might find him or her to be very spacy. Being a bit skeptical is necessary. A friend gives you important feedback. Tonight: Be whiter over the action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Take a break and remain confident in your

judgment. For the most part, you have been on a winning streak. Still, be aware of issues that surround you and how they might be coloring the moment. Reach out a friend who seems more secure than you. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
You clearly are in your element. You have a substantial edge on many of the people around you, at least now and tomorrow. Though you are not into one-upmanship, you like coming out a winner. This news with a grain of a salt. Tonight: Whatever you do works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You might feel as if something or someone is off. In essence, what you are feeling is that you are not getting the whole story, but instead several rather sparse facts. You know what questions to ask. Several associates and friends share an earful. Tonight: Make it early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You will be on top of what is occurring. You also know how to use timing to your advantage. A friend might reveal more than he or she should. You could be dragged into a disagreement that you would prefer not to address. Tonight: Hang out with a loved one.

PICES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You might want to rethink an issue that keeps coming up in different forms. You could be exhausted by everything that is going on. Reach out to a friend for feedback. At times, you believe you need to take the lead and head down a different path. Tonight: A force to be noticed.

BORN TODAY
Author George Orwell (1903), singer/songwriter Carly Simon (1945), singer/songwriter George Michael (1963)

Advertisement for Airdserv featuring a tree graphic and text: "Trees not looking like you want them? Try Aildredge Gardens' SUMMER TREE FEED BLEND. CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS AT AIRDSEV."

Advertisement for Airdserv: "AIRDSEV HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING a neighborhood company. KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE 10 YEAR LABOR WARRANTY. Call Today! 432-630-8229"

# US imports more seafood in 2017 than previous years

By Patrick Whittle  
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — The United States imported more seafood last year than at any point in its history, and the nation's trade deficit in the sector is growing, federal data show. The U.S. imported more than 6 billion pounds of seafood valued at more than \$21.5 billion in 2017, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees American fisheries. The country exported more than 3.6 billion pounds valued at about \$6 billion.

The widening gap comes at a time when Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who heads the federal agency that includes NOAA, has identified reducing the deficit as a priority for the government.

The U.S. is home to major commercial fisheries for species such as Pacific salmon, New England lobster and Alaska pollock, but it imports more than 90 percent of the seafood the public consumes.

Ross and others in U.S. fisheries are looking at new strategies to cut the deficit, including increasing the amount of aquaculture-based farming, said Jennie Lyons, a NOAA spokeswoman.

The U.S. trades in seafood with countries all over the world, and the countries it buys the most from include Canada, China and Chile. Major buyers of U.S. seafood include China, Japan and South Korea.

While U.S. fishermen would love to grow commercial fisheries, it's important to note that domestic and imported seafood are both important parts of the supply chain and support thousands of American jobs, said

Gravin Gibbons, spokesman for the National Fisheries Institute.

He added that the trade imbalance isn't caused by a lack of fish to catch in U.S. waters, as NOAA announced this spring the number of overfished fish stocks in the country is at an all-time low.

"Our stocks are fished to the maximum sustainable yield. In order to feed Americans, and to feed the raw materials into the jobs that are needed, we have to get it from overseas," Gibbons said.

Some of the seafood items that American consumers are especially fond of, including tuna, salmon and shrimp, are heavily dependent on foreign imports to make it to U.S. markets and restaurants. Some species, such as lobsters, are caught in the U.S., exported to other countries that have greater processing capacity, and return to the U.S. as imports.

In this way, the U.S. and its trade partners depend on each other to satisfy worldwide demand for seafood products, said Geoff Irvine, executive director of the Lobster Council of Canada.

## POLICIES

From 1A

terminated employee will be paid six months' salary in the event of an involuntary separation.

The changes to personnel policies will include the city not being obligated to pay the severance for the following reasons:

- conviction of a felony (current policy);
- conviction of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude (which means

a misdemeanor involving dishonesty fraud or deceit);

■ misconduct or violation of city policy, rule or regulation that by its nature has an adverse effect on the city, the confidence of the public in the integrity of the city or the relationship of the employee and other employees.

Henry's termination would have fallen under the third scenario, city officials previously said.

## DESIGN

From 1A

acres of land in northwest Midland, on Briarwood Avenue, west of Holiday Hill Road. It is to be built on land donated by Callon Petroleum Operation Co. As a condition of this donation, the city is required to begin construction of a fire station within six years of conveyance. Fire station 11 will be the more extensive of the two with a budgeted amount of \$4.75 million.

Fire Station 5 is located at Garfield Street and Golf Course Road in central Midland. It was built in 1958. The cost for demolition and construction of a

new, two-story fire station at that location is \$4.15 million.

Both items were discussed during the city council workshop in May.

The city's newest fire station was unveiled in April. Fire Station 6, located at 301 Tradewinds Boulevard in west Midland, had a budget of \$5.5 million but expenditures of \$5.01 million were reported during the workshop in April. Also included in Fire Station 6 is a small police substation for officers who are far from the downtown police station to complete necessary duties while on shift.

## STATE&REGIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

### AUSTIN

#### Woman, 24, charged with hit-and-run, fatal shooting

Austin police have arrested and charged a 24-year-old woman with murder for a hit-and-run crash and fatal shooting last week.

Police say Cierra Powell is jailed on \$150,000 bond and charged with the death of 36-year-old Jason Aranda.

Austin television station KXAN reports that according to a police affidavit, witnesses said a woman deliberately hit Aranda at a southeast Austin intersection Thursday and then fled the scene. The affidavit says Powell told authorities Aranda got out of his car and she shot him in self-defense when he tried to attack her. It also says Aranda's 13-year-old son was in his father's car at the time of the shooting.

Authorities say the Powell and Aranda knew each other.

### CORPUS CHRISTI

#### Missing \$65,000 bronze statue found in Corpus Christi Bay

A bronze statue worth about \$65,000 and reported missing Friday from a Corpus Christi waterfront

sculpture has been found in the water about 100 yards from where it had been displayed.

Police in Corpus Christi say officers followed a trail of bolts and drag marks that led to the bay where divers have recovered the statue of philanthropist Shirley "Sam" Fielder Durrill.

Authorities hope to review surveillance videos to see if they can determine who took it and dumped it in the water.

Police Lt. Tommy Nichols says it's likely more than one person was involved since the statue weighs 200 to 300 pounds.

Officials say the piece of art will be cleaned and eventually returned to its spot in a few weeks.

### SAN ANTONIO

#### Man charged in graffiti painting of historic missions

A 19-year-old man has been arrested and two other people are being sought for spray-painting graffiti on two historic San Antonio missions.

One of the paint messages was: "I don't care. Do you?" It's the meme displayed on the back of first lady Melania Trump's jacket as she boarded a plane Thursday to South Texas to visit immigrant children.

San Antonio police say Andres Castaneda turned himself in late Friday night. The graffiti was sprayed late Thursday or early Friday on walls of the 18th-century Mission San Jose and Mission San Juan. Castaneda is charged with felony defacing of a church or school.

Contractors have worked to remove the paint but officials say that removal also strips a layer of plaster from the walls.

### NEW MEXICO

#### The Historic Taos Inn is up for sale for \$7.1M

TAOS — The Historic Taos Inn in New Mexico is up for sale.

The Albuquerque Journal reports the 44-room hotel, bar and restaurant that spans two acres and is comprised of several 19th century adobe buildings is on the market for \$7.1 million.

The current ownership group has had the hotel for 30 years.

The Taos Inn was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

It opened in 1936 as the Hotel Martin — named after Dr. Thomas Paul "Doc" and Helen Martin, who came to Taos in the 1890s.

The doctor had his practice in what is now the restaurant and couple purchased the surrounding

buildings. When her husband died, Helen Martin enclosed a plaza in the center of the properties and turned it into a hotel.

### OKLAHOMA CITY

#### Oil, gas production rises in Oklahoma; workforce declines

An economist at the Oklahoma City branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City says oil and gas production is increasing but with fewer employees.

Chad Wilkerson writes in the Oklahoma Economist that increased production is due to improved technology, which has also led to fewer active rigs.

In October 2014, 1,924 oil and gas rigs and about 200,700 employees in the industry produced about 9.1 million barrels of oil daily nationwide. Now about 1,060 active rigs with about 151,500 employees produce an estimated 10.7 million barrels daily.

Oklahoma City University economics chairman Russell Evans said Oklahoma had about 64,000 workers in 2014 and about 52,000 today.

Wilkerson says diversifying the state's economy with jobs allowing workers to transfer skills, like analyzing data and logistics, would offset job losses.

## BALMORHEA

From 1A

600 people best known for its speedy six-man football teams and the fabulous swimming pool, Balmorhea had changed little over the decades before the oil play.

News of the enormous energy find also brought stark warnings from environmentalists about the potential danger to the San Solomon Springs, which feed the Balmorhea pool.

If things go wrong, they said, the flows easily could disappear, as had the once abundant Comanche Springs in Fort Stockton that went dry from over-pumping in the 1960s.

Apache already has drilled about 145 wells in the field, with about half in production. To date, most of them are natural gas wells, with drilling focused on oil to come later, company spokeswoman Castlen Kennedy said.

Late last year, seismic monitors were installed in the area. At least four scientific studies also are underway, including two undertaken by Apache. They are focused on everything from earthquake activity to water quality to the still unclear source and hydrology of the famous springs.

There also are 90 active disposal wells in Reeves County, according to the Texas Railroad Commission, which in 2014 imposed new rules limiting injections in areas of high seismicity.

The increase in disposal wells tracks a big uptick in seismic activity in the county, where moderately strong earthquakes now are a weekly occurrence.

Kennedy said Apache Corp. does not use deep injection wells to dispose of water in the Alpine High area. Other companies operate disposal wells in Reeves County.

Neta Rhyne, 65, who owns a dive shop near the pool that's temporarily idle, is one of the oil boom's few outspoken critics.

"It's quiet now, but it's deceiving. They are quietly destroying everything. Balmorhea is just a little island surrounded by all this activity," she said.

Rhyne fears a strong quake near Balmorhea could permanently disrupt the underground springflows.

"I have been attending hearings at the Texas Railroad Commission on the disposal wells since 2016. I have protested over 45 and about 15 have pulled their applications," she said.

### QUAKES COMMON TO NORTH

To see the future, Rhyne says, one need only look 35 miles north to Pecos, where drilling activity has been intense for several years, and where numerous injection wells are located.

Although only a few tremors have been felt so far in Balmorhea, in Pecos earthquakes are now commonplace, said Joel Chavez, 25, a middle school science teacher there.

In late 2016, he became intrigued with the tremors after he was shaken in his bed. He soon persuaded the University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology to install a seismic monitor outside Crocker Middle School where he teaches.

There now are 23 monitors in West Texas, including one near Balmorhea State Park, all part of the TexNet system.

The monitors in Reeves County have recorded hundreds of earthquakes already this year. While most can't be felt on the surface, in Pecos there are plenty of stronger ones, Chavez said. "We feel the vibration,

They are pretty often, about once a week, and those are pretty noticeable. People start posting on social media," he said, adding that some of the quakes also generate a loud noise.

"It definitely contributes to a worsening of our quality of life, along with other things like air quality and water quality, that still need investigating," said Chavez, who has little doubt they are tied to the deep injection wells.

A monitoring device installed near the Balmorhea park in September 2017 already has recorded two "clusters" of moderately strong earthquakes, both south of town, the Bureau of Economic Geology reports.

"We have a plan to start correlating information between deep wells and seismicity to see if there is any correlation, but so far it's not established," said Alexander Savvidis, manager of the Tex-Net project.

An ongoing study of water quality, undertaken by Apache, thus far has revealed no signs of contamination in either the springflows or well water used for drinking in the Balmorhea area, said Zachariah Hildebrand, a biochemist at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"We're in the second year of this study. It's a sensitive ecology and everyone is looking very closely at what is going on in West Texas," he said.

He said the partnership with Apache has been exemplary, with the company going so far as to share proprietary information on fracturing compounds so they can be studied in experiments.

"We're basically screening these water samples for about 3,000 different variables, including about 2,500 microbial species, which can

be a harbinger of contamination, as well as hundreds of chemical compounds, and a myriad of metals," he said.

So far, he added, "nothing of note," has been detected in samples taken and tested from about 20 sites around Balmorhea. A report likely will be published next year.

Citing the various air, water and soil studies done earlier, as well as ongoing monitoring programs, Kennedy reaffirmed the company's commitment to responsible development.

"Apache continually works to ensure our development of Alpine High is setting the highest standards for safety and environmental stewardship," she said by email.

### OIL PERCH JOBS

Today, almost two years since the first wells were drilled and flared around here, Balmorhea seems largely unchanged to visitors, and much of the initial anxiety has abated.

Paul Motta, 49, an early skeptic of the boom, acknowledged many of his fears have not been realized.

"I pictured dozens of wells around town. Flare all over the place, but that has not materialized, and I'm happy for that," he said.

But the story isn't over yet, he said. "I don't know what's coming if the price of oil goes up. The thing I feared most is them drilling near our drinking water (wells) and the pool, or west of it," he added.

Although there is a frenzy of oil field activity beyond Interstate 10 to the north, very little is yet visible around town. And while restaurants are more crowded, the oil field traffic in town is still light.

On hot summer days, cowboys children frolic — just as their parents once did — in the spring

that flows through town under giant cottonwoods. In the cool of the evening, the older folks visit at the picnic tables beside the stream.

About the only sign of the oil boom in town are the white RVs now tacked into almost every vacant lot, housing oilfield workers who rarely are seen in daylight hours.

"We now have 11 RV parks in this little bitty town. That's mine right over there," said Phil Brinjalas, 69, a city councilman, indicating four RV units in a lot on San Antonio Street.

Almost all the local young men are working in the oil patch, he said, some making \$25 an hour to start. That's as much as he ever was paid in a 35-year career with the electric company.

The public's worries about contamination of drinking water and damage to the springs generally have receded, he said.

"It worries me some, but everything around here is private property. We have no control. It's poor ranch country. If there is oil, they will go for it," he said of landowners.

And so far, he said, Apache has been generous to the community, donating more than \$150,000 to the school and a new truck to the Fire Department.

Reeves County Justice of the Peace Remondo Carrasco, 73, born and raised here, said the boom has brought him only a few more spending tickets and DWIs.

"There are a few people who are fearful of the springs drying out, but most people are happy. Anyone who has a business or a restaurant in Balmorhea is happy," he said.

If the springs were to fall, he said, it would "put a big hurt on Balmorhea."

feeds the lake, and we have a lot of people who come swimming," he said.

Joel Madrid, 58, owns a restaurant and motel in town, and is also reporting 50 RV slips to oilfield workers, with another 30 soon to come.

He said the boom already has more than doubled his business. He thinks it's here to stay and is investing in his properties.

"Let me tell you man, it's just been awesome," he said. "I think it's gonna be here. So, I'm adding on. Jump on it, while it's here."

### THE 'HIDDEN GEM'

Back at the state park, the only visitors (one week earlier this month) at the closed pool was a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department team of scientists.

Armed with nets and kayaks, its members had come to capture Comanche Springs pupfish and the Pecos gambusia, both endangered species. The effort is part of a broad multi-agency study of the springs.

"They are getting baseline data on the species that will be used to follow them through time," Park Superintendent Carolyn Rose said of the fish catches.

Purchasing tickets and townfolk are willing to jump back into the pristine waters.

"They used to say the park was a hidden gem in West Texas. Well it's not hidden anymore," Rose said. Last year, she noted, park officials were forced to impose a daily visitor cap to avoid overcrowding.

In the meantime, the black headwater catfish and silvery Mexican tetra will have the 1.5 million-gallon pool all to themselves.

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# OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, June 25, 2018 | Page 6A

## Southern Poverty Law Center loses all credibility

After years of smearing good people with false charges of bigotry, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has finally been held to account. A former Islamic radical named Maajid Nawaz sued the center for including him in its bogus "Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists," and last week the SPLC agreed to pay him a \$3.375 million settlement and issued a public apology.

The SPLC is a once-storied organization that did important work filing civil rights lawsuits against the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s. But it has become a caricature of itself, labeling virtually anyone who does not fall in line with its left-wing ideology an "extremist" or "hate group."

Nawaz is a case in point. Since abandoning Islamic radicalism, he has advised three British prime ministers and created the Quilliam Foundation, to fight extremism. He is not anti-Muslim. He is a Muslim and has argued that "Islam is a religion of peace."

So how did he end up in the SPLC's pseudo-guide to anti-Muslim bigots? His crime, apparently, is that he has become a leading critic of the radical Islamist ideology he once embraced. Thanks to his courage, the SPLC has been forced to pay a multimillion-dollar penalty and



Washington Post Writers Group

acknowledge in a statement that it was "wrong" and that Nawaz has "made valuable and important contributions to public discourse, including by promoting pluralism and condemning both anti-Muslim bigotry and Islamist extremism."

Let's hope this settlement is the first of many, because this is not the first time the SPLC has done this. In 2010, it placed the Family Research Council (FRC) — a conservative Christian advocacy group that opposes abortion and same-sex marriage — on its "hate map." Two years later, a gunman walked into the FRC headquarters with the intention to "kill as many as possible and smear the Chick-fil-A sandwiches in victims' faces." He told the FBI that he had used the SPLC website to pick his target.

Unfortunately, many in the media still take the SPLC seriously. Last year, ABC

News ran a story headlined: "Jeff Sessions addresses 'anti-LGBT hate group,'" in which it reported that "Sessions addressed members of the Alliance Defending Freedom, which was designated an 'anti-LGBT hate group' by the Southern Poverty Law Center in 2016." The Alliance Defending Freedom is a respected organization of conservative lawyers dedicated to defending religious liberty, and it just argued a case before the Supreme Court, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. It won, 7 to 2. It is not a "hate group." If anything, it is fighting anti-Christian hate.

In 2014, the SPLC placed Ben Carson — later a Republican presidential candidate and now the current secretary of housing and urban development — on its "extremist watch list," alongside neo-Nazis and white supremacists. After an uproar, the group removed him and apologized.

The SPLC also lists Charles Murray, a colleague of mine at the American Enterprise Institute and one of the most respected conservative intellectuals in the United States, on its website as a "White Nationalist." Last year, an angry mob of students, many citing the SPLC's designation, physically attacked Murray during a

speech at Middlebury College.

He escaped unharmed, but the liberal professor who invited him ended up in the hospital.

Little wonder that Nawaz was not just angry but also afraid about being designated an extremist by the SPLC. He told the Atlantic in 2016, "They put a target on my head. The kind of work that I do, if you tell the wrong kind of Muslims that I'm an extremist, then that means I'm a target."

Unfortunately, the settlement that the SPLC reached with Nawaz is not likely to deter it from smearing others — \$3.4 million is a drop in the bucket for the center, which raised \$132 million between November 2016 and October 2017 and has a \$477 million endowment, including a reported \$92 million in offshore accounts. Slimming conservatives is big business.

The only way to stop the SPLC is if people stop giving it money and the media stop quoting it or taking it seriously. The SPLC once did important work fighting the Ku Klux Klan. But when it declares Maajid Nawaz, the Family Research Council, Ben Carson and Charles Murray as moral equivalents of the Klan, it loses all integrity and credibility.

### GUEST VIEW

## Cruz control — media infatuation means nothing compared to votes

Now Ted Cruz is supposedly hearing footsteps. Forget what some think the junior U.S. senator from Texas may be hearing, because seeing is believing. And we don't see it.

In yet another case of media nonsense, there are those predicting the demise of Cruz because of his stance on immigration — how he allegedly flip-flopped on President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy on the children of illegal immigrants. (Cruz stated he opposed the former policy.)

The immigration issue offered yet another opportunity for media salvation regarding Beto O'Rourke, a Democrat U.S. representative from El Paso challenging Cruz for the U.S. Senate.

Consider this from a recent post in [www.vanityfair.com](http://www.vanityfair.com) by Abigail Tracy.

Tracy quoted "Republican strategist John Weaver, a longtime adviser to Ohio Governor John Kasich," as saying Cruz is "hearing footsteps and is rightly anxious about his own hide."

Writes Tracy, "Cruz will face a formidable re-election challenge from ... O'Rourke, who may be the Democrats' best chance in decades to flip Texas blue."

It is puzzling why so much of the media is fixated on O'Rourke. Evidently, these members of the media did not pay attention to the primaries in Texas this past March.

In a three-candidate field of Democrats, media darling O'Rourke got 644,632 votes. Cruz got 1,322,724 votes in a five-candidate GOP field.

In other words, Cruz more than doubled O'Rourke in primary votes despite having more opponents.

Many have been predicting the fall of Cruz since he challenged Trump for the GOP presidential nomination. Well, Cruz went on to win the GOP primary for U.S. Senate.

Now some are predicting Cruz's demise from a Democrat congressman in arguably the reddest (most conservative) state in the nation.

We don't see it. Our prediction is that Cruz will cruise (pardon the pun) to a relatively convincing win over O'Rourke. And those in the media who keep predicting Cruz's downfall will have to find a new source for their infatuation.

— Amarillo Globe-News

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

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## Midland Reporter-Telegram

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### TO OUR READERS

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## Trump administration has its motto

**DANA MILBANK**

Washington Post Writers Group

*I really don't care, do u?*

Lawmakers complained this last week to Trump's commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, that the administration's haphazard implementation of trade barriers is causing havoc for farmers, small businesses and manufacturers. Ross responded by calling such notions "exaggerated" and "not our fault."

A week earlier, as *The Washington Post's* Jeff Stein and Andrew van Dam wrote, Trump's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that wages after inflation have fallen over the past year for production and nonsupervisory workers — 80 percent of all privately employed workers. That means economic "gains are going almost exclusively to people already at the top of the economic ladder." And the tax cuts further widen the gap between the rich and everybody else.

*I really don't care, do u?*

Trump's budget proposal this year, sensibly ignored by Congress, would have cut Medicaid by \$306 billion over 10 years, food stamps by \$214 billion, nutritional help for mothers and children, and heating assistance for the poor, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The Trump administration is also reducing enforcement of fair-housing laws. And Trump said Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico was not a "real catastrophe" and said Puerto Ricans "want everything to be done for them." It now appears thousands died.

*I really don't care, do u?*

Trump said there were "very fine people" among the neo-Nazi marching in Charlottesville last summer. He declared a ban on transgender people in the military and later imposed a partial ban. His administration ordered prosecutors to seek maximum penalties for even nonviolent drug crimes.

*I really don't care, do u?*

Now come reports that Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller — architects and leading defenders of Trump's child-separation policy — were heckled in separate incidents in recent days while dining at Mexican restaurants. Another report this last week highlighted the discovery that Miller's great-grandfather had his naturalization petition denied because of "ignorance."

I don't like incivility, or cheap shots. But you know what else? I really don't care, do u?

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Midland Fillmore



# Democrats hoping to flip House not just trash-talking Trump

By Steve LeBlanc  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Democrats hoping to flip enough seats to regain control of the U.S. House of Representatives say they aren't putting all their eggs in the anti-Trump basket.

Those candidates include Lauren Underwood, a 31-year-old registered nurse from Illinois and part of the Democrats' master plan to regain control of the House.

While Underwood is no fan of President Donald Trump, she said her No. 1 concern — and the top concern of the voters she hopes to win — is access to health care.

Attacking the Republican president hard just isn't necessarily a winning play in Illinois' 14th congressional district, said Underwood, who served as an adviser to the Department of Health and Human Services under Democratic President Barack Obama.

"I don't talk about him that much. He has a higher approval rating than my congressman does, so we talk about our congressman," said Underwood, who's hoping to oust incumbent Republican Rep. Randy Hultgren in a district that narrowly backed Trump two years ago.

Other Democrats aiming to flip House seats say they're also trying to zero in on policy more than the president.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has its hopes pinned on 50-plus candidates looking to upend enough seats — 23 — to wrest control of the chamber from the GOP for the first time in eight years.

Republicans have their own plan to retain control, but Democrats are banking they have more than just both momentum and history on their side.

U.S. Rep. Denny Heck is helping lead the effort to flip the House. The Washington Democrat said the

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee can assist candidates with a range of tasks — from tapping into a national donor base to aiding with the basic mechanics of building a campaign.

But he warned that trash-talking Trump will get a candidate only so far.

"What candidates ought to be doing is talking about that crowded freeway that they need to get additional funds to widen or additional funds to provide mass transit for, or that lake that is becoming polluted and they need the EPA to step up," Heck said.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell is also on the "Red to Blue" list.

Mucarsel-Powell, who came from Ecuador as an immigrant with her mother, said Florida's 26th Congressional District — the state's southernmost district — is one of the most vulnerable for Republicans in the country. She pointed to a 16-point win by Hillary Clinton there in 2016. The seat is currently held by Republican Rep. Carlos Curbelo.

While Mucarsel-Powell doesn't shy away from talking about Trump, she says she's more focused on the struggles of local residents.

"They don't have access to health care. They don't have good quality education," she said, adding that tens of thousands depend on the Obama 2010 health care law that Republicans have worked to undo.

Talk of a Democratic blue wave is overblown, according to Matt Gorman, communication director for the National Republican Congressional Committee.

He said the committee — which has its own "Young Guns" program — is raising impressive sums and has battle-tested incumbents who know they're going to be targets.

Gorman said the NRCC is also urging candidates to run on local issues and not focus on the latest headlines on cable news or Twitter. He said polling shows the party is in better shape than many assume.

"This is going to be a fight and certainly we're going to work like we're 10 points down as we do every day, but for the bedwetters out there who are claiming that all hope is lost I would encourage them to actually look at the data," he said. "It's simple math."

Democratic Rep. Katherine Clark, who is also heading up the DCCC's "Red to Blue" initiative, said many candidates she's been working with are more eager to dig into what's on the minds of voters than taking swipes at Trump.

"They're not concerned with talking about Donald Trump as much as they are about talking about how people in their communities want their children to have job opportunities in the communities that they grew up in," Clark said.

While defeating Trump may galvanize the Democratic faithful, the party is still fumbling for a wider unifying message, according to Tobe Berkovitz, a Boston University professor and former political media consultant.

And Democrats may have trouble finding issues, local or not, for voters to latch onto in November.

"The problem is that unemployment is relatively high, so to tell people you've never had it so bad when compared to eight years ago they've got it pretty good, that's sort of also a tough road to hoe," he said. "The Democrats may have history on the side. The question is A, will they blow it? And B, is Trump such an anomaly that history is being rewritten?"

Roxane Pirayesh, a 32-year-old from Sacramento, California, who works for an education nonprofit, said in the end, the pitch from Democrats has to be more than just an anti-Trump drumbeat — and she's not sure everyone's gotten the message.

"I think that's probably the biggest flaw coming out of the Democratic Party," she said.

# Trump tweets, hard-right voters hamper GOP immigration push

By Alan Fram  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican apprehension over President Donald Trump's next tweet and fear of riling conservative voters are undermining GOP leaders' election-year struggle to shove an immigration bill through the House this week, leaving their prospects dubious.

Party leaders are trying to finally secure the votes they need for their wide-ranging bill with tweaks they hope will goose support from the GOP's dueling conservative and moderate wings. But more importantly, wavering Republicans want Trump to provide political cover for immigration legislation that's despised by hard-right voters. His recent statements on their bill and history of abruptly flip-flopping on past health care and spending measures have not been reassuring.

Last Tuesday, he privately told House Republicans that he backed their legislation "1,000 percent" and would protect them during their campaigns, lawmakers said. By Friday, he was tweeting that "Republicans should stop wasting their time on Immigration" and wait until after the November elections, when he said the GOP would approve

tougher legislation because it will gain strength in Congress. That proposition is dicey at best.

"I think that the best way to pass legislation is to consistently support a position and help move it forward," Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, a senior House Republican. Asked if Trump was doing that, Walden pivoted toward a door and said, "I'll leave it at that."

Rep. Mike McCaul, R-Texas, the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday" that he talked to the White House on Saturday and "they say the president is still 100 percent behind us."

The bill would make citizenship a possibility for "Dreamer" immigrants brought illegally to the U.S. when young. It would also finance Trump's aspirational \$25 billion wall with Mexico and curb government agencies from wrenching migrant children from detained parents.

The measure is the product of weeks of bargaining between party conservatives and moderates. Even so, the two GOP factions have been unable to resolve their final differences and vote-counters have yet to round up a majority. Republicans are getting no help from Democrats, who uniformly oppose the legislation.

## 'Ready, fire, aim' — critics see pattern to Trump's approach

By Ken Thomas and Darlene Superville  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Maybe it's not so easy after all. President Donald Trump's struggles to push immigration legislation through Congress and his about-face on breaking up immigrant families are putting a spotlight on his competence in carrying out his policies.

The fallout from Trump's handling of the separation of immigrant children from their families, which led to a sharp reversal from the president, has been reminiscent of the chaos sparked when Trump opened his administration by imposing a travel ban on immigrants entering from majority Muslim countries.

Taken together, the events demonstrate how little Trump appears to have learned or adjusted his approach after that first rocky encounter with governing. From issue to issue, from immigration to health care to trade and more, Trump's pattern has been to outline a plan with scant concern or preparation for its immediate impact or consequences, and to make changes on the fly with the same lack of planning.

The result has often gone far beyond bureaucratic confusion, and has, at times, inflicted painful and unexpected consequences on people's lives.

"It's not something that appreciates these young children and was certainly done in a 'ready, fire, aim' way, obviously," said Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, describing the administration's immigration policy. "There was no preparation for it."

Trump implemented a major new policy this spring with no apparent plan or new resources to handle the influx of people who would be detained and prosecuted as a result. When a public outcry ensued, the administration could not answer basic

questions about it. Trump then changed the way the policy worked — leaving officials within the administration and at the border confused on how to enact the changes. Plus, it took several days for the government to say how it planned to reunite families and where the separated children were located.

Trump's struggles on immigration follow his failure last year to repeal the so-called Obamacare law, a central tenet of GOP orthodoxy since President Barack Obama signed it into law in 2010, and the president's uneven implementation of his travel ban, which will be the subject of a Supreme Court ruling this week. New tariffs have strained relationships with European and North American allies and his Middle East peace plan is still under development amid a standoff with the Palestinians after he said the decades-old problem wouldn't be hard to solve.

Trump has often mused since the 2016 presidential campaign that it would be "so easy" to pass a sweeping immigration law and construct a "big, beautiful" border wall, paid for by Mexico. Earlier this week, he tweeted that his Democratic leadership adversaries in Congress, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, would be "forced to do a real deal, so easy, that solves this long time problem."

But the upcoming week could offer fresh evidence that the reality of governing is much more challenging.

Republicans are seeking to steer an immigration bill through the House despite skepticism among conservatives and uncertainty about Trump's commitment to the plan. The president told House Republicans he was "1,000 percent" behind their effort last week but then suggested just three days later on Twitter that Republicans wait until after the fall midterm elections.

## Trump officials pledge to reunite families amid border chaos

By Will Weissert and Elliot Spagat  
Associated Press

MCALLEN, Texas — Manuel Martinez, who fled Honduras because gangs were trying to recruit his 12-year-old son, was prepared to be separated from his child after paying a smuggler to cross the Rio Grande by boat and getting arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol.

His worst fears never came true.

Martinez pleaded guilty to illegal entry on Wednesday — the day President Donald Trump ordered an end to the separating of families — and, while he wasn't kept under the same roof as his son, they were held in the same compound. They were reunited on Saturday, after five days apart, and were released into the U.S., a tracking device on Martinez's ankle, while he pursues asylum.

"I was very worried even though we were never really separated," he said in McAllen's Greyhound station, as he and his son were about to board a bus to Atlanta to join a friend.

The McAllen station, a hub in the busiest U.S. corridor for illegal crossings, looks much as it did before the administration began enforcing a "zero-tolerance" policy in early May of prosecuting every illegal entry. The policy resulted in the separation of more than 2,300 children before Trump reversed course in the face of an international outcry and said families will remain together.

On a typical day, more than 100 asylum-seekers are released from McAllen-area holding facilities, clutching their belongings in clear plastic bags stamped with Department of Homeland Security logos, said Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.

They are led by volunteers to the charity's headquarters a few blocks away to shower, eat and rest — though volunteers' first order of business is to distribute shoelaces because they are confiscated from immigrants in custody to prevent suicides.

"Every day is like this. It never ends," Pimentel said as children played with toys on the floor while adults in ankle monitors sat in rows of plastic chairs. Federal authorities have for years used electronic monitoring devices to keep track of immigrants released while they await further court proceedings.

Still, McAllen, a city of 130,000 people in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, is just a snapshot of the situation along the border, where Trump's reversal on family separation has sown chaos and uncertainty and there has been little guidance from the administration.

It is not clear how many asylum-seekers are still entering the country, how many are being detained as families, and how many are being released. Nor is it known how long it will take for all parents and guardians to be reunited with their children.

Homeland Security said late Saturday that 522 youngsters have been reunited since they were separated under the zero tolerance policy and that it has established a process to ensure that family members know where their children are and can communicate with them.

It said that 2,000-plus children remain separated but that the government knows where all of them are and is working to reunite them with their families.

Trump vented his frustration over the crisis in a tweet Sunday, saying border crossers shouldn't be entitled to a day in court.

## At hub for border crossings, families spread throughout US

By Colleen Long  
Associated Press

Trump administration officials say the U.S. government knows the location of all children in its custody after separating them from their families at the border and is working to reunite them.

A fact sheet on "zero-tolerance prosecution and family reunification" released Saturday night by the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies involved in the separations also says a parent must request that their child be deported with them. In the past, the agency says, many parents elected to be deported without their children.

That may be a reflection of violence or persecution they face in their home countries.

The fact sheet doesn't state how long it might take to reunite families. The Port Isabel Service Processing Center in Texas has been set up as the staging ground for the families to be reunited prior to deportation.

The latest actions come

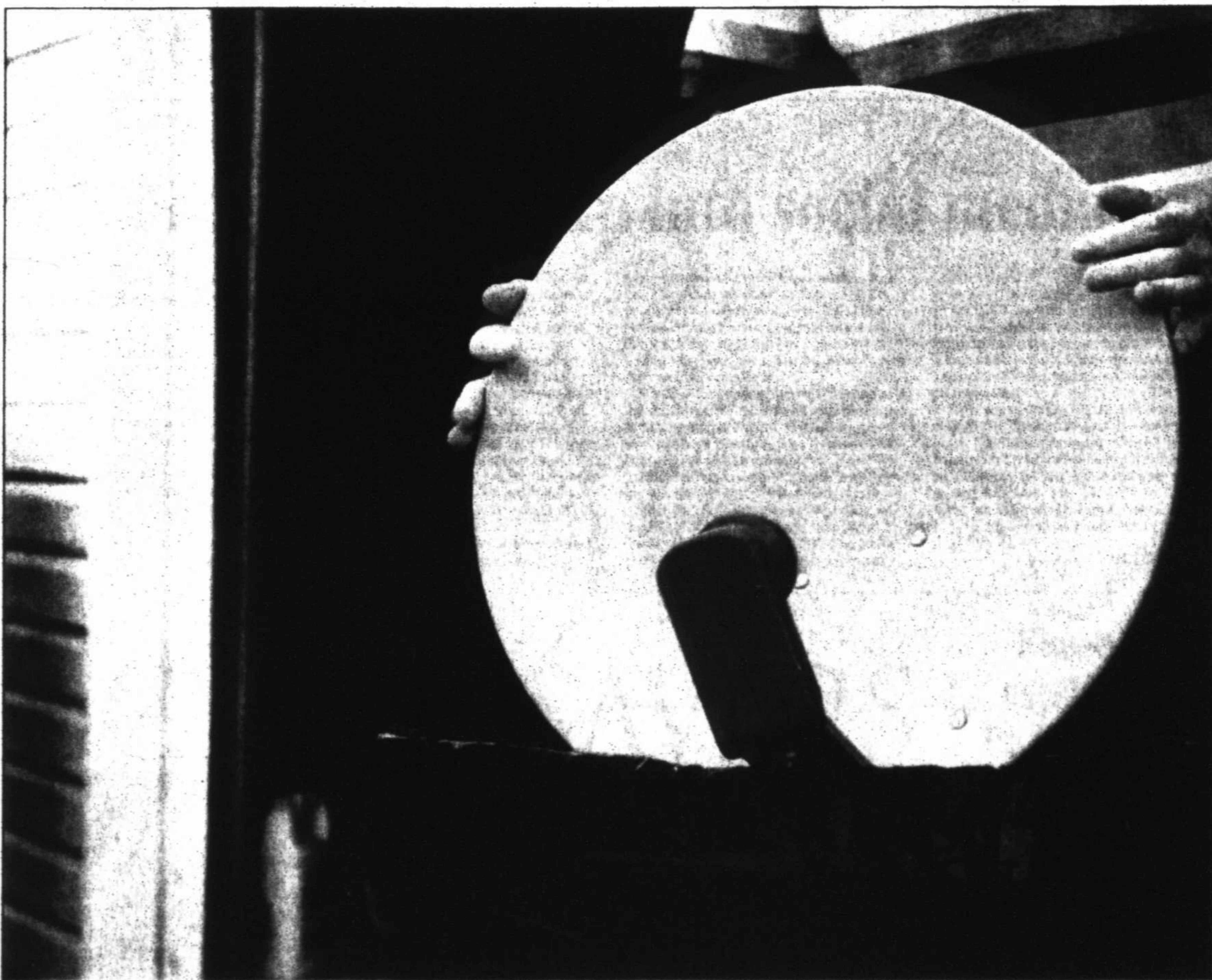
after President Donald Trump's order last week to stop separating migrant children from their parents. The executive order signed Wednesday immediately spread confusion along the border, with officials sending conflicting signals about the state of the administration's "zero tolerance" policy. Some parents said they did not even know where their children were.

How the government would reunite families has been unclear because the families are first stopped by Customs and Border Patrol, with children taken into custody by the Department of Health and Human Services and adults detained through Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is under the Department of Homeland Security. Children have been sent to far-flung shelters around the country, raising alarm that parents might never know where their children can be found.

As of last Wednesday, 2,053 minors who were separated at the border were being cared for in HHS-funded facilities, the fact sheet said.

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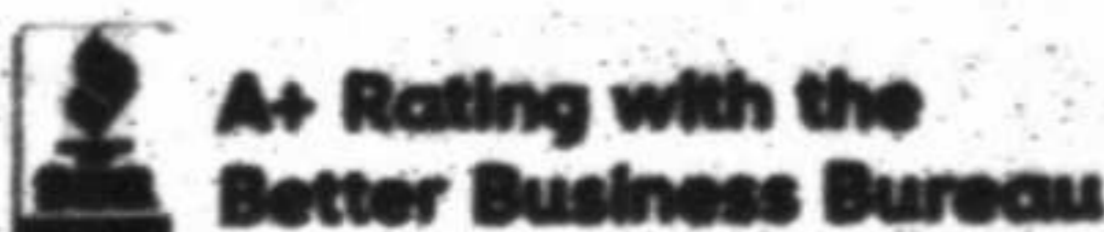
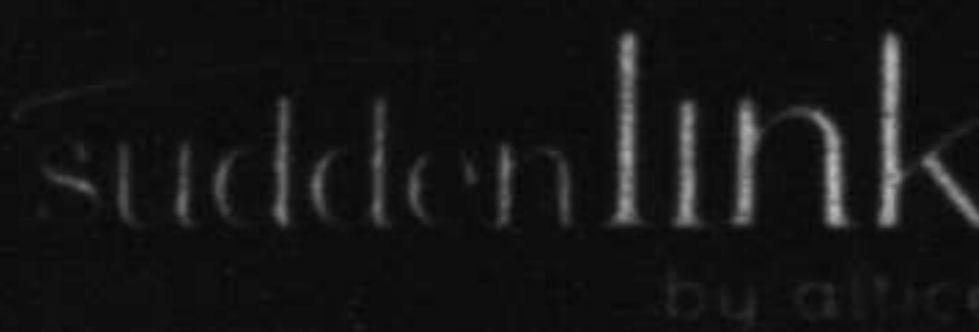
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# DIGITAL LIFE

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, June 25, 2018 | Section B

## Fox brings World Cup into social media age

By Lucas Shaw  
Bloomberg

Rachel Bonnetta, a Canadian sports journalist and smartphone addict, is helping her network keep up with soccer fans' relentless appetite for World Cup coverage.

The 26-year-old Bonnetta ("I'm on Twitter 24-7") hosts 21st Century Fox Inc.'s "World Cup Now," a daily recap of what's happening at the monthlong soccer tournament in Russia. Unlike other shows filmed by Fox Sports, Bonnetta's program streams live on Twitter, a first for the social-media site. What's more, "World Cup Now" is the centerpiece of the World

Cup's largest-ever social-media blitz - a campaign that also includes highlights on Snapchat and in Google search results.

Though it's easy to forget now, social media was still largely an afterthought seven years ago when Fox acquired all those U.S. television rights to the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. Snapchat had just been founded. Instagram was a year old. And Twitter was half its current size.

So Fox's World Cup endeavor is a sign of how Hollywood is chasing viewers beyond the TV. The hope is that networks can be just as relevant (and profitable) in their coverage even if viewers aren't watching on TV.

While media habits had already started to change when ESPN aired the 2014

games, today the traditional studio show has lost much of its allure thanks to the proliferation of statistics and highlights online. Bonnetta is a key part of the studio's strategy to appeal to a generation of young viewers who share her addiction to their pocket computers.

"With a lot of these games coming on in the morning, we need to be able to speak to that younger, digital, mobile-first fan," said Michael Bucklin, who oversees Fox's strategy for online content.

Bucklin has tasked Bonnetta with hosting a more playful show, where goofy tweets and skits are just as important as the latest bicycle kick. With her blend of aw-shucks enthusiasm and teasing humor, she's attracted almost 50,000 followers on

Twitter.

In less than a week since the kickoff of the 2018 championship, Bonnetta has tweeted about the event more than 30 times, posting a photo of herself in tears, a GIF of actor Jack Black dressed as a Mexican wrestler and an apology for her poor spelling.

How social media has affected viewership of the World Cup is still yet to be seen. The impact on sports overall has been mixed. NFL viewership has fallen in recent years, but the NBA and soccer have gained watchers. The 2014 World Cup was both the most watched ever in the U.S. and the most tweeted about globally.

Please see WORLD CUP/4B

# SCREEN SAVERS



Jean Elter/The Washington Post

The screen on the TCL 6-Series is 4K and supports a technology called HDR that makes images more lifelike.

## Unknown brand offers best TV deal

By Geoffrey A. Fowler  
Washington Post

Television shopping is as baffling as choosing a bottle of wine, only less delicious. You look at the labels: Which is better, LED, OLED or QLED? And then you look at the cost: Does twice the price mean twice as nice?

Not necessarily. I've been testing a new TV called the 6-Series that might upend how you think about buying your next big screen. It boasts picture tech that rivals what you can get from bestseller Samsung — and, at \$660 for a 55-inch model, it costs half as much.

Spurging on a big home theater no longer requires deliberation over whether to dip into the kids' college fund.

The thing is, this TV is from a brand you might not be familiar with: TCL. The Chinese company has quietly become the third-largest TV maker by units in the world (and second-largest in North America) according to IHS Markit by integrating design and manufacturing while outsourcing software to Roku, the streaming box maker.

What's the catch? That's what I wondered when the TCL 6-Series started generating buzz in the TV industry. So I brought one into my gadget lab and put it side by side with its closest premium name-brand competitor, the 2018 Samsung Q6, which costs \$1,300 for 55 inches.

What did I learn? Yes, TCL is cutting corners. But TV tech has improved so much so quickly, you might not even notice.

### REVIEW

#### PICTURE PERFECT

Most people say picture quality is the biggest factor in choosing a TV, but it's hard to tell the difference among all those screens on the walls at Best Buy. Those TVs are set to retina-searing "vivid" modes that make it hard to compare.

The TCL 6-Series and Samsung Q6 both have the picture tech that matters in a premium, future-proof TV. The screens are 4K - quadruple the pixels of an HD set - so you can stream ultra-HD movies that reveal every little detail. And both TVs also support high dynamic range, or HDR, which makes a growing number of specially edited movies and TV shows look more realistic by heightening the brightest and darkest parts. (Samsung supports a variety called HDR10, and TCL supports that and another called Dolby Vision.)

The biggest difference is in how they show colors. The Samsung screen uses tiny particles called Quantum Dots that can display more, brighter colors without washing out detail. The TCL uses something called NBP Photons, which cost less and don't have quite as wide a palette.

How much does it matter? I wanted a scientific answer, so I called pro TV technician and industry writer Robert Heron, who tests and calibrates home theater setups for a living. He brought his spectrometer — a meter that sits right up against the screen — so we could precisely measure the colors and brightness each produced.

The results were close. Let's get geeky.

Running in HDR mode, Samsung TV could display 96 percent of an industry color standard called DCI-P3, while the TCL showed 93 percent. That small percentage difference translated into richer greens and cyans on the Samsung TV.

There were a few other picture differences: The TCL screen could get very bright when you looked at it head on, but not from an angle. And when it shows fast motion, only the Samsung TV panel runs at 120 hz and has the ability to offer variable frame rates (which serious video gamers might want).

But there were ways the TCL picture was superior. Its images had more contrast, and dark areas — like the letterboxing around a movie — looked black instead of dark gray, because it uses a tech called local dimming.

After knowing the results of Heron's tests, I could spot green differences in a few scenes from "Planet Earth 2." But if I didn't have both TVs side by side, I'd be hard pressed to find anything missing from either.

#### BEYOND THE SCREEN

So then what else does an extra \$700 buy you?

Samsung's TV looks more elegant: the TCL 6-Series is a half inch thicker. But most of the time you're not looking at your TV from the side or back — and we've come a long way since TVs with giant backsets.

Neither TV has great built-in speakers. For a better overall home theater, you could take the money you save on the TCL

Please see TV/4B

## Facebook expands its fact-checking resources

By Hamza Shaban  
Washington Post

Facebook announced an expansion of several initiatives Thursday to combat the spread of misinformation on the social network used by more than 2 billion people.

In a company blog, Facebook acknowledged that fake news reports and doctored content have increasingly become image-based in some countries, making it harder for readers to discern whether a photo or video related to a news event is authentic. The company said it has expanded its fact-checking of traditional links posted on Facebook to photos and videos. Partnering with third-party experts trained in visual verification, the company will also flag images that have been posted on Facebook in a misleading context, such as, for example, a photo of a previous natural disaster or shooting that is displayed as a present-day event.

Facebook will also use machine-learning tools to identify duplicates of debunked stories that continue to pop up on the network. The company said that more than a billion pictures, links, videos and messages are uploaded to the social platform every day, making fact-checking difficult to execute by human review. The automated tools will help the company find domains and links that are spreading the same claims that have already been proved false. Facebook has said it will use AI to limit misinformation, but the latest update applies to finding duplicates of false claims.

Earlier this year, Facebook said it would start a new project to help provide independent research on social media's role in elections and within democracies. The commission in charge of the elections research is hiring staff to run the initiative, will launch a website in the coming weeks and will request research proposals on the scale and effects of misinformation on Facebook, the social network said. "Over time, this externally-validated research will help keep us accountable and track our progress," Facebook said.

The other updates announced Thursday include using machine learning to identify repeat offenders of misinformation and expanding Facebook's fact-checking partnerships internationally.

Mike Ananny, a communications professor at the University of Southern California, said the updates are a step in the right direction but that Facebook is not fully explained what it's doing to combat fake news or shared details about how its human-led and automated detection systems actually work. Ananny suggested that Facebook share the algorithms used by its machine learning systems, what data those systems are trained on, and if systemic errors have been identified within them.

"Facebook is on this complicated journey of trying to figure out what its responsibility is to journalism and to the public," he said. But it's not clear to him how the company defines success in these efforts, which may help the company evade accountability.

The latest announcement is part of Facebook's efforts, which have spanned more than a year and a half, to grapple with fake accounts, disinformation and accountability on the network. "This effort will never be finished, and we have a lot more to do," Facebook said.

Last year, the company turned over to Congress more than 3,000

Please see FACEBOOK/4B

## Speed of DFW airport's Wi-Fi declines, test shows

By Justin Buchman  
Bloomberg

If you're looking for an airport with quick, complimentary Wi-Fi, head west. Seattle-Tacoma International's connection took the top place in a new ranking of North American airports by software firm Ookla LLC, which runs the site Speedtest.net. SeeTat more than doubled

its download speed from last year, reaching 103 Mbps. Denver, which topped the list over the past two years, came in second at 78.7 Mbps. The slowest Wi-Fi speeds were in Toronto and Montreal, with download speeds of 7.1 and 6.4 Mbps, respectively, Ookla said. Both Canadian entrants improved on their speeds from 2017.

The data are from tests conducted on Speedtest.net from January-April 2018 by comput-

ers logged onto the airports' Wi-Fi network. The ranking does not include airports that charge for Wi-Fi access.

Three major U.S. hubs — Dallas-Fort Worth, Detroit and Miami — saw speed declines ranging from 26 percent to 59 percent over the past year, according to Ookla, with Detroit's performance declining the most in the surveyed group. Dallas and Miami are hubs for American Airlines Group Inc.,

while Detroit is a hub for Delta Air Lines Inc.

The world's busiest airport and Delta's largest hub-Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta saw the largest one-year improvement in speed, jumping to 59.6 Mbps from 2.7 Mbps, according to the survey data.

LaGuardia fared the best of the three major New York-area airports, clocking a speed of 28.5 Mbps, good enough for 10th place on the list.

## REVIEW

## Amazon's Fire TV Cube gives Alexa control of the remote

By Geoffrey A. Fowler  
Washington Post

In the beginning, there was a dial. Then man invented the television remote so he wouldn't have to get off the sofa.

Then remote controls multiplied... so man could never find the right one and his spouse complained that watching TV is so friggin' complicated.

And now, the next epoch: Everyone in the house commands the TV by voice.

A big step toward the hands-free couch potato arrived last week. The \$120 Fire TV Cube is the first device to give Amazon.com's Alexa artificial intelligence control over the TV and the stuff plugged into it. Equal parts Echo speaker, Fire TV streaming box and universal remote, this thing can hear you say, "Alexa, turn on the TV," and then do it. Say, "Turn up the volume" or "Switch to MSNBC," and Fire TV Cube does that, too.

Amazon, always angling for a bigger role in our living rooms, thinks voice tech can simplify the mess that streaming apps, add-on boxes and sound systems have brought to home entertainment.

I agree it can — but this version of Alexa still gets a little too tongue-tied for us to give up remotes entirely.

Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post, but I review all tech with the same critical eye. So for the last week, I've been living with (and sometimes yelling at) a Fire TV Cube operating my TV, sound bar and cable box.

I learned that voice control has great potential for the TV. It's simpler to walk up to the TV and say, "Watch 'Queer Eye'" than to press buttons on various remotes to turn on the TV and speakers, then switch inputs, find the Netflix app and hunt around for the show.

So what's wrong? Using a Fire TV Cube requires putting into your home another Amazon microphone that's always listening and that you can't quite talk to like a human. Even if you're okay with that, Alexa will often leave you reaching for a remote — in fact, the Fire TV Cube still comes with one of its own. Alexa couldn't understand "watch the World Cup" because its AI isn't yet smart enough. It couldn't "skip the commercials," "watch the new Beyoncé video" or even "select okay" to dismiss menus.

And then there's this hiccup: Every time someone on TV says "Alexa," the Fire TV Cube pauses for half a second like a hiccup.

Today, the Fire TV Cube will probably satisfy only home theater geeks and families already enamored with Alexa and curious to watch its TV intelligence grow. But there are enough interesting ideas in it that any TV lover has reason to stay tuned.

How does that even work?

Heaps of TV gadgets, including Amazon's original Fire TV, the Apple TV, Roku and cable boxes now have remotes with microphone buttons you can press to conduct searches. The Fire TV Cube goes further by plugging an always-on microphone into your TV — like a smaller, rectangular Echo smart speaker with special powers. Similar to the Echo, the Cube lights up blue and starts recording when it hears its wake word, Alexa.

What's tricky is that Alexa still has to be able to hear your commands from over on the sofa. Many people bury home theater devices in a cabinet or in the not-a-nest-of-cables-behind-the-TV. You can't do that with the Fire TV Cube; it needs to sit in a relatively open spot (one to two feet away from loudspeakers) with a long HDMI cable that plugs it into the TV. Even

When a person recalls a message using the new feature, the friend who was supposed to receive it will see that a message has been deleted. This works in the same way in which Snapchat friends can see when a person takes a screen shot of a message or a chat window: The delete feature works for messages between individuals and groups.

Temporary messaging — a type of social media that isn't permanent and searchable — is at the core of Snapchat's identity. The delete feature could offer users another layer of privacy by letting them take back messages sent in error or ones that they regret.

The new feature comes as the messaging service has been struggling to attract new users and satisfy the current ones. Last month, Snapchat began rolling out another round of design changes in response to the widespread backlash it faced over its redesign from last year. Users complained that last year's overhaul was confusing and made the app more difficult to use. The company's stock price was hit after celebrities such as Kylie Jenner and Chrissy Teigen criticized the app on Twitter.

Snap, the company behind the app, failed to meet estimates for revenue and daily active users in its latest earnings report last month. But chief executive Evan Spiegel said he is optimistic that users will embrace the latest redesign.

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Does this need to be said by me?  
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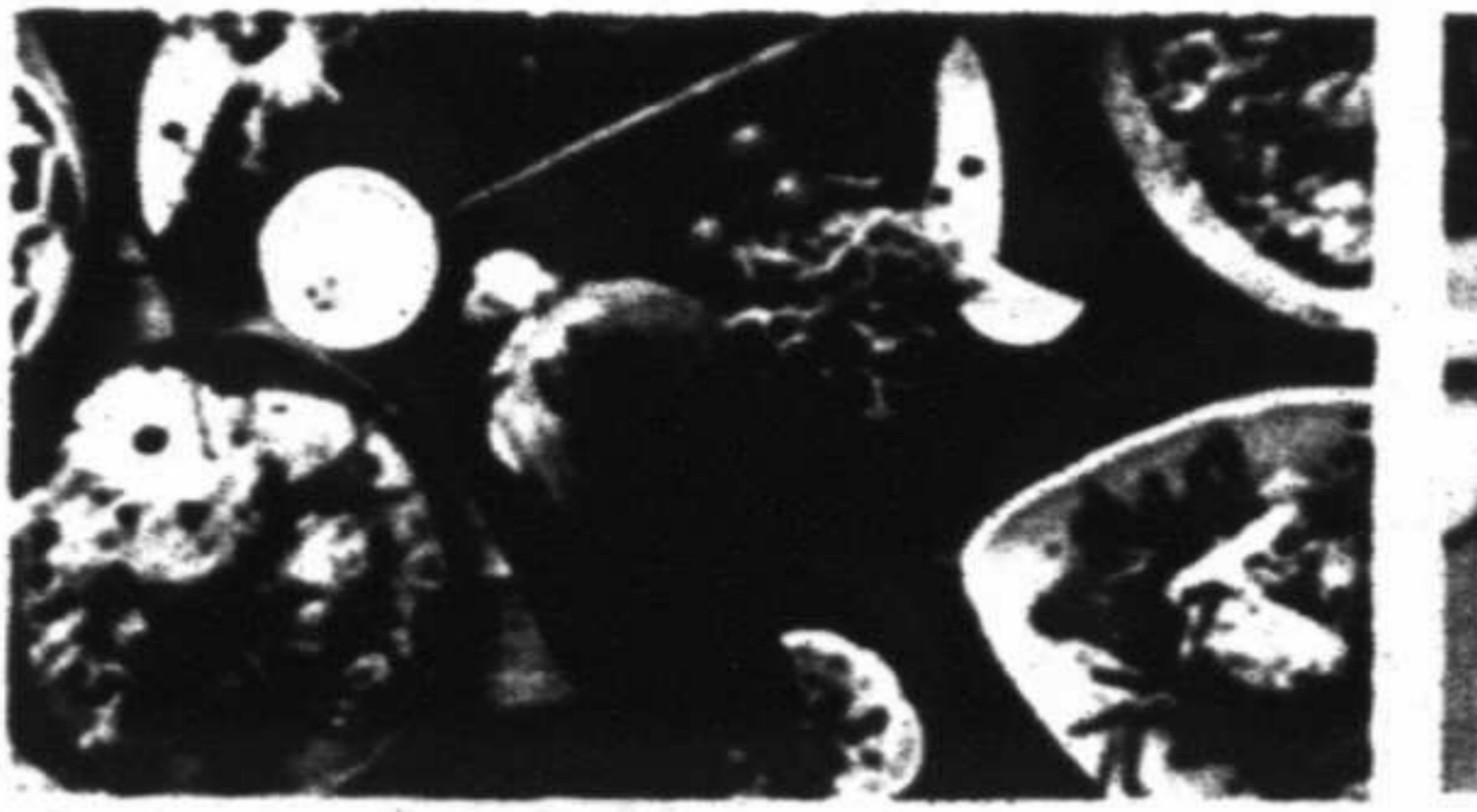
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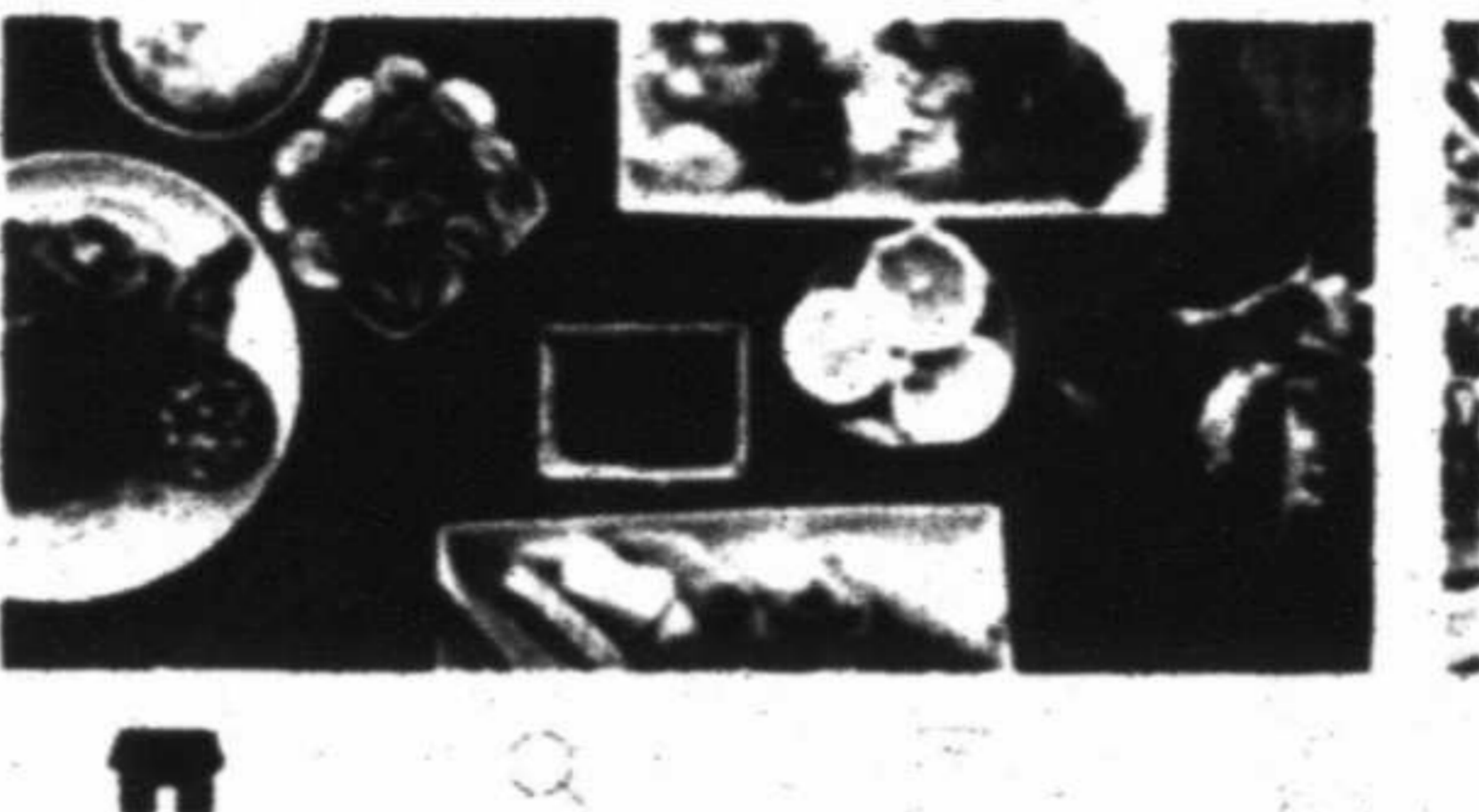
Under 30 minutes



Sam's Cafe

25-30 MIN

New on Uber Eats



## Data: Uber Eats is Texas' most-used food delivery app

By Sebastian Herrera

Austin  
American-Statesman

Maybe it's the same simplicity as found in its flagship ride-hailing app, or maybe it's the brand recognition. Whatever it is, Uber Eats' share within the food delivery industry is overtaking competitors.

Two years after launching a standalone phone app, Uber Eats has become Texas' most popular on-demand food delivery service and continues to grow, according to Second Measure, a California-based firm that analyzes credit and debit card transactions from millions of U.S. consumers.

In Austin, Uber Eats had 46.7 percent of the food delivery market share as of April, climbing more than 15 percentage points since August, Second Measure said.

Throughout the state, Uber Eats' market share in the same time also rose about 15 percentage points to 42.3 percent. Uber Eats' closest competitor in Texas, DoorDash, has seen its market share hold at about 34 percent, while GrubHub, another leading food delivery company, has had its share drop by 3 percentage points from August to April.

Food delivery is a quickly growing business in the United States, expected to become a \$76 billion market by 2022, according to a report by investment firm

Cowen and Company. Much of Uber Eats' popularity throughout Texas can be attributed to Uber's operation in Austin, which has become a hub for the company's south region. Uber's Austin office employs roughly 90 people — about a dozen of them on the Eats team — and is responsible for much of the company's business in Texas and some surrounding states.

"We want to make Uber Eats something that is an everyday product for people. It needs to be something convenient and reliable," said Phillip Santoro, an Uber Eats general manager for the Austin and Dallas markets. "We're focused on building strong relationships with restaurants and our delivery partners. We've been able to do that well in Texas."

At the Austin hub, where Uber doubled its total workforce between September and March, much of the expansion was concentrated on the Eats team.

In addition to Austin, Uber Eats also holds the largest market share in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and El Paso, according to Second Measure.

In Texas, Uber has added more than 3,400 restaurants to its lineup in the past year, the company says, putting the total at more than 8,000 restaurants throughout the state. The Eats team has added more than 430 Austin-area restaurants since last June. Utpal Dholakia, a

consumer behavior and e-commerce expert at Rice University, said Uber Eats has an advantage because many of its drivers that are also signed on to Uber's ride-hailing service double as delivery drivers.

Other competitors, Dholakia said, have had to build their driver base more incrementally.

Uber's brand is "already well-known to consumers," Dholakia said. "Uber Eats has been able to sign on a greater number of restaurants in many markets... giving consumers more choices to order from, and as a result, greater value."

While Uber Eats has become the state's most-used food delivery app, it still has ways to go to catch GrubHub nationally. As of April, GrubHub held a 48.6 percent share of the national food delivery market and Uber Eats had 22.8 percent, according to Second Measure.

GrubHub spokeswoman Katie Norris said the company averages 400,000 orders per day nationally and continues to partner with brands such as Yelp, GroupOn and TripAdvisor.

"We are just scratching the surface of the addressable market," Norris said in an emailed response. "And with record results, we haven't seen competition hurt our ability to grow."

Norris said GrubHub plans to expand into 100 new markets this year.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

## Snapchat to roll out delete-message function

By Hamza Shaban

Washington Post

Oops, your fingers slipped and sent that not-so-kind message to your best friend. Ugh! Or maybe you should have hidden your phone when you were partying last night, because now your ex knows you're drowning in your sorrows.

You're struck with Snapchat panic! But there's help on the way.

The ephemeral messaging app is rolling out a new feature in the coming weeks to help you limit the damage of sending messages you really wish you hadn't sent.

Snapchat will soon let people retract chats that haven't yet been read by their friends. With the new feature, when a user long-presses the message in the chat screen, a window pops up that includes the option to delete the message. "When you delete a message, we'll attempt to remove it from our servers and your friends' devices," Snapchat says in a notification.

Before you breathe 10 sighs of relief, however, you should know that there's no guarantee the delete function will work every time. If the recipient has a bad internet connection, for example, or is using an old version of the Snapchat app, intercepting your badly autocorrected message or that embarrassing video may not be an option, the service tells users.

When a person recalls a message using the new feature, the friend who was supposed to receive it will see that a message has been deleted. This works in the same way in which Snapchat friends can see when a person takes a screen shot of a message or a chat window: The delete feature works for messages between individuals and groups.

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DWIGHT SILVERMAN  
Houston Chronicle



## Internet users should be conscious of their behavior

Few inventions have changed society as much as the internet. The simple ability for everyone to communicate instantly with everyone else has had a profound impact on almost every aspect of our lives.

Unfortunately, that's not always for the better. Just as in real life, bad behavior by thoughtless people has followed us into the online universe. But you know, it doesn't have to be that way.

Yes, there will always be jerks, criminals and psychopaths online, as in real life. But a lot of the misery found online comes from people who normally have their hearts in the right place. Just as people get angry and abusive hiding behind the glass and steel of a car when they wouldn't behave that way in person, so it goes when they are sitting at a computer or browsing social media on their smartphones.

The anonymity of detachment can bring out the worst in the best of us.

It's no surprise that, in 2017, roughly 4 in 10 Americans told the Pew Research Center for Internet & Technology that they had experienced some form of online harassment. A full 62 percent said such behavior was a serious problem.

To help make the online world a better place, just stop and think about how you behave, and how you can improve that behavior.

I asked my Facebook followers to help with some rules for being a good citizen on the internet. Working together, here's what we came up with:

Don't be a troll.  
A troll is someone who delights online in the misfortune of others, deliberately attempting to evoke a response of anger, fear, distrust or revulsion.

While you may not think you're a troll, consider whether you've ever used phrases such as "I was just jerking his chain" or "She needs to grow a thicker skin." If you've ever said something like that, you may have engaged in trollish behavior.

Just be kind. Imagine what you're about to say, write or do being done to you. If it would upset you or make you uncomfortable, don't do it unto others.

Don't feed the trolls.  
Trolls often cast bait into their dark waters, posting annoying comments in hope someone will engage with them. Rising to the bait gives them the satisfaction of knowing someone was irritated enough to respond.

Ignoring trolls is the best tactic, though with some trolls who aren't very smart it's possible to confuse them by responding in a way that doesn't indicate you're upset. On the other hand, this is a form of trolling itself, so it's just best not to engage.

Keep your machines clean.  
When you're on the internet, you're part of a network of millions — maybe billions, at this point — of devices, all sending and receiving information to and from each other. It's vital that this data be pristine, not toxic.

Thus, it's important to keep your computers and mobile devices updated with the latest versions of the operating system and apps. By doing so, you can plug security flaws that evildoers could use to compromise your machine, take control of it and use it to spew spam, viruses, spyware and other nasties onto the network.

You also want to run security software on your traditional PCs — whether they are PCs or Macs — and possibly even your mobile devices, to prevent malware.

Don't spread fake news.  
It's way too easy to make bogus information look real on the internet and in social media, but it's also fairly easy to verify something.

What's the source? Do you recognize the name of the site where the story is hosted? Do other stories on that site have links supporting their assertions? Be suspicious of photos with text on them, asserting some "fact" or quote that likely isn't genuine. Google the text to try to find its source.

Look elsewhere for the same story. If no one else has it, be skeptical.  
Snopes.com has been busting bad information since the mid-1990s. Do a search there for the topic and chances are, if it's bogus, Snopes will have addressed it already.

Finally, if you get an email or see something on social media that urges you to "pass it on!" — particularly with all caps and many exclamation points are involved — just don't.

Help when you can.  
If someone asks a question you can answer, or requests help you can provide, do it. Being a good internet citizen includes being one who shares knowledge or helps solve problems. Consider it karma in the bank. If you have an online reputation of being a helpful person, people will fall all over themselves to help you when the time comes.

Conversely, if you don't know the answer to something, or aren't the right person to help, don't offer what may be bad information. Then, you're just propagating a personal form of fake news.

Don't steal content and give credit where it's due.  
Creators may or may not make a living putting words, pictures, audio, video and apps online. Regardless, it's uncool to take it without either paying for it or, depending on the creator's intention and licensing, using it as content without permission.

It's not unusual for creators to track down content thieves and demand payment, sometimes going as far as a lawsuit. Really, it's not worth it.

When you find something you want to share or use, ask permission unless it's expressly indicated that sharing is OK, such as with a sharing button or the presence of a Creative Commons license. If you have permission, be sure to give credit and, if possible, provide a link back to the original.

Don't belabor your point.  
No one likes a bore, so don't be one. You can be passionate about a subject, but let your passion manifest itself in smart ways.

Too many people in online discussions or social media postings are like a dog with a bone — they won't let go a point, becoming belligerent and aggressive in defending their points of view. It's OK to let someone else have the last word.

Plus, you'll be more persuasive if you do so with facts rather than fury, calm knowledge rather than name calling.

Prove before you post.  
When I asked for suggestions for this piece on Facebook, Houston Matters host Craig Cohen over at Houston Public Media suggested these three questions to ask yourself before you post anything on the internet or social media:

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Please see SILVERMAN4B

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly  
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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**MONDAY PRIME TIME JUNE 25, 2018**

Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program
KRMD ABC	3:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	3:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	3:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	4:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	4:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	4:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	4:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	4:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	4:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	5:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	5:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	5:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	5:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	5:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	5:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	6:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	6:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	6:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	6:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	6:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	6:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	7:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	7:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	7:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	7:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	7:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	7:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	8:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	8:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	8:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	8:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	8:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	8:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	9:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	9:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	9:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	9:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	9:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	9:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	10:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	10:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	10:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	10:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	10:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	10:30	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	11:00	Wheel of Fortune	Wired	11:00	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	11:00	The Bachelor (N)
KRMD ABC	11:30	Jeopardy!	Wired	11:30	The Bachelor (N)	Wired	11:30	The Bachelor (N)

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*Open road calls to husband, but wife is happy at home*

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I have been married for 42 years. For the most part, we have had a good marriage. We raised two children, are helping to raise three grandchildren and still enjoy each other's company.

I am retiring shortly and looking forward to enjoying it. For years, I have anticipated being free to travel the country and see things I didn't have the time to see when I was employed. The problem is, I like the idea of seeing the country via road trip. My wife says she's a "homebody" and doesn't want to be "stuck in the car" for a week.

Several friends have suggested I should take my road trips without my wife. I don't really want to do that, and she says that if I did, she would feel deserted. How can I be a good husband and spend time with my wife, and not feel cheated out of something I have wanted to do for so long? — **HEADED FOR THE OPEN ROAD**

**DEAR HEADED:** I can't help thinking about how many widows would give anything to share an adventure like that with their husband. I also don't think leaving one's spouse for a week qualifies as desertion. Many husbands and wives do it regularly to conduct their

**DEAR ABBY**  
Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

business. Perhaps if you return from one of your excursions with tales of how beautiful and interesting the road trip was, it will pique her interest.

P.S. If the problem is that your vehicle is too small, have you considered renting something larger to give your wife more room to stretch out?

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have been together for almost 20 years. With every year that passes, I fall more in love with him. He's a wonderful person who treats me very well.

I could go on and on about how caring and considerate he is. However, when it comes to being intimate, I'm just not interested. I have known him for so long and know him so well that, for me, the "spark" is extinguished. In some ways, he almost feels like a brother, which makes it difficult to have sexual feelings.

I tell him every time a day that I love him, because I do. I want him to know he's my best friend and I care deeply about him. We have tried role playing, games, sexy clothing, etc. — nothing helps me. I go through the motions when I must, because I know it is one of the ways he expresses his love for me.

I don't want to be with anyone else. I just want to know how I can feel excited about being intimate again. Any advice you can give would be greatly appreciated. — **EXTINGUISHED SPARKS**

**DEAR EXTINGUISHED:** My suggestion would be to have a frank talk with your OB/GYN about this, and ask for a referral to an endocrinologist — a doctor who specializes in hormones. If, after a checkup, your hormone balances are what they should be, some sessions with a psychologist for you — and a sex therapist for both of you — might rekindle the spark that has fizzled. It's worth a try.

**GOREN BRIDGE**

With Bob Jones  
**Bidding Quiz**

Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, South, you hold:  
♠K7♥QJ853♦Q104♣AJ10  
you hold:  
♠J2♥AJ104♦K10986♣A8  
Right-hand opponent opens one club. What call would you make?  
A — Bid one diamond and risk losing the heart suit, or bid one heart, preparing to bid diamonds next, and risk deceiving partner. It's close, but we like one diamond.

Q2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:  
♠K10♥Q986♦Q2♣AKQ74  
As dealer, what call would you make?  
A — Should you open one club, and anyone bids spades, you will have an impossible rebid. Open one no-trump.

Q3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:  
♠K7♥QJ853♦Q104♣AJ10  
Partner opens two spades, weak, and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?  
A — When partner pre-empted in your shortest suit, stay out of the auction unless you have a strong no-trump or the equivalent. Pass.

Q4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:  
♠A2♥K107♣A  
♠AQ109854  
Right-hand opponent opens one spade. What call would you make?  
A — This hand is too strong for a simple overcall. Double and bid clubs at your next turn.

## iTunes LISTS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

### Music

iTunes charts for week ending June 21

#### Top Songs

1. Girls Like You (feat. Cardi B), Maroon 5
2. I Like It, Cardi B, Bad Bunny & J Balvin
3. Born to Be Yours, Kygo & Imagine Dragons
4. Psycho (feat. Ty Dolla Sign), Post Malone
5. SADI, XXXTENTACION
6. no tears left to cry, Ariana Grande
7. Whatever It Takes, Imagine Dragons
8. Simple, Florida Georgia Line
9. Bad (feat. Ariana Grande), Nicki Minaj
10. Nice For What, Drake

#### Top Albums

1. Everything Is Love, The Carers
2. Nasir, Nas
3. Liberation, Christina Aguilera
4. The Greatest Showman (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
5. Square Up - EP, BLACK-PINK
6. Youngblood, 5 Seconds of Summer
7. Dan + Shay, Dan + Shay
8. 7, XXXTentacion
9. Redemption, Jay Rock
10. Free Rain, Rebelution

### Movies

iTunes Movies U.S. charts for week ending June 17.

#### iTunes Movies US Charts:

1. Tomb Raider (2018)
2. The Incredibles
3. Game Night (2018)
4. Love, Simon
5. Black Panther (2018)
6. The Greatest Showman
7. Death Wish (2018)
8. I Can Only Imagine
9. Red Sparrow
10. Annihilation

iTunes Movies US Charts - Independent:

1. The Death of Stalin
2. Journey's End
3. Midnight Sun
4. Flower
5. Lady Bird
6. Call Me By Your Name
7. Darkest Hour
8. Please Stand By
9. Unsub
10. Wind River (2017)

### Apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending June 17:

#### Top Paid iPhone Apps:

1. Bloons TD 6, Ninja Kiwi
2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
3. Minecraft, Mojang
4. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
5. Facetime, Lightricks Ltd.
6. iSchedule, HotSchedules
7. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
8. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
9. PlanSnap Plant Identification, PlanSnap, Inc.
10. Papa's Freezeria To Go!, Flipline Studios

#### Top Free iPhone Apps:

1. Google Maps - GPS Navigation, Google, Inc.
2. Telemundo Deportes - En Vivo, NBCUniversal Media, LLC
3. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
4. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
5. Twisted Arrow!, lastypl
6. Hello Jump, Voodoo
7. Fortnite, Epic Games
8. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
9. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
10. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.

#### Top Paid iPad Apps:

1. Bloons TD 6, Ninja Kiwi
2. Minecraft, Mojang
3. Procreate, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd
4. Toca Mystery House, Toca Boca AB
5. Notability, Ginger Labs
6. Goodnotes 4, Time Base Technology Limited
7. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
8. LEGO Jurassic World, Warner Bros.
9. Quest Simulator, Coffee Stain Publishing
10. Monument Valley 2, ustwo Games Ltd

#### Top Free iPad Apps:

1. Fortnite, Epic Games
2. Love Balls, Super Taps
3. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
4. Hello Jump, Voodoo
5. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
6. Rise Up, Eastern Capitalist
7. Color World, Voodoo
8. Tank Stars, Playgendary
9. APFC: Survival Evolved, Studio Wildcard
10. Draw In, Super Taps

### Books

Book charts for week ending June 17: (Rank, Book Title by Author Name, Publisher)

1. The President Is Missing by Bill Clinton & James Patterson (Little, Brown and Company)
2. When Life Gives You Lemons by Lauren Weisberger (Simon & Schuster)
3. Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman (Random House Publishing Group)
4. The Outsider by Stephen King (Doubleday)
5. The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware (Galaxy Book Group)
6. Tom Clancy Line of Sight by Mike Maden (Penguin Publishing Group)
7. Shelter in Place by Nora Roberts (St. Martin's Press)
8. Hidden Confidential by Anthony Bonaventura (Stromboli Publishing)

Source: Apple Inc.

## CUBE

From 2B

with a six-foot cord, mine was far enough away from my couch that I had to raise my voice, as if I were scolding a bad puppy.

And because you talk to Alexa while you're watching TV, it also has to be able to hear over what's playing. Amazon uses noise-canceling tech to separate your voice from TV dialogue, which is part of the effort, the Fire TV Cube annoyingly pauses what you're watching whenever it hears its wake word. (That's why it hiccups for a second when someone in a show says "Alexa.")

Next challenge: A TV these days looks like an octopus, with tentacles connected to a cable box, Blu-ray player, game console, sound bar and streaming box. So the Fire TV Cube comes with smarts to operate what it claims are thousands of devices, communicating either through HDMI cables or through a version of the tech used on universal remotes, called an IR blaster.

The Fire TV Cube was able to command all of my gear, to a point. It could turn on and switch inputs on my 2015 Samsung Smart TV and adjust the volume on my Sonos Playbar sound bar. On my TiVo Roamio, it could tune in to a specific channel ("Alexa, watch

CBS") but not interact with the content of my DVR.

My colleague Hayley, who owns a non-smart 2014 Sharp TV, had a little more trouble. The Fire TV Cube could turn the TV on and off, control the volume, and switch to inputs with an Xbox and PlayStation 4, but it had trouble tuning to a specific channel when the TV wasn't already on.

### The limits of voice

Alexa's biggest hurdle is more existential: TV as we've known it wasn't designed for voice.

Picture the screens and menus on your TV. There are big rows of icons you tap-tap-tap on a remote to navigate. We've come a long way from the days of channel up and channel down.

The Fire TV Cube adapts some of the Fire TV's interface for Alexa. On its home screen, filled with app and show icons, you can say "scroll down" to see more rows of apps and shows. When you search for movies, your choices appear in boxes you can order up by number. A few apps, including PlayStation Vue and Spotify, also participated in this voice browsing redesign.

But the transformation doesn't go far enough. Many apps and menus still require tapping a remote, such as to select a profile in Netflix or just to confirm "okay" on an

interstitial screen.

When Alexa is the interface, why is the TV's home screen filled with lots of choices you have to scroll through and call out like Bingo? It might make more sense as just one big recommendation based on your past favorites or what's trending, which you can keep saying "next" to until you find something that strikes your fancy.

Voice control is most useful when it lets you bypass menus entirely and get just to what you want to watch. Alexa can easily pull up on-demand content sold by Amazon or available through apps such as Hulu, Netflix and HBO Now.

But Alexa's AI often wasn't smart enough to know what I really wanted. It would often pull up the first episode of a show instead of the most recent one. When I asked to "watch the 'Today' Show," it pulled up "The Mental Health Today Show." When I said "watch the World Cup," it showed a World Cup news briefing, even while a game was on. (Amazon says Alexa doesn't support live TV requests by show name or event title. So for the World Cup, I would have had to say "Alexa, watch Fox Sports 1" at the right time.)

The Fire TV Cube presents you with just enough useful voice interface that you immediately want to push it — and end up

disappointed. That makes it at best an unreliable couch companion and at worst one more device with a remote you might lose in the cushions.

The Fire TV Cube reminds me of the first Amazon Echo smart speaker, which was long on promise but short on ca-

pabilities. Four years after it launched, the Echo has changed the way millions of people listen to music. Perhaps Alexa will do the same for TV as Amazon signs on more apps and services and figures out what a truly voice-first TV experience looks — or, rather, sounds — like.

## healthy living

PAID CONTENT

### Million\$ saved!

My name is Michael Melson, with Melson and Associates, and we want to thank you, our community, for your support and trust since 1999! We specialize in helping people qualify for the Medicaid nursing home benefits program, while preserving most or all of their assets and their homestead. Our services are available for singles and married couples. Over the years, we have had many conversations with families who have taken advantage of our No Charge First Consultation and would like to share some of their questions and answers with you:

1. **Michael, How did you become interested in this type of planning?**  
My mother was ill and could not qualify for a long-term care policy. I did not think it was fair that healthy people could qualify for a long-term care policy and protect their life savings, while the unhealthy could not. Thank goodness, the government provides ways to protect assets against this type of inequity.

2. **Who are some of the people you have helped?**  
We have helped individuals from every walk of life, such as attorneys, doctors, CPA's, ministers, financial planners, bankers, college professors, engineers, and so on.

3. **Are these plans legal?**  
Absolutely! The government has guidelines to follow. The difficulty is interpreting them and the state caseworkers are not allowed to advise you. That's where I come in.

4. **What is your biggest obstacle?**  
Some families have been misled and think that Medicaid planning cannot be done. This is especially true regarding a single individual entering a nursing home. In most cases, we have been able to protect their homestead and a large percentage of their assets. This result is so much better than being told by a caseworker to spend your assets down to less than \$2,000! The Spousal Impoverishment Act designed to help spouses has been in effect since 1989. As a result, for married couples, in most cases, we have been able to protect their homestead and 100 percent of their assets with no cost of care at the nursing home. If the government did not want people to have a way to protect their assets in this context they would have eliminated these helpful guidelines.

5. **What should you know after a free consultation?**  
Great question! The planner should be able to (i) explain to you the surest way your home can be protected and, (ii) provide you with an estimate of the dollar value of assets that will be protected for a married couple or single individual, (iii) How long will this take; and (iv) What the fees will be, if you follow the plan?

6. **Who should complete the Medicaid application?**  
We can! At no charge. We will assist you in completing the application and give you direction!

7. **If a person has been denied nursing home Medicaid benefits, is there any chance that you could still help them qualify?**  
Definitely!! We have gotten cases approved that have been denied two and three times before we became involved.

8. **How successful have you been with your planning methods?**  
We have been very successful in our planning methods. If the clients will follow the plan we recommend, they should qualify for Medicaid benefits in the nursing home.

9. **How do we get started?**  
The first step is to call our office to set up your free consultation. When we do our planning, we take no shortcuts! We will help you and your family protect the maximum assets (life savings) and home using the Medicaid guidelines currently approved.

Call Michael Melson, a native Midlander, for a free brochure and consultation at (432) 683-0796. Michael is a Chartered Financial Consultant, Registered Financial Consultant, enrolled to Practice before the Internal Revenue Service and a VA Accredited Claims Agent. Also, call him to schedule a community awareness/educational workshop in your nursing home, church group, business group, etc.

Since 1999, Michael Melson and Linda Melson with Melson and Associates have worked under the direction of The Law Offices of Alan H. Mayes, P.C.

## TV

From 1B

and buy a soundbar like the new voice-controlled Sonos Beam, coming out for \$400 in July.

The bigger question you have to ask: Do you want a TV that mostly just plays TV, or one that also tries to be a big-screen computer for your living room?

TCL uses smart TV software and a remote from Roku, best known for its own streaming boxes. Many people love Roku's interface. I think it's a little dated (and gives a little too much space to ads for apps and movies), but agree it is fast, easy and gets the job done by letting you click around through Chiclet-shaped app icons. Roku also gives you access to 5,000 streaming apps — including all the most important ones. And your other inputs (like a cable box or Blu-ray player) live alongside your apps. A model that costs a little more comes with a remote equipped with a microphone so you can use your voice to search for movies and TV shows, as well as launch apps.

(Roku says it doesn't give any user data to TCL, which has been embroiled in controversy for a deal with Facebook that granted it access to user data.)

Samsung's Q6 TV comes with a lot more smarts. It can sync up with a Samsung phone, run a special ambient mode

that tries to blend in with your walls and take a wide array of commands and questions through a microphone on its remote connected to Bixby, Samsung's talking AI. The Q6 will even run a connected home with a Samsung app called Smart Things. This is a TV that can pop up and say: "Your laundry is done."

The best part of the Samsung TV is its remote. Slimmed to just 10 buttons and a four-direction clicker, it also serves as a universal remote for almost anything else you plug in — Blu-ray players, Apple TVs and pretty much every cable box in America. This isn't one of those aftermarket clunker remotes: Samsung is actually using software to automatically detect which device you're controlling and shift the remote's programming in the moment. If you've got a lot of stuff plugged into your TV, this remote will bring you bliss.

The lesson from our TV smackdown: Now that even the budget brands can produce great 4K and HDR sets, TV price is becoming much more about software and experience.

The TCL 6-series is the best deal on a premium TV I've ever seen. Doubling your money will get you a Samsung TV with a marginally better screen — but save you from having to say, "Where's the remote?" Either way, you're getting a great-looking home theater.

## WORLD CUP

From 1B

Fox argues the online conversation is a proxy for interest and generates hype.

Since the U.S. team failed to qualify for the competition, Fox has had to reach for new ways to generate excitement. It's been promoting the soccer superstars like Cristiano Ronaldo and other teams such as Mexico. But with a time difference of as many as 12 hours for many U.S. viewers, viewership is expected to decline from

the 2014 and 2010 World Cups.

"There is no substitute for watching a game live," said Brian Sullivan, president of Fox's TV network group. "Highlights allow people that couldn't watch to catch up and be up to speed for the next match."

Enter Bonetta, who began her career in broadcasting with Toronto's professional football club. She won a job as the club's brand ambassador with a humorous video she posted to Facebook. Major League Soccer hired her

from the Toronto club, and then Fox signed her to host a wide range of online experiments. She's anchored shows on Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat, where traditional media companies are still determining best practices.

"World Cup Now" is the biggest bet she's been involved in.

"I get to be myself and have fun and hang out with other people online," she said from Moscow. "We want to be involved in the conversation."

## SILVERMAN

From 2B

Cohen credits TV personality Craig Ferguson, who said it took him three marriages to learn.

Don't share passwords or go where you shouldn't.

Logins and passwords are the locks and keys of the internet. They are there to keep unauthorized people out, and to protect the information contained therein. Keep out of computer systems where you're not an authorized user. While it may seem harmless, don't share logins and passwords for services like Netflix, HBO, Show-time, Hulu, etc. Some of those services have liberal sharing policies, but most require that multiple people using a login be in the same household or immediate family.

Respect others' privacy.

Although the internet is a mostly public space, those who post information to it expect that what they share will be used appropriately. In some cases, there may be information about people posted by third parties that doesn't belong in a more public sphere.

For example, if you own a home or business, information about you is available as a public record at the appraisal district office, and it may be searchable online. Because it's there doesn't mean it's appropriate to share in, say, a Reddit discussion forum to embarrass someone you're arguing with.

The same goes with photos and videos posted in social media. While a photo of a summer beach gathering may be just fine in an Instagram feed, it's not cool to post photos of your neighbor in a Speedo in your community's Nextdoor forum.

## FACEBOOK

From 1B

Facebook ads created by Russian operatives to exploit cultural divisions in the United States and influence the 2016 presidential election. The Russian campaign, and the broader issue of false news stories and hoaxes,

raised lingering questions about the company's role in vetting information.

In recent months, Facebook and its chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, have also come under intense criticism over data privacy. The now-shuttered political consultancy Cambridge Analytics improv-

erly accessed millions of Facebook users' personal information, reports revealed earlier this year. Since then, Facebook has endured several rounds of questioning by lawmakers in Europe and the United States. The company has pledged greater transparency in its handling of user data.



Michael Melson  
Melson and Associates

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# SPORTS

To submit information to the sports department, email [sports@mrt.com](mailto:sports@mrt.com)

Midland Reporter-Telegram | [mrt.com](http://mrt.com) | Monday, June 25, 2018 | Section C

## Oregon State out to finish redemption tour

By Eric Olson  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Oregon State has won 109 of 127 baseball games over two seasons with mostly the same cast of players. The Beavers see winning a national championship as the only way to validate their body of work.

"Ultimately," Beavers coach Pat Casey said Sunday, "nobody cares how many games you win unless you win the last one."

Standing between Oregon State (53-11-1) and the title is Arkansas (47-19) in the best-of-three College World Series finals starting Monday night.

The Beavers lost their CWS opener and staved off elimination four times to reach the finals for the first time since 2007, when they won the second of two straight championships.

The Razorbacks swept through their bracket in three games, knocking off defending champion and No. 1 overall seed Florida to make the finals for the first time in the best-of-three era. Arkansas was runner-up in 1979.

Oregon State showed up in Omaha last year as the No. 1 seed and with a 54-4 record, the highest winning percentage (.931) of any team entering the CWS since Texas came in 57-4 (.934) in 1982. The Beavers won their first two games, then lost two straight to LSU in a shocking ending

to the season.

The Beavers have been on a redemption tour in 2018 with an everyday lineup including all but one player from last year and a pitching staff that returned two weekend starters.

Arkansas coach Dave Van Horn is in awe of what the Pac-12's Beavers have accomplished.

"To win that many ballgames, it's almost amazing to me, because I know how hard it is to win," he said. "We talk about it all the time. How are they doing it? It's not like they're in Houston where they can just run down the street and grab players. They're going all over the place and

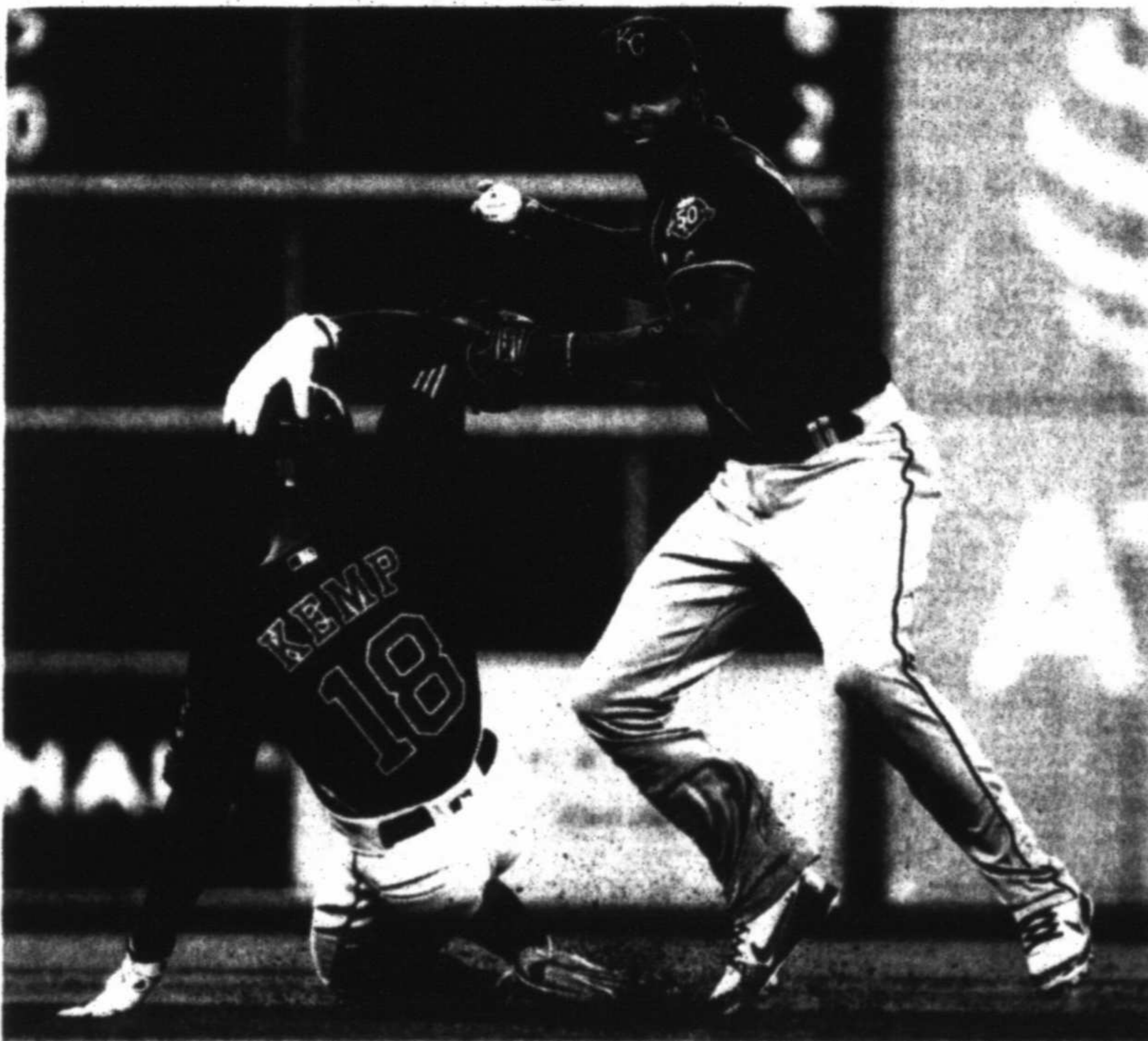
Please see CWS/3C



Nell Harsh/Associated Press

Oregon State first baseman Zak Taylor (16) smiles after a double play against Mississippi State ended the sixth inning of an NCAA College World Series baseball elimination game Saturday in Omaha, Neb.

## Continuing the streak



Eric Christian Smith/Associated Press

Kansas City Royals shortstop Alcides Escobar, right, turns a double play over Houston Astros' Tony Kemp during the 8th inning Sunday in Houston.

## Gurriel hits grand slam, Astros rout Royals

By Joshua Koch  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Astros manager A.J. Hinch is quite comfortable when Yuli Gurriel is at the plate with runners are in scoring position.

Gurriel hit a grand slam in Houston's eight-run second inning, helping Gerrit Cole and the Astros beat the Kansas City Royals 11-3 on Sunday.

"He just has a knack for really putting the barrel on the ball and doing incredibly positive things," Hinch said. "His balance, his bat-to-ball skills, his bat path: Everything lines up when he can

execute his game plan and he doesn't miss pitches.

"He can hit anything anywhere and he usually hits it hard. And that was a big knockout blow for them early in the game."

Gurriel finished with three hits as the AL West-leading Astros won for the 15th time in 17 games. Jose Altuve drove in two runs and scored twice, and Evan Gattis connected for a pinch-hit homer.

Cole (9-1) struck out eight while pitching five innings of one-run ball. The right-hander has struck out at least eight in 12 of his 16 starts.

"You know ideally I'd like to get a

little more length there, especially after the bullpen had to work last night," Cole said. "Some of that is out of my control a little bit. So, just kind of get back to the grind and get to the next one."

Houston loaded the bases with one out in the second, and Tony Kemp brought home the first run when he reached on catcher's interference on Drew Butera. George Springer then lined out, but Alex Bregman walked, Altuve hit a two-run single and Carlos Correa walked before Gurriel connected against Jason Hammel (2-9) for his second career grand slam.

Please see ASTROS/3C

## Truex tricks Harvick on track, conquers Sonoma

By Greg Beacham  
Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Martin Truex Jr. was running second as the laps dwindled in Sonoma, and crew chief Cole Pearn didn't think they were as fast as Kevin Harvick.

Pearn told his team to prepare for a pit stop on the 73rd lap, and he told Truex over the radio to bring in the car.

It was all tricky. Harvick's crew chief, Rodney Childers, called in his driver for tires and fuel in anticipation of Truex's stop — but Pearn's driver actually stayed out for seven more laps. When Truex finally pitted, he got the fresh tires he needed to blow past Harvick for a sweet victory.

"I called him off at the last second," Pearn said with a sly smile. "As far as he knew, we were pitting. I'd like to say we're smart enough to use codes, but we're not. We'd probably mess it up."

Truex won the NASCAR Cup Series race in Sonoma on Sunday because of that clever pit bluff, cruising to his second career victory on the challenging



Ben Margolis/Associated Press

Martin Truex Jr. (78) leads Kevin Harvick (4) through a turn during a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race Sunday in Sonoma, Calif.

road course.

Truex easily held off Harvick for his second win in three weeks and his third victory of the season in his Furniture Row Racing Toyota. Truex led 62 laps and won by a whopping 10.513 seconds.

"The last 10 laps of the race were easy," Truex said. "A little stressful. I was just hoping for no cautions, because I had a big lead. This place is so tricky

and so technical, but when you start to take care of your equipment and have time to think, it's almost harder. You can overshoot a corner easily."

The defending Cup Series champion didn't make a mistake after he waited to pit until the 81st lap, a full eight laps later than Harvick's Stewart-Haas

Please see TRUEX/3C

## MCS grad Little announces he's going pro

From staff reports

Midland Christian grad Grant Little announced on Twitter on Sunday that he will forgo his final two years of eligibility with the Texas Tech baseball team and turn pro.

Little, who was a sophomore outfielder for the Red Raiders this past season, was the 74<sup>th</sup> overall selection in the Competitive Balance Round B segment by the San Diego Padres in the Major League First-Year Player Draft earlier this month.



Little

In his post, Little wrote, "I'm extremely excited to begin my professional career with the San Diego Padres. Once again, get to live out a childhood dream of mine that wouldn't be possible without the great people of Texas Tech University."

Little also thanks the coaching staff, teammates and fans in his post.

"Growing up in West Texas, Texas Tech has always meant more to me than just a university. It meant home," he wrote. "Wearing the Scarlet and Black for 2 years was a dream come true for me and is something that will cherish forever."

This past season, Little was second on the team with a .370 batting average, hit 12 home runs, and drove in 77 runs as he started and played in all 65 games for the Red Raiders.

He was an All-Big 12 selection and was named as an All-American by five different publications.

Little helped Texas Tech go 45-20 and earn its third trip in five years to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska, where the Red Raiders went 1-2 with a win over No. 1 national seed Florida.

There is no word on when he will officially sign with the Padres but the approximate slot value for his pick is \$812,200.

## Berrios strikes out 12 as Twins beat Rangers 2-0

By Brian Hall  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Once Jose Berrios escaped a jam in the first inning, the rest of the day belonged to the ace right-hander.

Berrios struck out a career-best 12 in seven innings, helping the Minnesota Twins beat Bartolo Colon and the Texas Rangers 2-0 on Sunday.

Shin-Soo Choo jumped on Berrios' first-pitch fastball for a leadoff double, but Berrios settled down before the Rangers could grab an early lead.

"Yeah, he surprised me," Berrios said through an interpreter. "I threw a fastball right down the pipe and he obviously connected as you guys know. That kind of gave me a hands up like, 'Oh, OK, game on here.'"

Eddie Rosario had two hits for the Twins, who escaped a three-game losing streak. Bobby Wilson and Robbie Grossman each singled in a run.

Berrios (8-5) surrendered just three hits while improving to 3-0 in June. Trevor Hildenburger pitched a perfect eighth and Fernando Rodney finished the three-hitter for his 17th save.

The Rangers had won seven in a row and missed out on a chance for a perfect six-game road trip. Colon (4-5) yielded

Please see RANGERS/3C

'HOUNDWATCH



SUNDAY'S SCORE
Midland 5, San Antonio 4
TUESDAY'S GAME
South vs North
7:15 pm
All-Star Game
INTERNET
www.mrb.com

Table with 5 columns: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Rows for Midland 5, South vs North, San Antonio 4, All-Star Game.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

College Baseball
CWS Championship, Game 1: Arkansas vs. Oregon State, 6 p.m., ESPN.
Major League Baseball
LA Angels at Kansas City, 3 p.m., MLB.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Options RHP Jose Fernandez to Salt Lake (PCL), RHP RHP Harold Rabin to Salt Lake.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES - Placed RHP Aramis Garcia on the 10-day DL.

LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR BRACKETS

Little League District 3 All-Star Tournament
(Times and dates subject to change)
Boys' Park, Midland
9-10-year-olds bracket
Saturday, June 16 scores
Game 1: Mid City 12, Shawwood 3

WNBA GLANCE

WNBA GLANCE table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB, and Home/Away records.

MLS GLANCE

MLS GLANCE table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, GB, and Home/Away records.

Watson shoots 63 to rally for 3rd Travelers title

By Pat Eaton-Robb
Associated Press

CROMWELL, Conn. — Bubba Watson says TPC River Highlands feels like home. It certainly was a comfortable place again this week.

Watson overcame a six-stroke deficit Sunday to win his third Travelers Championship title, shooting a 7-under 63 for a three-stroke victory.

The left-hander became the first three-time winner on the PGA Tour this season and pulled within one of Billy Casper's tournament record of four victories.

He finished at 17-under 263. Third-round leader Paul Casey, Stewart Cink, Beau Hossler and J.B. Holmes tied for second. Casey shot 72, Cink 62, Hossler 66 and Holmes 67.

Watson also came from six back to win the 2010 event for his first tour title and beat Casey in a playoff in 2015.

"I feel like this is my home course," Watson said. "As soon as they put the schedule up, I sign up for this. I want to come back here. This means so much, not only from the golf side of it, but from the family side. My dad, it was the only time he got to see me win (in 2010). He got to see me qualify for the Ryder



Stow Milne/Associated Press

Bubba Watson hits his approach shot on the 18th hole during the final round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament Sunday in Cromwell, Conn. Watson won the tournament.

Cup at this event. So all these things just mean so much to my family."

During the victory ceremony, Watson's adopted children — 6-year-old son Caleb and 3-year-old daughter Dakota — received small trophies of their own. Watson shot a 33 on the

Ted Scott a big high-five before taking the lead with the putt.

"Hitting some of those shots, especially the shot on 18, downwind, it was very difficult, but somehow pulling it off" Watson said. "And that's what we all try to do on Sundays is pull off the amazing shot."

Casey, who shot 65, 67 and 62 to lead the field by four shots coming into Sunday, birdied his opening hole. But he gave that back on the fifth and had back-to-back bogeys on 16 and 17 to end any chance he had of catching Watson.

The Englishman has finished in the top 20 in eight of his last nine tournaments. He was second here during his first visit in 2015, came in 17th a year later and had a fifth-place finish in Cromwell a year ago.

Watson also won at Riviera in Los Angeles in February and the World Golf Championships-Match Play in Austin in March. He earned \$1.26 million for his 12th career victory.

Cink tied the best round of the week with a 62 on Sunday. The two-time Travelers Champion came out blazing, opening with three straight birdies and putting up a 29 on the front nine. He was 7-under through 10 and acknowledged thinking about a sub-60 round after making birdie on the 15th.

PRO GOLF SCORES

PGA and LPGA Pro Golf Scores table listing player names, scores, and tournament details.

World of Outlaws driver Jason Johnson dies after crash

Associated Press

BEAVER DAM, Wis. — Sprint car driver Jason Johnson has died following a crash at Beaver Dam Raceway in Wisconsin, race officials said Sunday. He was 41.

Johnson was injured during a World of Outlaws race Saturday night at the 1/3-mile-long dirt oval, the series said. It said the driver from Eunice, Louisiana, crashed on lap 18 of a 40-lap race while racing for the lead and was taken to a hospital.

The series posted a message Sunday morning on Twitter saying that Johnson had died.

A message posted on the Twitter account for Jason Johnson Racing said the team was "heartbroken and saddened to tell you that we have lost our leader, friend, family member

and our hero."

Condolences poured in on social media. NASCAR drivers woke up to news of Johnson's death hours before their race in California.

"Won some races, and championships together. Jason was a great leader for his team and strong man for his family," Ricky Stenhouse Jr. wrote on Twitter. "He went about things his own way and was really fun to watch."

Tony Stewart Racing said it was heartbroken as it mourned Johnson's death.

"While fierce competitors on-track, the racing family has a bond that's unbreakable," the team wrote. Johnson won the 2016 Knoxville Nationals in Iowa.

The racing community has seen several drivers die in crashes in recent years.

In 2013, Jason Leffler died following a crash at a New Jersey sprint car race.

The following year, Formula One driver Jules Bianchi suffered head injuries in the Japanese Grand Prix that ultimately cost him his life. Sprint car driver Scott Semmelmann died in 2014 during a wreck at practice at Beaver Dam.

Justin Wilson was killed when he was struck in the head by a piece of debris during an IndyCar race at Pocono in 2015.

A year later, Bryan Clauson died from injuries suffered in a crash during a race in Kansas. The popular Clauson was widely considered the best dirt-track racer in the nation.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION advertisement featuring adoption events, contact information, and a photo of a cat named Tyler.

ROCKHOUNDS REPORT

ROCKHOUNDS 5, MISSIONS 4
At Nelson Wolff Stadium, San Antonio
TOP HITTERS: Midland's Sean Murphy went 2-for-4 with a double, home run, two RBI and two runs scored.

FL Standings
Team W L Pct GB
North Division
Texas (Dodgers) 4 1 800 -
Arkansas (Mariners) 4 1 800 -

ROCKHOUNDS 5, MISSIONS 4
Midland ab r h r San Antonio r h r
Starters 4 12 0 Dallas ca 4 0 2 2
Bat of 4 0 10 Taylor 5 1 2 1

RANGERS

From 1C
two runs and seven hits in seven innings.
"I think I pitched a great game, but I have to give credit to Berrios because he also pitched a great game too," Colon said through an interpreter.

the mound. His pure stuff is elite in the game.
There were no further incidents after an intriguing sequence during Texas' 9-6 win on Saturday. Jurickson Profar stole second base in the fourth inning with a 9-2 lead.

American League

BLUE JAYS 7, ANGELS 6
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Kendrys Morales ditched his glasses and found his swing.

RED SOX 5, MARINERS 0
BOSTON — Chris Sale wasn't about to slow down the way he was pitching.

INDIANS 12, TIGERS 2
CLEVELAND — The sweet-swinging Cleveland Indians are taking their show on the road after one successful homestand.

ATHLETICS 10, WHITE SOX 3
CHICAGO — White Sox manager Rick Renteria has been talking with Yoan Moncada about his focus lately.

RAVENS 7, YANKEES 5
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Rookie Jake Bauers led off the 12th inning with a home run and the Tampa Bay Rays completed a three-game sweep of the New York Yankees with a 7-6 victory Sunday.

MLB ROUNDUP

Yankees with a 7-6 victory Sunday. The Yankees, with the best record in the majors, also lost catcher Gary Sanchez when he appeared to injure his groin trying to beat out a double-play grounder in the 10th.

RED SOX 5, MARINERS 0
BOSTON — Chris Sale struck out 13 over seven dazzling innings, Mitch Moreland hit a two-run homer and the Boston Red Sox won the weekend and season series over the Seattle Mariners with a 5-0 victory on Sunday afternoon.

REDS 8, CUBS 6
CINCINNATI — Once pitcher Mike Lorenzen homered, the Cincinnati Reds got rolling again.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, PIRATES 0
PITTSBURGH — Clay Buchholz pitched five solid innings before leaving with an injury and the Arizona Diamondbacks completed a four-game sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates with a 3-0 win Sunday.

GIANTS 3, PADRES 2
SAN FRANCISCO — Hunter Pence retweeted his swing under the guidance of a hitting guru while rehabbing in the minors from a right thumb sprain.

MARLINS 5, ROCKIES 5
DENVER — Derek Dietrich was hoping for a chance at history but settled for a win in a torrid month for the Miami outfielder.

DODGERS 8, METS 7
NEW YORK — Justin Turner hit the Dodgers' seventh home run of the game, a go-ahead drive in the 11th inning that led Los Angeles over the New York Mets 8-7 Sunday.

CARDINALS 3, BREWERS 2
MILWAUKEE — Luke Weaver seemed to regain his old form. It just took a while. He settled in after a shaky first inning to win for the first time in eight starts and Jose Martinez hit a three-run homer to pace the St. Louis Cardinals to an 8-2 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday.

BRAVES 7, ORIOLES 3
ATLANTA — With closer Aroldys Vizcaino on the disabled list, the Braves found strong relief elsewhere.

MLB GLANCE

Standings
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division
New York Yankees 10 2 833 -
Boston Red Sox 9 3 783 -100

MLB GLANCE

Standings
NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division
Atlanta Braves 10 2 833 -
Washington Nationals 9 3 783 -100

MIDLAND CONNECTION IN PRO BASEBALL

Here is an update of Midland players from Midland or players with a Midland connection who are active, playing professional baseball and have statistics for the season.
Through June 23
Pitchers
Cannon Smith (Midland College), RHP, Boston Red Sox, 19-day disabled list

ASTROS

From 1C
"Put guys on base for free and make mistakes and that's what happens," Hammel said.
Gurriel also hit a solo drive in Saturday's 4-3 win in 12 innings. It's the first time since July 21-22, 2017, that Gurriel has homered in back-to-back games.

hind that group and battle back because they are so good.
Bregman had been working on a mustache the last few days, but it disappeared during the game.
A split-screen picture of Bregman during his at-bat in the second inning and next plate appearance in the fourth showed he had shaved at some point between the two at-bats.

CWS

From 1C
doing it with kids from their region."
The Razorbacks, previously in Omaha in 2015, have been ascending since going 26-29 and failing to make the NCAA Tournament in 2016. They lost in a regional final last year and now are in position to play for the title.

Kacey Murphy (8-5) on Tuesday and Isaiah Campbell (5-6) if a game is necessary Wednesday.
Casey didn't name a Game 1 starter. Ace Luke Heimlich (16-2) would be coming off four days of rest after not getting out of the third inning in either of his starts in Omaha.

Arkansas could become the fifth Southeastern Conference program to win the national championship since 2009.
"This is my 16th year in the SEC, and the league was the deepest it's been," Van Horn said. "You have Mississippi State this close to getting to the championship series and they came in fourth or fifth place in the Western Division. It definitely prepares you for just about anything that's coming your way."

**WORLD CUP GLANCE**

Associated Press

**ENGLAND 4, PANAMA 2**

**NIZHNY NOVGOROD, Russia** — With two penalties and an accidental deflection, Harry Kane moved ahead of David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo and put England into the round of 16 at the World Cup.

Kane scored half of England's goals Sunday in a 6-1 rout of Panama, the national team's largest-ever margin of victory at the World Cup.

"The third one is probably one of the luckiest ones of my career," said Kane, who took the game ball to the locker room. "Sometimes you go through spells where you are scoring and sometimes it doesn't fall for you."

"Not many players get to score a hat trick in a World Cup."

Kane has scored a tournament-leading five goals at the World Cup in Russia, one more than Ronaldo and Romelu Lukaku. He also has 18 for England's national team, one more than Beckham.

Not since the 4-2 victory over Germany in the 1966 final has England scored as many goals at the World Cup.

The ruthlessness of the display in the sweltering heat of Nizhny Novgorod showed just how far England has been transformed in the four years since an older, more experienced squad couldn't even manage a win when it exited the World Cup in the group stage.

In 2014, England complained about the heat in Brazil — particularly the humidity of the Amazonian jungle in the team's opening loss to Italy.

Kane scored two in the opening 2-1 victory over Tunisia, including a header in injury time.

"The other day we had to go right to the wire and show qualities that were going to be extremely important," England coach Gareth Southgate said. "The only downside was the goal at the end because we talked at halftime about the importance of controlling the group with our goal difference. We missed out on that opportunity but it would be harsh to criticize the players after a day like that, in the heat as well, so we must enjoy the win."

Now England is sure of a spot in the round of 16 with a game to spare in Group G. Panama, which offered little resistance, is leaving the tournament early after being eliminated along with Tunisia.

Sterner tests await, starting with the Thursday's game against Belgium. England and Belgium are level on points and goal difference and will play for first place in the group.

England showed it wasn't only reliant on Kane, who couldn't find the net at the 2016 European Championship. Jesse Stones headed in two goals and Jesse Lingard curled in another.

In Russia, England has been trying to cast aside the negativity of the past while reminding the image of the team on and off the field. Even locals were supporting the team in Nizhny Novgorod, despite the bitter diplomatic relations between Russia and Britain.

The egos who dominated in England's celebrity-obsessed, underperforming Golden Generation in the first decade of century have gone. The joy and togetherness in the squad — the second-youngest in Russia — becomes clear in the goal celebrations.

Where past England teams might have wilted in warm temperatures, this one pressed with high-tempo intensity to ensure there was no need to scrape a victory like on Monday against Tunisia.



Baker Mark/Associated Press

Japan's Takashi Inui, front, shoot to score his side's first goal as Senegal's Moussa Vague, left, fails to defend during the group H match between Japan and Senegal at the 2018 soccer World Cup at the Yekaterinburg Arena on Sunday in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

England picked up where it left off in Volgograd, with a corner from Kieran Trippier headed into the net in the eighth minute. It wasn't Kane on the end this time but Stones, who was left unmarked to score his first international goal.

Kane didn't have to wait long to add to his tally, converting from the penalty spot in the 22nd after Lingard was brought down by Fidel Escobar.

Lingard did get on the score sheet in the 36th with the pick of the goals. The Manchester United forward played a 1-2 with Ashley Young and exchanged passes with Raheem Sterling before shifting the ball across and bending it into the top corner.

The fourth goal was the culmination of a well-worked free kick with Sterling's close-range header parried by goalkeeper Jaime Penedo. Stones was primed to follow-up, giving the defender his second.

However much they tried, Panama struggled to block England's route to goal. Anibal Godoy resorted to trying to wrestle Kane to the ground, only to concede a penalty that was converted by the Tottenham striker.

**COLUMBIA 3, POLAND 0**

**KAZAN, Russia** — Four years after Radamel Falcao was supposed to lead Colombia at the World Cup, he's doing just that.

Falcao missed the tournament in Brazil with a knee injury and had to wait until arriving in Russia to score his first World Cup goal. It came in Colombia's

3-0 victory over Poland on Sunday. "It's a dream goal," Falcao said. "I'm happy for the victory, for the team's performance and the goal that I scored, which I've been waiting for for many years."

The victory kept Colombia in the running for a spot in the round of 16 and knocked out Poland, the first European country to be eliminated.

Falcao, Colombia's all-time leading scorer with 30 goals, made sure he would stay healthy for this year's World Cup by sitting out several matches with his Monaco club this season.

So far, so good. "We always hope that he can score and hope that he can be fit as he was today, and we want to help him," Colombia coach Jose Pekerman said. "I think the fact that he scored was very important, not just for today but for the matches to come."

"He is a symbol of the national team. He is a symbol of Colombian football." Playing some scrapping soccer in Kazan, Falcao scored with the outside of his foot in the 70th minute after a superb pass from playmaker Juan Quintero in the back of the defense.

Yerry Mina scored the first goal in the 40th and Juan Cuadrado completed the win in the 75th.

Both teams lost their Group H openers and knew another loss would end their hopes of advancing. Colombia will next face Senegal on Thursday in Samara with a chance to win the group, while Poland will play Japan in Volgograd.

Senegal and Japan draw 2-2 earlier

Sunday and lead the group with four points each.

Mina out-jumped the Poland defense to head in the opening goal from James Rodriguez's cross, rewarding a spell of domination by the Colombians.

Rodriguez's through ball after Poland lost possession in midfield led to the final goal. Cuadrado collected the pass and rushed toward the box, timing his shot perfectly to beat goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Poland got off to an aggressive start in the hot and humid Tatarstan capital, pressing high and winning most of the duels in the opening minutes.

Colombia gradually settled in, though, with Quintero providing attacking width and Cuadrado proving dangerous with his subtle moves on the edge of the box.

Colombia slowed the pace in the second half, showing good counterattacking qualities. Quintero came close in the 56th minute on the break, but his goal-bound shot took a deflection.

**JAPAN 2, SENEGAL 2**

**YEKATERINBURG, Russia** — Keisuke Honda set on the bench for 72 minutes, knowing a goal would make him the first Japanese player to score at three World Cups.

Six minutes later, it was a done deal. The former AC Milan forward scored in the 78th minute, knocking the ball past two defenders standing on the goal line, to give Japan a 2-2 draw with Senegal on Sunday at the World Cup.

The 32-year-old Honda also scored at the 2010 and 2014 World Cups. He has 37 international goals in his career.

"I believe I used substitutions very well in looking back," said Japan coach Akira Nishino, who took over shortly before the tournament started. "Honda was moved from center to the wide side and he was very versatile at adapting to that position."

"We really wanted to win, we wanted to equalize and also take the lead even though there was only a short period of time left."

The draw keeps both teams at the top of Group H ahead of their final matches. Japan will next face Poland in Volgograd on Thursday while Senegal faces Colombia in Samara.

Sadio Mane gave Senegal the lead in the 11th minute with his first World Cup goal.

The Liverpool forward tapped the ball into the net after goalkeeper Eji Kawashima was unable to control a shot from Youssouf Sabaly.

"The ball touched my foot and went into the net," Mane said. "It was really just the foot on the ball."

Japan struck back in the 34th minute when Takashi Inui scored with Japan's first shot on goal, but Moussa Wague restored the lead with a shot high into the net in the 71st.

A minute later, Nishino sent on Honda and striker Shinji Okazaki. Senegal outshot Japan 14-7 and had five shots on target. Japan had only two.

"Frankly speaking, I think we are a bit disappointed," Mane said. And that's normal because there was a way to win this match."

Aliou Cisse, the coach of Senegal and the captain of the 2002 team that reached the quarterfinals, said his team needs to be more aggressive.

"We need to have more concentration and be more rigorous," Cisse said. "We didn't lose today. We didn't play a great game, but we didn't lose."

**WORLD CUP GLANCE**

2018 World Cup  
A A Group  
GROUP STAGE

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
France	2	0	0	1	0	6
Uruguay	2	0	0	0	0	6
Egypt	0	2	1	4	0	3
South Africa	0	2	0	0	0	3

Thursday, June 14  
At Moscow

France 3, South Africa 0
Sunday, June 17 At Samara, Russia
Uruguay vs. France, 9 a.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
South Africa vs. Egypt, 9 a.m.

GROUP B

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Portugal	1	1	0	4	3	4
Spain	1	0	1	2	2	3
Iran	1	0	1	1	2	3
Morocco	0	2	0	2	0	2

Sunday, June 17  
At Moscow

Spain vs. Morocco, 1 p.m.
At Samara, Russia
Iran vs. Portugal, 1 p.m.

GROUP C

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
France	2	0	0	3	1	6
Germany	2	0	0	2	0	6
Australia	0	1	2	3	1	1
Peru	0	0	2	0	2	0

Monday, June 18  
At Sochi, Russia

Australia vs. Peru, 9 a.m.
At Samara, Russia
Germany vs. France, 9 a.m.

GROUP D

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Colombia	2	0	0	0	0	6
Nigeria	1	0	1	2	2	3
Argentina	0	1	1	3	1	1
Bosnia	0	1	1	1	4	1

Monday, June 18  
At St. Petersburg, Russia

Nigeria vs. Argentina, 1 p.m.
At Sochi, Russia
Bosnia vs. Colombia, 1 p.m.

GROUP E

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brazil	1	0	1	2	2	3
Croatia	1	0	1	2	2	3
Denmark	1	0	1	2	2	3
Czech Rep.	0	2	0	2	0	3

Wednesday, June 27  
At Moscow

Denmark vs. Brazil, 1 p.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
Croatia vs. Czech Rep., 1 p.m.

GROUP F

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mexico	2	0	0	3	1	6
Germany	1	0	1	2	2	3
Sweden	1	0	1	2	2	3
South Korea	0	2	1	2	3	0

Wednesday, June 27  
At Sochi, Russia

South Korea vs. Germany, 1 a.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
Mexico vs. Sweden, 9 a.m.

GROUP G

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	2	0	0	2	0	6
Uruguay	2	0	0	2	0	6
Tunisia	0	2	1	0	0	3
Peru	0	2	1	0	0	3

Monday, June 18  
At Sochi, Russia

England vs. Uruguay, 1 p.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
Uruguay vs. Tunisia, 1 p.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
England vs. Peru, 1 p.m.

GROUP H

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Japan	1	1	0	2	2	4
Senegal	1	0	1	2	2	3
Colombia	1	0	1	3	1	3
Poland	0	2	1	0	0	0

Monday, June 18  
At Volgograd, Russia

Japan vs. Senegal, 1 p.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
Colombia vs. Poland, 1 p.m.

Monday, June 18  
At Volgograd, Russia

Japan vs. Senegal, 1 p.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
Colombia vs. Poland, 1 p.m.

Monday, June 18  
At Volgograd, Russia

Japan vs. Senegal, 1 p.m.
At Volgograd, Russia
Colombia vs. Poland, 1 p.m.

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ZITS



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BABY BLUES



SHOE



MUTTS



GARFIELD



CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



WIZARD OF ID



"Remember it's just a night game! Please, just hit the button to call the police! All I want to do is go to jail so I can get health benefits!"

"Don't worry. The neighbors agreed to prop the charges."

DILBERT



LOCKHORNS



# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mapham Group

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

**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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

**SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE**

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

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## DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Viking tales, say  
6 Actress Rooney or Kate  
10 Empty talk  
13 Lodge: motel chain  
14 Tiny particle  
15 Dropped in the mail  
16 "Question to the bartender  
18 "The Simpsons" bus driver  
19 Rogen of "Steve Jobs"  
20 Kumquat peel  
21 Demand from the judge  
22 Bean product?  
24 Fragrant hybrid bloom  
26 Computer cord  
29 Tight braid  
31 Coral rings  
33 Mango seed  
34 Org. for the Minnesota Lynx  
37 Brooks of "High Anxiety"  
38 "Subject of a neighborhood fier  
41 Chum  
42 Salon foot treatment, briefly  
44 It's burned during workouts  
45 New version of an old movie  
47 Orange Crush, e.g.  
50 Hotel postings  
51 Belgian seaport known for its diamond shops  
53 "Dream on!"  
55 Courtliffed  
56 Colossal  
58 Spring flower  
62 Golfer's chipping club  
63 Last detail that makes things perfect... and what each answer to a starred clue has?  
65 Questions  
66 Home of leprechauns  
67 Lauder  
68 Big name in jeans

**DOWN**

1 Works with thread  
2 Ibuprofen target  
3 Nanny or billy  
4 Mound built by insects  
5 Mariner's "Help"  
6 Superfan to the max  
7 Address label abbr.  
8 Traveling for away games  
9 Band booster  
10 "Master perfectly  
11 Poker prepayments  
12 Strip mall unit  
15 One cause of tears  
17 It's mined and refined  
21 Blade making waves  
23 Lenovo competitor  
25 Cross the threshold  
26 Step in the woods, maybe

27 Suit to  
28 "Daring action  
30 Decide one will  
32 Up to now  
35 Cook in the oven  
36 Nanobrewery beverages  
39 Blue birthstone  
40 Polo of "The Fosters"  
43 Dubuque natives  
46 Underworld family member  
48 California's Marina \_\_ Rey  
49 Some polytheists  
51 Easy-to-read font  
52 Slip slowly  
54 Pinch from le chef  
57 Knot or pound  
59 Road grooves  
60 Slushy drink brand  
61 Backyard shelter  
63 Not a lot  
64 Hamilton's bill

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

J	U	N	G	L	E	A	S	H	A	P	A	L	
U	N	C	O	I	L	P	L	O	T	L	I	N	E
A	L	S	A	C	E	P	A	R	A	L	L	A	X
R	O	T	T	E	N	T	O	M	A	T	O	E	S
E	V	A	A	U	L	D	T	S	A	R			
Z	E	T	A	S	B	L	U	R	S	U	Z	I	
D	E	M	U	R	S	N	A	K	E	P	I	T	
S	L	O	B	K	N	I	T						
A	C	T	O	F	W	A	R	K	N	O	P	F	
R	O	O	A	S	S	A	Y	S	N	E	R	D	
S	A	U	K	S	C	O	T	T	A	O			
C	R	Y	P	T	O	C	U	R	R	E	N	C	Y
O	H	B	O	O	H	O	O	A	E	R	A	T	E
N	E	U	T	R	I	N	O	C	A	I	M	A	N
O	S	S	O	S	S	N	E	D	S	E	L	S	

6/25/18

## JUMBLE

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

CONTH

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

OFLCA

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CETEND

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CJLAAK

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kurek

**WHEN HE APPLIED FOR A PATENT ON HIS PULL-TAB INVENTION, THE PATENT OFFICE SAID ---**

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

Print your answer here: 

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: LOGIC TWINE REDUCE JABBER  
 Answer: When another coffee shop opened next door, there was — TROUBLE BREWING

## JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt


**CLUE ACROSS**

1. Offer as proof  
5. Glad  
6. Surpass  
7. Small village

**CLUE DOWN**

1. On land  
2. High school  
3. \_\_\_ clear  
4. Former Ford model

**ANSWER**

DCEUDA  
PHAYP  
OTDOU  
LHETMA

**ANSWER**

REOSAH  
IOLDAMP  
ACLSRTY  
TRSCFO

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.

6-25-18 **CLUE:** The modern \_\_\_ was invented in 1783.

**BONUS**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com

## WUZZLES

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

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1.

2.

Print Your Answers Here:

1. 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Today's Answers:

1. Coordinate  
2. Leaning forward

6-25  
Created by Tom Underwood  
www.wuzzles.com © North America Syndicate, 2018

Answers  
1. Coordinate  
2. Leaning forward

**WUZZLES**

6-25

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly  
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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WITH PURCHASE OF BEVERAGE

**Quesadilla (Beef or Chicken)**

Served with guacamole, sour cream, & side of salsa.

**Chile Relleno**

Two chile rellenos (stuffed or battered) smothered with our red sauce or queso. Your choice of beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Asado**

Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Grande Nachos**

Includes beans, cheese, beef or chicken, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, sour cream, & jalapenos.

**Shredded Beef**

Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Combo Tex Mex**

Two cheese or beef enchiladas, one taco, & one burrito. Served with rice & beans.

**Enchiladas**

Choice of red or green sauce, beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice & beans.

**Flouritos**

Four chicken flouritos, 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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### Senior Assistant Engineer

This position is for one or more experienced Engineering Assistant/Engineer Intern(s) at the Midland Development Corporation depending on business need and applicant's qualifications.

Full-Time, Regular Employment: \$4,500.00 - \$7,000.00 monthly  
Overtime Travel: Up to 10% of the time

Physical work location: Midland Development Corporation  
200 North Lorraine Street, Suite 610  
Midland, Texas

#### General Description:

Performs engineering work. Design activity is supervised by a licensed professional engineer who has authority for final approval of all projects. Work requires contact with local governmental representatives, engineering contractors and private entities. Employees at this level perform work independently on assignments; however, all crucial issues are referred to the supervisor.

#### Essential Duties Include:

Applies engineering principles, methods and techniques to a wide variety of transportation-related activities.  
Performs research and problem solving of engineering-related problems.  
Performs engineering-related duties in the field of transportation engineering.  
Performs engineering-related planning, design, data collection, evaluation and analysis activities.  
Performs engineering-related calculations and drafting/design work.  
Performs engineering analysis, to include travel demand, traffic operations, water distribution and waste water collection.  
Reviews engineering work for calculation errors and compliance with applicable federal and state laws and industry standards and guidelines.  
Actively prepares for professional engineering licensure/registration through appropriate training and exams and completion/maintenance of required documentation.  
Assists a Project Manager oversee consultants performing advanced and complex engineering work.  
Assists with reviews and processing of project design plans developed by consulting engineers.  
Assists with monitoring contract performance, evaluating contract deliverables, reviewing billing documentation, monitoring the consultant's compliance with the terms of the contract, and preparation of written evaluation of the consultant's performance.  
Assists with negotiation of fees and budgets, development and negotiation of scopes of work, negotiation of contract work schedules, and negotiation of other contract agreements.  
Uses automated roadway/infrastructure/hydraulic design programs and computer-aided design/engineering systems.  
Use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
Drives to project sites to collect engineering data and attend meetings for project coordination.  
Performs other job responsibilities as assigned.

#### Required Competencies Include:

Civil / Transportation design, engineering principles, practices and methods and the application of engineering theory.  
Civil engineering terminology and fundamentals.  
Working knowledge of design / drafting procedures, to include skill in the use of Open Roads Designer and / or AutoCAD Civil 3D.  
Plan review methods, processes and procedures.  
The Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.  
Highway/Utility construction and maintenance.  
Applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations specific to area of responsibility for safeguarding information.  
Collecting, sorting and compiling data.  
Applying engineering principles, practices, and methods in job responsibilities.  
Analyzing and organizing technical data.  
Maintaining a safe working relationship.  
Communicate effectively.  
Research and analyze methodologies.

#### Minimum Education Required:

Bachelor's Degree in accordance with one of the Other Minimum Requirements outlined below.

#### Minimum Work Experience Required:

Three (3) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Experience can be satisfied by fulltime or prorated part-time equivalent).  
No Supervisory Experience Required.  
Master's degree in engineering or a Master of Engineering degree from an institution that offers a Bachelor of Science degree, in the same discipline, which has been accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (EAC/ABET) may substitute for a Bachelor's degree and experience.

#### The following Licenses and/or Certifications are required for this job:

Valid Driver's License  
Engineer-in-Training (EIT) Certified

#### Other Minimum Requirements:

Degree in engineering which has been accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (EAC/ABET), plus three (3) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Degree in engineering technology which has been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET) plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Degree in mathematical, physical or engineering sciences approved by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Degree in engineering which has not been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET) but has been approved by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

#### Conditions of Employment:

May be required to work weekends and holidays.  
May be required to work hours other than 8 to 5.  
Required to wear personal protective equipment provided by employer and comply with all safety requirements.  
Must attend work regularly and observe approved work hours.  
External final state applicants who are 18-25 years of age will be required to furnish proof of registration or exemption from registration with the Selective Service System.

If hired, employee must provide document(s) within three (3) days of hire date that establish identity and employment eligibility. A complete list of acceptable documents is on file with the local Texas Workforce Commission office or <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>.

Applicants selected for an interview will be required provide two examples of civil / transportation / infrastructure design work he or she has developed, and to perform a job simulation to assess applicant's skill in Communicate Effectively and use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
The Midland Development Corporation (MDC) reserves the sole right in determining the acceptability of work experience and salary based on the applicant's qualified work experience, education, skill level and all other appropriate factors, and based on business needs.

#### Applicants:

Applicants are to send a Cover Letter and Resume to [glw@mrtclassifieds.com](mailto:glw@mrtclassifieds.com)

### General Design Technician

This position is for one or more experienced Engineering Assistant/Engineer Intern(s) at the Midland Development Corporation depending on business need and applicant's qualifications.

Full-Time, Regular Employment: \$4,500.00 - \$7,000.00 monthly  
Overtime Travel: Up to 10% of the time

Physical work location: Midland Development Corporation  
200 North Lorraine Street, Suite 610  
Midland, Texas

#### General Description:

Performs engineering work. Design activity is supervised by a licensed professional engineer who has authority for final approval of all projects. Work requires contact with local governmental representatives, engineering contractors and private entities. Employees at this level perform work independently on assignments; however, all crucial issues are referred to the supervisor.

#### Essential Duties Include:

Applies engineering principles, methods and techniques to a wide variety of transportation-related activities.  
Performs research and problem solving of engineering-related problems.  
Performs engineering-related duties in the field of transportation engineering.  
Performs engineering-related planning, design, data collection, evaluation and analysis activities.  
Performs engineering-related calculations and drafting/design work.  
Performs engineering analysis, to include travel demand, traffic operations, water distribution and waste water collection.  
Reviews engineering work for calculation errors and compliance with applicable federal and state laws and industry standards and guidelines.  
Actively prepares for professional engineering licensure/registration through appropriate training and exams and completion/maintenance of required documentation.  
Assists a Project Manager oversee consultants performing advanced and complex engineering work.  
Assists with reviews and processing of project design plans developed by consulting engineers.  
Assists with monitoring contract performance, evaluating contract deliverables, reviewing billing documentation, monitoring the consultant's compliance with the terms of the contract, and preparation of written evaluation of the consultant's performance.  
Assists with negotiation of fees and budgets, development and negotiation of scopes of work, negotiation of contract work schedules, and negotiation of other contract agreements.  
Uses automated roadway/infrastructure/hydraulic design programs and computer-aided design/engineering systems.  
Use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
Drives to project sites to collect engineering data and attend meetings for project coordination.  
Performs other job responsibilities as assigned.

#### Required Competencies Include:

Civil / Transportation design, engineering principles, practices and methods and the application of engineering theory.  
Civil engineering terminology and fundamentals.  
Working knowledge of design / drafting procedures, to include skill in the use of Open Roads Designer and / or AutoCAD Civil 3D.  
Plan review methods, processes and procedures.  
The Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.  
Highway/Utility construction and maintenance.  
Applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations specific to area of responsibility for safeguarding information.  
Collecting, sorting and compiling data.  
Applying engineering principles, practices, and methods in job responsibilities.  
Analyzing and organizing technical data.  
Maintaining a safe working relationship.  
Communicate effectively.  
Research and analyze methodologies.

#### Minimum Education Required:

Bachelor's Degree in accordance with one of the Other Minimum Requirements outlined below.

#### Minimum Work Experience Required:

Three (3) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (Experience can be satisfied by fulltime or prorated part-time equivalent).  
No Supervisory Experience Required.  
Master's degree in engineering or a Master of Engineering degree from an institution that offers a Bachelor of Science degree, in the same discipline, which has been accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (EAC/ABET) may substitute for a Bachelor's degree and experience.

#### The following Licenses and/or Certifications are required for this job:

Valid Driver's License  
Engineer-in-Training (EIT) Certified

#### Other Minimum Requirements:

Degree in engineering which has been accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (EAC/ABET), plus three (3) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Degree in engineering technology which has been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET) plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Degree in mathematical, physical or engineering sciences approved by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Degree in engineering which has not been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET) but has been approved by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

#### Conditions of Employment:

May be required to work weekends and holidays.  
May be required to work hours other than 8 to 5.  
Required to wear personal protective equipment provided by employer and comply with all safety requirements.  
Must attend work regularly and observe approved work hours.  
External final state applicants who are 18-25 years of age will be required to furnish proof of registration or exemption from registration with the Selective Service System.

If hired, employee must provide document(s) within three (3) days of hire date that establish identity and employment eligibility. A complete list of acceptable documents is on file with the local Texas Workforce Commission office or <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>.

Applicants selected for an interview will be required provide two examples of civil / transportation / infrastructure design work he or she has developed, and to perform a job simulation to assess applicant's skill in Communicate Effectively and use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
The Midland Development Corporation (MDC) reserves the sole right in determining the acceptability of work experience and salary based on the applicant's qualified work experience, education, skill level and all other appropriate factors, and based on business needs.

#### Applicants:

Applicants are to send a Cover Letter and Resume to [glw@mrtclassifieds.com](mailto:glw@mrtclassifieds.com)

### CRMW

Colorado River Municipal Water District  
The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for following position:

**Crew Leader -** Responsible for successfully planning, directing, organizing, and overseeing the daily activities of a crew maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pumps, and pump stations. Intermediate level position, good leadership skills and mechanical aptitude required.

For additional information visit [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org)

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### Openings @ West Texas Gas Processing Plant

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Gas Measurement/Communications Technicians. 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.

Natural Gas Compressor Mechanic Position open at natural gas processing plant. Excellent benefits. Salary DOE.  
Experienced Natural Gas field operator for natural gas compression station. Individuals need to have an understanding of natural gas compression, operations of a gas facility, natural gas pipelines including high and low pressure systems and operations. Knowledge with Texas 811 and ONECALL is preferred.

Please Send Resume To:  
Adrian  
2673 FM 829  
Stanton, TX 79782  
Or Fax (432)458-3423  
Or Email [vmccormack@wtgpc.com](mailto:vmccormack@wtgpc.com)

### Assistant Engineer

This is an entry level position for an Engineering Assistant / Engineer Intern at the Midland Development Corporation depending on business need and applicant's qualifications.

Full-Time, Regular Employment: \$3,800.00 - \$6,800.00 monthly  
Overtime Travel: Up to 10% of the time

Physical work location: Midland Development Corporation  
200 North Lorraine Street, Suite 610  
Midland, Texas

#### General Description:

Performs entry-level engineering work. Design activity is supervised by a licensed professional engineer who has authority for final approval of all projects. Work requires contact with local governmental representatives, engineering contractors and private entities. Employees at this level perform assignments following specific instructions and are subject to frequent review by the immediate supervisor.

#### Essential Duties Include:

Applies principles, methods and techniques of engineering technology to a wide variety of transportation-related activities.  
Actively prepares for professional engineering licensure/registration through appropriate training and exams and completion/maintenance of required documentation.  
Drives to project sites to assist with collection of engineering data and meetings to participate in project coordination.  
Assists in the performance of engineering-related duties in the field of transportation engineering.  
Assists in the performance of research and problem solving of engineering related problems.  
Assists with the preparation of routine plan sheets for construction projects.  
Assists with the review of engineering work for calculation errors and compliance with applicable federal and state laws and industry standards and guidelines.  
Performs engineering-related calculations and drafting/design work using specialized design / drafting procedures, to include skill in the use of Open Roads Designer and / or AutoCAD Civil 3D.  
Uses automated roadway programs and computer-aided design/engineering systems.  
Use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
Performs other job responsibilities as assigned.

#### Required Competencies Include:

Communicate effectively.  
Transportation engineering terminology and fundamentals.  
Computer-aided drafting and design systems.  
Excellent math and reasoning to define problems, establish facts and draw valid conclusions, make decisions that support business objectives and goals.  
Performing calculations to include material and labor estimates, estimates, technical data and engineering calculations.  
Analyzing and organizing technical and technical data.  
The use of applicable hand and power tools, equipment and mechanical devices of the trade.  
Maintaining a safe working relationship.

#### Minimum Education Required:

Bachelor's Degree in accordance with one of the Other Minimum Requirements outlined below.

#### Minimum Work Experience Required:

None

#### The following Licenses and/or Certifications are required for this job:

Valid Driver's License

#### Other Minimum Requirements:

Degree in engineering which has been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET).  
Degree in engineering technology which has been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET).  
Degree in mathematical, physical or engineering sciences approved by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

#### Conditions of Employment:

May be required to work weekends and holidays.  
May be required to work hours other than 8 to 5.  
Required to wear personal protective equipment provided by employer and comply with all safety requirements.  
Must attend work regularly and observe approved work hours.  
External final state applicants who are 18-25 years of age will be required to furnish proof of registration or exemption from registration with the Selective Service System.

If hired, employee must provide document(s) within three (3) days of hire date that establish identity and employment eligibility. A complete list of acceptable documents is on file with the local Texas Workforce Commission office or <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>.

Applicants selected for an interview will be required provide two examples of engineering design work he or she has developed, and to perform a job simulation to assess applicant's skill in Communicate Effectively and use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
The Midland Development Corporation (MDC) reserves the sole right in determining the acceptability of work experience and salary based on the applicant's qualified work experience, education, skill level and all other appropriate factors, and based on business needs.

#### Applicants:

Applicants are to send a Cover Letter and Resume to [glw@mrtclassifieds.com](mailto:glw@mrtclassifieds.com)

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### COPY EDITOR DESIRES

WANTED: A team-oriented, deadline-conscious copy editor/designer. You're a good fit if you're creative, willing to work nights, weekends and holidays; have at least one year of layout or copy editing experience, are InDesign proficient, can learn quickly; aren't afraid to ask questions; have an eye for detail; have a firm grasp of punctuation, grammar and AP style; and have a strong commitment to visual journalism. **Alert us:** The Midland Reporter-Telegram has a unique copy desk that handles the daily paper as well as products from other Midland newspapers in the region.

Alert the job: This is an entry-level position that offers paid vacation, a 401(k) and other benefits. Experience in design necessary, experience with sports is a plus. Recent college graduates are encouraged to apply. This would be a good job for someone looking to perfect their copy editing/design skills.

If you're interested, submit your cover letter, resume and photo to PUP. Send to Editor Stewart Deane at [stewart@midland.com](mailto:stewart@midland.com).

### Assistant Engineer

This is an entry level position for an Engineering Assistant / Engineer Intern at the Midland Development Corporation depending on business need and applicant's qualifications.

Full-Time, Regular Employment: \$3,800.00 - \$6,800.00 monthly  
Overtime Travel: Up to 10% of the time

Physical work location: Midland Development Corporation  
200 North Lorraine Street, Suite 610  
Midland, Texas

**General Description:**  
Performs entry-level engineering work. Design activity is supervised by a licensed professional engineer who has authority for final approval of all projects. Work requires contact with local governmental representatives, engineering contractors and private entities. Employees at this level perform assignments following specific instructions and are subject to frequent review by the immediate supervisor.

**Essential Duties Include:**  
Applies principles, methods and techniques of engineering technology to a wide variety of transportation-related activities.  
Actively prepares for professional engineering licensure/registration through appropriate training and exams and completion/maintenance of required documentation.  
Drives to project sites to assist with collection of engineering data and meetings to participate in project coordination.  
Assists in the performance of engineering-related duties in the field of transportation engineering.  
Assists in the performance of research and problem solving of engineering related problems.  
Assists with the preparation of routine plan sheets for construction projects.  
Assists with the review of engineering work for calculation errors and compliance with applicable federal and state laws and industry standards and guidelines.  
Performs engineering-related calculations and drafting/design work using specialized design / drafting procedures, to include skill in the use of Open Roads Designer and / or AutoCAD Civil 3D.  
Uses automated roadway programs and computer-aided design/engineering systems.  
Use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
Performs other job responsibilities as assigned.

**Required Competencies Include:**  
Communicate effectively.  
Transportation engineering terminology and fundamentals.  
Computer-aided drafting and design systems.  
Excellent math and reasoning to define problems, establish facts and draw valid conclusions, make decisions that support business objectives and goals.  
Performing calculations to include material and labor estimates, estimates, technical data and engineering calculations.  
Analyzing and organizing technical and technical data.  
The use of applicable hand and power tools, equipment and mechanical devices of the trade.  
Maintaining a safe working relationship.

**Minimum Education Required:**  
Bachelor's Degree in accordance with one of the Other Minimum Requirements outlined below.

**Minimum Work Experience Required:**  
None

**The following Licenses and/or Certifications are required for this job:**  
Valid Driver's License

**Other Minimum Requirements:**  
Degree in engineering which has been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET).  
Degree in engineering technology which has been accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET).  
Degree in mathematical, physical or engineering sciences approved by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers plus seven (7) years engineering related experience applicable to gaining licensure as an engineer by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

**Conditions of Employment:**  
May be required to work weekends and holidays.  
May be required to work hours other than 8 to 5.  
Required to wear personal protective equipment provided by employer and comply with all safety requirements.  
Must attend work regularly and observe approved work hours.  
External final state applicants who are 18-25 years of age will be required to furnish proof of registration or exemption from registration with the Selective Service System.

**If hired, employee must provide document(s) within three (3) days of hire date that establish identity and employment eligibility. A complete list of acceptable documents is on file with the local Texas Workforce Commission office or <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>.**

**Applicants:**  
Applicants selected for an interview will be required provide two examples of engineering design work he or she has developed, and to perform a job simulation to assess applicant's skill in Communicate Effectively and use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems.  
The Midland Development Corporation (MDC) reserves the sole right in determining the acceptability of work experience and salary based on the applicant's qualified work experience, education, skill level and all other appropriate factors, and based on business needs.

**Applicants:**  
Applicants are to send a Cover Letter and Resume to [glw@mrtclassifieds.com](mailto:glw@mrtclassifieds.com)

**Design Technician / Engineering Specialist**  
 This position is for one or more Design Technician / Engineering Specialist(s) at the Midland Development Corporation depending on business need and applicants' qualifications.

Full-Time, Regular Employment: \$3,500.00 - \$8,000.00 monthly  
 Overnight Travel: Up to 10% of the time

Physical work location: Midland Development Corporation  
 200 North Lorraine Street, Suite 610  
 Midland, Texas

**General Description:**  
 Performs highly advanced and complex detailed transportation and municipal infrastructure design. Develops transportation and infrastructure project planning documents, supporting permit submissions and construction plans. Provides technical assistance and coordination for multiple infrastructure and/or transportation programs involving design, building construction projects, construction of transportation systems, traffic operations, municipal infrastructure projects and facilities. In accordance with City, State, National and industry standards. Work requires contact with governmental officials, consultants, contractors and private entities. Employees at this level perform work independently on assignments; however, all unusual issues are referred to the supervisor.

**Essential Duties Include:**  
 Performs advanced and specialized drafting and calculations in support of design activities; develops graphic presentations that include distinctive design features. Prepares quantity summaries, hydraulic and utility studies and construction estimates. Prepares roadway design, infrastructure design, small drainage structures details, traffic control plans, lighting details, signal details, signs summaries, markings layouts, and building plans. Reviews entire sets of plans for format, drafting and calculation errors and correction plans and specifications. Uses additional automated design tools, interactive graphics or specialized design procedures in areas including bridge/structure detailing, traffic management, geometric design, signal lighting design, retaining walls and utility design. Reviews and revises Plans, Specifications & Estimates (P.S.E.) and project designs for transportation and infrastructure projects to include utilities, streets, small drainage structures, traffic control devices, signals, signs, markings, detours, traffic control plans, and roadway illumination. Ensures compliance with specifications for devices, safety laws, rules, and regulations, the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and City Standards. Drives to conduct project site visits and attend coordination meetings. Performs other job responsibilities as assigned.

**Required Competencies Include:**  
 Considerable knowledge of applicable plans, specifications and estimates preparation, review, processing and compliance requirements. Considerable knowledge of design and plan preparation methods and requirements. Working knowledge of The Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Proficient skill in the use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems. Advanced and specialized design / drafting procedures, to include skill in the use of Open Roads Designer and / or AutoCAD Civil 3D. Proficient skill in maintaining a safe working environment. Ability to communicate effectively. Proficient skill in maintaining effective working relationships with others. Proficient skill in writing, reviewing and revising documents to include engineering notes, specifications, standards and procedures. Proficient skill in reading and interpreting applicable plans, schematics, blueprints and maps. Proficient skill in performing calculations to include material and labor estimates, expenses, technical survey data and engineering calculations. Proficient skill in planning, coordinating and filing multiple projects within area of responsibility to meet short and long term deadlines. Working knowledge of automated roadway/structural/hydraulic design programs and computer-assisted design/engineering systems.

**Minimum Education Required:**  
 Bachelor's Degree in a related discipline. Relevant Work Experience may be substituted for Education on a year per year basis.

**Work Experience Required:**  
 5 years in civil, transportation and/or infrastructure design. (Experience can be satisfied by fulltime or prorated part-time equivalent). No Supervisory Experience Required. Same Relevant Experience may not be substituted for Education on a year per year basis and credited for Required Work Experience.

**The Following Licenses and/or Certifications are required for this job:**  
 Valid Driver License

**Conditions of Employment:**  
 May be required to work weekends and holidays. May be required to work hours other than 8 to 5. Required to wear personal protective equipment provided by employer and comply with all safety requirements. Must attend work regularly and observe approved work hours. External final male applicants who are 18-25 years of age will be required to furnish proof of registration or exemption from registration with the Selective Service System. If hired, employee must provide document(s) within three (3) days of hire date that establish identity and employment eligibility. A complete list of acceptable documents is on file with the local Texas Workforce Commission office at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>.

**Remarks:**  
 Applicants selected for an interview will be required provide two examples of civil / transportation / infrastructure design work he or she has developed, and to perform a job simulation to assess applicant's skill to Communicate Effectively and use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems. The Midland Development Corporation (MDC) reserves the sole right in determining the acceptability of work experience and salary based on the applicant's qualified work experience, education, skill level and all other appropriate factors, and based on business needs.

**Applications:**  
 Applicants are to send a Cover Letter and Resume to [glw@midlandmdc.com](mailto:glw@midlandmdc.com)

**Senior Design Engineer**  
 This position is for a Senior Design Engineer at the Midland Development Corporation depending on business need and applicants' qualifications.

Full-Time, Regular Employment: \$6,500.00 - 10,500 monthly  
 Overnight Travel: Up to 10% of the time

Physical work location: Midland Development Corporation  
 200 North Lorraine Street, Suite 610  
 Midland, Texas

**General Description:**  
 Performs highly advanced and complex transportation engineering work in one or more functional areas such as planning, project development, detailed design and transportation/traffic operations. Ensures compliance with applicable federal and state laws, policies, procedures, standards and guidelines. Work requires contact with governmental officials and private entities. Employees at this level are virtually self-supervising and assume direct accountability for the work product.

**Essential Duties Include:**  
 Coordinates design work among TxDOT entities, City entities, consultants and contractors. Creates realistic and achievable schedule baselines for advanced and highly complex projects. Analyzes schedule trends, determines risks, and recommends options to management for corrective action for highly complex projects. Coordinates and monitors assigned project/program/elements. Develops and reviews engineering related documents, correspondence, reports and remediation plans. Interprets laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to professional services contracting to ensure compliance with City and governmental regulations. Develops and reviews engineering related documents, correspondence, reports and remediation plans. Oversees data collection and performs analyses, forecasts and plan development. Performs highly advanced and complex planning work such as plan review, calculations and transportation planning studies. Prepares design schematics and public involvement presentations. Prepares and coordinates design schematics and construction Plans, Specifications & Estimates (P.S.E.). Serves as a Project Manager overseeing consultants performing advanced and complex engineering work. Reviews and processes project design plans developed by consulting engineers. Monitors contract performance, evaluates contract deliverables, reviews billing documentation, monitors the consultant's compliance with the terms of the contract, and prepares and delivers a written evaluation of the consultant's performance. Negotiates fees and budgets, develops and negotiates scopes of work, negotiates contract work schedules, and negotiates other contract agreements. Drives to project sites to collect engineering data and participate in meetings for project coordination. Performs other duties as assigned.

**Required Competencies Include:**  
 Communicate effectively. Exercise logic and reasoning to define problems, establish facts and draw valid conclusions, makes decisions that support business objectives and goals. Preparing technical/statistical reports. Applicable engineering workstations and applications to support efficient planning and design activities. Design and plan preparation methods and requirements for traditional and innovative projects. Critical Path Method (CPM) for managing projects. Researching, analyzing and interpreting policies and state and federal laws and regulations. Applying engineering principles, practices and methods in job responsibilities. Planning, coordinating and handling multiple projects within area of responsibility to meet short and long-term deadlines. Use automated roadway/structural/hydraulic design programs and computer-assisted design/engineering systems. Advanced and specialized design / drafting procedures, to include skill in the use of Open Roads Designer and / or AutoCAD Civil 3D. Use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems. Proficient skill in maintaining a safe working environment.

**Minimum Education Required:**  
 Bachelor's Degree in an Engineering related discipline

**Minimum Work Experience Required:**  
 8 years in Civil or Transportation engineering (Experience can be satisfied by fulltime or prorated part-time equivalent). No Supervisory Experience Required. Related graduate level education may be substituted for experience on a year per year basis.

**The Following Licenses and/or Certifications are required for this job:**  
 Valid Driver License  
 Licensed Prof Engineer

**Other Minimum Requirements:**  
 Professional engineers licensed in another state, but not currently licensed in the State of Texas, must (1) meet the license requirements of the State of Texas Engineering Practices Act, (2) obtain a professional engineering license from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers within six (6) months of the date of hire, and (3) sign an agreement to that effect as a condition of employment.

**Conditions of Employment:**  
 May be required to work weekends and holidays. May be required to work hours other than 8 to 5. Required to wear personal protective equipment provided by employer and comply with all safety requirements. Must attend work regularly and observe approved work hours. External final male applicants who are 18-25 years of age will be required to furnish proof of registration or exemption from registration with the Selective Service System. If hired, employee must provide document(s) within three (3) days of hire date that establish identity and employment eligibility. A complete list of acceptable documents is on file with the local Texas Workforce Commission office at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>.

**Remarks:**  
 Applicants selected for an interview will be required provide two examples of civil / transportation / infrastructure design work he or she has developed, and to perform a job simulation to assess applicant's skill to Communicate Effectively and use of personal computers and applicable programs, applications and systems. The Midland Development Corporation (MDC) reserves the sole right in determining the acceptability of work experience and salary based on the applicant's qualified work experience, education, skill level and all other appropriate factors, and based on business needs.

**Applications:**  
 Applicants are to send a Cover Letter and Resume to [glw@midlandmdc.com](mailto:glw@midlandmdc.com)

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**NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS**

- Great attitude and desire to be part of the Domino's team a must
- Must be 18 years of age or older with a good driving record
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 4519 N Garfield - Midland  
 604 N Big Spring St - Midland  
 503 I-20 - Midland  
 3111 Faudree Rd - Odessa  
 1106 E 42nd St - Odessa  
 2251 Linda Ave - Odessa  
 9001 W University Blvd - Odessa

**Performance Chemical Company** is one of the Permian Basin's most experienced and proven independent oilfield service companies.

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Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years of Hydraulic Fracturing experience

Terms discussed during job interviewing process. Physical and Environmental Conditions, Job Description, Essential Duties, Required Knowledge, Skills Abilities and Competencies, Experience Salary. Interviews conducted by appointment only.

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[info@perf-chem.com](mailto:info@perf-chem.com)  
 9105 W I-20 Midland, TX 79705  
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**CARTER'S**

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Apply in office located at 2101 W. Wadley #6 Midland, TX 79705

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- Blend Plant Personnel
- Yard Personnel
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Experience a Plus. Excellent pay and benefits. Please send resumes to [thohann@impactchemtech.com](mailto:thohann@impactchemtech.com) or PO Box 10667, Midland, TX 79702.

**IMPACT!**

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 CDL driver and mechanic for an oil and gas equipment rental company. Full time, excellent benefits. Call 915-540-0523 or email resumes to [thohann@impactchemtech.com](mailto:thohann@impactchemtech.com)

**Experienced Inventory Control Specialist**

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 Oil & Gas Equipment Rental & Sales company looking for shop helper/painter. Excellent pay and benefits. Please email resumes to [thohann@impactchemtech.com](mailto:thohann@impactchemtech.com) or call 915-540-0523. Pre-employment drug testing and background check. Must be 18 years old.

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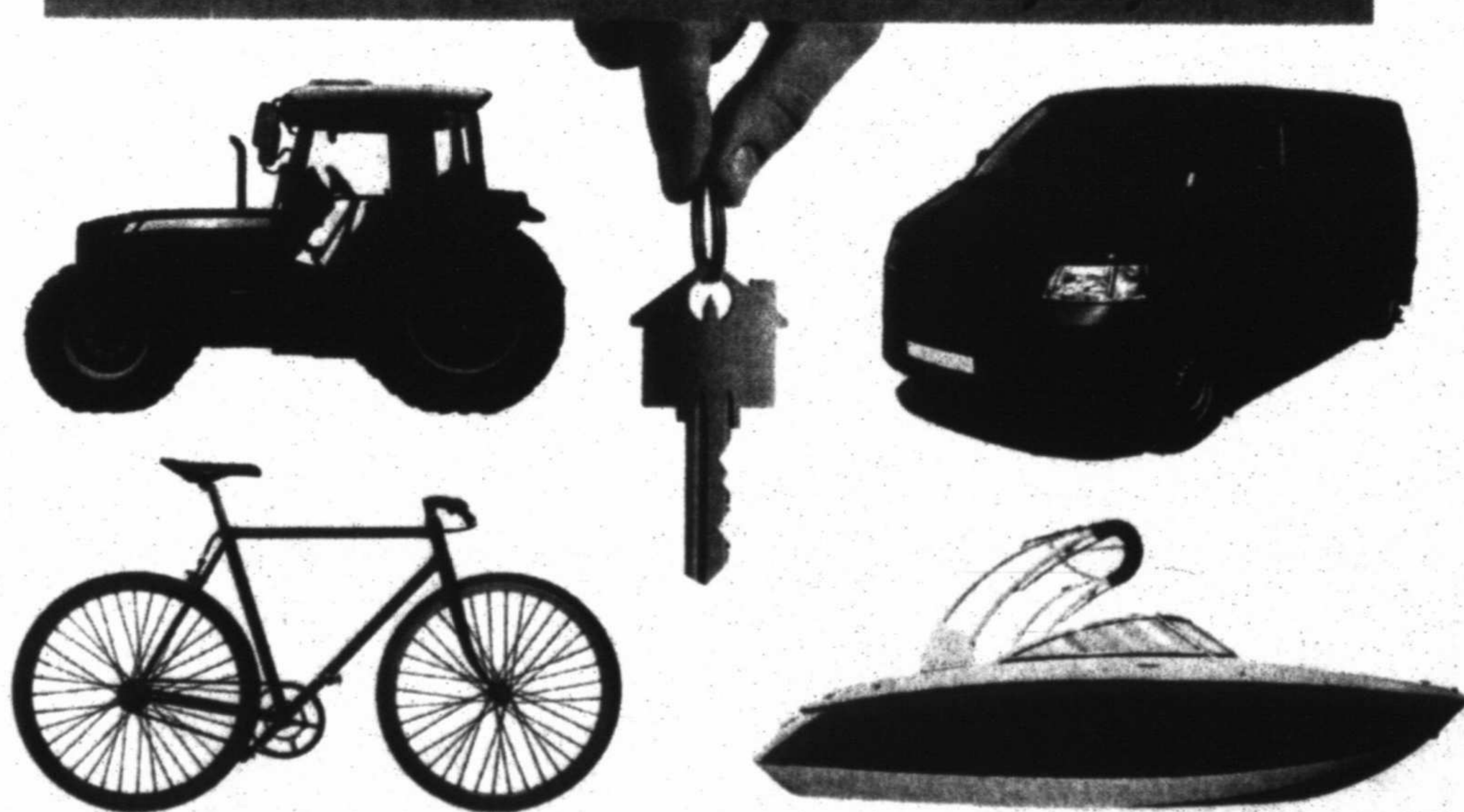


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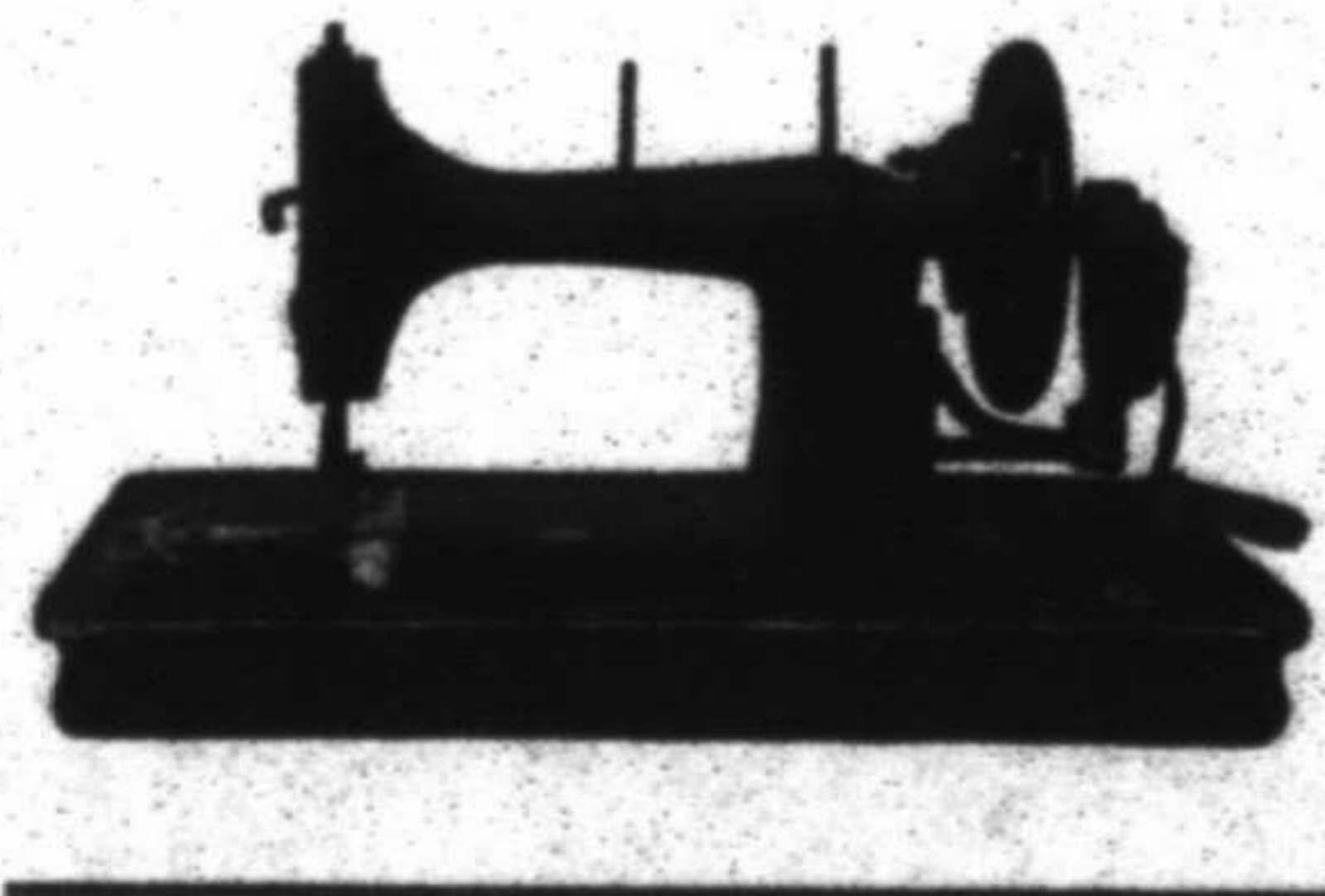
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