

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

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EYE ON EDUCATION

Early childhood education is vital.

Page 1B



DISTRICT 4-A GOLF

Andrews girls once again qualify two teams for regionals. Monahans boys win third straight district title. Get more in Sports.

Page 1C

MIDLAND & ODESSA

Report: Cities top list of drunken-driving fatalities

From staff reports

Odesa and Midland have had the state's highest percentage of drunken-driving fatalities per 100,000 residents over the past five years, according to statistics from the Texas Department of Transportation and a report from the Sutliff & Stout law firm.

Odesa is in the top spot with 6.26 annual fatalities per 100,000 residents; Midland finished with 6.19.

"Odesa tops our list of the most dangerous Texas cities for drunk driving," according to the Sutliff and Stout report. "Despite having a relatively small population of just over 115,000 people, there are

over 200 drunk driving crashes in Odesa annually. Over 3 (percent) of those crashes result in fatalities and 3.4 (percent) result in incapacitating injuries.

"To find the number two city on our list you need only drive down the road 20 miles to Midland, Texas," the law firm report said. "Midland has a population of just over 130,000. It's home to 185 annual drunk driving crashes. Those crashes result in roughly six fatalities and 10 incapacitating injuries every year."

When asked for comment about the report, Charles Hodges, CEO of Stop DWI Inc., told the Reporter-Telegram via email, "With the influx of new workers, mostly in the oilfield, the problem of DWI

is increasing over what it used to be. The average person I see in our classes is not the 'urban cowboy' type, but the oil industry working class."

The report also states that drunken driving kills nearly 30 people in the United States every day. Nearly 1,200 people in Texas died in drunken driving crashes in 2017.

None of the seven fatal crashes in Midland County this year have been alcohol-related, according to Reporter-Telegram reports.

The following are the 10 Texas cities with the highest drunken-driving fatality rates — the annual number of drunken-driving deaths per 100,000 residents over

the last five years.

Odesa 6.26
Midland 6.19
 Dallas 5.88
 San Marcos 5.21
 San Antonio 5.15
 Baytown 5.12
 Longview 5.09
 Waco 4.63
 Houston 4.36
 Lubbock 4.10

Source: Texas Department of Transportation/Sutliff&Stout

Web: <https://mytaxinjurylawyers.com/research/deadliest-cities-drunk-driving-texas/>

DENNIS THE MENACE PARK

GETTING AN UPGRADE



The Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Demolition continues Monday at Dennis the Menace Park. The 60-year-old park on Garfield Street is being renovated. The \$2.34 million project includes new sidewalks, fencing, parking lot, lighting, ADA access, four play areas, a new restroom facility and a shaded pavilion.

MIDLAND PARK MALL

Simon announces 'transformational redevelopment'

From staff reports

Simon announced Monday a "transformational redevelopment" for Midland Park Mall.

Midland Park Mall will add two new restaurants on outparcel sites, a new-to-the-market, large-format retailer and a new Dillard's, according to a press release. Work is expected to start this spring and finish by summer 2020.

"We are excited to redevelop the former Sears's store with uses that will benefit the community and the existing retailers in these properties," said

Michael E. McCarty, chief operating officer of Simon Malls.

The announcement comes less than two months after the Midland City Council approved a Chapter 380 economic development agreement that could mean a \$7.5 million sales tax reimbursement for the owner of Midland Park Mall.

The agreement states that sales tax generated by the new retail will be reimbursed from the general sales tax receipts to the city of Midland on an annual basis under the following formula.

■ Years 1-3: 100 percent

■ Years 4-6: 80 percent

■ Years 7-9: 70 percent

■ Years 10-12: 50 percent

The agreement terminates in 12 years, or when \$7.5 million in sales tax is reimbursed.

Current retail space at the mall will not be considered for reimbursement unless new construction outside the existing space is added, according to documents.

Additional space added to the mall and new parcels will be included if the retailers are deemed "premium retail" by the city manager.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

County auditor to examine financial records

■ Commissioners to withhold funding until report is returned

By Simone Jasper
 sjasper@mrt.com

An agreement was made Monday to allow the Midland County auditor to look into financial data for the Northeast Midland County Volunteer Fire Department.

County Judge Mike Bradford during the regularly scheduled Commissioners' Court meeting told Mat McClure of the department that the county hasn't received its financial data for two years.

"We've asked them for it, and they sent us a one-line summary," Bradford said. "So we put it on the agenda today for them to show up and explain why they haven't conformed."

The county provides the department about \$50,000 each year from its general fund. When the county makes a donation, the receiving entity signs an agreement indicating it will provide financial data to the auditor's office or county judge's office, according to Bradford. He said the county wants to track how the money was spent.

"This was not just stirred up by the fact that we didn't get those agreements, as they said they would do it," Bradford said. "But we have had complaints from vendors that they're supposed to be paying. We've had complaints from members of the organization."

Bradford said he took notice when a few volunteer fire department members said they hadn't seen the financial data. He said the county will withhold funding until the audit report comes back.

The Commissioners' Court meeting is in recess until 4:30 p.m. today. A separate meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Commissioners on Monday tabled discussions related to a vehicle and position for the Midland County District Attorney's Office as well as door control at the Central Detention Center.

For other agenda items, commissioners approved.

■ Installing four-way stop signs at West County Road 140 and South County Road 1210, an intersection that is southwest of the city.

No residents spoke during a public hearing before the commissioners voted.

Please see RECORDS/2A



Price of all

\$63.42 ▲ \$1.36

The big number

34

million dollars That's what Bill Conley paid to an attorney according to a prosecutor. Page 8A

Word of the Day

Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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 Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



Business 6C | Classified 1D | Comics 7C | Dear Abby 3B | Lottery 3A | Obituaries 2A | Puzzles C | Sports 1C | TV 3B

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REGION BRIEFS

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

USGS: Another earthquake hits near Fort Davis

The U.S. Geological Survey on Sunday recorded a second earthquake near Fort Davis in as many days.

The 2.5 magnitude earthquake took place around 9:37 p.m., about 18 miles northeast of Fort Davis, according to the USGS.

The 15 quakes reported in the last year around Fort Davis trails the 465 earthquakes reported near Perry, Oklahoma, in the last 365 days, according to earthquaketrack.com. The USGS reported four earthquakes near Perry late Sunday-early Monday. The strongest was a magnitude 4.5. Perry is about 58 miles north-northeast of Oklahoma City.

A quake with a magnitude of 2.5 to 5.4 is "often felt, but only causes minor damage," according to Upseis, an educational site for seismologists. There are about 30,000 quakes each year, according to the site.

From staff reports

OKLAHOMA

State orders cut in water injection after earthquakes

COVINGTON — The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has directed a wastewater disposal well to reduce its volume of injection after more than a dozen earthquakes rattled part of northwest Oklahoma since Friday.

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded three quakes Monday, including one near Covington now rated magnitude 4.5 after a preliminary rating of 4.3. Magnitude 3.3 and 2.8 quakes were also recorded Monday in the area about 55 miles (90 kilometers) north of Oklahoma City.

Garfield County Emergency Management Director Mike Honigsberg says there are no reports of injury or severe damage. Damage typically begins with magnitude 4.0 or stronger earthquakes, but Honigsberg notes that the area is very rural.

Many of the thousands of earthquakes in Oklahoma in recent years have been linked to wastewater injection by oil and natural gas producers.

AUSTIN

Texas ag chief puts man with revoked licenses on state panel

A newspaper report says Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller in 2016 appointed to a state rural health task force a former physician who had his medical license revoked or suspended in Iowa and other states.

The Austin American-Statesman reports Rick Ray Redalen's medical license was first suspended years ago in Iowa when he was convicted of perjury in a case involving his marriage to his 15-year-old former stepdaughter.

Redalen donated thousands of dollars to Miller's campaign prior to his appointment.

Miller's relationship with Redalen isn't his first involvement with doctors that has raised questions.

Miller charged the state \$1,100 for a 2015 trip to Oklahoma in which he received a pain-killing treatment called the "Jesus shot" that was created by a doctor who had his medical license in Ohio revoked for tax evasion.

FORT WORTH

Texas man sought in deaths of women, daughter found in Tennessee

A Texas man identified by police as a suspect in the slayings of a woman and her young daughter has been captured in Tennessee.

Thirty-seven-year-old Paige Terrell Lawyer was being held Monday at the Rutherford County jail in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, southeast of Nashville.

Jail records show he's being held for police in Fort Worth who are investigating the deaths Friday of 30-year-old Orlene Womack and her elementary-school-age daughter.



Kulsam Ghilar, a sophomore at Edmond Memorial High School, speaks during a rally in the rotunda of the state Capitol as protests continue over school funding Monday in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma schools delay testing linked to federal funding

By Sean Murphy
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma school districts tried to figure out Monday how to meet a requirement to conduct standardized tests for students to receive federal funds while many teachers and students are not in the classroom during a strike of educators.

Schools in many districts remained closed for the start of a second week as thousands of educators and their supporters again packed the Capitol seeking more funding for public schools. For many of those schools, the required exams were scheduled to begin this week, but had to be delayed because teachers didn't show up for work.

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister announced plans Monday to extend testing deadlines for at least one week. Schools now have until April 27 to assessments for grades 3-8.

"This extension is essential to better support

students and ensure an appropriate transition back into classrooms," Hofmeister said in a statement. "This extension hopefully will prevent jeopardizing of federal funding or incurring penalty."

Most Oklahoma schools are back in class, but many of the state's largest districts have remained closed as teachers refused to return to work and instead thronged the Capitol.

Gov. Mary Fallin late last month signed into law a \$6,100 a year pay raise and more funding for schools, but teachers demanded even more money and walked off the job. They want GOP leaders to eliminate an income tax deduction for capital gains and for the governor to veto a repeal of a \$5-per-night lodging fee, although Republican leaders have so far not agreed to do that.

Oklahoma teachers have joined a revolt that started in West Virginia, where educators walked out for nine classroom days and ultimately secured a 5-percent

raise. And in Kentucky, where teachers marched on their Capitol last week over proposed changes to their pension plans, Republican Gov. Matt Bevin said Monday he plans to veto a tax increase designed to boost funding for public education.

The Oklahoma walkout came just as schools were preparing to administer tests to students. Federal law requires states to administer certain tests and authorizes the U.S. secretary of education to withhold federal funding for states that don't comply, although it's not certain just how much money the state could lose. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Education didn't immediately respond to questions about how the walkout could affect federal funding.

Phil Bacharach, a spokesman for the Oklahoma State Department of Education, said how much federal money the state could lose for failing to meet testing requirements

is up to federal officials.

"Under federal law, the U.S. Department of Education would have wide berth on what sort of penalty would potentially be incurred," Bacharach said. "How much money we're talking about could really vary."

Many teachers say that while they're concerned about the impact of the walkout on students' test performance, they are more concerned about securing proper funding for schools.

"It may affect the test scores, but getting funding for our schools is important," said Heather England, the testing coordinator for Peary Elementary School in Tulsa. "It's about the future of our entire public education system."

Jordan Sheffield-Mix, a grade-school teacher from Tulsa, said her students typically enjoy a week of test preparation that includes organized meals, uplifting notes from parents and even a visit from high school cheerleaders encouraging students to do their best.

"None of that's happening, and that's a huge piece of testing — making sure students are fed, well-prepared and know people are behind them," Sheffield-Mix said.

Alamo Roadshow stops in Midland today

By Rich Lopez
rlopez@mrt.com

West Texans will be able to remember the Alamo at the Haley Memorial Museum and Research Library. The Alamo Roadshow, which kicked off in El Paso on Monday, will stop in Midland today beginning at 6 p.m.

"The Alamo Roadshow is an opportunity for history enthusiasts to learn about the plan to preserve the Alamo and to build the state's largest Texas Revolution museum, as well as to share their own artifacts and historic family treasures," Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush said in a press release. "I invite all Texans to join us for an evening of discussion of preservation and Texas history."

The tour invites attendees to learn about the ongoing preservation of the site and discuss the future of the "Shrine of Texas Liberty."

Guests can bring and discuss their personal historic objects and antiques to the show much like the premise of the television program "Antiques Roadshow." Historians and curatorial staff from the Alamo and the General Land Office will be present to help attendees evaluate and document stories and artifacts.

The show's presenters will also bring historical objects from the

Other stops

Wednesday | Texas Tech National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock

Thursday | National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene

April 18 | Tyler ISD Career and Technology Center, Tyler

April 19 | Rockwall Courthouse, Rockwall

April 24 | Texas A&M University, College Station

April 25 | Mayborn Museum Complex, Waco

April 30 | Edinburg History Museum, McAllen

More information can be found at thealamo.org.

Alamo and GLO Archives that are expected to appear in forthcoming exhibitions at the Alamo Museum and Visitor Center.

"As we begin to make plans for future exhibits and programming, and a museum to house the Alamo's collection, we want to invite all Texans to share their unique stories and connections to the Alamo and Texas history," Alamo CEO Doug McDonald said in the release. "Whether it's a direct descendant of the Old Three Hundred, an artifact of the Texas Revolution, or a family heirloom related to Texas history, our goal is

to send our curatorial professionals throughout Texas to help document and share those stories with everyone who loves Texas history. These stories are part of the Alamo's story, and could help shape the way we think about historical interpretation at the Alamo in the future."

Pat McDaniel, executive director of the Haley will host 13 curators who will set up the display in throughout the venue.

"I think this roadshow is a good thing to do," he said. "There are a lot of strong feelings about the Alamo in Texas."

RECORDS

From 1A

Robin Donnelly, commissioner for Precinct 2, said the expectation of more traffic in the area factored into consideration for the stop signs.

"We did it on traffic counts and trying to anticipate what might transpire down there if we didn't," he said. "I don't know of very many wrecks down there, but it's an unlighted four-way intersection."

The intersection currently has stop signs on WCR 140, and the new ones are scheduled to be installed

within a few weeks. Caution signs will be in place for motorists, Donnelly said.

—raising inspection fees for residential driveways and pipeline borings to \$50 and \$250, respectively. Donnelly said the rates were \$25 and hadn't changed in about 20 years.

"We're doing more inspections to make certain that the borings are done, that when someone applies for a driveway permit, that those permits are done according to what they have told us they're going to do," he said.

Donnelly said a county road and bridge inspector has been spending more time on inspections because of concern about maintaining the road system.

—authorizing the county judge's signature for the Midland County Sheriff's Office civil and warrants division to start a CLEAR 30-day trial.

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter said the company's personnel will drive around and record license plates, and his office will have access to that software. He thinks the

program could help locate people who have warrants or are hiding assets for bankruptcies or liens.

"If we can include a certain license plate that we're looking for — such as an address or a name — then we can include it in our request," Painter said. "If they go by or if they're in an area and they hit on this information, it'll give us a response."

Painter said his office will consider requesting the purchase of the software if the free trial period shows it's beneficial.

Obituaries



Carla Mae Lea Foster

Carla Mae Lea Foster, age 84, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 5, 2018. Carla was born on February 10, 1934 in Midland, Texas to Carl and Vera Mae Lea.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 64 years, John C. Foster, Jr.

Carla is survived by her son, Craig W. Foster, and daughters, Priscilla A. Hazen and husband Scott, and Debra K. Holt.

She was blessed with nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. John and Carla were charter members of Golf Course Road Church of Christ. She was employed at the First National Bank of Midland, where she enthusiastically greeted bank customers for over twenty five years. She had a smile and a kind word for every person she met; Carla never met a stranger.

A small family service was held Monday, April 09, 2018 at Resthaven Memorial Park.

The family would like to express their gratitude towards Hospice of Midland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Midland.

Carla's family each echo that she was the greatest mother, grandmother, and great grandmother; and we will miss her every day until we see her again in Heaven.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home
& Crematory
(432) 550-5800

Death Notices

Estelle Oliver

Estelle Oliver, 89 of Midland, passed away on April 8, 2018. There will be a graveside service at Resthaven Memorial Park on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Authorities release Austin bombing investigation documents

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Federal officials said Monday that the suspect in a series of fatal Austin package bombings used PVC pipe casing, a metal pipe and shrapnel in his attacks that killed two people and seriously injured four others.

Authorities released an affidavit used to support an arrest warrant for suspect Mark Condit. Investigators used bomb evidence, video surveillance, interviews and phone records to chart a path to Condit. Police say he blew himself up March 21 as officers closed in to make an arrest.

The document still redacts details about some of the explosive materials used, confidential witnesses who were interviewed and phone numbers.

John Bush, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Texas, said authorities also dismissed an arrest warrant that had been issued hours before police say Condit killed himself.

Bush said the investigation continues although no other suspects have been arrested "and we no reason to believe there are other suspects." Authorities have yet to determine a motive for Condit's attacks and the affidavit gave no hint of one.

"We are looking through very voluminous computer records to examine his intent, his motivations," Bush said.

WORD OF THE DAY brought to you daily by

JumBurrito logo and definition of 'prose' as a noun: the ordinary language people use in speaking or writing.

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How can I handle a billing problem? Circulation: 688-2700

CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

MISD forum set

A parent forum concerning Midland ISD's before- and after-school programming is planned for 6-7:30 p.m. today at Bowie Fine Arts Academy, 805 Elk Ave.

Kids can fish for prizes

Kids can go fishing 8 a.m.-noon Saturday at C.J. Kelly Park, 5500 League Drive, Midland's Parks and Recreation Division will host a fishing competition for children up to age 12.

The park's pond is stocked with catfish, and anglers are welcome to keep fish that meet state law pertaining to size and quantity. Registration is not required. A limited number of fishing poles will be available for use at the event.

Things to do

Palette Club Painting, 9 a.m. to noon, Palette Club, 907 W. Wadley Ave. paletteclubmidland.com.

Watercolor art classes by Sara Dresher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. artmidland.org.

Bridge game play 1 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8595.

Evening Family Storytime offers songs, stories and literacy activities for ages 2 to 6 and their caregivers, 4:30 p.m., Midland County Public Library Central branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Sings, 6 p.m., Tail City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

Permian Basin Dance Club with live country music, 7:30 p.m., Crown Royal Club, 1110 E. Scharbauer Drive. \$6. For more information, call 638-3707 or 250-8215.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment, 7 p.m., Basin Burger House, 607 N. Colorado St.

Two-Dollar Tuesdays with the same price for games, shoes, select beers and arcade card after 8 p.m., 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlers.com.

Karaoke and pool tournament at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

Meeting City Council 10 a.m. Council Chambers City Hall 300 N. Lorraine Ave.

Republican Women The Midland County Republican Women are meeting 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Midland Country Club.

The speaker will be Nick Adams, Australian-born best-selling author, commentator and founding director of FLAG USA. The Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness is dedicated to promoting and providing high-quality civic education that informs students and families about the "greatness of America and the power of the American dream."

A buffet lunch will be served beginning 11:15 a.m. Tickets are \$20 with advance reservation and \$25 at the door. To RSVP, please register online at www.mcrw.us or e-mail your reservation to mcrw@mcrcw.us.

TODAY IN MIDLAND



Fasken Elementary School fourth-graders Jolene Lozano, left, and Alan Cervantes participate in "Camp Write-a-Lot." More photos and information on the camp appear on Page 2B.

Forecast for Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Monday's temperatures High.....71 Low.....46 Normal high.....77 Normal low.....46

April 9's records Record high: 95, set in 2011 Record low: 20, set in 1973

Precipitation Saturday.....0.00 in. Sunday.....0.00 in. Month total.....0.16 in. Normal total (year to date).....2.07 in.

Winds Average wind speed: 14.1 mph Highest sustained wind speed: 23 mph Highest gust speed: 27 mph

Today's forecast High: 76 Low: 53 Conditions: Sunny during the day/mostly clear at night Winds: 5-15 mph during

the day and night Sunrise.....7:26 a.m. Sunset.....8:15 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 9-5-3 Pick 3 day: 3-6-1 Pick 3 evening: 9-0-8 Pick 3 night: 1-5-8 Daily 4 morning: 0-2-4-8 Daily 4 day: 5-1-4-3 Daily 4 evening: 7-1-8-8 Daily 4 night: 8-8-1-3 Cash Five: 2-9-25-32-33 Triple Chance: 5-6-8-20-30 32-34-37-39-45

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 10, 2018:

This year you see the power of setting intentions. What you decide is important can easily be materialized. You know what you want, and you won't back down; you support yourself in pursuing your desires. If you are single, should you desire a passionate romance or relationship, you will have just that. Cupid's arrow could hit you any time from summer on. If you are attached, the two of you enter a meaningful period in your relationship. Plan on doing some traveling together. AQUARIUS reminds you of the wider side of life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your fiery energy, when focused, can eliminate more work for you. Others note your efficiency and seem to want to tap into it. An observer might ask you how to proceed with a project. A financial matter could go from one extreme to the other. Tenthlight: As you like it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might feel

pushed to get your errands done. Expect a heavy pace and a lot of distractions. You will reach your goal, but you could feel drained by the end of it. A supportive friend asks you if you want help. Say "yes," and you'll have more fun. Tenthlight: Out late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your ability to move through a problem and resolve it emerges. You have entered an excellent period in which you are able to prioritize your time. Be wise, and do not make a final decision just yet. You are in the process of evaluating. Tenthlight: Catch up on calls and emails.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be more forthright in what you do and how you do it. A friend proves to be extremely supportive and positive, as he or she understands where you are coming from. Don't underestimate what is happening. Remain more upbeat. Tenthlight: Buy a thank-you gift.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You will want to head in a new direction, but you could get hit with so many distractions that you might not accomplish your goal. Use the delay well. Understand and embrace the power of slowing down. Tenthlight: Go along with a dear friend's or loved one's suggestion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You are in a position where you can accomplish what you want and still have some extra time to spare. A call from a loved one might intrigue you. As a result, you'll be encouraged to move through some work more quickly than usual. Tenthlight: Soak away some stress, then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You come up with some unique ideas that seem to work better than the present set of plans. Convincing someone else of that fact could be difficult. Listen to your gut when dealing with a playful person; you likely will be distracted by his or her charm. Tenthlight: Say "yes."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might feel as if you need to make a major change. What you do not realize is that you have been changing slowly and are in the midst of a personal transformation. Make

no major decisions about your life for a while; revisit this issue later. Tenthlight: Happily head home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Note the relaxed mood around you. Return calls and get into the social nature of the moment. Network and swap jobs. Understand what is happening with a loved one. You will feel much more upbeat than you have in quite some time. Tenthlight: Listen to a friend's suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Postpone meetings unless they deal with financial matters. Stay in that realm, and you will see the benefits quickly. A nosy friend could have some remarkable suggestions. You need to get past your initial reaction in order to hear them. Tenthlight: Run some errands on the way home.

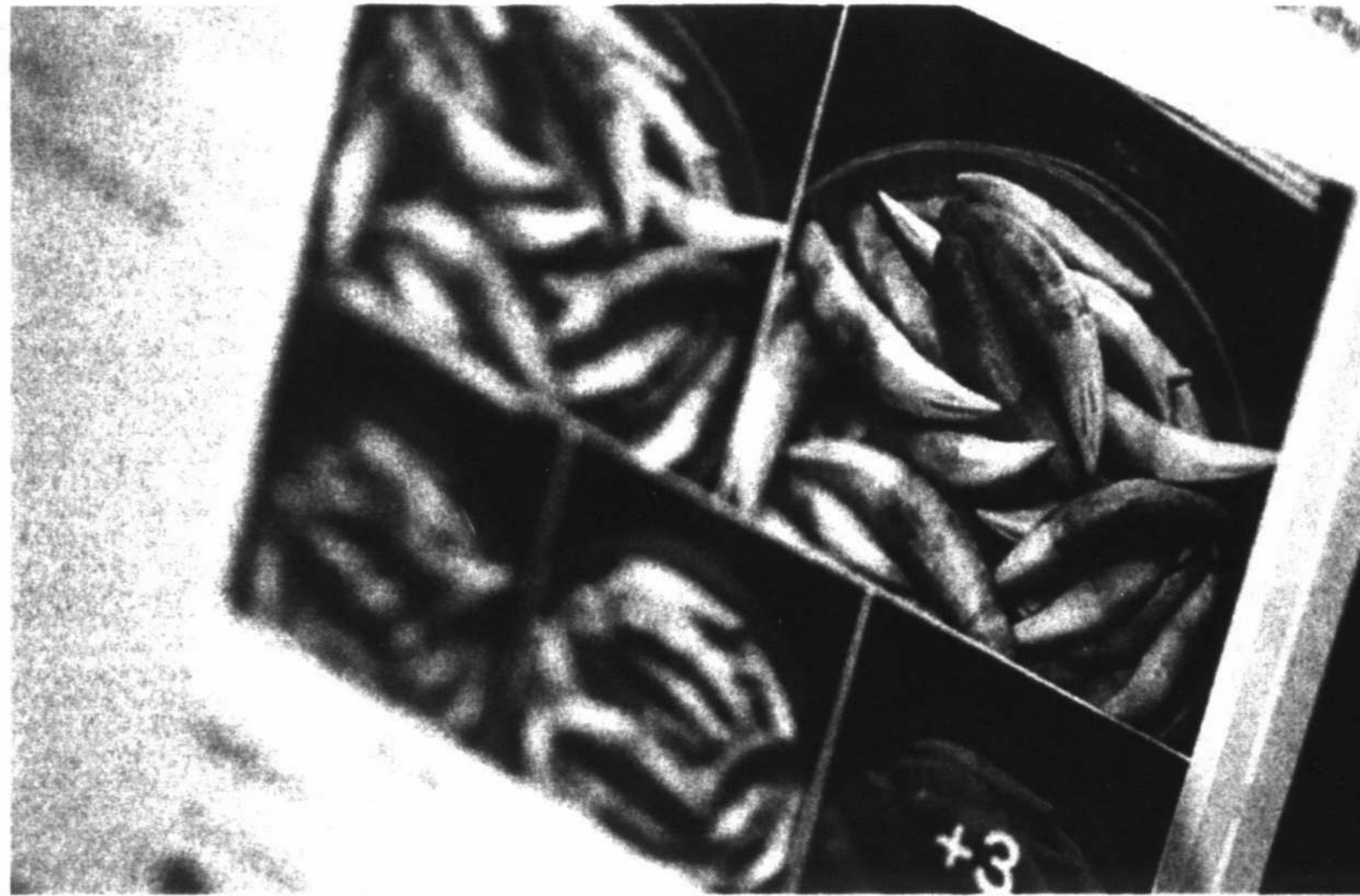
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Refuse to blame others for a hassle. A friend will play into a decision where you could be waffling. Try to get as much done as possible. Do not hesitate to ask for more information. Once you start talking, you could have difficulty staying mum. Tenthlight: Let spontaneity rule.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Slow down, and get to the basics of a problem. You might not be sure how to handle what you are hearing. Just make sure you get all the facts before making a decision. If need be, speak to an expert. You could get more information than you can handle. Tenthlight: Get some R and R.

BORN TODAY Actor Omar Sharif (1932), singer/actress Mandy Moore (1984), actress Shay Mitchell (1987)

AIRESERV HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE! 10 YEAR LABOR WARRANTY. 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

IT'S OKAY TO PRUNE 12 MONTHS A YEAR CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS AT TO PRUNE TREES



AP Photo

This screen grab from a Facebook group and photographed on a computer screen Monday in Washington shows what appears to be a bucket of tiger teeth offered for sale on a Facebook page. In a complaint filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, wildlife preservation advocates allege that Facebook's failure to stop illicit traders using its platform for illegal activity violates the social network's responsibilities as a publicly traded company.

Body parts from threatened wildlife widely sold on Facebook

By Michael Biesecker and Michael Liedtke
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facebook is displaying advertisements for well-known American corporations on group pages operated by overseas wildlife traffickers illegally selling the body parts of threatened animals, including elephant ivory, rhino horn and tiger teeth.

In a secret complaint filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, wildlife preservation advocates allege that Facebook's failure to stop illicit traders using its service for illegal activity violates the social network's responsibilities as a publicly traded company.

Facebook didn't respond to requests for comment. Its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, was expected to testify on Capitol Hill on Tuesday about other issues.

The complaint, a copy of which was provided to The Associated Press, was initially filed in August on behalf of an undercover informant represented by the National Whistleblower Center, a non-profit legal advocacy group. The identity of the informant, who recorded video of face-to-face meetings with wildlife traffickers set up over Facebook, has been kept confidential out of safety concerns.

The SEC declined to comment Monday on whether the whistleblower complaint triggered an investigation of the company.

"Facebook is not an innocent bystander to these crimes," said Stephen Kohn, executive director of the

National Whistleblower Center. "Facebook sold advertisements on the very pages the illegal ivory was being marketed."

Facebook is one of 20 technology companies that last month joined the Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, which was organized by Google and the World Wildlife Fund. Weeks after the March 7 announcement, an AP reporter was able to see scores of internationally banned wildlife products for sale in public and private Facebook groups, most based in Southeast Asia.

Among the items available were belts made from what appeared to be the fur of Bengal tigers, a critically endangered species with only about 2,500 still living in the wild. Also advertised were horns: from black rhinos, a species heavily targeted by poachers with little more than 5,000 still roaming Africa.

Negotiations over price and delivery are often initiated by Facebook Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp, two social media platforms also owned by Facebook, are also sometimes used by traffickers.

The allegations tying Facebook to the illegal trafficking of wildlife are surfacing while the company is already scrambling to recover from a privacy scandal that has wiped out \$79 billion in shareholder wealth during the past three weeks.

The crisis stems from revelations that Cambridge Analytica, a data-mining firm connected to President Donald Trump's successful 2016 campaign, had exploited weaknesses in

Facebook's privacy controls to collect personal information about 87 million people without their consent.

Zuckerberg will try to reverse the backlash against the company when he opens two days of testimony in Congress. His appearance will give lawmakers the opportunity to grill him about the Cambridge Analytica episode, as well as evidence that Russian agents manipulated Facebook's network to spread false information that may have swayed the 2016 election.

The SEC complaint may trigger other lines of inquiry about how much of Facebook's annual revenue of \$41 billion has been generated by ads running on pages featuring illegal activity, such as the sale of elephant ivory and tiger teeth.

Facebook hasn't disclosed that some of its revenue may be tied to illegal trafficking in wildlife in regulatory filings that are supposed to outline various risks and other threats that could crimp its profits or stock price.

Trafficking investigators say they have seen no drop off in the illegal products offered for sale on Facebook after prior public pledges by the company to crack down. They are calling on federal security regulators to force Facebook to immediately freeze accounts being used by illegal traffickers and cooperate with international law enforcement to identify the individuals involved for prosecution.

"The amount of ivory being traded on Facebook is horrifying," said Gretchen Peters, executive director of the Center on Illicit Networks and Transnational Organized Crime, which has analyzed online groups where wildlife goods are being marketed. "I have looked at thousands of posts containing ivory, and I am convinced that Facebook is literally facilitating the extinction of the elephant species."

Porn star's lawyer promises sketch of man who threatened her

By Catherine Lucey and Mike Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The attorney for a porn actress who says she had sex with President Donald Trump said late Monday that he may delay releasing a composite sketch of the person he says threatened Stormy Daniels to stay quiet.

Michael Avenatti said early Monday that he would release the sketch Tuesday, along with details of a reward for help identifying the person. He said late in the day that the timeline might change, after news broke about federal raid of the offices of Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen. But Avenatti said he still expected to release the information this week.

Federal agents raided Cohen's offices Monday, seizing records on topics including a \$130,000 payment made to Daniels. The actress says she had sex with Trump once in 2006 and was paid by Cohen days before the 2016

presidential election as part of a nondisclosure agreement she is seeking to invalidate.

Avenatti said Monday that a "sizeable monetary reward" will be offered to anyone providing information identifying the person that Daniels says threatened her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011. He said the sketch will help provide "additional details about what happened here."

A hard-charging attorney who has relentlessly kept the case in the headlines, Avenatti said "common sense dictates" that this person could only have been someone associated with Trump or the Trump Organization. He said the money would likely come from a crowd-sourced legal fund.

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, said in a recent interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that she was threatened to keep quiet by an unidentified man in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011 when she was with her infant daughter. Avenatti tweeted a photo Sunday that he said

showed Daniels sitting with a forensic sketch artist to develop a sketch.

The "60 Minutes" interview prompted a lawyer for Trump attorney Michael Cohen to demand that Daniels publicly apologize to his client for suggesting Cohen was involved in her intimidation. Daniels responded by filing a revised federal lawsuit accusing Cohen of defamation.

Avenatti is also pushing to have Trump and Cohen answer questions under oath. He refilled a motion in federal court in Los Angeles Sunday, seeking a jury trial and to depose Trump and Cohen. If successful, it would be the first deposition of a sitting president since Bill Clinton in 1998 had to answer questions about his conduct with women.

Trump answered questions about Daniels for the first time last week, saying he had no knowledge of the payment made by Cohen and adding that he didn't know where Cohen had gotten the money. The White House has

consistently said Trump denies the affair and Cohen has held that he made the payment out of his own pocket, without involvement from the Trump Organization or the Trump campaign.

Cohen did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment Sunday.

Avenatti filed a similar motion over a week ago, which a judge deemed premature. He refilled after Trump asked a federal judge to order private arbitration in the case. Trump and Cohen filed papers last week asking a judge to rule that the case must be heard by an arbitrator instead of a jury. Avenatti opposes private arbitration.

In the filing, Avenatti says he wants to question Trump and Cohen for "no more than two hours." He says the depositions are needed to establish if Trump knew about the settlement agreement and if he "truly did not know about the \$130,000 payment." He also asks if Trump was involved in any effort to "silence" Daniels.

Trump threatens Syria strike, suggests Russia shares blame

By Robert Burns, Zeke Miller and Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday threatened an imminent military strike against Syria, vowing to respond "forcefully" to Saturday's apparent chemical weapons attack on civilians and warning that Russia or any other nation found to share responsibility will "pay a price."

As he began an evening meeting with military leaders at the White House, Trump promised to "make a decision tonight or very shortly thereafter." He said: "We have a lot of options militarily, and we'll be letting you know pretty soon. Probably after the fact."

The White House sharply rejected any suggestion that Trump's own words about pulling U.S. troops out of Syria had opened the door for the attack, which killed more than 40 people, including children.

Trump, asked at midday whether Russian President Vladimir Putin bore any responsibility for the weekend attack, responded: "He may, yeah, he may. And if he does it's going to be very tough, very tough." He added: "Everybody's gonna pay a price. He will. Everybody will."

Then, during the meeting with top military leaders, he said the weekend assault "will be met and it will be met forcefully." Those at the meeting included Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford.

Amid the tough talk at the White House, the U.S. military appeared to be in position to carry out any attack order. A Navy destroyer, the USS Donald Cook, was underway in the eastern Mediterranean after completing a port call in Cyprus. The guided missile destroyer is armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, the weapon of choice in a U.S. attack one year ago on an airfield in Syria following an alleged sarin gas attack on civilians.

The Russian military, which has a presence in Syria as a key Assad ally, said its officers had visited the weekend site in a suburb of Damascus, the Syrian capital, and found no evidence to back up reports of poison gas being used. Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenza, accused Washington of deliberately stoking international tensions by threatening Russia in a tone "beyond the threshold of what is acceptable, even during the Cold War."

Trump said there was little question that Syria was responsible for the apparent weekend attack, although the government of President Bashar Assad denied it. "To me there's not much of a doubt, but the generals will figure it out," Trump said.

Emphatic in his condemnation of the apparent gas attack, Trump noted graphic pictures of the dead and sickened, calling the assault "heinous," "atrocious," "horrible" and "barbaric."

Fielding questions at the White House, Trump press secretary Sarah Sanders said it would be "outrageous" to say that Trump's recent announcement that he intends to remove all U.S. forces from Syria in the coming months had emboldened Assad. "I think that it is outrageous to say that the president of the United States green-lit something as atrocious as the actions that have taken place over the last several days," she said.

Mattis, in separate remarks at the Pentagon, also suggested Moscow bore some blame. He criticized Russia for what he suggested was its failure to ensure the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal under terms of a 2013 agreement.

Trump said no action was "off the table" and also conferred with Vice President Mike Pence and his new national security adviser, John Bolton. Monday was the first day on the job for Bolton, who has previously advocated military action against Syria.

Trump said, "If it's Russia, if it's Syria, if it's Iran, if it's all of them together, we'll figure it out."

The United States, meanwhile, urged the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution that would condemn the continuing use of chemical weapons in Syria "in the strongest terms" and establish a new body to determine responsibility for chemical attacks. The draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, was circulated ahead of an Emergency Security Council meeting.

An American official said the U.S. was discussing with allies whether they would participate in a retaliatory strike. If Trump decides to proceed quickly, the most likely partner would be France rather than Britain, because of concerns about obtaining permission from Parliament, said the official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the planning publicly and requested anonymity.

Acting Secretary of State John Sullivan spoke by phone Monday with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson. Sullivan and Johnson agreed that based on reports in the media and from the ground, "this attack bore hallmarks of previous chemical weapons attacks by the Assad regime," the British foreign office said.

The White House deliberations came as Russia and the Syrian military blamed Israel for a pre-dawn missile attack on a major air base in central Syria, saying Israeli fighter jets launched missiles from Lebanon's air space. A group that monitors Syria's civil war said the airstrikes killed 14 people, including Iranians active in Syria.

Syria's state news agency SANA initially said that attack on the T4 air base was likely "an American aggression," but Pentagon spokesman Christopher Sherwood quickly denied the United States was behind the strike and the agency then dropped the accusation, blaming Israel instead.

As U.S. officials consider whether and how to respond, they are looking at what type of chemical agent might have been used. When Trump ordered airstrikes last year after a chemical weapons attack, it was a response to the use of sarin gas, which is banned by the Chemical Weapons Convention that Syria has signed. An attack with chlorine, which can be used as a weapon but is not outright banned by the treaty, could raise precedent issues, as there have been numerous recent allegations of chlorine attacks in Syria that have drawn no response from the Trump administration.

Trump's company asked Panama president to help in hotel spat

By Juan Zamorano and Stephen Braun
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY — U.S. President Donald Trump's company appealed directly to Panama's president to intervene in its fight over control of a luxury hotel, even invoking a treaty between the two countries, in what ethics experts say was a blatant mingling of Trump's business and government interests.

That appeal in a letter last month from lawyers for the Trump Organization to Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela was apparently unsuccessful — an emergency arbitrator days later declined to reinstate the Trump

management team to the waterfront hotel in Panama City. But it provides hard proof of exactly the kind of conflict experts feared when Trump refused to divest from a sprawling empire that includes hotels, golf courses, licensing deals and other interests in more than 20 countries.

"This could be the clearest example we've seen of a conflict of interest stemming from the president's role as head of state in connection with other countries and his business interests," said Danielle Brinn, executive director of The Project on Government Oversight, a Washington ethics and good government organization.

In the March 22 letter to Varela, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, lawyers for the

Trump Organization "URGENTLY" request the Panamanian leader's influence to help reverse the company's acrimonious eviction as managers of the 70-story luxury high-rise once known as the Trump Ocean Club International Hotel & Tower.

While never mentioning Trump or his role as president, the letter says lawyers representing the Trump Organization were aware of "the separation of powers" in Panama but essentially asks the country's president to intervene in the judicial process anyway. It goes on to say that the eviction violates an investment treaty signed by the two countries and suggests that the Panamanian government, not the hotel's new management team, could be blamed for any wrongdoing.

Arizona sending 225 troops to Mexico border, promises more

By Bob Christie
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said Monday that 225 members of the state's National Guard are being sent to the U.S.-Mexico border to support President Donald Trump's call for troops to fight drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

More of the state's Guard members will be deployed on Tuesday but the Republican Ducey did not say how many.

The Arizona troops were being sent after Texas announced Friday it would send 250 National Guard members and helicopters took the first of them to the border.

Trump said last week he wants to send 2,000 to 4,000 National Guard members to the southwestern border. The Arizona deployments were beginning Monday but Capt. Aaron Thatcher said it was unlikely all 225 troops would be at the border by the end of Monday.

Ducey told a group of soldiers preparing to deploy from a Phoenix military base that their "mission is about providing manpower and resources to support federal, state, county, tribal and local law enforcement agencies in stopping the flow of criminals, narcotics, weapons and ammunition that is being trafficked into our state."

He told reporters later that the deployments are needed to stop a surge of border crossings since March and accused the U.S. government of



Ross D. Franklin/Associated Press

Arizona National Guard soldiers receive their reporting paperwork prior to deployment to the Mexico border at the Papago Park Military Reservation on Monday in Phoenix.

previously ignoring the border "for nearly a decade."

Texas officials showed images over the weekend of guard members arriving at the border but the state's National Guard did not respond to queries Monday about how many of the 250 troops it said would be at the border soon had arrived.

New Mexico's Republican governor, Susana Martinez, has said her state would take part in the

operation but no announcement has been made on deployment. California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, has not said if his state's Guard members will participate.

Ducey denied that his decision to send guard members to the border was politically motivated. "I don't think this is a partisan issue or an identity issue," Ducey said. "You show me somebody who is for drug cartels or human

trafficking or this ammunition that's coming over a wide-open and unprotected border here."

Trump has said he wants to use the military at the border until progress is made on his proposed border wall, which has mostly stalled in Congress.

Defense Secretary James Mattis last Friday approved paying for up to 4,000 National Guard personnel from the Pentagon budget through the end of

September.

A Defense Department memo said the National Guard members will not perform law enforcement functions or "interact with migrants or other persons detained" without Mattis's approval.

It said "arming will be limited to circumstances that might require self-defense" but did not further define that.

The head of the U.S. Border Patrol sector that

includes part of West Texas and all of New Mexico said Monday he met with leaders of the New Mexico National Guard to begin discussions about what will be required and their capabilities.

El Paso Sector Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Hull says those troops are nowhere near deploying yet.

The New Mexico Guard members could help with air support, surveillance and infrastructure repairs, Hull said.

Hull says the troops could help with air support, surveillance and repairs of infrastructure along the border.

Brown's spokesman, Evan Westrup, said Monday that California is still reviewing Trump's request for use of the state's National Guard members.

California National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Tom Keegan said last week that any request will be "promptly reviewed to determine how best we can assist our federal partners."

After plunging at the start of Trump's presidency, the numbers of migrants apprehended at the southwest border have started to rise in line with historical trends.

The Border Patrol said it caught around 50,000 people in March, more than three times the number in March 2017.

That's erased a decline for which Trump repeatedly took credit.

Border apprehensions still remain well below the numbers when former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama deployed the Guard to the border.

South Carolina's governor offers troops for border to Texas

By Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina's governor is offering to send National Guard troops to Texas help fight illegal immigration and drug trafficking along the Mexican border.

Gov. Henry McMaster said no specifics about how many troops would be sent or how long they would stay were discussed on his call Monday afternoon to fellow Republican and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

President Donald Trump called last week for thousands of National Guard troops to be sent to the border in a deployment that some Democratic governors resisted and called political.

McMaster was one of Trump's earliest supporters in the 2016 Republican presidential primary, but said there was nothing political about the deployment. Instead, the governor told The Associated Press it was no different than other states sending troops

to South Carolina to help after a hurricane. "This is the kind of things states do," McMaster said.

McMaster plans to make a similar offer to Arizona's Republican governor in the next few days.

The exact details of South Carolina's deployment will depend on what Texas needs, South Carolina Adjutant General Robert Livingston said.

Abbott said he is planning to send at least 1,000 troops to the border and they could be there for months or years, meaning the South Carolina troops could help rotate other National Guard members out, Livingston said.

Troops from South Carolina have helped out on the border before, offering night surveillance by plane and helping a decade ago to build part of the existing wall on the border, Livingston said.

"It's just states helping states," Livingston said. "That's what makes our country so strong."

Trump furious after FBI seizes documents from his lawyer

By Eric Tucker and Chad Day
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal agents on Monday raided the office of President Donald Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen, seizing records on topics including a \$130,000 payment made to porn actress Stormy Daniels.

A furious Trump, who in the last month has escalated his attacks on Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, said from the White House that it was a "disgrace" that the FBI "broke into" his lawyer's office. He called Mueller's investigation "an attack on our country," prompting new speculation that he might seek the removal of the Justice Department's special counsel.

The raid was done by the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan and was based in part on a referral from Mueller, said Cohen's lawyer, Stephen Ryan.

"The decision by the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York to conduct their investigation using search warrants is completely inappropriate and unnecessary," Ryan said in a statement. "It resulted in the unnecessary seizure of protected attorney client communications between a lawyer and his clients."

The raid creates a new legal headache for Trump as he and his attorneys weigh whether to agree to an interview with Mueller's team, which in addition to investigating potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign is also examining whether the president's actions constitute obstruction of justice.

The law enforcement action will almost certainly amplify the public scrutiny on the payment to Daniels, who says she had sex with Trump in 2006. The payment was made just days before the 2016 presidential election, and Trump told reporters last week that he did not know about it.

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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, April 10, 2018 | Page 6A

OUR VIEW

Stormwater problem demands council's attention now

Why is the Midland City Council set to create a new stormwater drainage fee? That's a good question. How about this for an answer: City leaders don't have a choice. They don't have a choice because of decisions made by city leaders over decades. They don't have a choice because our streets flood horribly even when the National Weather Service tells us no more than 0.1 or 0.2 of an inch of rain has fallen at Midland International. They don't have a choice because the state is not going to help fix this problem. They don't have a choice because something must be done when it comes to effectively moving water from the rapidly developing northwest part of town to the established southeast section.

And they don't have a choice because over the years, residents made decisions concerning the allotment of sales tax. In retrospect, those decisions created an unhealthy shift in where tens of millions of dollars go versus where those funds need to go. Those actions of decades gone by are tougher to swallow because the city is growing at breakneck speed and hundreds of millions of dollars are needed for infrastructure. The city — which inherited a draw system for moving water — has talked about the issue for the better part of at least two decades but has resisted leveling any fees, even though they have become common around the state.

Our community once was faced with the decision of how to handle the 14.8 inches of annual rainfall that is the norm for our community. The decision then was to put in the current system instead of a much-costlier run-off system. That decision was made because it was thought a desert community doesn't need the extra expense.

We don't have a problem if Midland residents want to make the case that city leaders could use certain revenue sources to help fund stormwater drainage. We remind those same people that the resources aren't as prevalent as the crowd against change would like you to believe.

The Midland Development Corp. already has adjusted its budget to take on more responsibility for infrastructure. And if you want to take revenue from companies drilling on and under city property, we don't mind hearing your plan about what we choose not to fund. But our expectation is the tens of millions of dollars in road projects could account for every dollar collected from drillers.

Midland is growing, and it is hard not to support the council seeking alternate funding sources — including drainage fees, increased developer fees and greater user fees for the sports complex to help take the burden off property taxpayers. All of the above had better take place.

The council should vote to approve these drainage fees, but not because people have wads of cash to hand over. The city should do so because after decades of inaction by previous councils, they really can't afford to continue kicking the can down the flooded street and inadequate draw system.

We aren't going to say how little a residential fee of \$14 to \$40 a year is. That's your money. But the time has come to pay the piper. Councils, following residents' direction for decades, decided to do nothing. And residents made the decision to dedicate certain tax monies elsewhere, further handcuffing those looking to properly plan for growth.

Seven council members likely will push a button today to vote to create a new tax on property owners, and they will do so because there is a problem that needs to be dealt with today, not at some undetermined time in the future and not with some undetermined funding source that likely doesn't exist.

GUEST VIEW

Touch-screen voting needs paper backup

As counties in Southeast Texas periodically update their touch-screen voting machines, they need to remember an important point: Retro is good. As in, paper backups to electronic records can be vital in verifying close races and fighting cyber-hackers. That's what security experts have been recommending for some time, but a recent study revealed that counties in Texas and 13 other states have been spending millions of dollars on voting machines that lack this crucial protection.

The election administrator in San Jacinto County said she didn't receive any alerts from state or federal officials before the county recently spent \$383,000 on its new paperless touch-screen voting system. She said her county might have decided differently if it had more information on this threat.

If the Texas Legislature isn't going to require paper trails on electronic voting machines, at least it can provide more support to counties facing these decisions.

Many of the state's 254 counties don't have the expertise of the big counties that contain cities like Houston or Dallas. These election officials care just as much about the sanctity of the vote, but they are often pressured to get the cheapest system their counties can afford.

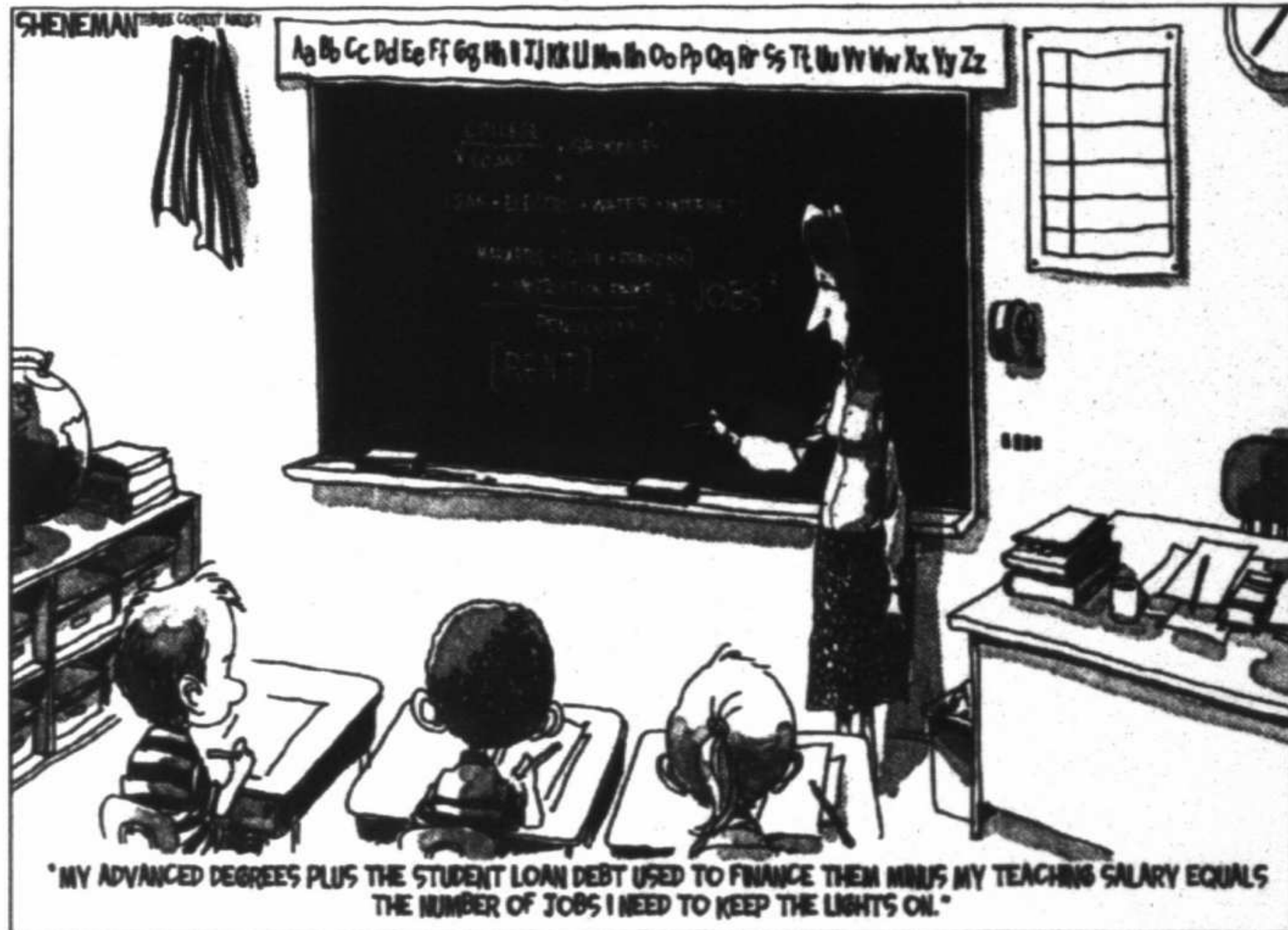
Granted, the irony here is inescapable. After the disputed "hanging chads" on paper ballots in Florida in the 2000 presidential race, cities and counties all over America switched to electronic touch-screen voting machines to avoid that problem. But within a few years, cyber hacking showed the vulnerability of those systems.

Experts have warned since 2006 that hackers can plant vote-altering malware in electronic machines. Some claim that this could even occur at factories where the machines are made.

That sounds incredible, but every month seems to bring new reports of hacking on computerized systems ranging from pipeline networks to power grids.

Last month a county commissioner's race in Orange County was decided by two votes. Close races like that are rare, but not unheard of. When disputes arise or hacking is suspected, a paper record of each ballot cast can be invaluable.

— Beaumont Enterprise



What's more Texan, Patrick's Chevrolet or Collier's Ford?

In Texas, when a man (and I think this is pretty much gender specific) looks another man in the eye and asks for his vote, any and all responses must begin with, "Tell me about your truck." (Please perform this in whatever your version of the quintessential Texas accent.)

You can tell a lot about a Texas man by the truck he drives, the make, the model and how high it's been jacked up from the factory-set altitude. Trucks matter.

With that established and unassailable, let's scrutinize the dueling non-dually trucks in the current race for lieutenant governor. Incumbent Repub Dan Patrick has featured his truck in a couple of ads. And Dem challenger Mike Collier has responded with a truck video of his own.

Gentlemen, start your pickup engines. Patrick has a Chevy. It's a 1952 Chevy. More precisely, many parts of it are a 1952 Chevy. Collier has a 2015 Ford F-150. There's nothing more Texan than a Ford F-150, which has been Texas' best-selling vehicle dating back to when Sam Houston drove down from Tennessee in his 1829 F-150.

(I think I've told you before that a New Jersey friend of mine, misreading the 1 and the 5 for similar letters, thought the Ford F-150 was a Ford Fiso. So there's today's reminder that you don't want 100 percent voter turnout, especially in New Jersey.)

Patrick's Chevy pickup showed up in a primary election ad that opens with him driving the truck. "I agree with President Trump. Our southern borders must be secure," he said with pickup as backdrop and ending with "Big-city liberals want open borders but I won't back down."

At ad's end we see the Chevy truck, presumably with Patrick at the wheel, heading up (or maybe down) a country road.

The truck also was featured in a Patrick ad in which he complained about "skyrocketing property taxes." Patrick, again sporting a ruggedly manly barn coat, is holding what could be ruggedly manly work gloves or Europeanly stylish driving gloves. It also ends with the truck heading down (or maybe up) a country road.

Patrick's truck shtick has not won universal acclaim. In a February commentary in the Dallas Morning News, Richard Parker, author of "Lone Star Nation: How Texas Will Transform America," wrote that "As he clammers down from the cab of that vintage Chevy pickup on television, I half expect Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to start talking about the price of feed. But nah: It's a campaign commercial designed for him to come across as a real, rootin', tootin' Texan."

Patrick's truck has been extensively and, we'll presume, expensively restored, complete with a 1997 Camaro engine. Nice truck, but Collier says it helps certify Patrick as a phony. We'll let Collier have his say in a minute.

This particular truck got some attention in this newspaper back in September 2016: "Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is the new owner of a custom 1952 Chevy truck Series 3100, restored by Muscle Cars of Texas, which is in Alvin."

Patrick called it "my new parade car" and said his "kids and grandkids are going to fight over who gets it when I'm gone."

The truck interior has embroidered state outlines. On the doors it says, "God Bless Texas. Lone Star Proud." The engine is an aggressive, fuel-injected powerplant and the whole thing is custom tailored for Patrick.

In fact, the story noted, "Muscle Cars of Texas relocated the original location of the gas tank from behind the driver's seat to underneath the vehicle to give Patrick some much-needed leg room."

And there was this from Vinnie Tortorella, president of Muscle Cars of Texas: "It was such an honor to create a one-of-a-kind vehicle, custom from tail light to bumper, for the most powerful man in the state." (Don't tell Greg Abbott or Tom Herman about that last part.)

Patrick was quoted as calling his truck "my version of the Mona Lisa" and proclaimed it "probably, in my opinion, the best '52 Chevy pickup in the state."

Only in Texas would a pickup truck be favorably likened to one of the world's most enduring masterpieces.

Patrick political consultant Allen Blakemore said the truck provides a "visually interesting" setting for the ads and said it's the latest vintage vehicle Patrick has owned, one at a time, including a 1934 Ford, a 1955 Pontiac, a 1947 Olds and a 1928 Cadillac. (This is where those not in the Dan Patrick Fan Club should not comment about his 1948 view of the world.)

Blakemore confirmed that the 1952 truck is a phony. OK, he didn't say phony. He said, Patrick's "not trying to restore it to its factory new condition, which some people in the vintage car busi-



KEN HERMAN
Austin American-Statesman

ness like to do. He likes to make it his own and so from the color of the paint job to the interior to those sorts of things he does it the way he wants it done."

The truck is blue, but not political blue, according to Blakemore. "No, he just liked that particular color for this particular truck." The restoration took about two years. Patrick paid for it out of his own pocket, Blakemore said.

"I'm not sure he's even willing to disclose that to his wife," Blakemore joked of the price, quickly adding, "I'm sure she knows."

Blakemore's been involved in Texas politics since 1980. So I figured he understands the crucial link between truck and ballot box. Surprisingly, he doesn't.

"I've been working campaigns as long as you've been writing about them, or longer probably," he told me. "And I've never heard anybody ask a candidate, 'Tell me about your truck.'"

But challenger Collier understands the vehicle/vote linkage. Which makes you more of a Texan, I asked Collier, a 2015 F-150 or a restored '52 Chevy?

"Oh," Collier said without missing a beat or a chance to take a shot at Patrick, "a Ford F-150, because it's real, because it's honest."

And a restored '52 Chevy isn't?

"It might be a real truck," he said, "but it ain't Texan. There's nothing Texan about it." (I forgot to tell him this one says "God Bless Texas" on the doors.)

And, Collier said, the trucks tell you everything you need to know in this race.

"The biggest difference between Dan and me is that he's a showman and completely lacks substance," Collier said. "And I am completely what you see is what you get. I bought Old Paint because I wanted to be comfortable driving around the state."

I forgot to tell you about that. Collier calls his truck Old Paint.

"Me and Old Paint are buddies now," he wants you to know. "It's banged up but I won't go anywhere without it. ... It just draws a huge contrast between the two of us."

Old Paint is featured in a 78-second campaign video in which Collier does a tour de dents and dings.

"I am so honored to be the nominee for Texas lieutenant governor. And Old Paint is thrilled. We've been together 110,000 miles, so I thought I'd show you some of the battle scars," he tells us, starting on passenger side of windshield. "This crack is a rock that hit us in Lubbock. This crack is a rock that hit us in Lufkin. And this crack is a rock that hit us in Lufkin."

Lubbock, Luling, Lufkin. Maybe Collier and Old Paint should avoid Lumberton.

Moving on, Collier notes front bumper damage: "This was my fault. I hit a telephone truck in the Rio Grande Valley. I feel terrible about that."

We then move to where it looks like the gas cap used to be: "This fell off when I got hit by a plumbing truck. And that was in Fredericksburg, if I'm not mistaken."

"The whole back has been replaced in that mishap," he says as he walks behind the tailgate. "So we're good here. It was approximately \$6,000." By now we're on the passenger side.

"And then over here, the (now former) Williamson County (Dem) Clair John Bucy backed this into a telephone pole," he says. "And I'm proud of that."

"So we got eight more months with Old Paint and once elected I think I'll keep her," Collier says in wrapping up. "She's a great truck. Mike Collier for lieutenant governor."

Collier's a very long shot to beat Patrick. And both candidates' trucks have a long way to go to become as famous as the 1992 Nissan pickup that Victor Morales drove around Texas in winning the 1996 Democratic U.S. Senate nomination and losing the general election to Phil Gramm.

And Team Patrick is not impressed by Collier's attempt to win the current truck battle.

"I'm sorry, Ken," Blakemore said. "I'm just not going to bite on Mike Collier's truck envy that he has for a '52 Chevy."

Truck envy. Only in Texas?

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Tax cuts, spending to raise deficit to \$1T by 2019

■ ANALYSIS

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The combined effect of President Donald Trump's tax cuts and last month's budget-busting spending bill is sending the government's budget deficit toward the \$1 trillion mark next year, according to a new analysis by the Congressional Budget Office.

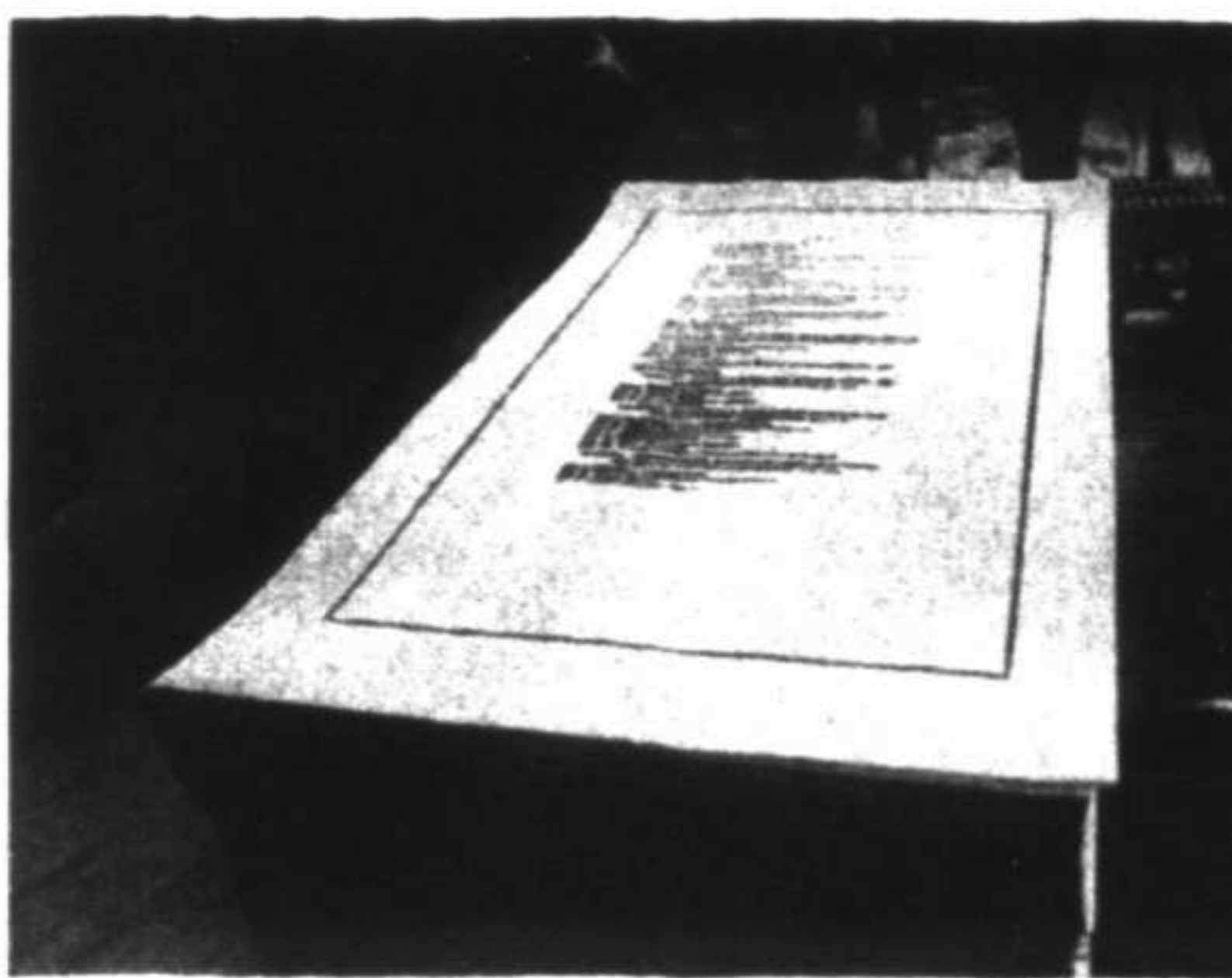
The CBO report says the twin tax and spending bills will push the budget deficit to \$804 billion this year and just under \$1 trillion for the upcoming budget year.

CBO says economic growth from the tax cuts will add 0.7 percent on average to the nation's economic output over the coming decade. Those effects will only partially offset the deficit cost of the tax cuts. The administration had promised the cuts would pay for themselves. Instead, the report estimates that the GOP tax bill, which is Republican-controlled Washington's signature accomplishment under Trump, will add \$1.8 trillion to the deficit over the coming decade, even after its positive effects on the economy are factored in.

The economic growth promises to drop the nationwide unemployment rate below 4 percent starting this year, CBO predicts.

The report paints an unrelentingly bleak picture of federal deficits, which would permanently breach the \$1 trillion mark in 2020 unless Congress stems the burst of red ink. The government would borrow about 19 cents of every dollar it spends this year. Deficits would grow to \$1.5 trillion by 2028 — and could exceed \$2 trillion if the tax cuts are fully extended and if Washington doesn't cut spending.

Republicans controlling Washington have largely lost interest in taking on the deficit, an issue that has fallen in prominence in recent years. Trump has ruled out cuts to Social Security and Medicare, and Capitol Hill Republicans have failed to take steps against the deficit since Trump took office.



AP file photo

A copy of the \$1.3 trillion spending bill is stacked on a table March 23 in the Diplomatic Room of the White House in Washington. A new analysis says President Donald Trump's tax cuts and last month's big spending bill will send the federal deficit toward \$1 trillion. The Congressional Budget Office says tax and spending bills will push the deficit to \$804 billion this year and nearly \$1 trillion for 2019.

With conservatives complaining about the \$1.3 trillion catchall spending bill — which blew through previous budget limits by \$300 billion over this year and next — House GOP leaders have scheduled a vote this week on a proposed amendment to the Constitution to require a balanced federal budget. The vote is sure to fall well short of the two-thirds required to pass and is being rushed to a vote without hearings or committee debate. The White House is also likely to propose rolling back some of the domestic spending increases in the government-wide funding bill.

"The CBO's latest report exposes the scam behind the rosy rhetoric from Republicans that their tax bill would pay for itself," said top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York. "The American people deserve a Congress that is focused squarely on helping the middle class, not patronizing Kabuki theatre — like sham 'balanced budget' votes — from Republicans who blew up the deficit to benefit wealthy special interests."

Republicans are unlikely to pass even a nonbinding budget blueprint, instead opting to take a pause in the heat of election season. "Without question, we have challenging work ahead," said House Budget Committee Chairman Steve Womack, R-Ark., who promised he will be "working with my

colleagues in the days ahead to craft a responsible budget plan."

But any genuine effort to curb spending is a nonstarter this year. House GOP plans to impose cuts on programs like food stamps haven't gotten started yet — and appear sure to fail — and the idea of cutting popular federal programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which comprise much of the budget, is a political nonstarter.

Many economists believe that if deficits continue to rise and the national debt grows, government borrowing will "crowd out" private lending and force up interest rates. And if interest rates go up, the government will have to pay much more to finance the more than \$14 trillion in Treasury debt held by investors.

The new report predicts the economy will grow by 3.3 percent this year but that gross domestic product will drop to 1.8 percent by 2020. It also warns that interest rates on government borrowing will also spike, with the benchmark 10-year Treasury note averaging a 3.0 percent interest rate this year and 3.7 percent next year.

The nation's \$21 trillion debt would spike to more than \$33 trillion in after 10 years, with debt held by investors spiking to levels that would come close to equaling the size of the economy, reaching levels that many economists fear could spark a debt crisis.

Trump blasts Mueller probe as 'attack on our country'

By Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The special counsel's Russia investigation is not only a political witch hunt but "an attack on our country," President Donald Trump complained Monday, exhibiting mounting concern about the yearlong probe after federal authorities raided the offices of his personal attorney. "We'll see," he said, when asked if he might fire special counsel Robert Mueller.

Trump let loose after federal agents pierced the protective bubble around him, seizing records from the offices of longtime Trump attorney Michael Cohen, on topics including a \$130,000 payment made to a porn actress who says she had sex with Trump more than a decade ago.

Cohen has been an ardent defender in Trump's business, personal and political affairs for more than a decade — Cohen claims to have used a personal home equity loan to pay the adult film actress, known as Stormy Daniels — and the probe's expansion into the president's inner circle left Trump fuming.

He unleashed his sharpest invective to date against the sweeping investigation, calling the Monday search "a disgrace."

"It's an attack on our country in a true sense," he said, flanked by the nation's top military brass, who watched the scene stone-faced. "It's an attack on what we all stand for." The president didn't

bat away the idea of firing Mueller, saying people have advised him to take that action. "Why don't I just fire Mueller? Well, I think it's a disgrace what's going on — we'll see what happens."

He said the raid in New York marked a "whole new level of unfairness" by Mueller and his team.

Trump called the probe a "witch hunt," as he has many times in the past, complaining that it distracts from serious issues such as consideration of a military response to the apparent use of a chemical weapon on Syrian civilians over the weekend. That was the intended subject of his Monday evening meeting with the defense secretary, the joint chiefs of staff and U.S. combat commanders.

Instead, with reporters in the room and cameras rolling, Trump opened the meeting with an unprompted four-minute critique of Mueller's investigation. "I just heard that they broke into the office of one of my personal attorneys, a good man," Trump began, referring to agents who had obtained search warrants from a federal judge.

The raid on Cohen's office was conducted by the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan and was based at least partly on a referral from Mueller, according to Cohen's lawyer, Stephen Ryan.

Trump blasted the Mueller team as "the most conflicted group of people I've ever seen," labeling most of them Democrats and saying the few Republicans had worked for President Barack Obama.

"They're not looking at the other side," he complained, referencing the long investigation into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. "They're not looking at the Hillary Clinton horrible things that she did and all of the crimes that she committed."

Mueller, a lifelong Republican, and his team of attorneys have been investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election and associated misdeeds in the president's orbit since May 2017.

Mueller reports to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed the special counsel last year after the recusal of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Trump's firing of former FBI Director James Comey.



Evan Vuceli/Associated Press

Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt, right, listens as President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House on Monday in Washington.

Trump stands by EPA chief as probes into his conduct expand

By Michael Biesecker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scott Pruitt is facing new and expanded ethics investigations for his handling of taxpayer dollars and possible perks he's gotten as head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Staff for the Republican-led House Oversight committee confirmed Monday that it has expanded its review of Pruitt's travel spending to now include ethical questions surrounding his bargain \$50-a-night rental of a Capitol Hill condo tied to a fossil fuels lobbyist.

The Office of Government Ethics also has issued a letter to EPA demanding documents related to the condo rental. And it reports that at least five agency officials faced retaliation after questioning Pruitt's outsized spending for travel, unprecedented security precautions and pricey office furniture.

In a letter dated Friday, Acting Government Ethics Director David Apol called media reports of Pruitt's actions "extremely concerning."

"The success of our government depends on maintaining the trust of the people we serve," Apol wrote. "The American public needs to have confidence that ethics violations, as well as the appearance of ethics violations, are investigated and properly addressed."

President Donald Trump defended Pruitt in a tweet Saturday night, saying the EPA chief is "doing a great job" and downplaying the ethical questions swirling around Pruitt. He called Pruitt's security spending "somewhat more" than Pruitt's predecessor and said Pruitt had received death threats "because of his bold actions at EPA."

Pruitt was at the White House on Monday for a cabinet meeting and was seated at the far end of the table from Trump. The president did not acknowledge Pruitt while reporters were present or address the ethical cloud swirling around his EPA chief.

At the daily White House briefing, spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked if Trump's Saturday night tweet meant the president approved of his cabinet secretaries flying first-class and tripling the size of their security details.

"We are reviewing the specifics of each of those components," Sanders replied. "I know there was a much larger number of security issues surrounding the EPA administrator than in the past." EPA Inspector

General Arthur Elkins is now conducting at least five investigative audits related to Pruitt, including a previously undisclosed probe into questionable spending by his swollen security detail. The Associated Press reported Friday that the 20-member team tasked with providing day-and-night protection for Pruitt had racked up salary, overtime and travel expenses approaching \$3 million.

Jennifer Kaplan, the spokeswoman for the inspector general, also confirmed Monday that the internal watchdog has received multiple requests from members of Congress and the public for his office to examine whether Pruitt's condo rental constituted an impermissible gift under federal ethics rules. A decision on whether to launch a new investigation into that issue is expected in coming days.

The property, where Pruitt's daughter also lived last summer while interning at the White House, is co-owned by the wife of the top executive at a powerhouse Washington lobbying firm with clients who have received favorable regulatory actions from EPA. Pruitt maintains the owner is a personal friend and that he paid a fair market rate, even though rentals nearby have advertised rates on more than twice what he paid.

The broader probe launched by EPA's inspector general into Pruitt's security spending grew out of a 2016 audit into whether members of the administrator's protective detail were improperly paid overtime wages. A separate investigation was launched in November into whether members of EPA's internal law enforcement arm actually worked hours reflected on their timesheets.

Elkins has also opened an audit into whether Pruitt improperly used authority granted under the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide massive raises to two of his closest aides. Pruitt denied knowing about the

raises in a media interview last week, even though the statutory authority under which the raises were granted requires his approval.

That's on top of previously ongoing investigations into the administrator's outsized travel spending and purchase of a \$43,000 soundproof privacy booth purchased for the administrator to make private phone calls. Pruitt has cited security concerns as justification of his flying in first-class airline seats with his security chief, a perk not generally afforded to federal employees.

However, on occasions when taxpayers weren't paying for his ticket, Pruitt sat in coach on personal trips to attend college football games in his home state of Oklahoma. The Associated Press also reported that Pruitt sometimes flew on a companion pass obtained with the frequent flyer miles of Ken Wagner, a former law partner from Oklahoma that Pruitt hired to serve as a senior adviser at the EPA. Taxpayers still covered the airfare for the administrator's security detail.

Walter Shaub, who until last year ran the Office of Government Ethics, told the AP it was likely an ethics violation if Pruitt accepted the airline tickets, even if Wagner didn't pay cash for them. Federal officials are barred from accepting gifts from employees that have a market value of more than \$10.

Pruitt's spokesman, Jahan Wilcox, says Pruitt has faced an unprecedented number of death threats against him and his family and "Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats."

A nationwide search of state and federal court records by the AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt. EPA's press office did not respond Friday to provide details of any specific threats or arrests.

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New York drifts about one inch further away from London each year.
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HENRY
Acts 4:24
24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,

Zuckerberg prepares apology to Congress

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has already apologized to users for not doing enough to protect their privacy. Now he plans to apologize to Congress, saying in prepared testimony that Facebook hasn't done enough to prevent its tools from being used for harm.

Zuckerberg's written statement was released ahead of two days of congressional hearings in which he will not only try to restore public trust in his company but also stave off federal regulation that some lawmakers have floated. His company is under fire in the worst privacy crisis in its history after it was revealed that Cambridge Analytica, a data-mining firm affiliated with Donald Trump's presidential campaign, gathered personal information from 87 million users to try to influence elections.

In the testimony released by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which he is expected to deliver Wednesday, Zuckerberg apologizes for fake news, hate speech, a lack of data privacy and foreign interference in the 2016 elections on his platform.

"We didn't take a broad enough view of our responsibility, and that was a big mistake," he says in the remarks. "It was my mistake, and I'm sorry. I started Facebook, I run it, and I'm responsible for what happens here."

Zuckerberg will testify before a joint hearing of the Senate Judiciary and Commerce Committees today and before the House panel on Wednesday. On



Andrew Harnik/Associated Press

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg leaves a meeting Monday on Capitol Hill in Washington. Zuckerberg will testify today before a joint hearing of the Commerce and Judiciary Committees about the use of Facebook data to target American voters in the 2016 election.

Monday, he met privately with the leaders of the Senate committees.

After resisting previous calls to testify, Zuckerberg agreed to come to Capitol Hill this month after reports surfaced — and the company confirmed — that Cambridge Analytica had gathered Facebook users' data. In the remarks, Zuckerberg said his company has a responsibility to make sure what happened with Cambridge Analytica doesn't happen again.

Zuckerberg is also expected to be asked about Russia's use of U.S. social

media during the 2016 elections — a subject of several congressional investigations and special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian interference.

In the statement, Zuckerberg addresses Russian election interference and acknowledges, as he has in the past, that the company was too slow to respond and that it's "working hard to get better." The company has said that as many as 146 million people may have received information from a Russian agency that's accused of

orchestrating much of the cyber meddling in the election.

"We will continue working with the government to understand the full extent of Russian interference, and we will do our part not only to ensure the integrity of free and fair elections around the world, but also to give everyone a voice and to be a force for good in democracy everywhere," Zuckerberg continues.

In the testimony, Zuckerberg acknowledges that the questioning will likely be critical.

"We face a number of

important issues around privacy, safety, and democracy, and you will rightfully have some hard questions for me to answer," Zuckerberg says.

The prepared remarks do not reveal new information about how data was shared or what Facebook will do. In addition to saying he is sorry — something he has done several times already — Zuckerberg outlines the steps the company has taken to restrict outsiders' access to people's personal information. He also says the company is investigating every app that had

access to a large amount of information before the company moved to prevent such access in 2014 — something that came too late in the Cambridge Analytica case.

Zuckerberg met Monday with Florida Sen. Bill Nelson, the top Democrat on the Senate Commerce panel. Nelson said afterward that Zuckerberg was "forthright and honest to the degree he could" be in the private, one-on-one meeting.

Nelson said he believes Zuckerberg is taking the congressional hearings seriously "because he knows there is going to be a hard look at regulation."

Democrats like Nelson have argued that federal laws might be necessary to ensure user privacy. Republicans so far have shown little appetite for such regulation, but that could change if there are future privacy scandals or Democrats gain control of Congress in this November's elections.

"I think he understands that regulation could be right around the corner," Nelson said.

Zuckerberg was also scheduled to meet with Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune, R-S.D., ahead of today's hearing.

Separately, Zuckerberg said in a Facebook post Monday that the company is establishing an independent election research commission that will look into the effects of social media on elections and democracy. He said the commission will work with foundations across the U.S. to set up a committee of academic experts who will come up with research topics and select independent researchers to study them.

Newsmax hires former Fox executive to run TV operations

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Newsmax on Monday hired a former Fox News Channel executive to run its television operation, a sign that the media company is looking to become more competitive with the network that is the overwhelming favorite of conservative viewers.

Michael Clemente is the new CEO of Newsmax TV, said Chris Ruddy, who runs the media company. Clemente ran Fox's news operation before losing a power struggle and leaving in 2016. Previously, he worked for 27 years at ABC News.

The company has spent the last few years building distribution for the television operation, which can also be streamed, Ruddy said. Now Newsmax wants to concentrate on building more programming. The network is about half of the nation's television homes, the majority through satellite companies.

"I think that Fox is a great product," Ruddy said. "But it's also a stale product."

That doesn't mean Newsmax won't be open to talking to people who made a name for themselves on Fox; Clemente said he'll be looking for a combination of new and established talent.

For the first time this past weekend, Newsmax aired a special "No Spin News" program of commentary from former Fox star Bill O'Reilly. But Ruddy said there are no discussions about making it a permanent show.

Newsmax's website currently features columns by the likes of Michael Reagan, Patrick Buchanan, Alan Dershowitz, David Limbaugh, Ron Paul and Charles Krauthammer.

People are constantly able to keep up with tweets and news headlines, but they often have to turn to newspapers if they want real depth and understanding of issues, Clemente said. He believes that provides an opportunity for Newsmax.

Much of what people see on Fox, CNN and MSNBC involve debates and not news, Clemente said, likening it to people who tune into NASCAR hoping to see a crash.

While these networks have been riding a wave of popularity with the Trump administration, Clemente said that aside from their regular viewers "there are still over 300 million people, some of whom want to find out about what's going on in the world and don't necessarily want to argue about it."

Newsmax intends to be fair to all sides, he said. Ruddy is known to be a personal friend of President Donald Trump, but he said he isn't interested in making Newsmax Trump TV.

Fox has maintained its ratings success despite a period of turmoil that included the firing of O'Reilly after sexual misconduct settlements against him became known. Its prime-time opinion lineup of Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham strongly supports the president, who is known to watch and take cues from the network.

Child advocates ask FTC to investigate YouTube

By Matt O'Brien
Associated Press

The fine print of YouTube's terms of service has a warning that goes unheeded by millions of children who visit YouTube to watch cartoons, nursery rhymes, science experiments or videos of toys being unboxed.

"If you are under 13 years of age, then please do not use the service," the terms say. "There are lots of other great web sites for you."

In a complaint filed Monday, child advocates and consumer groups are asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and impose potentially billions of dollars of penalties on Google for allegedly violating children's online privacy and allowing ads to target them.

"Google profits handsomely from selling advertising to kid-directed programs that it packages," said Jeff Chester, director of the Center for Digital Democracy, one of the groups that drafted the complaint. "They created a successful model monetizing kids' data."

Television networks also run ads during cartoons and other programs aimed at kids. The difference? YouTube does so with a lot of data collection. Its business model relies on tracking IP addresses, search history, device identifiers, location and other personal data about its users so that it can gauge their

interests and tailor advertising to them. But a 1998 federal law prohibits internet companies from knowingly collecting personal data from kids under 13 without their parents' consent.

The coalition accuses YouTube of violating that law and deliberately profiting off luring children into what Chester calls an "ad-filled digital playground" where commercials for toys, theme parks or sneakers can surface alongside kid-oriented videos.

YouTube said in an emailed statement that it "will read the complaint thoroughly and evaluate if there are things we can do to improve. Because YouTube is not for children, we've invested significantly in the creation of the YouTube Kids app to offer an alternative specifically designed for children."

That toddler-oriented YouTube Kids app, launched in 2015, offers more parental controls but is not as widely used — and features a selection of the same videos and channels that kids can also find on the regular YouTube service.

Although it's not known if the FTC will take action, the complaint comes at a time of increased public scrutiny over the tech industry's mining of personal data and after the FTC opened an investigation last month into Facebook's privacy practices.

For that reason, the FTC "may be more reinvigorated

and ready to take these issues seriously," said Josh Golin, director of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, which drafted the complaint along with the Center for Digital Democracy and a Georgetown University law clinic. Several other groups have signed on, including Common Sense Media, which runs a popular website for families, and the advocacy division of Consumer Reports.

"I think the day of reckoning has arrived," said U.S. Sen. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat who co-authored the 1998 law and says he wants the FTC to look into the YouTube complaint. "Americans want to know the answers as to whether or not the privacy of their children is being compromised in the online world."

FTC spokeswoman Juliana Gruenwald Henderson said the agency looks forward to reviewing the letter. She said the FTC already has brought more than two dozen cases for violations of the 1998 law. It has settled child privacy cases with Yelp, mobile advertising network InMobi and electronic toy-maker VTech.

None of those services are as popular for kids as YouTube, which has toddler-themed channels with names like ChuChuTV nursery rhymes, which as of last week counted more than 16 million subscribers and 13.4 billion views. It also has

many channels that cater to preteens.

Kandi Parsons, a former FTC attorney who now advises companies on child-privacy compliance, said that because YouTube is a general-audience service, it could be hard to determine if parents are curating content for their kids to watch or letting them use it on their own. Parsons said the FTC so far hasn't gone after kid-directed channels within broader media websites, though that doesn't mean it won't.

Consumer advocates say Google knows what it is doing. They point to its "Google Preferred" program that allows advertisers on YouTube to pay extra to get their ads on the most popular videos. The program includes a "Parenting & Family Lineup" that has featured channels such as ChuChuTV, Fox's BabyTV and Seven Super Girls, whose topics include "fluffy unicorn slime."

YouTube does block children who identify themselves as under 13 from posting video, by prohibiting them from creating an account to begin with, but an account isn't needed merely to watch.

"It's laughable if Google execs claim that they think the parent is in charge of the online viewing behaviors of tens of millions of children," Chester said. "Children are watching this content by themselves. Google is trying to look the other way."

Prosecutor says Cosby paid accuser nearly \$3.4M

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby paid nearly \$3.4 million to the woman he is charged with sexually assaulting, a prosecutor revealed to jurors Monday, answering one of the biggest questions surrounding the case as the comedian's retrial got underway.

District Attorney Kevin Steele highlighted the 2006 civil settlement during his opening statement, in an apparent attempt to suggest Cosby wouldn't have paid out so much money if the accusations against him were false. Cosby's lawyers have signaled they intend to use the settlement to argue that Andrea Constand falsely accused the former TV star in hopes of landing a big payoff.

The amount had been confidential — and was kept out of the first trial — but a judge ruled that both sides could

discuss it at this one.

"This case is about trust," Steele told the jury. "This case is about betrayal and that betrayal leading to the sexual assault of a woman named Andrea Constand."

Cosby, 80, is charged with drugging and molesting Constand, a former employee of Temple University's basketball program, at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Constand says he gave her pills that made her woozy, then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay incapacitated, unable to tell him to stop.

"She's unconscious. She's out of it," Steele said. "She will describe how her body felt during this circumstance. She's jolted during this. She feels herself being violated. ... And she'll tell you she remembers waking up on this sofa with her clothes disheveled at 4 o'clock in the morning. This is hours after this starts." A lawyer not associated with the trial

said Monday the settlement amount could figure prominently in the prosecution's case.

"The question that I'm sure we're going to hear a lot about is, why would an innocent man pay \$3.38 million for something he didn't do?" said Dennis McAndrews, who prosecuted chemical heir John E. duPont for murder in 1997.

The defense will deliver its opening statement today in a trial expected to last a month.

Cosby's first trial last spring ended with the jury hopelessly deadlocked. The comedian faces three counts of aggravated indecent assault, each punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Ahead of opening statements, a topless protester who appeared on several episodes of "The Cosby Show" as a child jumped a barricade and got within a few feet of Cosby as the comedian entered the courtroom.

EYE ON EDUCATION



Photos courtesy Kayla Barker

Community information

Children: 1,873 surveyed
 Children who are English language learners (ELL): 15 percent
 Children who have individualized education program (IEP) for children with disabilities: 6 percent
 Race: African-American, black, 6 percent; Asian, native Hawaiian or Pacific islander, 3 percent; Hispanic/Latino, 62 percent; white, 27 percent; other, 2 percent.

EDI results by Developmental area

(in Midland County)

- ☆ Physical health and well-being
 on track: 79 percent
 at risk: 12 percent
 vulnerable: 9 percent
- ☆ Social competence
 on track: 75 percent
 at risk: 13 percent
 vulnerable: 12 percent
- ☆ Emotional maturity
 on track: 74 percent
 at risk: 14 percent
 vulnerable: 12 percent
- ☆ Language and cognitive development
 on track: 77 percent
 at risk: 15 percent
 vulnerable: 8 percent
- ☆ Communication skills and general knowledge
 on track: 79 percent
 at risk: 17 percent
 vulnerable: 7 percent
- ☆ Distribution across all developmental domains
 on track: 53 percent
 at risk: 23 percent
 vulnerable: 24 percent

Early childhood education starts at home

Children in Midland not being ready for kindergarten is a problem

Just more than 50 percent of kindergarten students inside Midland ISD were "kindergarten ready." That was the result of a survey of nearly 1,900 students in 26 schools during the 2016-17 school year. The survey was part of a community school readiness assessment that used the Early Development Instrument. The "EDI," as it is called, gathers information and then provides information about children in five development areas that are known to impact well-being and school performance. They are:

- ☆ physical health and well-being,
- ☆ social competence,
- ☆ emotional maturity,
- ☆ language and cognitive skills and
- ☆ communication skills and general knowledge.

Forty-seven percent of students surveyed were identified as not ready across all five developmental areas, according to the community study. The results of that study matched the Texas Education Agency's readiness measurement, according to the education support group Educate Midland. The most recently reported TEA data shows that more than half — 53.9 percent — of Midland kindergarten students are "kindergarten ready."

In June 2017, Educate Midland organized a community work group, called the Early Childhood Action Network, which is made up of early childhood professionals, business leaders, funders and civic leaders. ECAN's goal is to increase the number of young children who are developmentally ready for school and are on track for later learning.

"The data shows that is not the case. 'I don't know if (the data) was real surprise to people in education. We expected that was the case,' said Lori Smith, Child Development and Early Childhood instructor at Midland College. 'People don't realize how important those early years are. ... (The early years) are the cornerstone to determine whether a child will be successful in school.'"

Smith said ages 3 and 4 are critical to brain development, and "not much can be done" if proper development doesn't take place.

"To me that is scary," Smith said. Educate Midland Executive Director Purvis Evans told the Reporter-Telegram that sharing this early childhood education data is a first step, but seeing progress will require the effort of the entire community to recognize healthy early childhood development as a necessary component to student success.

One problem in Midland is the lack of opportunity for affordable and accredited child care. As Smith said, waiting lists for day care can be "miles" long. Even the pre-K options at MISD are limited.

Still, both Smith and Evans said one goal of ECAN is to encourage parents and caregivers to be their child's "first teacher" and to offer tools and support that will help with early childhood development. It doesn't matter if they speak, sing, read or even have conversations with the child, Smith said. Those small steps help mold the child into a better learner when elementary school becomes an option. "Parents are with their kids more than a child is at a child care center," Smith said. "They are their first teacher."

Some examples of support tools include the digital app "Bright by Text," which is being sponsored by the United Way of Midland. Bright by Text offers age-appropriate tips and resources to parents and caregivers via their cellphone. To sign up, parents and caregivers with children under 5 can text the word "family" or "familia" to 274448. Additionally, CLI Engage offers free online resources to early childhood programs, which includes access to online professional development courses, child assessment tools, lessons, and more via cliengage.org.

To learn more about the Midland County EDI report and the work of the ECAN, contact Educate Midland at 432-818-2620 or www.educatamidland.org.

Save the date

- ☆ State of Education event, 11 a.m. April 18, Horseshoe Pavilion.
- The Midland Chamber of Commerce hosts this annual luncheon to engage and inform the public about the challenges and opportunities facing public and private schools, colleges and universities. This year's keynote speaker is Orlando Riddick, Midland ISD superintendent.
- ☆ Tee It Up For Success Golf Tournament, May 18, Ranchland Hills Golf Club
- If you are interested in sponsoring or playing in the golf tournament, please submit the entry form below to Peggy Kuss at peggy.kuss@midlandisd.net by April 30 for sponsors and May 7 for teams.
- ☆ Right at school: Midland ISD's before- and after-school program — parent information meeting, 6 p.m., Tuesday, Bowie Fine Arts Academy, 805 Elk Ave.
- ☆ Public community meeting, MISD secondary boundary proposal, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Alamo Junior High, 3800 Storey Ave.

MISD board meetings

- ☆ April 17
- ☆ May 14

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EDUCATION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, April 10, 2018 | Page 2B

Legislature needs to close charter school loophole

Fifteen-year-old Jacqueline Cruz was startled to discover that Victory Prep South, the in-district charter high school that she attends, will close at the end of the year. She wasn't alone. The announcement came as a shock to Winston Steele — her principal.

Houston Independent School District trustees also expressed surprise that the school was closing, just a few months after Victory Prep North, its sister Houston ISD in-district charter school, closed, as reported by Chronicle reporter Shelby Webb.

A school's closure shouldn't hit school administrators and other stakeholders like a sudden car wreck. It should be more like an expected demise after a terminal illness. When the

people with overall responsibility have no clue about what's next, it's a sure bet that a school operated with too little supervision.

The Texas Legislature should act in conjunction with Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath to plug the loophole that allows a failing school to stay on the public dole by merely becoming an in-district charter. Not only does the current system permit a problematic charter to continue to operate without meaningful scrutiny, but it also muddies accountability.

GUEST VIEW

Houston Chronicle

The troubled history of Victory Prep North and South illustrates how hard it is to figure out who's in charge under the status quo. Kirbyjon Caldwell, the charismatic and influential pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church who was recently indicted on unrelated charges of fraud, founded these public school charters and served on the board as late as 2014, according to the school website.

After the schools failed to meet the state's academic standards for three years in a row, TEA ordered the charter

network to close in 2016. Instead HISD threw a lifeline to the charter network by allowing the schools to operate within the district.

The change did nothing to address the Victory schools' unreported financial problems.

Although these schools had to turn in an audit of their charter network's finances every year, Mark Smith, HISD's chief student support officer, told the school board that other than that minimal requirement, HISD exercises little oversight over its in-district charter schools.

Last week, two years after assuming some responsibility for the schools, trustees were faced with finding

Please see LOOPHOLE/4B

CAMP WRITE-A-LOT



Courtesy photos

Fourth-graders in Leslie Turner's class at Fasken Elementary School attended Camp Write-a-Lot on Friday to prepare for the STAAR writing test, which is this week. Students collaborated at different "campsites" and were encouraged to use their learned writing strategies for reviewing and editing content. ABOVE LEFT: Campers included Bubba Sloum, left, and Grace Cox. ABOVE RIGHT: Fasken fourth-grade teachers who led "Camp Write-a-Lot" were Amy Murry, from left, Erin Lloyd, Leslie Turner and Carina Dellman. TOP: Wyatt Cross, from left, Jordan Rosales, Omar Vaseen and Jakob Blevins sit around a "campfire" preparing for STAAR.

Teachers' role has become complicated

Right now is a tenuous time for teachers in this country. We have the walkouts in Oklahoma, the continued to debate over school of choice and the discussions regarding arming teachers as a solution to school shootings. All of these debates fall on me in a heavy way. While I teach community college, these debates do not directly impact me; however, they are indicative of how complicated a teacher's role has become.

On more than one occasion, I have been challenged about why schools don't do whatever it is the particular individual values. Why aren't we teaching them real-life skills? Why aren't we teaching them reading and writing? Why aren't we preparing them for the workforce? Why are we wasting our time teaching them things such as compassion and kindness? My answer is a vast oversimplification, but it is the best one I have: We cannot be everything to everyone.

Depending on who you ask — parents, administrators or legislators — teachers are a million different things. We are responsible for meeting standards we didn't set, teaching curriculum we often didn't design and submitting to various assessments to prove we are doing what one group of people think we should be doing.

AMBER KELLY
Howard College



Many elementary teachers spend more time with children than their parents do. Therefore, they become role models and confidants, and in some unfortunate circumstances, designated reporters.

In the meantime, we have to attempt to connect with all students, no matter the student's willingness, and engage them in learning. That sounds easy, right? Just be active and creative and observant and always "on." Make students digitally astute so they can compete in the vastly changing world, but do it with limited technology. Help them develop critical thinking skills, stay up on the latest data-driven methodology and make sure you document everything. Because if you don't have documentation, it didn't happen.

I have heard people say that the teachers in Oklahoma are greedy. Perhaps this is because these things always come down to money. Where are the taxpayer dollars going? Where

should they be going? Teacher salaries are not the only issue here; we are talking about materials and training. As teachers are expected to take on more duties — such as safety and mental health aids — more training is needed. The move to open education resources is an elegant solution to the cost of textbooks, but it always shifts funding needs even further onto technology. Like textbooks, technology has a limited shelf-life. Although there are grants, those are for limited time periods, requiring institutions to sustain the cost of repair and replacement long after the grant has ended.

We also are creating our own replicating poverty gap. High-performing schools are generally better funded, but instead of looking at funding schools with higher levels of poverty (which often reflect in poorer test performance), we are looking at school of choice. Though I usually avoid openly commenting on political issues, school of choice is a problematic idea in its current state. Think of it this way: Let's say you have a pothole in front of your house. The city fixes it. But you don't like the job they did — you wanted a different kind of gravel. You don't get to ask the city to cut you a check from tax dollars so you can pay a private contractor. This

Please see KELLY/4B

MIDLAND COLLEGE PROFILES

By Rebecca Bell

Recovering drug addict finds meaningful career path

Thirty-six-year-old Brittany Morris never thought she was college material.

"I graduated from Midland High School in 2000 and was five months pregnant at the time," she said. "Throughout my 20s, I was addicted to drugs. It just didn't seem like college was an option for someone like me."



Morris

Morris remembered the day in 2014 when she met with a Midland College advisor, whom she said believed in her enough to help her with her college application and financial aid paperwork.

"I thought that if she believed I could be successful in college, maybe she was right," Morris said. "However, I had a lot of self-doubt and even after the first semester, I had to make myself register for the next semester. I was determined to prove to my kids that if I did it, they can also do it."

The "kids" to which Brittany refers are her 18-year-old stepson, Greg; 17-year-old son Kyle and 15-year-old son Brady — all of whom enjoy spending time with Morris and her husband, Scotty. The couple have been married for 11 years. The family enjoys going to movies and barbecuing in the backyard. However, Morris' life hasn't always been so idyllic.

"My parents divorced when I was 4," she said. "Being a single mom, my mother worked all the time and was rarely home. My father was a welder in the oilfield and was an alcoholic. He is now in recovery, but addiction to drugs and alcohol runs in my family."

While in high school, Morris took cosmetology classes and then worked as a cosmetologist for four years. During the time she suffered from drug addiction, and in 2004, she entered a rehabilitation facility in Odessa for 45 days. Once she was released, she soon reverted to her old habits. Five years later, she entered a San Antonio facility for 90 days. Morris said she had one more relapse after leaving the San Antonio facility, but has now managed to stay clean for the past seven years.

"I never believed that I could accomplish things — like becoming sober, going to college or having a professional career," Morris said. "When I tried to recover in the past, I was always trying to do it for the wrong reasons. I finally decided that I had to get sober for myself. My husband and children deserve a healthy wife and mother."

After becoming sober, Morris worked fulltime at a Subway sandwich shop for 2 1/2 years. Then, after much prodding and coaxing, she walked in the doors of Midland College and asked what she needed to do in order to start taking classes.

"I was first enrolled in the Business Administration program," she said. "But, then I found out about the alcohol & drug abuse counseling program, and I knew that was the program where I could make the most impact in people's lives. I can relate first-hand to what it's like to have an addiction. Recovery is tough; I want to help people who are suffering just like I was."

Morris said that the counseling program has given her the opportunity to obtain a meaningful career. Before becoming a licensed counselor, Morris will spend 4,000 clock hours as a counselor intern.

"I want to work in an addiction facility, preferably in the out-patient unit."

Please see PROFILE/4B

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

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME APRIL 10, 2018

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	
KMDZ ABC	3:30	Jeopardy!	Wheeler of Fortune (N)	6:30	Recess	Middle (N)	Black-ish (N)	Splitting Up (N)	For-People "World's Greatest Judge" (N)	News (N)	5:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live!
KOSA CBS	7:00	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	7:30	NCIS: "Keep Your Enemies Close"	7:30	Elton John Elton John performs medleys of his timeless hits (N)	News (N)	8:30	CBS 7 News (N)	8:30	The Late Show
KWWT CW	5:14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	5:14	A. Goffith	A. Goffith	News (N)	9:00	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	9:00	F. Mason "The Case of the Deadly Verdict"
KOPE FOX	8:55	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8:55	Liberal "Frankie Comes to Hollywood" (N)	LA to Vegas (N)	News (N)	9:30	News (N)	9:30	Modern Family	
KOHL HD	11:12	Our Messiah	Our Messiah	11:12	Update News	Update News	11:12	Light of the Southwest	11:12	Creation Magazine	11:12	News (N)
KWES NBC	9:00	NewsWest 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 (N)	9:00	The Volca "The Road to the Live Shows" (N)	The Road to the Live Shows" (N)	9:00	Chicago Med "Devil in Disguise" (N)	9:00	NewsWest 9 (N)	9:00	The Tonight Show
KPBT PBS	13:13	PBS NewsHour (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	13:13	S. Dead "Harral in the Alps" (N)	American Experience "The Perfect Crime" (N)	13:13	Frontline "Trump's Takeover" (N)	13:13	News (N)	13:13	News (N)
KUPD UNI	4:44	La rosa de Guadalupe	La rosa de Guadalupe	4:44	El Nica y Lazaro	Papa a Toda Madre	4:44	For Amar Sin Ley	4:44	Noticias Tejas	4:44	Noticias Tejas
KOSA MNT	16:16	Last Man	Last Man	16:16	X-Files "Bad Blood"	X-Files "Travelers"	16:16	Milkihihi	16:16	Anger M.	16:16	Anger M.
FLIX	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
HBO	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
NBO2	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
HBO5	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
MAX	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
MAX2	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
PLEX	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
SHOW	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
TMC	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00	3:00
ABC	27:58	28:35	47	The First 48 "Mother of Two"	The First 48 "Mother of Two"	The First 48 "Mother of Two"	27:58	M. Clinic First 48 "Drew Peterson explores the disappearance of Stacy Peterson."	27:58	28:35	47	28:35
AMC	40:74	23:42	51	"F. Good Deeds" (12, Comed)	Thurston Norton, Vito Pary.	40:74	23:42	51	40:74	23:42	51	40:74
BET	58	40	"F. Good Deeds" (12, Comed)	Thurston Norton, Vito Pary.	58	40	"F. Good Deeds" (12, Comed)	Thurston Norton, Vito Pary.	58	40	"F. Good Deeds" (12, Comed)	Thurston Norton, Vito Pary.
BRAVO	65:76	41	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	65:76	41	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	65:76	41	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills
CHC	46:52	39:72	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	46:52	39:72	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	46:52	39:72	Shark Tank	Shark Tank
CHN	43:50	51:30	56	Outfront	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	43:50	51:30	56	Outfront	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360
DISC	50:60	31:24	42	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch	50:60	31:24	42	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch	50:60	31:24
DISNEY	56:64	35:26	36	Bank'd	Bank'd	56:64	35:26	36	Bank'd	Bank'd	56:64	35:26
ESPN	32:35	40:31	30	MLB Baseball	New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox (L)	32:35	40:31	30	MLB Baseball	New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox (L)	32:35	40:31
ESPN2	34:36	40:32	31	NFL Live	NFL Live	34:36	40:32	31	NFL Live	NFL Live	34:36	40:32
FNC	45:48	53:29	55	The Story	Tucker Carlson	45:48	53:29	55	The Story	Tucker Carlson	45:48	53:29
FOOD	64:70	27:09	54	Chopped	Chopped	64:70	27:09	54	Chopped	Chopped	64:70	27:09
FREEFORM	53:63	34:42	33	Wipeout	Wipeout	53:63	34:42	33	Wipeout	Wipeout	53:63	34:42
FSW	37:30	50:45	29	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	37:30	50:45	29	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	37:30	50:45
FX	31:50	59:64	69	F. House	F. House	31:50	59:64	69	F. House	F. House	31:50	59:64
HALLMARK	54:71	58:34	34	F. House	F. House	54:71	58:34	34	F. House	F. House	54:71	58:34
HGT	63:69	26:48	44	F. House	F. House	63:69	26:48	44	F. House	F. House	63:69	26:48
HISTORY	71:59	29:50	43	F. House	F. House	71:59	29:50	43	F. House	F. House	71:59	29:50
LIFETIME	28:30	25:28	48	Married at First Sight	Married at First Sight	28:30	25:28	48	Married at First Sight	Married at First Sight	28:30	25:28
MSNBC	47:53	49:73	Hardball	Hardball	47:53	49:73	Hardball	Hardball	47:53	49:73	Hardball	Hardball
NBCSN	38:43	American Ninja War.	American Ninja War.	38:43	American Ninja War.	American Ninja War.	38:43	American Ninja War.	American Ninja War.	38:43	American Ninja War.	American Ninja War.
NICK	55	39:34	37	F. House	F. House	55	39:34	37	F. House	F. House	55	39:34
SPK	30	55:53	58	Friends	Friends	30	55:53	58	Friends	Friends	30	55:53
SYFY	66:62	41:57	67	Peterans	Peterans	66:62	41:57	67	Peterans	Peterans	66:62	41:57
TBS	25:33	44:06	41	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	25:33	44:06	41	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	25:33	44:06
TCM	41:75	24:03	66	F. House	F. House	41:75	24:03	66	F. House	F. House	41:75	24:03
TELE	20	19:20	Coco	Coco	20	19:20	Coco	Coco	20	19:20	Coco	Coco
TLC	51:61	32:52	52	My Little Life	My Little Life	51:61	32:52	52	My Little Life	My Little Life	51:61	32:52
TNT	24:34	40:26	50	MLB Baseball	Los Angeles Angels at Texas Rangers (L)	24:34	40:26	50	MLB Baseball	Los Angeles Angels at Texas Rangers (L)	24:34	40:26
TYLAND	49	35:54	35	MASH	MASH	49	35:54	35	MASH	MASH	49	35:54
USA	26:55	42:27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	26:55	42:27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	26:55	42:27
WGN	19:05	WGN	19:05									

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Couple separates after acting class causes domestic drama

DEAR ABBY: When I was 70, I started taking drama classes twice a week (I still do). My wife was against it and insisted that because none of our friends or relatives were doing it, neither should I. As a result, I suggested we live apart. I bought a small apartment and live alone. We see each other regularly, go to the cinema, the theater, visiting friends, vacation, etc.

Every now and then, she raises the topic again, saying she feels "betrayed, offended, abandoned" and suggests we stop seeing each other for two to three days "so she can recover from the pain I inflict on her."

I don't think I am doing anything wrong here. I'm not cheating on her, and she knows that and doesn't accuse me explicitly. I think she is jealous and distrustful because the women taking the classes are beautiful and not because of anything I have done. What do you think? — **FRUSTRATED IN BULGARIA**

DEAR FRUSTRATED: What I think is, not having heard your wife's side of it from her, your insight may be correct. However, before accepting the guilt trip she is laying on you, remember that since you moved out, she hasn't invited you to move back in.

DEAR ABBY: My older brother and I are eight years apart. I am in my mid-20s,

DEAR ABBY

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

and he is in his early 30s. Our personalities and outlook on life are completely opposite. We have different fathers but grew up in the same household, so naturally, we went to the same outings together until he was a teenager and we took different paths.

Looking at him now, I see he is an angry and burdened person compared to his early teenage years, even his 20s. He has always had two serious interests, science and poetry. Although he loved them while he attended school, he no longer has the same fire in his belly. In fact, there's no pep in his step about anything, just frustration. How can I lift his spirits without pressuring him?

— **LIGHTING THE FIRE**

DEAR LIGHTING: Could it be your brother's behavior is simply that of a man who has reached his 30s, has matured and is more of a realist than he was in his early teens? Consider telling him you have noticed his personality has changed from when he was younger — that he seems

angry, burdened and frustrated. Then LISTEN. He may or may not be depressed. If, after hearing him out, you are still concerned, suggest he do something about what's bothering him by talking with a counselor, preferably one who is licensed.

DEAR ABBY: I just found out my married son had an affair, and the woman may be pregnant. If she is, do we acknowledge the baby as our grandchild? And what's the right thing to do if my son and his wife stay together? — **COMPLICATED IN THE NORTH**

DEAR COMPLICATED: If a paternity test proves the baby is your son's, he will have a legal obligation to support the child until he or she is no longer a minor. If your son and his wife remain together — and many couples do — his wife may prefer he have as little to do with the mother and child as possible. However, if you would like to be part of your grandchild's life, it is your privilege to do so.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Card reading

Neither vulnerable, East deals

NORTH
♠A53
♥J8432
♦Q96
♣104

WEST
♠J1082
♥105
♦J4
♣97532

EAST
♠KQ97
♥97
♦K107
♣KQJ8

SOUTH
♠64
♥AKQ6
♦A8532
♣A6

The bidding:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1♠ 1♥ 3♠ 3♥
Pass 4♥ All pass
*Pre-emptive raise

Opening lead: Two of ♣

South was concerned that spade bidding by his opponents might shut out his heart suit if he overcalled one diamond, so he elected to overcall in his strong four-card suit instead.

The final contract was far from cold. East was certain to hold the king of diamonds for his opening bid. Unless it was singleton or doubleton, South was

looking at two diamond losers as well as one loser in each black suit, but he had some useful information available to him. East-West were playing "third-and-fifth" leads, which is popular in tournament play. The lead of a low card shows an odd number of cards in the suit. The lead of the two of clubs, therefore, meant that West had five clubs, as he would never jump to the three level with only three.

South won the opening club lead with his ace and drew trumps in two rounds. East was known to have started with two hearts and four clubs. East couldn't have five spades and he might have opened one diamond with 4-4 in the minors. It looked like East started with precisely 4-2-3-4 distribution.

At trick four, declarer led a low diamond to dummy's nine, losing to East's 10. East cashed one high club before shifting to the king of spades, taken with dummy's ace. South led dummy's queen of diamonds and played low from his hand when East didn't cover. Success! This pinned West's jack and South was able to discard both of dummy's remaining spades on the long diamonds to finish with 11 tricks. Well played!

LOOPHOLE

From 2B

\$300,000 to keep Victory Prep South open through June or put students through a disruptive closure. It's clear why members voted to fork over the funding even though HISD faces a \$115 million deficit. The alternative would be harmful for students. But it's unclear why the original funding provided the in-district charter wasn't sufficient to pay teachers.

Charter schools were intended to permit the educational innovation characteristic of some successful private schools. But there's a huge difference between public school charters and private schools. Private school tuition is willingly paid by parents, while charter schools are funded by tax dollars.

The high level of accountability that residents should have a right to expect regarding the use of their tax dollars was absent here. As part of the deal approved by HISD trustees, the district will conduct a financial audit of both the North and South campuses.

But any audit will be too late because public funds already will be disbursed and perhaps wasted.

"Victory Starts Here" the school's website proudly proclaims. Victory will start when the Legislature finds the right balance between delegation and oversight in public school charters. The first public school charter was launched in 1995, long enough ago that taxpayers shouldn't have to put up with the regulatory blind spots in charter school governance. Nor should students and parents be left scrambling to find alternative schools.

KELLY

From 2B

is an oversimplification, but the voucher system has not yet garnered positive results for public schools. My frustration here is that this debate seems to be distracting from bigger issues such as student success, equity and resources.

Perhaps it always has been this way for teachers. This stack of difficulties seems to grow like a beanstalk. Many of the issues are directly related to legislation. Becoming more aware of not just educational issues, but also how various politicians stand on these issues is perhaps the first step. I would recommend those who are interested visit <https://www.texasforpubliceducation.com/>. This site is thorough and provides extensive information for those interested in public education in Texas. I will note that it is run by teachers, so it comes from that perspective. However, it has links to actual primary sources such as legislative reports and bills. If nothing else, it can help those stakeholders in education, which is actually everyone in our state, make informed decisions to shape our future.

Amber Kelly teaches English and history at Howard College and is dean of General Studies.

PROFILE

From 2B

said Morris. "I'd like to help people as they are recovering and transitioning back into society."

On May 11, Morris — the woman who graduated from high school five months pregnant, spent most of her 20s as a drug addict and didn't think she was "college material" — will graduate from MC with an associate of applied science degree.

Rebecca C. Bell is executive director, Institutional Advancement, at Midland College.

MAKING THE GRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Midland High School senior **Kameron Daemon Hale** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland. He is the son of Tommie and Gwendolyn Hale.

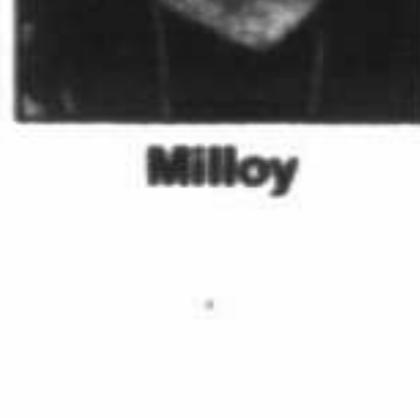


Hale

He is a member of orchestra, band and the football team.

He volunteers with Midland Teen Court, attends Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, where he is music director, and is involved with the Martin Luther King Youth Choir.

Hale plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and major in studio engineering and music production.



Milloy

Lee High School senior **M'Kaylee Milloy** has been honored by the Midland West Rotary Club. She is the daughter of Randy Milloy and Chrissy Russell.

She is a member of National Honor Society and is an academic letterman. Milloy plans to attend Texas A&M University.



Ingram

Midland High School senior **Hunter Ingram** has been honored by the Midland Morning Lions Club. He is the son of Bruce and Michelle Ingram.

He is a member of the baseball team, Model Organization of American States, Student Council,

National Honor Society and homecoming court. He is an academic letterman and a Texas Scholar.

He volunteers with Meals on Wheels, Midland Fair Havens, Peer Tutoring and Keep Midland Beautiful and is involved with Young Life.

Ingram plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in business.

Midland High School senior **Levi Brooks** has been honored by the Midland Morning Lions Club. He is the son of Steve and Alayna Brooks.



Brooks

He is a member of National Honor Society, Student Council and football team.

He volunteers with Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen, Little League and Petroleum Museum and is involved in church youth group and youth choir.

Brooks plans to attend Midland College and transfer to Texas Tech University.

Midland High School senior **Donte Rashad Ferguson** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland. He is the son of Teresa Ferguson.

He is a member of the soccer team. Ferguson plans to study business.

Three Midlanders recently were initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. **Lyssa Bell, Ashton Calvert** and **Sarah Welk** are students at Texas Tech University.

Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is for top 10 percent of seniors, top 7.5 percent of juniors and top 10 percent of graduate degree candidates.



Casey Jackson/Corpus Christi Caller-Times via AP

Monica Hernandez, 9, hits the ball at tennis practice March 28 during the Tennis Success program at H-E-B Tennis Center in Corpus Christi. Here, students grades three through 12 who normally couldn't afford tennis lessons can get help with homework before practicing forehands, backhands and the ins and outs of tennis.

Tennis is tool to help kids become successful in school

By Eleanor Dearman
Corpus Christi
Caller-Times

CORPUS CHRISTI — Students surrounded Maria Casares at a round table in the back of a decorated classroom, smiling as they munched on snacks.

The small building where the students were learning is nestled between tennis fields at the H-E-B Tennis Center.

Some kids, all elementary age, were reading books. Others were asking the longtime teacher for help composing sentences using vocabulary words.

Many of the kids had tennis rackets within reach, ready to finish their assigned homework and head out to the courts.

After the elementary students headed to practice, the middle schoolers hit the books. The high school students follow.

The kids are part of Tennis Success Inc., an after-school education program. Students in grades three through 12 who normally couldn't afford tennis lessons can get help with homework before practicing forehands, backhands and the ins and outs of tennis.

Casares heads the educational side of the program. She began working at Tennis Success Inc. in 2013, after having retired as an educator.

Students described Casares as someone who is able to light up a room and is supportive of them in their endeavors, both in and out of the classroom.

"She tries to make us a better person and more successful in our life," said 12-year-old Giselle Murillo.

The education component of the program includes tutorials, art and essay contests and educational field trips and offers scholarships for seniors. On the tennis side, students have the opportunity to participate in tournaments.

"The best part of working with the kids here at Tennis Success is that when I'm helping them, and they get it, I feel so proud," Casares said.

"Because that's something they're not going to forget. It's a skill. It's a life skill." Casares said she was shopping at H-E-B when she got a call from a former student, Ronald Elizondo, who started Tennis Success Inc. Casares said she gave him his first tennis racket.

Elizondo, who left the program in 2016, asked her to come work at Tennis Success, saying he wanted her to "do the magic" she did for him when he was a student.

"How do you say 'no' to that?" She said. Casares said when she began in 2013 she worked to group the students by grade level, get equipment and supplies for the students and began helping students with their college application process.

Ron Woods, a Tennis Success board member, said the sport teaches skills on and off the field.

"It's a lifetime sport, No. 1," Woods said. "But it helps you build your character, you know? Because the kids get out and, for example, when they play a match it's unofficiated. So they have to be honest."

"They have to have integrity when they're playing. So they learn all these things. That's what we try to impress in them."

Assistant tennis pro Ron Gracy, who coaches the students in tennis, said it's important to combine the education side with the sport side because they want the students to live balanced lives.

Casares attributed much of the program's success to supportive board members and parents.

And on the court, she described herself as a cheerleader for the students. "I know that in tennis you're not supposed to be loud on the bleachers but I'm out there screaming," she said. "If I had the pom-poms, I'd do that, too."

Distributed by the Associated Press

More schools are lifting cellphone bans

By Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Cellphones are still absent from most U.S. schools but new data shows them steadily gaining acceptance as administrators bow to parents' wishes to keep tabs on their kids and teachers find ways to work them into lessons.

The percentage of K-12 public schools that prohibited cellphone use was about 66 percent in 2015-16, down from more than 90 percent in 2009-10, according to data from a survey conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics. Among high schools, the shift over the same period was especially striking — dropping from 80 percent with bans to 35 percent.

The nation's largest school system, New York City, is among those that have abandoned strict bans, which had some students paying \$1 a day to store phones in specially trucks parked nearby before heading into school. Mayor Bill de Blasio fulfilled a campaign pledge when he lifted the ban in 2015, saying it would help parents stay in touch with their children.

Phones have offered a lifeline between students and the outside world during recent school emergencies. As a gunman rampaged through Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14, students used cellphones to text their parents, call 911 and to record and share their horror.

The survey numbers released last week don't surprise Liz Kolb, an education technologies professor at the University of Michigan who has studied cellphones in schools since around 2004. At that time, phones were off limits in virtually every district, she said. That began to change as more students, as young as age 10, began carrying them.

"We've seen a lot of schools say, well, I'm not going to fight the tidal wave of parents coming at me that are upset that their child can't have the cellphone in school," Kolb said.

Teachers also are taking advantage of the technology at a time when many districts are spending millions of dollars to give students access to tablets or laptop computers and their countless academic apps and programs, she said.

"There are teachers who have found that having the cellphone is like having a computer in your pocket, so it's a way to have another learning tool at the disposal of the children that isn't necessarily costing the district more money," she said.

Students might download a dictionary app for English or use Google Translate in foreign language classes. Other apps, like Kahoot!, connect to the classroom's smart board and allow students to compete in educational trivia.

Still, some school districts are moving in the opposite direction. The school board in Mansfield City, Ohio, last year tightened its policy, requiring the devices be turned off and out of sight in classrooms unless the teacher says otherwise.

"The cellphones were a distraction," Superintendent Brian Garverick said. "When you have a device with the capabilities of an iPhone, for example — and it's not just in our district, it's everywhere — you see an increase in cheating, you see an increase in texting during class."

In Connecticut, Seymour High School Principal Jim Freund said despite teachers' best efforts to limit cellphone use to lunch and other non-instructional times, students were still playing games or on social media when they shouldn't have been.

"I don't think they had the maturity level to control it," Freund said.

The school imposed a strict ban in December. Since then, students have reported getting more work done in study hall and the cafeteria has grown louder as students talk to one another more, he said.

"I will never go back — ever — to allowing the use of cellphones," Freund said.

Even in schools that have lifted bans, administrators and experts say, the policies for use vary widely.

"You see districts struggling with, now that we've lifted the ban, how do we manage this and create policy so that it isn't distracting but it is still a useful communication tool or useful learning tool," said Kolb, author of "Toys to Tools: Connecting Student Cell Phones to Education." Even within schools, she's seen cellphones create tensions between teachers who allow them in class and those who don't.

New York City's policy empowers each school to set terms for their use, while the Department of Education's written policy includes broad guidelines, including that they not be turned on or used during quizzes or tests, or during fire or other emergency drills. Use in bathrooms and locker rooms is also off limits.

New York City parent Mona Davids said her son's school requires phones be turned off in class, but she was happy the fourth-grader was allowed to carry it when his school bus broke down and made him late getting home. "He let me know he's on the bus," she said. "That's important. It's a safety issue."

Teachers learn how to 'Stop the Bleed'

Doctors, first responders develop medical training initiative

By Scott McFetridge
Associated Press

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa — As she learned the basics of applying direct pressure, packing a wound with gauze and tying a tourniquet, sixth-grade math and social studies teacher Kari Stafford shook her head at the thought that this may now be an essential skill for her profession.

Stafford didn't like it, but with school shootings now a regular occurrence, she and her colleagues have reluctantly accepted that the attacks won't stop and that teachers must know how to keep the victims from bleeding to death.

"Learning to help and not just stand there is important," said Stafford, who joined about a dozen other educators at a medical training session at Southeast Polk High School, a sprawling 9-year-old

campus surrounded by farmland in Pleasant Hill, just east of Des Moines.

Over the past five years, about 125,000 teachers, counselors and administrators across the country have been trained in stemming blood loss as school officials have become resigned to the grim trend. The effort is rapidly expanding, and more schools are now stocking classrooms with supplies that would be familiar to any military medic: lightweight tourniquets, gauze coated with blood-clotting drugs and compression bandages.

Although schools are adding security and even arming teachers to deter attacks, new emphasis is being given to saving the wounded while counting down the minutes until help arrives.

The teacher triage idea was initially pushed by Dr. Lenworth Jacobs of Hartford, Connecticut, who operated on victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012 in which 26 children and adults were killed.

SPORTS

To submit information to the sports department, email sports@mrt.com

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Tuesday, April 10, 2018 | Section C

Stars miss playoffs again after Hitchcock return

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

The Dallas Stars brought back their Stanley Cup-winning coach and made a few somewhat pricey acquisitions last offseason.

With those significant changes, it looked like that fall from top seed in the Western Conference one season to missing the playoffs the next might just be a blip on the way to bigger things.

Instead, they fell agonizingly short of the postseason because of a late-season slump.

"There's lots of decisions to be made," said Hitchcock, who coached three other teams in his 15 years away from the Stars. "But I'm hopeful that the feeling is that we're a lot closer than

further away."

Among the first questions general manager Jim Nill will have to answer is what to do with four primary players who can become unrestricted free agents, including goalie Kari Lehtonen. Tyler Seguin, already a five-time All-Star at age 26, is signed only through next season for \$6.5 million before he can become an unrestricted free agent.

Dallas was 42-32-8 for 92 points, a 13-point increase from 2016-17 and only three points out of the Western Conference's eighth playoff spot. They missed the postseason for the eighth time in 10 years.

"It hurts a little bit more than last year," Seguin said. "This year, there was a lot of hope and

it's a bit of a shocker. That road trip and that stretch, it's going to take some time to process it."

That brutal 1-10 stretch in March included the Stars losing every game in a six-game, 10-day road trip. The first loss in that overall slide was at home to Ottawa in which Ben Bishop, the goalie added on a \$29.5 million, six-year contract last summer, left with a knee injury. Bishop started only one game after that.

"You hate to look back and wonder what you could've done different," said Jamie Benn, their other still 20-something top scorer along with Seguin. "But we played some pretty good hockey most of the year and then we



Marcio Jose Sanchez/Associated Press

Dallas Stars' Jamie Benn (14) celebrates his goal with teammate Greg Pateryn during the third period against the San Jose Sharks on April 3 in San Jose, Calif.

Please see STARS/4C

FAMILIAR OUTCOME



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Andrews' Rachel Huffman looks at her line to pull Monday during District 4-4A golf at Ranchland Hills Golf Club.

Andrews girls again qualify 2 teams to regionals

■ Monahan boys win third straight district title

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

Postseason golf tournaments bring out the butterflies in players, even the best of them like the Andrews girls, who are coming off seven straight state titles.

But even with a little anxiety, the Andrews girls did just fine in their opening act of the postseason, the District 4-4A Golf Tournament, which concluded Monday at Ranchland Hills Golf Club. The first round was held April 4 at Odessa Country Club.

The Andrews A team won the District 4-4A girls team championship with a score of 333-324—657, while the Andrews B team was the runner up with a card of 345-348—693.

It was the sixth straight year the Andrews girls qualified both teams for regionals, which will be played April 25-26 at Shadow Hills Golf Course in Lubbock.

Andrews senior Rachel Huffman captured her second straight District 4-4A medalist title by shooting a two-day total of 82-80—162.

The Andrews A and B teams had the top six performing individuals, and even Andrews' individual medalist Jordyn Hall claimed one of the two regional invites awarded to players on non-qualifying

teams, giving the Lady Mustangs 11 of District 4-4A's 12 regional berths in first-year head coach Jeff Williamson's first 4-4A tournament.

"We were a little nervous," Williamson said. "Our girls have won state seven years in a row and that's the most nervous I have ever seen them was the playing the first round of district. They are all looking at me like 'Why am I so nervous?' I said, 'I don't know'. If I can just get them to relax and play their game at regional, the rest of it will take care of itself."

Huffman finished three strokes ahead of her Andrews A teammate Skyler Strube (87-78—165) and Andrews B's

Please see GOLF/4C

Reed shows at Masters he's just as tough on his own

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — One of the messages Patrick Reed received for his hard-earned Masters victory came from Tiger Woods, who added a personal touch to his tweet of congratulations.

"At worst you have assured yourself a captain's pick for next year's Presidents Cup," he wrote.

That's still 20 months away in Australia and on nobody's mind except for Woods', mainly because he's the U.S. captain for the 2019 matches. Much closer on the calendar is the Ryder Cup in France at the end of September. Reed moved to the top of the standings by capturing his first major.

If he wasn't already a lock, he is now.

For the last four years, the Ryder Cup has defined Reed's success in golf. He earned his way onto the last two teams by winning tournaments, including a World Golf Championship at Doral and a FedEx Cup playoff event at Bethpage. And as much as Reed boasted after the 2014 victory at Doral that he considered himself one of the top 5 players in the world, he didn't win enough to back that up.

That's why his reputation was built more on playing for his flag than for himself. He was the Ryder Cup rookie who brashly pressed his finger to his lips to shush the crowds in Scotland when he was unbeaten in four matches, and who wagged his finger at Rory McIlroy at Hazeltine when he buried big putts on top of him.

Please see FERGUSON/4C



David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Patrick Reed holds the championship trophy after winning the Masters on Sunday in Augusta, Ga.

D'Antoni, Harden and Paul poised to capture trio's 1st title

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Chris Paul has a long history of playoff heartbreak.

So does James Harden. And Mike D'Antoni has more than either of them combined.

Separately, they've never gotten it done at playoff time. Together, their fortunes might change. They've led the Houston Rockets to the NBA's best record going into these playoffs, and in a league that Golden State and Cleveland have dominated in recent years, it may not be overly surprising to see the Paul-Harden-D'Antoni triumvirate win it all this spring.

With two regular-season games left, the Rockets have already piled up a franchise-record 64 wins to secure the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference. But this group — perhaps fueled by past playoff shortcomings — knows it has much more work to do.

"The ultimate goal is holding that trophy up," Harden said. "So until we do that there's no celebrations ... we haven't done anything yet."

D'Antoni, who'll turn 67 next month and would be the oldest coach to win an NBA title if Houston gets it done, has revived his career in Houston. He got the Rockets to the West semifinals in his first year with them last season. And on the eve of these playoffs, D'Antoni insists he won't spend a second thinking about all the times things went wrong in his previous postseason trips.

"Zero," he said when asked how much he thinks about his playoff failures. "Twenty-nine teams look back every year. It's hard to win."

D'Antoni might know that better than most.

In 2004-05, his Phoenix Suns won 62 games in the regular season and reached the conference finals before losing to eventual champion San Antonio in five games. The Suns advanced to the conference finals again the following year, but were eliminated by Dallas in six games. They lost in the second round in 2007, the first round in 2008.

More failures followed in his stints with New York and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Knicks were swept by Boston in 2011, the Lakers swept by the Spurs in 2013, both of those coming in the first round. Before last season, D'Antoni hadn't won a playoff game in nine years.

"We've had a great regular season,

Please see ROCKETS/2C



Michael Wyke/Associated Press

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) during the first half against the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday in Houston.

'HOUNDWATCH



MONDAY'S SCORE

Midland 7, Tulsa 3

TODAY'S GAME

Tulsa vs Midland, 6:30 p.m.

INTERNET

www.mlb.com

RECORDS

Midland 4-1

Tulsa 3-2

Table with 5 columns: Day, Location, Time

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

College Baseball: Notre Dame at Michigan State, 2 p.m., ESPN... SEC: Wichita State at Oklahoma State, 6 p.m., FCS... Major League Baseball: NY Yankees at Boston, 6 p.m., ESPN... Men's Soccer: UEFA Champions Quarterfinal, Leg 2: Manchester City FC vs. Liverpool FC, 1:30 p.m., FS1...

WHAT'S ON DECK

MS Baseball: Midland Christian at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m. Lubbock Trinity Christian at Trinity, 6 p.m. Greenwood at Fort Stockton, 7 p.m. MS Softball: Greenwood at Fort Stockton, 5 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL: American League: Baltimore Orioles - Recalled RHP Hunter Harvey from Bowie (E). Optioned LHP Tanner Scott to Norfolk (E). Boston Red Sox - Placed SS Kevier Boogaerts on the 10-day DL. Chicago White Sox - Optioned RHP Juan Velazco to Charlotte (E). Seattle Mariners - Placed 1B Ryan Healy on the 10-day DL, retroactive to April 6. Recalled RHP Chasen Bradford from Tacoma (PCL). Agreed to terms with C Chris Herrmann on a minor league contract. Tampa Bay Rays - Placed 2B Brad Miller on the 10-day DL. Selected the contract of RHP Ryan Weber from Durham (E). Toronto Blue Jays - Sent OF Anthony Alford on a rehab assignment to Dunedin (FSL). National League: Atlanta Braves - Sent SS John Coomes on a rehab assignment to Gwinnett (E). Cincinnati Reds - Placed 2B Eugenio Suarez on the 10-day DL, and OF Scott Schebler on the 10-day DL, retroactive to April 6. Recalled 3B Alex Blandino and RHP Zach Wiles from Louisville (E). Miami Marlins - Recalled RHP Brian Ellington. St. Louis Cardinals - Recalled RHP Greg Holland from Palm Beach (FSL). Optioned RHP Mike Mayers to Memphis (PCL). San Diego Padres - Placed RHP Klayton Kump on the 10-day DL, retroactive April 6. Recalled LHP Buddy Buehler from El Paso (PCL). FOOTBALL: National Football League: Atlanta Falcons - Named Tracy James assistant defensive line coach and Adam Durde defensive quality control. Detroit Lions - Signed QB Matt Cassel. New York Giants - Re-signed C Brett Jones and TE Ryan O'Malley. New York Jets - Signed WR Charles Johnson and LB Devin Miller. Oakland Raiders - Re-signed LB Shiloh Coffey, LB-DE James Cooney, S Eli Harris, G-T Dwanter Hilliard and K Giorgio Zampieri. Robert L. Anderson East. Tennessee Titans - Released LB Victor Odeh. Washington Redskins - Waived QB Stephen Moore. Canadian Football League: Winnipeg Blue Bombers - Signed WR James Lane and Dominique Pineda. HOCKEY: Hockey Canada - Named Bob Doughner coach, Mike Yeo associate coach and

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL POLL

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Team, Record

NBA GLANCE

Table with 3 columns: Conference, Team, Record

LOCAL SPORTS BRIEFS

REGION I GIRLS TOURNAMENT MOVING TO METROPLEX: The University Interscholastic League announced on Monday that the Region I-6A girls soccer tournament will be moving to the Metroplex, but the Region I-6A boys tournament will remain at Grande Communications Stadium. The girls tournament will now be at Northwest ISD stadium in Justin and all four teams participating are from the DFW area. The boys tournament will

feature El Paso Montwood (21-7-1) against Irving High (13-5-5) at noon Friday in one semifinal, while Wolforth Franchise (25-2) and McKinney Boyd (22-0-3) will face off in the other semifinal at 3 p.m. Friday. The championship match is set for 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

UTPB WOMEN'S TEAM ADDS ASSISTANT: ODESSA — UT Permian Basin women's basketball coach Rae Boothe announced Monday the addition of Sam

Brenner to the team's coaching staff. "We are lucky to have Coach Brenner joining our program," Boothe said. "She believes in the vision and direction of UTPB and the women's basketball program. I have no doubt that she will help us move our program to unprecedented heights." Brenner's responsibilities at UTPB include instructing players at the post position, assist in recruiting, coordinating community service projects and oversee student-athlete

academic success. Prior to UTPB, Brenner served as the assistant at Franklin Pierce University, a NCAA Division II institution located in New Hampshire. RODRIGUEZ ACES AT HOGAN PARK: Jesse Rodriguez had a hole-in-one Monday at the No. 17 hole of Hogan Park's Roadrunner course. Rodriguez used an 8-iron for his first hole-in-one and it was witnessed by Scott Bentley and Tye Espanet.

Minnesota's Stollings to coach Texas Tech women's basketball

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — University of Minnesota women's basketball coach Mariene Stollings is leaving to take over the program at Texas Tech. Minnesota athletics director Mark Coyle confirmed Stollings' departure on Monday. Coyle says Minnesota already has begun identifying replacement candidates. Stollings led the Gophers' program for four seasons. This past season, the Gophers reached the second round

of the NCAA tournament, losing to Oregon. The Gophers finished 24-9 after tying for third in the Big Ten regular season and picking up the program's first NCAA tournament win since 2009.

It was the second time during Stollings' tenure that the Gophers reached the NCAA tournament. She leaves with an 82-47 overall record with the Gophers and a 38-30 Big Ten record.

Stollings replaces Candi Whitaker, who was fired at Texas Tech in January.

Gay, Ginobili lead Spurs over Kings to clinch playoff berth

By Raul Dominguez Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Rudy Gay scored 18 points, Manu Ginobili had 17 and the San Antonio Spurs rallied late to beat the Sacramento Kings 98-85 on Monday night and clinch their 21st straight postseason appearance. Sacramento, which was eliminated from the postseason on March 11, led by 14 points before being outscored 38-19 in the fourth quarter. Reserves Gay, Ginobili and Bryn Forbes combined for 25 points in the fourth quarter. Forbes finished with 11 points total. Willie Cauley-Stein led Sacramento with 25 points and 10 rebounds. De'Aaron Fox added 21 points, and Buddy Hield had 17.



Eric Gay/Associated Press

Forbes' fast-break layup off a steal by Kyle Anderson gave San Antonio its first advantage at 68-67 with 10:21 remaining. Sacramento went back ahead seconds later when Hield hit a 3-pointer, and the lead changed three times after that before Ginobili and Gay gave the Spurs' edge for good. Gay and Ginobili had thunderous dunks in the final five minutes that helped San Antonio maintain small leads. Gay also had a 3-point play off a runner he tossed in and ripped the ball from Cauley-Stein while blocking the 7-footers shot. A 3-pointer by Forbes and a layup by Ginobili 30

seconds later to give the Spurs an 82-77 lead with 5:23 remaining. LaMarcus Aldridge added 15 points and 14 rebounds but was 6 for 19 from the field. Sacramento forced the rally with some hot shooting through three quarters. Fox, who was shooting 30 percent from 3-point range for the season, made his first three 3s. He finished 3 for 5. The Kings had 11 offensive rebounds through three quarters to the consternation of the Spurs' fans, who groaned loudly with each.

Sacramento shot 41 percent for the game. Tip-ins: Kings: Fox's season-high for 3-pointers is six against the Spurs on Jan. 28. ... The Kings' last victory over the Spurs was Nov. 15, 2014 in Sacramento and their last win in San Antonio was Jan. 20, 2012. ... Sacramento was without Iman Shumpert (left knee surgery), Garrett Temple (sprained left ankle), Skal Labissiere (sprained left ankle), Frank Mason (sore left heel) and Harry Giles (knee rehabili-

tation). Spurs: San Antonio's streak of playoff appearances is the longest active streak in the four major professional sports. The Pittsburgh Penguins of the NHL are second with 12 followed by the NFL's New England Patriots with nine and the Los Angeles Dodgers in the MLB with five. ... Aldridge had his 27th double-double of the season, the most he has had in three seasons with the Spurs. The 12-year veteran had 26 double-doubles in his inaugural season in San Antonio and 18 last season.

ROCKETS

From 1C

but it doesn't matter," he said. "But what it does mean is that we're pretty good and if we make big shots and do what we're supposed to do ... then we'll see if we can do it." Paul's failures in the postseason may be even more scrutinized. The nine-time All-Star, who came to Houston in an offseason trade, has made nine playoff trips without advancing past the second round. The worst of those flops came in 2015, ironically against Houston, when Paul and the Clippers had a 3-1 lead in the conference semifinals. They got blown out in Game 5, wasted a 19-point second-half lead in Los Angeles in

Game 6, then fell in Game 7 at Houston. That was then, Paul said. "It is cool when you stop and think about it," Paul said. "But for us right now we're trying to enjoy the moment. Trying to enjoy the process and not worry about all that stuff. Maybe after it's all said and done you can reflect on it." Harden knows playoff pain as well. His splendid 2016-17 season was so promising, especially after Houston routed San Antonio, on the road, in Game 1 of the West semifinals. The Spurs won four of the next five, including a 114-75 embarrassing series-clincher in Houston where Harden was held to 10 points. "These last few years

I've learned that obviously you can't do it by yourself," Harden said. "You need guys to step up, make big shots, make big plays and so we have enough guys in here on any given night that can change a playoff series. So that's what you need. That's what puts you over the top." Paul might be the topper Harden needed. From the moment Paul arrived in Houston, Harden raved about what he would bring to the team. After playing with him for a season, the normally reserved Harden was even more effusive in his praise of the fellow guard. "I don't mean to sound too mushy or what-not but it was like love at first sight," Harden said. "It was

just meant to be." This will be Harden's ninth playoff appearance after three trips with the Thunder and five in Houston. He's led the Rockets to the postseason in each of his seasons in Houston, but his failure to shine in big games has dogged him for years. Bringing a title to Houston, which hasn't seen the Rockets hoisting a Larry O'Brien Trophy since the back-to-back crowns in 1994 and 1995, will render all those criticisms moot. "We're all in this together," Harden said. "That's what it's all about. We talk about it every single day. We're in this together and if one fails we all fail. So we're going to ride this thing out together."

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION 408 8:00 Volunteer Orientation at Adoption Center within PetSmart 422 2:00-4:00 Chip Clinic & Adoptions at Rockhounds Bark in the Park 503 8:30-8:30 Microchip Clinic at Deer Garden's Yappy Hour 6/18 Sat. am 4th Annual Hot Dog Run 5K and 1 Mile TRAP NEUTER RETURN PROGRAM Sign up to borrow trap(s), pick up trap, trap stray cats & have them vaccinated, ear-tipped & altered before returning them. Save \$100 off TNR (\$70 Voucher + \$30 grant) at participating vets. Learn more & sign up at: midlandhumane.org/tnr 432.588.8255 ENHANCED ADOPTION CENTER Open for adoptions Mon-Sat 12-7, Sun 12-6 Adoption Fees (fully vetted & chipped): Cats \$130, Dogs \$150 432.520.3134 ext. 0 Located within Midland's PetSmart Store AD SPONSORED BY BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO. Slimy Minnie is a 6 yo -60 lbs Hound Mix who's gentle & calm, but a bit anxious in her kennel. Minnie is available for our Senior to Senior Program which offers waived adoption fees for pets aged 5 years or older to senior citizens.

MLB ROUNDUP

Associated Press

American League

RAYS 5 WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO — Mallek Smith matched a career-high with four hits, Joey Wendle hit his first homer and the Tampa Bay Rays stopped an eight-game losing streak by hanging on to beat the Chicago White Sox 5-4 on a snowy and soggy Monday.

A bullpen that blew late leads in two of the three games at Boston last weekend got the job done after a shaky start by Chris Archer (1-0). Alex Colome escaped a second-and-third jam in the ninth by getting three straight groundouts, retiring Leury Garcia on a game-ending bouncer to first.

Tampa Bay had not won since beating the Red Sox on opening day.

Chicago lost for the sixth time in seven games and fell to 0-4 at Guaranteed Rate Field, matching their worst home start since 1987.

Smith had an RBI triple in the fourth, then singled and scored in the sixth. Smith was thrown out by first baseman Jose Abreu in the eighth when he tried to steal home with runners on the corners.

INDIANS 2 TIGERS 0

CLEVELAND — Corey Kluber struck out 13, pitching two-hit ball for eight innings and leading the Cleveland Indians past the Detroit Tigers 2-0 in snow flurries Monday night.

The temperature at first pitch was 33 degrees, one above Progressive Field's record low set Sunday. There were flurries before the game and again in the seventh inning, resulting in a crowd of 9,843.

Kluber (1-1) gave up singles to Victor Martinez in the second and Nicholas Castellanos in the fourth. The reigning AL Cy Young winner walked one and threw 103 pitches in recording the 40th double-figure strikeout game of his career.

Andrew Miller worked the ninth for his first save of the season, getting Miguel Cabrera on a game-ending double play.

Bradley Zimmer hit a two-run homer in the fifth off Francisco Lirio (1-1) as Cleveland's offense struggled again but used the long ball to win for the second straight day.

Kluber struck out the side in the fifth and fanned a batter in every inning except the sixth. Leonys Martin was the only batter who didn't strike out against Kluber.

The right-hander, who was 18-4 with an AL-leading 2.25 ERA last season, has pitched like an ace in his first three starts. Kluber allowed two runs in eight innings against Seattle, but got the loss thanks to Nelson Cruz's two-run homer. He gave up a two-run homer to Shohei Ohtani, the only runs he allowed in seven innings against the Los Angeles Angels in his second start.

BLUE JAYS 7 ORIOLES 1

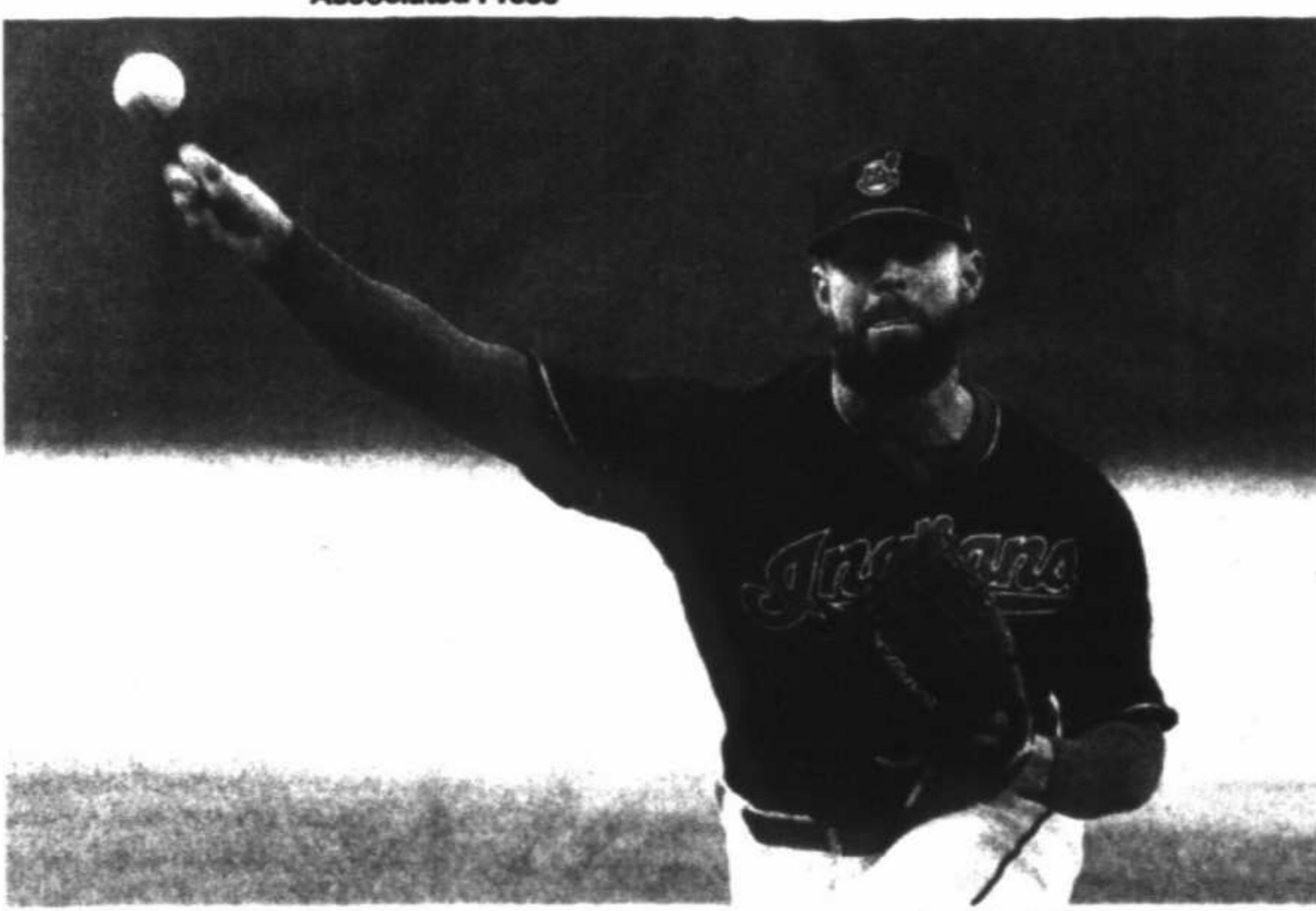
BALTIMORE — Steve Pearce homered in a third successive game, Josh Donaldson laced on a ninth-inning grand slam and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Baltimore Orioles 7-1 Monday night before 7,915 fans, the lowest paid crowd in Camden Yards history.

Game-time temperature was 44 degrees, and a slight mist made the conditions even more miserable. That contributed to a dubious attendance record at the 27-year-old ballpark that had held since April 12, 2010, when 9,129 showed up for a game between the Orioles and Tampa Bay.

There were no fans at a game on April 29, 2015, when the Orioles hosted the Chicago White Sox in a closed stadium due to security concerns amid civil unrest in Baltimore.

After getting his 500th career hit in the second inning, Pearce put Toronto up 2-0 in the third with a two-run shot off Dylan Bundy (0-1) on a 3-0 pitch. It marked the first time in his career that Pearce, who's had three separate stints with the Orioles, homered in three consecutive games.

It was 2-1 in the ninth before Curtis Granderson drew a



Tony Dejak/Associated Press

Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Corey Kluber delivers in the first inning against the Detroit Tigers on Monday in Cleveland.

bases-loaded walk and Donaldson followed with his fourth career slam, a shot to center off rookie Nestor Cortes Jr.

J.A. Happ (2-1) struck out nine in six innings, allowing one run and five hits. The right-hander was 0-3 against the Orioles last season.

Bundy (0-1) gave up two runs and four hits with 10 strikeouts in seven innings. The right-hander has a 1.35 ERA in three starts, yet remains winless.

ROYALS 10 MARINERS 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jakob Junis carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning, the Royals scored more runs than they had in their last six games combined, and Kansas City routed the Seattle Mariners 10-0 on Monday night.

Junis (2-0) hit three batters and walked two, but the quick-working right-hander did not allow a hit until Daniel Vogelbach's grounder up the middle with one out in the seventh.

Junis finished up the inning without any more trouble, running his scoreless streak to 14 innings to start the season. He was given a standing ovation when his night was done by the announced crowd of 12,324, most of whom promptly fled out with temperatures just above freezing.

By that point, everybody in the Royals lineup but Drew Butera had scored off Marco Gonzales (1-1) and the Seattle bullpen — and all the catcher had done was drive in a couple of runs.

Mike Moustakas homered in the eighth off infielder Taylor Motter as Seattle saved its 'pen.

Gonzalez allowed four runs, eight hits and a walk for the Mariners while retiring seven batters, and reliever Casey Lawrence promptly allowed five more runs while getting five more outs.

Kansas City's offensive

National League

NATIONALS 2 BRAVES 0

WASHINGTON — Max Scherzer stole the first base of his professional career and allowed only two singles in his fifth big league shutout, and the Nationals ended a five-game losing skid while getting back to .500 with a 2-0 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Monday night.

Scherzer (2-1), the winner of the past two NL Cy Young Awards, did not let the Braves push a runner beyond first base. Kurt Suzuki got a hit in the second, and Nick Markakis did in the fifth, but neither advanced.

Scherzer managed to get farther than that: He swiped second after singling off reliever Peter Moylan in the seventh.

Howie Kendrick delivered all the offense Washington needed with a two-run double.

Scherzer struck out 10 and walked none in his ninth complete game in 299 major league starts. And he needed only 102 pitches, a far more efficient outing than his previous time on the mound: He threw 110 over five innings in a 7-1

loss at Atlanta on April 4.

Julio Teheran (0-1) went six innings for the Braves, and the only damage came on Kendrick's shot that hugged the left-field line with two outs in the first inning. That brought home Anthony Rendon, who also had doubled, and Bryce Harper, who walked.

METS 2 MARLINS 2

MIAMI — Noah Syndergaard allowed one earned run in six innings and the New York Mets won their sixth consecutive game by beating the Miami Marlins 2-0 Monday night to match the best start in team history.

The winning streak is the Mets' longest since September 2016, and they improved to 8-1.

Jeurys Familia escaped a jam to pitch a scoreless ninth and earn his fifth save, most in the majors. He gave up a single and double before striking out Miguel Rojas and Starlin Castro for the victory.

The announced crowd of 7,003 — most of them rooting for the Mets — was by far the smallest in the seven-season history of Marlins Park. The Marlins now announce attendance based on only tickets sold, a change from the previous ownership regime.

Syndergaard (2-0) had less than his best stuff but stranded four runners in scoring position. Four relievers combined to shut out Miami over the final three innings, lowering the team ERA to 2.25.

The Mets arrived in Miami at 5 a.m. after completing their first three-game sweep of Washington since September 2015. But they were unfazed by any lack of sleep, jumping to a 3-0 lead after three innings.

Adrian Gonzalez and Jay Bruce each had an RBI single off Marlins ace Jose Urena (0-2), who allowed three runs in five innings.

Two of the Mets' runs resulted from defensive lapses. In the third inning, Miami catcher Bryan Holaday failed to catch a routine pop foul hit by Bruce, who then delivered a two-out RBI single. A wild throw by first baseman Justin Bour in the seventh led to an unearned run, which came home on Amed Rosario's RBI single.

New York's defense gave up a run in the fifth. Shortstop Rosario misplayed Ryan Anderson's leadoff grounder for an error. Syndergaard then gave up consecutive walks — doubling his season total — and a two-out RBI single by Darin Dietrich.

Anderson's hit a run-scoring double off Syndergaard in the sixth. But Miami went 2 for 12 with runners in scoring position, stranded 10, hit into a double play and lost a runner on the bases.

The game was the first this year between the NL East rivals. The Mets went 7-12 against the Marlins last year.

PHILLIES 6 REDS 5

PHILADELPHIA — Pinch-hitter Nick Williams hit a solo-homerid solo homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift the Philadelphia Phillies to a 6-5 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Monday night.

Scott Kingery homered for the first time in his career and Rhyne Hoskins also went deep for the Phillies.

Tucker Barnhart hit a two-run homer for the Reds. Williams drove one deep into the right-center field seats off Kevin Quackenbush (0-1) for his first career pinch-hit homer. Luis Garcia (1-1) tossed a scoreless inning in relief for the win and Hector Neris finished for his first save.

The Phillies have won three of four while the Reds have dropped four of five.

Hoskins gave Philadelphia a 2-1 lead in the first when he ripped a line drive into the left-center field seats. Kingery connected in the second to make it 3-1, sending a liner into the flower bed above the left-field wall.

After Barnhart's homer tied it at 3-3 in the third, Carlos Santana's RBI double and Maliek Franco's sacrifice fly in the bottom half put the Phillies ahead 5-3.

Scooter Gennett lined an RBI double in the fourth and Billy Hamilton drove in the tying run with an infield single in the sixth. Hamilton tried to score from second base on reliever Adam Morgan's wild pitch, but catcher Jorge Alfaro threw to the pitcher covering the plate in time for the out.

The Reds opened the scoring in the first when Adam Duval walked with the bases loaded, but Ben Lively pitched out to shortstop and Phillip Ervin and Cliff Pennington struck out.

BREWERS 5 CARDINALS 4

ST. LOUIS — In his St. Louis debut, Greg Holland walked four batters in the 10th inning and forced home the go-ahead run Monday night that gave the Milwaukee Brewers a 5-4 win over the Cardinals.

The 32-year-old Holland, who led for the NL lead with 41 saves for Colorado last season, was signed as a free agent on opening day. He pitched two innings at Class A before joining the Cardinals earlier in the day.

Holland (0-1) walked two batters to begin the 10th. After a sacrifice bunt, an intentional walk loaded the bases. The three-time All-Star closer then walked Orlando Arcie and was pulled.

Matt Albers (2-0) gave up the tying run in the ninth. The Cubs led the bases with no outs, and Dexter Fowler's sacrifice fly tied it at 4.

Brewers newcomer Lorenzo Cain tripped over the foot of Cardinals first baseman Jose Martinez on a play in the ninth, and both exited. Martinez bruised his right Achilles.

St. Louis starter Miles Mikolins pitched 6 1-3 innings. He gave up four runs on eight hits. He struck out five and had a walk.

A two-run single by Manny Pina gave the Brewers a 4-3 lead in the fourth.

The Cardinals took a 3-2 in the third with all the runs coming after there were two outs. Fowler hit an RBI single and after Jhoulys Chacin walked the bases loaded,

ROCKHOUNDS REPORT

ROCKHOUNDS 7, DRILLERS 3

At Security Bank Ballpark TOP HITTERS: Tyler Ramirez led Midland by going 2-for-5 with a double and two RBI, while teammate Melvin Morales was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. ... Peter O'Brien was 2-for-4 with a solo home run for Tulsa. Drew Jackson also homered for the Drillers.

TOP PITCHER: Kyle Friedrichs had a quality start for the RockHounds to earn his first win of the season. He allowed one earned run on six hits, did not walk a batter and struck out four.

HIGHLIGHTS: O'Brien's solo homer in the third gave the Drillers the early lead, but Midland responded with six unanswered runs, beginning with a two-run RBI. After a run in the sixth, the RockHounds scored three more in the seventh that was highlighted by a two-run double by Ramirez.

NOTES: After five games, Midland's Eli White is batting .412 (7-for-17), while Ramirez is batting .400 (8-for-20). ... The teams will meet in the rubber game of the three-game series at 6:30 p.m. today. ... Tonight is the final game of the six-game homestand before the RockHounds start a six-game road trip at Springfield on Thursday.

ROCKHOUNDS 7, DRILLERS 3

RockHounds 7, Drillers 3

TL standings

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists RockHounds, Drillers, and other teams in the Tulsa League.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Tulsa Drillers and other teams.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Tulsa RockHounds and other teams.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Tulsa Drillers and other teams.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Tulsa RockHounds and other teams.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists Tulsa Drillers and other teams.

Angels off to best start since 1987 after 8-3 win at Texas

By Stephen Hawkins Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Albert Pujols hit his 616th career homer, Martin Maldonado had two RBI singles along with an evasive move to score a run and the Los Angeles Angels extended their best start in more than three decades with an 8-3 win at Texas on Monday night.

The Angels are 8-3 for the first time since 1987, and fourth time in franchise history. Shohei Ohtani, the rookie two-way standout who was chosen AL Player of the Week, didn't play a day after striking out 12 in seven scoreless innings against Oakland.

Pujols led off the fourth with a line shot just inside the pole in left, his second homer this season. He later added a single for his

2,981st career hit. Jose Alvarez (1-0) retired the only two batters he faced after Angels starter Garrett Richards walked the bases loaded with one out in the fifth. Richards also struck out six in his 4 1-3 innings.

Doug Fister (1-2) struck out five with no walks while allowing three runs in his five innings.

Home plate umpire Angel Hernandez was emphatic in calling Maldonado out in the sixth, but the Angels catcher immediately pointed to manager Mike Scioscia for a replay challenge.

Maldonado came home on Chris Young's double that ricocheted awkwardly off the wall down the left-field line. While the throw beat him to the plate, Maldonado went to both knees and reached around the attempted tag by Robinson Chirinos to make it 5-1.

Verlander dominates over 7 innings, Astros beat Twins

By Brian Hall Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Justin Verlander struck out nine over seven dominant innings, Carlos Correa had two hits and scored twice and the Houston Astros beat the Minnesota Twins 2-0 on Monday night.

Verlander (2-0) was in control throughout on a chilly night with a first-pitch temperature of 35 degrees. The right-hander gave up three hits and walked one while helping the reigning World Series champions match their best 11-game start by going 9-2.

Verlander improved to 11-1 in 14 games, including the playoffs, since being traded to Houston last season.

Ken Giles earned his first save of the season by getting

Byron Buxton to ground out with a runner on third in the ninth.

Twins reliever Taylor Rogers (1-1) allowed a leadoff double to Correa in the sixth after coming in for starter Lance Lynn. Correa scored from third on rookie J.D. Davis' liner to left field off reliever Trevor Hildenberger. Davis entered the night 1 for 14 and drove in his first RBI of the season. Marwin Gonzalez added an RBI double in the eighth.

Verlander allowed a one-out double in the first to Joe Mauer and then retired eight in a row before walking Mauer to lead off the fourth.

Verlander fanned runners at the corners with no outs in the sixth after Brian Dozier's swinging bunt, but he struck out Mauer and Miguel Sano before getting Eddie Rosario to pop out.

MLB GLANCE

Associated Press

Standings

Table showing MLB Standings for American League and National League, listing teams, wins, losses, and percentages.

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Predators, Golden Knights reflect change of NHL West's guard

By John Wawrow
Associated Press

The Predators have the Presidents' Trophy, and the NHL-expansion Golden Knights carry the buzz entering the Western Conference playoffs, which have the potential of resembling nothing from the past.

So step aside Chicago, which missed the playoffs for the first time in nine years, and say bye to the Blues, whose six-year playoff run is over.

The changing of the West's guard begins at the top, where Nashville clinched its first Central Division title by running away with the league's best record. And then there's Vegas, which broke every measurable NHL expansion record for success by going 51-24-7 to claim the Pacific Division.

Add in the talent-laden Winnipeg Jets, making their franchise's third playoff appearance, and youth-filled Colorado Avalanche, who clinched their second berth in eight years, and it results in three of four first-time postseason matchups: Nashville versus Colorado, Vegas versus Los Angeles and Winnipeg facing Minnesota.

The fourth matchup has Anaheim facing San Jose for only the second time after the Ducks eliminated the Sharks in six games during a 2009 first-round series.

Of the eight teams, only three have won the Stanley Cup (Colorado, Anaheim and Los Angeles), while two have never won a playoff game (Vegas and Winnipeg, formerly Atlanta).

The weight of expectations falls mostly on the Predators, who won't be under-estimated a year after the eighth-seeded team's surge to the Final ended in a six-game loss to Pittsburgh. It was a run Nashville began against Chicago in becoming the first team to sweep a No. 1 seed in the opening round since the current playoff format was set in 1994.

"I think our guys are well aware of what went on last year," Predators coach Peter Laviolette said. "For me, this group is looking down the tunnel at something, and all that other stuff is noise."

That's not to say Laviolette didn't play the "everyone's picking Chicago" card as motivation a year ago.

"I might have used it," he said with a wink. The Avalanche know their history, with forward Gabriel Landeskog listing how several No. 8 seeds have made deep playoff runs, including the 2012 Cup-champion Kings. "Anything can happen in the playoffs. That's kind of the mindset we've had," Landeskog said of the Avalanche. "This is a big accomplishment to make after such a tough season. We're not done."

NHL PLAYOFF GLANCE

FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7, 4-0 necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Toronto Bay vs. New Jersey
Thursday, April 12: Toronto Bay at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.
Friday, April 13: New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 14: New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 15: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 16: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17: New Jersey at Tampa Bay, TBA
Wednesday, April 18: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, TBA
Thursday, April 19: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, TBA
Friday, April 20: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, TBA
Saturday, April 21: New Jersey at Tampa Bay, TBA
Sunday, April 22: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, TBA
Monday, April 23: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, TBA
Tuesday, April 24: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Nashville vs. Colorado
Thursday, April 12: Colorado at Nashville, 8:30 p.m.
Friday, April 13: Colorado at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 14: Colorado at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 15: Nashville at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Monday, April 16: Nashville at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17: Nashville at Colorado, TBA
Wednesday, April 18: Nashville at Colorado, TBA
Thursday, April 19: Colorado at Nashville, TBA
Friday, April 20: Colorado at Nashville, TBA
Saturday, April 21: Nashville at Colorado, TBA
Sunday, April 22: Colorado at Nashville, TBA
Monday, April 23: Nashville at Colorado, TBA
Tuesday, April 24: Colorado at Nashville, TBA

STARS

From 1C

didn't raise our level when it needed to be raised."

Not full contributors

Alexander Radulov played every game in the first season of his \$30 million, five-year contract and was the third-leading scorer with 72 points (27 goals, 45 assists). But other big-name additions were limited by injuries in their Dallas debuts, like Bishop. The new starting goalie played only 53 games, while center Martin Hanzal (back) played only 38 games and defenseman Marc Methot (knee) 36 games. Hanzal is signed for two more years and Methot for 2018-19.

Top scorers

Benn, the captain, had hat tricks in two of the last three games — all on the road — and had 10 points (eight goals, two assists) in his last five games. He finished with 79 points (36 goals, 43 assists), one more than Seguin (40 goals, 38 assists). John Klingberg led NHL defensemen with 59 assists.

Return of Wolf?

Right wing Valeri Nichushkin could be back with the Stars next season after two years in the Kontinental Hockey League. Nichushkin was the 10th overall pick by

the Stars in 2013, and had 64 points (23 goals, 41 assists) in 166 games over three seasons by time he was 21 before going home to Russia. That could be the biggest addition this offseason.

Possible departures

Lehtonen is second in franchise history with 215 wins, but is now a backup to Bishop. The other unrestricted free agents are left wing Antoine Roussel and defenseman Greg Pateryn and Dan Hamhuis. Jason Spezza is set to make \$7.5 million next season in the final year of his deal, but the 35-year-old center doesn't seem to be a fit in Hitchcock's system. Spezza played 78 games and his 26 points (eight goals, 18 assists) were his fewest in a full season since 21 points in 33 games as a rookie 15 years ago.

Struggles on the top

The Stars were a combined 5-13 against the top five finishers in the Western Conference, 2-9 against the top three in their division.

"We did a really good job of beating the teams we should beat in most cases, but our record against the top teams, and especially the Central Division, we're going to have to find a way to improve that and we're going to have to play better hockey," Hitchcock said.



Greenwood's Kaylee Cheek follows her shot on Monday during District 4-4A golf at Ranchland Hills Golf Club.

GOLF

From 1C

Dallas Hathcock (81-84—165). Even with her commanding victory, Huffman, a West Texas A&M signee, said she didn't perform as well as she would have liked.

"We know there's a lot of pressure this year to win eight state titles, so we're just sort of like really nervous about shooting our best score each round and pushing ourselves to be better and better," Huffman said. "I think that's kind of what made us nervous."

Macy Schulze and Kinzee McAlister, of Andrews A, finished in a fourth-place tie with two-day totals of 167, while their teammate Paige Jennings came in sixth with a 169.

"I probably have 13 or 14 girls that can be the number one on a lot of teams," Williamson said. "They play so well. They work and hard work is what pays off. I think they out-work most people."

In the boys tournament, the Monahans A team claimed its third consecutive District 4-4A title by shooting a two-day total of 605, 47 strokes ahead of runner-up Andrews A (325-327—652). Both teams qualified for the Region 1-4A boys tournament, April 23-24 at Shadow Creek Golf Course.

Monahans A's JT Pittman notched his second career 4-4A boys medalist title by posting a 74-71—145, one stroke ahead of teammate and runner-up Joey Kirk (74-72—146).

"Him and Joey both, they go head to head every day in practice," Monahans coach Cameron Swarb said. "In one tournament, one beats

the other and they flip flop back and forth all year long. They're both fantastic players, fantastic kids. I can't say enough about their work ethic and their determination to be great players."

Pittman said he made birdies on holes 1, 4, 6 and 14 Monday at Ranchland Hills Golf Course.

"I played very well," Pittman said. "I made a lot of good par putts to save par."

The Greenwood A boys finished sixth, the Greenwood B boys came in eighth and the Greenwood girls were sixth. Greenwood qualified no individuals for regionals.

Follow Christopher on Twitter:
@Chris_MRTsports

District 4-4A Golf Tournament
Final results
Round 1: Odessa Country Club, April 6; Round 2: Ranchland Hills Golf Club, Monday
Top 2 teams and top 2 individuals from non-qualifying teams advance to Region 1-4A Tournament
Varsity Region 1-4A Tournament results
Boys
Team standings - 1. Monahans A 325-327-652, 2. Andrews A 325-327-652, 3. Monahans B 325-327-652, 4. Andrews B 327-321-648, 5. Fort Stockton 310-330-640, 6. Big Game 304-318-622, Pecos A 300-300-600, & Greenwood B 430-430-860, & Pecos B 430-430-860
Individual standings - 1. JT Pittman, Monahans A, 74-71-145; 2. Joey Kirk, Monahans A, 74-71-145; 3. Luke Crilly, Andrews A, 77-70-147; 4. Devin Gomez, Monahans A, 77-70-147; 5. Brad Hahn, Monahans A, 82-76-158; 6. Blake Sanford, Andrews A, 79-81-160; 7. Max Williams, Fort Stockton, 82-74-156; 8. Ryan Hopkins, Monahans A, 84-79-163; 9. Nick Corvick, Monahans B, 85-85-170; 10. Hally Pittman, Andrews A, 82-85-167
Girls
Monahans A 327-328-655, J. Pittman 74-71-145, Amy 104-74-78-146, Daria Dwyer 77-79-156, Brand Hall 82-79-161, Ryan Higgins 84-79-163
Boys
Andrews A 325-327-652, Luke Crilly 77-70-147, Blake Sanford 77-70-147, Devin Gomez 77-70-147, Nick Corvick 85-85-170, Ryan Hopkins 84-79-163, Hally Pittman 82-85-167, Brad Hahn 82-76-158, Joey Kirk 74-71-145, JT Pittman 74-71-145, Max Williams 82-74-156, Ryan Higgins 84-79-163, Devin Gomez 77-79-156, Daria Dwyer 77-79-156, Amy 104-74-78-146, Brand Hall 82-79-161, Ryan Higgins 84-79-163
Girls
Monahans A 325-327-652, Daria Dwyer 77-79-156, Amy 104-74-78-146, Brand Hall 82-79-161, Ryan Higgins 84-79-163, Devin Gomez 77-79-156, Luke Crilly 77-70-147, Blake Sanford 77-70-147, Nick Corvick 85-85-170, Ryan Hopkins 84-79-163, Hally Pittman 82-85-167, Brad Hahn 82-76-158, Joey Kirk 74-71-145, JT Pittman 74-71-145, Max Williams 82-74-156, Ryan Higgins 84-79-163, Devin Gomez 77-79-156, Daria Dwyer 77-79-156, Amy 104-74-78-146, Brand Hall 82-79-161, Ryan Higgins 84-79-163
Individual standings
Andrews - Justin Huff 81-84-165, Zach Stokes 82-84-166, Ben Jaraman 82-85-167
Greenwood - Emily Spaulding 157-158-315
Monahans - Alex Hays 82-84-166, Devin Dwyer 82-84-166, Kaylee Cheek 81-84-165, Ally Green 111-111-222

FERGUSON

From 1C

Major champion?

Reed had never registered a top 10 in any of the biggest events until a runner-up finish in the PGA Championship last summer, and even then he didn't have a chance to win when playing the 18th hole. His record was even more suspect at the Masters. Reed had played 12 rounds at Augusta National without ever breaking 70, and only two of those rounds were under par.

One week changed everything.

The guy who lives for red, white and blue is now associated with Masters green.

"He's always been a fighter," Rickie Fowler said after his third runner-up finish in a major. "He's always been good at match play. It seems like a whole new animal comes out when he gets in Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup. It's nice that he's on our team."

ies over the last 11 holes, including an 8-foot birdie on the final hole that cut the lead to one shot and forced Reed to hit all the right shots on the 18th hole.

That didn't do any good. Reed was solid as ever. The bigger the moment, the better he seems to play.

The question is whether that translates to more victories, and more majors.

"The Ryder Cup, it's a totally different type of pressure," Reed said. "You go to a Ryder Cup and you feel like you have a whole nation on your back. If you win or lose your match, you still have a bunch of other guys there that could pick it up."

Reed was known for his toughness, but that didn't always translate to stroke play.

Maybe that's why when he turned on the television Sunday morning with a three-shot lead, he heard plenty of flattering observations about his game without anyone thinking he was going to win. In five

years on the PGA Tour, he had only five victories. That might explain why he was an afterthought in so many conversations about the players in their 20s who seem to be taking over.

They won't forget him now.

Not after he recovered from a shaky start — 1 over through 11 holes — by never flinching among a chorus of roars along the back nine at Augusta National. Reed made a 25-foot birdie putt on No. 12. Jordan Spieth ran off four birdies in five holes to tie for the lead, and Reed answered with a birdie on the 14th.

He had to get up-and-down behind the green on the par-5 15th for par. He had to make a 6-footer for par on the 17th. And he left his approach to 18th above the hole, and while he had two putts to win, the par putt was enough to make anyone nervous.

"It's just a way of God basically saying, 'Let's see if you have it,'" Reed

said. "Everyone knows you have it physically with the talent. But do you have it mentally? Can you handle the ups and downs throughout the round?"

Reed grew up wanting to be just like Woods, inside and out.

He prefers to wear black pants and a red shirt on Sunday, though that was scrapped when Nike wanted its clients (except Woods) to wear a fuchsia shirt for the final day at the Masters. More than how he looked, he wanted to mimic the mental side of Woods. He was asked a little more than three years ago what that entailed.

"Be stubborn. Focus on what you're doing, not anyone around you," Reed said. "He was just so focused and determined to play well. And that's what I'm trying to do."

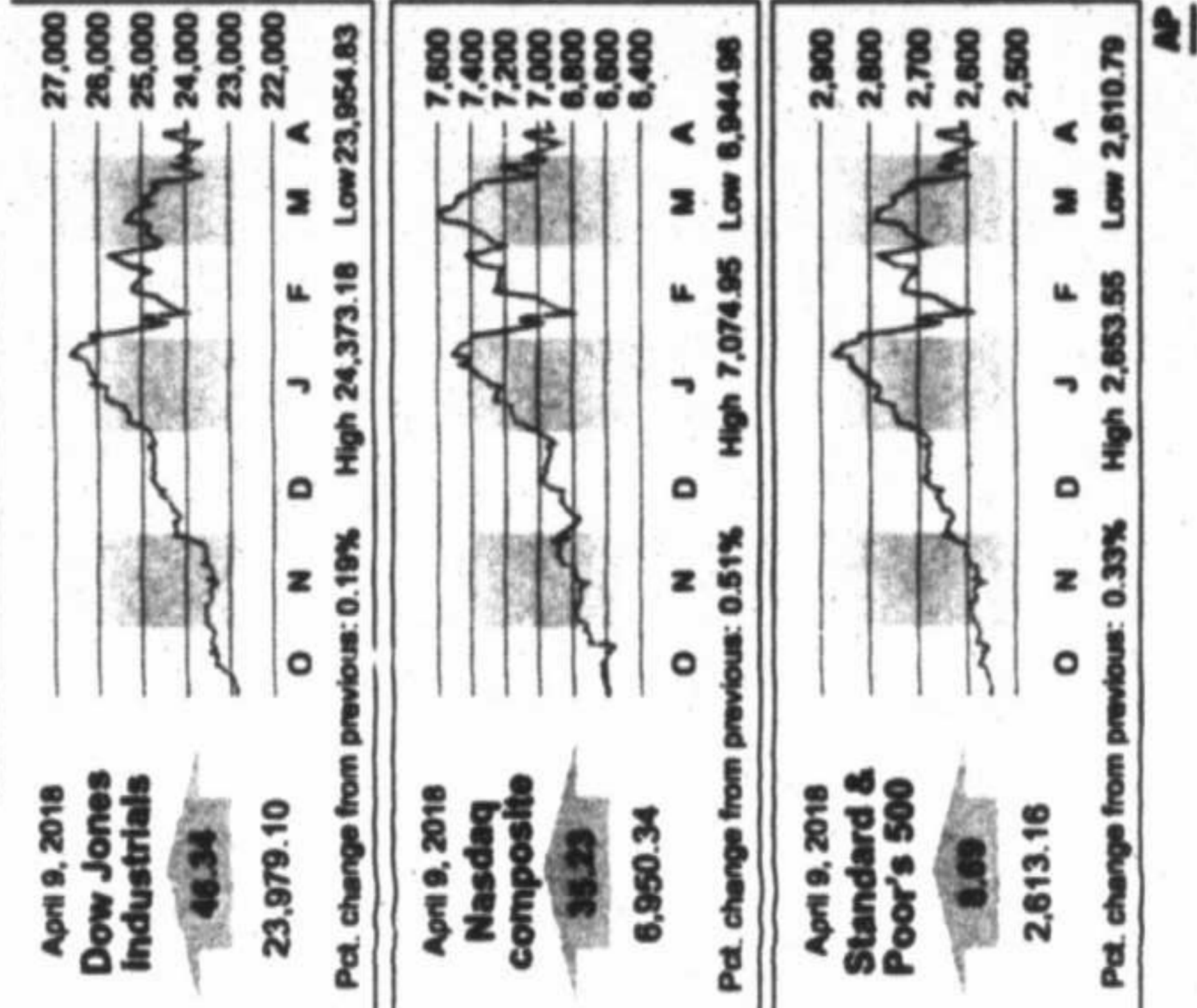
That's what did on Sunday at Augusta National. That's why he's a Masters champion, his new identity. That probably won't hurt him in France, either.

THE MARKET IN REVIEW

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of stock market data for the New York Stock Exchange, including columns for Name, Bid, Ask, Last, and Change.

ADAY ON WALL STREET



Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ, listing Most Active, Gainers, and Losers with their respective stock symbols and price changes.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of stock market data for the NASDAQ National Market, including columns for Name, Bid, Ask, Last, and Change.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund data, including columns for Name, Bid, Ask, Last, and Change.

INDEXES

Table of market indices including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and NASDAQ Composite.

PERMIAN BASIN STOCKS

Table of stock market data for Permian Basin stocks, including columns for Name, Bid, Ask, Last, and Change.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of stock market data for the American Stock Exchange, including columns for Name, Bid, Ask, Last, and Change.

Headline text at the bottom right of the page.

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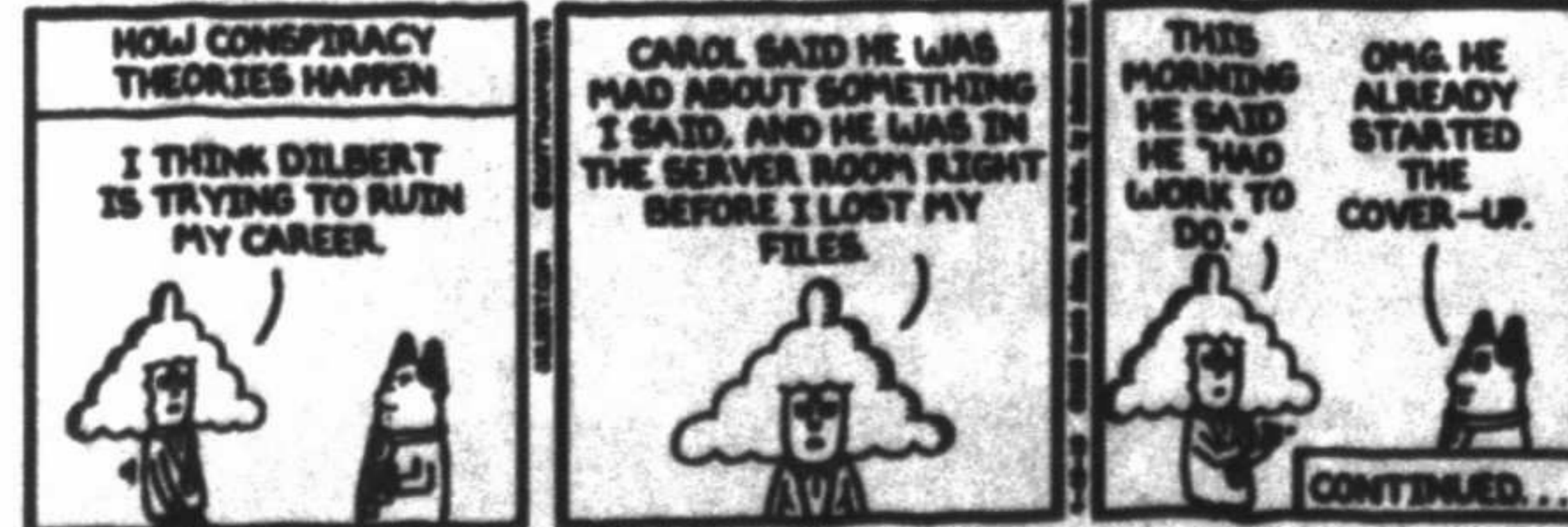
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& More.

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Saturday • April 14

MUSIC CITY MALL 2:00pm - 6:00pm • Carousel Stage

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**ENDLESS ENTREES.
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ARTS-ENT PUBLISHING

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM
COPY EDITOR/DESIGNER

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. About us: The Midland Reporter-Telegram has a universal copy desk that handles the daily paper as well as products from other Hearst newspapers in the region.

About the job: This is an entry-level position that offers paid vacation, a 401(k) and other benefits. Experience in design is 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, résumé and clips in PDF format to Editor Stewart Doreen at sdoreen@mrt.com.

CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM
NOW HIRING
Administrative Assistant - SSB

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

Job Duties:
 -Answers phone, take messages, greets visitors and assists citizens with questions or concerns
 -Maintain calendar for assigned personnel
 -Develops, types and files correspondence
 -Enters data into the computer regarding police actions or projects
 -Processes and routes mail as needed
 -Performs related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
 Ability to effectively communicate with employees, management and citizens when acting as a receptionist, answering inquiries, processing information or making referrals to the proper staff person.
 Ability to read and understand manuals and reports in order to record work activities, keep records or work with computers. Skill in the operation and maintenance of a number of office machines and equipment such as computers, copiers and printers. Skill in typing and word processing. Skill and experience in the operation of computerized systems in order to design or complete spreadsheets, forms or word processing assignments, brochures, certificates and programs. Experience in software with personal computers related to spreadsheets, databases and word processing.
 High school diploma or equivalent required. Must be able to pass typing test with minimum score of 45 wpm.

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

apply online at www.midlandtx.gov/jobs
 Equal Opportunity Employer

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

Line Walker & Meter Technician

Line Walker opening @ Natural Gas Processing Plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Must be physically able to walk long distances following natural gas lines.
 Must pass pre-employment drug test, criminal history check and motor vehicle records check and have a valid Texas Driver's License. Excellent Salary, Paid Vacation, Medical Insurance, and 401k. Must be 21 to apply.

Meter Technician opening @ Natural Gas Processing Plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Looking for a dependable individual with knowledge of computer basics.
 Must pass pre-employment drug test, criminal history check and motor vehicle records check and have a valid Texas Driver's License. Excellent Salary, Paid Vacation, Medical Insurance, and 401k. Must be 21 to apply.

Please Send Resume To:
 Plant Supervisor
 11703 E. FM 846
 Coahoma, TX 79611
 Or Fax (432)398-4290
 Or Email carcher@wtgas.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Established Midland independent seeking degreed Petroleum Engineer with 10+ years experience in drilling, production, and field operations in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. The ideal candidate will have experience in the following areas:

- Good communication, delegation, and management skills
- Supervision of field and office personnel
- All facets of daily field operations and governmental regulations
- Facility installation and operations
- Drilling and completion stimulation programs
- Operation of surface and sub-surface equipment
- Developing worker programs
- Environmental compliance
- Project economics and reserves
- Computer proficiency with standard Windows software

Competitive salary and benefits package. Non-smoking environment. Experienced principals only send resume with job history, references, and salary requirements to:

H. L. Brown Operating, LLC
 Attention: Fiscal Manager
 P. O. Box 2237
 Midland, TX 79702-2237

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM
NOW HIRING
Associate Traffic Engineer

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

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

Benefits:
 -Healthcare Plans
 -Paid Vacation/Sick Leave
 -Paid Holidays
 -Employee Wellness Program
 -Tuition Reimbursement

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Front Desk/Medical Records Clerk

Full time position available at Family Gastroenterology, P.A.
 Please fax resume to 432-697-0000, ATTN: S. Patel or bring to 4214 Andrews Hwy, Ste. 203, Midland, TX. 79706

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682-6999

MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM
NOW HIRING
GIS Manager

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

BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITIES:
 -Oversees development of GIS applications, web services, and tools to ensure they are current and within industry standards and practices.
 -Oversees the GIS Division budget and recommends budget request for new hardware and software as appropriate.

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

Qualifications:
 Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with employees within and outside the department, and with outside agencies; and to respond to questions from Councilmembers, City Management, consultants, vendors, businesses, and other governmental agencies or staff.
 Proven ability to plan, organize and manage multiple concurrent projects with minimal supervision. Willingness to work in a team environment and learn new skills to help improve systems and procedures. Ability to supervise and manage other staff with a variety of skills and abilities.
 Demonstrated proficiency in the use of Esri ArcGIS software (ArcGISDesktop, ArcGISOnline, ArcGISPro). Solid understanding of database design/management and programming is desirable.
 Knowledge of land surveying, municipal governmental operations, acquisitions and procedures is desirable.

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

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

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MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM
NOW HIRING
Planning Division Manager

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

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

Job Duties:
 -Reviews staff work including reports, maps and special studies for presentation to Planning Commission and City Council.
 -Coordinates, supervises and manages staff.
 -Prepares, administers and monitors annual budget.
 -Presents information at public meetings. Participates with other staff members concerning interrelated projects.
 -Answers various questions from general public and developers concerning city ordinances, development trends, and population.
 -Performs related duties as required.

Qualifications:
 Employee communicates with other employees in the work group. Communication with the general public, developers, outside agencies and other departments within the organization is required.
 Knowledge of planning and zoning process. Skill in observing, reading and interpreting writing and reports. Skill in writing and interpreting budgets. Ability to write and review reports, memos and other correspondence. Ability to supervise and communicate with employees. Basic comprehension of computer use. Valid Texas Driver License.

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

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

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 Equal Opportunity Employer

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM
NOW HIRING
Right-Of-Way Manager

This position manages the acquisition, sale, and financing of City rights-of-way and other real property; oversees the execution of transactions of real property; and administers the issuance of easements and licenses to outside parties for the use of City-owned rights-of-way and property.

Budgetary Responsibilities:
 Assist management staff with recommendations and budget data for potential right-of-way and easement acquisitions for public improvements.

Job Duties:
 -Develops policies and procedures for standardization of third-party use of City rights-of-way and property.
 -Manages the distribution of surface damages for City rights-of-way and other real property owned by the City, including all 67,000+ acres of City-owned parcels.
 -Coordinates and negotiates License Use Agreements, Right-of-Way License Agreements, Easement Agreements, for third-party users of City-owned parcels or rights-of-way, and coordinates with appropriate City Departments or Management.
 -Prepares and presents reports to City officials, Council members, and representatives of outside agencies.
 -Obtains Appraisals, Title Work, and coordinates Closings on tracts of interest.
 -Coordinates and processes public easements for City projects.
 -Coordinates departmental actions related to acquisition of real property to ensure compliance with City policies, and legal and regulatory guidelines.
 -Coordinates preparation of offers to purchase, leases, deeds, exchange agreements, easements, releases, and related property transaction documents.
 -Coordinates with others and utilizes engineering plans and plats to determine accuracy of property legal descriptions and boundaries, title histories, etc.
 -Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
 Proven ability to plan, organize and manage multiple concurrent projects with minimal supervision. Willingness to work in a team environment and learn new skills to help improve systems and procedures.
 Knowledge of land surveying, of drilling and pipeline operations, and typical petroleum industry practices related to land use and acquisition is desirable. Knowledge of municipal governmental operations, acquisitions and procedures is helpful.

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

Demonstrated proficiency in the use of Esri ArcGIS software is desirable.

Bachelor's degree required. Minimum of five years' experience in real estate, land acquisition, or a similar field. Valid Texas driver's license required.

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

apply online at www.midlandtx.gov/jobs
 Equal Opportunity Employer

EARN UP TO \$500 PER WEEK!

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

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



CDL Drivers Needed

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

- Water truck drivers
- Belly Dump drivers

Home every night and new equipment

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

Benefits: Medical, dental/Vision, life insurance. After 1 year of service Paid vacation and 401K


Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc. 1401 S. Grandblaw Odessa, Texas 79761

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
 Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 8-9 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person. \$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk - Monday - Friday 8-6 or email: hr@midrtp.com NO PHONECALLS PLEASE




Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE


Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
 Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person. \$11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk - Monday - Friday 8-6 or email: hr@midrtp.com NO PHONECALLS PLEASE



OTHER JOBS



Endeavor Energy Resources
DOT Driver II

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

Essential Functions:

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

Minimum Requirements:

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


Supervisory Responsibilities:
No supervisory responsibilities are associated with this position.

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

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

Position type and expected hours of work:
This is a full-time position. The ability to work overtime is a requirement to performing this job.

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



Endeavor Energy Resources

Now hiring for a Field Technician.

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

Job Duties:

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

Minimum Qualifications:

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

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

Physical Demands:
Ability to sit, stand, walk, reach with hand and arms, climb, squat, kneel, bend, and occasionally lift/carry/push/pull/move/drag up to 80 lbs.

Position type and expected hours of work:
This is a full-time position.

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

Field Service Mechanics

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

Field Service Mechanics

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

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

Apply in person at Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, Inc.
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

Grounds Crew Maintenance

Ranchland Hills Golf Club now hiring full-time Grounds Crew.

Duties: Operate equipment used for care and maintenance of golf course.
Work in outdoors in all types of weather. Perform other duties as assigned. Full training provided. Education: High school diploma or GED. 6 months experience preferred. Lunch and uniform provided. \$13.50 per hour. Call 432-683-2041, 1600 E. Wadley, Midland, TX.

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Now Hiring Full Time Managers. Send Resumes via Fax to 806-763-8891 or Email at tsaah@buffalowildwings.com

Cashier & General Help

KD's Bar-B-Q is looking for cashier & general help.
Have a good attitude, love working with others and work hard? Then we want you! Full or part time. Closed Sunday & Monday.
Fun & Friendly place to work, family-owned, insurance provided. Must speak English, have great customer skills, be a quick learner, reliable & responsible. Apply in person at 3109 Garden City Hwy. or submit resume.

Server / Host / Bartender

Are you fun, attractive, charming & have a great personality?
Do you love making great money while having fun at your job?
If so, we were made for each other!
Apply today in person or at tillidill.com/careers.
Tillidill Pub & Eatery, 1119 Tradewinds Blvd., Midland, TX 79706, (432) 689-6408

Full Time Receiving

Health food store is taking applications for a receiving person. Five day work week. 30-40 hrs per week. Positive work environment, caring management and pleasant customers. Apply in person Monday through Friday only, 9a.m. to 5p.m. at Natural Foods Market, 2311 W. Wadley, Midland, Texas 79707



PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES
NOW HIRING Local Drivers

Local truck drivers needed. Home nightly, local rides, scheduled shifts Sun-Spm (14/7 rotational) never on call, optional overtime.

Qualifications:

- High school education or equivalent.
- Valid operator's license.
- Clean driving record.
- DOT compliant

Comprehensive Benefits package:

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings

MULTIPLE POSITIONS

OTG Solutions is looking to hire Heavy Machinery Operators such as, Backhoes, Bulldozers, Blows, Excavator Water Trucks and Belly Dumps. Pay is based on experience and hourly. Full time hours plus OT. If interested please email Terry at Terry@otgsolutions.com or call (432) 582-6746.



PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES
NOW HIRING Transportation Truck Driver

Responsible for driving Water, Dump, and/or Belly Dump Truck and hauling water/catche to drill rigs, facturing crews, etc. Hauls water/catche from well locations to proper disposal facilities.

Qualifications:

- High school education or equivalent.
- Experience can range from commercial truck driving experience preferred to one year as a water truck driver required.
- Valid Class A CDL with Tanker endorsement.
- Clean driving record.
- Salary competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Comprehensive Benefits package!

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings

Field Service Techs, Shop Techs & Mechanic

J&W Services and Equipment Company is seeking Field Service Technicians, Shop Technicians and Mechanic. Experience preferred. However, we are willing to train. Hourly pay and overtime with benefits of group health, dental, life insurance and vacation pay. There is an opportunity to earn commissions and be awarded bonuses. Participation in matching 401k plan after one year of employment. You can stop by 3510 E. Hwy 158 in Midland or go online to www.jandwservices.com for application and submit to info@jandwservices.com.

Tapers & Painters

Now hiring experienced Tapers and Painters asap. Must come to office to fill out application at 506 W. Ohio Street, Ste 201 A, Midland from 9am-3pm Friday. 432-683-7500



PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES
NOW HIRING Instrumentation & Electrical Technician

Maintains all electrical equipment used to monitor and control oil well services equipment. Home nightly.

Qualifications:

- High school education or equivalent.
- 6 months experience maintaining and repairing electronic instrumentation and automation equipment.
- Valid operator's license with clean driving record.

Comprehensive Benefits package!

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call

432-682-6222

RETAIL JOBS

Retail Professional

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

Merchandising or management experience a plus!
We offer great benefits, including paid vacation, insurance and 401K. Applications accepted in store or online - no phone calls, please.
Email resumes to: ginger@juliangold.com
2101 W. Wadley, Ste. 16, Midland, TX 79705

Julian Gold

Digital Media Account Executive

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

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

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

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

- Drive digital product sales.
- Be the Digital Media Guru with a solid understanding of Digital Media, Marketing and Advertising.
- Ability to conduct sales calls with SMB owners.
- Be in the field and on sales calls, leading by example, to sell our various digital products using the current and evolving sales process.
- Strong focus on teamwork and ability to manage relationships across multiple departments.
- Ability to multi-task, meet deadlines, and thrive in a fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment
- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- Valid US driver's license and reliable transportation.

Requirements:

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

The perks:

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

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

Employment Account Executive

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

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

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Rene Leaper
John Hillman Leaper Life Estate
1646 South Knolly Road
Midland, TX 79701

Dated 3-29-2018

681 South Knolly Building, Suite 205, Midland, TX 79701, Lease 89C-78, and Assignment of Assignment of Oil and Gas Lease recorded at Lake County, TX in Book 89C-116.

We, Rene Leaper and John Hillman Leaper, being of sound mind, and consent owner of said property, have all intent to file an Affidavit of Non-Development or Non-Production

The property located in Lake County, Tennessee, recorded under the name, Rene Leaper and John Hillman Leaper (L.E.), being recorded as 48-12.01 and Map 48-12. Recorded in Book 48 Page 405, dated 11/20/2014.

The lease was entered by its own term, and hereby lease was never developed, or utilized by said lease, or affiliate in the given terms of the lease. This will be your notification of said intent.

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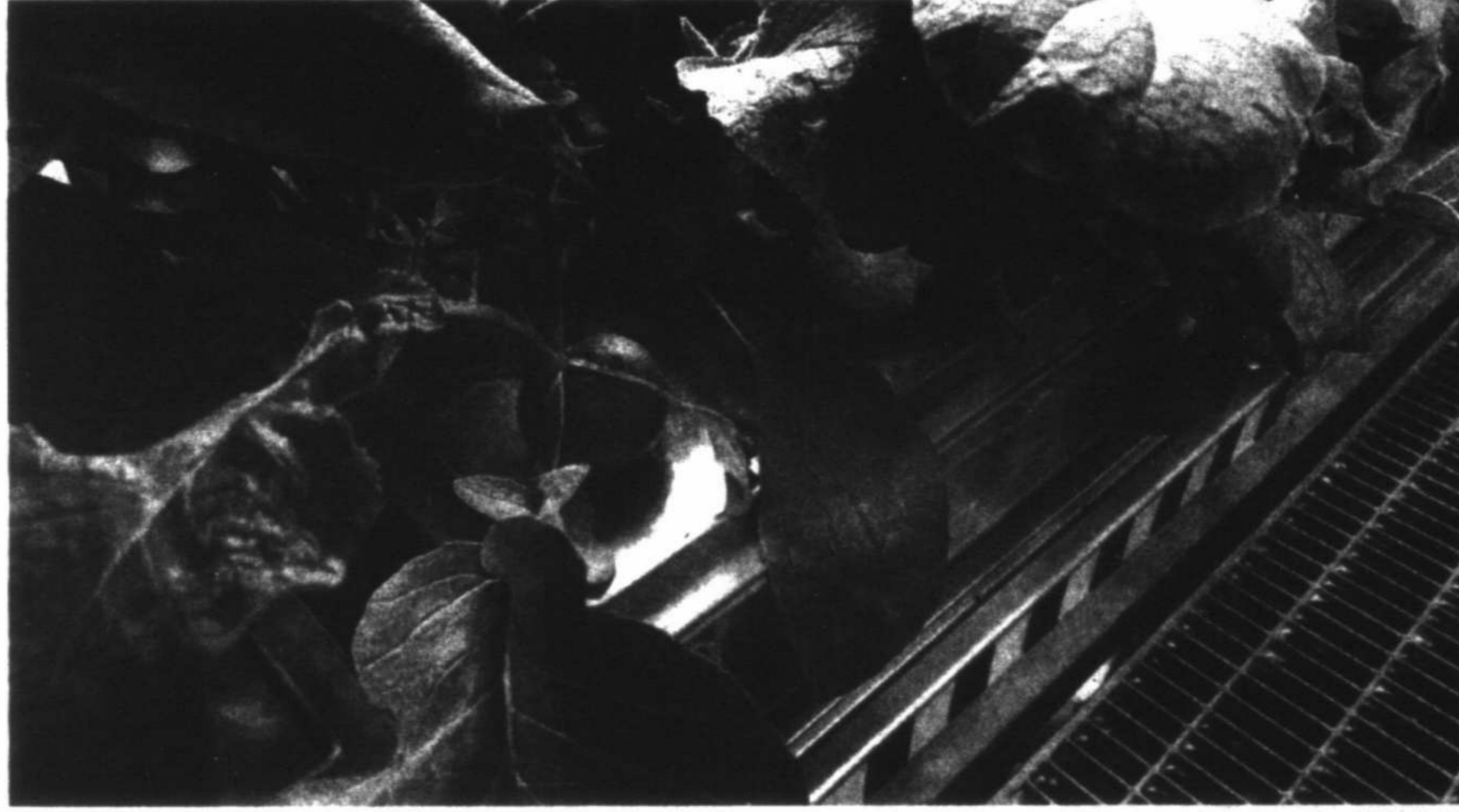
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VEGGIES ON ICE



DLR via AP

The undated photo provided by the German aerospace center (DLR) shows radishes before being harvested in the EDEN-ISS greenhouse at the Neumayer-Station III on Antarctica. The project without soil but with a closed water cycle, optimized lightning and carbon dioxide levels is a test to become part of the nutrition for astronauts in future moon or Mars missions. **BELOW LEFT:** Engineer Paul Zabel with fresh salad he harvested in the greenhouse. **BELOW RIGHT:** Various salads that were harvested in the greenhouse.



Scientists harvest first vegetables in Antarctic greenhouse

Associated Press

BERLIN — Scientists in Antarctica have harvested their first crop of vegetables grown without earth, daylight or pesticides as part of a project designed to help astronauts cultivate fresh food on other planets. Researchers at Germany's Neumayer

Station III say they've picked 8 pounds of salad greens, 18 cucumbers and 70 radishes grown inside a high-tech greenhouse as temperatures outside dropped below -4 Fahrenheit.

The German Aerospace Center DLR, which coordinates the project, said Thursday that by May scientists hope to harvest

4-5 kilograms of fruit and vegetables a week.

While NASA has successfully grown greens on the International Space Station, DLR's Daniel Schubert says the Antarctic project aims to produce a wider range of vegetables that might one day be grown on Mars or the Moon.

Center of Milky Way is teeming with black holes

■ Astronomers say they found a dozen black holes in the center of the Milky Way and that thousands of others are likely at our galactic core

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The center of our galaxy is teeming with black holes, sort of like a Times Square for strange super gravity objects, astronomers discovered.

For decades, scientists theorized that circling in the center of galaxies, including ours, were lots of stellar black holes, collapsed giant stars where the gravity is so strong even light doesn't get out. But they hadn't seen evidence of them in the Milky Way core until now.

Astronomers poring over old x-ray observations have found signs of a dozen black holes in the inner circle of the Milky Way. And since most black holes can't even be spotted that way, they calculate that there are likely thousands of them there. They estimate it could be about 10,000, maybe more, according to a study in Wednesday's journal Nature.

"There's lots of action going on there," said study lead author Chuck Hailey, a Columbia University astrophysicist. "The galactic center is a strange place. That's why people like to study it."

The stellar black holes are in addition to — and essentially circling — the already known supermassive black hole, called Sagittarius A, that's parked at the center of the Milky Way.

In the rest of the massive Milky Way, scientists have only spotted about five dozen black holes so far, Hailey said.

The newly discovered black holes are within about 19.2 trillion miles of the supermassive black hole at the center. So there's still a lot of empty space and gas amid all those black holes. But if you took the equivalent space around Earth there would be zero black holes, not thousands, Hailey said.

Earth is in spiral arm estimated to be around 24,000 to 30,000 light years away from the center of the galaxy. (A light year is 5.9 trillion miles.)

Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb, who wasn't part of the study, praised the finding as exciting but confirming what scientists had long expected.

The newly confirmed black holes are about 10 times the mass of our sun, as opposed to the central supermassive black hole, which has the mass of 4 million suns. Also the ones spotted are only the type that are binary, where a black hole has partnered with another star and together they emit large amount of x-rays as the star's outer layer is sucked into the black hole. Those x-rays are what astronomers observe.

Networks aim for viewers with shows that have apps

Dear PropellerHeads: I heard about HBO's new series "Mosaic" and the accompanying app. I thought the whole point of TV was to sit on my butt and do nothing. This seems like work.

A: Is there a question in there? If the effort of your inquiries is similar to the amount of effort you put into your entertainment, I think your stories should be starting around 1 p.m. I heard you-know-who is going to finally reveal you-know-what and Tristan is not going to be happy about it. Like sands through the hour glass...

If I've misjudged you and you are like me, a person who lives for TV, movies, really any new and interesting video content, then we should chat. So as much as I think there is no replacement for watching a feature film on the big screen or enjoying a movie or my favorite show large format on my fancy smart TV I find myself watching the majority of my content on my phone these days.

When I saw "Mosaic" on the new HBO lineup and the accompanying app (hbo.com/mosaic/the-mosaic-app), it had a lot of things going for it. HBO, check. Steven Soderbergh, check. Murder mystery, check. Choose your own adventure, whaaa?

HBO and Soderbergh are not the first to go this route for streaming content. Netflix has a couple of offerings geared toward younger viewers with a similar set-up (bit.ly/2aRkKug6). They can do this straight from the Netflix app, no additional downloads. My kids are really into both, and the only downside I have found is that the remote is stickier than I would like.

Before I get into my review of the



Mosaic experience let me preface it with this: I will provide no spoilers on content. Except they all die. Wait, that was Lost. No, The Walking Dead. Maybe it was Pretty Little Liars? Anyways, one of those is probably ruined for you now. My, B.

If you didn't know, Mosaic and its accompanying app is a murder mystery that is played out in disjointed snippets from different characters' perspectives. If you watch the show traditionally on HBO it plays out with choppy edits, locations, storylines, and moments in time and it probably takes until the end of the first episode to really know what's happening. If you choose to use the app you start with the central character (played by Sharon Stone) and then are provided with a series of choices of how you would like the story to unfold on a digital story map.

Here's my over under on the whole experience:

What I like:

■ I like the idea. I am totally the nerd who thinks a murder mystery dinner theater experience is a good use of time.

■ Paul Raebens is in this. Poe Woo. He is ridiculous and his character is unnecessary, but I still just like that he showed up in the first episode and in the app very quickly which enticed me to watch, even though both start off slowly. Also, Duff from Back To The Future is in this too. Again, not a main character, just a mo-

ment of... that was a choice.

■ The app's story map has easily consumable chunks of content. Each is about 20 minutes so you can binge if you have the time, or click through little by little.

■ There are some quietly good and awkward performances (Devin Ratray as Nate is everything). This has a lot to do with Soderbergh's style. There's weird timing to discussions and everything has a filter or haze to it which puts the viewer off-center. He's not afraid to make someone a super nerd but make you like them better than anyone else on screen.

■ The app has imbedded additional content in each of the storylines. They pop up with a little lightning bolt icon and are about 30 seconds to 2 minutes of additional video that will give you backstory or a clue that directly relates to the storyline you are watching. The first time I had this appear on the app I ignored it because I thought it would pull me out of the story, and I was trying to pay attention. But once I watched one, I was eagerly anticipating them. Because where the story would seem disjointed, these snippets would give you just enough information to clarify a point or keep you intrigued and watching.

■ The app is free and you don't have to have HBO to try it out. HBO doesn't give away things for free, except for marathons of Footie Tang (bit.ly/25tazxn) during the free preview weekends.

What I don't like:

■ So this isn't the best show. I typically like a lot of HBO series, but I don't think I would qualify this as top tier. The central love story is creepy and hard to believe. Although many of the central characters are anti-heroes there still needs to be some

likability to keep the audience engaged and it's hard to find that at times. Sometimes Sharon Stone is really fun to watch and sometimes her performance seems really unauthentic. Smitten, flirty Sharon Stone gives me the heebie jeebies.

■ Watching the traditional episodes on HBO left me a little meh. This could be because I navigated the app experience first, and that was built to embrace the disjointedness of the story, since the user is really piecing together a puzzle. Watched in a traditional sense it seems unnecessarily choppy. Rather than leaving you wanting more information, you seem to spend laborious time figuring out why this is being played out in the order it is, and will it be worth it in the end?

Overall, I think if you have HBO and have gobs of time on your hands you could try it out the way I did and compare the two. If you don't have HBO, I think it's worth downloading the app and digging through the first 2-3 storylines and clues and seeing if it strikes your fancy.

If I'm being honest I haven't officially gotten to the bottom of whodunit. But if you ask, me I think it was Colonel Mustard in the Library with the candlestick. Sorry, I know I said no spoilers.

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email us at askthepropellerheads@data-directions.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at data-directions.com/askthepropellerheads.



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