

# MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018

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## DIGITAL LIFE

Microsoft attempts to limit people's distractions.

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## HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

The Midland Christian boys and Trinity teams prepare to compete in state tournaments.

Page 1C

## Exxon could become Permian's most active driller

Company plans to be operating 30 rigs by end of 2018, up from current 27

By Ken Crowley  
Bloomberg

Texas dirt is emerging as Exxon Mobil Corp.'s best bet to arrest production declines that are threatening its position as the world's most valuable listed oil company.

Exxon could become the most active driller in the Texas and New Mexico basin by year's end, with a plan for at least 30 operating rigs. Now, Concho Resources

Inc. is the most active driller with 26 rigs, if its planned \$8 billion acquisition of RSP Permian Inc. is included, according to RS Energy Group.

Chief Executive Officer Darren Woods has Exxon boosting spending to more than \$30 billion a year by the mid-2020s, with major projects planned worldwide. But its production lag in the meantime has been difficult. Exxon's first-quarter output was the worst since 1999, spurring a 3.8 percent share drop on Friday. The company's shale

business has been a small slice of the pie for the eight years, but is now its fastest-turnaround major project.

"It's good dirt," said Mark Stoeckle, who manages \$2.4 billion including Exxon shares at Adams Express Co. in Boston. "But I don't know how much the Permian can move the needle near term."

After entering shale with the \$35 billion acquisition of XTO Energy in 2010, production was minimal compared with Exxon's global reach. Now it's

becoming a critical component of the company's strategy. It wants to increase production to around 800,000 barrels a day by 2025, equivalent to about 20 percent of its global output today.

U.S. rival Chevron Corp. is following a similar path in the Permian, capitalizing on its low-royalty acreage inherited from the collapse of the Texas-Pacific railroads in the 19th century. It had 17 drilling rigs

Please see EXXON/2A



## TOUCHING HISTORY

Midlander M.J. Dinkins, a World War II veteran, took part in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Dinkins visited the nation's capital last year with Permian Basin Honor Flight.

## Honor Flight experience impacts local WWII veteran

By Simone Jasper  
sjasper@mrt.com

Midland resident M.J. Dinkins was a young adult when he had the chance to touch a plane that made a mark on history. More than seven decades later, the World War II veteran experienced an emotional reunion.

"I never thought I would see the plane again, and it just got to me," said Dinkins, 93. "I broke down."

Last spring, Dinkins had a second opportunity to see the Enola Gay, the aircraft that carried the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. He said the experience brought back memories of his service in the U.S. Navy.

"I was in the invasion of the Mariana Islands — Tinian — and that's where they brought

### More information

The Permian Basin Honor Flight invites local veterans to apply for the next trip, scheduled for May 17-18. For more information about the nonprofit, visit permianhonorflight.org.

the bomb that dropped on Hiroshima in 1945," Dinkins said. "I was there. I (saw) the B-29, Enola Gay, that carried it over there, and I put my hand on it."

Dinkins most recently saw the U.S. plane at the National Air and Space Museum, which was one stop for passengers who traveled on the Permian Basin Honor Flight.

The nonprofit offers expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., for veterans who served in World War II and



Midlander M.J. Dinkins, a World War II veteran, had the opportunity to see the Enola Gay during a visit last year to the National Air and Space Museum. The museum was part of the tour for participants of Permian Basin Honor Flight.

the Korean and Vietnam wars. Participants and their families have the opportunity to visit

sites that were created to honor

Please see FLIGHT/2A

## Water pressure is an issue, according to analysis

Council hears presentation on city's system that indicates improvements, water line expansion could cost up to \$35 million

By Stewart Doreen  
sdoreen@mrt.com

Issues with water pressure below regulatory requirements and expanding the water system to new development are forcing city leaders to examine the water system and its needs moving forward.

During the briefing session before Tuesday's Midland City Council meeting, members were presented with early findings from the Water System Model Analysis.

The presentation offered the following preliminary findings:

- In certain areas, water pressure is below regulatory requirements because of infrastructure limitations.

- System expansion is needed to support growth and development in the northeast part of Midland.

Laura Wilson, utilities director for the city of Midland, said last week that it is time for the city "to move forward again," make the system more robust and accommodate future development.

As it pertains to pressure issues, a presentation of the analysis findings showed areas in south, east and northeast Midland are plagued by low water pressure during high demand periods because of growth or infrastructure limitations. A "Pressure Plane Map" of Midland shows that the west side of the city is part of a "high pressure plane." The east side is described as being part of a "low pressure plane." Pressure problems might be because of the size of the water line or elevation. Either way, Wilson said water pressure is key for

Please see PRESSURE/2A

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 250 million dollars: That's how much "Infinity Ward" earned on opening weekend. Page 4A  
**Word of the Day**  
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**FLIGHT**

From 1A

their military service. "I don't think you're going to hear one vet say anything bad about this flight," said Teresa Galloway, flight chairman. "For so many of them, this is a healing process they didn't know they needed."

Years before the trip, Dinkins was drafted into the military while living in his native Ladena. He served as a steward on the USS YMS-296, a minesweeper that helped to clear areas in the Pacific so other troops could arrive.

Dinkins said as a young adult, he was focused on his duties and didn't realize the significance of his actions. While serving, he remembers getting word the plane set to carry an atomic bomb was nearby.

"It was just on the runway, sitting out," Dinkins said. "That's why they invaded Saipan and Tinian, to get the islands...to bring the B-29 there."

Today, Dinkins enjoys sharing his story with other generations. He wants young people to know the armed forces can introduce them to experiences they may not have otherwise.

"It is good for any youngster to take a year or two in the military because they learn how to take orders and be disciplined," Dinkins said.

After he was discharged from the military, Dinkins moved to Lubbock then to California, where he worked on a merchant vessel that traveled to Vietnam. He said he held other government-related jobs, including at federal buildings and on naval bases.

Dinkins settled in Midland in 1993 and eventually became a part of Brothers Reaching Others for Christ. Once a week, group members deliver a Christian message near Dorothy's Place on North Lee Street.



The FletcherReporter-Telegram

M.J. Dinkins, World War II veteran and participant in the Honor Flight to Washington D.C., is photographed April 18.

"We go in there and witness and talk to people and pray with them," Dinkins said. "They come up to us and ask us for prayer."

Locally, he is also involved with the VFW and Disabled American Veterans, groups that connect people with military backgrounds to various resources.

"We help a lot of families that [have] wives and kids that lost their husband in the service," Dinkins said. "Always in my life I like to help people, so that's what got me involved with both of the organizations."

Dinkins was at a VFW meeting when Galloway saw him wearing a World War II cap. Galloway shared information about the three-day Permian Basin Honor Flight and hoped he would consider participating.

"We definitely encouraged him because he's a World War II vet," she said.

"Our World War II and Korean vets, we're losing at such a fast pace."

At first, Dinkins was unsure about taking part in the Honor Flight activities. But after some convincing from his wife, he decided to go.

"It was just a beautiful trip," Dinkins said. "I really enjoyed it. All veterans should take one."

While near the nation's capital, Dinkins had the chance to take part in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. He joined Honor Flight passengers at memorials, museums and other sites.

"Most of the time, he had nothing but a smile on his face," Galloway said. "If he ever had a desire to go to Washington, he probably never did. This was probably the trip of a lifetime for him."

**Obituaries**



**Carol Eileen Patterson**

Carol Eileen Patterson 74 of Midland, TX, passed away April 19, 2018 in Mount Pleasant, UT, at her daughter's home. She was born January 9, 1944 in Springfield, MA, to Dorcas Eileen Penfield. She was later adopted by her step-father, Harry Ralph Pitsinger Jr. She lived in many places growing up including Hawaii, Italy, Utah and Texas. She graduated from Odessa College with an associates degree.

She married Kenneth Wayne Fletcher on February 15, 1968 in the Honolulu Airport. They had 5 children: Coby (Jubell) Fletcher, Escamela, MI; Diane (Bobby) Resch, Midland, TX; Tamara Cardwell, San Antonio, TX; Rebecca (Dirk) Anderson, Mount Pleasant, UT; Rachel (Dylan) Lowry, Paradise, TX. They were later divorced and she married Charles Patterson in Midland, TX in 1991. He later passed away on October 2, 1994. Carol loved gardening and especially killing the weeds. She spent many hours in her flower and vegetable gardens. Carol spent most of her time doing her favorite thing: traveling to visit her children and grandchildren. She had a great sense of humor and was a wonderful cook. Carol made sure everyone had a full fridge and the recipes to go with it. She is survived by her children; 17 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; siblings, Diane Stratford, Salt Lake City, UT; Jeff (Sharon) Pitsinger, Arnold, MO; Joel (Tony Corvatus) Pitsinger, Salt Lake City, UT; step-sister, Twyla Pitsinger, Mount, UT.

Preceded in death by her step-father, husband Charles Patterson; mother, Dorcas Eileen Pitsinger; and son-in-law, David Cardwell. A viewing will be held Sunday April 22, 2018 at Ramussen Mortuary (96 N. 100 W) in Mount Pleasant, UT from 6:00-7:30 pm and a graveside service will be held May 28, 2018 in Midland, TX, at Sunset Memorial Gardens (6801 E Business 20, Odessa, TX).



**Michael "Mike" Mestas**

Michael "Mike" Mestas, 47, passed away on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at The Branch at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Memorial services will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in Midland.

Mike was born on April 3, 1971 to Lynne and John Mestas in Colorado Springs, Colorado and lived every moment in his life as if it was significant. Whether it be the slightly family dinner, fishing with his parents, or training for the next race, he lived life to its fullest. Many of those family memories were centered on the outdoors, as he passed down his love of camping, hiking, and exploring, to his two daughters Lois and Mary.

Mike was a loving husband to his wife of 20 years, Rooney and was always her calm in any storm. When he wasn't making memories with his family, Mike was swimming, biking, and running, as he trained for his favorite pastime, triathlons. One of his greatest attributes was his ability to motivate others to live their best life. Whether he was encouraging his daughters to try a new skill, or a fellow triathlete training for the next race, he truly brought out the best in every person he met.

You could see his firm work ethic in all he accomplished as a Geostering Specialist with Conoco Energy Co. His strong moral compass was deeply rooted in his belief in the Golden Rule, and he felt that what you put out into the world is what you get back. Whether he was whistling as he worked or making playfins, his love of music was evident. Though Mike was extremely focused, those who spent time with him always walked away with a smile on their face thanks to his sense of humor. For all the things he will be remembered for,

his true legacy will be his daughters.

Mike is survived by his wife, Rooney Mestas; daughters, Lola and Mary Jane; parents, Lynne and John Mestas; sister, Jennifer Mestas; and grandfather, "Gramps" Jose Mestas.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Harold and Marjorie Spradling and Minnie Mestas.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be donated to the Midland YMCA, Restoration Farms, or Lone Star Animal Shelter.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 559-2000



**Roman Diaz**

Roman Diaz, 91, of Midland, passed away Thursday, April 26, 2018.

Roman was born February 27, 1927 in Coleman, Texas to Maria Esther Vidauri and Roman Diaz. He married Juanita Valdez Diaz and they have been married 71 years. He was a laborer, he did construction, and worked in the oil field; in his spare time enjoyed baseball.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita Diaz; daughter, Eva Granada; son, Roman Diaz, Jr.; a sister, Joie Gutierrez; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Rosary will be held on Monday April 30, 2018 at Ellis Funeral Home at 7:00 p.m.

A Mass will be at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Online condolences may be offered at [www.ellisfunerals.com](http://www.ellisfunerals.com).

Ellis Funeral Home Funerals & Cremations

Denny 901.555.1111

**Death Notices**

**Guida Louisa**

**Bronson**

Guida Louisa Bronson, 87 of Midland, passed away on Friday, April 27, 2018. No services will be held.

**Voting rights groups want Texas' electoral maps drawn by citizens**

By James Barragan  
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — To prevent gerrymandered districts, a coalition of civil and voting rights groups wants Texas citizens to draw the state's electoral maps.

For seven years, the state of Texas has defended its statehouses and congressional maps against allegations that they were drawn in 2011 with the purpose of minimizing the voting power of African-Americans and Latinos.

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case for the second time, and if the justices side with the map's challengers, they could hear the case again before it's resolved.

Members of a coalition of civil and voting rights groups say there's a way to avoid the years of legal back-and-forth that have cost taxpayers millions of dollars: The state could establish an independent redistricting commission in which citizens, not lawmakers, draw the electoral maps.

"We'll just keep doing these endless cycles of litigation for years to come if we keep this system in place where the people drawing the district lines are the same people who will be running in those districts," Anthony Gutierrez, executive director of Common Cause Texas, said in a news release. "Our Fair Maps coalition will be presenting a package of common sense reforms designed to let voters be the ones selecting their representatives and not the other way around."

Several groups make up the Fair Maps coalition: Common Cause Texas, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Texas League of Women Voters, the Texas Civil Rights Project, the Texas Progressive Action Network, Common Ground for Texas, Clean Elections Texas and TexPIRG.

Q: Has this been tried?

A: Several states have created independent commissions, including California, Arizona, Maine, Montana and Washington, and advocates in Texas have kicked the idea around for years. Former state Sen. Jeff Westworth, a San Antonio Republican, was known for introducing bills that would create such a body and the Senate passed bills in 2005, 2007 and 2011 before they died in the House.

In 2017, Dallas Democrat Victoria Neave introduced a joint resolution in the House that would create an independent commission, but it went nowhere.

Q: What are the benefits of an independent commission?

A: The argument for independent commissions is that they keep politicians and their interests out of the decision-making and minimize the risk of legal battles or partisan fights, said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston.

But getting politicians to give up that power is an uphill battle.

"Your average politician is not going to give up one of their most important powers. In particular, the party in the majority," said Mark Jones, a political science professor at Rice University. "Controlling the redistricting process provides the majority party with a profound political advantage, and I can't imagine Texas Republicans giving that advantage up anytime soon."

Q: Are there any drawbacks to having independent commissions?

A: Jones said independent commissions should not be looked at as panaceas. States with independent commissions still face legal challenges to their electoral maps. And though the method of choosing commissioners varies from state-to-state, it is hard to fully eliminate partisanship. Commissioners are often chosen by state officials or political parties.

Q: What are the chances this could happen in Texas?

A: It's unrealistic, Jones said. But Gutierrez said the coalition plans to ask lawmakers during next year's legislative session to pass a joint resolution that would put the issue on the state ballot in 2019. Once voters are presented with the idea of an independent commission, Gutierrez said he is confident they would approve it. But getting that far would require the support of two-thirds of each legislative chamber. The shift toward independent commissions usually happens in states that have either a less polarized political atmosphere or a way for citizens to get initiatives directly on the ballot.

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**Sutherland Springs church members invited to White House**

Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS — The White House has invited members of the Texas church where a gunman killed more than

two dozen people last year to Washington for the National Day of Prayer.

The San Antonio Express-News reports that five members of First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs will

join President Donald Trump for a prayer service Thursday.

They include Frank and Sherri Penney, the church's pastor and his wife. Their 14-year-old daughter, Ashlee, was among three killed during the November massacre. Authorities put the official death toll at 26 because one of the 25 people killed was pregnant.

Sherri Penney told the newspaper she was honored by the invitation.

**PRESSURE**

From 1A

fire protection and meeting the state-required minimum amount of pressure to reduce the possible contamination in the system.

The presentation showed that the city of Midland has 44,600 customer service connections, 850 miles of water mains, four pressure planes, six elevated storage tanks, four pump stations and multiple water sources. The average daily water delivery in 2017 to residents and businesses inside Midland was 19.1 million gallons.

The presentation also indicated improvement projects would come at a cost. Those projects include:

- The Whalley Avenue elevated storage tank piping modifications.

**EXXON**

From 1A

in the basin as of Friday, compared with Exxon's 27, according to DrillingInfo Inc.

The stakes are high for Exxon and Woods, whose other global projects such as offshore production in Guyana won't add significant production until the early 2020s. Exxon's shares have tumbled so much against rivals this year that its market value is just \$35 billion more than Royal Dutch Shell Plc. A year ago the figure was \$175 billion. With U.S. shale can

This would help regulate pressure in the northeast high-pressure plane and western low-pressure plane during average demand. The cost is \$600,000; project duration is 18 to 24 months.

• A pressure plane boundary adjustment.

This project would mitigate low water pressure in the western low-pressure plane and optimize existing elevated storage. The cost is \$2.5 million; project duration is two to four years.

The presentation also showed expansion alternatives, which include:

- The northeast pressure zone capacity expansion.

That project would include transmission system improvements, ground storage and a pump station

and a hydro-pneumatic tank. The cost is \$11.2 million; project duration is two to three years.

• The second phase of the northeast pressure zone capacity expansion.

That project includes transmission system improvements and elevated storage for long-term service. The cost is \$8.8 million; project duration for phase 2 is three to six years.

Wilson said the target delivery date for a final report is in July, and the \$25 million to \$35 million in improvement and expansion costs is subject to change. Impact fees, developer contributions and other funding sources will be on the table whenever recommendations turn into project planning, she said.

who runs the division, said in March.

The higher rig count as well as better efficiency in well completion rates will help give Permian production in the second half of the year, Jeff Woodbury, head of investor relations, said on a conference call Friday without providing details.

But Permian growth will likely, at least, offset declines elsewhere.

There's "no change to our communicated guidance that we would be generally flat with 2017," Woodbury said.

TODAY IN MIDLAND

WORD OF THE DAY

nondescript [non-de-script] adjective 1: belonging or appearing to belong to no particular class or kind: not easily described 2: lacking distinctive or interesting qualities: dull, drab

Things to do

- Wine Flavor: White wines. This edition of the new series explores four white labels available on the menu. 8:30 p.m. at Dean and Grapes, 3211 W. Wesley Ave. \$30. Call 685-4045 for a reservation.
Bingo, 8 p.m. at the Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1500 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.
Bridge game play, 8:45 p.m. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wesley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8585.
Monday Mayhem features unlimited bowling for \$14.99 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlers, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlers.com.
Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Richard Thompson, 8 p.m. at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1708. \$33.50-\$61. wagnernoel.com.

DOT brings awareness to motorcycle crashes

The Texas Department of Transportation is touring the state with its "Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles" campaign, which is being held in conjunction with National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. DOT representatives will be in Midland on May 10. The event will feature a virtual reality game designed to educate motorists to look twice for motorcycles. Motorcycle crashes killed 501 people in Texas last year and seriously injured another 2,101, according to a press release from DOT.

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 30, the 120th day of 2018. There are 245 days left in the year.
Today's highlight: On April 30, 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife of one day, Eva Braun.
On this date: In 1968, New York City police forcibly removed student demonstrators occupying the buildings at Columbia University.
In 1978, President Richard Nixon announced the resignation of top aide H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.
In 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.
In 1988, Gen. Manuel Noriega, brandishing a machine, vowed at a rally to keep fighting U.S. efforts to oust him as Panama's military ruler.
One year ago: President Donald Trump said after North Korea's latest failed rocket launch that commander leader Kim Jong Un would eventually develop better missiles, and that "we can't allow it to happen"; in a taped interview broadcast on CBS "Face the Nation," the president would not discuss the possibility of military action.



Courtesy photo

Albertsons Market and Market Street recently celebrated their company's eighth year as a participant in the Take a Bite Out of Hunger program by delivering 4,860 pounds of apples to the West Texas Food Bank. On hand for the delivery were Libby Campbell, sixth from left, food bank executive director, and Roger Wakefield, from left, Brent Slack, Brian James, Teno Arroyo, Tracey Jordan, John Jameson, Rusty Russell, Gary Lambert, Kenny Copeland, Sara Tarango, Cheryl Wall, Ray Ybarra, all with United Family of Stores. United is the longest-running retail partner in the Take a Bite Out of Hunger program and has donated more than 400,000 pounds of apples over the years, according to a press release from United. The program was created by FirstFruits Marketing of Washington.

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TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* You understand

LEO (July 23-Aug. 23) \*\*\*\*\* Center yourself when dealing with a volatile family member. You will note how the person in question

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) \*\*\*\*\* Be aware of the costs of continuing as you have been. Cutb your spending. Understand that your domestic life might be going through some radical changes. Be careful around someone younger than you who seems to have a hot temper. Tonight: Proceed with more awareness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* You are reasonable, fun and ready to call the shots. Others appreciate your strength and independence. Angry feelings could emerge in what you consider to be an easy conversation. Listen to those who might be upset. Try to get to the source of the issue. Tonight: Say "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\*\* You head in a new direction. Your creativity comes from a source that you might not be aware of. Opportunities seem to arise when you are working through a problem. Use care with your finances, as you could cause yourself quite a problem. Tonight: Not to be found.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* Your depth and insight reflect in your choice of friends. Reach out to someone close to you who seems to be cycling and discussing a new life direction. This person is likely to try to get you to join him or her. As a result, discussion could be lively. Tonight: Where

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\*\* Use your imagination to help you make money. A boss or higher-up knows a lot and shares his or her feedback. Be as realistic as possible when you are standing on new ground. Curb a sense of frustration by dealing directly with the source. Tonight: Make it your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\*\* Your instincts help you move to the next level. Your creativity helps drive a unique point of view. Listen to a friend or a relative who understands what you want and need; he or she will guide you into a positive state of mind. You feel more secure. Tonight: Out among the crowds.

BORN TODAY Baseball player Josh Thomas (1951), actress Kirsten Dunst (1982), actress Claire Lanchman (1926)

ly removed student demonstrators occupying the buildings at Columbia University.
In 1978, President Richard Nixon announced the resignation of top aide H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.
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Weather

Sunday's temperatures High.....87 Low.....59 Normal high.....83 Normal low.....54

April 29's records Record high: 95, set in 1947, repeated in 2011 Record low: 38, set in 1991, repeated in 1998 and 2015

Precipitation Sunday.....0.00 in. Saturday.....0.00 in. Month total.....trace Year total.....0.16 in. Normal total (year to date).....2.5 in.

Winds: South 15-20 mph today and tonight; gusts as high as 30 mph

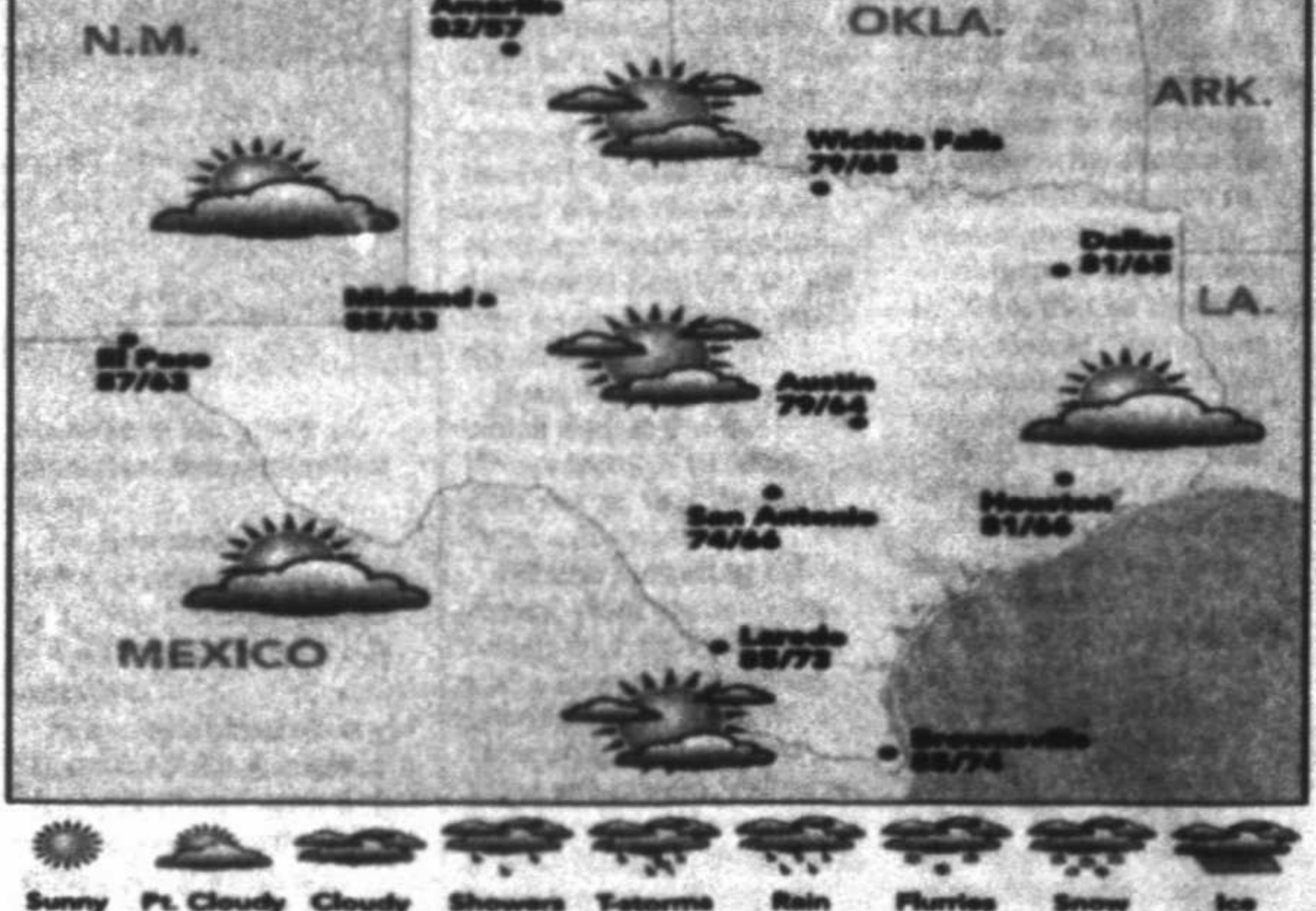
Conditions: Partly sunny today/partly cloudy tonight

Chance of rain: 20 percent today and tonight

Sunrise.....7:04 a.m. Sunset.....8:28 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

Forecast for Monday, April 30, 2018



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Taurus and a Moon in Scorpio.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, April 30, 2018:

This year your finances could be a key issue. Some of you will witness some financial highs, and others are likely to experience some lows. Much has to do with your habits and your perspective about money. If you are single, you meet people with ease, though you might find very strongly about one person in particular. You will want to be very sure of yourself. If you are attached, you and your sweetie will focus on building a stronger financial base. You will notice that the attraction builds between both of you. SCORPIO often challenges you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) \*\*\*\*\* Your imagination is working overtime. You enter the day ready to share a few of your dreams. Don't be swayed by others' judgments. Your ideas will become only stronger with feedback. Your anger could be misdirected. Be careful. Tonight: Make time for a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* You understand

the art of deferring to others, which you are able to do naturally. You know what you want. They fight and sway, and don't let too worried about what has yet to happen. You have no idea which way a situation might go. Tonight: Have some fun with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\*\* Remain outgoing, whether you're at work, at home or going to one of your many appointments. The more jovial your temperament, the easier your day will be. You might be creating a problem by making an assumption. Try to stay open. Tonight: Get some exercise first.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) \*\*\*\*\* Heightened creativity and a new attitude could be the natural outcome of the present moment. You don't need to push so hard to get your way. Let things happen naturally. A partner or loved one could have difficulty accepting what you are doing. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 23) \*\*\*\*\* Center yourself when dealing with a volatile family member. You will note how the person in question

is receptive to your energy. Optimism surrounds your household and/or domestic life. To accomplish more, rearrange your schedule. Tonight: Air out an issue.

VERGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\*\* You generally tell it like it is. As a result, know that you are likely to get a lot of feedback from others. Sort through the comments with care, as there are some important tips layered among them. Look at what might be workable. Your creativity saves the day. Tonight: Hang out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) \*\*\*\*\* Be aware of the costs of continuing as you have been. Cutb your spending. Understand that your domestic life might be going through some radical changes. Be careful around someone younger than you who seems to have a hot temper. Tonight: Proceed with more awareness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* You are reasonable, fun and ready to call the shots. Others appreciate your strength and independence. Angry feelings could emerge in what you consider to be an easy conversation. Listen to those who might be upset. Try to get to the source of the issue. Tonight: Say "yes."

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Chuck Zlotnick/Marvel Studios via AP

This image released by Marvel Studios shows, front row from left, Daniel Gurlin, Chadwick Boseman, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson and Sebastian Stan in a scene from "Avengers: Infinity War."

## 'Infinity War' opens with record \$250M

By Jake Coyle  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A whole lot of superheroes added up to a whole lot of ticket sales.

The superhero smorgasbord "Avengers: Infinity Wars" opened with predictable shock-and-awe, earning \$250 million in box office over the weekend and edging past "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" to set the highest opening weekend of all-time.

"Infinity War," which brings together some two dozen superheroes in the 10-year culmination of Marvel Studio's "cinematic universe," also set a new global opening record with \$630 million even though it's yet to open in China, the world's second-largest movie market. It opens there May 11.

According to the Walt Disney Co.'s estimates Sunday, "Infinity War" overwhelmed the previous global best ("The Fate of the Furious" with \$541.9 million) but narrowly topped "The Force Awakens" in North America. The "Star Wars" reboot debuted with \$248 million in 2015, which would translate to about \$260 million accounting for inflation.

But both intergalactic behemoths belong to Disney, which now owns nine of the top 10 opening weekends ever — six belonging to Marvel releases. That includes "Black Panther," which has grossed \$1.3 billion since opening in February and still managed to rank fifth at this weekend's box office, thanks partially to Marvel fans self-programming a double-feature.

The track record for Marvel, along with the hyper, extravagant effort put into the long-planned "Infinity War," made the record-setting weekend something of a fait accompli.

After ten years, 18 prior

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore.

Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$250 million (\$380 million international).  
2. "A Quiet Place," \$10.7 million (\$8.6 million international).  
3. "I Feel Pretty," \$8.1 million (\$1.4 million international).  
4. "Rampage," \$7.1 million (\$16.2 million international).

International.  
5. "Black Panther," \$4.4 million.  
6. "Super Troopers 2," \$3.6 million.  
7. "Bath & Beyond," \$3.2 million (\$2.8 million international).  
8. "Bladders," \$2.9 million (\$1.6 million international).  
9. "Ready Player One," \$2.4 million (\$8.5 million international).  
10. "Walk," \$1.6 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters

(including the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore.

1. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$380 million.  
2. "Us and Them," \$88.8 million.  
3. "Rampage," \$16.2 million.  
4. "A or B," \$15.2 million.

5. "Ready Player One," \$8.6 million.  
6. "A Quiet Place," \$6.6 million.  
7. "Peter Rabbit," \$5.3 million.  
8. "Tad 3," \$3.8 million.  
9. "Georgia Khan," \$3.4 million.  
10. "The Trough," \$2.9 million.

films and some \$15 billion in box office, the weekend was an assured and long-awaited coronation for Kevin Feige's Marvel, the most dominant force in a Hollywood with precious few sure things.

"To have now the biggest movie of domestic history as one of the Marvel cinematic universe films seems like a fitting tribute to the Marvel Studios team which has had just an astounding, unmatched run in the last decade," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney.

By any measure, the 2-hour-and-40-minute-long "Infinity War" is one of the largest films ever assembled.

With a production budget reportedly almost \$300 million, Joe and Anthony Russo's film brings together the stars of Marvel's superhero stable, including Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man, Chris Hemsworth's Thor, Chadwick Boseman's Black Panther, Chris Evans' Captain America, Mark Ruffalo's Hulk, and many more.

It was shot over 18 months back-to-back with

a sequel due out next summer. Marvel spent years laying the groundwork for the big showdown, teasing its villain (Josh Brolin's Thanos) since 2014.

The result earned positive reviews (84 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and an A CinemaScore from audiences.

All but one of Marvel's 19 cinematic universe releases has scored an A CinemaScore.

As if to further stamp its pronounced enormity, "Infinity War" was also the first film shot entirely with IMAX cameras.

(Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk" was mostly shot on IMAX.) IMAX screenings accounted for a record \$41 million of the weekend's global ticket sales. Greg Foster, head of entertainment for IMAX Corp., said the success of Marvel stands apart from Hollywood's other mega franchises.

"This isn't something their parents saw. This isn't an old franchise that their parents saw when they were 20," said Foster. "This is theirs. The Marvel

universe is the group of characters this generation owns."

No new wide releases dared to compete with "Infinity War," which played at 4,474 theaters in North America.

In a very distant second place was John Krasinski's "A Quiet Place" with \$10.7 million in its fourth week. With \$148.2 million in total ticket sales, the Paramount Pictures thriller had topped the box office three of the last four weekends.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore, credited Marvel with the potent lead-up to "Infinity Wars" with "Spider-Man: Homecoming," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," "Thor: Ragnarok" and "Black Panther" — all successful and well-reviewed entries.

"This brought the world together this weekend," said Dergarabedian. "That's what these movies do: They remind us why we love going to the movie theater. A movie like this shows the singular and unique experience of going into a movie theater."

## Trump gives thumbs-down to comic who roasted his spokeswoman

By Darlene Superville  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The reviews are in: President Donald Trump gave a thumbs-down Sunday to the comedian who roasted his chief spokeswoman at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner, offending present and past members of his administration, including one who walked out in protest.

The organization's leader said she regretted that Michelle Wolf's routine may end up defining an evening that was designed to rally around journalism.

"Everyone is talking about the fact that the White House Correspondents Dinner was a very big, boring bust...the so-called comedian really 'bombed,'" Trump tweeted Sunday.

The president, who regularly lobs sharp attacks at the news media, including individual news organizations and reporters, declined to attend the journalism awards dinner for the second consecutive year. He instead held a campaign rally in Michigan.

Wolf is known as a contributor on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah." But some of her jokes, particularly a series of barbs about White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders as Sanders sat just feet away, seemed to spark the most outrage.

Sam Spicer, who preceded Sanders at the White House lectern, tweeted after dinner that the night "was a disgrace."

Others, including Ed Henry, chief national correspondent for Fox News and a former association president, and MSNBC's "Morning Joe" co-host Mika Brzezinski, called on the association to apologize to Sanders. Brzezinski has been the subject of personal attacks by Trump. Henry also called on Wolf to apologize.

Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union, tweeted that he and his wife, Mercedes Schlapp, director of strategic communications at the White House, walked out of the dinner. "Enough of elites mocking all of us," he said.

Margaret Talev, the association's president and Bloomberg News' senior White House correspondent, said she didn't want a dinner celebrating the constitutional right to free speech to be overshadowed by the ensuing uproar over Wolf's jokes.

"My only regret is that to some extent those 15 minutes are now defining four hours of what was a

really wonderful unifying night and I don't want the cause of unity to be undercut," Talev said Sunday on CNN's "Reliable Sources."

Talev said she spoke to Sanders after Wolf's routine and "I told her that I knew that this was a big decision whether or not to attend the dinner, whether to sit at the head table and that I really appreciated her being there."

"I thought it sent an important message about the role of government and the press and being able to communicate with one another and work together," Talev added.

No Trump administration officials attended the dinner last year after Trump decided to skip it. Many were in the audience Saturday night, however, including counselor Kellyanne Conway, herself a target of Wolf, and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. Sanders sat at the head table with association board members.

Talev said that, by tradition, the association does not review the comedian's monologue before it is delivered.

"We don't censor it. We don't even see it," she said. Wolf tweeted "thank you" to Spicer.

As he did last year, Trump flew to a Republican-friendly district to rally supporters in an attempt to counter the dinner. He assured the audience in Washington Township, Michigan, a state he won in 2016, that he'd rather be there than at "that phony Washington White House Correspondents' Dinner."

Wolf's act, which also included abortion jokes, had some in the audience laughing. Others sat in stony silence.

Among Wolf's less off-color one-liners:

"Just a reminder to everyone, I'm here to make jokes, I have no agenda, I'm not trying to get anything accomplished, so everyone that's here from Congress you should feel right at home."

"It is kinda crazy that the Trump campaign was in contact with Russia when the Hillary campaign wasn't even in contact with Michigan."

"He wants to give teachers guns, and I support that because then they can sell them for things they need like supplies."

Wolf closed by saying, "Flint still doesn't have clean water," a reference to the Michigan city where lead-tainted tap water flowed into homes for 18 months before a disaster was declared in 2015.

The state recently decided to end distribution of free bottled water in Flint, saying the tap water was now as "good or better" than in many communities.

## In Michigan, Trump urges voters to support GOP for Congress

By Kevin Freking  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — President Donald Trump, who ditched the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner for a campaign-style rally in Michigan, urged voters to support Republicans for Congress and repeatedly cited Sen. Debbie Stabenow as one of the Democrats who needed to be voted out of office.

Trump took aim at familiar political targets and added a few fresh ones Saturday night at the rally in Washington Township.

"Debbie Stabenow is one of the leaders for weak borders and letting people in. I don't know how she gets away with it," Trump said. "A vote for a Democrat in November is a vote for open borders and crime. It's very simple. It's also a vote for much higher taxes."

Stabenow, who is running for reelection to her fourth term, fired back Sunday that voters are sick of the partisan jab.

"Michigan families are tired of political attacks," said her spokeswoman, Miranda Margovsky. "Instead, they want results, and that's exactly what Sen. Stabenow has done."

In Michigan, Trump also directed his ire at another Democratic senator, Jon Tester of Montana, over his role in the failed nomination of White House doctor Ronny Jackson to run the Department of Veterans Affairs. Tester, too, faces a competitive reelection race this year.

"I know things about Tester that I could say, too. And if I said 'em, he'd never be elected again," Trump said without elaborating.

Tester, the top Democrat on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, had his staff compile a list of allegations against Jackson based on interviews with more than 20 military personnel, and they released it with the support of the Republican committee chairmen.

Jackson was a surprise pick by Trump for VA secretary. The White House was criticized for skipping crucial vetting of nominees and letting lawmakers to clean up the mess.

As he has at similar events, Trump promoted top agenda items that energize conservatives: appointing conservative judges, building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, ending sanctuary cities and protecting tax cuts approved by the Republican-led Congress.

He also took credit for the

warming relations between North and South Korea, telling his audience, "We'll see how it goes."

"Great evening last night," the president tweeted early Sunday. "The enthusiasm, knowledge and love in that room was unreal. To the many thousands of people who couldn't get in, I cherish you... and will be back!"

Trump chose a friendly venue for his rally, which not coincidentally came the same night as the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner. He skipped the dinner last year.

"White Washington, Michigan, was a big success. Washington, D.C., just didn't work. Everyone is talking about the fact that the White House Correspondents Dinner was a very big, boring bust...the so-called comedian really 'bombed,'" Trump tweeted.

That barb was directed at Michelle Wolf, who provided the after-dinner entertainment for the White House press corps and their guests, and whose performance was surprisingly raucous. After one crass joke drew groans from the audience, Wolf laughed and said, "Yeah, shoulda done more research before you got me to do this."

Before the Michigan rally, Trump had said in a fundraising pitch that he had come up with something better than being stuck in a room "with a bunch of fake news liberals who hate me." He said he would spend the evening "with my favorite Republicans."

## Sprint and T-Mobile agree to combine in \$26.5 billion deal

By Stan Choe  
and Tali Arbel  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — T-Mobile and Sprint reached a \$26.5 billion merger agreement Sunday that would reduce the U.S. wireless industry to three major players — that is, if the Trump administration's antitrust regulators let the deal go through.

The nation's third- and fourth-largest wireless companies have been considering a combination for years, one that would bulk them up to a smaller size as industry giant Verizon and AT&T. But a 2014 attempt fell apart amid resistance from the Obama administration.

The combined company, to be called T-Mobile, would have about 127 million customers. Consumers worry a less crowded telecom field could result in higher prices, while unions are concerned about

potential job losses.

In a conference call with Wall Street analysts, Sprint CEO Marcelo Clauss acknowledged getting regulatory approval is "the elephant in the room," and one of the first things the companies did after sending out the deal's news release was to call Ajit Pai, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

The companies stressed they plan to have more employees following the combination, particularly in rural areas, than they do as stand-alone companies now.

They also emphasized that the deal would help accelerate their development of faster 5G wireless networks and ensure that the U.S. doesn't cede leadership on the technology to China.

And they said the combination would allow them to better compete not only with AT&T and Verizon but also with Comcast and others as the wireless, broadband and video industries converge.

# Prosecutors: Bill Cosby sexual-assault conviction will stand

By Michael R. Sisak  
Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — In the tense moments before a jury convicted Bill Cosby of sexual assault, the prosecutor who had branded him a "con man" and called him out for laughing during closing arguments started to worry about the global implications if the #MeToo era's first big trial went the other way.

Accuser Andrea Constand's allegations that Cosby had drugged and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004, revived out of nearly a decade of dormancy by another comedian's viral joke, had coalesced into a movement of women who said he violated them, too.

Prosecutor Kristen Feden told The Associated Press she was "nervous for Andrea and for sex crime victims as a whole" at Cosby's retrial.

"I felt like this verdict could dictate something more," Feden said. "If they found him not guilty, I felt like they were feeding into every character assassination on sex crime victims."

Feden and prosecutor Stewart Ryan spoke to the AP on Saturday about the nearly three-year journey from reopening the Cosby case to last Thursday's verdict, how they restructured their approach after last year's hung jury and the sacrifices they faced along the way.

Cosby, 80, is now a prisoner in his own home and faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind bars as he awaits sentencing within the next three months on three counts of aggravated indecent assault. He has maintained his innocence. His publicist has declared his conviction a "public lynching," and his lawyers have vowed to appeal.

But Feden and Ryan said they are confident Cosby's conviction will stand.

Cosby's first trial ended in a deadlocked jury last year. Prosecutors started thinking about a retrial as last year's deliberations wore on for six days, Ryan said.

"We could kind of see the writing on the wall with the first jury," he said.

Two days after Cosby's conviction, law books and papers were still strewn on a long table in the war room where prosecutors plotted their strategy: leading off with

an expert to educate the jury in victim behavior, successfully fighting to call five additional accusers and fending off the defense's allegations that Constand was a scammer framing Cosby for a big payday.

The additional accusers allowed prosecutors to unmask the man once revered as America's Dad as a manipulative predator who used his built-in trust to trick women into taking powerful intoxicants so he could violate them. One woman pointedly called Cosby a "serial rapist," and another asked him through her tears, "You remember, don't you, Mr. Cosby?"

Feden said she felt "that needed to be exposed."

"That was the most sickening part of this all," she said. "When people in positions of power use that power to victimize people, I find that to be beyond disgusting."

Then-District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman reopened the Cosby investigation in July 2015 after a federal judge, acting on a request from the AP, unsealed portions of Cosby's deposition testimony from a civil lawsuit he settled with Constand in 2006 for \$3.4 million. In the testimony, which was read to jurors at both trials, he described giving quaaludes to women before sex in the 1970s and his encounters with Constand, a Temple University women's basketball administrator.

Ryan likened Cosby's description of a purported sexual encounter with Constand to "reading some disgusting pornography novel." He said the testimony, far more explicit than what Cosby said in his lone police statement, showed "exactly what's going on" in his mind.

Feden questioned Constand. Ryan cross-examined star defense witness Marguerite Jackson. Together they delivered a closing argument that wrested the "con artist" label from the defense and pushed back at suggestions the case was outside the statute of limitations.

Feden, a point guard in her basketball days, said she pivoted immediately when she saw Cosby out of the corner of her eye, smirking as she spoke about the similarities in Cosby's conduct with Constand and the five other accusers.

"He's laughing at the cost of these women? And then Andrea Constand's in the courtroom? I'm furious," Feden said. "No one in this courtroom is laughing. I understand that you're a comedian, but this is not funny. This is not your stage. This is what you did wrong."

Judge Steven O'Neill's court crier called Ryan with the news that a verdict was in around lunchtime, about 14 hours after jurors started deliberating. Ryan quickly relayed the news to his boss, District Attorney Kevin Steele.

He told Constand, who testified that she wanted justice, and he called Feden, who had been so dedicated to seeing the case through that she worked out a deal to stay as a special prosecutor after leaving for the Philadelphia law firm Stradley Ronon.

Cosby's case drew worldwide attention. The courtroom gallery was filled with reporters, and cameras lined the railings outside the courthouse.

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# OPINION

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## Latinos shouldn't be judged for serving in CBP

■ Officers are proud to be able to support their families

It's seen by some as just one of the many paradoxes you'll find at the border. But if you think about it, it makes perfect sense that about half of the agents in U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are Hispanic: It's a steady, government gig with decent benefits and pay in a geographic location with lots of bilingual Latinos looking to gain a foothold in America's middle class.

Ever since President Trump announced he wants to hire 5,000 more border patrol agents, Latinos interested in joining the agency have flocked to citizens academies sponsored by CBP. The Los Angeles Times reported last week. During these academies, participants tour the border and take part in interactive demonstrations on such topics as tracking, search and rescue, self-defense, firearms tactics and inspections for prohibited agricultural items.

A Times reporter followed a group of 11 people — 10 of whom were Latino — who were participating in the El Centro Sector Border Patrol citizens' academy. This will not be surprising to anyone who has traveled to the border lately.

**ESTHER CEPEDA**  
Washington Post Writers Group



When I toured the Bridge of the Americas border crossing in El Paso in 2015, it was difficult to find any CBP staff who weren't Hispanic.

When asked what their friends and family think of their line of work, most of the border agents I've spoken with over the years have acknowledged being deft at changing the subject or enduring awkward conversations with grace.

But Latino CBP employees also express a lot of pride in being able to create a life for themselves and their family. Not only do agents almost always note that the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the CBP, is a great place to build a career, they'll also tell you it is one of the few employment opportunities left in this economy that doesn't require a bachelor's degree.

Those of us who recoil at the indignities, injustices and, frankly, human-rights

violations that happen at the border like to imagine that we'd never accept a job for a government bureau associated with work that has been so destructive to Latino communities and families. But a fair analysis reveals that many of us have a lot of privilege that allows us to not have to even consider that line of work.

Very few Latinos looking at CBP careers attended college or have enough social capital to launch a white-collar job search.

Even fewer CBP employees are like Francisco Cantu, a former Fulbright fellow, four-year border patrol agent and the author of "The Line Becomes a River." Cantu was skewered by protesters at his recent book readings for being a "sell-out" and profiting from recounting the tragic stories he witnessed and took part in while on the job.

Cantu left CBP to recuperate from the mental and emotional strain of policing the border and took refuge in completing his master of fine arts degree in nonfiction writing. He's certainly not the poster boy for the type of working-class people who typically turn to federal jobs to become the first in their family to own a home or to help finance college for the first in their family to attempt a degree.

For Cantu, a third-generation Mexican-

American, being accused of making his name off the pain of those he was policing on the border is surely unpleasant. But being a highly educated — and now award-winning — literary figure surely dulls some of the sting.

An acquaintance of mine works for CBP in spite of the bad rap — and the occasional questions about his ethnic loyalties — so he can have a comfortable home and send his kids to college, and so his wife can afford to take a public-school teaching job.

In the end, Latinos will — as they always do — go through whatever painful personal travails are required to make it in this country, lending truth to the stereotype that they'll take any job to scratch out a better life for themselves and their families.

It's easy to criticize such choices — some people think there's a special place in hell for Latinos who play a part in the American government's border militarization complex — but this, too, is a privilege of sorts and should come with a grain of empathy.

Latinos should not add to the enmity faced by these officers on the border until they've walked in their dusty, not-too-many-other-options shoes.

### GUEST VIEW

## New rule could control health costs if smartly applied

One of the easiest things to do in life is complain about a health insurance company. So we feel like we're going out a limb in offering support for a new policy announced by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, even as we do so with an important caveat.

The new policy is this: Starting in June, the largest health insurer in Texas will require some of the people it covers to pay the full cost of a visit to the emergency room if it is later determined that visit was to treat an issue that was better taken care of outside of the ER.

The policy itself is limited to people in an HMO plan that doesn't cover out-of-network doctor visits. Children younger than 1 will be exempt. This will apply to about 500,000 people out of the 5 million covered by Blue Cross Blue Shield in the Lone Star State.

The reason we find this idea intriguing is simple. One driver of health insurance costs is how people consume health care. People often visit the ER (the most expensive place to get care), when they should see a primary care physician. So a trip to the ER to treat head lice — an example the insurer gave in rolling out the new policy — is a very expensive way to deal with an annoying but nonlife-threatening issue.

If Texans are more active in managing the cost of their care while also working to ensure they are getting the care they need, we'll be a little closer to creating an affordable health care system. But we have a big caveat. This is potentially a smart idea, but it needs to be smartly applied. Head lice is one thing. But if this policy is applied to a wide set of health ailments, it might discourage someone from heading to the emergency room who legitimately needs the ER.

Indigestion can sometimes lead to symptoms that are hard to distinguish from more serious chest pains. What seems like a sprained ankle, another one of the insurer's examples, might actually be a broken ankle.

What makes this even more complicated is the proliferation of stand-alone emergency rooms, which look a lot like more routine clinics. About 70 percent of all out-of-network emergency claims come from freestanding ERs. And, like almost everything in Texas, the problem is bigger here. Since 2009, the number of freestanding ERs has grown from zero to more than 200, making it easier to stumble into an expensive choice.

There is a bottom line to all of this. To the extent that this policy leads to better outcomes (lower insurance costs), we are encouraged by the creativity. But we'll be watching to see how it is implemented. No one who is facing a health crisis should be discouraged from heading to the ER.

— The Dallas Morning News

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## Trump has power over immigration

■ Judiciary should let administration have its way with policy

President Donald Trump's immigration policies continue to generate a lot of work for the federal judiciary.

Two of those policies have had divergent fortunes in the courts. The Supreme Court, which just heard arguments about Trump's ban on the entry of people from several countries to the U.S., is widely expected to uphold it. But a federal district court has ruled that the president has to resume his predecessor's policy of granting quasi-legal status to people who came to the U.S. illegally as minors.

The legal issues in both cases are distinct, but in both cases the courts should probably back off and let the administration have its way — even if the resulting policy is unwise or unfair.

The "travel ban" looks more like an attempt to thread a political needle for Trump than an effort to make an appreciable improvement to national security. The administration wanted to be able to say Trump was delivering on the "Muslim ban" he promised during the 2016 campaign without getting struck down for religious discrimination, and so came up with a ban on travel from several Muslim and a few non-Muslim countries as a legally viable face-saver.

In the case of the child migrants, even the administration concedes that it is not right to subject people who have spent their whole lives in the U.S., and came here illegally through no fault of their own, to deportation. It argues that it's up to Congress to change this policy, and that President Barack Obama should not have done it on his own.

A key issue in the travel-ban case is whether the courts should use Trump's campaign statements targeting Muslims as evidence that the policy has a discriminatory intent. In an earlier stage of the litigation, Judge Paul Niemeyer, writing in dissent, highlighted some of the dangers of such a judicial practice.

By making it possible for a judge to cherry-pick candidate statements and interpret them uncharitably, he wrote, it would "enable any court to justify its decision to strike down any executive action with which it disagrees." It would also have a chilling effect on candidates' communication with voters during an election, since "any statement made may be used later to support the inference of some nefarious intent when official actions are inevitably subjected to legal challenges."

During the argument at the Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Roberts got Neal Katyal, the lawyer arguing for striking down the travel ban, to admit that President Trump could solve the

**RAMESH PONNURU**  
Bloomberg View



alleged constitutional problem by disavowing his previous statements and re-issuing the ban. (If he then disavowed the disavowal, would the courts, on Katyal's argument, then have to strike it down again?) The Supreme Court should avoid this absurdity by leaving the policy in place.

Federal Judge John Bates, meanwhile, in opposing the administration's move to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, has embraced a different absurdity: that one president may make a unilateral change to immigration policy at his discretion that his successor may not undo.

Obama shielded illegal immigrants who came here as minors from deportation by purporting to be exercising discretion over enforcement. He was, supposedly, merely saying that their deportation should not be a priority for the immigration bureaucracy. The Trump administration questioned the legality of Obama's action, in part because federal courts had blocked another move of his that was similar to it — a grant of quasi-legal status for many illegal immigrants who came here as adults.

Bates does not think that the Trump administration has shown that the amnesty for people who came here as minors was illegal. But it's not clear that should matter. There is no dispute that subjecting these people to deportation and denying them work permits, cruel though it may be, is consistent with the immigration statutes.

Nobody argued, before Obama's policy, that the courts could stop them from being deported or give them work permits. Either the president's enforcement discretion does not go as far as Obama claimed, in which case the Trump policy is obligatory. Or it does go that far, in which case the Trump policy is permissible.

Liberal writer Mark Joseph Stern has argued that in siding with the administration on the travel ban, the conservatives on the Supreme Court are providing "judicial defenses to a president who has done nothing to deserve it." But Trump has done something to deserve it: He won the 2016 election. Courts ought to recognize that this fact gives Trump a great deal of power over immigration policy, whether they like it or not.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore





Saudi Press Agency via AP

In this photo released by Saudi Press Agency, SPA, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, is welcomed by Saudi King Salman on Sunday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Pompeo is using the Middle East leg of his first trip abroad as America's top diplomat to call for concerted international action to punish Iran for its missile programs.

## Pompeo says US stands with Israelis, Saudis against Iran

By Matthew Lee  
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday ratcheted up the Trump administration's rhetoric against Iran and gave warm boosts of support to Israel and Saudi Arabia in their standoffs with Tehran.

Pompeo's comments in Riyadh and then Tel Aviv came as he neared the end of the Middle East leg of his first trip abroad as America's top diplomat. He has called for concerted international action to punish Iran for its missile programs and other actions that he said destabilize the region.

The tough line was welcomed by his hosts, particularly in Israel, which considers Iran its greatest threat and has led calls for the West to revise or reject the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

"We remain deeply concerned about Iran's dangerous escalation of threats to Israel and the region and Iran's ambition to dominate the Middle East remains," Pompeo said after a nearly two-hour meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "The United States is with Israel in this fight."

Israel has cited Iran's hostile rhetoric, support for anti-Israel militant groups and development of long-range missiles.

It also has complained the nuclear deal does not do enough to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear-weapon capability, and expressed concerns about Iran's involvement in the civil war in neighboring Syria. Israel says it will not allow Iran to establish a permanent military presence in Syria, fearing the Iranians use it to launch attacks.

"Iran must be stopped, its quest for a nuclear bomb must be stopped, its aggression must be stopped and we're committed to stopping it together," Netanyahu said.

President Donald Trump is to decide by May 12 whether to keep the U.S. in the nuclear deal. Pompeo repeated the Trump position that "if we can't fix it, he is going to withdraw."

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said the kingdom "supports the policy of the Trump administration against Iran and to improve the terms of the nuclear agreement with Iran."

Netanyahu also welcomed the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the scheduled move of its embassy from Tel Aviv on May 14. Pompeo said the U.S. is "incredibly proud" of that upcoming move.

The Palestinians claim Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as their capital. They have criticized the U.S. move and all but cut off ties with the White House.

Pompeo had no meetings planned with any Palestinian official and it was not immediately clear whether there had been any outreach to the Palestinians about his trip, which ends in Jordan today.

In Riyadh, Pompeo said Iran "destabilizes this entire region" and he also urged the Saudis and their neighbors to resolve a festering dispute with Qatar. U.S. officials say Iran is exploiting it to boost its influence in the region, including in Yemen and Syria.

Pompeo met with Saudi King Salman, whose country, along with Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, is embroiled in a row with Qatar that had undermined Gulf Arab unity and frustrated the U.S. as it seeks to blunt growing Iranian assertiveness.

"I think they would all agree that it's in everyone's best interests that the Gulf states all figure out how to be together," Pompeo told reporters as he traveled to Israel. "We've got a common challenge in Iran I think they all recognize that. We're hopeful that they will in their own way figure out their dispute between them."

The ex-CIA chief had arrived in the kingdom a day earlier, shortly after Iranian-backed Houthis rebels in Yemen fired missiles at Saudi Arabia's southern city of Jizan, killing one person and underscoring what U.S. officials said is a growing threat emanating from Iran.

Pompeo's meetings in Saudi Arabia and Israel, followed by discussions in Jordan, come just weeks ahead of several key dates that could bring further volatility to the region.

Trump is facing heavy pressure from European and other parties to stick to the Iran nuclear deal.

British Prime Minister Theresa May's office said she discussed the agreement with her French and German counterparts and they believe it should remain intact, even while addressing shortcomings.

Trump's new national security adviser John Bolton, a hard-liner like Pompeo on Iran, suggested Trump was unlikely to stay in.

"He certainly said very negative things about the deal, which implied that these other steps wouldn't really address that concern, but, look, it's possible in the discussions with our European allies that we'll be able to see some possibility there," Bolton told "Fox News Sunday."

Also hanging over the trip is the uncertainty about Trump's policy on Syria, which has shifted between a speedy all-out withdrawal of American forces and leaving a lasting footprint to deter Iran from completing a land bridge from Tehran to Beirut.

chuding that civil rights laws don't protect transgender people from discrimination on the job; the override of Obama-era guidance that allowed transgender students to use school bathrooms that matched their gender identities.

Social and religious conservatives are one of the administration's most steadfast constituencies, and the White House has been out front championing their causes, including restrictions on abortion and legal protections for health care providers with moral and religious qualms about particular procedures.

Behind the latest health care dispute is a medically recognized condition called "gender dysphoria" — discomfort or distress caused by a discrepancy between the gender that a person identifies as and the gender at birth. Consequences can include severe depression. Treatment can range from sex-reassignment surgery and hormones to people changing their outward appearance by adopting a different hairstyle or clothing.

"reasonableness, necessity and efficacy" of the Obama-era requirement. He refused to discuss specifics, as the revision is under White House review before its official release.

Groups representing transgender people expect the Obama protections to be gutted and are preparing to take the administration to court.

"The proposed rollback does fit into a pattern of transphobia and anti-LGBT sentiment in this administration," said Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, a lawyer with Lambda Legal, a civil rights organization.

He ran through a checklist: President Donald Trump's call to bar military service by transgender people; Attorney General Jeff Sessions' memo con-

## North Korea offers to give up nukes if US vows not to attack

By Kim  
Tong-Hyung  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told his South Korean counterpart at their historic summit he would be willing to give up his nuclear weapons if the U.S. commits to a formal end to the Korean War and a pledge not to attack the North, Seoul officials said Sunday.

Kim also vowed during his meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday to shut down the North's nuclear test site in May and disclose the process to experts and journalists from South Korea and the United States, Seoul's presidential office said.

While there are lingering questions about whether North Korea will ever decide to fully relinquish its nukes as it heads into negotiations with the U.S., Kim's comments amount to the North's most specific acknowledgement yet that "denuclearization" would constitute surrendering its weapons.

U.S. national security adviser John Bolton reacted coolly to word that Kim would abandon his weapons if the United States pledged not to invade.

Asked on CBS' "Face the Nation" whether the U.S. would make such a promise, Bolton said: "Well, we've heard this before. This is — the North Korean propaganda playbook is an infinitely rich resource."

"What we want to see from them is evidence that it's real and not just rhetoric," he added.

Seoul officials, who have shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to broker talks between Kim and President Donald Trump that are expected in May or June, said Kim has expressed genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons.

But there has been skepticism because North Korea for decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition. The North has long vowed to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its 28,500 troops from South Korea and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

During their summit at a truce village on the border, Moon and Kim promised to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula but made no references to verification or timetables.

Kim also expressed optimism about his meeting with Trump, Moon's spokesman Yoon Young-chan said.

"Once we start talking, the United States will know that I am not a person to launch nuclear weapons at South Korea, the Pacific or the United States," Kim said, according to Yoon.

Yoon also quoted Kim as saying: "If we maintain frequent meetings and build trust with the United States and receive promises for an end to the war and a non-aggression treaty, then why would we need to live in difficulty by keeping our nuclear weapons?"

The Korean Peninsula technically remains in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War was halted with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

The closing of the nuclear test site would be a dramatic but likely symbolic event to set up Kim's summit with Trump.



Korea Summit Press Pool via AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in raise their hands after signing a joint statement Friday at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea.

North Korea already announced this month that it has suspended all tests of nuclear devices and intercontinental ballistic missiles and plans to close its nuclear testing ground.

Still, Adam Mount, a senior defense analyst at the Federation of American Scientists, said Kim's comments were significant because they are his most explicit acknowledgement yet that denuclearization means surrendering his nuclear weapons.

"Questions remain about whether Kim will agree to discuss other nuclear technology, fissile material and missiles. However, they imply a phased process with reciprocal concessions," Mount said in an email. "It is not clear that the Trump administration will accept that kind of protracted program."

Analysts reacted with skepticism to Kim's previously announced plan to close down the test site at Punggye-ri, saying the northernmost tunnel had already become too unstable to use for underground detonations anyway following the country's sixth and most powerful test blast in September.

In his conversation with Moon, Kim denied that he would be merely clearing out damaged goods, saying the site also has two new tunnels that are larger than previous testing facilities, Yoon said.

Some analysts see Moon's agreement with Kim at the summit as a disappointment, citing the lack of references to verification and timetables and also the absence of a definition on what would constitute a "complete" denuclearization of the peninsula.

But Patrick McEachern, a former State Department analyst now with the Washington-based Wilson Center, said it was still meaningful that Moon ex-

tracted a commitment from Kim to complete denuclearization, which marked a significant change from Kim's previous public demand to expand his arsenal of nuclear weapons in number and quality.

"The public conversation should now shift from speculation on whether North Korea would consider denuclearization to how South Korea and the United States can advance this denuclearization pledge in concrete steps in light of North Korea's reciprocal demands for concrete steps toward an eventual peace agreement," McEachern said in an email.

North Korea has invited the outside world to witness the dismantling of its nuclear facilities before. In June 2008, international broadcasters were allowed to air the demolition of a cooling tower at the Nyongbyon reactor site, a year after the North reached an agreement with the U.S. and four other nations to disable its nuclear facilities in return for an aid package worth about \$400 million.

But the deal eventually collapsed after North Korea refused to accept U.S.-proposed verification methods, and the country went on to conduct its second nuclear test detonation in May 2009.

Yoon said Kim also revealed plans to sync its time zone with South Korea's.

The Koreans had used the same time zone for decades before the North created its own "Pyongyang Time" in 2015 by setting the clock 30 minutes behind South Korea and Japan.

Yoon said the North's decision to return to Seoul's time zone was aimed at facilitating communication with South Korea and the U.S.

## Health care is new front for transgender rights under Trump

By Ricardo  
Alonso-Zaldívar  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military service. Bathroom use. Job bias. And now, health care.

The Trump administration is coming under fire for rewriting a federal rule that bars discrimination in health care based on "gender identity." Critics say it's another attempt to undercut acceptance for transgender people.

The Health and Human Services Department rule dates to the Obama administration, a time when LGBT people gained political and social recognition. But a federal judge in Texas said the rule went too far by concluding that discrimination on the basis of gender identity is a form of sex discrimination, which is forbidden by civil rights laws.

Instead of appealing the judge's injunction, the Trump administration has opted to rewrite the rule, which applies to health care providers and insurers receiving federal funds.

Roger Severino, head of the department's Office for Civil Rights, said the rewrite will address the

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# DIGITAL LIFE

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, April 30, 2018 | Section B

## Microsoft attempts to limit people's distractions

Focus Assist feature enables workers to temporarily switch off email, social media notifications

By Matt O'Brien  
Associated Press

Technology companies whose devices and constantly scrolling online services have driven us to distraction are beginning to acknowledge that their products can be a waste of time. Some of them now say they're trying to help.

Microsoft is rolling out a free update to its Windows 10 computer operating system today with new features to keep people in a distraction-free zone.

The "Focus Assist" feature enables workers to temporarily switch off email

and social media notifications during times when they need to keep their heads down. They can allow messages from certain people to break through.

Microsoft says the update is inspired by research showing office workers are being interrupted or having to switch tasks about every three minutes — and it takes 23 minutes to get back in focus. Microsoft is also adding a "Timeline" feature aimed at saving time by more easily retrieving documents or unfinished work from the past 30 days.

"Almost every application and web service is vying for your attention," said

Aaron Woodman, a marketing general manager for Microsoft Windows. "Increasingly, people are going to prefer environments where they can control and manage their distractions."

It may be easier for Microsoft to create such limits, as its business is far less reliant on advertising than Google and Facebook. With advertising in the mix, more time spent means more revenue.

Apple's iPhone and Google's Android phones have "Do Not Disturb" modes for muting notifications. Microsoft's biggest email rival, Gmail, began rolling out a redesign this week that includes time-sav-

ing measures. One uses artificial intelligence to allow Google to help respond to emails with quick answers such as "Will do, thanks!" or "Sorry, I won't be able to attend."

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg surprised investors earlier this year when he said he welcomed the idea of fewer hours spent on his site, arguing that "helping people connect is more important than maximizing the time people spend on Facebook."

The social network also on Friday said it is adding a "sleep" mode to its Messenger Kids service to let parents limit when their kids can use it.

## ALEXA, DO THIS NOW! PLEASE?



Courtesy of Amazon

Amazon has an Echo Dot aimed at kids, as well as some new services for children.

## Amazon's Alexa soon will be teaching manners

By Hayley Tsukayama  
Washington Post

Amazon.com's Alexa has a little something to teach your kids about manners. After receiving feedback from some parents concerned about how voice assistants are affecting their kids' attitudes, the company updated Alexa to reward children who ask for things nicely.

Kids are some of the biggest fans of voice assistants, with some learning to talk to Alexa, Apple's Siri or Google's Assistant before they can form full sentences. But some parents have worried that having voice assistants around the house will make their children more rude because the youngsters can bark out demands for a favorite television station or song at any time.

Amazon heard from parents in comments on its products that they wanted a way to teach etiquette while using the voice assistant, the company said in state-

ment. The company then spoke to child development experts about the best way for Alexa to do that.

The answer they came up with was positive reinforcement. You won't hear Alexa ask, for example, "What's the magic word?" if a child doesn't say "please." Instead, it will thank a child for asking nicely if he or she remembers to slip in that oh-so-important "magic" word.

The update comes as the company is expanding its efforts to woo children as part of their smart home push. Amazon also announced Wednesday that it's made a child-focused version of its \$90 Echo Dot speaker, which have durable, candy-colored cases and that its adding parental controls to the Echo, Echo Dot and Echo Plus to help limit when a child can interact with their technology. Additionally, it's made a new add-on to its Prime membership, which offers more kid-focused content including kid-friendly skills developed by companies such as Disney and Nickelodeon for \$2.99 per month.

Children have become a key demographic for Amazon, Google, Apple and Microsoft as they move deeper into the home with smart speakers and strive to make their particular voice assistant a central part of the household.

The strategy has raised concerns among some privacy advocates, such as the Center for Digital Democracy, about new avenues for data collection. They hope that companies will continue to respect a child's right to privacy. Children are one of the only groups of people in the U.S. protected by privacy law and Amazon said that it is compliant. Companies have dealt with those limitations by setting different rules to the many voice assistant programs designed for children, requiring parents to sign off on their children using certain apps. But it hasn't slowed down development of those programs.

Amazon.com chief executive Jeff Bezos is the owner of The Washington Post.

## Poll: Younger Americans less apt to use unique passwords

By Frank Bajak  
Associated Press

The number of online accounts compromised by hackers is now in the trillions — enough, perhaps, to make even technophobes think hard about the security of their passwords. Indeed, many are — especially older Americans, a new survey shows.

Start with the now-familiar advice to avoid reusing the same password across important accounts such as email, banking and social media. A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 41 percent of Americans say they use unique passwords for most or all online services. Just a third of adults under age 45 do so, however, compared to about half their elders.

Anyone who reuses a password increases their chances of falling victim to data theft — a serious risk given such major breaches as the hacks that compromised three billion Yahoo accounts in 2013. Hackers often test big batches of passwords stolen in one breach against other potentially sensitive accounts, a practice called "credential stuffing."

Older Americans are also more likely to commit their passwords to paper, the poll found. Fifty-six percent of people aged 60 and older do so, compared to 26 percent of the under-30 crowd. If kept away from prying eyes, written passwords are generally considered a good idea.

"I don't use the same password for

any two sites," said Stephanie Harris, a 61-year-old retired warehouse manager in Sacramento, California. She shops and banks on the internet and chooses her passwords from "things I like to do, things I like to eat. Never anybody's name because I'm not into that. If I see something really cool, then I'll make it a password."

Harris said she changes her passwords often and uses from eight to 12 characters, sometimes including numbers and symbols.

The AP-NORC poll found 32 percent of 1,047 respondents use a single password most of the time. That was a bit less than the 39 percent who told the Pew Research Center last year that most of their passwords were the same or similar.

Inadequate attention to password security has helped fuel an epidemic of cybercrime. A Verizon report published last year on hacking-related data breaches said 81 percent involved weak, reused or stolen credentials — up from 63 percent the previous year.

It doesn't help that the experts themselves haven't been consistent with their advice.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology revised its best password practices last year. The new guidelines run counter to the information-security gospel that persists in much of the corporate world — namely, that passwords should change frequently and must contain both uppercase and lowercase letters with required symbols and numbers.

NIST said such requirements often yield less secure passwords. The author of the original recommendations now regrets them.

Password managers — programs that can store your passwords securely, generate new random passwords and often even fill them in on login pages — are also gradually becoming more popular. Thirteen percent of respondents to the AP-NORC poll said they use them.

Mike Rodriguez of Fort St. Louis, Florida, is not one of them.

"I don't trust them," said the 50-year-old maintenance engineer, who says he only has four online accounts he uses regularly, including Facebook and banking. Rodriguez said he never saves credit card or other financial information to any online business.

Rodriguez was one of 18 percent of respondents who said they use unique passwords for all their online accounts. He uses a simple method for creating them, which he didn't appear to mind sharing with a reporter.

Suffice to say it involves demographic details of various people he knows.

The AP-NORC poll was conducted April 11-18 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

## Facebook adds 'sleep mode' to Messenger Kids service

Feature allows parents to limit children's usage

By Barbara Ortutay  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook is adding a "sleep" mode to its Messenger Kids service to let parents limit when their kids can use it.

It's the latest concession that tech companies are making as critics question whether they should be targeting kids at all. Among their chief concerns: The effects on kids are not yet known, and companies might not have children's best interests at heart when tech for kids is such a lucrative market.

Rather than kill the services completely, as some critics want, Facebook, Amazon and Google are mostly tinkering at the edges. That leaves open the underlying questions of whether their products truly serve a need for the youngest set and if they are good for them.

Here's a look at the changes announced (last) week:

### Facebook's Messenger Kids

In December, Facebook created a kid-friendly version of its Messenger app. It has no ads and gives parents plenty of controls over whom their children can chat with. The thinking was that while the regular app is designed for people 13 or over, younger kids were on it anyway. Facebook saw Messenger Kids as a way to give the younger set a safer option.

The change: Parents can now specify the times kids aren't allowed on — either as a one-time restriction or something recurring, such as after 9 p.m. every school night. While the app is in sleep mode, kids will get a message when they open it telling them so, and they won't be able to use it.

The shortcoming: Critics say that Messenger Kids isn't responding to a need, but rather creating one. "It appears primarily to children who otherwise would not have their own social media accounts," states a letter signed by 100 child development experts and advocates. Merely offering time controls falls short of killing the app completely.

### YouTube Kids

Since 2015, the Google-owned service has had a child-oriented app, YouTube Kids, described as a " safer " experience for finding "Papa Pig" episodes or user-generated videos of people unboxing toys.

Nonetheless, the company has been under fire for not vetting out computer-generated, sometimes-disturbing video, such as your favorite cartoon characters having painful dental surgery — or worse.

The nonprofit Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood has also asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether YouTube's data collection and advertising practices violate federal child privacy rules.

The change: YouTube said this week that it is overhauling its kids app so parents can limit video to those vetted by humans, rather than computers. With this option, kids can watch only a selection of children's programming such as "Sesame Street" and PBS Kids.

The shortcoming: The old automated system is on by default, meaning parents need to actively

Parents use MESSAGGER-KIDS

# New Gmail sends self-destructing emails, nudges user to answer mom

By Geoffrey A. Fowler  
Washington Post

## COMMENTARY

Gmail is getting major update starting Wednesday. A certain amount of hyperventilation is to be expected when a service used by 1.4 billion people changes anything.

I'm here to report it's going to be OK.

Truth be told, when Google first showed me the redesign, I thought: Who asked for this? It's like Gmail got a facelift to look cuter. Buttons are rounded and its bubbly new font could have been ripped from a 1992 school yearbook.

But I came around after living with the new Gmail for a week. It's cleaner and the stuff you rely on hasn't moved far. What's more, it has some good ideas to

keep you from missing important emails and to make them more secure. Google is getting much more deeply involved with our messages, and the result moves email in the right direction.

My favorite new thing: You can now send emails that self-destruct.

Your Gmail experience won't change immediately, unless you tap the gear icon (for settings) and turn on the new website look. But it'll come to you eventually: in the coming months, Google will bring the new design and features to everyone, including people with corporate accounts.

The new design doubles down on an idea that Google helped invent 14 years ago when Gmail

debuted: We get such an avalanche of emails, it's not worth trying to delete — or even look at — all of them. Instead, Gmail wants us to use search and, now, artificial intelligence to surface just the information we need.

That approach requires quite a bit of faith in Google. There are good alternatives such as Microsoft Outlook for people who think more in folders or hope to achieve the elusive "inbox zero."

If you're sticking with Gmail, here's what you need to know about what's changed.

### Gmail won't let you miss that message from mom

Behind the facelift, Gmail added functions that might change your relationship with your inbox. And also possibly

with other people. Gmail's AI systems — which it dubs "Google magic" — are regularly scanning your inbox for cues about your behavior. Now they'll proactively remind you if, after three days, you haven't replied to messages that look like the kind of thing you'd normally reply to. Those messages get moved back to the top of your inbox with a warning.

Google calls this "nudging." But does it feel like nagging? I didn't get many nudges in my week with a preview version of the new Gmail. (The company says it takes time to learn which people matter most — and, for the record, I always reply to emails from mom.) Among a test pool of business users, Google said this feature prevented 8 percent of people from dropping the

ball on an email each week. I'll take all the help I can get.

But the AI isn't all-knowing (yet). Gmail doesn't know if you actually replied to a message in real life, on the phone, or in a text. It also doesn't let you identify certain senders as top priority.

To keep annoyance to a minimum, Google promises to send a max of three nudges per day. It's on by default, but you can turn it off if you'd like.

### This email will self-destruct

Emails sure show up in the news these days, getting hacked, leaked or just plain misused. The new Gmail offers a partial

Please see GMAIL/4B

# Cardboard Nintendo Labo combines real-world, digital play

By Hayley Tsukayama  
Washington Post

I built a car today. And it only took me 10 minutes.

A remote-controlled car is the first project you make as part of the Nintendo Labo, a new type of build-it-yourself cardboard accessory that works with the Switch console to combine real-world and digital play. After folding and assembling the mini car, I slotted each of the Switch's detachable, vibrating controllers into it. Then, using the console and its touch screen, I used the vibrations to drive it around.

The car is just one project you can make using Labo, which hit store shelves Friday. It is a pretty out-there product from Nintendo. But Labo, while quirky, taps into a couple of trends right now. For one, it combines digital play with physical toys — adding something more to screen time. And it also gives kids a chance to improve their STEM skills thanks to coding tutorials in the game and a strong focus on the mechanical side of creation.

Starting at \$69.99, the variety kit includes five projects that each work with a custom Switch game that's relevant to what you build — the car, a fishing rod, a motorbike, a house and a piano. The separate \$79.99 robot kit lets you build your own gaming rig from cardboard, and control an on-screen robot as if you were a (budget) player in "Ready Player One."

Without some hands-on experience, it may be a difficult thing to justify spending \$70 on a box of cardboard. I tried it out with a review kit from Nin-

tendo to see if it was worth the cash. Here are six key takeaways after spending time with a Labo.

It taps into something primal: If you have (or were) a kid who loved puzzles, Legos and blocks, sitting down with Labo taps into that builder's instinct right away. That's welcome for parents and kids who may be tired of staring at screens and long for something tangible to play with. It's also great for building in a group, particularly if you can give everyone his or her own piece of the kit to work with. The kits are sturdy and well-designed — turning the reel on the fishing rod gives you a satisfying click, for example — to make you feel like you've really made something worthwhile.

It could be frustrating for very small kids: Labo's officially rated as an "Everyone" game, meaning that it's appropriate for all ages. And while there's nothing in the content that belies that rating, Labo's best done as a group activity if you have young kids without patience or fine motor control. At a Labo event I attended in San Francisco, some of the smaller kids were frustrated by not fully grasping how everything fit together.

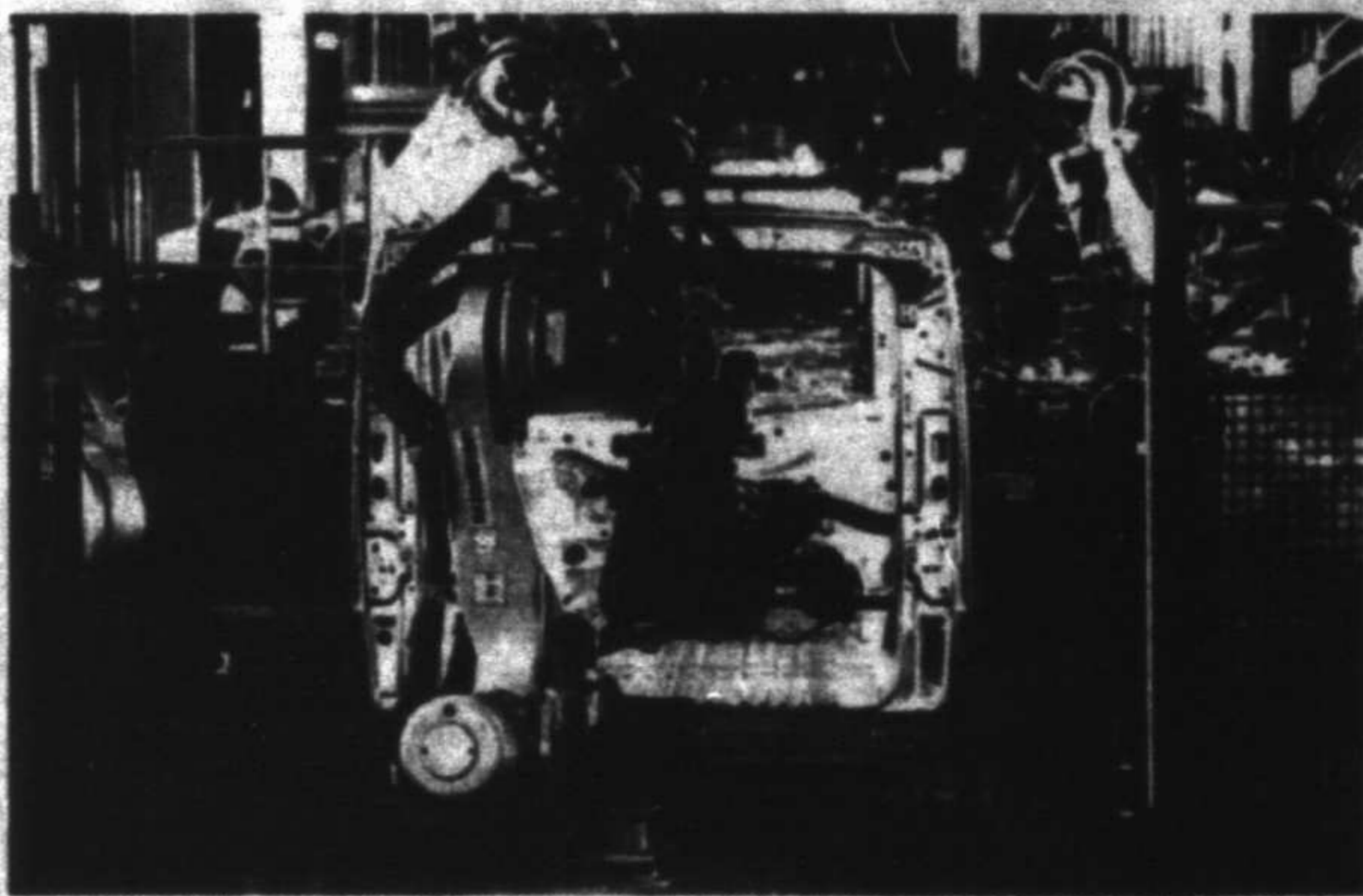
It teaches more than just how to build what's in front of you: The cardboard kits are only a portion of Labo's appeal. The real fun gets started when you put your creation together with the Switch and you get them moving around. If you're feeling even more creative once you've mastered some of the basics, you can get into the guts of how the Switch works. Kids can learn about the infrared camera in the controllers that let

you steer your creations. They can mess around with the non-electronic mechanics of their creations, to understand why the move the way they do. Or they can do a little programming, to make cardboard doodads they create work with the Switch's detachable controllers.

It can be boring: This is mostly fun. But if you're not into building, Labo can get tedious at times — especially for the more complicated kits. The more complex something is, the more pieces it has and the more fiddly it can become. You do get payoff for the time you spend, but if the thought of many tiny pieces to punch out sends you batty, this isn't for you.

If you break a part, you can make your own replacement: Cardboard is not known for its durability, so parents would be justified in seeing this as a potential money grab. But while Nintendo does sell replacement Labo kits, it also gives you the means to make your own replacements. You can use the punch-outs as templates to reproduce their kits, or — of course — you can make your own stuff.

It's so totally Nintendo: At the end of the day, Nintendo is a company that knows who its people are. And this? This is aiming right at those people. From a business standpoint, this might be a good way to Nintendo to tap into the builder culture and win kids' hearts in classrooms and coding clubs. But, at its heart, it's just exactly the kind of oddball thinking that brought us the Wii — and, to be fair, the Virtual Boy. Nintendo's swinging for the fences with this idea or — forgive me — at least thinking outside the box.



Robotic arms weld sections together on a Vauxhall Vivaro medium sized van in the bodyshop at the Vauxhall plant in Luton, United Kingdom.

# Report: US is behind other countries in robot 'readiness'

By Danielle Paquette  
Washington Post

The United States lags behind other countries in readiness for an increasingly automated world, placing sixth on a ranking of 25 advanced economies, according to a new report from Swiss technology giant ABB.

South Korea, Singapore, Germany and Canada are better prepared for the rise of machines, thanks largely to their education systems and labor policies, the authors of the Automation Readiness Index concluded.

Researchers graded the nations on three main categories: their innovation environment, which included money spent on research and development; school policies, from early curriculums to lifelong learning programs; and public workforce development, such as government-led efforts to retrain workers.

No country is "completely ready" for the technological shift that is expected to displace millions of workers worldwide in the next three decades, they found — but the United States is especially underprepared for the jobs of the future.

Guido Journe, ABB's chief digital officer, singled out the U.S. educational system, which pushes students toward two or four-year degrees. Colleges tend to be less nimble when it comes to keeping up with technological changes, and companies will seek workers who can adapt to cutting-edge developments.

Germany, in contrast, encourages technical training, which is generally more reactive to immediate employer needs. Sixty percent of young adults in the country train as apprentices in manufacturing, IT, banking, construction and other fields, compared with 5 percent of Americans.

"We lack this vocational training track," said Journe, who works in San Francisco.

Susan Lund, a labor economist at the global consulting firm McKinsey, said U.S. students tend to feel more pressure to take the university route, even if it's outside their budget.

"Not everyone needs a four-year college degree," she said. "We could do a lot to build more career pathways. Even just skill-credentialing to enable people to get a basic, entry-level job."

In China, meanwhile, the government is updating public education to prioritize creativity, rather than using standardized tests. One 2015 public policy experiment in Shanghai gave students another chance to take a college admission exam, which was meant to curb stress and reduce the focus on memorization.

"They are considering raising exam pressure," Harry Patrino, partner manager for education, East Asia and Pacific at the World Bank, is quoted as saying in the ABB report.

Economists say such efforts are aimed at training children and young adults to value independent thinking over rote memorization — a trait robots can't yet replicate.

"Take the Southwest Airlines pilot — she did a phenomenal job landing that plane," Journe said, referencing an engine explosion that grounded international attention earlier this month. "This is the thing we need people to be good at: How to cope with the unexpected."

U.S. leaders have vowed to prepare students for the next industrial revolution, leading the search for opportunities, without expanding funding for them. But economists say the nation would

## Amazon reportedly building a 'mobile Alexa'

By Peter Hsieh  
Washington Post

Robots are already being used to build cars, perform surgeries and look after the elderly, but domestic robots may be coming to a home near you faster than you thought.

That's because Amazon has set in motion a "reposition" plan to build a robot for the home, according to a document first reported last December. The project — already several years old — is being run out of Lab 125, a division of the company known for creating products like the Echo and the Kindle.

Known as "Aloha," the domestic robot project is in the midst of a testing phase that could result in a purchasable product as early as next year, Bloomberg reported. The robot's potential size and the media attention, but the machine could feature the "mobile Alexa," the virtual assistant designed by Amazon, (Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos is the owner of The Washington Post.)

Bloomberg reports that prototypes of the robot include cameras and software that allow the robot to navigate a home, leading some to speculate that Alexa will function like a service robot.

While all eyes are on Amazon, other tech firms, including Google, are also working on similar projects. Google's AI division, DeepMind, is a pioneer of artificial intelligence at Google, and is also working on a similar project.

How long it will take to produce the robot, and how much it will cost, remains to be seen. There's also the question of whether the robot will be used to assist with daily tasks, such as cleaning, or to provide companionship and entertainment.

"There's a lot of interest in the idea of a robot that can help with daily tasks," said Journe, who works in San Francisco. "It's not just about getting a robot to pick up a coffee mug or turn on a light switch, but about how it can help with more complex tasks."

The project is being led by a team of engineers and researchers at Amazon, including those who worked on the Echo and the Kindle. The robot is expected to be a key part of Amazon's long-term strategy to expand its presence in the home.

"We're looking at a lot of different ways to build a robot that can help with daily tasks," said Journe. "It's not just about getting a robot to pick up a coffee mug or turn on a light switch, but about how it can help with more complex tasks."

The robot is expected to be a key part of Amazon's long-term strategy to expand its presence in the home. It will be used to assist with daily tasks, such as cleaning, and to provide companionship and entertainment.

benefit from more creative solutions to what future jobs will demand: continuous learning.

One example comes from Singapore, which made a name for itself in the education world in 2016, the Asian nation gave its citizens cash to "individual learning accounts," which they may use to cover job training courses at any stage in their careers.

German lawmakers have proposed a similar model called "employment insurance," which would help workers pay for upgrading their skills throughout their lives.

The United States needs to invest in research and development spending, the authors find. And the most advanced economies invest 2.79 percent of gross domestic product in the effort, behind only South Korea (4.23 percent), Japan (3.25 percent) and Germany (3.08 percent).

# Disney's VR jacket simulates hugs

By Hassan Shaaban  
Washington Post

A big, green snake slithers up your body, squeezing your rib cage, but you're not afraid. It's strangely exhilarating.

In this virtual reality simulation, the snake isn't real but the feeling in your chest is. In addition to seeing the snake through a virtual reality headset strapped to your face, you're wearing a jacket filled with airbags that mimics the pressure and vibrations of a serpent moving across your body. The jacket is meant to give a heightened sensation that goes beyond playing a video game or watching a movie.

This special jacket is being developed by researchers at Disney to help take the VR experience to another level at a time when the adoption rate has been slow. Connected to computer software that controls a series of inflatable compartments, the jacket can reproduce a variety of sensations, adding new kinds of perception and depth to VR. In collaboration with researchers at MIT Media Lab and Carnegie Mellon University, Disney hopes the jacket can augment VR experiences typically limited to visual displays seen through headset and simple hand vibrations felt through joysticks.

"The primary motivation of this research was to enhance the entertainment value of (computerized display)-based visual VR experiences in games and movies, by providing on-body haptic feedback," the researchers write in a paper published Wednesday.

The jacket consists of 26 inflatable compartments which can reproduce more than a dozen "feel effects," such as a leg, a punch, or a snail crawling across your body. These sensations are created by inflating or deflating the airbags. The pressure and vibrations can also correspond with visual displays, allowing users to feel the

actions they perform and witness in a VR game.

The researchers developed three prototype VR simulations to showcase the jacket. One placed a person in a snow-covered forest with a bear in the middle of a snowfall fight, another allowed users to feel a "friendly" cartoon snake slither up their torso and squeeze their chest. The third simulation puts the user's avatar shirtless in a bathroom, as they see and feel their bodies transform into a "muscular hero," as their arms bulge like a bodybuilder's.

The jacket's vest was made out of a repurposed life vest, with the flotation foam removed, the researchers said. The total weight, including tubes and airbags is 5 pounds. The device can adjust to fit different body types. And Velcro is used to secure the jacket in place.

While Hollywood and game industry investors have dedicated hundreds of millions of dollars to advance virtual reality technology, pulling in top talent and sparking a creative explosion, VR has yet to achieve popular acceptance or significant commercial success. Only 6.4 million VR headsets have been sold worldwide according to estimates, a figure dwarfed by the total pool of worldwide gamers of 2.6 billion people. That disparity suggests that even among individuals inclined to purchase a headset, few have chosen to pay up.

Developers get the slow adoption of VR on a number of factors: the high cost of headsets, which run \$400 or more; the limited entertainment and dissemination of content through virtual space; and more fundamental language over the creation of a new medium. VR also faces a crucial marketing dilemma. Like advertising a color television on black-and-white TV's, existing media can't convey the experience in full effect. With VR, consumers are looking, experts say. Nevertheless, engineers and developers are forging ahead.



**Apps**

App Store Official Charts for the week ending April 22:

- Top Paid iPhone Apps**  
 1. Microsoft, Minecraft  
 2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.  
 3. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations  
 4. Facetime, Lighticks Ltd.  
 5. Schedule, HotSchedules  
 6. Sky Guide AR, Fifth Star Labs LLC  
 7. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi  
 8. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB  
 9. NBA 2K18, 2K  
 10. PlantSnap Plant Identification, PlantSnap, Inc.
- Top Free iPhone Apps**  
 1. Rise Up, Serkan Ceylan  
 2. Fortnite, Epic Games  
 3. Love Balls, SuperTaps

**ITUNESLISTS**

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

- 4. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.**  
 5. Hello Jump, Voodoo  
 6. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.  
 7. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.  
 8. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.  
 9. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.  
 10. PUBG MOBILE, Tencent Mobile International Limited
- Top Paid iPad Apps**  
 1. Microsoft, Minecraft  
 2. Procreate, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd  
 3. GoodNotes 4, Time Base Technology Limited  
 4. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB  
 5. Toca Life: After School, Toca Boca AB
- 6. SpongBob Moves In, Nickelodeon**  
 7. Notability, Ginger Labs  
 8. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon  
 9. LEGO Jurassic World, Warner Bros.  
 10. Terraria, 505 Games (US), Inc.
- Top Free iPad Apps**  
 1. Love Balls, SuperTaps  
 2. Fortnite, Epic Games  
 3. Rise Up, Serkan Ceylan  
 4. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.  
 5. Impossible Bottle Flip, Instyplll

6. Granny, Dennis Vukarovic  
 7. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.  
 8. ROBLOX, Roblox Corporation  
 9. Hello Jump, Voodoo  
 10. PUBG MOBILE, Tencent Mobile International Limited

**Movies**

- iTunes Movies U.S. charts for week ending April 22:  
**iTunes Movies US Charts**  
 1. The Post  
 2. The Greatest Showman  
 3. The Commuter  
 4. Molly's Game  
 5. Justice League  
 6. Baby Driver  
 7. Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle  
 8. Peter Rabbit  
 9. Hostiles  
 10. Super Troopers

**ROBOTS**

From 2B-

a home and begins collecting data — a more sensitive version of the questions current ROBOY Sing around tech companies like Facebook. People are much more protective of their homes than any other space, he said. "But I'm actually incredibly hopeful and confident, particularly when it comes to robots being used for assisted care," he said, noting that the supporting technology for robots is moving at a rapid pace. "My hope is that they'll be a useful physical robot in the assistive care domain in the next 10 to 15 years."

Amazon is uniquely positioned to develop a domestic robot because their business model already tracks customer purchases inside homes and some of their products already include voice recognition. Amazon may be one of the first prominent tech companies to seriously embark on the quest for a domestic robot, but the tech giant already has competition.

One of the most popular displays at the Consumer Electronics Show Las Vegas this year was Aeolus Robot, a child-size machine that wowed onlookers by performing domestic duties such as mopping, picking up stuffed animals off the floor and moving furniture. The robot was even able to retrieve drinks from the fridge using an intricate-looking grabbing arm — a feat most that occurred without human assistance.

Aeolus may have cleaning skills, but the makers of Pepper — a two-eyed robot on wheels from SoftBank Robotics — claim their machine possesses the ability to read people's emotions by deciphering facial movements, vocal tones.

There's also Jibo, a 12.5-inch-tall stay-at-home robot that can help out around the house, tell you the weather or answer trivia questions.

"He can also dance and tell some pretty corny jokes," according to CNET, which calls Jibo a "social robot" with "limited functionality."

**EMAIL**

From 2B

solution to that: make old emails do a disappearing act.

Gmail isn't the first service to offer self-destructing messages, but it will help bring it to the masses. At the bottom of every new Gmail there's a button for "Confidential mode" that can secure messages in a few cool ways. The most basic is to set a time limit. You can choose a month, a week, or a day. (Sadly there's no "Mission Impossible" setting for self-destruct in five, four, three ...)

On the other end, the recipients see they've received a confidential message and a warning about the time limit. They also won't be able to forward this email to others. After their time is up, your recipients can't see the message any more, though they can request further access.

If the people you're emailing are on a phone without the Gmail app, they'll have to open a web browser to read the content of the message, which technically now lives elsewhere (in Google's cloud).

Would-be Deep Throats should

keep a few things in mind: The contents of confidential messages are encrypted, but the messages are not hidden from Google. And even though a message may have expired, it's possible your recipient took a screen capture of it. Keep in mind, too, the original message still lives in the sender's own sent mail box — where snoops might find it.

**Your cheese is safe**

What's most remarkable is that Gmail's first big design change since 2011 avoids a case of redesign-itis.

That's when a tech company overhauls its product just for the sake of changing it. The new Gmail generally keeps things in the same places they used to be: The "compose" email button sports a new look, but it's still in the upper left corner.

Small additions also don't much impact the service you already know how to use. For example, hovering over an email's subject line in your inbox reveals a new button that looks like an alarm clock. Tap the button, and you can "snooze" an email you

just don't have time to deal with. It'll pop back on top of your inbox at the time you specify.

The biggest architectural change is a welcome one: The calendar, previously several clicks and windows away, now smuggles up on the right side of your Gmail. Tap on the calendar icon once to dock it as a panel (good for a widescreen laptop), or tap it again to make it disappear. (You can also use that space for a new to-do list app, notes, or other third-party programs vetted by Google.)

In addition to testing the new Gmail with employees and power-users, Google sought feedback from seniors, who are often the first to spot a case of redesign-itis. "We have tried to make as little cheese as possible," product manager Jacob Bank told me.

There aren't additional ads arriving in the new Gmail, either. Google is sticking with a commitment it made last summer not to use the content of your emails to target ads. The search giant collects so much other data about each of us, it doesn't really need our emails.

**MESSANGER**

From 1B

choose the human-only or ion. And YouTube is continuing to show ads on its kid-focused service.

It also doesn't help that many kids (with or without their parents) use the main YouTube site for video, meaning they miss out on both human and automated controls for kids.

**Amazon's Alexa**

Sure, it's fun to ask Amazon's Alexa voice assistant to fart — as many

kids have discovered after parents buy an Alexa-enabled Echo speaker. But parents and childhood experts have been wondering what effects smart speakers may have on young kids, who may not quite understand whether Alexa is human and maybe learn from barking orders at her that barking orders is OK.

The changes: Alexa will soon thank kids for shouting out questions "nicely" if they say "please," the online retail giant announced Wednesday. The new response is part of a kid-friendly update that's coming next

month, giving parents more control over the voice assistant. Adults can also set Alexa to go silent at bedtime or block music with explicit lyrics.

The shortcoming: This may be apposing parents just enough to buy more Amazon products. After all, the company did not get to where it is today by missing out on new business opportunities. Amazon said it will now sell an \$80 Echo Dot aimed at children, complete with colorful cases and a two-year warranty (regular Echo Dots are \$50).

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# SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | [mrt.com](http://mrt.com) | Monday, April 30, 2018 | Section C

## Logano snaps long losing streak with Talladega win

By Jenna Fryer  
Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Joey Logano won at Talladega Superspeedway to end a nearly yearlong losing streak.

Logano's last victory was April 30 of last year at Richmond but his car failed inspection, the benefits from the victory were stripped and it cost him a shot in the playoffs.

On Sunday, he made sure that losing streak didn't hit a full year.

"It feels so good to be back in victory lane. There's no feeling like that," Logano said. "It's been a long time coming. We knew the win was right around the corner. I don't have to worry about the whole playoffs thing anymore. We're in!"

He had one brief challenge from Kurt Busch, who pulled out of line in traffic and tried to catch Logano but had no help from a drafting partner and could not get the lead.

Logano screamed "we're back!" on his radio as he crossed the finish line.

It is Logano's third career win at Talladega.

Busch finished second, his career best finish at Talladega, as Ford drivers went 1-2.

Chase Elliott was third in a Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports, while Kevin Harvick was fourth in a Stewart-Haas Racing Ford. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. was fifth, David Ragan sixth and Aric Almirola seventh as Ford drivers took six of the seven spots.

Elliott said the Fords had too strong and steady of a strategy for him to have any chance at making a move to catch Logano.

"I thought for sure one of them wanted to win more than they showed," Elliott said. "If it was me, I would have wanted to do something or try. They were not interested in advancing. They were not going to help me move forward."

Busch said his intention was to work with Stenhouse, the defending race winner, to help SHR get a victory from either Busch or Harvick.



Austin Dillon (3) wrecks Sunday during a NASCAR Talladega race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala.

Please see NASCAR/5C

## KEEPING THE CROWNS



The Midland Christian boys golf team poses with its team championship award after winning the TAPPS 1-5A district title, April 16 at Gray Rock Golf Course in Austin. The golfers pictured, from left to right, are Tommy Moore, Zant Holloman, Richman Houston, Davis Emaley, Joe Smith, Clay McCann, Landon Parish and Robby Massey.

Courtesy photo

## MCS boys, Trinity aim to defend state titles

By Will Korn  
[wkorn@mrt.com](mailto:wkorn@mrt.com)

As they prepare for return trips to their respective state tournaments, perhaps the greatest strength of the Midland Christian boys and Trinity golf programs is experience on the biggest stage.

A year ago, the Mustangs boys team, led by Odessa College freshman Bryce Waters, captured the program's first ever state title in golf. Meanwhile at the TAPPS 4A tournament, Trinity accomplished history of its own, as the boys and girls teams brought home the state title in

the same year for the first time.

All three teams return a slew of experienced state tournament veterans who will be looking to help their programs repeat as victors. MCS tees off in the TAPPS 5A Tournament today and Tuesday at Killen's Stone Tree Golf Club, while the Trinity teams head back to Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco.

After winning last year's TAPPS 5A state title by five strokes, the Mustangs battled hard to defend their crown at the TAPPS 5A North Regional Tournament on April 23 in Fort Worth.

MCS, leaning on the experience of

senior and Concordia University signee Joe Smith, senior Zant Holloman and junior Robby Massey — all returners from last year's championship team — finished third with a 349 at regionals. That score edged Fort Worth All Saints and Austin Regents by one stroke for a state bid.

Smith fired an 82 to place eighth in the individual standings and lead the Mustangs' charge back to Killen.

Now that his team has qualified, head coach Cooper Schoolcraft knows he can rely on his players' sheer determination

Please see GOLF/2C

## Blue Jays hit 3 HRs, beat Rangers to avoid sweep

By Ian Harrison  
Associated Press

TORONTO — Sloppy outfield play cost the Blue Jays a couple of runs on Saturday.

On Sunday, Randal Grichuk changed the conversation with a highlight reel catch to start a double play.

Kevin Pillar homered for the third time in two games, J.A. Happ pitched seven innings to win his fourth straight decision and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Texas Rangers 7-2 on Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Tooarc Hernandez and Yangervis Solarte added solo home runs as the Blue Jays snapped a four-game home losing streak and won for the third time in their past 10. Hernandez reached base three times and scored twice.

Grichuk made the defensive play of the game to end in the first. A diving Grichuk managed to cradle Josh Kiner-Pfele's sinking liner between his forearms and his chest, then throw to second base to dou-



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Martin Perez (35) works against the Toronto Blue Jays during the first inning of a game in Toronto.

Please see RANGERS/3C

## Harden's 41 points lead Rockets over Jazz in Game 1

By Kristie Rieken  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden scored 41 points and the Houston Rockets raced out to a huge lead and sailed to a 110-96 win over the Utah Jazz in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals on Sunday.

Houston was up by 25 at halftime behind 34 points combined from Harden and Chris Paul. The Jazz, who didn't wrap up their first-round series with Oklahoma City until late Friday night, looked sluggish and struggled to keep pace with the energy of the top-seeded Rockets, who haven't played since eliminating Minnesota on Wednesday.

It was Houston's fourth straight win by 10 or more points this postseason, and the Rockets have won their five games against the Jazz by an average of 16.8 points.

Harden, who also had seven assists and eight rebounds, picked up where he left off in the regular season against the Jazz when he averaged 34.3 points, led by a 56-point performance in a 137-110 win in November that set a career-high he has since busted.

The Jazz got 21 points each from rookie Donovan Mitchell and Joe Crowder while playing without starting point guard Ricky Rubio, who sat with a strained left hamstring. It was a significant blow after he averaged 14 points, 7.3 rebounds and seven assists in the first round.

The Rockets had 10 3-pointers by halftime, led by three apiece from Harden and P.J. Tucker. They finished with 17, including seven from Harden.

The Rockets were up by 18 entering the fourth after Paul hit a 3-pointer at the end of the third. Utah scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter to get within 86-75, but Harden made three free throws over the next minute to end the run.

Rudy Gobert, who had 11 points and nine rebounds, had a dunk after that, but a 3-pointer by Harden extended Houston's lead to 92-77 with about 8 1/2 minutes left.

Mitchell was shaken up when Eric

Please see ROCKETS/4C



Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul (3) shoots over Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell during the first half of an NBA second-round playoff series Sunday in Houston.





Michael Wyke/Associated Press

Houston Astros right fielder George Springer, right, hits a home run Sunday during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics in Houston.

# Astros capitalize on errors to beat A's

By Joshua Koch  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Gerrit Cole worked into the seventh inning and struck out 12. George Springer and Jose Altuve each drove in two runs and the Houston Astros beat the Oakland Athletics 8-4 on Sunday.

After Cole allowed the tying run on his 99th and final pitch, the Astros took advantage of two errors in the bottom of the seventh — among Oakland's four on the afternoon — to pull away.

Cole gave up three runs on six hits and walked none in 6 2/3 innings. The right-hander's dozen strikeouts were his second-most this season, and he has struck out 10 or more batters in four of his six starts. He had five double-digit strikeout performances in his five previous seasons, all with Pittsburgh.

Will Harris (1-1) recorded the final out in the seventh. In the bottom half, Alex Bregman walked, stole second and reached third on a throwing error by catcher Jonathan Lucroy. Brian McCann followed with a popup to shallow right field that bounced off shortstop Marcus Semien's glove, allowing Bregman to score the go-ahead run.

Jake Marisnick added an RBI double and Altuve had a run-scoring single, making it 6-3. Marwin Gonzalez had a RBI single and McCann had a sacrifice fly in the eighth to expand the lead.

Trevor Cahill (1-1) allowed four runs on four hits, struck out five and walked one in six innings.

Springer hit a solo homer to left-center in the fifth. This was the first time Springer has homered in back-to-back regular season games since last June 27 and 28 against Oakland.

# ROCKHOUNDS REPORT

**MISSIONS 14, ROCKHOUNDS 0**  
At Nelson Wolff Stadium, San Antonio

**TOP HITTERS:** Austin Allen spearheaded San Antonio's 16-hit outburst by going 4-for-4 with three doubles, three RBIs, two runs scored and a walk. Missions second baseman River Stevens went 2-for-5 with a home run, a double, five RBIs and two runs scored. San Antonio catcher Webster Rivers was 2-for-5 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored.

**TOP PITCHER:** San Antonio starter Logan Allen improved to 3-1 after hurling seven shutout innings. Allen allowed three hits and one walk, while striking out six.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The Missions jumped to a 6-0 lead in the third, as Josh Naylor cracked a two-run double, Stevens had a three-RBI double and Michael Gettys provided a run-scoring single. San Antonio added two more in the fourth, as Ty Franco clubbed an RBI single and Austin Allen added a run-scoring double. San Antonio took a 13-0 lead following five runs in the sixth. Austin Allen doubled home a run; Rivers plated two with a double and Stevens slammed a two-run homer in the frame.

**NOTES:** Dillon Overton, who pitched for the Rockhounds in 2015, tossed a scoreless inning of relief for San Antonio. San Diego Padres reliever Matt Strahm struck out the side, while pitching a scoreless inning of relief in a rehab assignment for the Missions. Strahm is coming back from a knee injury. Midland was shutout for the second time this season and the first time since Springfield blanked the Rockhounds, 9-0, on April 14. With a 3-0 lead, the Missions won the series with Sunday's win. The series

IL standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	14	0	1.000	0
Midland	1	1	.500	13
Rockhounds	0	14	.000	14

concludes at 11:05 a.m. today.

**TODAY'S PROBABLES:**  
Midland — TBA; San Antonio — LHP Jerry Keel (1-0, 4.87 ERA).

MISSIONS 14, ROCKHOUNDS 0

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Allen	4	4	4	3
Stevens	5	2	5	2
Rivers	5	2	5	2
Gettys	4	1	4	1

# American League

## RED SOX 4, RAYS 3

BOSTON — Sandy Leon hit a go-ahead RBI single with two outs in the eighth inning against Tampa Bay closer Alex Colome (2-3), helping the Red Sox snap the Rays' eight-game winning streak. J.D. Martinez had four singles and drove in two runs for the Red Sox, but misplayed a fly ball into a double that put runners on second and third in the eighth before Craig Kimbrel (1-1) struck out Brad Miller to end the tie.

Danard Span hit a two-run homer and made a leaping catch in front of the Green Monster for the Rays, who had their third-longest winning streak in team history halted. Tampa Bay won nine straight in 2014 and 12 in '04.

## ORIOLES 5, TIGERS 3

BALTIMORE — Substitute starter Pedro Alvarez hit two home runs. Trey Mancini had a solo shot and the Orioles beat the Detroit Tigers for their first home series win of the season. Kevin Gausman (2-2) allowed one run and five hits over 5 2/3 innings for the Orioles, who took two of three from Detroit following a five-game skid.

Mancini hit his first career leadoff homer on the third pitch from Daniel Norris (0-2) and Alvarez connected with a man on in the second inning for a 3-0 lead. After the Tigers closed to 4-3, Alvarez hit a pitch from Joe Jimenez over the right-field scoreboard in the eighth. Alvarez was inserted into the lineup at third base just before the game after Danny Valencia was scratched.

## MARINERS 10, INDIANS 6

CLEVELAND — Ryan Healy hit two home runs and had four RBIs, Robinson Cano and Mitch Haniger also homered, and the Seattle Mariners defeated the Indians. Healy had an RBI double in the second inning, hit a solo homer in the sixth and added a two-run shot in the eighth. Cano hit a two-run homer during Seattle's five-run second. Haniger's solo shot in the ninth was his 10th, tied for the major league lead.

Cano's drive to right off Josh Tomlin (0-4), his third homer this year, finished off the big inning for the Mariners, who had four straight two-out RBIs hit. Marco Gonzales (3-2) allowed two runs in six innings before four relievers finished up.

## ROYALS 5, WHITE SOX 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chester Culbert homered twice and drove in four runs as the Royals won consecutive games for the first time this season. Whit Merrifield singled home Alcides Escobar, who was hit by a pitch to lead off the eighth inning, with the go-ahead run off Bruce Rondon (1-1). Escobar left in the ninth with a left hand contusion. Culbert, who had not homered since August 20 — a span on 108 at-bats — drove Hector Santiago's pitch into the White Sox bullpen in the fourth. He homered in the fifth with Salvador Perez and Jorge Soler aboard off Chris Volstad.

Brandon McCarthy (2-0) picked up the victory, while Blake Boyer logged his fifth career save — and his first since May 29, 2016, while with Milwaukee.

## YANKEES 2, ANGELS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Gery Sanchez hit a two-run homer, CC Sabathia pitched seven effective innings and New York won its ninth straight game. Sanchez launched a pitch from Tyler

# MLB ROUNDUP

Associated Press

## Skaggs (3-2) in the fourth inning into the stands in left field for his seventh homer. The ball went 447 feet and gave the Yankees a 2-0 lead.

Sabathia (2-0) gave up one run, five hits and a walk while striking out four. The 37-year-old lowered his ERA to 1.71 and has allowed just one earned run in three starts since returning from a right hip injury.

Aroldis Chapman got his sixth save by striking out Rene Rivera and Ian Kinsler to end it after issuing a one-out walk to Chris Young.

## National League

### PIRATES 5, CARDINALS 0

PITTSBURGH — Nick Kingham carried a perfect game into the seventh inning in his major league debut to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to their fifth straight win, 5-0 over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Kingham, a 26-year-old rookie right hander, retired 20 straight before Paul DeJong singled down the left-field line with two outs in the seventh. He finished with one hit and nine strikeouts on 98 pitches (72 strikes) after being recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis earlier in the day.

He joined Johnny Cueto as the only pitchers in the last 100 years with one hit allowed, at least nine strikeouts and zero walks in a debut.

### CUBS 2, BREWERS 0

CHICAGO — Tyler Chatwood pitched seven sparkling innings and helped himself with an RBI single, leading the Cubs to a sweep of the four-game series between NL Central rivals.

Chatwood (2-3) allowed two hits, struck out four and walked three in his second straight win. Carl Edwards Jr. worked the eighth and Brandon Morrow got three outs for his seventh save in seven chances, finishing Chicago's second straight shutout and its fifth just this month against Milwaukee.

Zach Davies (2-3) kept Milwaukee in the game for most of the day, but Chicago got to the right-hander for a run in the fifth and sixth.

### MARLINS 3, ROCKIES 0

MIAMI — Caleb Smith allowed two hits in seven innings for his first career victory, and the Marlins took the rubber game of their low-scoring series against Colorado.

Smith (1-3), who entered the game with an ERA of 5.82, struck out nine and walked one in the longest outing of his career. The breakthrough victory came in his 15th career appearance, including eight starts. Drew Steckenrider struck out the side in the eighth, and Brad Ziegler pitched the ninth for his third save.

Chad Bettis (3-1) went seven innings and allowed two runs, including Miguel Rojas' solo homer.

The Marlins outscored Colorado 7-2 in the series, including Miami's 1-0 loss Friday. The Rockies had 15 hits in the series.

### BRaves 16, Phillies 1

PHILADELPHIA — Ronald Acuna Jr. doubled twice and reached base four times to cap a successful first week in the majors, and the Atlanta Braves cruised with a new lineup to a victory over the Phillies.

Acuna, at 20 the youngest player in the big leagues, hit second in the first inning. Ozzie Albies, the second-youngest major leaguer, Albies drilled the game's first pitch for a homer, added a two-run double and scored three runs. Acuna had an RBI double in the eighth, walked twice and stole his first base.

John Camargo hit a three-run homer

and Ender Inciarte, dropped from first to ninth in the order, tripled in a five-run third inning off Vince Velazquez (1-4) in the Braves' fourth win in five games. Brandon McCarthy (4-0) allowed one run and five hits while striking out six in 5 1/3 innings for his third win over Philadelphia this season.

### NATIONALS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 1

WASHINGTON — Gio Gonzalez struck out eight over seven strong innings, Matt Wieters and Michael A. Taylor homered and the Nationals beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Diamondbacks lost starter Robbie Ray to a strained oblique muscle in the second inning. He was replaced by T.J. McFarland, who surrendered a home run to Wieters to give the Nationals a 1-0 lead. McFarland (1-1) then loaded the bases and bobbled a grounder to allow another run to score. Taylor homered off McFarland with one out in the third.

Arizona didn't score off Gonzalez (3-2) until the seventh inning, when it put the first two men on base and pushed a run across on Daniel Descalso's one-out sacrifice fly. Sean Doolittle pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

### GIANTS 4, PADRES 2

SAN DIEGO — Adrian Gonzalez homered, doubled and drove in five runs against his former team, and Zack Wheeler struck out nine in five innings for the New York Mets.

The 14 runs and 19 hits were season highs for the Mets, who took two of three in San Diego. The Mets batted around in both the seventh and eighth innings, scoring five runs each time. Todd Frazier hit a two-run homer and Jose Reyes hit a solo shot. The 35-year-old Gonzalez played for his hometown Padres from 2006 until being traded to Boston on Dec. 6, 2010.

Wheeler (2-1) allowed two runs and six hits in five innings and walked two. Bryan Mitchell (0-3) allowed four runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings.

### GIANTS 4, DODGERS 2

SAN FRANCISCO — Dodgers first baseman Cody Bellinger was benched by manager Dave Roberts in the middle of the loss to San Francisco. Roberts said he felt Bellinger, the NL Rookie of the Year, should've tried for third base instead of setting for a double.

Even Longoria hit a three-run homer in the first inning and Ty Blach made the early lead stand up for the Giants. Blach (2-3) pitched into the seventh inning and allowed two runs. Hunter Strickland pitched the ninth for his seventh save. Buster Posey doubled and scored twice and Brandon Belt added an RBI double as the Giants took three of four in the series.

Kerin Egan (2-2) took the loss for Los Angeles, which put right fielder Yasiel Puig on the disabled list before the game with a left hip pointer and bruised foot. He was hurt a day earlier when he ran into a padded wall tracking down a foul ball — he also fouled a ball off his foot.

### INTERLEAGUE

#### REDS 5, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS — Tyler Mahle pitched into the seventh inning in another impressive start, Jose Perea had three hits and Adam Duvall homered, leading the Cincinnati Reds past the Twins.

Mahle (2-3) cruised through the Twins' lineup in his second straight solid outing. After striking out 11 against Atlanta in his most recent start, Mahle gave up one run in 6 1/3 innings, allowing four hits and two walks while striking out seven.

# RANGERS

## From 1C

ble off Delino DeShields, who had reached on an error.

"That was huge to get out of there with a guy with as good speed as there is in the league on second," an appreciative Happ said.

Grichuk said he was trying to stay low to keep the ball out of the lights, but stumbled just as he started to dive.

"I knew it was going to come down right around that area," Grichuk said. "I figured 'I'm going down but let's throw the glove up and have a chance.' Luckily I was able to make the play. There was a method, even though it looked absolutely terrible."

Manager John Gibbons said Grichuk's catch "kind

of set the tone a little bit, especially with the way things have been going."

Pillar, who has plenty of highlight reel catches on his resume, but whose misplay led to a two-run double Saturday, joked that Grichuk's catch was short on style points.

"Mine are much more graceful," Pillar said.

Kiner-Falek started a nifty double play of his own to end the fourth. Toronto had the bases loaded when Kiner-Falek snared Steve Pearce's line drive and stepped on second to double up Lourdes Gurriel Jr.

Happ (4-1) allowed two runs and five hits to remain unbeaten since opening day, a March 29 loss to the Yankees. The left-hander walked none and matched

a season-high with nine strikeouts. It was just the fourth time in 27 games a Toronto started had finished seven innings.

"We desperately needed that," Gibbons said. Renato Nunez hit his first home run of the season for the Rangers, whose season-high three-game winning streak was snapped.

Pillar, who went deep twice in Saturday's 7-4 loss, made it three homers in four at bats with a leadoff blast in the fourth, his fourth.

All three Blue Jays home runs came off left-hander Martin Perez (2-3), who allowed four runs and five hits in four innings. Perez has failed to reach the fifth in three of his past four starts.

"It was a challenge for him to keep his delivery together today," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said.

Perez, who has a 9.62 ERA on the road and a 9.67 ERA overall, took issue with some calls by home plate umpire Tim Timmons.

"I threw good pitches and they didn't call them," Perez said. "They looked like strikes and they didn't give them to me."

Solaris hit a leadoff homer in the second, his seventh, and Hernandez connected to begin the third, his fourth.

Rangers left fielder Ryan Rua made a sliding catch in foul territory on Aledmys Diaz's fly ball for the final out of the sixth. Toronto challenged but the call was upheld.

# MLB GLANCE

Associated Press

Standings

League	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
American League	Red Sox	14	0	1.000	0
	Tigers	11	3	.786	3
	Yankees	10	4	.714	4
	Blue Jays	10	4	.714	4
	White Sox	7	7	.500	7
	Mariners	7	7	.500	7
	Rays	6	8	.429	8
	Indians	6	8	.429	8
	Twins	5	9	.357	9
	Angels	5	9	.357	9
	Braves	4	10	.286	10
	Padres	4	10	.286	10
	Rockhounds	0	14	.000	14
	Missions	14	0	1.000	0
National League	Braves	11	3	.786	0
	Reds	10	4	.714	1
	Phillies	10	4	.714	1
	Giants	7	7	.500	4
	Cardinals	7	7	.500	4
	Pirates	5	9	.357	6
	Mariners	5	9	.357	6
	Twins	5	9	.357	6
	Angels	5	9	.357	6
	Braves	4	10	.286	7
	Padres	4	10	.286	7
	Rockhounds	0	14	.000	14
	Missions	14	0	1.000	0

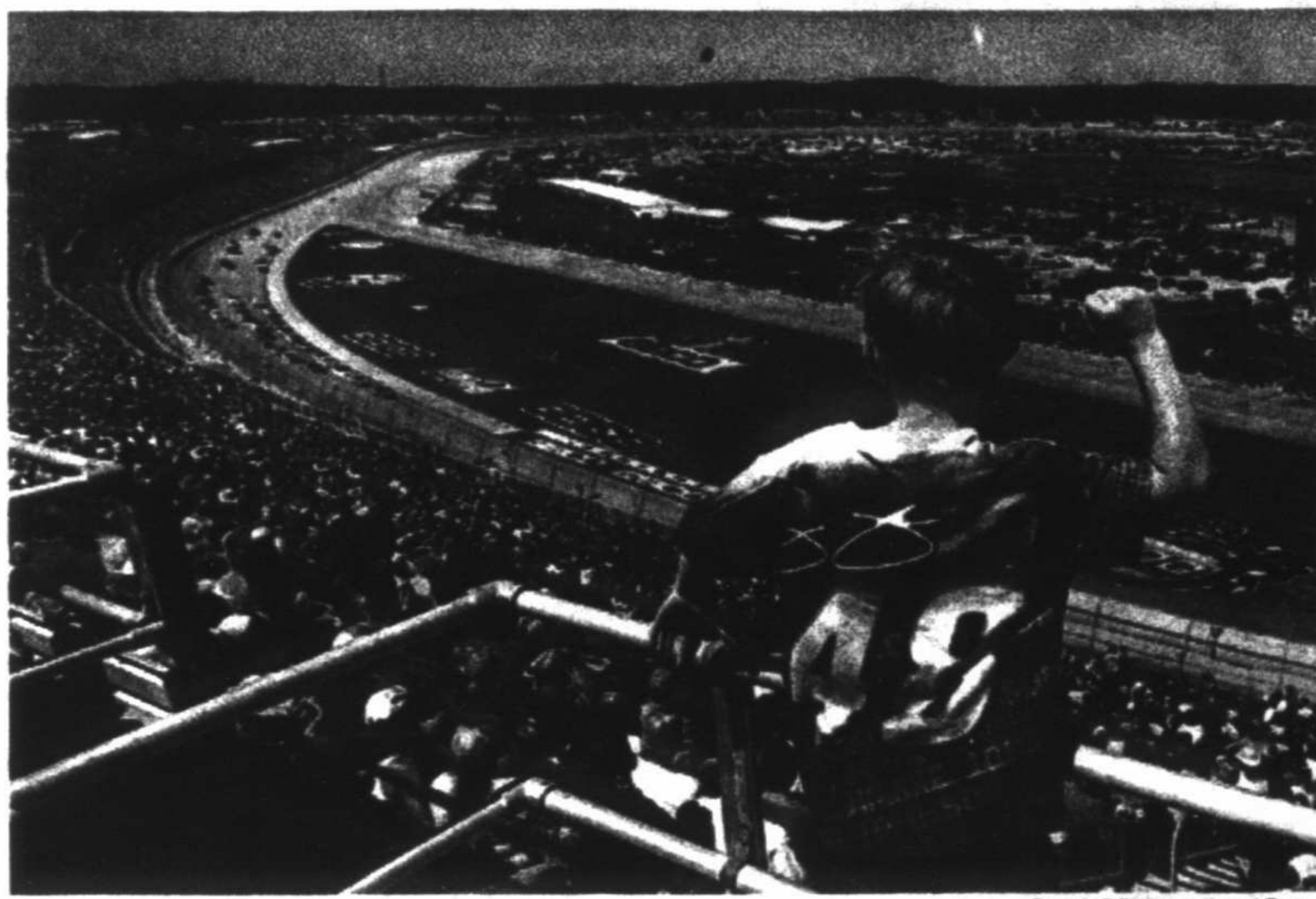
Today's home

Time	Home	Visitor
7:05 p.m.	Red Sox	Yankees
7:05 p.m.	Blue Jays	White Sox
7:05 p.m.	Mariners	Indians
7:05 p.m.	Rays	Twins
7:05 p.m.	Angels	Braves
7:05 p.m.	Phillies	Giants
7:05 p.m.	Cardinals	Pirates
7:05 p.m.	Mariners	Twins
7:05 p.m.	Angels	Braves
7:05 p.m.	Phillies	Giants
7:05 p.m.	Cardinals	Pirates
7:05 p.m.	Mariners	Twins
7:05 p.m.	Angels	Braves
7:05 p.m.	Phillies	Giants
7:05 p.m.	Cardinals	Pirates

Standings

League	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
American League	Red Sox	14	0	1.000	0
	Tigers	11	3	.786	3
	Yankees	10	4	.714	4
	Blue Jays	10	4	.714	4
	White Sox	7	7	.500	7
	Mariners	7	7	.500	7
	Rays	6	8	.429	8
	Indians	6	8	.429	8
	Twins	5	9	.357	9
	Angels	5	9	.357	9
	Braves	4	10	.286	10
	Padres	4	10	.286	10
	Rockhounds	0	14	.000	14
	Missions	14	0	1.000	0
National League	Braves	11	3	.786	0
	Reds	10	4	.714	1
	Phillies	10	4	.714	1
	Giants	7	7	.500	4
	Cardinals	7	7	.500	4
	Pirates	5	9	.357	6
	Mariners	5	9	.357	6
	Twins	5	9	.357	6
	Angels	5	9	.357	6
	Braves	4	10	.286	7
	Padres	4	10	.286	7
	Rockhounds	0	14	.000	14
	Missions	14	0	1.000	0





Butch Dill/Associated Press

A young fan cheers Sunday as racers go by during a NASCAR Talladega race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala.

## Lucky Hamilton wins incident-packed Azerbaijan Grand Prix

By James Ellingworth  
Associated Press

**BAKU, Azerbaijan** — Luck shone on Lewis Hamilton as he returned to the top of the Formula One drivers' championship Sunday with victory at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

With Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari clearly faster than Hamilton and his Mercedes, it took a crash, a mistimed lunge and a puncture to elevate Hamilton to the top spot in Baku.

Vettel led for much of the race, but was stuck in second behind Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas when a crash between the two Red Bulls brought out the safety car.

On the restart, Vettel lunged for the lead but could not keep his car on the racing line at the exit of the next corner and instead lost places. Soon afterward, Bottas' right-rear tire picked up a puncture, ending his race and elevating Hamilton to first.

"Very mixed emotions from today," Hamilton said. He was late to the podium celebrations because he went to speak with Bottas, who "deserved" the win. "I wouldn't have got by him in those laps if he hadn't had that tire blowout," Hamilton added.

Despite taking the standings lead for the first time this season, Hamilton said the win didn't mark a turning point in the fight with Vettel and Ferrari.

"I think Ferrari still have the upper hand," he said. "This year, they've really outperformed us most of the time. We've been able to just hold onto them in the race, but our qualifying pace isn't up to theirs." Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen claimed second place after having dropped to 14th following an early collision, but said he wasn't satisfied with his drive and he had struggled to get the best out of the Ferrari.

Sergio Perez overtook Vettel after his mistake on the restart, and held off the four-time world champion

to claim third place. It was his and Force India's first podium since 2016.

"It was a roller coaster of a race," Perez said. "The last two laps, they were the best two laps of my life."

Vettel said he was "very upset," adding that "I had a chance to win and I tried. It just didn't work."

The two Red Bulls driven by Max Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo fought all race for fourth place.

After several dramatic near-misses, they collided on lap 40 when Ricciardo — the winner of the last race in China — ran into the back of Verstappen under braking at the first corner. That sent them both off the track. Both received reprimands from the stewards.

Bottas had been left in the lead when first Hamilton, then Vettel, stopped for fresh tires. He would have had to stop soon but for the Red Bull crash, which allowed Bottas to pit and keep the lead. Roman Grosjean crashed under the safety car on lap 42, sliding into the wall while weaving in an attempt to heat up his tires.

That delayed the restart, and when it came Vettel charged down the inside of Bottas but couldn't slow enough to make the corner and went onto a runoff area.

Hamilton leads Vettel by four points, followed by Raikkonen and Bottas. Ricciardo's second retirement this season leaves him fifth, 33 points off the lead. The Australian has said he could leave Red Bull next season in search of a car capable of challenging for the title.

After a start in cool, windy conditions that made it hard to get enough grip, the safety car was out almost immediately on lap 1 as several cars collided in the middle of the pack.

Sergei Sirotkin ran into the back of Perez, causing contact between several other cars. That in turn left Fernando Alonso limping back to the pits with two punctures and Sirotkin out of the race. The Russian has been given a three-place grid penalty for the next event in Spain.

## NASCAR

From 1C

"Two Stewart-Haas cars running second and third should have been able to pull this off," Busch said. "I'm happy that a Ford won. It wasn't the right one. Kevin was in good position. I was going to roll with him in any direction that I could. We just got broken up by Stenhouse."

"You wish you could go over and do it again. I feel like I left that one out on the table."

Harvick felt Busch made his move too early.

"The Fords are so fast, we had five or six lined up there, and Kurt went a lap before I was ready," Harvick said.

Other events at Talladega:

### Johnson looking streak

Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson's losing streak hit 33 races when he finished 12th at Talladega.

He was part of a 14-car accident late in the race when he slid in front of teammate William Byron and started the melee that knocked out two Team Penske cars — Brad Kes-

elowski and Ryan Blaney — as well as second stage winner Paul Menard.

Johnson thought as he closed in on Byron, the air was taken off his Chevrolet.

"I was in the second lane and he came up near my lane and then packed air underneath us and around it went," Johnson said.

### McMurray's long weekend

Jamie McMurray was involved in two accidents at Talladega, including a frightening crash during a practice session in which his Chevrolet rolled several times.

He didn't catch any breaks on Sunday and was in an early accident that led to a 28th-place finish.

### Hard to drive

The rules package NASCAR used Sunday at Talladega made the cars difficult to drive and changed the dynamic of a race that usually is marked by multiple accidents.

"The cars weren't handling really good, so you had to be very cautious with the runs that you had and where you had them,"

Johnson said. Drivers weren't able to make big moves or sling-shot passes, and it created a lot of single-file racing.

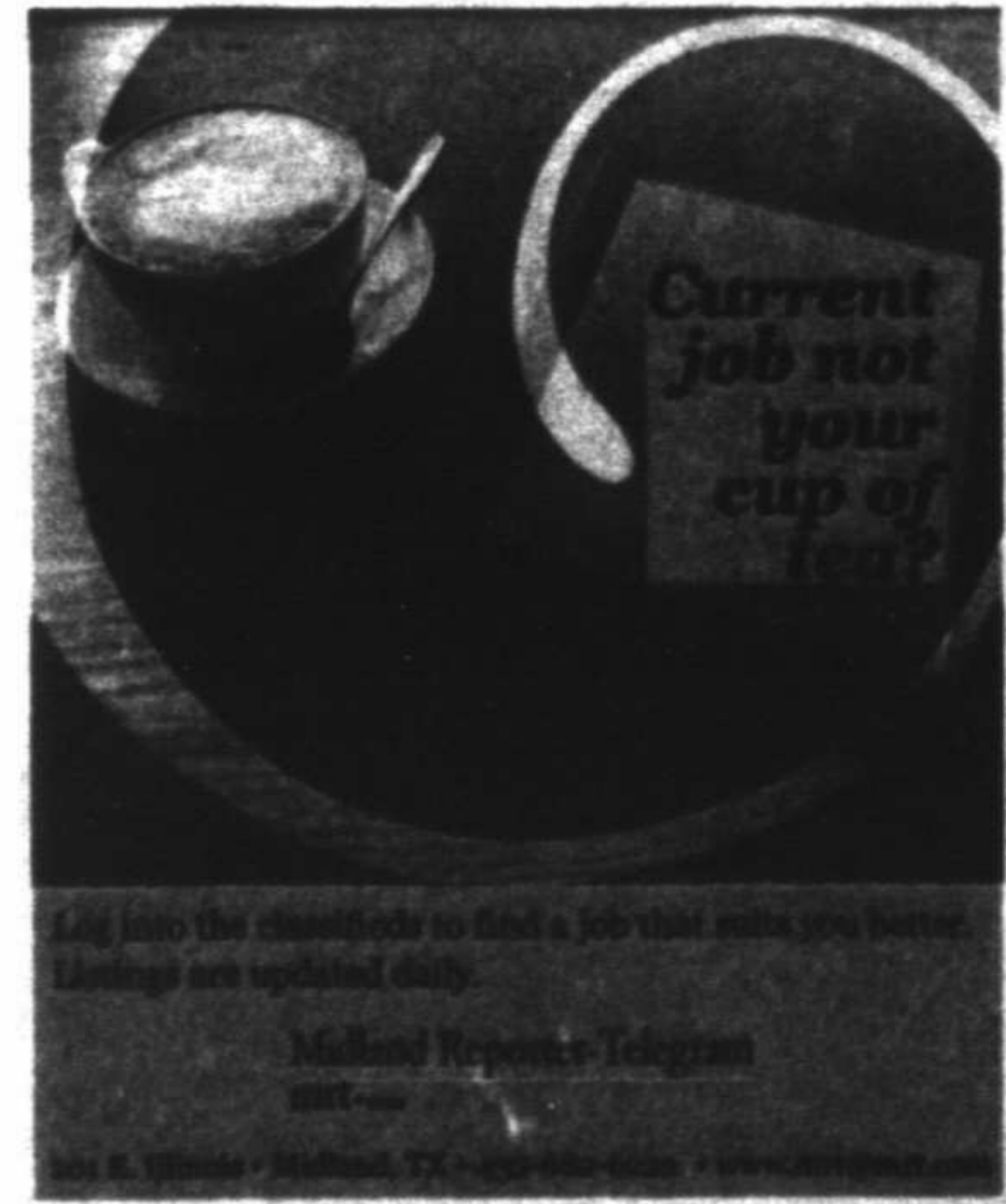
"I think the cars are a handful to drive and I think that is why we have seen a lot of single file racing, just because everybody's confidence in their cars isn't as high as it has been in the past," Kyle Larson said. "Less big moves and stuff, so I think it kind of gets single file because of that."

### Up next

Sunday's race at Dover International Speedway in Delaware, where Johnson scored his last Cup victory last year.

- NASCAR Sprint Cup Series**  
Cup-Grand Old Opry  
Talladega, Ala.  
Lap length: 2.66 miles  
(Start position in parentheses)
- (1) Jimmie Johnson, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (2) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (3) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (4) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (5) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (6) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (7) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (8) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (9) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (10) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (11) Chase Briscoe, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (12) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (13) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (14) William Byron, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (15) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (16) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (17) Joey Logano, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (18) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (19) J.J. Yeck, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (20) Cole Whitt, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (21) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (22) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (23) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (24) Aric Almirola, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (25) Ryan Truex, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (26) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (27) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 188 pts.
  - (28) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (29) Chase Briscoe, Chevrolet, 188 pts.
  - (30) Erik Jones, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (31) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 188 pts.
  - (32) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 188 pts.

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# MILFORD

## THE STRONGER CHOICE

**COME GROW WITH US!**  
**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS:**  
Midland, Garden City, Big Spring, Pecos, & Hobbs.

Sign On Bonus

**FIELD POSITIONS**  
(These positions travel and overnight stay)

**FOREMAN**  
Sign on bonus - must have valid DL

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**  
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION & PIPELINE SERVICE  
Sign on bonus - must have valid DL

**POLYTECH**  
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE PREFERRED  
Sign on bonus - must have valid DL

**LABORER**  
Sign on bonus

**OFFICE POSITIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
(Midland location)

**INSIDE SALES**  
(Elk City, Oklahoma)

**PARTS RUNNER**  
Sign on bonus - must have valid ID  
(Midland, Hobbs, NM and Elk City, OK)

**SHOP MECHANIC**  
(Hobbs, NM and Elk City, OK location)  
Sign on bonus

Employment is subject to passing a drug test.

All positions may apply online, in person, or email resume to  
**HR@milfordonline.com**  
www.milfordcareers.com

7607 W. Industrial Ave. Midland, TX. 79706  
Milford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

**Level:**  
1 2  
3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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## DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Harley rider  
6 Approved  
10 "The lady \_\_\_ protest... "Harriet"  
14 Where one may be taken for a private word  
15 Goller's warning  
16 Slender woodwind  
17 Fruity 12-Down topping  
19 Drive or reverse  
20 The "S" in "CBS": Abbr.  
21 Little green veggie  
22 Vest cream  
23 Craftsperson using scrap metal, glass, etc.  
26 "400 Richest Americans" magazine  
30 Nagging troubles  
31 Nimble  
32 Stick a toothpick in, as a snack  
34 "Bye, Luigi"  
38 Tax filing option for married couples  
41 High-school kid  
42 "On Golden \_\_\_"  
43 Rodeo lasso  
44 Film critic Pauline  
46 "Town Without Pity" singer Gene  
47 Restriction for quarantined patients  
51 One who's done for  
52 Old studio letters  
53 Olympic sword  
57 Ride-sharing company  
58 Feature of the time periods hinted at by the starting letters of 17-, 23-, 36- and 47-Across  
61 Range in Europe  
62 Country's McEntire  
63 Cove, e.g.  
64 Viral internet phenomenon  
65 Former couples  
66 Like yesterday's fashions

2 Kids' road-trip game  
3 White wine appetits  
4 Cuf and pasta, e.g.  
5 Word with room or center  
6 Plenty of lines  
7 TV cop with a lollipop  
8 Big Band \_\_\_  
9 Rep.'s opponent  
10 Bone-shaped treat  
11 Follows orders  
12 Browned bread  
13 Word seen on a towel  
18 Composer's work  
22 Dined  
23 Spectator's bit of disapproval  
24 Tony or Hugo  
25 Judge's apparel  
26 Like greyhounds  
27 S-shaped molding  
28 Ready on the vine  
29 Poetry that doesn't rhyme  
32 Popular vodka, popularly  
33 Square root of 100

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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

## JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt

1									

**ACROSS**

1. Cloudy, muddy  
5. Sure thing  
6. Ascend, climb  
7. Forgiveness

**DOWN**

1. Reside, inhabit  
2. Memory gap  
3. Not listened to  
4. Rule

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

CLUE: The \_\_\_\_\_ was founded on March 1, 1961.

BONUS O O O O O O O O O O

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

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kuzarek

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

HVOSE

HMERY

TRAPBU

CNAITT

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

Print answer here: O O O O O O O O O O

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumble: HIPPO NINTH INVERT LETTER  
Answer: The oil company was behind schedule because of too many projects — IN THE PIPELINE

## WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY TOM

1. TALK

2. FLYING RIO

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

ANSWERS

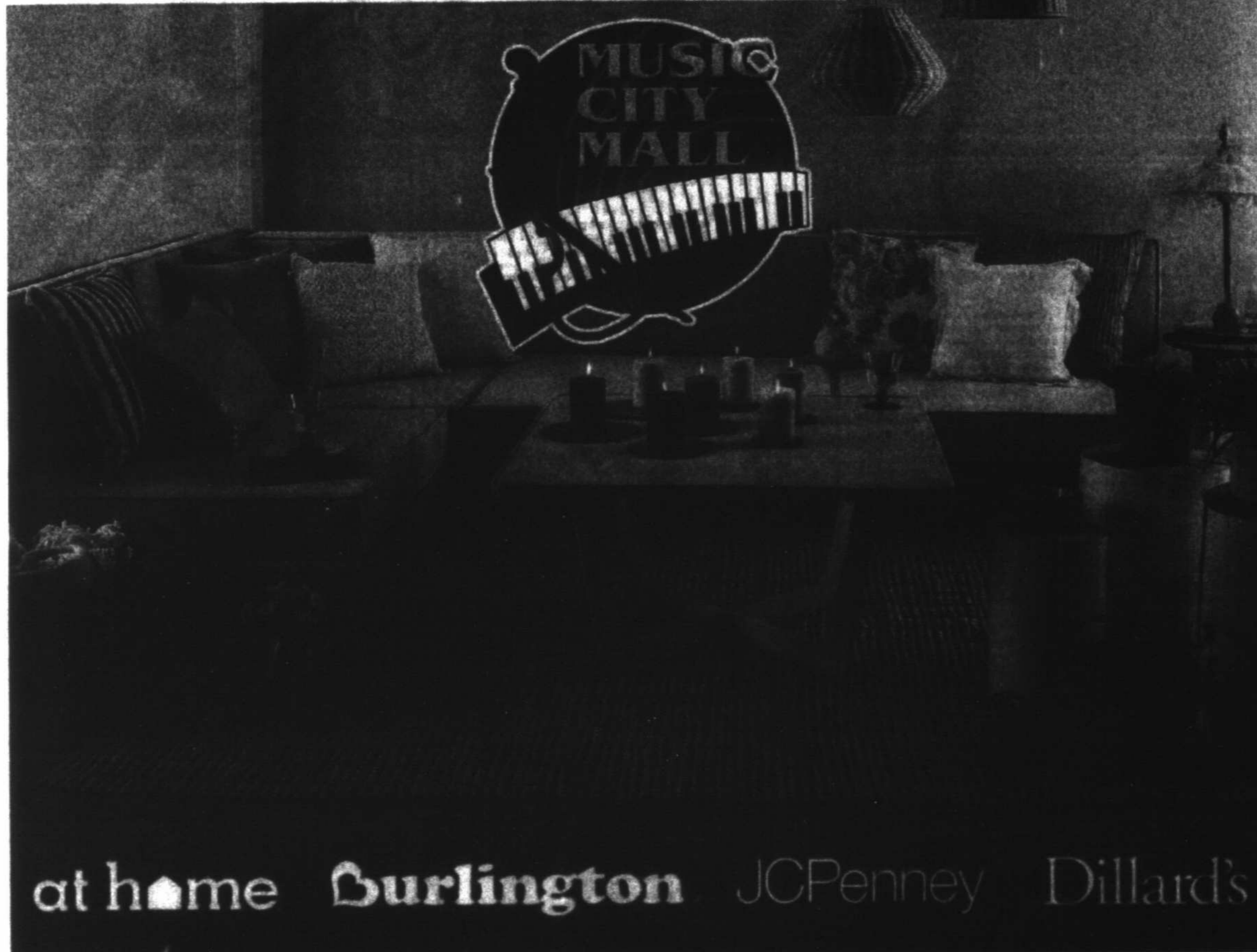
1. Big talk  
2. Flying down to Rio

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

42nd & JBS Parkway • Odessa

# at home

The Home Décor Superstore



at home Burlington JCPenney Dillard's



## WE CATER TO YOU!

### 432-362-2311

## AUTÉNTICA

HOMEMADE MEXICAN FOOD

### MONDAY LUNCH

ALL PLATTERS \$5  
WITH PURCHASE OF BEVERAGE

**Quesadilla (Adult or Child)**  
Served with guacamole, sour cream, & side of salsa.

**Chile Relleno**  
Two chile rellenos (stuffed or hollow) smothered with our red sauce or queso. Two slices of beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Asado**  
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Grande Burrito**  
Includes beans, cheese, beef or chicken, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, sour cream, & jalapeno.

**Shredded Beef**  
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Cheese Taco Plate**  
Two cheese or beef nachos, one burrito, & one taco. Served with rice & beans.

**Enchiladas**  
Cubes of beef or queso, beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice & beans.

**Fajitas**  
Four dishes: beef, rice, beans, guacamole, & sour cream.

**Chile Verde con Carne**  
Rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Fajitas (Adult or Child)**  
Rice, beans, queso de panela, guacamole, sour cream, & large homemade flour tortilla.

**Crispy Tacos**  
Two slices of beef or chicken. Served with rice & beans.



4201 W Hwy 80 E | Odessa | (432)362-2311

## Taste of Mexico

EVERY TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

11am-2pm

Authentic homemade Enchiladas, Chile Rellenos, Asado, Tortillas, Refried Beans, fresh made Guacamole, Salsa, Sopapillas, and more

TRY THE BUFFET ON WEDNESDAY

\$13.99



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# mrt★com/jobs



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432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

**MIDLAND**  
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 Dawson at sdawson@mrt.com.

**MIDLAND**  
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, 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

Apply online at [www.midlandtx.gov/jobs](http://www.midlandtx.gov/jobs)

**Midland**

Midland Independent School District is seeking  
**Full-Time**  
Assistant Head Custodian/ Lee High School  
Custodian/District Wide

Assistant Head Custodian/ Lee High School: Daily supervision of all assigned Custodial Staff to ensure all Custodians follow routine cleaning and maintenance procedures to maintain a high standard of safety, cleanliness, and efficiency of building operations and grounds.

Custodian/District Wide: Follow routine cleaning and maintenance procedures to maintain a high standard of safety, cleanliness, and efficiency of building operations and grounds.

**Qualification Requirements:**

Pass training courses

- Ability to read, write and understand verbal instructions in English
- Knowledge of basic techniques of minor repairs and building and ground maintenance
- Ability to operate cleaning equipment and lift heavy equipment
- Properly handle and use cleaning supplies
- Ability to lift and carry 15-44 lbs. without assistance

**Benefits include:**

- Health Insurance: District pays for 100% for Employee Only - \$0 cost to employee - Additional cost to the employee for family.
- Dental & Vision: We offer low monthly premiums.
- Texas Teacher Retirement System: Pay into a retirement pension.
- Voluntary Annuity: In addition to TRS, retirement plans such as 403(b), 457, or Roth Annuity Plans
- Voluntary Benefits: Disability, Accident, Sickness, Heart & Cancer plans and a Flex Plans for Medical & Childcare

<http://www.midlandisd.edu/12.careers/index.aspx> - to apply

**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING  
Administrative Assistant - 555

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

**Job Duties:**

- Answer phone, take messages, greet visitors and assist citizens with questions or concerns.
- Maintain calendar for assigned personnel.
- Develop, type and file correspondence.
- Enter data into the computer regarding police actions or projects.
- Process and route mail as needed.
- Perform 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 create 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](http://www.midlandtx.gov/jobs)  
Equal Opportunity Employer

**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING  
LVN

LVN - Full Time needed for Addition medical clinic. Early morning hours. Location in Midland, TX. 78001. Monday through Friday. No health insurance available. Please fax resume to 900-671-6304.

**Full Time Maintenance**

Currently looking for Full-Time Maintenance. Experience needed. Apply in person at: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2800 W Loop 200 S, Midland, TX, 79701.

**MIDLAND**  
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 time.
- 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 develops concerning city and regional, 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 written materials. 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

Apply online at [www.midlandtx.gov/jobs](http://www.midlandtx.gov/jobs)  
Equal Opportunity Employer

**Instructor-Transportation Trainer**

Midland College is seeking an Instructor-Transportation Trainer

**Job Summary:** The Transportation Trainer will provide instruction and train students in the classroom as well as in driving. The students will be provided with training and experience to obtain a Commercial Driver License.

**Required Qualifications:**

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Must possess a valid Texas Class "A" Commercial Driver License, good driving record, and be insurable on Midland College's insurance policy
- Three years' experience driving "over the road" (OTR) or local
- Experience in pre-trip and life inspections, coupling and uncoupling of equipment
- Computer literacy
- Knowledge of rules and regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- Knowledge of Double Clutching techniques and how to teach it as required by TNDPS
- Knowledge of air brake testing procedures and be able to instruct and assist
- Knowledge of Hours of Service Regulations and be able to log and teach log both entries as well as log book entry
- Ability to manage multiple tasks while providing close attention to detail
- Ability to work in cooperation with others and work a flexible schedule based on training needs
- Maintain a high level of record keeping, office cleanliness, and most frequent cleanliness
- Establish goals and maintain a high level of division making
- Adaptable to a constantly changing environment
- Ability to move or lift/move up to 75 pounds, capable of climbing stairs, balancing, stooping, and repetitive lifting
- Must successfully pass a DOT physical and DOT drug test

608

**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
- Bulky Dump drivers

Home every night and new equipment

**Requirements:** 1 year of driving experience, Valid Texas Class A CDL, references 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 Corporation, Inc.  
1401 S. Granddollar  
Odessa, Texas 79701

**Midland**

Midland Independent School District is seeking  
**Full-Time Math Teachers**  
at the following locations:  
Lee High School, BAYVIEW, Adams & Goodland Junior High School.

Provide students with appropriate learning activities and experiences designed to allow them potential for intellectual, emotional, physical, and social growth. Enable students to develop competence and skills to function successfully in society.

**Education:**

- Bachelor's degree from accredited college or university
- Valid Texas teaching certificate

**Requirements:**

- Student Teaching, approved Internship or approved Alternative Teacher Certification Program
- Supervisor assigned teacher assistant(s), if applicable.

**Benefits include:**

- Health Insurance: District pays for 100% for Employee Only - \$0 cost to employee - Additional cost to the employee for family.
- Dental & Vision: We offer low monthly premiums.
- Texas Teacher Retirement System: Pay into a retirement pension.
- Voluntary Annuity: In addition to TRS, retirement plans such as 403(b), 457, or Roth Annuity Plans
- Voluntary Benefits: Disability, Accident, Sickness, Heart & Cancer plans and a Flex Plans for Medical & Childcare

<http://www.midlandisd.edu/12.careers/index.aspx> - to apply

**Midland**

Midland Independent School District is seeking  
**Full-Time**  
Registered Nurse (Registered Nurse)

**Education/Qualifications:**

- Registered Professional Nurse with academic preparation at the diploma, associate degree, or baccalaureate level.
- Current Texas license issued by the State of Texas Board of Nursing
- Current certification in CPR and Basic First Aid
- Texas Department of Health certification in vision, hearing, and spinal screening is required.

**Experience:**

- Two years of supervised nurse practice preferably in community health, all or to entry into school nursing.

**Qualifications:**

- Experience in community health or practice setting is preferred.
- Course of study which strengthens growth in nursing, education, special education, health education, and other health-related fields is recommended.
- Course of study for child growth and development.

**Benefits include:**

- Health Insurance: District pays for 100% for Employee Only - \$0 cost to employee - Additional cost to the employee for family.
- Dental & Vision: We offer low monthly premiums.
- Texas Teacher Retirement System: Pay into a retirement pension.
- Voluntary Annuity: In addition to TRS, retirement plans such as 403(b), 457, or Roth Annuity Plans
- Voluntary Benefits: Disability, Accident, Sickness, Heart & Cancer plans and a Flex Plans for Medical & Childcare

<http://www.midlandisd.edu/12.careers/index.aspx> - to apply

**Show Hands & CDL Drivers**

Driving Company looking for experienced drivers in the state:

- QC - Motor Technicians - Power Section - CDL Drivers - 3 plus years

Apply on Pay-Phone call: 432-684-4222 or 432-682-1452

Midland Reporter-Telegram  
HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS  
IN ITS DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT FOR  
**PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE**

Part Time Day Associate - **MUST BE DEPENDABLE**  
Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person.

**\$13.00 PER HOUR**

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk  
Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: [jmsd@hearstap.com](mailto:jmsd@hearstap.com)

**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE**

Midland Reporter-Telegram  
HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS  
IN ITS DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT FOR  
**NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE**

Must be able to commit to 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.

**\$13.00 PER HOUR**

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk  
Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: [jmsd@hearstap.com](mailto:jmsd@hearstap.com)

**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE**

**WAREHOUSE CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE**

Big Green Oil Company, 3010 S. FM 1702, Midland, Texas 79701

Warehouse Customer Service Associate. Duties include: Answer phones, take customer orders, coordinate deliveries, maintain inventory, encourage safe work habits, keep all files current, handle computer data/inventory requests, check pay, check inventory, Let's discuss. Resumes to [ap@biggreenoil.com](mailto:ap@biggreenoil.com) for job interview

**Endeavor Energy Resources**

**Now hiring for a Field Technician.**

The Field Technician will provide advanced refuse 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 use and post up 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/drop up to 60 lbs.

**Position type and expected hours of work:**  
This is a full-time position.

Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in regards to race, color, creed, age, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, marital status or disability. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to employment and discrimination will not be tolerated.

**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.

**Domino's**

**NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS**

- Great attitude and desire to be part of the Domino's team a must
- Must be 18 years of age or older with a good driving record
- Valid Driver's License
- Your own vehicle with insurance
- Earn hourly wage plan, tips and mileage. Great drivers can earn \$16-\$25 per hour with a great attitude and health!
- Full time & Part-time positions available with flexible hours

**CASHIERS AND PIE BAKERS**

- Great first job for student over 16 years old
- Earn a good hourly wage with quick raise opportunities
- Full time & Part-time positions available

**APPLY ONLINE AT [JOBS.DOMINOS.COM](http://JOBS.DOMINOS.COM)**  
or any of the 10 Midland & Odessa locations

1307 N Loop 250 - Midland  
3300 W Illinois - Midland  
4510 N Garfield - Midland  
604 N Big Spring St - Midland  
903 I-20 - Midland  
3111 Fawcett Rd - Odessa  
980 E 87th St - Odessa  
1100 E 41st St - Odessa  
2251 Linda Ave - Odessa  
9001 W University Blvd - Odessa

**MIDLAND**

**NOW HIRING**

**Planner**

Performs field and office work related to planning and development programs for subdivision of land and physical facilities of the city.

**Job Duties:**

- Prepare special studies and reports related to code amendments and ordinance studies. Assist with comprehensive plan and studies as necessary.
- Prepare detailed reports such as annual population estimates.
- Review requests and prepare written reports for zone change and proposed subdivision plat applications and special studies.
- Present information and recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Review ordinance applications including temporary land use, special events, public rights of way, etc.
- Respond to public inquiries concerning development of the city in general as well as specific areas.
- Research, compile and analyze land use and related data.
- Work with the public and developers in assessing conditions and providing information.
- Perform related duties as required.

**Qualifications:**

- Ability to effectively communicate with developers and citizens in order to provide information and guidance on planning and zoning issues. Ability to work in coordination with employees from different departments.
- Knowledge of current planning processes and procedures. Ability to read and understand technical reports, reports and zoning laws. Ability in developing related reports and ability to analyze and present data on land use applications and planning. Ability to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing, to citizens and other government officials.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in architecture, planning, engineering or community plan with 3 years of experience. Valid Texas Driver's License.

**Benefits:**

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

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Equal Opportunity Employer

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**432-682-6222**

**MIDLAND**

**NOW HIRING**

**Public Safety Dispatcher**

Directs calls for service for emergency purposes and directs non-emergency incidents.

**Job Duties:**

- Answers the phone and assists citizens with requests for emergency and non-emergency services for police, fire, sheriff and emergency medical services.
- Directs citizen inquiries and non-emergency calls to the appropriate agency or organization.
- Operates law enforcement and fire and rescue personnel and radios support and calls presented as received through the use of multi-channel radio system and computer aided dispatch system.
- Requests and disseminates vehicle registration, driver's license, criminal history information through the use of the Texas Automated Computer System (TACS, NCIC).
- Obtains computer information and disseminates to law enforcement officials and investigators. Enters related information into the system.
- Obtains and reviews telephone information to and from related agencies.
- Maintains records of work performed.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:**

- Ability to work with dispatch equipment and communicate with citizens and emergency personnel in highly stressful, possibly emergency situations. Employee communicates with other employees in the work group, citizens and other law enforcement agencies in order to disseminate requests for services and provide critical assistance. Will also exchange information or request assistance from other agencies and make referrals when necessary.
- Ability to read and understand technical and professional manuals 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 specialized computer and related information systems and low-key radio dispatch equipment. Typing speed of 38 WPM.
- Will also be required to take and pass ALL tests.

1. Typing  
2. Data Entry  
3. Data Entry (IT) (Audio)  
4. Call Simulation  
5. Memory Recall-Name (Audio)  
6. Map Reading  
7. Spelling  
8. Sentence Clarity  
9. Reading Comprehension

Employee work related skills and gather, organize, translate and process information from various emergency calls.

**DAYS & HOURS:**  
Rotating Shift; Rotating Day On - Valid Texas Driver License.

**Benefits:**

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

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**682-6222**

**MIDLAND**

**NOW HIRING**

**Recycle Supervisor**

Supervises and monitors Citizens Collection Station and Recycle drivers in day to day operations and projects. Works as a service attendant at the Citizens Collection Station as needed. Acts as a Solid Waste Supervisor as needed.

**BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Provides input as to needed equipment and employment positions. Monitors supplies and equipment at the Citizens Collection Station.

**Job Duties:**

- Schedule and monitor the work of subordinate employees.
- Supervise employees in the use, care, and preventive maintenance of equipment and machinery.
- Reads schedules, manuals, and other specifications in order to determine and make necessary repairs and maintenance.
- Maintains equipment in good working order and keeps records of work performed.
- Obtains the disbursements and maintenance of facilities, equipment, tools and materials.
- Acts as the customer service representative of the Recycle Division at the Citizens Collection Station and on recycle trucks.
- Keeps records and reports readily available.
- Coordinates efforts with Solid Waste operations.
- Serves as service attendant when necessary.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:**

- Ability to effectively communicate with employees and to receive work orders or instructions for any project. Interacts frequently with the public, vendors, and government agency representatives.
- Ability to read, interpret, and understand local, state, and federal regulations related to disposal of refuse. Knowledge of processes used in the disposal of solid waste. Skill in the use of various equipment and machinery such as hand and electrical power tools and heavy equipment utilized in disposal activities. Ability to both direct and safe operation of equipment. Ability to work with cash and adhere to cash-handling policies. Ability to properly evaluate activities and make recommendations for improvement. Good public relation skills as well as verbal and written communication skills.
- High school diploma or general education degree required and some college preferred. One to three years of experience in Solid Waste similar supervising and evaluating the work of others preferred. Must possess a valid Texas Driver's License and possess or acquire a valid Texas Class "D" Municipal Solid Waste Operator License within two years of hire date.

**Benefits:**

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

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**BUFFALO WILD WINGS**

**NOW HIRING Full Time Managers. Send Resumes via Fax to 800-763-8891 or Email at [buffalobuffalotexas@gmail.com](mailto:buffalobuffalotexas@gmail.com)**

**Full Time Cashier**

Health Food Store is taking applications for energetic and friendly full-time cashier. Pleasant work environment, friendly customer, generous employee discount and paid vacations. Apply in person Monday through Friday only 9am to 5pm at Natural Foods Market, 2311 W. Woodway, Midland, TX.

**Full Time Receiving**

Health food store is taking applications for a receiving person. Five day work week, \$9-10 per hour. Pleasant work environment, caring management and pleasant customers. Apply in person Monday through Friday only, 9am to 5pm, at Natural Foods Market, 2311 W. Woodway, Midland, Texas 79707

**Manager & Cashiers**

Anchor's Outlet has openings for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS. Full-time & Part-time positions must have own transportation. Apply in person Mon-Fri 9-5 at either store. 5000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa, TX.

**METAL FAB PRODUCTS**

Metal Fab Products, Inc. is a well-established metal fabrication company that has served the Permian Basin since 1959. We are currently seeking an Outside Sales Rep. The ideal candidate will have:

- Knowledge of metal fabrication
- Time management skills
- Great communication skills
- A desire to work hard and an eagerness for sales
- The ability to work alone or with a team

Metal Fab Products, Inc. provides Health Insurance, 401K and competitive compensation.

Please send your resume to [don.gregory@metalproducts.com](mailto:don.gregory@metalproducts.com)  
Or call Don Gregory at 432-568-9817

**CDL DRIVERS, TECHNICIANS, YARD PERSONNEL AND MORE NEEDED IN MIDLAND**

**IMPACT! Chemical Technologies is seeking MULTIPLE POSITIONS including:**

- Laboratory Technicians
- Blend Plant Personnel
- Yard Personnel
- CDL Drivers
- Service Technicians

Experience a Plus. Excellent pay and benefits. Please send resume to [hr@impactchemical.com](mailto:hr@impactchemical.com) or PO Box 10667, Midland, TX 79702.

**IMPACT!**

**MIDLAND**

**NOW HIRING**

**Systems Administrator**

Performs network and system support functions on segments of the computer network, including general and emergency maintenance, performance and security audits, monitoring, testing, and installing new products and procedures. Analyzes emerging technology and makes recommendations for constant improvements to network and infrastructure services and capabilities.

**Job Duties:**

- Design and coordinate segments of the IT architecture
- Manage server applications, including but not limited to email needs, Active Directory, operating systems, and email.
- Perform and maintain IT design, architectural, and configuration documentation, as directed.
- Maintain information storage systems, schedules, and logs, including backup and recovery tests, as directed.
- Perform research, development, and planning of the IT infrastructure.
- Be responsible for the installing, building, and testing IT solutions; analyzing IT infrastructure technical issues; and supporting the design, planning, building, and testing of new IT solutions, as assigned.
- Perform related duties as assigned.
- Subject to recall 24/7

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science plus two years of experience in a related field is required.
- Four years experience may be substituted for the Bachelor's degree requirement.
- Valid Texas Driver's License

**Benefits:**

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

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**Supreme Services & Specialty Company**

Supreme Services is currently seeking a career minded Full Time Wireline Pressure Control Specialist to work in the preparation and assembly of grease injectors and wellhead equipment. We offer a competitive pay package as well as a generous group health plan. Email resume to: [hr@supremeservices.com](mailto:hr@supremeservices.com) or complete application at [www.supremeservices.com](http://www.supremeservices.com)

**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Equipment Operator - Landfill**

Disposes for refuse through the use of heavy equipment at the Landfill.

**Job Duties:**

- Disposes of refuse with the use of heavy equipment such as compactors, scrapers, bulldozers and related equipment.
- Maintains access roads to the Landfill.
- Covers refuse at the end of each day.
- Maintains all equipment in good working order and keeps records of service problems. Submits daily maintenance sheets to supervisor.
- Performs preventive maintenance on equipment such as oil changes. Determines when servicing of vehicles is required.
- Moves vehicles as they enter, unload and leave the Landfill. Gives directions to citizens.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:**

Ability to effectively communicate with employees in order to receive work orders or instructions for any project.

Ability to read, interpret and understand local, state and federal regulations related to disposal. Knowledge of the processes used in collection and disposal of waste materials. Ability to follow instructions and manuals for equipment repair and maintenance. Skill in the use of various equipment and machinery such as hand and electrical power tools and heavy equipment utilized in disposal activities such as compactors, lifts, chutes and hydraulic systems as well as simple shovels, brooms and rakes. Ability to read operator's manuals and work orders.

High school diploma or equivalent, plus one to three years of equipment operation 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**  
NOW HIRING

**Equipment Operator - Water and Wastewater**

Performs manual and unskilled labor of more than ordinary difficulty, which often involves the use of acquired skills and operates several types of light vehicles and equipment. Does related work and training as required.

**Qualifications:**

Ability to effectively communicate with employees in order to receive work orders or instructions for any project.

Ability to read, interpret and understand local, state and federal regulations related to water and sewer system maintenance. Knowledge of the processes used in utility maintenance. Ability to follow instructions and manuals for equipment repair and maintenance. Skill in the use of various equipment and machinery such as hand and electrical power tools. Skill in the use of heavy equipment utilized in maintenance activities such as backhoes, ditch witch, and jet truck. Ability to read operator's manuals and work orders.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Valid Texas CDL Class A driver's license required or must be obtained within 6 months of employment. Must possess or be able to obtain Wastewater Certification Class 1 and Water Distribution D Certificate with in a reasonable length of time.

**Benefits:**

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

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**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Lead Water Purification Plant Operator**

This position requires a demonstrated ability to perform advanced functions related to the operation and maintenance of equipment at all water treatment facilities. This position functions as a Lead Operator and also as Chief Plant operator when required, performing complex analysis of the Water Treatment Plant operations and having direct charge of the operation of a water treatment facility or Water Purification Facility. Positions at this level provide instruction and assistance to lower level Water Treatment Plant Operators. This position is normally filled by advancement from the Water Treatment Operator II. Position requires three to five years of experience in a Surface Water Treatment Plant Operator and must possess a minimum of a Class 'C' Surface Water Treatment Plant Operator Certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at the time of accepting position.

**Benefits:**

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

Apply online at [www.midlandtx.gov/jobs](http://www.midlandtx.gov/jobs)  
Equal Opportunity Employer

**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Maintenance Specialist - Parks - Sports Complex**

Performs all routine maintenance work for the public facilities at the sports complex, including special events.

**Job Duties:**

- Performs routine building and grounds maintenance.
- Performs trash removal activities.
- Sweeps grounds and athletic areas and facilities for repairs.
- Operates and maintains equipment used in daily operations. Files out reports and submits to supervisor.
- Helps set up of special events and sports tournaments.
- Works weekends and evenings as required.
- Performs other related duties as required.

**Qualifications:**

Employee communicates with other employees in the work group and may respond to questions from the general public regarding services or specific projects.

Ability to read and understand work orders and equipment manuals. Skill in troubleshooting air conditioning and plumbing. Ability to operate hand tools and equipment such as mowers, gas powered blowers, saws and other gardening and maintenance tools.

High school diploma or equivalent preferred. Valid Texas Driver's License, CDL preferred.

**Benefits:**

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

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**MULTIPLE POSITIONS**

IFG Solutions is looking to hire Heavy Machinery Operators such as Backhoes, Subcompactors, Skid Steers, Water Trucks and Grassy Cleaners. Pay is based on experience and hourly. Full time hours plus OT. If interested please email Terry at [Terry@ifgsolutions.com](mailto:Terry@ifgsolutions.com) or call (432) 662-0740.

**PIONEER**  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
NOW HIRING

**Instrumentation & Electrical Technician**

Maintains all electrical equipment used to monitor and control of well casing equipment. Works night.

**Qualifications:**

- High school education or equivalent.
- 6 months experience maintaining and repairing electronic instrumentation and automation equipment.
- Valid operator's license with clean driving record.

**Comprehensive Benefits package!**

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at [www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings](http://www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings)

**Sutzer Service Center NOW HIRING**

Mechanics, Field Service Technicians & Shop Hands

Must be mechanically inclined and have the desire to work on team. Desired experience with lifters, drill press, welding even center & mill. Job involves inspecting machines as well as doing repair work.

Those holding records and good in hand tools best. Apply online @ [www.sutzer.com](http://www.sutzer.com) or email resume to [recruiting@sutzer.com](mailto:recruiting@sutzer.com)

**PIONEER**  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
NOW HIRING

**Local Drivers**

Local truck drivers needed. Home nightly, local routes, scheduled shifts 5am - 5pm (14/7 rotational) never on call, optional overtime.

**Qualifications:**

- High school education or equivalent.
- Valid operator's license.
- Clean driving record.
- DOT compliant

**Comprehensive Benefits package!**

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

Apply at [www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings](http://www.pnr.com/careers/job-openings)

**PIONEER**  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
NOW HIRING

**Transportation Truck Driver**

Responsible for driving Water, Dump, and/or Belly Dump Truck and hauling water/sludge to drill rigs, treating crews, etc. Handle water/sludge from well locations to proper disposal facilities.

**Qualifications:**

- High school education or equivalent.
- Experience can range from commercial truck driving experience preferred to one year as a water truck driver required.
- Valid Class A CDL with Tanker endorsement.
- Clean driving record.
- Salary competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Comprehensive Benefits package!**

- Medical, Dental, & Vision
- Prescription Drug
- 401 K
- Vacation, Sick Time, & Company Paid Holidays
- Company Paid Life
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Onsite Fitness Center

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**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Plant Maintenance Mechanic - Water Purification Plant**

Performs skilled & Semi-skilled maintenance duties as they relate to equipment repair and repairs. Performs preventive maintenance recommended preventive maintenance to equipment at the Water Purification Plant.

**Job Duties:**

- Repairs equipment including pumps, chemical feeders, valves and specialized equipment.
- Performs preventive maintenance on plant equipment according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Performs general maintenance at plants including but not limited to cleaning and painting of water treatment basins and painting of equipment.
- Performs electrical repairs including wiring of electric motors, switches, and panels.
- Troubleshoots electrical problems including checking and resetting control circuits.
- Serves as a shift relief as needed, assuming full liability, duties and responsibility of position that is being filled.
- Performs related duties as required.

**Qualifications:**

Employee communicates with other employees and the public, as necessary.

Skill in observing, reading and interpreting written materials. Knowledge of plant operations and maintenance. Skill in performing mathematical calculations. Ability to use testing and measuring equipment. Skill in the use of hand tools, test equipment, and welding tools. May work rotating shifts.

High school diploma or equivalent required. One to three years experience in a related field preferred. Must receive and retain a valid 'C' Water license within 3 years of employment. Must receive Hazard Awareness level and NCEM certification within 1 year of employment. Must remain qualified to wear SCBA. Must possess a valid Texas Class 'C' CDL or have the ability to obtain license within a reasonable amount of time.

**Benefits:**

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

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Equal Opportunity Employer

**Tapers & Painters**

Now hiring experienced Tapers and Painters asap. Must come to office to fill out application at 505 W. Ohio Street, Ste 201 A, Midland from 9am-5pm Monday - Friday. 432-662-7099

**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Utility Plant Operator - WPCP**

Assists in the operation of the waste water treatment plant.

**Job Duties:**

- Controls water complex for testing and analysis in primary treatment area.
- Operates and maintains primary treatment equipment and observes the operation of related plant equipment.
- Checks gauges, records information and reports problems to the Operator, or other supervisors.
- Performs janitorial and grounds keeping duties in assigned areas.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:**

Ability to effectively communicate with employees and supervisors on plant condition and in order to receive work orders or instructions for any project.

Ability to read operator's manuals, gauges and work orders to collect samples for analysis. Skill in setting to record results. Skill work required.

High school diploma or equivalent required plus ability to obtain C operator's certificate from the WPCP within established time constraints. Valid Texas Driver's License.

**DAYS & HOURS:**

Rotating 8M; Rotating Days Off

**Benefits:**

- Health care Plans
- Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Employee Wellness Program
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**CDL Mixer Drivers**

4J Concrete, LLC is hiring CDL drivers, form setters and concrete finishers. Excellent pay. Call (432) 934-1384.

**CLASS A CDL DRIVER**

Arrow Truck Company is now hiring a Class A CDL Driver. Minimum of 24 months of commercial driving experience. Possess a Texas CDL. Must be able to pass a drug screen, DOT physical, and background evaluation. We offer competitive wages, full benefits, and 401K. Please apply online [www.arrowtruck.com](http://www.arrowtruck.com). Call our office if you have any questions 432-692-0017.

**Driver for Golf Cart Service**

Year of Working in Ocala? Looking for driver for Golf Cart maintenance business. Low Stress, Local driving, 8am-Pm, \$18,000 HR, Driving Pickup Truck. Apply Arrow Golf Cart, 2011 W Wall Midland.

**High End Drivers**

High end drivers needed to deliver high end clientele within the Pioneer Basin.

Experience required with trailer and last end endorsement.

Benefits: Uniforms, medical, dental, and vision insurance, 401 K, Short-Term Disability

Hourly pay with overtime and lead incentive pay.

Training provided for those of little experience.

Apply Online - [www.pnr.com](http://www.pnr.com)

**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Equipment Operator - Traffic Operations**

Perform manual and unskilled labor on traffic signs and markings, which often involves the use of acquired skills. Operate several types of light and heavy vehicles, equipment, and tools. Do related work and training as required.

**Job Duties:**

- Assist in loading and unloading transported equipment.
- Operate equipment used in the daily activities of the Traffic Operations division such as paint machines, sign installation equipment, welders and other heavy equipment.
- Perform maintenance, service minor repairs on vehicles and equipment.
- Install and maintain roadway signs, markings and all other traffic devices.
- Assist in maintaining inventory of supplies and equipment.
- Maintain records of work performed, schedules, status reports and work orders.
- Perform related duties as required.

**Qualifications:**

Employee must be able to communicate effectively with employees, management and citizens in order to effectively receive and complete assigned work.

Ability to read, interpret and understand local, state and federal regulations related to traffic control devices and operations. Knowledge of the processes used in traffic control maintenance. Employee must be able to follow instructions for equipment repair and maintenance. Skill in the use of various equipment and machinery such as hand and electrical power tools is required. Employee must be able to use heavy equipment required in maintenance activities such as backhoes, ditch witch, and edging truck. Ability to read operator's manuals and work orders is also required.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Valid Texas Class 'A' or 'D' CDL required, or must be obtained within 6 months of employment.

**Benefits:**

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

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**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Equipment Operator - Transportation**

Under supervision, performs unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled duties in the maintenance and repair of the City's street infrastructure. Performs a variety of tasks including general labor and the operation of light and heavy equipment used in the repair of streets, alleys, and drainage ways.

**Job Duties:**

- Performs routine maintenance and repair of City streets and alleys through the operation of light and heavy equipment including walk-behind mowers and compactors, dump trucks and water trucks, and other equipment related to the maintenance of streets and alleys.
- Performs daily preventative maintenance of equipment.
- Performs manual work and general labor such as making street and curb cuts, alternative beds and equipment.
- Assists with the proper set up of work zone traffic control.
- Assists in loading and unloading of transported material and equipment.
- Fulfills on-call duties as required and notified on Transportation's on-call roster.
- Assists with the maintenance of Transportation's buildings and grounds.
- Assists other City divisions and departments, as needed.
- Performs related duties as required.

**Qualifications:**

Employee must effectively communicate with all co-workers, managers, and citizens. Must effectively communicate with managers regarding work orders.

Knowledge of power and hand tools. Ability to read materials including equipment manuals and daily work logs. Ability to read field levels and fuel gauges. Ability to receive and understand training materials and demonstrations regarding the proper operation of light and heavy equipment for which employee has no prior knowledge or experience.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Valid Texas Class A or B Commercial Drivers License required.

Monday - Friday, 7:30 am until 4:00 pm. Overtime work may be required.

**Benefits:**

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

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**MIDLAND**  
NOW HIRING

**Maintenance Specialist - Transportation**

Operates some motorized equipment, hand tools and assists Equipment Operator in the maintenance and/or construction of streets, alleys and drainage channels. Installs devices that provide for the orderly and predictable movement of all motorized, non-motorized and pedestrian traffic.

**Job Duties:**

- Performs routine maintenance and/or construction on streets, alleys, right of ways, drainage channels, etc.
- Performs daily preventative maintenance of motorized equipment or hand tools.
- Performs manual work and general labor such as weed cutting, patching, repair, shoveling, etc.
- Maintains tools and equipment in good and safe operating condition.
- Performs any related duties needed to complete projects.
- Installs and maintains signage throughout the city.
- Paints lane lines on the streets and thoroughfares. Paints designated curbs.
- Installs lane marking devices.
- Uses tapes in order to flag sign installations.
- Fabricates signs.
- Maintains records of work performed such as work schedules, status reports and records of work orders.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:**

Employee communicates with other employees in the work group.

Knowledge of power and hand tools. Ability to train on some motorized equipment or tools. Ability to read materials such as equipment manuals and work orders. Ability to write and record information such as feedback on work request/work orders.

High school diploma or equivalent 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**  
NOW HIRING

**Sanitation Driver**

Drives a single or tandem axle into loading where pickup truck and collects and disposes of solid waste. Serves as standby driver until a regular route becomes available. Works at recycling center when required during regular shifts. May be assigned to a roll-off truck or boom truck instead of side loader.

**Job Duties:**

- Drives a collection vehicle and collects and disposes of solid waste from containers. Collects and disposes of yard waste and brush. Installs items when assigned to boom truck.
- Travels to and from the landfill in order to dispose of waste materials.
- Assists in filter cleanup and other projects when needed.
- Maintains and services vehicles and performs vehicle checks daily.
- Maintains records of work performed for supervisor such as vehicle check list, log book and repair reports.
- May collect waste management activity required of the solid waste management division in order to adequately perform public works responsibilities.
- Assists in recycling activities.
- Assists in solid waste disposal related activities when not driving a regular route.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:**

Ability to effectively communicate with employees and citizens who will require participating disposal procedures. Ability to work with citizens who may have complaints on assigned projects.

Knowledge of general use of the collection and disposal of waste materials. Ability to read and write and follow and read written instructions from supervisor. Skill in the use of various equipment and machinery such as hand tools and heavy equipment utilized in disposal activities such as compactors, lifts, chutes and related equipment systems as well as shovels, brooms and rakes.

High school diploma or equivalent preferred with six months to one year of experience in a related position. Valid Texas Class B Commercial Driver's License required.

**Benefits:**

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

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# CLASSIFIEDS

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

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